

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

*****SPECIAL CALLED MEETING NOTICE*****

There will be a Special Called Meeting, on **Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.**, at the UA Mechanical Trades School, 8509 Ardwick Ardmore Road, Landover, MD to vote on an increase in the Dues Structure. This Meeting will be to change the current By-Laws, effective April 1, 2007, as follows:

The Committee considered the proposed increase in dues in light of the balance between income and expenses over the last five years. We determined that the proposed dues increase was insufficient to produce a positive growth in the General Fund. Accordingly, the Committee amended the Business Manager's proposed dues increase of two dollars to five dollars a month for minimum dues, active journeymen and apprentices.

The Committee therefore, proposes the following language for Article X, Section 3. The figures stated below include the recent \$1.00 increase in the U.A. per capita dues. Sec. 3 Regular Dues shall be payable as follows:

- (a) The dues of all building and construction journeymen pipe fitters shall be **\$63.00** per month **\$47.00** for dues and \$16.00 for organizing assessment), provided that the said journeyman has worked 80 hours or more in a calendar month. Any journeyman working less than 80 hours in a calendar month shall pay the minimum dues, except as follows:
- (b) The minimum dues for any member shall be **\$24.00** per month.
 - 1. Upon request, those members who are receiving Medical Fund weekly accident and sickness benefits, shall have their **\$24.00** minimum dues paid by the Local Union during the period they are receiving such benefits, and thereafter, if still disabled, but only up to a maximum of six (6) months per calendar year, subject to approval of the Executive Board.
 - 2. No change
- (c) Metal trades shall pay **\$25.00** per month. The Executive Board shall have the authority to set lower dues for separate groups when they deem appropriate.
- (d) All members working with a Travel Card (outside of Local 602 boundaries) shall pay **\$40.00** per month, except when a member is offered a job in his home local and refuses same, then his dues become full working journeyman dues. To be eligible, a member must maintain a residence in Local 602's jurisdiction.
- (e) All apprentices shall pay **\$46.00** per month for the first two (2) years and **\$49.00** per month for the remainder of their apprenticeship.
- (f) No change
- (g) No change
- (h) No change

In addition to these changes the UA has added the following categories which need to be incorporated into our bylaws:

National Tradesman shall pay **\$41.00** per month.
Residential Tradesman shall pay **\$49.00** per month.
Mechanical Equipment Service (MES) shall pay **\$49.00** per month.

Respectfully submitted,

The By-Laws Committee

Correction to Last Newsletter

Dues Paid for the Year 2006

Journeyman – 12 x \$57.00 = \$684.00; **Retiree Dues @ \$24** – 12 x \$24.00 = \$288.00; **Retiree Dues @ \$21** – 12 x \$21.00 = \$252.00; **1st & 2nd Yr. Apprentices** – 12 x \$40.00 = \$480.00; **3rd, 4th & 5th Yr. Apprentices** – 12 x \$43.00 = \$516.00; **Metal Trades Dues** – 12 x \$24.00 = \$288.00; **Residential Trades/MES** – 12 x \$43.00 = \$516.00.

There were **26 deaths** for the year – 26 x \$3.00 = \$78.00
Now is a good times to catch up your dues and deaths.

Contract Time

Negotiations of the new contract effective August 1, 2007 will begin soon. Anyone having any suggestions for the contract, *please submit in writing* either via email, regular mail or drop at the hall.

M.EDDIE MOORE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the year 2007 will be accepted through June 30, 2007. In order to be considered the dependent must be eligible for medical coverage, in our Fund, to apply. For applications please call (301) 333-2356.

UA SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the UA Scholarship will be accepted through June 30, 2007. The application can be downloaded from the UA website or by calling this office (301) 333-2356.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go out to Roger Merica and Sean Straser, they were again invited to teach at the UA Instructor Training Program.

Congratulations also go to Patrick Hanns, son of Billy Hanns for receiving a Scholarship from the UA.

Substance Abuse Issues

The substance abuse program has started and is meeting at the Union Hall on Thursday's at 4:30 p.m. Remember it is never to late to attend. There is NO cost and anonymous participation.

Windbreakers

We have received requests to order the pull over v-neck wind breakers. Because of the cost we are only doing on an as order basis. The cost is \$35.00. If you wish to order, please mail your name, address, telephone number and size. These can only be ordered in groups of 30. Once we have a total of 30 requests we will place the first order. You will be notified when we receive the order.

From Kevin Sullivan, Business Agent

During the last decade we have seen what the North American Free Trade Act (NAFTA) has done to manufacturing plants across the United States. If it's not auto parts it's the appliance or textile industry moving to Mexico or China. Am I the only one who, when needing information on your bank or credit card, picks up the phone and finds yourself talking to someone in India? Since NAFTA was enacted in 1994, the US has lost 1 million jobs to China and has seen more than 2 million jobs outsourced, in the white collar and manufacturing sectors. Phew, it's a good thing we are removed from harms way, we in the Construction Industry build and service our jobs in the US. Those jobs can't be shipped out so we are pretty safe. At least we thought so!

A friend of mine is on a job using non-union plumbers. There is a whole crew of men working for this company that, as it turns out, are from Peru. They hear of such a thing called "the Union", if you are member you can get better wages along with Health Care. They are threatened with deportation if caught talking to "the Union". I went to the Building Trades and was told that they were probably here under a H2B work visa.

Pull up H2B work visa on the computer and you will see many sites either explaining to contractors the necessary steps to get the visa approved or the many law firms that advertise, for a small fee, that they can do the footwork and ship the employees to your door. It is quite scary, this global economy we live in; but all is not lost. We need not bend over and kiss out butt goodbye, but it will take a concerted effort from all parties involved to secure our future. Be it the Contractors or the Union we both have a stake in this.

So what do we do?

Promotion: the Union is currently hitting the Route 81 corridor, talking to potential customers about the benefits of Union Labor as well as encouraging our contractors to go after the work; after all, we do have qualified member living in that area. The Washington Building Trades meet with local politicians to emphasize the economies of Union Labor. Our prices are competitive and we are not a burden on the State Health Care Systems.

Training: what a fantastic facility we have at our disposal. I was talking with Darryl Medley and Jim Balderson about the selling of our abilities through the UA Star Program. This could go under promotion as well, for it is a selling point for the contractors, as we have a qualified efficient and safe workforce. How many have gone back for journeymen training to hone their skills?

Licensing: it would be to our benefit to lobby for the enforcement of licensing requirements. There are already laws on the books but with the budget cuts to the Maryland Department of Licensing minimal enforcement has taken place. Putting money back into the budget is one of the goals during this Maryland Legislative Session. With enforcement of laws currently on the books we are less likely to be replaced by a temporary worker.

Prevailing Wage Survey: this Local has made gains securing prevailing wage in outlying counties of both Virginia and Maryland. This is where we need the help of the contractors to submit a roundabout dollar and manpower figure when we ask for information on work in a particular county.

Brothers and Sisters, I hear it all too often “it ain’t like it used to be”. There is no argument here: it’s not like it used to be. Back in the day, when you saw a building going up you wondered what Union Mechanical was building it; now you wonder if it’s Union or not. The non union work force is here and they want our jobs. I don’t want to be like that credit card rep or the auto plant worker sitting at home, or out retraining for another career, mumbling the same words (it ain’t like it used to be). This is our livelihood, that which puts bread on our tables and will secure us in our retirement. Each day every one of us, officers, organizers, journeymen, apprentices and contractors play a part in our future; it is in our hands.

THIS ‘N THAT

William Farias proudly announced the birth of his son, Pono, born January 7, 2007 and weighed 7lbs. 1 oz.

John and Chryl Huff proudly announce the birth of their son, Austin Ryan, born October 16, 2006 weighing 8lbs. 8oz.

BIG WINNER

Ric Taylor was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held at the February Union Meeting and donated his winnings to C.O.P.E.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to the family of Joseph Gordon who lost his wife on January 7th, to the family of Kerridge Wright who recently lost his mother, to the family of Marlin Gibson

who recently lost his mother and to the family of Albert Bonner who lost his daughter, Michelle Deila on February 3, 2007 as a result of an automobile accident.

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

Retiree, Howard M. Ellis died January 2, 2007. Brother Ellis was 86 years old and had been a member since April 6, 1971. Death #1245.

Retiree, Robert W. Lammer died January 1, 2007. Brother Lammer was 68 years old and had been a member since August 4, 1964. Death #1246.

Retiree, Robert J. Peake died January 6, 2007. Brother Peake was 71 years old and had been a member since June 2, 1959. Death #1247.

Retiree, Edwin W. Binkley died January 12, 2007. Brother Binkley was 70 years old and had been a member since November 3, 1959. Death #1248.

Retiree, David W. Dierdorff died January 17, 2007. Brother Dierdorff was 60 years old and had been a member since April 3, 1980. Death #1249.

Retiree, Dexter L. Hash died January 27, 2007. Brother Has was 97 years old and had been a member since July 5, 1955. Death #1250.

Retiree, Charles L. Eckell died January 27, 2007. Brother Eckell was 86 years old and had been a member since February 4, 1964. Death #1251.

Retiree, Theodore A. Basar died February 4, 2007. Brother Basar was 66 years old and had been a member since March 4, 1975. Death #1252.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO. 1252. ANY MEMBER
NOT PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1252 IS IN ARREARS.**

SOLIDARITY

President, John P. Sullivan

The Virginia General Assembly will have concluded its session by the time that you read this column. Literally thousands of bills and resolutions are set in front of the General Assembly each year. By my count, more than 1800 pieces of legislation failed. Hundreds failed to get out of committee. However, approximately 1030 laws and resolutions were passed and have been signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. These bills and resolutions will now go on to the Governor's desk for further action.

You may be happy to hear that the Virginia Big Eared Bat may finally receive its due as the Official State Bat. Virginians may also have a new Official Flowering Tree. But don't

be alarmed, I think that the Official State Plant, Flower, Insect, Bird, Fish, Dog, Cat, and Critter will remain the same.

On the crime front, you may be relieved to know that "brandishing a machete in a threatening manner" and "tattooing or body piercing a minor" may soon become a violation of law in the Commonwealth.

On the PETA front...Good news, you may soon be able to set up a financial trust to care for your pet after your demise. Bad news, be careful when you make gifts of less than six ducklings (or other waterfowl), or dogs less than seven weeks old (without the dam), or kittens less than seven weeks old (without the queen), or any mammalian pet that has not been properly weaned. And if you are a trapper, well, you better be careful and check the new legislation before you set your next snare. You might be breaking the law.

Bummer, "Roll Your Own Tobacco Products" may now be taxed to the same level as cigarettes.

Hallelujah, you just might be able to get your favorite NASCAR vanity plate this year.

Fingers crossed, with luck and the governor's signature, you might to be able to electronically gamble on out of state horse races at designated sites.

But what about fixing the transportation funding problems and addressing questions involving illegal immigrants? Well, that may just take another session or two. It seems that the Republican majority in the House and Senate are more interested in blocking Governor Tim Kaine than addressing the pressing needs and concerns of the their constituents.

From Wayne's World

Having a Good Attitude

Attitude: is a state of mind or feeling. The U.S. has one of the lowest percentages of private sector workers covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements, in the world. Let's hope the new Democratic controlled Congress will help the Unions grow in the U.S. While most American Unions are losing members 602 is gaining them along with new contractors as well. Our success comes from our organizing campaigns, our wage and benefit package, our free training and trying to change the old adversarial image that Unions have with an attitude adjustment towards our contractors. Having a better relationship with our contractors does not just happen by chance, it is a matter of choice for both of us. With the contractor, the Union and the rank and file all working together we should have a good future in this town. What are some of the ways that our Local and our contractors can work together to make it better. Let's start with 602:

- Being to work on time and ready to work.

- Do the best job possible.
- Have proper safety practices on the job site.
- Take care of all tools and equipment.
- Exhibit professionalism at all times.
- Stay on top of your skills and knowledge of our trade.

Now the Contractors:

- They can be honest and fair with us at all times.
- They should comply with the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- They should always provide a safe environment to work in.
- Provide the tools needed to do the job.
- They should be active in our Training and Organizing Programs.
- Have a good working relationship with 602 members on the job site.
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I am sure there are many more things we both could do to make things better, but the fact remains, the future of our trade is in both of our hands.

If we both have a good attitude, 602 wins, the contractor wins and most of all the customer wins. Let's hope this will get us more work from them in the future. We all need to bring a good attitude to work and leave the other one home.

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 #