

From Joe Savia, Sr.

### **Financial Obligations**

As most of you know as a Union Member there are certain financial obligations to the Local Union which must be met to continue your employment and ongoing education. They are:

Dues – on a monthly basis dues are due. If you are on Dues Check Off, these amounts are deducted from your paycheck and forwarded to the Union. However, you are responsible for monitoring the amounts deducted. Any shortfall in dues is your responsibility.

Death Assessment – (not available to Metal Trades) each member is assessed \$3.00 per death in the Local. This is a Death Benefit payable to the Beneficiary of each deceased member. These amounts are not included in dues check off. Please note if your deductions come from your retirement check, only two deaths per month are deducted. You are responsible for the difference.

If a member falls 3 months behind in paying dues, the first of the fourth month is considered on reinstatement and a \$50.00 fine is assessed as well as all delinquent amounts are due in full. If you go on reinstatement, you are not allowed to vote or run for a Union Office for a period of twenty four months.

If you remain unpaid, the first day of the seventh month you are considered “dropped” and you will not be able to work for a Union employer until a reinstatement of \$1600.00 is paid in full.

Please remember these dues pay the costs of running the Local Union, monthly \$20.00 for each member is sent to the United Association in your behalf and \$16.00 is paid monthly for each member to the MD State Pipe Trades. The balance of which is used to pay the ongoing costs of running the Union.

If you are behind we are behind, please make every effort to catch up your dues. Also periodically someone will call and ask to make “payments” to catch up their dues. The UA does not allow us to make a payment plan, therefore, we cannot allow payment plans. If dues are paid timely, this is not an issue.

### **Medical Fund**

Recently, there have been some improvements made in the Medical Fund, effective January 1, 2007, they are:

Intrauterine devices, Norplant, Cervical Caps and Diaphragms will now be covered under the Major Medical provisions of the Plan. Over the counter products will not be covered.

Prescribed smoking cessation products will now be covered under the prescription drug allowance for a period of 180 days per lifetime. Over the counter items will not be covered.

The coverage of office visits, diagnostic testing and psychological testing associated with Attention Deficit Disorders will now be covered under the Plan.

Hopefully, we can continue to make improvements in the Benefits.

### **Change of Address**

The amount of mail that is returned to this office is unbelievable, and with each item being mailed at \$.41, a waste of money. Please make sure to contact this office when you move and advise of the new address.

### **Contract Negotiations**

Contract Negotiations are ongoing, nothing new to report yet.

**Phone System:** The new phone system is up and running, hopefully that will solve the phone problems that exist.

### **UA Scholarship**

Applications for the UA Scholarship have been extended to August 15, 2007. The application can be downloaded from the UA Website or by calling this office (301) 333-2356.

### **Substance Abuse Issues**

The Substance Abuse program has started and is meeting at the Union Hall on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.. This program is offered to ALL members and dependents. Remember, it is never to late to attend. There is NO cost and anonymous participation.

### **Windbreakers**

Orders are still being accepted for the pull over v-neck windbreakers. 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. You will be notified when your order is received.

### **Feedback**

This is your newsletter, anything you wish to see put in here, let me know.

### **Reminder**

Remember to change your beneficiaries as soon as you need to, any change of events in your life should warrant a change in your beneficiary.

## **THIS 'N THAT**

Terry O'Quinn proudly announces the marriage of his daughter Lisa Michelle to Jordan Wayne Difibaugh on May 18, 2007.

### **BIG WINNER**

Jeff Lello was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held at the July Union Meeting.

### **SYMPATHY**

Our sympathy to the family of Henry Hallford III, on the recent loss of his father.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Charlie Pennifill on the recent loss of his son, Bobby.

To the family of Timothy Walker, on the recent loss of his son, Landon.

And to the family of Billy Soper on the recent loss of his brother John.

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

Retiree, John R. Booher, died June 23, 2007. Brother Booher was 64 years old and had been a member since April 4, 1961. Death #1265.

Brother, Avery Wayne Mays, died June 25, 2007. Brother Mays was 56 years old and had been a member since September 6, 1975. Death #1266.

Retiree, Robert Nevins, died July 2, 2007. Brother Nevins was 51 years old and had been a member since January 5, 1988. Death #1267.

Retiree, Roy Fiddesop, died July 2, 2007. Brother Fiddesop was 63 years old and had been a member since February 4, 1968. Death # 1268.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO. 1268. ANY MEMBER  
NOT PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1268 IS IN ARREARS.**

## **SOLIDARITY**

President, John P. Sullivan

### **Reflections on Independence Day**

The individual colonies were a queer creation. Fundamentally, they were financially constructed, social experiments approved by the Crown of England. Those that refused to

follow the state-sanctioned religion of England were allowed to establish religious communities and to help “settle” the native land. Puritans, Quakers, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and Catholics helped to drive off the indigenous tribes and set up the rudiments of a plantation system.

To populate the colonies, England sanctioned a policy of political and ethnic cleansing of the British Isles. They emptied the poorhouses and the jails. Vagabonds, paupers, and petty criminals were the first to be exiled. They were followed by the radicals and revolutionaries from Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Many of them were given the “choice” of the gallows or forced emigration to the colonies. They provided the first cheap labor, paying for their passage as indentured servants who served for seven to fourteen years. When that proved to be less profitable than expected the financial backers of the Colonies and the Crown turned to outright slavery.

What a mix it was that later rebelled against the greatest political and military empire in the eighteenth century. There were paupers and slaves, indentures and apprentices, guildsmen, tradesmen, merchants, tenement and plantation farmers, illiterates and academics, former criminals and lawyers. All were to some degree either insane to believe that they could survive without a king and his army, navy, and rule of law.

We declared our independence from England on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776. Our challenge was addressed to the greatest military power in the world. We had the allegiance of only a small minority of the colonists. At the least, two out of three were estimated to be either a direct supporter of English rule, or indifferent to the arguments for independence. At most, only a third of the population rang the bell of freedom or answered its call.

We fought for years and won very few pitched battles. We lost in Canada. We were driven out of New York. We lost Philadelphia. Our ports, one by one, were blockaded. British forces occupied all of our major cities.

Given that we could not win in a face to face confrontation we chose to fight as insurgents. We employed spies and saboteurs. We fought in and out of conventional uniform. The British government declared that our forces were unlawful combatants who employed hit and run tactics.

Towards the end of our struggle we were aided by foreign elements. The French and the Spanish lent us the necessary monetary and military assistance to tip the balance of power. Four thousand French soldiers joined the 2500 strong Continental force to first encircle the main British force in New York and then to lay siege to the southern force of Cornwallis. More importantly, at The Battle of the Chesapeake, the French fleet triumphantly blocked the British fleet from resupplying the Crown forces by sea. The British were forced to surrender their 8000 man force and 240 cannons at Yorktown, which ended their misguided military venture.

From the beginning we shared the common hope that if we just survived to fight another day we would be, one day, free. In the end, the rag tag rebellion and insurgent war in the colonies proved too costly for the mightiest power on Earth.

There are many lessons to be learned in our War of Independence. None of should ever be afraid to be in the minority when we argue for truth and justice. It is in our blood and it is in our upbringing to fight for what is right. But “might does not make right” and foreign domination will eventually fail to win the minds and hearts of those who seek to be free.

Interstate 81 Campaign

By Bill Durkin, Organizer/Business Rep

In January I took the opportunity to meet with two members of the Maryland Pipetrades, Bob Englebach of Local 489 Cumberland, Md. and Jim Stacho of Washington Plumbers Local 5, in Winchester Va. We decided to take a hard look at organizing in the Winchester/I-81 Corridor area. Winchester is the western most area of our jurisdiction.

We spent the day visiting non union job sites talking with workers and we visited two union contractors bidding and working in the area as well. What we found was that there was a limited union presence up and down the I-81 corridor. Union employment opportunities are concentrated around the Capital beltway and the mechanics we talked to had no desire to face that commute every day. Our training school is also located on the beltway. The UA has been advocating top down organizing, meeting with owners and explaining the benefits of union contracting. The open shop contractors in the I-81 corridor see no reason to sign because there is little competition from union shops and the local talent won't travel to the DC area for work.

The options facing us were to walk away and hope to get one or two workers to come and join us and spend a lot more time on the road, or to continue to try and convince open shop owners of the benefits of a union agreement, or do we try and think outside of the box? We agreed that the only thing to do was to think outside of the box.

We knew we had two union contractors that saw the same tremendous growth potential we had seen when we traveled up and down the highway and talked to people. Our next step was to find out if other union contractors were interested in expansion and they were We also realized that a contractor would be very limited if they stayed in one local's jurisdiction in this area, so we asked for the cooperation of the various other locals involved. They all got onboard after we explained

our plan. One critical question, did we have the manpower? Each local gave us their numbers of members living in close proximity to Interstate 81. It turns out that the UA has over 650 people living within 50 miles of the road way. Our investigation showed we had the contractors, we had the manpower, we just needed the work.

The campaign started after only one meeting. We decided to hit the streets and see how it would develop. We made small hand out cards with the names of contractors in the area that would respond if a customer called. We went door to door, industrial plant to office building, handing out the cards. While there, we found out who was in charge of construction and maintenance, and then passed this information on to the contractors in hopes that they might follow up with their sales personal. We also searched the various publications to see what work was coming up in the area. This information was also sent to our contractors. We have continued this at least once a week. We have received some feed back from contractors, all positive. We are seeing other companies taking a closer look, now that they see what we saw.

We plan to expand this aspect of the I-81 campaign to cover the states of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

We can send out more emails with more information but obviously Bob Englebach and I can't come close to visiting all the sites in two states and the district. That is why we are asking everyone to be involved. If you know a contact person responsible for construction or maintenance, pass the information on to us and we in turn will get it to union contractors. Your company may have the HVAC work at a given customer, but they might well need a union plumber or fire protection service. By working with all UA crafts, we can all grow together and increase union density.

If we are successful we all gain. Let's pull together to improve our lot in life.

## From Kevin Sullivan Business Agent

In last months article I wrote of Labors Concern with the **Comprehensive Immigration Bill** that was in Congress. We asked that you contact your Congressional Representative and ask them to not support the bill. There were amendments to the bill that could harm Labor along with national security. The outcry from Labor paid off; the bill failed but I guarantee it will be back.

Your help is needed again on what is referred to as “Fast Track” trade agreements. What is FastTrack? Fast Track is a procedure by which Congress agrees to delegate away to the president its authority over trade policy. The U.S. Constitution gives Congress exclusive authority to set U.S. trade policy and gives the executive branch authority to conduct international negotiations. This smart check and balance means the President cannot negotiate trade deals- unless Congress gives authority to do so. In 1974, then President Nixon, hatched Fast Track to grab all control over trade policy for the White House. It was under Fast Track that President Bush cooked up NAFTA (North American Free Trade Act) and WTO (World Trade Organization) and these deals were signed and sealed before Congress even had a vote.

**NAFTA** pushed corporations to move jobs out of the U.S. and then allowed them tax free access back into the U.S. market to sell the products they make off shore. Millions of U.S. jobs have become casualties of NAFTA.

**WTO** guarantees privileged access to our markets for products made by U.S. corporations that relocate to China and other countries with 1 dollar a day wages and violent repression of workers. The WTO also allows foreign governments to challenge laws that safeguard workers, the environment, and public health. The U.S. is even required to import meat that doesn't meet our safety standards In today's Washington Post there is an article about catfish ponds in China that are raised in sewage tainted waters, treated with drugs so the catfish don't die, and then shipped to the U.S..

As of this writing the Presidents power to make these deals has not been stripped away. As with the Immigration Bill along with the Congressional elections it has become apparent that the working man is fed up with there jobs being off shored and their jobs in the states in jeopardy because of the temporary work visa program .I am hoping that by the time you read this article Congress has taken back their power .Do some research on Fast Track and I encourage you to contact your Congressional Representative . When you call them chances are you will talk to one of their office staff but let them know you are a voting union member in their District and you expect them to look after U.S. workers. They will get the message.

I know our work jurisdiction covers DC and parts of Maryland and Virginia but you must understand that there are agreements made and laws enacted that so very much affect our livelihood .We have many watch groups at our disposal ( UA, Building Trades, Progressive Maryland ) that alerts us that there is something coming at us that could have dire consequences to Labor. That is when we contact you and ask for your support .This is one of the subtle little things that you can do that will pay consequences in the long run in helping this Local and the UA In order for this to be done in a more timely and efficient manor send me your e-mail so that we can contact you. My address is [lu602ba3@uanet.org](mailto:lu602ba3@uanet.org) or [kfsullivan@netzero.net](mailto:kfsullivan@netzero.net).

JOIN US  
**STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602**  
**PICNIC**



**FUN FOR ALL AGES**

Dancing to the Music of Davis DJ's  
Swimming in the Bay  
Fishing & Crabbing

**FOOD & REFRESHMENTS**

*Served from 12 noon to 4 p.m.*

Pit Beef, Turkey Breast, BBQ Chicken, Italian Sausage, Crab Soup  
BBQ Baked Beans, Corn on the Cob, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Potato Salad  
Cole Slaw, Beer & Soda, Ice Cream, Cotton Candy, SnoCones

**FOR THE KIDS**

Jumbo Moon Bounce, Jumbo Slide, Balloon Typhoon, Hi Striker with Prizes,  
Pony Rides, Clown and Magic Show, Spin Air, Face Painting

**GAMES ON THE BEACH**

Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

*Foot Races*

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Prizes for each race  
Boys & Girls – Ages & under, to  
36 & over

*King and Queen of the Picnic*

Boy and Girl winners of 7 and  
under foot race will be named as  
king and queen of the picnic

*Soft Ball One Hand Toss*

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prizes  
Boys & Girls no age limit, need 2

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2007**

(RAIN OR SHINE)

**MAYO BEACH – MAYO, MD**

Gate Opens 11:00 a.m. (picnic hours 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!**

\$10.00 per person, non-refundable, under 12 free!

**HOT RODS & BIKES WELCOME!**

*Parking will be available*

*Call 301-333-2356 for your tickets!*

## **FROM WAYNE'S WORLD NEGOTIATION TIME**

This is my fourth time at the negotiation table. Each time it gets a little harder. We were well prepared to represent our membership from all of the suggestions we received from you. Any decisions that are made in negotiations will always be questioned. It is easy to Monday Morning quarterback – Could we have done better? Maybe! Should we have gone on strike? Neither side will win! These are some of the questions that will always be asked. For those of you who think you know what goes on, but have never participated in the bargaining process, you cannot imagine the frustration that takes place in these meetings. This only makes your bargaining team more determined and dedicated to achieve a good contract without any of our members losing one day of pay or going through any prolonged financial hardship. Some of the main issues, the contractors are very concerned with are: Absenteeism (our members not working 40 hours), and having licenses in all jurisdictions in which we work. The U.A.'s Standard of Excellence will deal with the absenteeism problem, which some of our members will not like. License, such as the HVAC licenses for DC and Maryland is going to be of the necessary evils that our members could need to have. I know that these licenses have not been policed and many of our members have let them lapse. The contractors are concerned that we will not have enough qualified members to get the billion dollars of work that is going to happen if these licenses are not enforced. We don't want to lose any work to the open shop for this reason!

Welding and Medical Gas certifications are two more things which are hurting our members from getting jobs. The Trade School is open two times a month for a Welder to upgrade their certifications. This is one of the main reasons that Travelers come to work in our jurisdiction, we don't have enough certified welders. Medical Gas needs to be renewed every three years on the written part and every six months on the brazing portion. If we don't have the qualified members to do the Medical Gas, the work is given to our sister Local.

Our members cannot afford to get lazy with our trade. Your bargaining team needs our members help when it comes to items that can be taken care of in hours. We should be talking about more important things, like wages! Remember, United we bargain, Divided we beg!