

From Joe Savia, Sr.
Business Manager

Apologies/Congratulations

We apologize, the last newsletter listing the awardees was missing Forty Year Awardee John P. Flesher, congratulations John, sorry you were left off of the listing.

A Look in the Past

Minutes from the April 23, 1913 Meeting

Meeting open in due form by Pres pro term Charles W Hamilton in the chair.

Reading of minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Motion made and seconded that we dispense with the regular order of business and obligate the men who are waiting in the vestibule. Carried

The following men were admitted and given the obligation:

Charles Ball, Charles Peck, Thomas Flanagan, F Cady, J Pearson, Ben Sebastian, J Wehauer, O.J. Chanel, W.S. Bladen, W. Awkward

Roll Call of members and absentees noted.

Motion made by Brother B Harris and seconded by Brother J.H. Reichard that an extension of time be granted to all delinquent members and the charter stand open until May 28, 1913. Carried.

Motion made by Brother S.D. Zea that all delinquent members who secure employment be compelled to pay twenty five percent of their wages each week until indebtedness is paid in full. Carried

Reports of Committees

Central Labor Union

Brother W.W. Whyte stated that the firm of Horner and Heim, otherwise known as Horner Dairy, 8th and M Streets, NW, has been declared unfair to organized labor by the Washington Central Labor Union.

Washington Building Trades Council

Brother H Fiddesop reported progress, he also stated that Brother E.W. Jones and Brother Charles Vesper did not attend. They were taken off the committee and President Hamilton appointed Brothers F.J. Lucas and John M. Botts and instructed to write out credentials which was complied with.

Executive Board Report and read and concurred

Business Agent made his report and was accepted.

The Business was appointed a committee of one to see about Hall 430 9th Street, NW

The following members were elected to attend the first annual Convention, Potomac States Association as delegates – S.D. Zea, H Fiddesop, G F Nau, C F Hickman

President Hamilton appointed the following members as delegates to the Pipe Trades Council – Holoahan – Botts – Lucas – Fiddesop – Nau

Appropriation of Money

Motion made & seconded that the following warrants be drawn and paid

S.D. Zea, salary and expense April 10 – April 23, 1913, \$50.25

M Stein Rent for Business Agent Office April 19, - May 19, 1913, \$8.00

J M Botts \$17.00 for charter fees for 17 members which he had forwarded to T.E. Burke, Secretary Treasurer, Chicago, Illinois.

J M Botts \$1.50 for postage

J M Bott \$1.00 which he had to return to Brother Fred Duffy

E.W. Jones \$10.00 for 2 weeks sick benefits, W Gales sick benefits \$30.00 6 weeks sick – provided we have the money in the Treasury.

Motion made and 2nd that the Secretary write to the Civil Service Commission and ask why the Steamfitters and Helpers were taken off the Civil Service Roll. Carried

Brother A Boyce case put into hands of Business Agent.

Attendance 55

No further business the meeting adjourned to meet on May 14, 1913.

New Applicants

The following have applied for membership with Local 602

Dennis Robbins
Guy Hostetter

95th Anniversary Items

We are carrying zip up windbreakers and some new shirts to celebrate our 95th year, all are available for purchase. Come in before the sizes run out.

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.

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.

Please remember the Union Hall does not always know where you are working, please contact us regarding changes in employment so the new employer may be notified. Without 100% participation we still have to notify the employer.

From the Fund Office

Effective April 1, 2008, the Board of Trustees of the Medical Fund increased the allowed amount that the Fund will consider for dental procedures by 5%. The annual dental benefit limit remains at \$1500 per individual. This will assist the Fund in retaining current dentists and attracting new dentists. Please recall, if you use a participating provider for dental services, the allowed amount will be covered in full and your out of pocket costs will be minimized. If you use a dentist outside of the network, the Fund will only cover 80% of the allowed amount and the dentist may bill you the difference between what the Fund paid and the original billed amount.

THIS 'N THAT

Bryan Portch proudly announces the birth of his son on April 12, 2008, weighing 7lbs 12 oz and was 20 inches long. Barry Portch is the grandfather of the new arrival.

Congratulations to Shawn Pruitt who recently took 1st place in a fishing tournament held at the Rod & Reel in Chesapeake Beach, MD. Shawn managed to hook and land a 45.4 lb., 49 inch long rockfish! Check out his charter boat and other pictures at www.NeverE-NuffCharters.com

Big Winner

John Sullivan was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held at the May Union Meeting and donated his proceeds to COPE.

Latest Retirees

John Kilby	March 1, 2008
Dennis Goldsmith	March 1, 2008
Stephen Leedy	February 1, 2008
Ernest Weisman	February 1, 2008

Sick Bay

Billy Leonard is home recuperating after undergoing heart surgery.

Sympathy

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Clint McDonald who lost his mother, Lena, on March 24, 2008.

Our sympathy also goes out the family and friends of Ronald Kelly who lost his brother recently.

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Frederick Peake and Frederick Peake, Jr. who lost their wife/mother on April 29, 2008.

Our sympathy goes out the family and friends of Robert Moore on the recent loss of his mother.

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of John Quisenberry on the recent loss of his wife.

Also, our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Robert Taber, Ronald and Daniel Taber and Shannon Tabor, on the recent loss of their wife/mother and grandmother on April 9, 2008.

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

Retiree Lawrence C North died April 6, 2008. Brother North was 62 years old and had been a member since September 7, 1982. Death # 1287.

Brother David A. Carpenter died April 6, 2008. Brother Carpenter was 52 years old and had been a member since August 23, 2006. Death #1288.

Retiree Richard "Doc" Rossignol died April 9, 2008. Brother Rossignol was 72 years old and had been a member since April 7, 1959. Death #1289.

Brother Derrick Sigmon died May 3, 2008. Brother Sigmon was 42 years old and had been a member since April 23, 2008. Death #1290.

**THE CURRENT DEATH NO. IS 1290. ANY MEMBER
NOT PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1290 IS IN ARREARS.**

From Kevin Sullivan, Business Agent

We have heard in the last years that nuclear energy is poised to make a comeback in the United States. We have attended NRC hearings concerning North Anna and Calvert Cliffs power plants. The following events have transpired bringing nuclear construction, in our jurisdiction, closer to a reality. On August 8, 2005, President Bush signed into law the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In an attempt to combat growing energy problems this act was to provide tax incentives and loan guarantees for energy production of various types, whether it be nuclear, biofuel, coal, wind, etc... The Act gave the Department of Energy the authority to set up a loan guarantee program to encourage the use of improved technologies in energy production. The loan guarantees, backed by the US Government, will encourage Wall Street lenders to invest in Nuclear Energy.

This past April the DOE made public it's loan guarantee implementation plan. This plan outlines the process for applying for loan guarantees; in other words what hoops do the investors have to jump through to open up their wallets. The loan guarantee program has set aside 38.5 billion dollars from which 18.5 billion would go towards nuclear power plant construction.

On April 15, 2008, Bechtel Construction Company and the Washington Building Trades signed a Project Labor Agreement to build another unit at Calvert Cliffs. Bechtel and the union announced they plan to reach an agreement by the end of 2008 on wages and benefits for workers who would be employed to construct a potential third reactor. The agreement was signed by Mark Ayers, President of the Building Trades and Regi Phelps, Vice President of Labor Relations for Bechtel Construction Company. The agreement commits that the two parties will work together towards construction of a third reactor. If, I say, IF, the project receives the required approvals and loan guarantee contracts, ground would be broken in late 2008. Construction on the proposed Unit 3 at Calvert Cliffs would create roughly 4000 jobs for pipe fitters, welders, electricians, and other skilled union members.

On an unrelated note – This past month we had two incidents involving the withholding of the final paycheck pending return of company uniforms. When, or if, you separate from a company we encourage the return of company property. It is a matter of principle and law. The law also states that you are to be paid your wages according to hours worked. The employer cannot withhold a portion of your paycheck pending return of company property. Circumstances such as these are separate and should be settled in court such as Judge Judy's court.

What's New in Training

Medical Gas Update:

There have been some significant changes to the Medical Gas Installer certification. First, NITC will no longer send the written code update tests to the Apprenticeship School. Notification for the written code test update will be sent directly to the member's home address via US mail. Home addresses are provided to NITC by the Union Hall. Please keep your contact information up to date at the Union Hall. The written test may be taken online or by mail in test.

Second, the previous code cycles have been three years. The current written code was published in 2005. The current cycle has been extended to four years. The next change to NFPA 99C will occur in 2009. There have been no changes to the brazing qualification. Qualified brazers must submit a continuity form every six months to remain current. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Apprenticeship School (301) 341-1555.

SOLIDARITY
President, John P. Sullivan

CHAIRMAN CONNOLLY'S UNION REMARK

"She's got the steamfitters and the steelworkers," Connolly said. "That's great; they're rewarding her. But the dynamic unions that are growing and that have a different take on things have endorsed me."

Washington Post, Metro Section April 26, 2008

I think that Gerry Connolly, the Fairfax County chairman, has chosen to challenge our local union in a very public way. There are no other union steamfitters in Virginia's 11th US Congressional District. Read the quote again. I think that he has challenged us to a US Congressional primary election fight and he does not think that we will show up on June 10th.

Certainly, Gerry has no idea of our past history, our evolution over more than one hundred years, and our bold vision of the future. We are older, more diverse, and more committed to organizing and growing our local union than he can fathom. We have adapted as technology has evolved. We have continued to branch out and claim any work related to process piping. We have a proud past. We have an even bolder vision of our future.

We broke the "relations barrier" at the end of WWII. Our union embraced veterans long before it was popular elsewhere. And unlike Fairfax County, Virginia, we integrated without court order. We have addressed age and gender concerns. We understand that our multicultural future is a challenge and we are making plans accordingly. In short we have grown and continue to grow in ways that would make most social critics blush or, at least, take stock.

Gerry is right in one respect. We do reward our friends with our support. But it needs to be understood that Steamfitters Local 602 has not asked for or received personal favors for our specific support. If Gerry thinks otherwise he should state his case for the public to judge. Lacking that, Gerry's comment borders on slander and he should apologize for making it.

We have supported Gerry Connolly and worked in all of his Fairfax County campaigns. We worked on Connolly's first campaign for county supervisor in the special election held on March 28, 1995. Our members were urged to support Gerry then and once again in the general elections in November 1995 and 1999. In 2003, our members were urged to support Gerry in his run for County Chairman. Again in 2007, our members were asked to support his re-election bid for Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. I know this to be true because I worked on his campaigns and wrote all of the columns and letters of support.

The United Association and the Washington D.C. Building and Construction Trades Council have endorsed Leslie Byrne in her bid to retake her 11th District seat in the US Congress. Leslie Byrne has an unquestionable record on supporting labor issues at the county, state, and federal level. They believe that we would be well served if she were to be returned to Congress in 2008.

Gerry Connolly has a barely recognizable labor record on a county level. He asked for our support last year for a four-year term as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. We are unwavering in our support for this goal.

Our union will find every member who has Republican Tom Davis as their current Congressman. We will encourage them to bring their family, neighbors and friends to the polls on June 10th. We will ask them to cast a vote to keep Gerry as the County Chairman and to return Leslie Byrne to the US Congress.

VOTE FOR LESLIE BYRNE FOR CONGRESS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10th

Local Polls are open from 6 AM to 7 PM

Organizing in Virginia, By Bill Durkin, Organizer/Business Representative

Three or four months ago two non union service mechanics came by the Hall to fill out applications. We talked for a while about the Union and the conversation got around to where they were working. It turned out that they were part of a maintenance crew at Fort Belvoir. Their employer, the "KIRA" company had not only HVAC Techs, but also Carpenters, Plumbers, Electricians, Truck Drivers, Grounds Maintenance and other trades. We spoke about a union at the base. I explained what it would entail to attempt a union drive at their company.

I set up a meeting with about a dozen employees of various crafts and answered any questions about unions that they had. We talked about the election process and how the National Labor Relations Board would not entertain an election without 30% of the employees signing "Union Authorization" cards. I also told them the UA required 80% before we would file for an election.

I explained that even if we got the cards signed and won an election we still needed to negotiate a contract. And before the election the company would put on a campaign to defeat the Union. Their only weapon would be fear. They are going to tell you the union only wants your dues, the Union can fine you for almost anything, negotiations start at "0" and you could lose more than you gain. They will come out with the same old boiler plate propaganda the Union busters sell to company after company every time a Union shows up.

I explained they were covered by the "Service Contract Act" at Ft. Belvoir and the money and the benefits paid by the company were mandated by Federal Law. This act prescribes a wage rate for each occupation and health & welfare cost to be paid by the employer. The prescribed rates for Ft. Belvoir located in Fairfax County, VA are the same as the rates in St Mary's County, MD. This is where we represent a similar group at PAX River. I explained that the company would tell them that we could promise them that we could promise them nothing but I gave them copies of our PAX River contract where we had increased all trades pay rates and more than doubled the Health & Welfare rate.

I was very blunt with them. I told them that Local 602 represented Metal Trades members at PAX River, Carderock, Bureau of Printing and Engraving and several other locations. We have over 3500 members and growing. If they weren't going to step up to the plate we didn't have the time to fool around with them. We would just let it go and move on to something else.

I gave out authorization cards to several employees that seemed set on getting this thing off the ground. They informed me that they had some Spanish speakers and I provided them with bilingual cards. Within a short time we had cards coming back. They told me that some people were saying that they would vote to support but didn't want to sign a card. I again told them we needed 80% and they were able to get more cards signed.

KIRA's web site claims to have 180 employees. I got together to get a definite number and the workers came up with a number of 108 employees. This was later adjusted down 5 to 10 employees. We decided to file our petition. The petition was filed and the Board notified the Company. The following day the company flew attorney in from Tampa.

We had leafleted the job about a lunch time meeting to answer any questions the workers might have about the Union. This was to be held Friday 11:00 at the Roy Rogers Restaurant. We went so far as to get 4th year apprentice Luis Chavez the day off to translate for the non English speakers, that are part of the Ground's Crew. Friday morning, when I got to work I received a call from one of the workers telling us that the company, that morning, had called a meeting for all hands at 11:00. He said he didn't believe anyone would be able to attend.

We were given lemons, so Luis and I decided to make lemonade. We had 50 or so pocket note pads I had planned to pass out at our meeting to those who came and didn't expect more than a dozen or so at the lunch meeting. These were a gimmick to pull out if a supervisor made threats or promises, which was already starting, and copy the supervisors' comments down.

I had Luis put together a package that included 602 stickers, a note pad, a 602 pen and my business card along with a brochure about laws governing elections. We had Jeff Guido of the Maryland Pipetrades meet us at Ft. Belvior . When the employees started coming out of the company's meeting, we had three sides of the building covered and passed out the packets. We were able to get all the material we had out to the workers.

This brings us to today. The company claims that there are many more employees at the site but won't give a number. We have a hearing at the NLRB on the 22nd of this month. Anyone in the Ft. Belvoir are that might be interested in house visits at night please contact me. We have a few employees that speak only Spanish, anyone who is bilingual would be of great help.

FROM WAYNE'S WORLD

ABSENTEEISM

Absenteeism is a topic that will not go away. In the negotiations the contractors held their ground on members missing time. In our new contract you must give two days prior notification for any time taken off. If a member does not work their regular eight hours of straight time Monday through Friday, their overtime can be used to complete their forty hours only at the member's option. In the new contract we now have the Standards of Excellence, which will also hold a member accountable for missing time. You could be the best fitter, welder or HVAC Tech but, if you are not on the job you are not worth anything. You may say to yourself what will it hurt if I take off once in a while? Everyone needs time off, which is true, but if you miss one day a month you may have a problem. Everyone has personal business to take care of, vacations to go on, Doctor's appointments and unforeseen family problems, car trouble which requires you to take off. This is all acceptable time off, but if you just lay out for no reason here's what it hurts; the job and the foreman. The foreman has you doing some type of work assignment, when you are not there he now has to arrange the crew to cover what you were doing and he is now working one man down. If there is more than one member off, this only multiplies the problem. How would you like to be the foreman with this additional pressure put on you? On overtime jobs, the absenteeism is always higher with our members than with the Travelers. At lay off time our members want the Travelers laid off first, which is the way it should be, if our members did not miss time, this would not be a problem, but it is.

National Contractors don't have to abide with our Local Agreement, they can lay off or keep who they want with the exception of the Shop Steward. Absenteeism also hurts our Medical Fund. While you are not working there are no contributions being put in the Fund in your name, but, you are still eligible to use it. The working members are making up the difference. Do you know that if a journeyman works 2000 hours a year at our current rate they would make \$66,540.00. What an incentive not to miss a day. The Medical Fund would get \$11,420.00 for that 2000 hours. Just think if 3500 members would work the 2000 hours a year what kind of improvements could be made to our Funds. That old saying 8 for 8 would really make a difference in our Funds if our absenteeism went down.

Get your Medical Gas Certs!