

# STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602

proudly presents it's

## “95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Awards Dinner Dance”

Saturday, May 17, 2008

7:00 p.m. till 1:00 a.m.

at

**Martins Crosswinds  
Greenbelt, Maryland**

Sumptuous Dinner \* Open Bar  
**Dancing to the Sounds of a THE HUBCAPS**

### **A Very Special Night**

Come and celebrate our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with your Friends and Co-Workers

\$90.00 per Couple ***Non Refundable*** \$50.00 Single

For Ticket Information and Seating Call Sandra Macek  
**301-333-2356 ext 9**

**Limited to the First 900**

Special Room Accommodations will be available  
For Local 602 at the Greenbelt Holiday Inn  
(301-982-7000) located next to Martins Crosswinds

From Joseph Savia, Sr.  
Business Manager

## **A Look Back at History**

Minutes of the March 26, 1913 Meeting

Meeting open in due form by Pres A. Boyce

Motion made that we dispense with regular order of Business and obligate the members who had not attended the meeting, March 18, 1913. Carried

General Organizer Lenard then took the chair and obligated the following men:

H.S. Brown, V. Brown, George Brown, A. Brown, H Bridget, C.E. Bennett, A Burdette, F. Carrick, G. Burrows, E Collingsworth, Charles Day, T. Dougherty, H Fiddesop, E.F. Fitzhugh, E Franzel, J Gittings, Ed Hart, Jos Hess, T Hall, F. Hoffman, S Kemp, R.E. Lambath, H Lockett, A Meitzler, J.F. Maher, H Moreland, Chas Owens, E Phelps, G Powell, H Powell, G Powell, C Reeley, D. Reidy, L Robinson, P Shannon, C.W. Shaw, T Shaw, F.A. Shoenagle, R. Solari, C Shipley, J.M. Smith, T Skalar, A Thompson, F.A. Twitchell, C.W. Tucker, W L. Watts, Jos Williams, M Young, (47)

A Motion made that we take up the regular order of Business (carried)

Bro Revelle objected to Bro Geo Moore being obligated. The Fin Secy was instructed to look the matter up and report back at the April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1913 meeting (carried)

Roll called and absentees noted, members present 130. Minutes of previous meeting Read and Approved.

Reports of Committees “none”

Correspondence and action thereon.

A letter from Headquarters in regard to Bro W.W. Evans and Bro W.W. Vaughan Due books read and placed on file.

Letter from W.H. Merryman, Secy B.T.D. read laid on table for new business.

Report of Executive Board – none

Appropriation of money, motion made and seconded that a warrant be drawn from one hundred and thirty eight dollars \$138.00 and sent to headquarters for charter fees for 138 members – carried

Business Agent Zea made his report, motion made to accept same – carried

Organizer Lenard made a report on the White Sulphur Springs WVA job being done by Evans-Almillrant & Co.

#### New Business

The letter of the BTM was read and a motion was made that we send delegates to same. Carried. Pres Boyce appointed the following, Bros. Chas Vespers – E.W. Jones, Harry Fiddesop credentials were made out and given to Bro C Vesper.

The Following Delegates were appointed to the CIU by Pres Boyce. W.W. Vaughan, W. Whyte, Geo Meitzler, A Meitzler, Geo Seymore, credentials made out and placed in hands of B Agent Zea. Motion made that we affiliate with BTM and that Bros Zea & Evans withdraw from old Bldg Trade Council – Carried.

Motion made by Bro Revelle that we go into the Election of Officers. The chair rules that it was out of order Bro Revelle appealed from chair and Vice Pres Holahan put the question. Shall the rules of the chair be sustained. Bro Revelle appeal was lost by a vote of 65 to 5.

Bros Reichard made motion that the election of officers be laid over until the last week in June – carried.

A Motion made by Bro Hickman that all delinquent members who are in arrears for \$12 or more will be placed in good standing upon payment of \$11.00 this proposition is open to April 23, 1913. All members who do not take advantage of same will be charged a new initiation of \$50.00 and all indebtedness now charged against them – carried.

A motion by Bro Hickman that no permits be granted to anyone – carried.

Organizer Lenard gave us a short talk and as there was no further business the meeting was adjourned to meet on April 9, 1913.

Attendant – 130

#### **MEDICAL COVERAGE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED**

Remember, Local 602 still offers the “Penny Fund” at no charge, for any member falling out of coverage for reasons of unemployment can apply for. In order to be eligible for the coverage you must be available for work, and seeking employment in the unionized pipefitting industry. An application for coverage can be obtained from the Fund Office (800) 618-2879. A member is only eligible to receive the Penny Fund if he is on the out of work listing, seeking employment and can only receive for up to two eligibility quarters.

## **M.EDDIE MOORE SCHOLARSHIP**

Applications for the year 2008 will be accepted through June 30, 2008. 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, ext 0.

## **UA SCHOLARSHIP**

Applications for the UA Scholarship will be accepted through June 15, 2008. The application can be downloaded from the UA website or by calling this office (301) 333-2356, ext 0.

## **Maryland License Plates**

The new License Plates are out and traveling around town. If you are interested please contact the Hall for the application, checks or money orders for \$25.00 payable to the MVA must be returned to the Hall with the application. The hall will forward the application for you.

Motorcycle plates have been delayed, we currently need 23 more applications to be eligible for the motorcycle plates. If you are interested please file an application with the hall. We will notify you when we have 23 and are submitted the request.

## **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 for May 17, 2008, to help us all celebrate our 95<sup>th</sup> Year.

## **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.

## FROM THE TRAINING FUND

By Assistant Training Director, Sean Straser

### Medical Gas Update

1. To obtain the Medical Gas Installer Certification, a member must complete a 40 hour course covering NFPA 99C (the code which governs the installation of medical gas piping systems in medical facilities).
2. A brazing test is required to obtain this certification. The brazing tests consist of 2 1 ½” joints done in the 5G or horizontal position and two 1 ½” joints done in the 2G or vertical position. Both of the vertical joints are done so that the brazing metal flows upwards into the coupling.
3. Once both portions of the test are evaluated by NITC (the third party testing agency chosen by the UA) the results are forwarded to the UA for processing. Upon successful completion of both portions of the test, a card is issued by the UA. These cards are then sent to the Local for distribution to the member. Processing of the cards can be a lengthy procedure.
4. Once the member receives his card, the brazing qualification is good for **six** months. To renew the brazing qualification, the member needs to submit a properly completed brazing continuity form to the Apprenticeship office. Do not fill in the dates as these will be completed by the office to meet the dates to avoid a break in continuity. All members are notified by the Apprenticeship office when their brazing qualification is to expire. Once the office has received a completed continuity form, the new qualification card is sent out.
5. If a member allows his brazing qualification to lapse, a requalification test must be taken. This test involves brazing one 1 ½” joint in the up flow position. This coupon must be sent out for evaluation to NITC.
6. The code portion of the qualification is good for three years or until the new code is issued by NFPA. In the past, the codes were issued every three years. The last code was issued in 2005. However, the next revision to that code will not be issued until 2009. The update tests for this should be out sometime late this year or early next year. To bring your certification up to the new code requires the completion of an open book test provided by NITC. The test covers the changes in the NFPA code, not the entire code. In the past, the Apprenticeship office was allowed to hold uncompleted tests indefinitely. Now, they must be sent back within six months if they are not completed.
7. Failure to update the code portion of the Med Gas certification will result in the member having to take the entire 40 hour course again.
8. If a member fails the written test twice, he must retake the entire 40 hour course again.
9. These are not our rules. These rules are established by NITC and are inflexible.
10. Currently, Local 602 bears the cost for the Med Gas certification. The initial costs for qualification are \$100. Each brazing continuity form costs \$20 to submit. These must be submitted every six months. The code update tests cost \$40 to process. Over the life of a code cycle (3 years), a Med Gas certification may cost up to \$280.

11. As with any certification or license, it is the responsibility of the holder to maintain it. The Apprenticeship office does notify members when the code and brazing portions of the Med Gas Certification are about to expire. Please respond to these notifications in a timely fashion to prevent the loss of your certification. In order to correspond with each member, the Hall must be kept abreast of any changes in your home address. Once you obtain this certification, this may be kept current with a little time on your part. Which is easier, filling out a continuity once every six months and an hour every three years to take an open book test or sitting in a 40 hour class because you let it lapse.
12. **If the member does not keep his certifications current and a call for fitters with the Med Gas Certification is made, who do you think the contractor will have perform the work?**

### **THIS 'N THAT**

Congratulations to Michael and Jill Porter who were married on February 13, 2008.

Grandparents Ed and Brenda Lukenich proudly announce that their son, Shaun and his wife Kristi have a new arrival, Griffin Robert, born on February 15, 2008 weighing 7 lbs, 12.9 oz and was 21 ½ inches long.

### **BIG WINNER**

Jim Fleshman was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held at the March Union Meeting and donated his winnings to Brother Chester Lanehart. Craig Bauroth was the winner of the hockey tickets which were raffled.

### **SICK BAY**

Chester Lanehart is home recuperating after undergoing throat surgery at Southern Maryland Hospital.

Bob Rush is home from the hospital after undergoing stomach surgery and hopes to be back to work the second week of April.

Chuck Wicks is home from the hospital recuperating from a head injury.

George Harbaugh is home recuperating after having heart surgery.

### **SYMPATHY**

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

Retiree, Robert J Hastings, died January 9, 2008. Brother Hastings was 86 years old and had been a member since January 24, 1946. Death #1284.

Retiree, Thomas C Read died February 28, 2008. Brother Read was 54 years old and had been a member since October 2, 1978. Death #1285.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO 1285. ANY MEMBER  
NOT PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1285 IS IN ARREARS**

**RETIREE'S CLUB**

The next meeting of the Retirees' Club will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. at the UA Mechanical Trades School. Please plan on attending.

**From Kevin Sullivan, Business Agent**

In last month's newsletter there was mention of a company that referred to their 602 employees as "at will" employees in their company handbook. We sent the company a letter informing them that their office personnel may be "at will" employees but their 602 employees were not. Since then we have had numerous calls asking about the legal jargons of "at will" and "for cause". "At will" means that you or your employer can terminate your job at a moment's notice for any reason – good, bad indifferent or no reason at all. Unless the termination violates federal or state law, company policies, or an implied contract, there is very little that an "at will" employee can do to protest such action. If you read the headlines of the Washington Post on 3-8-08, you may have seen "at will" at its worst. DC SCHOOLS CHIEF FIRES 98 WORKERS. Those workers were sent memos to report to the Deputy Chancellors Office where they were told they were fired. Asked about the reason for the dismissal, one of the workers was told "we do not have to give you a reason" as she was escorted out of the building by Security Guards.

We, on the other hand, are given some sort of protection under, ironically enough, management rights. "The employer is vested with the right to relieve any employee from duty because of lack of work or other *legitimate* reason, to promote, demote, transfer or discharge employees in line with this agreement". The key word here is legitimate; meaning justified and genuine. The employer must provide "just cause" if you are fired.

I was told many, many years ago that you could get fired for parting your hair a certain way; otherwise, you could get fired for no reason whatsoever. Management Rights were put into our contract in 1972, I understood the part where an employer could relieve you for a legitimate reason. Now, back in the day, I might have given "just cause" to be fired; only once did I have a legitimate argument. I complained and was given a different job.

With the incorporation of the Standards for Excellence, along with a recent by-law change a couple "for cause" firing may have significant ramifications. To avoid being put in those

situations don't give cause. I would say 75% of the "for cause" firings are over missing time. If you show up and do the job, it's a good chance you go on to the next job or you're laid off with a reduction in force.

I have been fired a few times, only once did I think I was wronged. There seems to be a tendency now to automatically file a grievance, claiming the termination was unjust. I would like to think this Administration tries to right what is wrong. Anytime I got fired I had to look in the mirror and ask myself "what part did I play"; I usually played the main character. So brothers and sisters, ask yourself that question, if you get fired, and if you feel wronged come see us. But always remember "YOU MUST BE JUST TO SEEK JUSTICE".

### **From Ron O'Bier, Training Director**

On Tuesday, March 4, 2008, Steamfitters Local 602 initiated 122 first year apprentices as new members. They are: Hollis Allen, Christian Anyikude, Matthew Back, Aaron Baer, Arthur Beck, Komla Bedzra, Peter Bell, Brian Belser, Nathan Benfield, William Bevard, John Bloom, Thomas Boarman, Nicholas Bocchi, Clark Bowling, Kevin Boyd, Wade Brightwell, Quentin Brown, Clifton Buchanan, Robert Bumpus, Marcus Burks, Joshua Busch, Anthony Cameron, Eric Campbell, Andrew Cannon, Matthew Carr, Brandon Carter, Paul Chappelle, Charles Choula, Raybel Compres, Benjamin Cook, Scott Cox, Michael Cunningham, Christopher Davis, Michael Demers, Mario Diaz, Oumar Djafarou, Justin Engle, Patrick Enrico, Nicholas Fleshman, James Fling, Kevin Ford, Paul Fortune, Thomas Gonzales, Charles Goodbred, Jacob Gray, Brandon Hayden, George Haynes, Kirk Heisler, James Hinkle, Thomas Hinnefeld, Frank Hopewell, Jason Hurley, Daniel Innocenti, Andrew James, Daryl Jones, Gary Keefer, Daniel Kegley, Jason Kellam, Joseph Kepich, Carl Kidwell, Sidney LaPorte, Joel Leaf, Michael Ledman, Johnny Lee, Scott Leggett, Michael Marquis, Aristides Martinez, Dzidzogne Matrevi, Aaron Maxwell, Kenneth May, Marius McCrimmon, Shawn McGinniss, William McKay, Joshua McNichols, Dustin Miller, Eric Miller, Timothy Mitchell, Gustavo Molina, Robert Morris, Mark Mullen, Michael Mullinax, Matthew Murray, Thomas Murray, Torrence Myrtle, Elanya Nave, Patrice Nkamen-Yougan, Steven O'Bier, Christopher O'Brien, Jason O'Brien, Daniel Orr, Michael Patterson, Jesse Perry, Andrew Pestka, Humberto Puma, Matthew Rector, Justin Reed, Ronnie Rivers, Donald Robinson, Christopher Runyan, Jason Rush, Steven Rutter, Frank Scarfield, Steven Silva, Robert Sosnowski, Justin Spies, Brandon Stokes, Duan Terry, Stephen Travis, Elliot Trice, Richard Tucker, Mark Van Pelt, Evan Vogle, Marcus Watson, Aaron Webb, Kevin Wehrstedt, Michael West, Kenneth Whitney, Scott Whitney, Andrae Wiggins, Carlos Yanes, Michael Younger and Michael Zimmerman.

Please welcome and congratulate all of our new members.

### **From Bernie Thornberg**

Please find a listing of the members submitted to be honored on our Korean War Plaque, if you know of anyone missing please let me know.

Paul F. Beckett

U.S. Army

Louis A. Brady	U.S. Army
Herbert W. Brooks	U.S. Army
Dan Cary	U.S. Navy
Robert L Case	U.S. Air Force
Garland W Caudell Jr. (Dutch)	U.S. Army
Vincent Cook	U.S. Army
Robert Paul Correll	U.S. Navy
Roland Craig	U.S. Army
Donald Detwiler	U.S. Navy
Carroll Edwards	U.S. Army
Charles R Faunce	U.S. Army
Harry Fiddesop	U.S. Army
William C. Gifford	U.S. Army
James A Harris	U.S. Air Force
David C Heiss	U.S. Army
Lorenzo Donald Hansen	U.S. Army
Robert L. Hilton (Buddy)	U.S. Navy
Robert Hufford	U.S. Navy
Nelson Edward Jett Jr.	U.S. Army
Billy Edward Judge	U.S. Air Force
Richard A. Loveless Jr. (Dick)	U.S. Army Korean Service 5 Stars, UN Service Medal, ROK Pres Citation, Purple Heart
Stanley M McCardell	U.S. Navy
William Edward Medley	U.S. Army
Edward L Meeks	U.S. Marine Corp
Delano Miller	U.S. Air Force
Eugene J Mori	U.S. Air Force
Howard L Oakes	U.S. Marine Corp
William O. O'Leary	U.S. Marine Corp, Purple Heart
Robert Howard Overton	U.S. Army
Francis L Poore, Jr.	U.S. Navy
Donald Reed Porter	U.S. Army
Richard G Ray	U.S. Air Force
Robinson Richardson Jr.	U.S. Marine Corps
Ralph P Sita	U.S. Army
Melvin F Tayman	U.S. Navy Reserves
Henry Tavenner	U.S. Army
Alfred L Thomas	U.S. Marine Corp
Arthur T Tyson	U.S. Navy
Zacharias P Walters Jr.	U.S. Air Force
John H Warren	U.S. Navy
Donald J Webster Sr.	U.S. Army
Michael Lloyd Woodward	U.S. Army

SOLIDARITY

## President, John P. Sullivan

Let me start this column with extending congratulations to the supporters of Senator John McCain. He ran an excellent campaign for the Republican presidential nomination. He proved the pundits dead wrong. Not only did the politicians count him out six months ago, they also continued to discredit his victories as they continued to mount state after state.

The Democrats have yet to qualify a nominee and, most likely, will not before they meet in convention this summer. A little over a hundred delegates separate Senators Obama and Clinton. Be assured that the pundits will continue to offer their vague auguries on the Florida and Michigan results and super-delegates. Shamefully, they have been way off the mark throughout the primary/caucus season but remain unaffected by their past.

Reporters were once our witnesses to political events. Rarely were they credited for their copy. The news was the story not the reporter. They had editors that questioned their facts and kept the story in-line. Yes, there was a slant, a bias, and often, outright bigotry to most newspapers, but it was calculable and therefore understood by the public.

Today's "reporting" is far from that. Sound bites and snippets have replaced solid news copy. Everything is taken out of context. Opinion reigns supreme and often trumps the factual nature of the news. A case in point is the reporting on voter turnout in the primary versus caucus states.

As I write this column, the raw numbers are emerging from the Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> caucus in Wyoming. Here are some of the facts. Sen. Obama has outpolled Sen. Clinton. Obama will receive nine additional delegates. Clinton will receive five more. In this contest, approximately 2% of the eligible voting population (EVP) of Wyoming cared enough to vote.

By contrast, our turnout in the Chesapeake/Potomac Primary averaged around 27.5% (EVP). Less than 10,000 citizens voted in Wyoming. Compare that to the fact that over 120,000 voters went to the polls in the District. Over a million voted in Maryland and over a million and a half voted in Virginia.

Wyoming's low voter turnout is typical to most states that have held caucuses. The caucus states have averaged around 5.8% (EVP) turnout. The primary states, with straightforward voting at the local polls, have averaged 30.6%. Clearly the caucus system is proving to be an inferior tool and needs to be abandoned in the future. Fortunately the remaining contests are all primaries.

I don't expect the media to reform themselves in the coming months. The news will continue to resemble a discussion somewhere between a beauty contest and a horse race. However, we should all keep in mind that we will eventually vote in an election for the highest office in the land. Let our own discussions rise above the shallow discourse on McCain vs. Obama or McCain vs. Clinton. Be informed. Search out the candidates' positions on the issues. Gauge their strengths and balance them against an objective measure of their weaknesses. For there is far too much at stake for our great nation to do otherwise.

## **FROM WAYNE'S WORLD "ENCOURAGEMENT"**

How would you define Encouragement? To give confidence, support, to help someone grow, in our trade. Thinking back, who would you want to spend a day with? What journeyman that you worked with in the past impressed you with their work habits, positive attitude, knowledge of the trade and was just an all around good guy and teacher? I had more than one. I would look forward to going to work every day, because they encouraged me to do my best. These journeymen helped me grow in the trade. How did they do this? By the goals they set for me, which made me the best I could be. They supported me in my daily work activities and gave me daily challenges. Do you as a Journeyman, Foreman or Contractor teach our apprentices and members when mistakes are made. Remember this mistake can be turned into a positive learning experience, making something good out of something bad. On the other hand, complimenting someone on a job well done makes a good job even better. A few kind words can go a long way. Encouragement is giving what you have to give, like your talent, wisdom and time. What a good message to send to others. Being a members of this local you should reach out to your brothers and sisters when others do not, ask how you can be of help, be that extra man in the crew and show them how to do the work if they are unsure. Believing in others is not a bad thing, encouragement has a ripple effect. Contractors can see it in the performance of their employees. Members who encourage each other have an impact on our trade and it makes them a proud member of this Local. When was the last time you encouraged somebody? When was the last time someone encouraged you? Did you take the time to thank them for their support? Encouragement is an important part of our trade, are you ready for the challenge?

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS GET YOUR MEDICAL GAS CERTIFICATIONS WE HAVE TWO LARGE HOSPITALS OMING. THIS IS MY CHALLENGE TO YOU.**