



THE 421 COMMUNICATOR



December 2013



Business Manager's Message... It's been pretty busy the past two months! We have begun and will soon begin contract negotiations with the National Service Contractors and Chicago Bridge and Iron Fabrication in Laurens (CBI). I have met with and signed 3 new contractors, 2 Specialty Welding Contractors and 1 Residential Contractor. I have been working with the UA to develop a pilot "Plumber 911" market in the Carolina's. For those of you who may not know what that is, it is a UA sponsored National Residential Plumbing Service. I am in hope that we can get into a market of our industry that we have never been in in the Carolina's. I was also assigned by the UA to work the Power Generation Conventions in Orlando Florida this month where I had the opportunity to meet and speak with Contractors and End Users from across the country about projects in the Carolina's.

Work in our jurisdiction looks like it may be picking up a little; we have the projects going on in Monks Corner, SC and a few other smaller projects in North Carolina. But the unemployment for our active members in 421 continues to run high at 15 - 20%.

Our Attorney continues to work on getting the money owed Local 421 and those Brothers and Sisters that were working for the MENK Company on the Continental Tire project. I will keep you informed of any new developments as they occur. So far there is no information other than it is still in the courts.

You should have received the notice that dues will be increasing by \$1.00, January 1, 2014 for everyone except for the retiree's over 65 years old. All of that increase will be going to the UA and none of the increase will remain in Local 421.

Finally, I am very fortunate to have a great staff and one of the hardest working staff's in the United Association. They are all committed to working with our members to assist them with all their needs and with our contractors to make sure they have the qualified people they need to complete their projects on time and under budget. And as it is the time of the year to look at all the things we are thankful for, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my great staff for everything they do to make my job a lot easier.

I also want to thank all of our wonderful members at Local 421 for not only their support of me, but their support of our fellow Brothers and Sisters in need. It feels good to be surrounded by a group of members that understand the meaning of "Brotherhood".

I want to wish for you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas, a prosperous New Year and for God's special blessings for you and all your



most families.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Christmas is right around the corner.

A lot of us shop on-line. Here are some web sites for American made products:

<http://www.allusacllothing.com/>

<http://www.allamericancllothing.com/>

<http://simpleamericanstyle.com/>

<http://www.howtobuyamerican.com/>

<http://www.americantoyboutique.com/>



American made products help to build and maintain a stable, growth-oriented American workforce and economy. It has been proven, the more we invest in products Made in the USA, the greater our domestic growth and the more US jobs we create. It is an investment in the future of this country. We are all in this together!

A recent quote from ABC's Diane Sawyer, "The average American will spend \$700 on holiday gifts and goodies this year, totaling more than \$465 billion, the National Retail Federation estimates. If that money was spent entirely on U.S. made products it would create 4.6 million jobs. But it doesn't even have to be that big. If each of us spent just \$64 on American made goods during our holiday shopping, the result would be 200,000 new jobs."

Happy Holidays and a great New Year.

Submitted By: Bob Hughes

Dispatch News

Brothers and Sisters,

Work in the jurisdiction remains very slow. We have the MNK Project in Monks Corner, SC that has been hiring. BKI and McKenney's are in this project. BKI requires background clearance, OSHA 10, drug screen, and UA weld certs for welders. McKenney's requires OSHA 10, drug screen and UA weld certs for welders.

McKenney's has project Hawk in Kings Mountain, NC, Anson Hospital in Wadesboro, NC, NCDOC project in Raleigh, NC, and Sentinel in Durham, NC.

Sauer Group has a small warehouse project in Ft. Bragg, NC.

Out of jurisdiction work is not good for plumbers or pipefitters but very good for welders with UA weld certs.

Contact the Training Center to update your skills and contact the Dispatcher if interested in any of these jobs.

Submitted By: Ron May



Service



Service Training Steering Committee Update

A Local 421 Service Training Steering Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at the Concord training center. The meeting was well attended by both technician members and service management representatives. One item that came to light was that both JCI and Carrier have in house training (Carrier – Tech 360 and JCI STA or Service Training Academy). These are primarily individual technician training programs that allow the technicians to earn training credits to advance their careers.

Additional classes for which the training department is searching for instructors are classes on items such as Boilers and boiler controls, Reading and using ladder diagrams to troubleshoot control problems, refrigeration equipment, Hydronic (Hot and Chilled Water) systems, and Motor Starter familiarization.

Remote training options were also discussed with an emphasis on using “Blackboard”. Dan Weigle (Raleigh HVAC Apprentice Instructor) provided a brief on-line example of a “Blackboard” class.

The UA training department continues to place an emphasis on service training in the Carolinas and Joe Ellis is heading that initiative and communicating with the service training experts at UA headquarters to help them see what the needs are in the Carolinas with an emphasis on distance learning through “Blackboard”.

The next Service Training Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 5:30 pm at the Concord Training Center.

HVAC STAR Certification Preparation Classes

HVAC STAR Certification Preparation training classes were scheduled for October 1, 2, 8 & 9, 2013; in the Columbia, SC area; however, no qualified technicians signed up for the classes which are followed by the proctored STAR Certification exam which is usually held on a Saturday, a week or two following the last preparation class. During the previous STAR Certification Exam held on July 27, 2013, four (4) of the five (5) technicians who took the exam passed and received their STAR certification. Members of Local 421 who passed the exam receive the UA STAR certification. Non-union Technicians receive an NITC certification.

North Carolina HVAC/R Apprentice Contest

The North Carolina State apprentice contest was held on October 25th during the North Carolina State Fair. We have good news about the Local 421 apprentices who participated in the contest. Michael Owens a second year HVAC apprentice out of Concord who works for McKennys finished in First place. Morris Swaenepoel a third year plumbing / pipefitting apprentice also out of Concord, who currently works on a Batchelor & Kimball, Inc. project, finished in Second place in the Plumbing contest. Congratulations to Michael and Morris for their outstanding achievements. The contest is sponsored by the North Carolina Mechanical Trades Apprentice Contest Committee, the NC Department of Labor and the North Carolina State Fair.

Continued Next Page ...

Service Cont...

Georgia / Carolinas 2014 Apprentice Contest

The 2014 Georgia / Carolinas apprentice contest will be held at the Augusta, Georgia training center. The dates for the contest are April 23, 24 & 25. Participating apprentices must arrive on Wednesday (Late afternoon) for orientation.

UA District 3 Apprentice Contest

The UA District 3 HVAC/R Apprentice contest will be held on June 10, 11, and 12th, 2014 at the Local 60 (New Orleans) training center.

2013 Mandatory Training

For the current classes scheduled, go to (www.ualocal.org). Click on “Training Center” to view the monthly journeyman classes by month and location(s). Classes on Motor / Pump alignment have been held in several locations and at several service contractors’ offices. Classes on psychometrics, Fluke meter use, megger and thermography training was also included with the Fluke Meter training. A number of other training subjects were also made available during the last three months. For 2013, the training center will not schedule last minute classes to meet the hour requirements because it is virtually impossible to make training arrangements at such a late date. The training Center is making every effort to provide a sufficient number of classes, but it is obvious that many have waited until the last minute to begin looking for ways to satisfy their requirement.

Important – Please contact Gay (704)721-0517 at the Concord training center to sign up for any of the classes. Please take advantage of classes that will be scheduled early in 2014 to avoid missing your training requirement for 2014.

Submitted By: Harold “Rudy” Rudisill

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

12/24 - close @ noon
12/25 - closed

12/31 - close @ noon
1/1/14 - closed

Leadburners

After a slowdown in October, NELCO’S work is improving in November and should be good for the rest of the year. EL Dorado’s work should improve after the first of the new year.

The changes made at the last renewal of our contract with Aetna provided an improvement in our insurance benefits. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act will force the Trustees to make changes in the future in order to comply with the law. Hopefully we can get through the required changes without losing benefits. Our Trustees will keep everyone informed of changes made.

Submitted By: Bill McNabb



JATC News

Donald Bean is now the LEAD ATR/CWI for the Local 421 weld program. He will also be the contact to help arrange test dates with the other Training Centers and ATRs.

The JATC is looking for Instructors for the Raleigh and Charleston Training Centers. If you have the ambition to share your knowledge with others, please send your resume' to John at john@ualocal421.org



UPDATE on Raleigh School
 We are now in the process of hopefully securing a new facility in Wake County. If anyone would like to volunteer their time to help with cleaning, painting, landscaping, etc, please call or email John Sciadini to let him know.

Check the website often (www.ualocal421.org) for new and updated classes that are listed for any required continuing education. There will be more online courses in the months to come for UA members.

We have considered running a 4 hour welding class (practice only, no certs), one evening a week in Concord. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Concord Training Center at 704-721-0518 and let us know.

There will be weld testing during the week at the Concord Training Center, except Wednesdays, when there will be no weld testing. Any requested testing in Charleston or Laurens will have to be scheduled.

Submitted by: John Sciadini

Make sure to always keep your certs current, ***IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!!***

"INTELLIGENCE plus CHARACTER. That is the goal of true education." Martin Luther King

"Teach me and I will forget, show me and I will learn, involve me and I will understand" Unknown

"Do what you love and you'll never work a day in your life" Confucius

"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead a second-rate version of someone else" Judy Garland

2014 Union Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the following months at 10:00am:

Locations are subject to change

- 1/11 Laurens
- 3/8 Concord
- 5/10 Concord
- 7/12 Raleigh - location TBD
- 9/13 Laurens
- 11/8 Concord



And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord".

—Luke 2:10-11 RSV

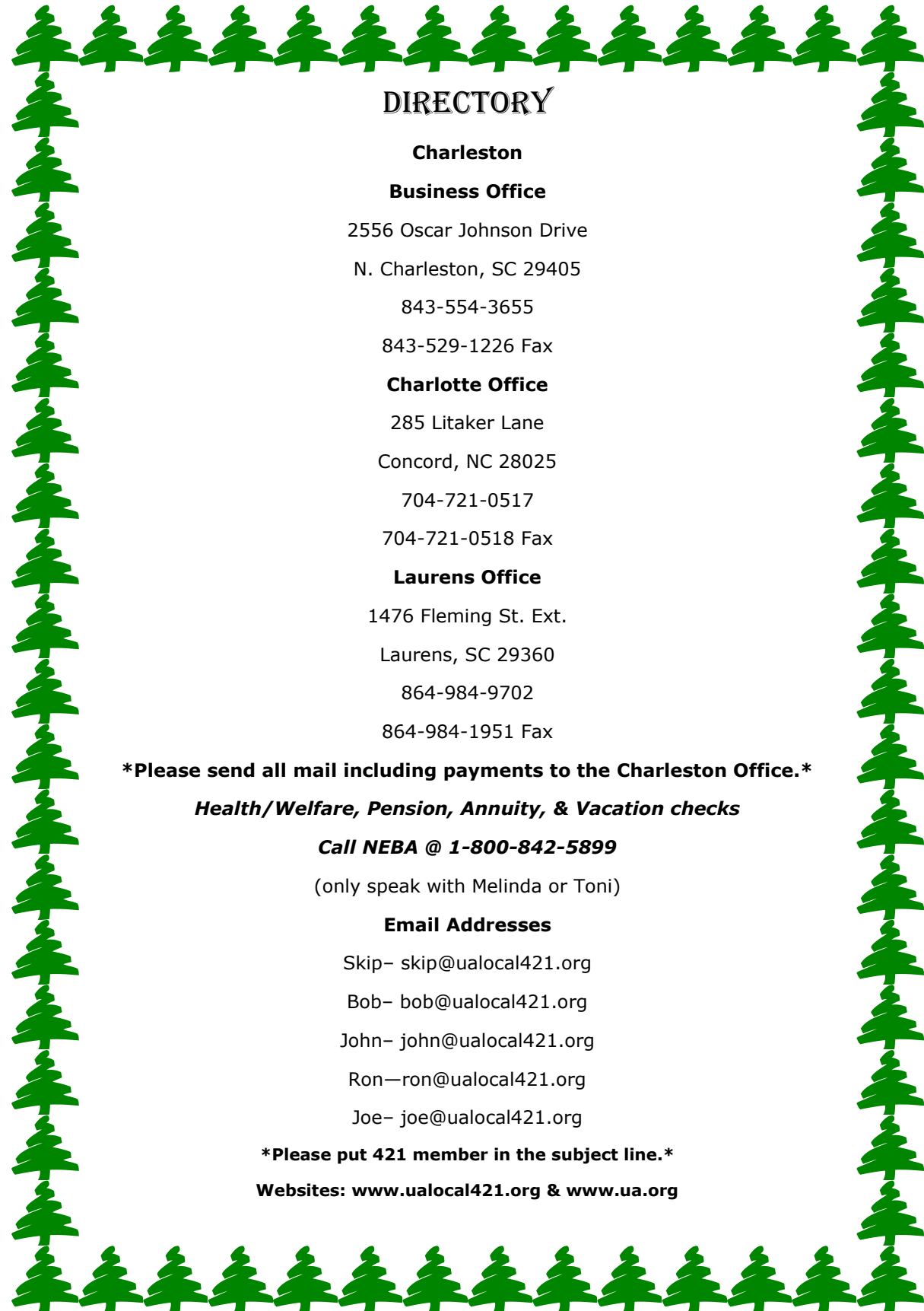
INFORMATION BY PHONE

In an effort to get the latest information to you in a more timely manner, both the Business and Training offices utilize a robo calling feature. This is a prerecorded message with valuable information sent to everyone on a specific date and time. We communicate everything from dues reminders to class cancellations via telephone. It is important that we have a valid number for you in our system. Please listen to the message before calling to say you missed a call.



It is with our deepest regret that we must inform you of the passing of the following Brothers and/or Sisters:

September	October
Clarence E. Railey (96)	Hubert I. McMannen (785)
Leonard T. Pitts (391)	Thomas J. Boatwright (227)
Cecil L. Travis (96)	



DIRECTORY

Charleston

Business Office

2556 Oscar Johnson Drive

N. Charleston, SC 29405

843-554-3655

843-529-1226 Fax

Charlotte Office

285 Litaker Lane

Concord, NC 28025

704-721-0517

704-721-0518 Fax

Laurens Office

1476 Fleming St. Ext.

Laurens, SC 29360

864-984-9702

864-984-1951 Fax

Please send all mail including payments to the Charleston Office.

Health/Welfare, Pension, Annuity, & Vacation checks

Call NEBA @ 1-800-842-5899

(only speak with Melinda or Toni)

Email Addresses

Skip- skip@ualocal421.org

Bob- bob@ualocal421.org

John- john@ualocal421.org

Ron-ron@ualocal421.org

Joe- joe@ualocal421.org

Please put 421 member in the subject line.

Websites: www.ualocal421.org & www.ua.org

Plumbers & Pipefitters
Local Union 421
2556 Oscar Johnson Dr
North Charleston, SC
29405

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
CHARLESTON,
SC
PERMIT NO 119

Or Current Resident



2
0
1
4