

Local 100 News

Volume 1, Issue 4

July 2011

Craig's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I am writing this article, I wish the jobs would come quicker. I do believe they will be in the late summer and the fall.

The state of Texas has an increase in population, even during this recession. Industrial and Commercial jobs come with an increasing population. Using our new contract and Market Recovery, our contractors are bidding jobs they have not bid on in the past. I believe this trend will continue.

The 38th annual convention is in August and our delegates will be electing our leadership for the next 5 years. William P. Hite has been our General President for the past 6 years and he has put together a great team for the next 5. Local 100 together with The Southwest Pipetrades are endorsing the Hite alliance. I believe in Mr. Hite and am impressed with the way he has made bold moves. He will continue to fix the problems of the past. I am including an excerpt from a letter that General President Hite sent to all of the delegates who will be attending the convention.

"The past five years have been challenging for all of us. We begin this period with major growth in construction and great hopes for prosperity. Unfortunately, this boom did not last, particularly in the United States, and we were instead faced with the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Far too many UA members and their families have been struggling to cope with this hardship, and they have shown real strength and courage in doing so. Throughout these challenges, the membership has remained loyal to our organization, and I speak for all members of the Hite Alliance when I say we are truly grateful for that loyalty and commitment.

When I first took office as General President of the United Association, I made promises to our membership, and I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT THOSE PROMISES HAVE BEEN KEPT. Today, our Union is focused on ensuring a strong financial future. The debt we inherited when I took office has been eliminated. Our introduction of stringent financial practices with real transparency in a budget approved annually by the General Executive Board has greatly contributed to putting the UA back on solid ground. This has restored our fiscal integrity and put us on the path to continued financial security. We arranged for the sale of our former headquarters at a very good price and we moved into our modern, state-of-the-art facility in Annapolis. Such sound financial practices

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and decisions will help us secure the future successes of the United Association for generations to come.

In regaining our standing as one of the preeminent leaders of the national building trades, we have also earned the respect of the rest of organized labor. Moreover, the UA has gained considerable respect in the political arena during my tenure as General President. I currently have the honor and distinction of serving on the White House Jobs Summit, the President's Export Council and the U.S. Council on Competitiveness, where I am a respected voice for all working people. I look forward to my continued service on these national councils, working in partnership with representatives of government and the private sector to strengthen and expand not just the Construction Industry, but the Manufacturing Sector as well.

Today, I believe the worst is over for us, and that we are in the midst of a slow but steady economic recovery. We expect work opportunities to improve in every sector. UA plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters, sprinklerfitters, welders, HVACR technicians, and metal trades workers will all be in demand once again. In fact, in some sectors of our trade, such as welding, we are already experiencing manpower shortages. This good news also presents us with challenges, requiring us to prepare for what we know will be significant upcoming work opportunities in our industry, as owners and developers begin to invest once again.

In many regions, unemployment in the Construction Industry is still in the double digits. While it might be hard to envision a future where manpower shortages become a center stage issue, I believe that we are poised to experience an increase in work opportunities in every segment of our trade. I am determined to that the UA will be ready when that day arrives. Over the past five years, we have developed many progressive initiatives that we intend to build upon and improve. In addition, we will take the lessons we have learned from the past and apply them in creative and ground-breaking ways to advance our industry.

Together, I know that we can overcome the obstacles we face as an International Union and as concerned citizens of both the United States and Canada. With your support and commitment the labor movement-led by the United Association-will once again take its proper place as the champion of our middle-class working families. I believe the Hite Alliance represents the finest leadership team we have ever assembled, and I look forward to working together as the United Association moves ahead to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future."

General President Hite had a message that I thought you all needed to hear. I look forward to continuing to serve you and will see you at the next meeting, July 25th at 6:00 P.M.

The dog days of summer will soon be over and I pray that a cooler fall will bring more prosperity. I pray for you and families that the Lord will bless you all and keep you safe.

Fraternally yours,
Craig Berendzen
Business Manager, LU 100

Ben's Blurbs

Brothers and Sisters,

Summertime is here and it's going to be a hot one. I just heard the other day on the radio that this past June was the hottest June on record since 1980. The silver lining is that maybe with all of the heat and dry weather some of these jobs can come out of the ground so we can get more people to work. As of this writing we have around 215 people out of work. If you have a job, be thankful, no matter what it is. If you don't have one, keep hanging in there the best you can. I know it's getting very tough for you. I hear it in your voices every day.

I would like to officially announce Beth Ann Smith as our new office manager. Beth Ann has been working as assistant office manager for the past few years. We appreciate everything Debbie has done for us, but with the streamlining of the front office and the dues process it made sound financial sense to cut back to one full time front office person. We have part time help for her on an as needed basis. I have complete faith in Beth Ann and know she will do a great job for years to come.

When you are calling up here to speak to any one of us and get our voicemail, please leave us a message. You would be amazed by how many phone calls we get down here on a daily basis. I stay on the phone most of the day, especially with so many people still out of work. Sometimes I might miss three or four calls while talking to someone on the phone. If you don't leave a message I have no way of knowing you called. One of the things that I have really tried to do since I took office is to make sure that I can always be reached. That's why I always leave my cell phone number on my message. I don't ever want it to be said that you can't get a hold of me. If I miss your call, leave me a voicemail and you will be called back. The same applies to Beth Ann. Especially towards the end of the month she gets a ton of calls. If you don't get her, just leave a message and she will return it as soon as possible. Calling three times in a row, not leaving a message, and then complaining that you can't get a hold of anyone down here is unfair and doesn't do anyone any good.

Rick Beaudin Sr. and David Carter have been going to each contractor and completing wage survey forms. By doing this it will help us have the prevailing wage under the Davis-Bacon laws. What this means is that with any federal taxpayer project, the prevailing wage must be used not only in the bid process but on actual payrolls of everyone on the job as a minimum pay rate. This hasn't been done in decades and as a result the prevailing wage for our market for plumbers and pipefitters is currently \$12.80 per hour. Like I said before, we are doing everything in our power to help secure more work to keep all of you busy. We are limited as to what we can do but these wage surveys are an important tool that we can utilize as part of our strategy. Another tool that I have spoken of before is the market recovery fund. We

currently have over a million dollars allocated out to jobs and potential jobs that are being bid on. It may take a while to see all of those chickens come home to roost but a few good projects that we have secured through market recovery are the Joule Hotel remodel in downtown Dallas, the new terminal at Love field, the American Airlines central plant, the Hi Line condo project, and the T.I. scrubber project just to name a few. Some of these jobs are just now getting started good, but they will sure help keep some of you working. Our goal is 100% sustained employment and we will continue to do all we can on our end to achieve that.

I want to thank everyone that has helped to build our steward program. I have been very pleased to see the increased turnout and participation of our stewards at our union meetings. Again, if you are on a job and there is no steward please let Craig know and he will appoint one. We won't get there over night but we are well on our way to having a healthy and effective steward program. We will put on another Stewards training class once we get enough people that sign up for it. If you are interested let us know.

Have a great summer. Stay hydrated. Don't get too hot. Come see us at the meetings. I wish all of you the very best.

Your Brother,
Ben Bradshaw
Financial Secretary-Treasurer/ Business Agent

News from the East Region

As I am writing this article, work on the road does not seem to be increasing much, in keeping with this national economic standstill. I hope this will change before our next newsletter.

The national convention is coming up soon. I will have the opportunity to meet business agents from around the country. Many of these agents are searching for work as I am. Some agents have been able to help the rest of us out, and some have been calling me in the far-and-wide search for work for their members.

It will be good to finally meet some of these people I've been talking with on the phone all this time. For members wanting or needing to travel, please don't give up. I will continue to search for jobs for you.

David Carter

In Memoriam

Billy R. Crutcher 2/3/2011
Robert G. Jensen 4/15/2011
Jeremy D. Jefferies 3/19/2011
Raymond Moore Jr. 1/20/2011
Thomas J. Porterfield 4/23/2011
Thomas M. Sanguinet 2/15/2011
Jewel V. Templeton 2/5/2011
Daniel Howard Shaffer Jr. 6/4/2011

Office Staff Corner:

Beth Ann Smith (Office Manager)

Our office hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The office is closed from 12:30 to 1 :30 for lunch. To reach David Carter in our East Texas office, please call 903-838-0081.

For questions regarding Medical Insurance and 401k issues, please contact our Health & Welfare office at 972- 943-9559.

For questions related to the Pension Plan, please call the National Pension Fund office at 1-800-638-7442.

For questions regarding Apprenticeship or Continuing Education classes, please call the Apprentice Training Center at 214-341-6199.

We are now able to process your dues payments via credit card!!!! You can either present your card in person for processing or you can call us by phone to process payment as well.

Dues are charged to your account at the first of each and every month. In order to avoid a \$50.00 assessment to your account, payment must be received in the office no later than 4:00 P.M. on the last BUSINESS day of the 3rd month.

We have 2 brand new styles of T-shirts available for purchase. They are \$15.00 each. We also have caps available for \$12.00 each.

Members have the option to pay for 5 months and receive the 6th month free. That option is available during the months of January and July ONLY. Ex: You pay for January thru May and receive June for free. You pay for July thru November and you receive December for free. Please make sure your name and/or card number is printed on any Money Orders or Cashier's checks in order to get credit on your account.

To eliminate any confusion regarding delinquent fees please read carefully. Your payment MUST be POSTED to your account by 4:00 on the last BUSINESS day of the month. If you are mailing your payment keep in mind that it must still be received and posted by our office by 4:00 on the last business day. (The date it is postmarked does not factor in, in any way.) Any payments received after this time will be late and your account will therefore be assessed a \$50.00 fine. Once that \$50.00 fine is assessed, your account must be paid up to the current month. No partial payments will be accepted.

As soon as payments are posted, receipts are mailed out. If you have mailed in a payment and have not received a receipt within a few days, please call the office.

It is very important that we have current demographic information for you. If your address or contact numbers have changed, please call the office and update that information. Also, if we do not have a beneficiary card on file for you or if you need to make change, please call the office.

Organizer's Report

These last couple of months, I have been busy working out of town on contractor blitzes. I have been in Austin, San Antonio, Tulsa and Oklahoma City, with all of the other Southwest Pipe Trade organizers. In these blitzes, we have had a concentrated effort to call on all the non union plumbing, mechanical and HVAC contractor in these cities. We have gotten good feedback from our efforts in these blitzes. Dallas/Fort Worth and Albuquerque are the next cities on the list.

I have been working the Davis Bacon DOL wage surveys; meeting with all the contractors and helping them to fill out the wage survey forms. I have been educating them on how important it is to complete this process. With the federal prevailing wages for plumbers and pipefitters at \$12.80 an hour, our contractors have a hard time competing on these jobs with federal monies. If we can get our wage to prevail, all contractors would have to pay the same scale as our contractors. The contractor that does not pay the correct pay scale will be banned from federal jobs, pay the difference to their workers, and pay fines. This will give the Building Trade Unions some solid ground to help us fight these unfair contractors.

You remember the midterm election went in favor of the Republicans, especially in Wisconsin, where the Governor is trying to take away the public workers union right to collectively bargain. The real truth came out; the Republicans do not like unions, and do not care for the everyday workers. The people of Wisconsin are stepping up and forcing a recall vote. Even after that, the Republicans are trying to foil the democratic process. Here is a quote from the headlines on the internet.

“MADISON, Wis. (AP) — All six fake Democrats lost to Democrats supported by the party in primaries Tuesday that are the first in a series of recall elections targeting nine Wisconsin state senators for their positions on Republican Gov. Scott Walker's divisive union rights restrictions.

The winners advance to take on incumbent Republicans targeted for recall on Aug. 9.

The state Republican Party orchestrated the placement of the fake Democrats on Tuesday's ballot, thereby delaying the general election for a month. That gave the Republican incumbents more time to campaign and distance themselves from the turmoil over the union law that they voted to support in March, spurring the recall efforts.”

We need to be informed and we need to stay informed, and not to let others decide who will be making the laws in our state, counties, and cities. Remember to support the union friendly candidates, and also keep in touch with them to help them remember who helped them get elected. As a union, we can make changes that can help all of us workers, only if we stick together.

Rick Beaudin Sr.

Local 100
3629 W Miller Rd.
Garland, TX 75041



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TRAINING CENTER CLASSES

JULY

- OSHA - 30 (This class is full)

AUGUST

- PLUMBERS CPE

SEPTEMBER

- PLUMBERS CPE
- WELD CERTS (6:30 am start)
- FOREMAN CERT - 40 hour class
- OSHA - 30
- CRANE SIGNALPERSON CERTIFICATION

OCTOBER

- PLUMBERS CPE
- WELD CERTS (6:30 am start)
- OSHA - 30
- MEDICAL GAS - 40 hour class

NOVEMBER

- PLUMBERS CPE
- WELD CERTS (6:30 am start)
- OSHA - 30

All classes start at 8am unless otherwise noted, pre-registration is required. Classes are limited and subject to cancellation if minimum number is not met.

OSHA classes are limited to 40 participants. Classes are filling up fast, call soon to register.

Call the training center for exact dates. **214-341-6199**

If interested in other classes, please call the training center with suggestions.