

Western Washington Pipe Trades News

UA LOCAL 26

3rd Quarter 2009
July– September
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Business Managers Report

The Green Economy

Investments in green technology have grown 94% over the past 2 years, which represents 31% of the total U.S. investments in the green industries. Local 26 along with other mechanical and electrical trade unions have formed a coalition with the Sound Alliance to secure this work for our members. Transforming our workforce into piping careers that address these critical careers are necessary to lead our state and country out of this recession. Energy, water, heat and air usage in new and existing buildings is at the heart of this “green” movement. Not only are these issues going to be vital to our local members and contractors for decades to come, they will address the

greater problem of decreasing the global climate crisis.

The United States Green Building Council (USGBC), a group of over 15,000 companies and organizations in the construction industry dedicated to the development of green building technology and the UA is at the forefront.

MEMBER ACCESS

As a UA member, you are authorized to access the USGBC website member areas. Green Building, Green Education, Green Economic Recovery Resources, and Green Homes. However, In order to use this site, you must register to gain access to non-public areas.

Your membership registra-

tion is free. The UA pays a yearly corporate fee which covers all UA members.

We are on our way to become the skilled trades leaders of the Green Building Movement. By registering online with the USGBC, you will be showing the UA’s strength and commitment to “Green Building”.

Follow the steps below to register:

- Step 1. Go to <https://www.usgbc.org>
- Step 2. On the top of the page, click on the Sign In tab.
- Step 3. At the Sign In page click on the link that reads: create a site user account.
- Step 4. At the site user registration page enter 771279155143138. This number is for UA members only.

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Local 26 Master Agreement Contract Negotiations

In the most recent round of negotiations your negotiation committee brought forward an offer with a recommendation. The contract vote will take place on Monday, July 27th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. I urge the membership to be pro-active and vote.

Your negotiation committee, led by Business Manager Phil Dines, was faced with unprece-

ded economic times, record un-employment rates, recession and all out job cancellations. “The economic climate is far different than it was a year ago”, said Dines. Construction spending was at a record high and locals were competing amongst themselves for the availability of manpower. We had two years of work on the books and then everything stopped with the

financial collapse of the stock market in Sep-Oct of 2008. At the same time, negotiating a contract for the entire jurisdiction that was mutually beneficial to both labor / management without going backwards or to zone pay for those members who live and work in a particular zone was a must. Serious questions had to be addressed.

NEGOTIATIONS CONT...

Are we escalating wages and promoting craftsmanship in proportion to each geographical area? Are our local 26 contractors being able to remain competitive?

As of this writing, many of these speculations have been answered. Local 32's recent contract has put them at an estimated 23% loss in man-hours year to date and predicted to be even higher by year end. We have lost contractors, and counties in the prevailing wage sector and even lost ground in the industrial pulp mills to non-union contractors, where we pre-

vailed for decades.

Given the light of our economic climate a steep escalation of labor rates would not be beneficial to the local members or our contractors who employ union members on a local wide basis. A collaborative agreement was reached on Thursday, July 26th to be put forth for a vote.

At the end of the day, we as union members are only successful to the extent that our members are working. In order for our contractors to be successful selling union labor, they must remain competitive in both the public and private sectors. It truly is a partnership, one that cannot function without the other.

UNION CLASSES

Just a reminder to all members to request / sign up for journey level class.

Suggested Unionism Courses may include: Heritage, Collective Bargaining, Stewardship, Leadership/ Foreman training, Construction Orientation Management Education Training (Comet).

Plumbing CEU's: Plumbing Code, Electrical Code, Water Systems, Pumps, C-Stop, First Aid/CPR, Industrial Hygiene, Medical Gas Certification, Green Plumbing. Washington State requires 16 hours of continuing education per Plumbing license renewal every two years. [Your Plumbing license expires on your Birthday.](#)

Steamfitter/ Welder Recommended Classes: Steam Systems, Hydraulic Heating, Related Mathematics, Layout, Auto-Cad, Detailing, Tube Bending, Rigging Certifications including proper signaling.

Welders: UA Certifications and upgrades. There are several UA locals that will not let you sign the O/W list without UA Certifications. By possessing certifications your not only taking pride in your craft, but are securing your position for employment purposes.

WELDER SHORTAGE REQUIRES NEW THINKING

The average welder in the United States is 54 years old. The baby boomer generation is causing a spike in the number retiring and unfortunately, there are far fewer younger people coming in to replace them. The prediction is that if this trend continues, there could be a shortage of 200,000 skilled workers by 2010— unless something is done now.

The UA has always been at the forefront of innovative ways for recruitment. The 16 week training course and the VIP program initiated here in local 26 are only the start. There is plenty of room for advancement that simply cannot be outsourced. Skilled welders can become welding inspectors, quality control technicians, instructors or fabricators. UA members have the opportunity to advance their educations by obtaining additional certifications nationally at any UA authorized training facility.

What more is needed? While working with representatives, and serving on the Workforce Development Council, I learned that many of the high school students often look at two year technical based colleges or a specified trade school. Why the sudden increase in these sectors verses a four year degree? Simple, with escalating college tuition rates and an increasing number of those graduating without specific skills that will help them land a good paying job. Many are turning to the trades to learn a meaningful and high paying career with long-term potential without the threat of outsourcing. No other training agency compares to organized labor's apprenticeship programs.

Those that control the welders, will control the market in the pipefitting industry....

LOCAL 26 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP & FAMILY PICNIC

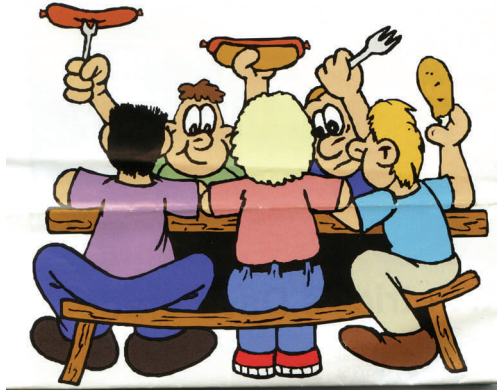
It's time again for the Annual Local 26 Membership and Family Picnic. Once again the picnic will be held at Columbus Park on Black Lake in Olympia, on Sunday, August 16th and will feature swimming, food drink, games and a host of other activities, including a raffle drawing for those in attendance.

Your Picnic Committee is already hard at work insuring that everything you have come to look forward to— the barbecue, entertainment, prizes and more— will await you at the picnic. A special thanks to our retired brother Mike Pelela for all his hard work and donated time to insure the success of this years festivities.

If you are interested in working on the picnic or helping out the day of the event please contact the Lacey office at (360) 486-9300.

Picnic Schedule

The Picnic will be from noon to 4:00p.m. Hamburgers and hotdogs to be served. Please feel free to bring your favorite dish if you desire, but is not necessary



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS...

Local 26 Golf Tournament
September 13, 2009 starting at 9:00am

@ Camelot Golf Course in Camano Island, WA.

Members wishing to participate in this years golf tournament, please contact your local business office for registration and pricing.

MEMBERS PASSED

Donald Cheyney–
Initiated 3/13/1985
Date of death March 14, 2009.
24 year member.

Jack N. Burton–
Initiated 8/08/1950
Date of death May 12, 2009. Life Member

James A. Jones–
Initiated 7/02/1973

Date of death May 13, 2009.
35 year member.

Anthony D. Olson–
Initiated 11/22/1949
Date of death May 21, 2009.
Life Member.

JOB LINE

Please use the (360) 486-9300 Opt. # 1. number for up to date dispatch information. This feature will be updated with the current dispatches at the start of each business day for the current day only. Please do not call the dispatcher during dispatch hours, 8:00-12:00 noon . The secretarial staff can assist you with dues or placement on the out of work list questions.

UP & COMING WORK

University Mechanical at Good Samaritan Hospital is continuing to place calls for Fitters and Plumbers.

Advanced Pneumatic Tubes-
1 Fitter Apprentice and 1 Fitter Journeyman for work at Good Sam and Providence Hospital

McKinstry– South Hill Data Center to be calling for a fitter in

the near future. Corey Electronics– Name Call for a fitter

Diamond B– Plumber and fitter calls to be ongoing as the project continues.

Haskell– Fitter Apprentice for the Fab-Shop

General Construction-

Welder with UA 22 and 41 Cert's for Bangor Sub Station in Bremerton.

CANADA

Information Packets are available at the Local Union Offices for those members interested in going to work in Edmonton, Canada. The current projected manpower is 200-500 fitters and welders over the next two years. There is important information health care/ and unemployment that needs to be known prior to going. Paperwork processing takes approximately 4-5 weeks.

**UA Local 26 Lacey: 8501 Zenith Ct. Ne.
Lacey, WA. 98516**
**Burlington: 780 Chrysler Dr. Burlington,
WA. 98233**
**Bremerton: 7715 NW Eldorado Blvd.
Bremerton, WA. 98312**
Longview: 1140 11th Ave. Longview, WA.
 Phone: 360-486-9300

Ten thousand times has the labor movement stumbled and bruised itself. We have been enjoined by the courts, assaulted by thugs, charged by the militia, traduced by the press, frowned upon in public opinion, and deceived by politicians. 'But notwithstanding all this and all these, labor is today the most vital and potential power this planet has ever known, and its historic mission is as certain of ultimate realization as is the setting of the sun.

— Eugene V. Debs

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

UA LOCAL 26 TOLL FREE- 888-495-8099

N.W. PLUMBING AND PIPEFITTING TRUST (health insurance, eligibility and vacation info). 1-800-33-6158

WASHINGTON STATE PENSION TRUST I-800-426-5980

SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION TRUST I-800-481-7336 (masterplanretirement.com)

PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS NATIONAL PENSION TRUST I-800-638-7442

ELLINGSON'S PHARMACY: I-800-292-4722

**We're on the Web:
www.ua26.org**

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

UNION MEETINGS:

WILL BE HELD IN BOTH LACEY AND BURLINGTON ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00P.M.

JULY 14TH

AUGUST 11TH

SEPTEMBER 9TH

(MEETING DATE CHANGED TO WEDNESDAY). Bill Sweeney will be addressing the membership from the UA on the status of the National Pension...

EXUCUTIVE BOARD:

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH IN LACEY AND BURLINGTON AT 5:00P.M. JULY 7TH

AUGUST 4TH

SEPTEMBER 1ST

FINANCE BOARD:

THE FINACE COMMITTEE MEETS IN BOTH LACEY AND BURLINGTON ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 4:00P.M.

JULY 7TH

AUGUST 4TH

SEPTEMBER 1ST

EXAMING BOARD'S "WRITTEN EXAM"

THE FITTERS EXAMINING BOARD MEETS ON THE LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH. UPON A PASSING SCORE, **A PRACTICLE TEST** WILL BE OFFERED THE FOLLOWING THURSDAY OF THE NEXT MONTH.

WRITTEN EXAM TEST DATES:

JULY 30TH

AUGUST 27TH

SEPTEMBER 24TH

PRACTICAL EXAMS

JULY 2ND

AUGUST 6TH

SEPTEMBER 3RD

WELDERS EXAMINING BOARD

THE WELDERS EXAMINIG BOARD MEETS IN LACEY AND BURLINGTON ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH. CANDIDATES MUST PASS BOTH THE 6"- CARBON IN A 6G POSITION 5P ROOT, 7018 FILL AND CAP(BEND TEST) AND A 2"- SCH. 80 CARBON TIG ALL THE WAY OUT.

JULY 7TH,

AUGUST 4TH,

SEPTEMBER 8TH

BUILDING ASSOCIATION

The Building Association shall meet August 11th at 6:00p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled union meeting.