Topeka Area West: Local 441 Welcomes Reid Plumbing, Heating and A/C, Inc.

Reid Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. became signatory to Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union #441’s Collective Bargaining Agreement October 1, 2009. All eight of the Plumbers and HVAC Technicians employed with the Company have become members of Local Union #441.

Reid Plumbing, Heating & A/C, Inc. is located in Manhattan, Kansas where it was started by Anthony “Tony” Reid. The company was incorporated on December 21, 2000. Reid Plumbing, Heating & A/C, Inc. is one of the predominately Residential Plumbing Contractors in the area. New construction and service in the residential market is the majority of work currently being performed. Reid Plumbing, Heating, & A/C, Inc. has completed numerous commercial projects at KSU and the Manhattan area in the past, and plans to aggressively pursue both commercial and residential work in the future.

Three Signatory Contractors currently have a business location in Manhattan; Reid Plumbing, Heating & A/C, Inc., Mid-American Water & Plumbing Inc., and McElroy Inc. Please encourage everyone you know in the area to utilize these Contractors.

I look forward to a productive and rewarding future working with Tony Reid and our newest members.

WELCOME TO LOCAL UNION #441!

Fraternally Yours,
Phil Petty, Organizer/Business Representative
UA Lessons Learned

By Kerry Stine, Training Director, PPATKS

In August, while attending the UA Instructor Training Program in Ann Arbor, Michigan, I took the second of two classes related to the history of the UA and Labor. I have taken many informative classes over the years of attending the program, but these two classes have opened a door of understanding about the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry and its role in the history of the United States of America.

Plumbers and Pipefitters have consistently led in the Labor movement and have set the bar in the area of Labor leadership. The UA has shaped the course of America through governmental activism. Through training, the UA has established a method to produce the premier workforce of the future.

The UA’s role of leading in the labor movement is extensive. In the mid 1800s the Plumbers were one of the first crafts to organize into a union. They faced many struggles, but by the 1880s the Plumbers and Pipefitters were beginning to join together through their common bond of pipe.

In 1889, the UA was born. In its early years the UA faced and overcame problems related to internal work jurisdiction disputes and became the model for other craft unions to follow. As Craft Unions and Industrial Unions began to work together for the common cause of workers’ rights, the UA was once again leading the way with George Meany taking the reins of the newly formed AFL-CIO and holding that position from 1952-1980. Under the leadership of UA General President William Hite, the UA is leading the way in the Union movement.

Government is no stranger to the UA over the years. One has only to look at the UA being the first national labor organization to endorse President Barack Obama and the access to the President that that has provided. In previous years, the UA helped greatly in WWI and WWII by agreeing to not go on strike and provide the necessary manpower for the war effort at home.

UA leadership helped guide the Roosevelt administration in setting up its works programs and establishing the Davis-Bacon Act. Through the UA’s leadership during WWII, UA General President Martin P. Durkin became Secretary of Labor during the Eisenhower administration. The UA will continue its proud heritage of governmental involvement with administrations to come.

Training is the life blood of the UA. All you have to do is pick up a UA Journal and read the many articles related to training. The UA was the first Craft union to formalize its five year apprenticeship program in 1921 and in 1938 mandated that apprentices become members and attend related training.

In 1954, the UA once again led the way with the start of the Instructor Training Program at Purdue University. This program allowed instructors to come together to learn the latest in training techniques and technology. Over the years the program has evolved into the premier union training program in North America. The UA has marched ahead with its certification programs to make its members desirable to both contractors and customers. The UA is once again on the forefront, with its push for day school training programs across the country.

It is our desire to follow the UA’s lead and move to a day school program. The benefits are many and have been proven over and over. Cost is a concern, and probably the main sticking point that will have to be dealt with in the near future. For LU 441 to continue to grow and gain market share, training cannot be neglected, it must advance.

Rejoicing in the past, but looking to the future, the UA is leading the way. Training is the life blood to building an excellent workforce. Governmental activism will ensure the goals of the UA and make sure workers rights are not ignored. Leadership in the Labor movement will guarantee the world knows that UA members are a part of the best Labor organization in the world. Our history is bright, but our future is brighter.

Hubbards (Finally!) Win Harley!

To extend brotherly love and beyond, LU 441 member Bob Hubbard and his wife Karla have been helping the MDA for the past four years. Bob and Karla have purchased tickets for the MDA Harley Davidson Motorcycle raffle for more years then they can remember.

Well, persistence pays off! As usual, the Harley Davidson Motorcycle raffle was drawn on Labor Day, and this year, Bob Hubbard was the lucky winner.

Area news cameras were rolling as a speechless Bob came forward to collect his prize. Congratulations Bob and Karla on winning the MDA Bike! Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication for the MDA.

Cycle Connection has been donating a bike to MDA for the last 18 years and has been working with MDA in Joplin Missouri and the Southeast Kansas area for the last 24 years. This year alone, they sold over 4,000 tickets. Thanks again to Bob and Karla Hubbard and Cycle Connection.

“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”
-Hamilton Wright Mabie

Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org

Johannes Borst. 65, died October 20, 2009. Most recently of Sallisaw, Ok. Brother in good standing for 39 years.

Delbert Ewing, Jr. 82, died September 25, 2009. Most recently of Manhattan, Ks. Brother in good standing for 59 years.

Alvin Frasier. 68, died August 5, 2009. Most recently of Wichita, Ks. Brother in good standing for 12 years.

James Kolde. 65, died September 1, 2009. Most recently of Wamego, Ks. Brother in good standing for 44 years.

Robert Maxedon. 92, died September 1, 2009. Most recently of Cunningham, Ks. Brother in good standing for 58 years.

John Taiclet. 89, died September 5, 2009. Most recently of Wichita, Ks. Brother in good standing for 59 years.

Gary Townsend. 72, died October 18, 2009. Most recently of Overland Park, Ks. Brother in good standing for 59 years.

Joe Warren, Sr. 91, died September 30, 2009. Most recently of Wichita, Ks. Brother in good standing for 52 years.

James Watson. 71, died November 11, 2009. Most recently of Niotaze, Ks. Brother in good standing for 40 years.

Welcome to New Apprentice Grads!

Congratulations to the new Journeyman Class of 2009 for successfully completing the Local 441 five-year apprenticeship program!

Wichita Area Zone 1A

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of UA Local #441.

As an officer of our local union, I am the beneficiary of a legacy that has been handed down through generations of skill and dedication. It is a heritage based upon tradition of service-service to our employers, to our industry, to our communities, and to our fellow members. In times such as these we must endeavor to persevere.

Our work outlook in the Wichita area is beginning to show signs of picking up. Our contractors have been successful on projects such as Siemens in Hutchinson and the Dodge City Events Center. Traditionally, aircraft has been a staple in the area, and we are looking for projects to return at Cessna, Spirit, and Hawker.

Since our last publication our activities have revolved around educating the non-union about the UA and the benefits of membership. This activity is a must as I pursue organizing a contractor and its employees as a whole. Also, I have been heavily involved in code adoption through Wichita Office of Central Inspection (mechanical and plumbing). In the future, I am being added to the bond oversight committee of USD 259 in hopes of having insight and oversight of the $190 million worth of new school construction.

Lastly, we are heading into the Holiday Season, and I would like to give my best wishes to you and your family at this time. This season allows all of us to give thanks for what we have and draw us closer to what is most important in life, our families. 2010 will bring a renewed spirit and prosperity to 441 and all of its members. Through the good times and the bad we will always endeavor to persevere.

Thank you for your time, talents, and dedication.

Fraternally,

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

Topeka Area East

Brothers and Sisters,

We had a nice picnic at Gage Park with a lot of the members and their families enjoying the zoo, train, and carousel. It was great to see people I haven’t seen in quite a while. And the food was excellent as always.

It’s been a tougher year with the economy but next year is looking up. Business Representative Denis Wittman and I have been working with Northeast Building Trades in conjunction with Business Manager Rich Taylor working with the State and National Building Trades to secure about 150,000 manhours at the Lawrence Energy Center for a Baghouse job to start around May of next year and run through December 2012.

The initial Project Labor Agreement (PLA) was signed by 441 Business Manager Rich Taylor on Wednesday October 28, 2009. Piping Contractors of Kansas (PCI) along with McElroy’s Inc. will be starting site preparation work immediately. This should run until March. I hope everybody has a healthy, happy holiday season.

Fraternally yours,

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

Job Hotline: (316) 269-2472
It’s always great to see our members!
members turn out for picnics!
Frontenac Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

With a new legislative session gearing up in Topeka, we hope that our state will move forward on the gaming issues before the surrounding states beat us to the punch! I did meet with Ozark gaming and they have a casino proposal to locate in Cherokee County in southeast Kansas. I must say, it does look like good work for the building and trades on this project.

Currently, we are still working on Independence School Project. The good news is we have five union contractors looking to bid it. It will bid by the time you read this.

Work Safe!

Fraternally Yours,

Mike Wolownik (620) 231-4280
Frontenac Business Representative -- Zone 1B

Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

With the Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant shutdown behind us, I believe it was a success for Local 441 and would like to congratulate every member that made it happen. During the pre-outage, Business Manager Rich Taylor, Business Representative Denis Wittman, and I were fortunate enough to get an allowed visit to the plant. We met with plant manager, Matthew Sunseri and Welding Supervisor Kevin Nelson. In our meetings, both were very receptive to Union labor being a part of their outages and want to continue that path. We mentioned apprentice training as well as journeyman training and what areas we could improve on to meet their needs. We told them Local 441 would like to have a trained work force right here in Kansas and have the certifications required by Wolf Creek standards to man their shutdowns. There is a meeting to be scheduled after the first of the year with both sides to discuss these issues. I may be overly optimistic but feel like there’s a possibility, and I repeat possibility, of a maintenance contract with Wolf Creek for one of our signatory contractors.

As far as the work for the winter across the state, I believe it will be steady. Our contractors are branching out into areas they haven’t done work before. They are starting to bid more and more work in Western Kansas. What this means is every job offer may not be in your backyard but it is an opportunity to claim our work that we haven’t been able to do before.

Overall, 2009 has been a rough year for the membership but I truly believe with all of the projects on the books for 2010 we will come out of it and be stronger than ever.

In closing, always think safety while working and enjoy the holidays with your family.

Fraternally,

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

The Apprentice graduation is a symbol of our dedication and the importance we put on training. We are a craft union that places a high level of training, knowledge, and expertise. This is what sets us apart from the nonunion and it is these learned skills that benefit our signatory contractors and help to make them competitive in today’s market.

The Retiree Banquet honors those that came before us. They are the group that set the bar that we must always strive to raise. It was their tenacity and persistence to always hold firm to the union way and the heritage and skills that were passed down to them. It is their past leadership and vision that gives us the ability to face the immense challenges we encounter today.

Change continues to occur at an alarming rate, and no one individual can hope to succeed in isolation. But when each of us contributes even a small share of our time, talent, and energy to the greater good, our union and our industry become stronger. Those before us established the trail for us to follow. It is our collective resources and talents that will build on the legacy handed down to us.

The Annual Membership Picnics represent the extension of our union family. This presents an opportunity to renew old friendships. It also allows us the opportunity to share those friendships with our family members and provide a little more insight to our activities and experiences on the job site, the bonds that are created, and the significance and magnitude of those relationships. Each year the participation in these events grows and develops more and more into an expected and anticipated tradition for the membership of Local 441.

Work Outlook

Work around the state is slowly improving with several new projects secured through the bidding process by our contractors that should provide some relief during the winter months with the bulk of the man hours showing benefit after the first of the year. One example is the Lawrence Energy Center Fabric Filter and Scrubber Upgrade Project. On October 28th I signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the upcoming project.

This is a large project that will be built 100% Union with completion scheduled in late 2012 or early 2013. Mobilization will start immediately for the project with the bulk of the work beginning spring of 2010.

As we look to the future we will continue to embrace our role in providing a skilled and highly trained workforce which provides value to our Local Union, to our contractors, and to our industry for this generation and future generations to follow.

Work smart, work safe, and I pray that God blesses each of you, your families, and your loved ones in a special way this holiday season.

Warm Wishes for a Blessed Holiday Season from Your Union!

Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org
Dear Brothers & Sisters,

As I write this, work in the area is holding fairly steady but might be a little slow through the winter.

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, Douglas County, the Lawrence Journal-World and the League of Women Voters held a community forum on job growth. Brother Dwayne Peaslee and I attended and spoke on behalf of Local 441. It is fairly obvious that in recent months Lawrence and Douglas County is experiencing job loss.

At the center of any community’s well being is the need to grow the job base because it is jobs that pay the taxes and purchase the goods and services that keep a community moving forward.

May you all enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends.

Fraternally yours,

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

OFFICE NOTES!!!

2009 COURTESY TAX INFORMATION
Local #441 office staff will be mailing you information about 2009 dues, work assessment, etc. paid by you to Local #441 for tax purposes. This is a courtesy provided by your Local Union and is NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT.

December 2009 remittance reports must be received from all contractors prior to these documents being prepared. Remittance reports are not due by contractors until mid-January. Office staff will endeavor to process these remittance reports as quickly as received in order to provide this information for 441 members.

EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PPI RETIREMENT FUND
If you wish to begin self-contributing to the PPI Retirement Fund of Kansas, contact either the Plan Administrator or the Union Office and we will send you an Elective Contribution Changes Form. The Election period is from January 1 through Jan. 15. The change will be effective as of your employer’s first payroll period in February.

DO NOT GIVE YOUR ELECTION FORM TO YOUR EMPLOYER. Changes will not be effective until your Election Form is received in the Plan Administrator’s office, or at the Union office. Elections postmarked after January 15 will not meet this deadline and will be rejected.

You may, at any time, reduce your elective contribution rate to zero by again completing a new Elective Contribution Changes Form. Should any of the foregoing conflict with the actual documents which govern the Plan, the Plan Documents will prevail.

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.

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

Lawrence Area

The Retiree’s Christmas Dinner will be at 6 p.m. on Weds., Dec. 9th, at the Olive Garden, 2641 N. Maize Road. RSVP to Jim Wilbert at (316) 722-6859.
Congratulations to our Retirees! Thank you for your many years of service.


“Attendance at the monthly Union meetings has gradually increased over the past few months,” said Richard Taylor, LU 441 Business Manager. “Please take the opportunity to attend a meeting in your area. The teleconference system is working well and has much better sound and video quality than in the past. The good news is that it is being provided for no additional cost to Local 441.”

Members in each zone are able to see a projected video of other zones on the wall with the teleconferencing equipment. It’s the next best thing to being there!