

From Joe Savia, Sr.

Just a general note

Just looking at the other Local's in the country we fail to realize how lucky we actually are. While Locals as close as Baltimore and as far away as Colorado are struggling with unemployment, we are suffering very little. We do need to remember a few things as we celebrate this fact. We have not, however, reached our ultimate goal, our goal is the same as yours, to have **every** contract in our jurisdiction go to a Union shop. We have to remember that we are the ones who will make this goal come to light. The job performance is the main key, if a contract goes smoothly, and our members do a good job, the bid will again get awarded to a Union contractor. If a contractor is behind on the timeline or the work is done sloppy, chances are the next time that person needs work done he may go non union.

This is where you come in, take pride in your work, don't be afraid to ask questions, show up on time and everyday, while we all realize that from time to time we need to have a day off to take care of personal business, why not schedule as much as you can into one day? The contractor has been given a time table on the job, in order to meet the deadlines, he/she is counting on a certain number of man hours from each employee, therefore, besides shorting your medical, pension, etc... you are not meeting the required deadlines. We have a reputation to uphold, getting the job done right the first time, giving eight for eight.

Another thing we hear quite often, which probably results from the amount of unemployment out there, is that Journeyman from other Locals are working on non union jobs, and that Local 602 should be able to do something about it. We can do something about it, but we at least need to know a name, hometown or something so we can verify that these are actually UA members working in our jurisdiction on a non union job. If we can verify this information we can file charges, if we can't there isn't a whole lot to do.

Recruiting comes from all of you, if you are working on a jobsite that may have non union members working close to it, talk to them about the advantages of your Union. Just remember, some workers may not know anything about us. The only way we will beat the non union is to do the same type of work you would want someone doing for you.

Be Proud to Be a Member of 602!!!!!!

The Union Hall

We recently have hung a lot of old photos we found while unpacking, if you have any photos you think should be in the Hall we will be more than happy to hang them with the collection.

Just remember this is your hall.

COPE Contributions

Please remember your COPE Contribution. 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

LATEST RETIREES

William Bonner – 8/1/06
Enrique Doyle – 10/1/06
Frederick Farrell – 9/1/06
Thomas Geoghegan – 7/1/06
Charles Hughes – 9/1/06
William E. Morris – 3/1/06
Gary E. Pennifill – 9/1/06
Letcher Perkins – 7/1/06
James Schaub – 8/1/06

SYMPATHY

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

Retiree, William E. Orton, died July 24, 2006. Brother Orton was 62 years old and had been a member since October 2, 1962. Death #1230.

Retiree, Gregory W. Callow, died July 21, 2006. Brother Callow was 42 years old and had been a member since March 5, 1985. Death #1231.

Retiree, Lorenzo D. Hansen, died July 24, 2006. Brother Hansen was 77 years old and had been a member since April 4, 1972. Death #1232.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO. 1232 ANY MEMBER
NOT PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1232 IS IN ARREARS.**

From Kevin Sullivan Business Agent

Currently we have 1700 members signed up for dues check off with 52 companies participating. If you throw in the retirees, who choose to have it automatically deducted from their pension, we are up to about 2200 members. Even though dues check off started in 1987, with a handful of contractors participating, it is new to most because the push for dues check off has only been within the last 18 months.

As an agent I was given the task of dues collection and I quickly saw how it handicapped what I idealistically pictured my job to encompass. I envisioned an agent protecting the jurisdiction of our work, promoting the benefits of union labor to the general public and potential customers, and developing a good working relationship between the union and its contractors. A lot has changed in the 32 years that I have been a member of Local #602. When I was coming up, union shops did most of the work in and around DC. Non union has stripped away the market share of the work that we once held to the point where now we are treading water to stay afloat. Granted we do have full employment only because of the amount of work in this area but proportionately we have lost ground. We need all resources available to fight this battle and the individual collection of dues has us handicapped like a one legged man in a butt kicking contest.

Local #602 is a million dollar organization. From the retirees to the apprentices starting out we are all stockholders in this organization hoping to reap the benefits: be it a good living wage, medical coverage, to a comfortable pension. I too am a stockholder, but as an officer who sees the workings of this union I have insider information. Like Ken Lay or Jeffrey Skilling of Enron it would be criminal of me not to share this information.

Individual dues collection costs this union dearly. Like any business we have accounts payable and accounts due(Dues) so there is no way around it. Dues have to be collected to pay the bills although it's how we are doing it that burdens us. I know we have done it this way for over ninety years and it has worked. In talking to former officers it has always handicapped them and we have grown so much in the last ten years that the problem has only been compounded. When members are late with their dues the bills still have to be paid. The money that is needed then has to be borrowed from the General Fund. Four hundred late notices are sent out each month, tying up a secretary who could be working on prevailing wage survey which in turn ties up the organizer who could be out organizing. In regard to the business agent who could be out on jobs looking into conditions or meeting with contractors or customers, he is instead acting like a bill collector.

I probably am preaching to the choir because many of you pay your dues on time: brothers believe it or not that can be a problem too. I understand your wanting not to let go of that fundamental right of not having anyone mess with your money but in the 18 years of dues check off I cannot find an instance of a member's deduction not being accounted for. With the amount of retirees, members working, helpers, applicants, and travelers we have the potential of receiving 4,000 checks in a month for dues payments. Receiving one check per company would greatly alleviate the administrative load and therefore time spent in processing your dues.

As a member of this union you are part owner. As an owner of a company you would want the best tools available to get the job done and in a timely manner. Ask yourself,

would you use a Hilti gun or continue to use a Stardrill? Would you use a scissors lift or erect a scaffold? Would you use a come-a-long or continue to pull it up with a rope?

The union does not ask much of you but we do need your support here. I'm no John Kennedy but as someone in power who needs the support of the membership I understand where he was coming from when he said, "Ask not what your country (union) can do for you, but what you can do for your country (union). You can tell I was watching the history channel last week.

Dues check off is a tool that could have us all working more efficiently and therefore allowing more time to do what we are supposed to do – be out there representing you.

What's New in Training

Anyone interested in classes should call the apprentice school (301) 341-1555 to see what is being offered this fall, as well as the availability.

FROM WAYNE'S WORLD

A CHARGE TO THE APPRENTICES

I'd like to extend a big welcome to all new Apprentices and a hello to the rest of the Apprentices. Welcome to a new, challenging and rewarding career for all of you. How you got here is not as important as what you will do with the opportunities given to you. The beginning of your career is about proving yourself. Don't expect a warm welcome from everyone, some workers are not going to be glad to see you. They think you will just get in the way, don't let them discourage you! You will work with members who understand that you are the future of this Local. They will take the time to help you succeed, watch, listen and learn! 602 does not need apprentices who just want a job! We need people who are looking for a career and understand they may have to jump through hoops along the way. We want you to succeed, but we can't do it for you. Just remember 602 members are professionals who are there to represent ourselves and our contractors, if you make yourself useful look for work to do every, take advantage of the learning opportunities, you'll be wanted and will earn respect. On the other hand, if you stand around a lot and only work when you are asked you won't be too popular. Sooner or later you will work with members who think you are there for their amusement, much like being a freshman in high school. Jerks like this are few and not the rule in our trade, don't let them get to you!

Twenty percent of any apprentice class will eventually drop out or be canned. Remember, **DON'T TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR GRANTED!** A lot of apprentices who thought they were going to make it don't, for whatever reason, don't let it happen to you. Focus on the positive not on the negative, learn all that you can, study.

Being a 602 member is a great deal! The fringe benefits you get, most non union workers don't get, they don't even come close. It just makes sense that you understand what your

benefits are, how they work and what you will be earning over time. The Apprentice School is one of the best investments 602 has ever made, and another benefit available to you. Just remember the better trained you are, the more you are worth. When you graduate continue with Journeyman Training, attend Union Meetings, get involved and become the very best 602 member you can be.

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 #