

From Joseph Savia, Sr. Business Manager

Wage Rates:

At the May 24, 2006 Special Called Meeting, the following distribution of the \$1.80 increase was approved:

Effective 8/1/2006 the total wage packet will increase by \$1.80 per hour for journeymen and appropriate percentages for apprentices.

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	Journeyman	1st Year Apprentice 45%	2nd Year Apprentice 55%	3rd Year Apprentice 65%	4th Year Apprentice 75%	5th Year Apprentice 80%
Straight Time.....	31.27	14.68	17.94	20.33	23.45	25.02
Time & One-Half.....	46.91	22.02	26.91	30.49	35.18	37.53
Double Time.....	62.54	29.36	35.88	40.66	46.90	50.04
Working a Paid Holiday, <u>Holiday Pay and One and</u>						
One-Half.....	78.18	36.70	44.85	50.82	58.63	62.55
Shift Work @ 15% 5 days	35.96	16.88	20.63	23.38	26.97	28.77

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Employer Contributions

Medical Fund.....	5.61	5.61	5.61	5.61	5.61	5.61
Pension Fund.....	5.54	.25	.35	.45	.55	5.54
RSP.....	1.35	—	—	1.35	1.35	1.35
Apprenticeship Fund.....	.27	.27	.27	.27	.27	.27
Int. Training Fund.....	.05	.05	.05	.05	.05	.05
Industry Fund.....	.09	.09	.09	.09	.09	.09
Communication/ Productivity Fund.....	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04

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Total Package..... 44.22 20.99 24.35 28.19 31.41 37.97

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1st year and 2nd year Apprentice no RSP. \$31.27 base rate + 1.35 used to calculate wage rate, for a total of \$32.62

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The current contract will expire on July 31, 2007.

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For Your Information:

On Sunday, May 28, 2006, the Financial Section of the Washington Post ran an excellent article. I would like to share a few pieces of the article with you. "Lessons from a New Retiree" By Albert B. Crenshaw:

"Take it from a New Retiree: Here's How to Save" **"Benefits are Beneficial...** Young workers taking a first of new job rightly focus on the type of work, pay and prospects for advancement. And today, many also want to be sure they get medical insurance. But because of the time factor in 401(k) and similar plans, it is also important for young workers to look for employers that offer good plans. And of course they should sign up, pick a growth investment such as a stock mutual fund, and contribute at least enough to get the full amount of any employer match. Remember also, though, that traditional pensions have not entirely disappeared, so if you're talking to a prospective employer, ask if it offers one. This is important for several reasons. First, you should understand your benefits, how they work and how they might change. For example, if you are fortunate enough to go to work for an employer with a pension, don't short the 401(k) plan if there is one. That's because the employer might eventually freeze or terminate the plan, preventing you from getting the full projected benefit even if you work there 30 or 40 years. Also understand that traditional plans don't provide a large benefit for workers who leave after a

few years, even though they may have “vested” (become entitled to a pension). On the other hand, if the pension is a “cash balance” you may be entitled to a lump sum that can be rolled over into another employer’s plan or an IRA where it could continue to grow. **...and so are Unions.** It’s no coincidence that union membership is falling and so are the average worker’s wages in many industries. Business groups like to pin the troubles of lots of companies on their unions, but the truth is that the big problems are in industries where there has been some fundamental change in the economic climate, in many cases wrought by the government. In most companies with organized workforces, union no only fight for better wages and working conditions, they help prevent management from mistreating individual workers. Many young workers today think of themselves as too sharp, too desirable as employees to need union protection. Don’t delude yourself. You maybe a boy wonder today, but I’ve seen a lot of former boy wonders wishing they had joined, or belatedly joining a union they once thought themselves too good for. The newsroom at The Post is unionized, and I have belonged to the union here and and an earlier job for almost 40 years. I have never needed its protection, but I have seen it prevent firings and demotions- some possibly deserved but many arbitrary and brought on by a someone getting on the bad side of someone else. And I have seen it negotiate decent severance packages for workers who joined moments before the ax fell. If you go to work for a company with a union, join if you’re in its jurisdiction. This isn’t a matter of great principle. It’s simple self-interest.”

I thought this article nailed the advantages of the Union Membership right on the head. While not all of this article pertains to us, the article basically tells us what most of us already know. Benefits at retirement are extremely important and, there are more advantages to Union Membership than there are disadvantages. Sometimes we all just need a reminder.

COPE Contributions

In the next few weeks you will be receiving a request for a COPE Contribution. This year we finalized the Project Labor Agreement for the Nationals Stadium with the Mayor of DC, we also participated in the Virginia Election.

Please remember the next two years are critical campaigns. In Maryland this year we have the Governor’s race in DC we have the Mayor’s race, and the 2008 Presidential campaign is right around the corner.

If you have already contributed I thank you, if not please consider a Contribution. Remember, this is not a democrat or republican backing, but rather a Labor friendly backing of candidates.

UA News

The UA has recently announced the inception of the United Association Scholarship Trust Fund, which will benefit the children of UA members, beginning with the spring semester of the 2006-2007 academic year.

Eligibility for scholarships will be limited to graduating high school seniors and college undergraduates. All children of United Association members in good standing with the Union are eligible. The student’s academic and personal accomplishments as well as community involvement will be the most important considerations. The financial need of the students may be considered, particularly in situations where a “tie breaker” is needed.

The application can be obtained from the UA Website, www.ua.org or our office.

Lee C. Ashcraft Memorial Union Scholarship - 2006

The law firm of ASHCRAFT & GEREL, LLP offers this scholarship to members of metropolitan area unions and their families to help with the high cost of education. Each year they award a one-time grant of \$5,000.00 to an eligible student for education expenses.

If you, your spouse or child, plan to pursue education or training *full time*, you can apply now.

Applicants must be enrolled for their post-high school education or training by Fall of 2006 to be eligible for this year's award.

A committee of union volunteers screen the applications and a finalist is chosen by an independent party. No one at ASHCRAFT & GEREL, LLP participates in the selection process. This is an equal opportunity program, conducted without regard to race, gender, religion, age or disability.

To obtain your scholarship application, call (703) 931-5500. The deadline to submit your application is **November 17, 2006.**

MEMBERS GET DISCOUNTED DC UNITED TICKETS

CAUSE will once again be an official sponsor of the DC United. As part of the 2006 sponsorship package, MCAMW members can purchase DC United home game tickets at a discounted rate via the following website link: https://secure.mlsnet.com/MLS/dcu/tickets/2006/group/uam_all/. CAUSE will have a Spanish message field board ad and Hispanic radio ads, all part of CAUSE's Hispanic outreach program.

THIS 'N THAT

Timothy and Amy Ruhl announced the birth of their second daughter, Morgan, born on April 11, 2006 and was 7lbs. 15 oz.

James A. Blackwell, Jr. and his wife, Teri proudly announce the birth of their son, James A. Blackwell, III, born on May 11, 2006 weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz and was 20 ½ inches long. Congratulations also goes out to the proud grandparents, Linda and James A Blackwell, Jr. and great grandparents Jack and Dee Blackwell.

BIG WINNER

Tim Blackwell was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held at the June, Union Meeting and donated his winnings to the C.O.P.E. Fund.

SICK BAY

Ronald Watkins is home doing great after undergoing a double knee replacement on May 15th.

David Hoover has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Anyone wishing to contact him may do so by calling him at home.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to the family of Louis Basile who lost his wife, Avalean, on May 7, 2006.

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

Retiree, Allen R. Thrift died May 19, 2006. Brother Thrift was 83 years old and had been a member since September 16, 1947. Death #1226.

Brother Mark D. Begley died May 19, 2006. Brother Begley was 37 years old and had been a member since March 2, 1999. Death #1227.

Retiree, Roland W. Blancke died May 22, 2006. Brother Blancke was 80 years old and had been a member since August 6, 1963. Death #1228.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO. 1228. ANY MEMBER
NOT PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1228 IS IN ARREARS.**

From Kevin Sullivan Business Agent

On Friday, June 2, 2006 the Steamfitters class of 2006 had their graduation ceremony at the University of Maryland. It was a nice affair celebrating a very outstanding graduating class. One of the moments to remember was a message given by Salutatorian Jim Wilson of Combustioneer Corporation. His message was short and simple, "We have a job to do and our nonunion counterpart wants it, so what are we going to do about it". I don't know who or how that message was instilled in him but it was a great message to hear. He has not seen the fifteen to twenty percent unemployment from the early 90's. He has only witnessed good times throughout his apprenticeship yet he is still able to recognize the urgency of the situation with our nonunion counterpart. Thank you Jim for giving us that message: we all need not only to hear it but also to act on it.

Another moment that stood out in my mind was when the emcee, owner of one of our many good contractors said, "Remember to be true to your contractor". I understand his statement, for I too would want his employees to be good employees and to bring success to his company. I just wish he had also included the comment, but always be true to your union. I do not know how many contractors were represented at the graduation; I do know that there was only one Union. That Union was Local 602, the Union that put the apprentices through their five years of school. It was also the Union that will pay their pension along with their medical and negotiate with their current employer a raise.

I only brought this issue up, of being true to your Union, because three days after graduation, employees of one of our contractors subbed the work of a pipe fitter out to an open shop. A decision was made, based on previous losses incurred, to sub contract this work out; irregardless of the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. I can only hope that the decision was made by an employee of the company who is not part of the Union for I would expect more from a union employee. Another justification of their decision to use this company was another one of our contractors used them right down the street. That was true, an oil tank was set in the ground and the related excavation for the piping

was done by an open shop, but the steamfitters did the piping. It is also unfair to the other union contractors who bid the project.

I would like to thank the on site employees of this contractor for not turning a blind eye to the work they have performed for years as qualified members of Local #602. We are qualified to do the work; look at our graduating class. We need to protect our work, for when we retire it will not be Ajax Mechanical paying our pension and medical, it will be the Union. If we continue to give our work away there will be less man hours worked to feed our pension and medical funds. Protect your work and remember, "Always be true to your Union".

If you see Jeffrey Broyles, Michael O'Brien, Derek Lewis and Kevin Lassise please welcome them as our newest members.

Local 602 signed these three contractors this past month.
TMC – High Purity Piping Contractor
J.F.Fischer, Inc. – Water Treatment Contractor
American / KBN – Core Boring Contractor

By: Bill Durkin/Organizer/Business Rep

75% of U.S. Workers Lack Decent Wages and Benefits

Only 25.2 percent of American workers have a job that pays at least \$16 per hour and provides health insurance and a pension, according to a new study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

The report, "How Good is the Economy at Creating Good Jobs?" finds that despite strong economic growth since 1979 (inflation-adjusted GDP per person increased 60 percent) the percentage of workers in good jobs remained unchanged. At the other end of the spectrum, 26.6 percent of the workforce is in a job with poor pay and that offers neither health insurance nor pension

"The U.S. economy has failed to convert long-term economic growth into better jobs" said John Schmitt CEPR economist and author of the report. "In the last quarter century, the U.S. workforce has become older, more experienced and better educated, but 75 percent of the workers are still struggling in jobs that do not provide health insurance a pension and solid middle-class wages."

Wal-Mart Backs Schwarzenegger

A much publicized confidential memo sent to the Wal-Mart board of Directors reveals plans for further reducing the burden of their employee health cost by cutting spousal benefits, hiring more part time employees and discouraging older and less healthy workers from seeking employment. According to Wal-Mart Watch (<http://www.walmartwatch.com>) the company provides health care benefits to just 44percent of its 1.3 million U.S. employees. Obviously, Wal-Mart's refusal to provide adequate health insurance for its employees and their families shifts these costs onto the taxpayers.

It comes as no surprise then that in the past year, Wal-Mart and the Walton family members have contributed approximately \$1 million to numerous causes backed by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The governor has vetoed two important pieces of legislation aimed at the company: 1) a bill to require the state to disclose names of companies whose workers get government health services meant for poor residents; and 2) a bill to stop employers from locking workers inside workplaces.

Contributions include \$250,000 to the California Recovery Team from Christy Walton on October 7th the same day Schwarzenegger vetoed the health and disclosure bill.

Employer-Provided Health Insurance Declines – Again

Wal-Mart is just one example of the trend away from employer-provided coverage. Last year nearly 3.7 million fewer people had employer-provided insurance than in 2000, a decline for the fourth year in a row. In 2000, 58.9 percent of workers had employer-provided coverage; where as only 55.9 percent of workers had coverage in 2004.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the decline of job-based insurance does not account for population growth. As many as 11 million more people would have had employer-provided health insurance in 2004 if the coverage rate had remained at the 2000 level. At the same time Medicaid rolls (including the State's Children's Health Insurance Program) have increased by nearly eight million with a coverage increase of 2.3 percentage points.

Most children whose parents lost job-based insurance could pick up coverage under Medicaid. But many working adults who lost job-based coverage joined the increasing numbers of Americans without health insurance nearly 46 million in 2004 (up from 40 million in 2000). Middle income Americans between the ages of 25 and 54 were 26.7 percent more likely to be uninsured in 2004 than in 2000.

“Prognosis Worsens for Workers’ Health Care: Fourth consecutive year of decline in employer-provided insurance coverage” by Elise Gould, Economic Policy Institute, October 2005

The above articles are from Labor publications. I believe they needed to be disseminated to the membership. We are approaching an election and will be hearing 30 second sound bites on God, guns and gays. Don't be distracted. They will take things out of context and distort the facts.

Maryland's Governor did the same thing as Governor Schwarzenegger, fortunately our representatives over ride his veto. Many politicians know how to hit hot button issues but don't give us the whole story. Don't think for a moment these people are friends of working people. They are bought and paid for by special interests. They are out to destroy unions. We don't need to be suicidal Get the facts. Only you as the voters can make the decision to protect what working men and women have achieved in this country or give into knee jerk reactions.

SOLIDARITY

President, John P. Sullivan

The Immigration Debate PART III

The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act raised the annual immigration ceiling to 540,000, provided amnesty to illegal aliens able to prove continuous residence in the U.S. since 1982, and introduced stiff sanctions against employers of illegal aliens. The Immigration Act of 1990 raised the ceiling further to 700,000 for 1992 through 1994 with the intent to lower it again to 675,000 in 1995. The Immigration Act of 1996 doubled the Border Patrol to 10,000, mandated the construction of fences at heavily trafficked areas of the U.S.-Mexico border, and approved a program to check the immigration status of job applicants. Additionally, in 1996, the Welfare Reform Act denied eligibility for virtually all state and federal benefits except emergency medical care, immunization and disaster relief programs.

But the charade goes on with both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate passing different bills regarding immigration and naturalization. The next phase of the legal process will be a joint meeting of selected representatives from both Houses in a conference committee. This committee must compromise and produce a single joint bill. If the joint bill passes with a majority in both Houses and the President signs it, we will have a new Immigration and Naturalization Law.

But the question remains, if a new law is passed, will we have a *new immigration policy*? Will the President and the Executive Branch support a new law? And if the President fails to enforce the law, will the Congress exercise its responsibility under the Constitution, hold oversight hearings and force the hand of the President? I ask this, knowing that Presidents Reagan, Bush Primero, Clinton, and up to now, Bush

Secundo have all failed to enforce previous law. Further, it must be admitted that for the last twenty years Congress has failed to ensure that four different presidents follow and enforce the law.

More than a blind eye has been turned towards past law. Estimates of 12 to 20 million illegals have entered since 1986. As mentioned above, all safeguards, be it border security, additional agents, workplace verification of documentation, prosecution of employers who violate the law, etc., were written into past laws. In fact there is little difference between new proposals and current law except maybe that fences are to be supplanted with a proposed high tech wall to be built along our borders.

How many illegals will it take to build thousands of miles of walls separating our country from Mexico and Canada? What will it cost to build, man, maintain, and monitor the walls. Given the abysmal record of this administration, with tens of millions of taxpayers' dollars unaccounted for in the rebuilding efforts in Iraq and in New Orleans, perhaps billions will be squandered. The estimate of two billion has already been scoffed at. As the director of Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments puts it, "If the military could seal a 6,000 mile border for \$2 billion, Iraq's border would have been sealed two years ago."

As citizens we should be outraged over the illegal immigration issue. Five years after the last "reform", we were attacked by illegal aliens who passed through our porous borders with fraudulent papers. Five years later our political leaders are again trying to convince us that they are serious about controlling illegal immigration. We have moved way beyond the proverbial "fool me once...fool me a second time...". We are indeed tried and true fools if we accept that either the President or members of Congress are interested in this issue in any way other than to protect their own posterior and political seat.

What's New in Training

By Ron O'Bier, Training Director

On Friday, June 2, 2006, 64 Steamfitter Apprentices graduated from our Apprenticeship Training Program. The Top Honors went to Donald Bevington, Valedictorian with a GPA of 98.2 and Jim Wilson, Salutatorian with a GPA of 97.96. Donald is employed with R.M. Thornton and Jim is employed with Combustioneer. The Outstanding Steamfitter Award went to Jacob McGee, who is employed with Southland Industries. The Outstanding Welder Award went to Daniel Fluhart. Daniel is certified in IMCS-1A 6010, 2MCS-1A 7018, UA-21 and DC Weld Test. Daniel is employed with R.M. Thornton. The Outstanding Service Award went to James Hardesty, Jr., with Kelly HVAC. The Humanitarian Award was presented to John Tracey Jr. John is employed with RM Thornton and his apprenticeship was delayed by one year while John served in Iraq. Jamaal Brown and Charlie McDaniel tied as the high scorers on the UA Star HVACR Exam with a score of 90.95 and Andrew Lis was the high scorer on the UA Star Steamfitter Exam with a score of 86.00. Jamaal is employed with Boland Services, Charlie with York International and Andrew with John J Kirlin.

The most distinguishing factor of this class from all the other classes is that this class had 49 of the 64 Graduates complete the five year program with a GPA of 90% or above. The welding class for this year's graduates produced 25 certified welders out of a class of 27. That group produced a total of 56 combined certificates. WAY TO GO WELDERS!!!!

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2006 HAS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Honor Roll Listing:

Donald Bevington	98.20
Jim Wilson	97.96

Johnathon Goldman	97.37
Gregory Frey II	97.32
Jamaal Brown	97.21
Charles Riffle	96.83
Sean West	96.58
Hans Allen	96.56
Gerald Young III	96.52
Jay Merrbaugh	96.45
Joshua Buba	95.73
Walter Jiminez	95.69
Jacob McGee	95.67
Vito Dipaola	95.66
Lance Benny	95.54
Andrew Lis	95.11
James Woodall, Jr.	94.90
Sean Harsha	94.76
Adam Brown	94.66
Thomas McGinty	94.63
Thomas Dietrich	94.55
Charles McDaniel	94.13
Charles Shuff	94.04
Robert Plummer	93.74
Dwayne Covington	93.73
Tony Wallace	93.73
Ryan Baker	93.35
Jarrod Policelli	93.23
James Hardesty, Jr.	93.06
Brian Clenney	92.99
Christopher Loeffler	92.83
Edward Lukenich	92.67
Dehrric Richburg	92.60
Steven Johnson	92.57
Shawn Swisher	92.53
David Menefee	92.45
Matthew Novotny	92.36
Joshua Morrow	92.22
Daniel Fluhart	92.20
David Verhalen	92.11
Bradford Farmer	91.93
Ryan Ivey	91.50
James Nelson	91.15
Brian Sanford	91.12
Anthony Rednagle	90.65
Robert Wilkerson	90.52
George Ransome	90.51
Jonathon Clarke	90.46
William Chappelle	90.26

The remaining class of 2006

David Beale
Brandon Brock
Thomas Harris
John Tracey Jr.
Terry Murdock
Dwayne King
Orsini Wright
Dinoven Saunders
Stephen Williams
James Blackwell Jr.
Marcus Walker
Joseph Gale III
Ronnie Charles
Paul Claiborne
Derrick Johnston

Certified Welders from the Class of 2006

Ryan Baker	1-MCS-1A, 2MCS-1A
Donald Bevington	1-MCS-1A
James Blackwell Jr.	1-MCS-1A
Dwayne Covington	1-MCS-1A
Thomas Dietrich	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A
Vito Dipaola	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A, DC
Bradford Farmer	1-MCS-1A
Daniel Fluhart	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A, DC, UA-21
Gregory Frey III	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A, 4-TMCS-1A, UA-21
Joseph Gale III	1-MCS-1A, DC
Jonathon Goldman	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A, DC, UA-21
Thomas Harris	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A, 4-TMCS-1A, UA-21
Walter Jiminez	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A, 4-TMCS-1A, DC, UA-21
Andrew Lis	1-MCS-1A
Christopher Loeffler	1-MCS-1A
Jacob McGee	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A
Matthew Novotny	1-MCS-1A, DC
Jarrod Policelli	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A, DC
George Ransome	1-MCS-1A
Dehrric Richburg	1-MCS-1A
John Tracey Jr	1-MCS-1A
David Verhalen	1-MCS-1A, DC
Robert Wilkerson	1-MCS-1A
Jim Wilson	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A, DC, UA-21
James Woodall, Jr.	1-MCS-1A, 2-MCS-1A, DC

35th
SAM TOWNSEND
MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



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DRESS CODE POLICY: The club requires all players to wear appropriate golf attire. Shirts with collars must be worn at all times. Shorts may be worn, but must be mid-thigh length or longer. Denim jeans are not permitted. Spikeless shoes are also a requirement. Golf shoes may be changed into non-metal spikes in golf shop for a small fee. Please arrive 45 minutes prior to the event for this service

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SAM TOWNSEND MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
MAIL TO: STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602, 8700 ASHWOOD DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR, CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

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PLEASE RETURN PRIOR TO JULY 20, 2006

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From Wayne's World Be Happy with Your Work

Everybody deserves to be happy. Like it or not, you're going to spend most of your life at work, you should have a sense of **PRIDE** and **ACCOMPLISHMENT** about the work you do. Otherwise, Why Bother? A paycheck is a paycheck, what's important is HOW you earn it. Be happy about all the good things in your life. Look at your job as your place to achieve something and a place to grow your knowledge in the trade. It's true that you are not going to be happy all the time and not everyday will be full of sunshine but, even when you have a bad day, look at the bigger picture of your life and the good things your work brings to it. A lot of people in the trade might look down on themselves because they weren't so great in school. I'm not saying education isn't important but the classroom is not the only place in which you learn, you can learn from your coworkers on the job. There are plenty of educated idiots and just as many non educated geniuses. If you take a well educated graduate and a blue collar worker, put them in any work situation, their success will depend on a number of things that have nothing to do with how many degrees they have, ask yourself;

- Are they good with people?
- Do they follow through?
- Are they honest and ethical?
- Do they communicate well?
- Are they trying to improve themselves?
- Most importantly, do they understand the trade they are in?

Here is the Key; any 602 Member should be able to work circles around any non-union worker. If we make more money then our productivity and quality should be higher. We have free education available to us through our whole career. Therefore, even if we cost more, we should still be the best bargain. I hope you are ready to walk the walk to prove it! This is no joke, no BS and there is no excuse, we just need to prove it.

We are continuously updating our records. We now have over 3300 Members and close to 200 Contractors. Addresses, phone numbers and many other changes 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 #

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