

**From Joe Savia, Sr., Business Manager**

**Dues Paid for the Year 2007**

**Journeyman** – January, February & March 58.00 (monthly) April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November & December 63.00 (monthly) = \$741.00

**Retiree** @ 24.00 – 12 x 24 = \$288.00

**Retiree** @ 21.00 – 12 x 21 = \$252.00

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Apprentices** – January, February & March 41.00 (monthly), April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November & December 46.00 (monthly) = \$537.00,

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Year Apprentices** – January, February & March, 44.00 (monthly) April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November & December, 49.00 (monthly) = \$573.00,

**Metal Trades Dues** – 12 x \$25.00 = \$300.00;

**Residential Trades/MES** – January, February, March \$44.00 (monthly) June, July, August, September, October, November, December, \$49.00 (monthly) = \$573.00

There were **34 deaths** for the year – 34 x \$3.00 = \$102.00

**Deaths for 2007**

- 1245 Howard M. Ellis
- 1246 Robert W. Lammer
- 1247 Robert J. Peake
- 1248 Edwin W. Binkley
- 1249 David W. Dierdorf
- 1250 Dexter L. Hash
- 1251 Charles L. Eckell
- 1252 Theodore A. Basar
- 1253 Seymour Fowler, Jr.
- 1254 Thomas I. Craig
- 1255 James G. Whipty
- 1256 Robert D. Glascoe
- 1257 Davis F. Coffey
- 1258 Thomas D. Whitley
- 1259 Robert D. Aheron
- 1260 Wilburn “Rick” Armstrong
- 1261 George H. Riedel Jr.
- 1262 Jarvis L. Moore Jr.
- 1263 Thomas G. Rogers
- 1264 Leroy T. Horsemen
- 1265 John R. Booher
- 1266 Avery “Wayne” Mays
- 1267 Robert Nevins
- 1268 Roy Fiddesop

1269 Charles Webb  
1270 Bobby G. Muncy  
1271 Henry Hindman  
1272 Frank A. Pitt  
1273 William C. Corbin  
1274 Frank M. Davis "Killer"  
1275 Charles M. Fox  
1276 Thomas Geoghegan  
1277 Gerald R. Mehrtens  
1278 Jerre N. Ness

### **2008 Important Dates**

#### **Holidays**

Tuesday, January 1, 2008 – New Years Day  
Monday, January 21, 2008 – Martin Luther King  
Monday, May 26, 2008 – Memorial Day  
Friday, July 4, 2008 – Independence Day  
Monday, September 1, 2008 – Labor Day  
Tuesday, November 11, 2008 – Veterans Day  
Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28, 2008 – Thanksgiving Holiday  
Thursday, December 25, 2008 – Christmas

#### **Other Dates to Note –**

Saturday, May 17, 2008 – Awards/Dinner Dance  
Tuesday, August 19, 2008 – Sam Townsend Memorial Golf Tournament  
Sunday, September 7, 2008 – Bull Roast

### **95<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration**

At this year's Annual Awards Dinner Dance we will celebrate our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we have booked the Hubcaps as the entertainment, this should be an enjoyable event for all. Please mark your calendars to help us all celebrate our 95<sup>th</sup> Year.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Megan Sue Lee (daughter of Joshua Lee) and Kevin Parrish (son of Dale Parrish), as the 2007 winners of the M. Eddie Moore Scholarship.

Remember all applications for 2008 are due June 30, 2008.

### **Substance Abuse Issues**

We are still holding our Substance Abuse sessions on Thursday's in the hall at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

### **Dues Check Off**

With the start of Dues Check Off some clarifications need to be made. If the company withholds from your January paycheck that covers the February Dues. Any amounts due prior to February are your responsibility. All deaths and any initiations are also your responsibility. However, if deaths are not paid, according to the UA Constitution they can be credited prior to your dues. Make sure your deaths and dues are caught up.

If a month has a fifth week, the company is withholding the extra week, that will go to pay any shortage of dues or deaths, whichever is needed.

If you have any questions regarding Dues Check Off or you would like to sign up for Dues Check Off, please contact the Union Hall.

### **Presidential Primary Elections**

Please mark the dates for the Presidential Primary Elections, it is extremely important that you vote:

Maryland, DC & Virginia - Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Pennsylvania – Tuesday, April 22, 2008

West Virginia – Tuesday, May 13, 2008

If you are not registered you have until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January to do so. Please contact the Hall, your local library or MVA.

### **THIS 'N THAT**

Steven Gifford proudly announced the birth of his first granddaughter, Andrea Michelle, born November 29, 2007 weighing 7lbs. 14 oz. And was 19 ½ inches long.

Phil Myer will be laid up for quite a while with his back, he is currently in Anne Arundel Medical Center.

### **BIG WINNER**

Willie Bright was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held at the January Union Meeting and donated his winnings to COPE.

### **SYMPATHY**

Our sympathy to the family of Peter Nafpaktitis, who recently lost his father.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO. 1278, ANY MEMBER  
NOT PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1278 IS IN ARREARS**

## **From Kevin Sullivan, Business Agent**

Late last year, Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico was finally able to convince his fellow lawmakers to look a little harder at something he was trying to push through. After failing in three earlier attempts, he was able to get language inserted into an appropriations bill that could eventually make available \$18 billion in loan guarantees for the construction of Nuclear Power Plants. In a recent conversation with UA General President Bill Hite, he urged us to get our membership behind this bill. President Hite talked about his recent trip to France, where he was accompanied by officials with Constellation Energy. They were there to meet with executives of Areva NP, manufacturers of the EPR design of nuclear reactors. Constellation Energy and Areva have formed a joint venture, Unistar, in efforts to build another unit at Calvert Cliffs.

One week after President Hite had urged us to get behind this bill, the bill passed. An executive at Constellation Energy called this action a huge step forward in putting together financing for the unit at Calvert Cliffs; expected to cost more than \$4 billion. Other energy companies want to build reactors and may compete with Constellation Energy for the loan guarantees. In 2007, five applications were filed to build a total of nine units. In 2008, the nuclear experts are expecting to receive fourteen applications to build twenty new units. Even though they are behind other companies in the license application phase, sources say there is a huge push for Calvert Cliffs to be granted the first permit. Though regulatory and other hurdles remain, the proposed reactors could be operating as soon as 2015.

It is evident that the U.S. will experience an energy boom unsurpassed since the 1980's. With the possibility of 29 units being built questions arise surrounding the availability of manpower. This subject is usually a top priority at any UA Seminar we attend. Anticipating the need, a directive has been given to the Training and Organizing departments to get ready.

The UA is promoting its available pool of talent both politically and through marketing. Because of the large open shops and their availability of manpower we would be foolish to think we are the only one capable of doing the work. The open shops have the ability of bringing in travelers from outside the US through a H2B work visa to supplement their workforce. I had written an article last year regarding workers coming here to work under a H2B work visa. One of the conditions of a contractor applying to bring someone in under this visa is that they must show a shortage of workers. I ran across a plumbing shop in Rockville using them, so let's not fool ourselves into thinking that it couldn't happen to us.

Earlier, I had mentioned that General President Hite asked us to get our members behind an appropriations bill. There might come a time when we will be called upon to rally our members against companies replacing us with foreign workers. We may have to contact you and ask you a favor; it would be a simple request for you to call or e-mail your local politician to give them a message. That message is Local 602 along with the UA has the

skills and the numbers to build the plant. There is no need to look outside the US; we have home grown talent right here.

Note: When that call comes in for help; whether it comes from the UA or the Building Trades it is imperative that we get the message out to our members quickly. One way that is fact and effective is through e-mail. These are our jobs and our future that we are trying to secure. Invest a little time in our future; send me your e-mail address today.

[Lu602ba3@uanet.org](mailto:Lu602ba3@uanet.org).

### **Protecting your Future**

#### **Bill Durkin, Organizer/Business Representative**

Every week we get our paychecks and we check the amount, and if we had overtime we make sure that all is well. What we lose sight of is the fact that between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of our pay package doesn't show up on the check stub. Mechanics today receive \$33.27 an hour but another \$13.70 per hour is still owed to YOU. This is the money that goes to your Medical, Pension, Retirements Savings Plan (RSP), Training, Industry and Communication and Productivity (C&P) Funds.

We now have our first deduction from our paychecks in the form of Dues CheckOff. This is easy to see because it is indicated on your pay stub. If you don't see a deduction you can immediately let the contractor or the Union Hall know and it will be corrected.

The problem of tracking and correcting your benefits is a bit more complicated. Your employer is required to submit fringe monies to the Fund Office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the month in which it was worked. When this is done the Fund Office records your hours and then and only then sends a copy of the hours to the Local Union Office. The Local will only see information from one to two months prior. If the contractor sends the Funds late this only compounds the problem. We may have records that show several months behind in payment.

Ninety-nine point nine percent of our contractors are on time and on the money. This means that they send the Funds in on time and there are no discrepancies. A few will be late on occasion and will catch up. There are a very few who get into trouble and run up a very large debt to your Funds. They will cry that they can't afford to pay this large amount of money to the Union. We remind them that this Fund money is paid to the individual employee, that is out there making the contractor money. Other than the Training and C & P Funds the money goes directly to accounts for each member.

This is where you come in. You MUST monitor your own accounts. The Fund Office sends you a report four times a year. We, at the Hall, have no way to know where and how many hours you and the other 3,500 brothers and sisters are working. You must keep your paystubs until this statement comes to your house and then verify that your contractor has submitted the proper hours. "Proper hours" are credited for each hour you actually work, no credit is given for holiday hours. Overtime is credited as hour for hour, not at a premium rate. If all is good nothing more is needed. If you find a discrepancy

please contact the Hall. We usually can take care of the problem quickly. It may be a late check from the contractor or a minor clerical error.

We, at the Hall or the Fund Office, have no way of telling if you worked 0 hours or 230 hours during a certain month. Only you have the paystubs to verify your statement. Months or years later it may be too late. You may lose your family's Medical Coverage, credit towards your Pension and monies from your Retirement Savings Plan, to say nothing for the Training and other Funds. We all will have to make up this loss at contract time, when the shortfall is taken out of your wage increase.

The Local can recover your lost credit if you have paystubs, but if the contractor has gone out of business the Fund will have to absorb the loss. We all will lose. If you don't have paystubs you will lose and may face retirement with a lot less than you expected.

Your Pension and Retirement is worth \$7.54 an hour, Medical is \$5.71 an hour. This is \$13.25 an hour taken from you. If this much showed up missing from your hourly rate each week I believe you would let someone know.

You will be receiving a statement soon for the months of November, December and January. Please compare these statements to the actual hours worked. Literally "an injury to one is an injury to all". The future you save will be your own.

## SOLIDARITY

President, John P. Sullivan

Each of the two main political parties have their own rules for determining and selecting their delegates for the Presidential nominating conventions. There were 56 Democratic Party delegates and 40 Republican delegates up for grabs in Iowa. There are a total of 4,049 Democratic Party delegates and 2,380 Republican Party delegates that will eventually meet in convention. The Iowa delegations represent between 1.38% and 2.1% of the total Democratic and Republican delegates.

Obama with 38% of the vote secured 18 delegates or .4454% of the total number of Democratic delegates. Edwards captured 17 delegates or .4198% of the total delegates. Clinton reserved 16 delegates or .3951% of the total number of the delegates. Put simply, none of the Democratic challengers won even 1% of the delegates that will be required to win the nomination.

On the Republican side, Mike Hucabee did score a statistically significant win in Iowa. He walks away with 30 of the 50 Iowa delegates. He now has secured 1.26% of the total number of Republican delegates. Poor Mitt, who spent millions of his own wealth, secured only 7 delegates. Well, to be fair, he did garner .2% of the total delegates. And, I must add that Romney did better than Thompson, McCain, Paul, Giuliani, and Hunter. They all received 0 delegates in Iowa

There will be many hours and days spent in the spin mode by all of the surviving candidates. I've already heard terms such as "colossal victory", "crushing defeat", and "historical importance". But here's one bit of spin that you will not hear, "The leading candidates admit that over 60% of the vote was against them".

The results in Iowa are inconsequential in actual numbers. Yes it was a record turnout, but only around 334,000 voters or 16% of the *registered* voters went to local caucuses. That means that around 84% of the *registered* voters stayed home. If you compute the numbers against the number of *eligible* voters you realize that for every one who went to a caucus, more than ten eligible voters stayed home.

I would be tempted to say that all of this is "much to do about nothing" but I have looked at another set of numbers. Through the end of September, the candidates for the two major parties had raised a total of \$387,221,956. With three months to go, they had collectively spent \$ 266,102,675. At that pace, they will probably have spent over \$ 375 million by New Years Eve. That's right, the two parties will have spent well over a third of a billion dollars before the first primary vote was cast in 2008.

How does this compare to prior election cycles? If you look at the numbers for 1995, 1999, and 2003 you will find that on average that the combined candidates for the two parties spent around \$ 82 million dollars in the year leading up to the election year. Shamefully, four to five times that will have been spent in 2007.

The big winner in the Iowa caucuses was the corporate media with their networks, ad agencies, anchors, pundits, spin-doctors, and bloggers. They are raking in the cash and doling out the trash. They love a horse race and are hoping that it's neck and neck all the way to the conventions.

Over thirty states will have held their political contests before we get an opportunity to cast our primary ballots. However, the Democratic and Republican Parties has voted to penalize a number of states for "moving up" the dates of their primaries. There is a definite possibility that the delegations from Florida, Michigan, South Carolina, Wyoming, and New Hampshire may be barred from casting some or all of their votes at the respective conventions.

I plan to cast my vote on February 12<sup>th</sup> and hope that you will do likewise. Despite what you may hear in the interim, your vote will count in what I believe will be two divided conventions.

### **FROM WAYNE'S WORLD "WORK 2008"**

What comes to mind in this New Year, when you think of work? Money, respect, your future, productivity, safety, self pride, union pride, attitude, honesty, integrity? All of the above and more is what it takes to be a success at your job and more importantly, your life. You deserve to be successful in life. For various reasons; owners, developers and everybody else who used to use Union Contractors decided they didn't need us anymore?

Do you think contractors and 602 members took things for granted. When jobs are good it's easy to think it will always be that way. Both of us let the work get away. It's going to be a challenge for every 602 apprentice and journeyman to take back our place at the top. Our contractors are fighting to get a bigger slice of the market, they're telling owners, developers and builders about how it's worth paying top dollar for Union Labor because in the long run we are the better value. When they do their part to get the work, its up to every 602 member to make our performance on the job the best value the customer could want. If you like your jobs its going to show, work can be fun. Everyone of us needs to be a winner on the job as well as in life, to feel good about ourselves. Doing the right things on and off the job, looking out for yourself and your brothers and sisters. By doing this you will be looking out for the next generation of 602 members, which may include your own children. 602 is a proud union tradition with a strong worthwhile heritage. Do your part to keep it that way. It's our responsibility to ourselves and to our Union! It's time to win back our work. The payoff will be making higher wages and better benefits. You will have better work conditions and get satisfaction from your work. You will get self worth and union pride from what you do. We will have full employment. You will corner the marketplace. More than anything you will get respect for our trade.

Think about it.