

Sunflower CEO Watkins Updates KC Building Trades

Sunflower Electric CEO Earl Watkins addresses Kansas City Building Trades Council providing talking points for upcoming Topeka Capital rally. Kansas City Building Trades have been very supportive in efforts to secure the Holcomb Expansion Project.



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Kansas Direct Pipeline

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PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS UA LOCAL UNION 441

VOL. 7 NO. 1

MARCH 2009

Business Manager's Report



Richard L. Taylor

America is in the midst of a terrible economic slump that seems to have left no area untouched. Every day brings more grim news about tens of thousands of workers losing their jobs and businesses going under. No doubt, we are facing a crisis of epic proportions. The economy in turmoil has a profound effect on individual lives. However, history has taught us and shown us that we as Americans have survived many difficult times and without exception, came out on the other side stronger and smarter than before. This is the same characteristic we as a labor union must embrace.

Currently over 40 states are experiencing budget deficits and Kansas is among them. This has a negative impact on many government projects along with private sector projects that in turn impact us. **President Obama's new stimulus plan** is primarily geared toward getting America back to work. It would appear that, in part, a large portion of that work is pointed toward the Building Trades. As the funding starts to filter into the economy, projects that have been postponed or canceled should start to resurface, especially those in the renewable fuels industry and the power industry. We must be prepared to take on this new challenge by continuing to improve ourselves as quality craftsmen. Take advantage of our training centers to sharpen your skills. Make sure your licenses and certifications are current. Pass on your knowledge to others and offer a helping hand when needed. This is what the UA was built on, always striving to train ourselves and others to be the best we can be.

I want to touch on a few of the activities our Local will be involved in over the next couple of months. One is preparation for the **UA Apprentice Contest**. The competition was a long-standing tradition in the UA that was discontinued in the 1980s. It was re-instituted by the UA two years ago. Local 441 will be participating in the competition this year. The contest will be open to apprentices currently in their fifth year and will involve the trades of plumbing, pipefitting, welding, and HVAC.

One top finisher in each category will represent Local 441 and the state of Kansas at the regional competition to be held in Chicago. From there the top finishers will attend the National competition this August in Ann Arbor Michigan. More information and details will be forthcoming from your Training Director Kerry Stine.

With the legislative session in progress in Topeka, much of my time and that of the Agents is being spent working alongside Sunflower Electric to push for approval of the **Holcomb Expansion Power House Project**. We all know the benefit that a project of its magnitude would bring to our Local Union and all the Building Trades for that matter. An agreement has been reached with Sunflower for a PLA to be utilized on this project obviously meaning that it will be a Union project. As the dialogue and debate for this project ramps up at the State level, please take the time to contact your legislator and leave no doubt that you are in favor of the project going forward. Ironically, not all but many of the Legislators we have supported the most in the past are the ones that are now turning their backs on us. A message must be sent that we will not tolerate this. It will be very close again this year particularly on the House side. I, or any of the Agents can provide help in contacting your legislator if needed.

On April 2, 2009, we will be conducting a **Labor/Management meeting**. This will be an opportunity to bring all the contractors together to discuss issues and plan strategies that will allow us to partner together and work better as a cohesive team. Some of the topics will include full implementation of the UA's Standard for Excellence, how we can be more effective with our Target Program, how to improve our Market Share, and the possibility of Day School, just to mention a few.

This month letters have gone out to three of our contractor associations as is required sixty days prior to begin the **negotiation process**. Topeka, Lawrence, and Frontenac Zones all have existing contracts that involve wage openers prior to June 1, 2009. The only issue that will be on the table is wages and benefits unless both parties agree to include other parts of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Wichita Zone has one year remaining before its next scheduled wage opener in 2010. Effective June 1, 2009, the Wichita Zone will receive a \$1.50 increase to its' total package. It will be up to the membership to determine at a Special Meeting in May how the \$1.50 will be allocated. You will receive updated information as it becomes available on the progress of the various negotiations in each Zone.

[Business Manager's Report cont'd on Page 8]

Kansas
Direct Pipeline
PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS
LOCAL UNION #441
1330 E. 1st St. N., Suite 115
Wichita, KS 67214-4000

Welcome to 2009! By Kerry Stine, Director, PPKTKS

With the New Year, there are also some new faces in the training office. Kim Bushey started in September as the Office Assistant and then moved to Administrative Assistant in November. Kim worked for Central Air Conditioning as the Project Manager's Assistant some years ago and came to us with a good understanding of union construction. Our other new addition, as of early January, is our new Office Assistant Jessica Hixon. Jessica recently graduated from Friends University in Wichita and has been a big help in file consolidation. Your help will be greatly appreciated while they get up to full speed.



Kim Bushey

Local #441 will be participating in the UA Apprenticeship Contest this year. UA President Bill Hite revived the Apprentice Contest two years ago. Many of our members may remember the contest from their apprenticeship days. It was stopped over 30 years ago due to the larger locals grooming apprentices for the contest. The new contest has rules to help prevent this from happening. Each State is supposed to have a contest amongst the locals within the State.

Since Local #441 is the only local within the state of Kansas, we will select our contestants from our 5th year apprentices from each Zone and then have them compete to represent Local #441 and the state of Kansas. Once our selections for Plumber, Pipefitter, Welder, and HVAC apprentice are made, they will go to the Regional competition at Local #597 Chicago in June.

If they advance from there, they will go to the Final Competition held at the Great Lakes Training Center in Ann Arbor, MI during the Instructor Training Program. Let's wish our apprentices well as they ready for the competition.

Many of our members are interested in CEU classes for renewal of licenses. PPKTKS will be offering CEU classes September through December. A list of classes will be sent out prior to September.

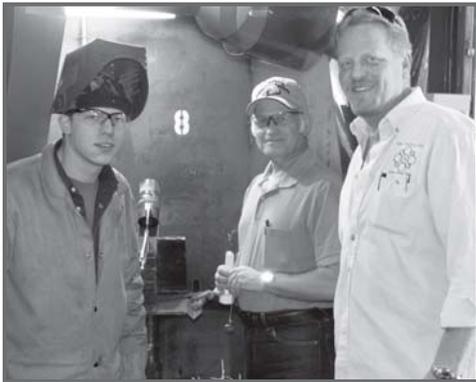


Jessica Hixon

Weld Certification Tests will be held on the following dates:

Frontenac, March 21, 2009 Topeka, April 18, 2009 Wichita May 16, 2009

Please contact the PPKTKS office at (316) 267-8508 and ask for Kim or Jessica to schedule. For future planning, we try to schedule the weld tests on the third Saturday of the month, rotating between the three authorized testing facilities.



UA Welding Certification

Fifth-year apprentice John Adams (*left*) performs a UA Weld Certification Test while P&E Quality Control Manager Clyde Henson (*middle*) and Welding Instructor Mike Magennis (*right*) observe and approve the test procedure. Clyde Henson acts as the Contractor Representative during the UA Certification Testing.

In addition to serving as Welding Instructor for Local 441, Zone 1A, Mike Magennis also teaches CWI (Certified Weld Instructor) prep classes and ATR (Authorized Testing Representative) classes for the United Association. He travels to various parts of the country generally once a month to instruct these classes and also serves as a Welding Instructor at the UA Instructor Training Program held in Ann Arbor Michigan each August.

Frontenac Area

Brothers and Sisters

As we start this new year with a new President, I am hopeful the future will look brighter for the union labor force in this country. President Barack Obama advised the Bush Administration and ousted Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, "Remember this is supposed to be the Department of Labor, not the Department of Management". With that being said, President Obama appointed Hilda Solis to Secretary of Labor. Secretary Solis has a great background to union labor within her family. Let's hope we get the "Change" we were promised during the Presidential campaign.

On the State side of things, we all have been working on the 3.8 billion dollar Holcomb project and with hard work in the House and Senate, hopefully we will get this issue to pass. But, we all must work together on the issue, so please call your state Representative and Senator and tell them that you are in favor of the Holcomb Expansion. As you all have heard over and over, every vote does count and we need yours. You may e-mail me at mwolownik@ua441.org and I will send you the link with letters written in favor of the Holcomb project. You may personalize the letter(s) to your State Legislators.

The work in S/E Kansas is slow, but with area schools and hospitals bidding this spring, we should see more work very soon. Hopefully, we will have more union contractors bidding.

Fraternally Yours,

Mike Wolownik (620) 231-4280

Frontenac Business Representative – Zone 1B



LOCAL UNION #441 Officers, Committee and Staff

Jerry D. Short, President

Gib Lane, Vice-President

**Richard L. Taylor, Business Manager
and Financial Secretary-Treasurer
(316) 265-4291**

John Crusinberry, Recording Secretary

Mark Hromek, Sergeant-at-Arms

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John Shepherd, Jr.	(316) 265-4291
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Mike Wolownik	(620) 231-4280
Phil Petty	(785) 539-8977

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Jolene Senter
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Dennis Wingert
Jeff Robertson
Dan McCulloch

**YOUR Website:
www.UA441.org**

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Bill Lorg
T. J. Strickland

EXAMINERS

Mike Magennis
Kirk Miller, Sr.
Denis Wittman
Mike Wolownik

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

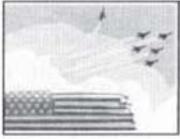
If you have any questions or comments regarding 441 by-laws, please feel free to contact one of your By-Laws Committee members.

Jerry Short	(316)733-9511
Vic Rider	(913)721-5489
Dan McCulloch	(785)286-0774



THERE IS NO "UNION" WITHOUT "U."

SPRING into action: Your Local needs YOUR talents!



IN MEMORIAM

Herbert R. Adkins, Jr., 64, died February 5, 2009. Most recently of Montgomery, La. Brother in good standing for 34 years.

Donald L. Dodson, 72, died February 10, 2009. Most recently of El Dorado, Ks. Brother in good standing for 42 years.

Marvin R. Edmonds, 81, died March 2, 2009. Most recently of Topeka, Ks. Brother in good standing for 55 years.

William "Chet" Fankhouser, 95, died January 31, 2009. Most recently of Vicennes, In. Brother in good standing for 45 years.

Henry E. Lige, Jr., 54, died November 20, 2008. Most recently of Manhattan, Ks. Brother in good standing for 30 years.

John M. Rush, 76, died February 25, 2009. Most recently of Winfield, Ks. Brother in good standing for 42 years.

Wilson D. Thompson, 86, died November 8, 2008. Most recently of Grand Terrace, Ca. Brother in good standing for 67 years.



Notices of brothers and sisters who have passed on are posted on our website as received: www.ua441.org. Click on "Member Information" and "In Memoriam."

Topeka Area West

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Two major projects are scheduled for construction at Manhattan/Fort Riley.

Hospital Replacement, Fort Riley, Kansas will be a best value type of Source selection with consideration given to price and other evaluation factors. The project includes but is not limited to: a 263,000 SF in-patient Community Hospital, a 289,000 SF out-patient Clinic, a central energy plant, an ambulance garage, special foundations, commissioning, oxygen storage, phasing, and building information systems. Estimated construction range: Between \$250M - \$500M. Estimated duration of project is 1,300 calendar days.

The proposed 520,000-square-foot National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) will provide animal testing capability needed for the licensure of the human disease vaccines, defend against high-consequence human and foreign animal diseases in livestock, and provide the essential departmental infrastructure requirements for threat characterization, forensics and detection. The facility will be constructed in Manhattan, Kansas adjacent to the KSU campus. The estimated construction cost is about \$525 - \$575 million. The procurement will be negotiated on a best value basis. The government anticipates significant subcontracting activity under this contract. The Solicitation will be available about mid-March 2009, with proposals due about early May 2009.



While working to secure the larger projects, we must not forget about the others. If you hear of any present or future projects in the area, please notify a Local #441 Representative.

Fraternally Yours,
Phil Petty (785) 539-8977
Organizer/Business Representative

Topeka Area East

Brothers and Sisters,

This recession hit fast and hard. We are working on Holcomb, speeding up money for jobs on the Federal level, usage of target monies, and local level stimulus to mention a few things.



On the Topeka ballot will be a question on a 1/2 cent sales tax for streets and infrastructure. The city and the chamber approached labor for support. After meeting with city officials about keeping the contracts in city contractors and illegal immigration problems, we've decided to go ahead and endorse this 1/2 cent sales tax.

City of Topeka elections are in August and here are our recommendations at this point. District #1-Shawn Leisinger, District #4-Larry Wolgast, 501 School Board-Hal Gardner.

Please contact me about your local towns and counties for further recommendations.

Fraternally yours,

Kirk W. Miller, Sr. (785) 354-8539
Topeka Business Representative
3906 NW 16th St. Topeka, KS 66618

Wichita Area

Local #441 Brothers and Sisters:

With great anticipation I greet you after the holiday season and a rather grim beginning to the New Year. As always, my thanks go to all the members of this local union as it is my honor to serve as the business agent of the Wichita area.

The Zone 1A work situation probably has never been as slow in the past as what we have seen over the past four months. My anticipation runs high though as we are seeing some signs of life in the construction world. Our employers have begun a renewed aggressiveness, and have stepped out of the box to explore many new projects to bid upon.

We currently have many exciting construction projects under way with the arena, Via Christi NW Hospital, and Barton Solvents as secured jobsites. We look forward to the Cessna Columbus building, NCRA Refinery, and the Airport Terminal. With the coming of Spring I renew my enthusiasm for more opportunities for the membership to take advantage of.



To further the working class in Kansas, I would invite your support on two issues. One is the minimum wage increase, currently at \$2.65 in Kansas (the lowest in the nation) which we seek to raise to \$7.25. The bill has worked its way through the Senate and is headed for the House of Representatives. Second, more on a national level, we seek support for the Employee Free Choice Act. This would allow for individuals to gain representation through card check as opposed to an employer tainted DOL election. In addition, I have been working on Continuing Education guidelines for the City of Wichita related to Plumbing and Mechanical certificates. Currently there are no established rules for Continuing Education.

Organizing has been held to a stand still, however, I still daily work to educate the open shop employers and employees as to the benefits of union affiliation.

As a local, I feel we have weathered the firestorm created by the downturn in the economy.

Better days are ahead. We must recover with a renewed hope for prosperity and usefulness. Let our skills and work ethic drive us toward the future.

Fraternally Yours,
John H. Shepherd Jr. (316) 265-4291
Plumbers & Pipefitters of Kansas Local #441
Wichita Area Business Representative Zone 1A

Kansas
Direct Pipeline
"Four for One"

Official monthly publication of
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union #441.
Kansas Direct Pipeline reserves the right
to reject or discontinue any material
considered unfair to Local #441.

Address all inquiries to:
1330 E 1st St, Ste 115, Wichita, KS 67214,
(316) 265-4291, email@ua441.org

Cessna Project

Projects Aro



Project Foreman Jerry Short



Gary Schmidt and David Buttell



Robert Little



Greensburg Project



Bill Reynolds, Law Company VP, left, and Jack Pelton, Cessna CEO, far right.



Dennis McKinney, State Treasurer, Gordon Schultz and Steve Hewitt, Greensburg City Manager.



Mechanical room in the Incubator Building, which houses temporary transitional office space for new businesses. This work was performed by The Waldinger Corporation.



Greensburg Community Center
This project is being donated by the Building Trades in conjunction with many others volunteering materials and labor.

SPRING into action: Your Local needs YOUR talents!

und Kansas



Levi Mercer III, Marvin Vance and Cody Hug.



Glen Griffin, Traveler, and Wesley Bunch

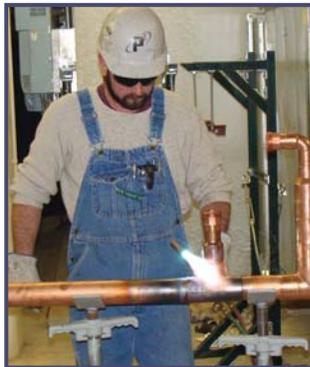


Project Foreman Ed Mainey, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Russell Ridgeway.

Topeka Capitol



Marvin Vance, Levi Mercer III, Russell Ridgeway



Brian Burnett



Russell Vincent



Joe Anderson



Marvin Vance and James Smith, Traveler.



Project Foreman Ed Mainey, Russell Ridgeway, Joe Anderson, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Marvin Vance, Levi Mercer III, Cody Hug (helper), and Brian Burnett.

Also working on the project, but not pictured, are Robert Blott, Sam Conn, William (Jim) Davis, Arland Fairman, Tim Hoover, Dave Nelson, Carl Otero, Bob Patterson, James (Shane) Smith, Dennis Wingert, Jason Comstock, Gavin Guillen, and Matt McClain.

Job Hotline: (316) 269-2472

Your Pension Plan Contribution

By Joe Pucci, Plan Administrator

With many of Local 441 Member's traveling to other locals to work, there has been a lot of confusion and discussion of how pension reciprocal contributions are divided. Before describing the current procedures, let's take a moment to describe the past procedures.

Until late 2004, most reciprocal contributions were sent directly to our Fund Office. Our Plans had direct Reciprocity Agreements with other Local's Plans and we were signatory to the Mid-Western States Reciprocity Agreement. Most UA Local Plans were signatory to this Agreement. Each host Local Plan (the Local where our Members worked) would send us a report and a check for pension contributions made by the employer in the host local. This employer would also send the host local's National Pension Plan rate (if one existed) directly to the National Pension Plan (NP).

Using the Wichita Zone as an example, we would then, if the host local's NP rate was less than the Wichita rate, calculate the difference and send an amount to the NP Plan which, along with the amount sent by the host local employer, equaled the Wichita Zone National Pension Rate. Next we would satisfy the Local 441 Plumbers and Pipefitters Retirement Plan (LP) rate. If after satisfying these two rates, money remained, we would deposit the remainder in the 401(k) Plan.

The same practice applied to the members of the Frontenac, Lawrence and Topeka Zones, except that no contributions were sent to the LP Plan and the amount remaining after satisfying the NP rate was deposited in the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Retirement Plan of Kansas (KSR).

This system was far from perfect. Many host local plans charged an administration fee, some would only reciprocate our rates, some would not reciprocate contributions unless an Authorization Form was signed and given to the host plans and some would not reciprocate any contributions. Yet, to a very large degree we controlled how the money was divided.

In 2003 the UA drafted new Reciprocity Agreements and began to urge the Trustees of local plans to sign the new Agreement. If adopted, the new Agreement automatically cancelled all other Agreements to which the Trustees may have been signatory.

It eliminated the Reciprocal Authorization Form, local administrative fees and the practice of only reciprocating our rates. There was also a small fee, to be paid to the United Association Reciprocity System (UARS) for each Plan that signed the Agreement(s). *These Agreements defined the way in which reciprocal contributions would be divided. The system used is the pro-rata system which I will try to explain below.*

The Trustees of our four Plans, H&W, 401(k), LP and KSR weighed the advantages and decided they would not sign the new UA Agreements. In 2004 we began to receive notices from other plans that our direct Reciprocity Agreements were cancelled and that unless we were a party to the UARS Agreements **they would not reciprocate any contributions.**

The Trustees of each Plan reconsidered their decision and all four Plans adopted the new Agreements. Following the execution of these Agreements, the 401(k) Plan and the KSR Plan merged, so we now have three Agreements.

We still receive, directly from the host plans, H&W reciprocal contributions. Pension reciprocal contributions are sent to the National Pension Plan and they should apply

the pro-rata formula for each zone and then forward the remaining contributions to us. We download the reports from the UARS website and receive the funds by ACH wire transfer. We do not receive a copy of the host plan's remittance report.

The pro-rata system is based upon each Zones pension rates. Using **Lawrence and Topeka** as my first example, their pension rates are \$3.45 per hour for NP and \$2.50 per hour for KSR, a total of \$5.95 per hour. To obtain the pro-rata shares, it is my understanding that NP divides their rate of \$3.45 by the total Zone Rate of \$5.95. This results in the percentage which NP keeps, approximately 58%. The remaining 42%, when received, would be deposited in each Member's KSR account.

For the **Frontenac** Zone, the rates are \$3.45 NP, \$2.30 LP and \$.50 KSR for a total of \$6.25. Using the above formula, NP would keep approximately 55% of reciprocal contributions received. The remaining 45% should be returned to us. We would then, using the same pro-rata formula, divide the reciprocated funds between LP and KSR. Based upon the total LP and KSR rate of \$2.80 per hour, approximately 82% (37% of the total received by NP) of the funds received from NP would be credited to a Member's LP benefit and 18% (8% of the total received by NP) would be deposited in each Members KSR account.

For the **Wichita** Zone, the rates are \$2.75 NP, \$2.30 LP and \$.50 KSR for a total of \$5.55. Using the pro-rata formula, NP keeps approximately 50% of the contributions received. Based upon the total LP and KSR rate of \$2.80, we divide the funds received from NP using the same percentages as for Frontenac. Approximately 82% (41% of the total received by

NP) is credited to LP and 18% (9% of the total received by NP) would be deposited in each Members KSR account.

When the Trustees of our pension plans adopted the UARS Agreements, the Trustees closely questioned our attorney to see if we could deviate from the pro-rata formula when dividing the remaining funds received from NP. The answer was an unqualified, **"NO."**

To say the above is complicated is to say the least, but the alternative was to receive no reciprocal contributions from almost all UA Locals.

There are a couple of items you should consider. When the LP Plan receives more or less than the \$2.30 rate for hours worked, hours are also pro-rated. This means that you receive more credit hours for each hour worked or, if we do not receive \$2.30 per hour (which would be unusual), less credit hours. As the LP rate increases, which it must, the percentage for KSR will become smaller unless the contribution rate for KSR is also increased.

The Local 441 Plumbers and Pipefitters Retirement Plan is a defined benefit plan like the National Pension Plan. All defined benefit plans are struggling to maintain their funded status.

Why? Because the market value of assets is far less today than a year ago.

That said, when Members that have participated in both the LP Plan and the NP Plan since their initiation retire from the Wichita Zone, they are receiving, in most cases, double the amount received by Members retiring from the Frontenac, Lawrence and Topeka Zones and remember the LP contribution rate is less than NP.

[Pension Plan Contribution continued on page 7]

Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I don't have to tell most you what kind of shape the economy is in right now. Most of us have seen ups and downs in the construction industry. But this downturn has affected every industry in the United States and most of the world. With that being said, I would rather focus on the future and what it has to offer.

With our newly elected President Barack Obama and his team in place, although it won't happen overnight, I fully expect to see our economy and our work come back. Don't forget it took eight years to get in this shape.

We are very fortunate to have a sister local (LU 533 Kansas City) helping us with manpower. Currently there are 50 members working at the Iatan Power House and expect to send more. We must keep in mind that LU 533 must also help other locals in need as we did when we needed travelers.

Although our work is slow now, let's look at the prospects of 2009. Over the past few weeks I have been contacted by our contractors as well as out of state contractors looking at bidding work in Kansas. Among some are four hospital jobs and numerous school projects across the state. The dog food plant in Emporia, refinery work at NCRA in McPherson, a new service center for Cessna in Wichita, outage work at Wolfe Creek, outage work at Holcomb with Sunflower, a Casino in Dodge City, an airport expansion in Wichita, just to name a few of the larger projects either coming out or currently being bid by our contractors.

Let's not forget about Holcomb either. A bill is currently being introduced again this year and if it is passed we could be building a new power house next year. You can help by contacting your Legislature and asking for their support when the bill comes to a vote.

Now is the time to utilize our Target program for projects such as the ones I just mentioned. Contractors requesting target money must first fill out a target request form with name of job, location, number of manhours expected, and non-union bidders. We obviously would not target a job if there were no non-union bidders. Then we look at what projects will be of the best benefit for the membership. For instance, a specific contractor may be low on work or one particular zone may be lower than another on work. I assure you the decisions are not taken lightly.

In closing, I would just say Brothers and Sisters, if you have a job you are fortunate and to the Brothers and Sisters currently on the out of work list needing to go to work, I pledge to you I am and will continue to do everything possible to get you back to work.

Fraternally,
Bill Urton (316) 265-4291
Business Representative/Dispatcher



SPRING into action: Your Local needs YOUR talents!

UA Local #441 Plumbers & Pipefitters Monthly Union Meetings

KANSAS LOCAL #441 UNION MEETINGS
Second Monday of every month, 7 p.m.
(316) 265-4291/1330 E. 1st Street, Wichita
Next Meeting Dates:
March 9, April 13, May 11

UA LOCAL #441 RETIREE MEETINGS

Frontenac Area Retirees
 Meet each Tuesday morning at Home Café, Cherokee, KS at 8 a.m.
Lawrence Area Retirees
 No monthly meetings scheduled. We encourage a group to establish meetings and let the Hall in Wichita know date, time, location.
 You are also welcome to attend other area retiree meetings.

Topeka Area Retirees
 Meet every Wednesday morning at Hardee's at 21st and Wanamaker at 8 a.m.

Wichita Area Retirees
 Meeting at the Hall, 1330 E. 1st Street N., on the first Wednesday every month at 10 a.m.

Breakfast is the second Wednesday of every month (except December) at 9 a.m. at Spears Restaurant, 4323 W. Maple, Wichita.

Note: All retirees and spouses and former members' widows are welcome to attend any of the area meetings.

Lawrence Area

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Work in the area has slowed for now, but looks promising for late spring.

On Feb. 20, 2009, some candidates who have filed for three openings for City Commission's election were interviewed. Mike Amyx is one of the candidates who has always been with us on labor issues so please support him to see that he is re-elected. Also, we would like your support for James Bush and Lance Johnson.

Both of these candidates are for job growth in the community. Job growth creates jobs for us and offsets the tax burden. Don't forget these candidates on election April 7th, 2009!

Do I get my money's worth? Most of you ask this question when purchasing a new car, paying your doctor bill, taxes, clothing etc. I am sure that same question comes up when paying dues and death benefits. Remember, dues keep your Local running and death benefits do help out when one of our brothers or sisters has passed away. If you don't think so just ask a member's loved ones who has received this benefit. When not paying your dues and death benefits please consider who and what it is for.

Sincerely yours,
 Brother Denis Wittman (785) 843-3151
 Lawrence Business Representative
 930 E. 28th Street Lawrence, KS 66046



CONTACTS



Wichita (316) 265-4291 Training (316) 267-8508
 Topeka (785) 354-8539 Training (785) 234-2006
 Lawrence (785) 843-3151
 Frontenac (620) 231-4280 Training (620) 724-6115
 Local Union 441 Website: www.ua441.org

The **Health & Welfare Office** handles your local pension information, 401k, and general questions regarding your health insurance (such as your status in qualifying for insurance benefits.)

If you have specific questions regarding your insurance, such as a list of doctors, please refer to the numbers listed below for Blue Cross and Delta Dental.

**Ben Newhouse is
 Local 441's Independent
 Financial Advisor.**
**Members, please feel
 free to give him a call at
 1-866-577-7101
 for assistance and advice
 with your Mass Mutual
 investment account.**

Health & Welfare Office
www.ppi-fund.org

(316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas
www.BCBSKS.com

(800) 432-3990 or (785) 291-4180

Delta Dental of Kansas
www.DeltaDentalKS.com

(800) 234-3375 or (316) 264-4511



If you have a **Pension** through the United Association, the National Pension office is where you call for any questions related to your pension.

If you are close to retirement and are ready to start the paperwork, please request an application for a retirement packet from National. Also request a work contribution history report from National Pension as this will assist you in the process.

National Pension (800) 638-7442

Local Pension/KS Annuity
 (316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

United Association Website: www.ua.org

[Pension Plan Contribution... continued from page 6]

I hope this letter answers some of your questions about reciprocity. It also probably raises many more questions. Many of these questions, I will be unable to answer. Remember, we do not see the reports from the host local nor do we not know when the host local sends the contributions to the National Pension Plan. We can tell you when we receive contributions from the National Pension Plan, but sometimes the host plans do not forward all pension contributions at the same time.

In other words, if the host local has three plans, then contributions may be sent to NP on three separate dates and on three separate reports. If you have questions about the amount the National Pension Plan has received on your behalf, I suggest you call them at 1-800-638-7442.

If any of the foregoing conflicts with the Plan(s) Documents or Agreements, those will prevail.

Sincerely yours,
 Joe Pucci

HOURS WORKED IN 441 REPORTED BY YEAR ALL ZONES 03/01/2003 TO 12/31/2008

YEAR	HOURS	AVERAGE MONTHLY HOURS
2003*	847,982.90	84,798.29
2004	1,074,704.18	89,558.68
2005	1,213,077.15	101,089.76
2006	1,429,847.76	119,153.98
2007	1,731,757.51	144,313.13
2008	1,839,288.24	153,274.02
TOTAL	8,136,657.74	

* Only March through December 2003 hours included

Job Hotline: (316) 269-2472



WE WANT TO KNOW....

HOW CAN LOCAL 441 BETTER SERVE YOU?

		Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1	The general attitude of Local 441's membership is positive.	50%	32%	18%
2	The current Union Administration represents Local 441's membership equally statewide.	55%	29%	16%
3	Current Zone representation is adequate.	56%	33%	11%
4	Absenteeism is a problem on my jobsite.	25%	40%	35%
5	Day school would provide a better learning environment for the apprentices.	33%	37%	30%
6	Saturday morning Union meetings would be more convenient for me than the current Monday evening meetings.	35%	37%	28%
7	Local 441's quarterly newsletter is beneficial to the membership.	81%	15%	04%
8	The Union office relays accurate information to the membership in a timely manner.	66%	24%	10%

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

It's a new world out there, and we at Local 441 are determined to become a part of the electronic age (whether we like it or not!). For years we have communicated with our members through regular mail. When it came time to announce a meeting or inform the members about a special issue, we always sent a letter.

Not that there is anything wrong with the mail. We continue to do the vast bulk of our business by mail, but in some cases it is quicker, easier, and far less expensive to be able to send an e-mail to members. At least it would be if we had email addresses for our members. Please complete the form below and mail it to 1330 E 1st St N, Ste 115, Wichita, Kansas, 67214 OR send us an email at email@ua441.org.

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone #'s:	
Home	
Cell	
Email Address	

McKinney Becomes State Treasurer



On January 5, Dennis McKinney received his appointment as State Treasurer. McKinney is former Minority Leader for the House of Representatives and has always fought for labor issues and remains a valued friend of Local 441.

ATTITUDE

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, the education, the money, than circumstances, than failure, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes."
 - Charles R. Swindoll

[Business Manager's Report continued from Page 1]

Thank you to those that took the time to fill out and return the **Member Survey Forms**. You can view the results on page 8. We are continuing to evaluate and digest the information and comments that were sent in. The vast majority were submitted in a fashion intended to relay a positive and constructive message. Please feel free to submit comments or suggestions you may have to improve the operation of your local any time.

In closing, I am sure you all are aware that 2009 is gearing up to be one of the toughest years in available manhours since LU 441 was established. As you can see from the Hours Report on page 7, we have enjoyed a steady increase each progressive year. This year that trend may not continue. Having said that, there is tremendous anticipation and hope of what the new Administration in Washington will bring to our great Country and the effect it will ultimately have on our industry. There is much work being bid and coming out for bid in and around Kansas. I feel confident that we will capture a large portion of this work and be back on the road to prosperity very soon. We must all strive each and every day to secure our share of the industry and be driven to increase that share. Local 441 has overcome many obstacles. This is a new challenge that together, we also will no doubt overcome.

Work smart, work safe, and may God bless you and your families.

SPRING into action: Your Local needs YOUR talents!