

From Joseph Savia, Sr.
Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer

Per Capita Reporting

Effective with the January, 2006 Dues, the UA is requiring all Locals to begin reporting by diskette, not later than 48 hours after the last working day of the calendar month.

Per the UA Constitution, Sec 157, A member owing over three (3) months' dues shall automatically be suspended from membership without notice of any kind. A suspended member is denied all rights and privileges and is not entitled to any monetary benefits.

Sec. 158 (a) A suspended member becomes in good standing and his suspension is lifted by the payment of all back dues through the current month together with a \$50.00 reinstatement fee. A suspended member must pay his back dues through the current month before his \$50.00 reinstatement fee can be paid. Upon payment of back dues through the current month and payment of the \$50.00 reinstatement fee, the member shall be entitled to attend Local Union meetings with voice and vote but must wait ninety (90) days from the date of payment of the \$50.00 reinstatement fee before being entitled to monetary benefits. (b) The requirements for eligibility to vote at Local Union elections and to run for office in a Local Union are governed by Sections 121 and 124, respectively. (c) National and Local Union assessments, disciplinary assessments and loans are payable before dues. However, no union security clause shall be enforced because of the failure to pay national and local union assessments, disciplinary assessments or loans pursuant to this provision.

Section 159. any member in arrears for dues for a period of six (6) months shall stand expelled and must pay all money that he legally owes to the expelling Local Union and pay a new initiation fee to the Local Union in which he will be reinstated. The reinstating Local Union may also uniformly require of all expelled members proof of area residence of two (2) years as well as proof of current qualification as required of new members before accepting such an application for reinitiation.

Sec 160. A former member who was expelled under Section 159 will be reinitiated by the Local Union that expelled him if he meets all requirements set forth in Sec. 159, unless the General President grants the Local Union specific permission to deny reinitiation to the former member. To obtain such permission, the Local Union must present the General President a just and reasonable basis for the denial of reinitiation.

For example, beginning next month, the January, 2006 dues are due in the office, (**not postmarked, not dated check**) but physically in the office by the last working day of January, 2006. February, 2006 dues are due in the office by the last working day in February. If the January dues are not paid in January, and are not received by the last working day of February, March, 2006 will be the third month of non payment of dues, therefore, if payment is not received by the last working day of March, 2006, April 1,

2006, begins the fourth month of nonpayment of dues and reinstatement fees will be added on April 1, 2006, if full payment of all amounts owed are not received by the last working day in April, 2006, May, 2006 will be considered the fifth month and June, 2006, the sixth month. If payment in full is not received in this office by the last working day in June, 2006, the member would be dropped effective July 1, 2006, and would be assessed a reinitiation fee of \$1,600.00.

This may be a good opportunity for dues check off, so this does not become an issue in the future.

Journeyman Training

All Journeymen and Residential Tradesmen are eligible to attend Journeyman Training classes. Please note the section in the newsletter for the opportunities available in the near future.

Out Of Work

For those who are unemployed and on the out of work list beginning the 19th of December, 2005, please stop by the Hall for your Gift Certificate.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the M. Eddie Moore Scholarship winners, Jessica Bulger and Patrick Hanns, they each received a check for \$5,000.00.

Know your Officers and Their Roles

Conciliation Committee. The Conciliation Committee to be composed of Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer, Assistant Business Manager and a member of the Local, appointed by the two managers.

The Conciliation Committee will have the full power to adjudicate all questions in dispute which concern the application or interpretation of any provision of the agreement.

The Conciliation Committee will only be able to sign an agreement between Local 602 and the Mechanical Contractors Association, after they receive a majority vote from the body of the Local at a special called meeting. And prior to the special called meeting, the membership will have received a copy of any changes in the final agreement to read it before they vote on it.

The members of the Committee consisted of Joseph C. Savia, Sr., E. Wayne Updike, William J. Durkin and Kevin F. Sullivan.

In Closing

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our members and their families a very Happy Holiday Season, and Best Wishes for the coming year.

THIS 'N THAT

BIG WINNER

John Sullivan was the winner of the 50/50 raffle, held at the December Union Meeting and donated his winnings to C.O.P.E.

SYMPATHY

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of the following members:

Brother Robert W. Starkey, Jr. died November 9, 2005. Brother Starkey was 49 years old and had been a member since February 28, 1979. Death #1213.

Retiree Terry J. Richmond, Sr. died November 15, 2005. Brother Richmond was 61 years old and had been a member since September 1, 1964. Death #1214.

Brother Robert G. Krauss (Geoff) died November 25, 2005. Brother Krauss was 52 years old and had been a member since April 10, 1974. Death #1215.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO. 1215 ANY MEMBER
NOT PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1215 IS IN ARREARS.**

From Kevin Sullivan, Business Agent

This past month, the Full Time Officers were invited to participate in a class given to the Second Year Apprentices, called "Expectations". If you look up the word in the dictionary, you realize that the class could have multiple meanings and interpretations, just like the definition.

The Apprentices should have high expectations for themselves; to strive to the best in class as well as out in the field; and to continue with that attitude upon graduation. They should also have high expectations of their teachers, both in the classroom and in the field.

The Contractors want the same thing; the brightest and best Apprentices who are ready and willing to perform the task at hand, and to continue with that attitude as mechanics. The Contractors expect you to work smart, safe and efficient. For eight hours of pay, the Contractor expects a good day's work out of their employees. As a Union, we have the

same expectations of our Apprentices and Mechanics. We also, have expectations of our Contractors, to provide the tools and materials necessary to complete the task at hand.

After presentations from the four full time officers, Training Director, Ron O'Bier, Contractor Representatives, Woody Woodall, Mike Dent and Ernie Brady it became quite clear that we all wanted the same results in the end; the continued growth and prosperity of Local Union #602.

What we as a Union have tried to instill in the apprentices was that, yes, you are an employee of your company, but you are a part of something much larger. That something larger is the Union, which is also a part of something larger, the United Association of Union Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sprinklerfitters and Service Techs of the United States and Canada. Chances are the Apprentices will not graduate as employees of the same Company they started with, it does happen, but the possibility is unlikely. What they are a part of is; they are one of the 2600 working members and the 700 retirees, that are members of the Union; the Union that will take care of them and their family's needs in Retirement through the Local's Pension and Medical Plan.

After listening to the Contractors talks to the Apprentices, I did come away with one important realization; whether we are the owner, superintendent, mechanic or apprentice we all have a vested interest in this Local's wellbeing. Brothers Woodall, Dent and Brady all came up through the ranks of our Apprenticeship Program, working for different contractors and are now with their respected companies. A lot of our contractors are members, just like us, who, when all is said and done, wants this Union to survive. In the end, we will not draw a Pension from the company nor will they carry our Medical; it will be through them and 175 other contractors getting the work, employing our members, and contributing to our different Funds that pay the bills.

That is what we must not lose sight of; we are in this together striving for the continued growth and prosperity of both the Company and Union, together. To all of our members and to the shops that employ them, I wish a happy, healthy and profitable 2006.

If you see any of the following members in your travels, please give them a welcome as they were initiated on December 6, 2005.

Walter Bowling, Jason Bruce, Levy Campos, Chester Corron, Timothy Ellis, John McDonough, Paul Sproesser, Mark Tull

What's New in Training

The Foreman's Training Class will start on Wednesday, January 4, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. The Instructor for this class will be Ernie Brady, Outside Superintendent, John J. Kirlin Company. This class will run to approximately ten (10) nights. Please meet at the main office on the second floor of "B" Building for classroom assignment.

The Variable Speed Drive class will start on Saturday, January 7, 2006, at 7:00 a.m. The Instructor for this class will be Fred Lohr, York International. This class will be held on the second floor of "B" Building.

The next Medical Gas class will start on Saturday, January 7, 2006 at 7:00 a.m. The Instructor for this class will be Kevin Knighton, with The Severn Group. This class will be held in the Main Building on the Second Floor.

Please call the school at (301) 341-1555 to reserve your spot for these classes.

SOLIDARITY

President John P. Sullivan

Every attempt was made to reach all of Virginia's union members before the November statewide elections. Local 602 mailed over 5000 pieces of literature and made over 500 phone calls. The state AFL-CIO sent out three mailings and phone-banked every union household. In addition, for two months, we drove to every identified Northern Virginian union household in order to make a face-to-face case in support of union candidates.

I am proud to say that we did elect Tim Kaine as a labor friendly Governor. In his acceptance speech, he first thanked the Virginia State AFL-CIO and all the local unions for their hard work throughout the campaign. This man knows what a steamfitter is and what he is capable of doing on and off the job.

Sadly, I must report that we did not elect the Honorable, Leslie Byrne as Lt. Governor. We missed an opportunity to elect the strongest proponent of labor that Virginia has ever seen. Her AFL-CIO voting record that spans her terms in the House of Delegates, the State Senate, and the U.S. Congress, remains at 100%. I will always hope that she will run again.

In the Attorney General's race, 323 votes separated the two candidates at the start of the official recount. Never ask if your vote counts. Seventeen thousandths of one percent (.00017) of the eligible voters + 1 = 324, and our candidate wins.

In addition to the statewide elections, voters cast ballots to elect representatives to the House of Delegates. Out of the 100 districts, the Virginia State AFL-CIO made endorsements in only 55 races. Thirty-one of the labor backed candidates were incumbents and 24 were challengers. We were successful in 39 contests. All but one of the 31 endorsed incumbents won. Nine of the 24 endorsed challengers also won. To our credit, we now have eight more labor voices in the House of Delegates.

There were over 2 Million registered Virginian voters on Election Day. By historical estimates, probably another 2 Million eligible voters had failed to register. Seventy percent of Local 602 active and retired members were registered. It would be a fair estimate that as many as 250 of our members failed to register.

Statewide, less than 45% of the eligible voters cast their vote this year. This was a record low turnout and truly a disappointment. By comparison, last year, over 71% of Virginia's registered voters cast a vote for President. The average turnout for the Governor's race from 1977 through 1993 was 61.6%. The average turnout from 1997 through 2005 has dwindled to 46.9%.

We have 2006 elections scheduled in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. We will be asked to elect at least one mayor, a governor, all of our Representatives to the U.S. Congress, and two U.S. Senators. We can not afford to ignore any part of this political New Year.

Insert Pictures Here

Fighting to Justice...Victory in Gaithersburg

By Bill Durkin, Organizer, Business Rep

Last spring, word came into the Hall that the mechanical work at the Medimmune Job was lost to non-union contractors. The base building had gone to Colonial Mechanical. The high purity work had gone to an outfit by the name of FloOnics.

Joe Savia was not going to let this stand. He assigned the organization of the larger company, Colonial, to the Maryland State Pipe Trades and decided that we would deal with FloOnics ourselves. We investigated the company and found they were out of Richmond, Virginia. We contacted Local 10 and the Virginia Pipe Trades, after 3 or 4 attempts, we set up a meeting in Richmond, with the owner. Joe Savia and I, along with representatives from the Virginia Pipe Trades, sat down with Brad Lownsbury, the owner of FloOnics, and discussed the benefits of a Union Contract.

We offered to work with him to complete his existing contracts. He stated that if he needed the Union, he would use the Union but, he saw no need at this time. We told him that this was work in the industry that had always been done by union members and that we were duty bound to do whatever had to be done to keep it Union.

We were disappointed by his response. In the past, we have been able to reason with contractors and show the benefits of a union contract. In fact, during the past two and a half years, we have been able to persuade twenty-three (23) contractors to sign a contract without going through an organizing drive.

Union Contractors believed that FloOnics would not be able to man the job. But we started hearing rumors about mechanics coming out of Puerto Rico. Fortunately, I was able to find out where these men were staying, I then visited them at their motel. We were able to show the workers the benefits of Union Membership and how FloOnics was taking tremendous advantage of them.

In the meantime, the Maryland State Pipe Trades, was working on Colonial but we had run into a roadblock with the “Bush” National Labor Relations Board. Because of this, we had to adjust our campaign to include the entire area FloOnics was working in. This meant Richmond, Roanoke, Northern Virginia, Gaithersburg and Silver Spring, Maryland. We contacted the Virginia Pipe Trades and they located workers at a waste water plant in Roanoke, the other locations did not turn up any manpower.

During this time, I continued to meet with the workers at night in order to continue to build support for the Union. Joe Savia had me travel to Roanoke and assess the union support in that area. I reported that we had enough support to file for an election and we proceeded to do so.

When the Company was notified of our petition by the NLRB, they immediately claimed that these people were not employees, but rather, private contractors. At the Board Hearing on this issue, the owner and his lawyer were shocked that two of the workers were there to testify on the Union’s behalf. The Board found in our favor and set an election. The letter from the Board set December 9th as a “tentative date” for the election. The workers decided to send a message to FloOnics and do a work stoppage. We leafleted the Gaithersburg site, informing the other workers about the situation, and that we might picket the job. After we set the date for the informational picket, I asked **Dan Loveless** and **Jim Stacho**, from the Maryland State Pipe Trades for their help with the picket. I was not sure how many workers would actually turn out. When I showed up at our meeting place, all twelve workers were there, ready to picket.

A concrete pour was in progress while we were setting up our picket lines. The other trades asked if we wanted a complete work stoppage, we indicated that we were only there for an informational picket. An hour later, the concrete foreman came out and asked if we had told the Teamsters to stop delivery of the concrete, I called the Teamsters and thanked them for their support and asked that they tell the drivers to return with the concrete.

The Medimmune representative then came out and asked what was going on, we told him about the bad situation facing the FloOnics workers. We left the work site after calling FloOnics’ office and letting them know that the workers had gone on strike and would call in tomorrow if they were going to continue with the strike.

By the time I got back to the Hall, the FloOnics’ attorney had called and offered to vacate the Gaithersburg Site and let a union contractor have the job if we would withdraw our election petition. I suppose he did not know that Medimmune would make the decision about what companies perform the work, not him. He made a bigger mistake believing we would desert the workers who stood up for our Union. We weren’t about to allow this company to continue its’ exploitation.

Less than a week later, FloOnics was thrown off the job. The high purity work has now been taken over by a Union Mechanical Contractor. We continue on to an election. The

company continues to throw up objection after objection to prolong the day of the election, we continue to counter their claims.

Late last week, the National Labor Relations Board granted the company a mail out ballot to be mailed on December 16th. We will let you know the outcome of the election.

Postscript: On December 8th, **Ken Bradford, Jack Mastripolito** and I joined thousands of other trade unionists at a rally and demonstration in front of the White House. We were demanding that Bush restore the human rights of American workers, in particular, the right to organize and join a Union. I'll be writing more about this subject in future issues.



From WAYNE'S WORLD

Seasons Greetings And Best Wishes for the New Year

Let's talk about our future, over 39 years ago I started my career in the Steamfitters Local 602. During that time, Local 602 has provided many advances in our members' salaries, benefits, training and work conditions. Today our Government is trying to rewrite history with anti-worker and anti-union legislation that will take away all that we have earned. The future of our trade depends on every Journeyman and Apprentice. It is called **SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST!!** Maybe you are thinking who care about being the fittest? You make decent money, you don't need to kill yourself at work, so why should you? It's a valid point. Nobody does anything unless it's in their best interest and why should you be different. Let me give you some facts. Union Construction has got different percentages of the market in different places. New York or Chicago is not the same as it is in Dallas or Miami, but when you average it all out we still have only 13 percent of the work nationwide. Local 602 has about 30% of the work in our jurisdiction. **THAT'S NOT GOOD!** So let's wish a little. What would be different for you if we had 90% of the work? Who would benefit, let's start with **you**. This would open the door at contract time and would give 602 more political influence. We could have this if we worked together! With 30% of the work in our market, there's nothing to give away! Everyday on every job, we are either going to grow or we are going to shrink even more! Our growth is only going to happen based on our **SKILLS**, our **ATTITUDES** and our **WORK ETHIC!** There is one more thing to think about on the fight for survival, **THERE IS NO TIE GAME!** We either win or lose, **LET'S WIN!** There are many issues and battles that we must continue to fight. By getting more involved in the

political machine and in our Training Programs will help us win. This is all part of working together to make sure our future will be there!

May you all have a Happy Holiday Season!

We are continuously updating our records. We now have over 3300 Members and close to 200 Contractors. Addresses, phone numbers and many other change that we, at the Hall need to keep current. We have found that with upcoming events, and the speed that the world expects, we have found that we need to include email addresses in our database. If you have changed **ANY** of your vital information please let the union office know. You can email us at ua602@aol.com or mail in the changed information.

Name
Address
Email
Telephone
Cell #