

## From Joe Savia, Sr. Business Manager

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wayne Updike, Mike Kopper, Bob Mumford and Eddie Murdock for their dedication and hard work and wish them well in their Retirement from there service to the Union.

Wayne served as Assistant Business Manager, Business Agent, as an Executive Board and Examining Board member, an Apprentice Trustee, Wayne has also been the Steamfitters Local 602 point of contact since the beginning of Heat's On, Water's Off, the person in charge of the Golf Tournaments and the Picnics, since becoming a full time officer.

Mike has served as Vice President, a member of the By Laws Committee, Executive Board, Examining Board and a Pension Trustee, although most of you are used to seeing his friendly face at Aireco.

Bob has served on the Examining Board as well as being instrumental in supplying fuel oil to the needy for Heat's On Water's Off yearly.

Eddie has served on the Examining Board and Executive Board for over twenty three years.

Brothers and Sisters, each of these jobs are as important as the next one in helping to build a solid Union, each of these positions requires dedication and time. I thank you all for your service and wish you well in your future endeavors.

### Pension Fund

The wage distribution for August 1, 2009 was based on a memo from the Actuary indicating no changes Immediately needed to be made provided we placed \$.50 an hour per year for the next six years into the Pension Fund.

However, at the July 16, 2009 meeting indicated based on the Summary Annual Report, the Valuation, investment results and decrease in hours worked in the current year if changes were not made this year, when the next Summary Annual Report was submitted to the Government we were in danger of the Fund being placed in the control of the Federal Government.

The reduction in hours and investment returns are not a fault of any one person they are in response to a poor economy.

On August 7, 2009 there was a special called meeting in which there were varying opinions of the changes to be made. The contractors proposed a \$75.00 accrual rate with 1900 hours for each credit, the Union proposed a \$125.00 accrual rate with the 1700 hours remaining in place, after caucusing both parties agreed to be \$100 accrual rate with 1800 hours due to the additional \$.50 per hour contribution.

It is with great regret and under duress that these changes were made, however, Legal Counsel and the Actuary both agreed that the government would step in within the next two years and the cuts would be much greater and could be as much as 2/3%.

My largest regret is that I relied on my optimism, rather than my gut instincts. At this point in time I have been advised that no matter how much in additional contributions we have; a change would have to be made. It was not my intent to misadvise anyone. I intend to closely monitor the situation and hopefully, with two new active Union Trustees we can restore the Pension's accrual rate at some point in the future. Please remember that as a Union we are together on this. No one stands alone.

We can act as armchair quarterbacks criticizing, but at this point that is not going to get us anywhere, we will take the action needed to avoid the government coming in and taking over our Pension Fund, as this will cause unnecessary expense and hardship to everyone.

#### **AFLAC – Working Members Only**

It is never too late to sign up for AFLAC, to sign up for AFLAC please contact. Please remember this is completely separate from the Medical Plan and a voluntary self contribution plan. The Local nor the Medical Plan does not endorse the Policies rather, this is a decision left up to the individual member. If you have questions, wish to sign up for coverage or claims issues please contact either Maureen Taylor (202)997-4188 or Kathy Maney (410)610-3618.

#### **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Any contractors who may be doing oil gas conversions, or digging up tanks, we are in desperate need of the waste for Heat's On, Water's Off. Yearly we provide oil to those less fortunate in Prince George's County, and we have none. If you can be of any help, please call the Hall (301) 333-2356 x 7 and let Sandy know.

#### **Dues Check Off Update**

Please remember **if you change employers, YOU need to notify the Hall**. Without our members having 100% participation we still must notify the employers of those members who have elected check off.

I also urge you to pay attention to and keep your paystubs. If a dispute arises the paystubs are the only piece of information showing that the dues were deducted. Please also remember that dues' deductions do not cover your Death Assessments.

### **Shirts, Jackets, Etc...**

We now have some new stock of shirts and jackets, all are available for purchase. Come in before the sizes run out.

### **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. Please call ahead, sometimes the schedule changes due to holidays. All are welcome to attend.

**\*\*Please note the opinions in these newsletters are those of that individual officer and not necessarily that of all of the officers\*\***

## **THIS 'N THAT**

### **BIG WINNER**

Chuck Wills was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held at the August Union Meeting

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To our newest Retirees:

John "Dave" Curtin

07/01/2009

Raymond E Groht Jr.	06/01/2009
Russell L Hall	09/01/2009
Kevin R Hughes	07/01/2009
Karl Nisson	07/01/2009
Arnold J Prada	07/01/2009
Phillip Robinson	07/01/2009
Joel D Snodgrass	11/01/2008
E Wayne Updike	07/01/2009
Leroy Wells Jr.	06/01/2009
Tony DeHart Jr.	09/01/2009
Padriac Dempsey	08/01/2009
Harold Ray Richardson	07/01/2009

### **SYMPATHY**

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of George O. Blackwell (GOB) on the recent passing of his mother.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the following:

Retiree, Charles R Faunce, died July 17, 2009. Brother Faunce was 78 years old and had been a member since April 2, 1957. Death #1333.

Retiree, Richard G Ray, died July 31, 2009. Brother Ray was 76 years old and had been a member since May 6, 1958. Death #1334.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO. 1334. ANY MEMBER  
NOT PAID THROUGH 1334 IS IN ARREARS.**

### **WHAT'S NEW IN TRAINING**

The next Journeymen Med-Gas class will be starting Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 am at the Apprentice School. You will need to bring a check or money order for \$48 made out to HPRTF to purchase the 2005 NFPA code book, if you don't already have one. We also require a deposit check for \$100 which will be returned to you when you complete the written test. Please call the school and let us know if you plan to attend and you will be added to the list.

## **SOLIDARITY**

**President, John P. Sullivan**

### **Just Say Whoa!**

Every member of Local Union 602 needs to understand that they are covered by a collective bargaining agreement that sets limits to the actions of his or her employer. Simply put, if the boss or his representative wants to institute a new policy or procedure it must either be defined in the existing contract or be submitted to the union for negotiations prior to its being implemented.

Under Section 8(a)5 of the National Labor Relations Act it is “an unfair labor practice for an employer to refuse to bargain collectively with the representatives of his employees, subject to the provisions of section 9(a) of this title. Our Union should press for a decision by the Labor Department every time an individual contractor tries to hammer out a separate agreement of any kind with members of Local 602.

Every member should also understand that they have no right or business agreeing to or signing any plan or policy that has not been subject to negotiations with the local union. You are not only negotiating for yourself but you are also giving in on time honored rights of every other working member. To do so subjects you to charges under our By-laws and Constitution. And right now that is what I am urging.

This may seem harsh but let’s look at the implications of the most recent firestorm in regards to our contract. You may think that you don’t need a morning or afternoon break. Heck, you may not think that you need to eat a lunch. But what about if you are “dead” wrong? And further, what about the results of your decision on the health and well being of all your working brothers and sisters?

Obesity and diabetes are the ticking time bombs in all of us. Some of the current medical research on the increase in these two afflictions is centering on our eating patterns. Our bodies today are essentially the same as our most distant ancestors. We are descended from hunter/gatherers. A big meal was the exception. The norm was eating a series of smaller meals throughout the day. Eating raises our blood sugar/glucose levels. Work and exercise lowers our blood sugar/glucose levels. In between the highs and lows are bodies are stressed to bring things back into balance. The ideal is to have a constant mid point metabolic level between the time we rise to the time we settle down and sleep. There is a growing number that believe that we should be ingesting five to six smaller meals a day with moderate work and exercise in between. Do that and moderate a few of your other bad habits and you may live to be a hundred years old in good health without all of those other “enhancements”.

Are we eating and working ourselves to a premature death? Probably. Should we be moderating our life styles to achieve better health? Most definitely. So how the hell does skipping meals and giving up breaks fit into all of this? You are killing yourself and worse, you are killing your union brothers and sisters. We don't need fewer breaks; we need more, especially on ten and twelve hour shifts. Dang, I think that we have an issue for negotiations in 2010.

Hey Southland, look what you just started. Hey MCA, look at what your renegade contractor just started. If they are your stalking horse for 2010 you've made a big mistake. You just woke up every working member of the Local.

Here is my advice to all when approached by management to sign anything...**JUST SAY WHOA!** Put the message on your hardhat, write it on the wall, tattoo it into your pre-frontal lobes. Be "polite" and sign with the disclaimer, "Whoa, I am a member of Local 602 who is covered under a collective bargaining agreement. In regards to your request, I can not agree to violate that agreement".

**JUST SAY WHOA!**

### **From Dan Loveless, Assistant Business Manager**

Brothers and Sisters,

Since the last newsletter was sent out, the office has received approximately 60 completed forms of members' qualifications, licenses and special skills; not a great response.

Why fill out the form? Why is it in my best interest? The reason the forms need to be completed is that when a contractor calls and needs a member with a specific skill set, the database will provide the answer. A contractor will often ask for a member with, for example, clean room experience. There is no way of knowing if we have a member with clean room experience, or any other specific background, without an accurate database of information. So, you know what happens next, the contractor has a record of who has worked for them in the past and, more often than not, they are travelers. If our Local cannot provide the Contractor with qualified members, then the Contractor has the right to hire a traveler to do Local 602's work. For those of you who have not yet completed filling out the form please do so, if not for yourself, for your other fellow Local 602 members. Please note if you would prefer to phone in your information, please contact me directly at the Union Hall.

On another note, one of the most exciting pending projects is the building of Unit 3 down at Calvert Cliffs. Management has indicated that they are planning on putting men down there starting in mid- to late spring. What's going to be the biggest challenge for the Local is the ability to provide

qualified personnel. During the public hearing process, both our Local and the building trades made it known to the community that we would provide this manpower. There is no doubt, with the help of our brothers and sisters across the country, that we can meet the needed demand; however, as this is a local job the majority of workers should be sourced from Local 602 members. If you have not already taken TIG classes, please take the time to take a course or freshen up your skills in this area. The training department is a ready resource to assist in this area. Working at a nuclear generating facility will provide a tremendous opportunity to learn the latest technologies and will provide an experience that pays dividends the rest of your career.

If you are interested in going to the upcoming outage at Calvert Cliffs, please let me know and I'll get the proper paperwork to you.

Don't forget the upcoming picnic. It's a great opportunity to catch up with our fellow Brothers and Sisters off the job.

Take care and work safe.

**By Bill Durkin, Business Rep/Organizer**

## **Get Involved**

We are in the process of starting a Voter Registration drive throughout the Local. We will be mailing our Registration Information to those members that are not currently registered to vote. Please notify us if we send this to you, and you are already registered. We can then correct our records. If you have other family members that need to register and would like additional forms of information please contact us.

I recently met with a Congressional Aide about issues concerning workers. I realized we don't have the clout we may have had in the past. This influence comes from campaign contributions (money), which we have very little of. We could never compete monetarily with the Wal Marts and other large business concerns. What we do have is voters or at least potential voters. Just as we can tell who is registered so can the politicians. They know and will weigh this number when they deal with us. Local 602 is fast approaching 4000 members and the politicians will take notice if these members are registered voters.

We must first get our membership and their families registered. Then we must become activists. We have seen how recently on the news how the "Tea Bagger" < conservative activists who show up at Town Hall Meetings to disrupt in order to push forward their agenda, have captured the headlines with their activism. They will have influence on upcoming legislation. We used to have his kind of influence. In the past labor and other progressives had this influence. We have expected our leaders to do the work and in some cases it didn't get done. We have sat back and griped about the lack of results. The Labor movement was founded and grew because the workers were involved. No organizing campaign can be successful if the workers don't stand up and be counted. This need doesn't end with the membership.

We can turn this around by reconstituting COPE (Committee on Political Education) this means we need YOU. We need volunteers to become coordinators in every voting district. We have some hard working members that have always been active, but it is not enough. We represent members in two states and the District of Columbia. This makes our task more difficult. Please step up and get involved.

JOIN US

**STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602**



**FUN FOR ALL AGES**

Swimming in the Bay

Fishing & Crabbing

**FOOD & REFRESHMENTS**

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

Pit Beef, Turkey Breast, BBQ Chicken, Pulled Pork, 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**

Rides and Games, Tattoo Art, Magic Show, Balloon Artist

**GAMES ON THE BEACH**

Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2009**

(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!*



**HEAT'S ON -WATER'S OFF**



**ATTENTION: CONTRACTORS, JOURNEYMEN, APPRENTICES, RETIREES, WE NEED YOUR HELP!** The Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington, Service Bureau, in conjunction with Plumbers Local Union #5 & the Steamfitters Local Union #602, is participating in a valuable and important community assistance program on Saturday, September 26, 2009 from 6:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. This program, "Heat's On- Water's Off", organized nationally by the Mechanical Service Contractors of America (MSCA) consists of more than 750 companies nationwide, involved in service & maintenance work in the HVAC and Plumbing Industry. This is one way of giving back to the

community. This program involves the joint volunteer efforts of the Steamfitters , Plumbers & Service Contractors Bureau with the cooperation of the PG County's Dept of Family Services, the PG County Fire Department and local supply houses. The purpose of this program is to service & repair heating and plumbing equipment of the elderly & handicapped, who could not otherwise afford such a service and who may be running inefficient, faulty or hazardous equipment. The PG County Fire Department, visits the same homes to check smoke detectors & provide carbon monoxide testers.

**All Volunteers are Welcome and All Service Trucks are needed, to join us in participating in this event. Your participation is a valuable and necessary part of this program.**

We anticipate teaming one plumber and one steamfitter per truck. Our target number of volunteers is 30 contractors, 40 plumbers & 40 steamfitters. Our goal is to visit 40 homes with each truck visiting at least one home on Saturday, September 26, 2009, from 6:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

#### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**MEET AT:** THE UA MECHANICAL TRADES SCHOOL  
8509 ARDWICK ARDMORE ROAD  
LANDOVER, MARYLAND

6:30 A.M. – 7:00 A.M. Arrival  
7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. Breakfast, Speakers, distribution of homes to be serviced, Photo Session  
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Service Homes  
12:00 P.M. Turn in the pre-printed paperwork on the homes, Lunch at the school.

Please join us in this worthy cause.

**From Kevin Sullivan Business Agent**

In the first two weeks of August I / We have been consumed with an issue that can change the work day as we know it. The issue that we are talking about is the elimination of the coffee break. There is no need to mention the company that we are dealing with or the two jobs they are mandating their policy on. Chances are if you are on the construction side you have heard what has taken place over this issue.

The company has two jobs where you can't eat in the building. They have done a great job in providing air conditioned trailers outside of the building. The shop stewards on both projects, along with a lot of the men, say it takes 3-5 minutes at the most to go from work area to break trailer. The company claims guys are taking too long of a break, that some go across the street to McDonalds'. If that's the case you fire them. The company claims the foreman don't have time to police/babysit their men. As a foreman I ate with the men under me. Eating with the men gave me the opportunity to check in with them and ask them if everything was all right or if they needed anything. With that hand on approach it's not hard to say "you're down here to early or time to get back to work". This is all about eliminating

one break in the day; it's all about money. The ironic twist in all this is that MC Dean (non union electrical) workers met with me to encourage me/us not to give up break. They get a coffee and lunch break and are scared that we will break down conditions if we give it up; that's sad.

I can go on and on and find myself getting off target of the true message. Now this issue is rather important and we are drawing a line. What is more important is the underlying problem where company policy conflicts with our contract. A company policy cannot supersede what has been negotiated through a Collective Bargaining Agreement. It's doing away with a break now but where will it stop.

What if company policy required that you:

bring your own tools in

that you get paid piece meal

that you must provide your own safety equipment

that you get paid every two weeks.

Read your company policy over. If it conflicts with our contract we need to know about it. I / we will do our part in starting a campaign to ask our signatory contractors to submit their company policy as it affects our members. I want to thank our members in all that they did, on these two jobs, in looking out for Local 602. As I have said before; you may be an employee of this particular company now, chances are you didn't start your career there and you won't end it there. You will always be a member of Local 602; that is where your true loyalty should be.

**RESULTS OF THE 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
SAM TOWNSEND MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Sam Townsend Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, which was probably the hottest day we have had this summer. We still had a great turnout we had 240 members golfing. The results of the Tournament are:

**River Course**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**

HVAC Specialists  
Omar Brewer  
Gray Hamilton  
Mike McLaughlin  
Bryan Waddell

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Dominion Mechanical  
Jeff Price Jr.  
Mark Peek  
James McDonnell  
James Dennehy

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Johnson Controls  
John Burke  
Dale Woytko  
Kelly McKay  
Sean Manning

**Longest Drive**

Les Boggs

**Closest to the Pin – Hole #2**

Dale Woytko

**Closest to the Pin – Hole #13**

Kelly McKay

**Lakes Course**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**

Colonial Hardware  
Tim Runyan  
John Reese  
Eric Orr  
Dave Sorter

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Eddie Martin  
Jim Muncy  
Gary Williams  
Jamie Friedrich

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

W E Bowers Inc.  
Woody Woodall  
John Payne  
Tracey Phipps  
David Logan

**Longest Drive**

John Reese

**Closest to the Pin – Hole#3**

Don Rayle

**Closest to the Pin – Hole #11**

Jim Cantrill