

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

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US POSTAGE
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CHARLESTON,
SC
PERMIT NO 119



The 421 Communicator

September 2012

Or Current Resident

Please send all mail including payments to the Charleston Office.

Email Addresses

Skip—
skip@ualocal421.org

Bob—
bob@ualocal421.org

John—
john@ualocal421.org

Joe—
joe@ualocal421.org

**Please put 421 member in the subject line.*

Directory

Charleston Business Office
2556 Oscar Johnson Drive
N. Charleston, SC 29405
843-554-3655
843-529-1226 Fax

Raleigh Office
4510 Old Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27627
919-231-8005
919-231-8054 Fax

Laurens Office
1476 Fleming St. Ext
Laurens, SC 29360
864-984-9702
864-984-1951 Fax

Charlotte Office
285 Litaker Lane
Concord, NC 28025
704-721-0517
704-721-0518 Fax

From the desk of the Business Manager ...

First let me begin by thanking all of you for your support and vote of confidence in our recent election of officers. It's a great honor to have the opportunity to continue as Business Manager of Local 421. I assure you that I will continue to represent Local 421 professionally and responsibly.

As most of you know by now, Ed Drescher retired August 31, 2012. Ed has been a vital part of Local 421's growth since it was chartered in 1998. Ed moved to the Raleigh area shortly after being hired as Business Representative for Local 421. Ed has worked day and night during his time with Local 421, not only as a Representative, but as an Instructor in our Apprenticeship Program as well as our Journeyman Training Programs. During this time Ed also became a very close friend. His plans are to get away and do a little traveling for a while with his family. We'll miss you Eddie! May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy.

Regrettably, Reggie Bush, our dispatcher, semi-retired August 31. Fortunately, he will be returning to help us one week out of each month. Reggie has made contacts and established relationships with a lot of our sister Locals across the country and we don't want to lose that. It keeps a lot of our members working. Even though he will be in a few days a month, we are going to miss him.

Reggie and I have known each other since we entered the Apprenticeship Program together in 1969. Reggie has always been a hard worker and skilled craftsman, and when he became dispatcher for 421 he brought that work ethic with him. When he had an opportunity to put a Brother or Sister to work, he would remain in the office until late at night and/or make calls from his home on the weekends. Reggie has been a very close friend of mine for more years than I care to remember. He's always been there if or when I needed him. I wish him all the best and all God's blessings.

You're probably asking yourself now, who's going to take their place. Well here's the current plan. As most of you know, our man-hours are down considerably. Until they increase and become a little more stable, I will not be replacing Eddie. Bob Hughes will now be doing the dispatching and I will help him whenever possible. There are opportunities for a few large projects in our area, but they're still months away. As always, we will continue to solicit contractors to bid work in our area. I know there are a lot of our Brothers and Sisters out of work and we are doing everything we can to get you back working.

(Continued on page 2....)

**LAST UNION MEETING OF THE YEAR—
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2012 AT 10:00 A.M.
7434 FAIRFIELD ROAD, COLUMBIA, SC 29203.**

****LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT to CHANGE****

(... Continued from page 1)

Also, I want to remind you all to vote. I'm sad to say that there are still only about 25% of our members registered to vote. Please understand, politics play an important role in you working or not working, especially for Union workers. As Union workers, we enjoy a lot more benefits than do our non-union counterparts. We have Health care coverage for not only our members, but our entire family, we'll have a pension when we retire. Most of our non-union counterparts will not and if some of the Republican Politicians have their way, Social Security won't be available. Get out and vote. If you're not registered, get registered. Remember, your future and your families future depends on what's done in the election booths on November 6th. Please Vote, if you chose not to vote, don't complain when we are having trouble finding you a job. **VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

Since there will not be another newsletter until December, May the blessings of this Thanksgiving fill your hearts and home throughout the year, and God surround you and your family with peace, joy, and love.

Happy Thanksgiving,

**Skip Howard
Business Manager Local 421**



"Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours, and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice to democracy to the shop floor."

~ President John F. Kennedy, 1962

Be an active part of our freedom as Americans. November 6, 2012 is election day. Be sure you cast a ballot. For information on voter registration for South Carolina go to www.scvotes.org. For North Carolina go to www.ncsbe.gov. Deadlines for registration are different for each state.

The United Association has a public website on political information www.uagetinvolved.org. Check it out. The website contains great videos and updates on the 2012 elections. If you are interested in being a volunteer to help get out the vote for the election this November, please send me an email. My address is bob@ualocal421.org. Type election in the subject line. Thank you in advance to elect candidates who are friends of working men and women in the Carolinas and the United States.

Few people want to discuss politics and even fewer want to listen to those discussions. We know how important the political process is to the welfare of our organization. We have political allies at all levels of government, not just in Washington. The enemies we have are attacking organized labor's very existence with a vengeance. You have seen it on the news, heard it on the radio and even received Emails about it. Working class people, not just members of unions, are being ignored. Big business is using every means at their disposal to end middle class America. We must let our political friends know we appreciate them. It is like getting a pat on the back for doing a good job. You appreciate the fact that someone recognizes your efforts. Local 421 and the UA will continue to let our voice be heard. Individually, as concerned citizens, we need to do the same. Thank you for being a huge part of this process.

Submitted By Bob Hughes



Local 421 Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday

7:30am - 4:30pm,

Fridays

7:30am - 3:30pm.

To log on to our web site, your log in name is your UA card # with two zeros in front, the password is your date of birth MM/DD/YYYY.

We are no longer accepting website payments.

Your dues must be paid by the 1st of each month, if your dues go into suspension (3 months without payment) and you are on the out of work list you will be automatically removed and you must pay the full amount to be reinstated. Also when you call in and get your dues caught up after going into suspension you will be placed at the bottom of the out of work list automatically.

Is your beneficiary card up to date? If not, please call the Charleston office and request a beneficiary card be mailed to you so all of your information can be up to date.

ANY questions about insurance and hours call Core Management 888-741-2673

The job line is no longer available!

Deuteronomy 15:10

Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. (NIV)

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

January 2012: Richard J. Gundry (470),
Edgar L. Rasnick (227),
Douglas E. Miller (470),
Gary T. Haynie (391),
Charles M. Brown (823),
Thomas Still (470)

February 2012: Bobby L. Shoemaker (96)

March 2012: James P. Schoemann (96),
Carol W. Williams (391),
Nelson S. Jones (421),
Henry F. Duggan (96)

April 2012: Tommy K. Moose (96),
Charles W. Hovater (391),
Bobby L. Albea (785)

August 2012: Ralph L. Moore (227)

From US Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis

August 31, 2012

Brothers and Sisters –

Today, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you, America's Building Trades Unions. Thank you for your commitment, your talent, your hard work, and your service to this country. On behalf of everyone at the Department of Labor, I'm honored to wish all of you a great Labor Day.

Labor Day is the celebration of a promise fulfilled. For generations, the promise of good jobs, fair treatment and wages, and a seat at the bargaining table has sustained the economic security of America's vital middle class.

Labor Day is also a call to action, a reminder that we must defend that promise to ensure that dignity and opportunity remain the birthright of all workers in this country.

We know what's at stake, and we know what we have to do.

We must continue to get people back to work. We've come so far in the last 3 1/2 years, but we've still got a long way to go. We were bleeding more than 800,000 jobs a month when President Obama took office. But over the last 29 months, we've created 4.5 million private sector jobs. President Obama and I are committed to getting construction workers off the bench and back on the job rebuilding our infrastructure and our communities. We believe in the value of making things and building things. We believe in your craft.

The Building Trades are leading the way in preparing our workforce for the jobs that will fuel the engine of the 21st Century economy by investing in education and registered apprenticeship programs. The construction of power generation facilities, as well as the construction and maintenance of automobile, petro-chemical, and pharmaceutical industry facilities, depend on highly-skilled workers in order to grow, and the Building Trades are delivering the skills those industries need.

You understand that good jobs mean high standards of worker safety and health, strong Davis Bacon enforcement, and maintaining a level playing field by combating employee misclassification. These efforts are strengthening communities and laying the foundations for an America built to last.

For me, this Labor Day has added meaning. My dad, who was a proud union member, passed away this year. When I was in ninth grade, he would come home and ask me to sit with him at our kitchen table. From his pockets, he would pull pieces of paper with writing in Spanish on them. They were notes given to him by his co-workers. There were all sorts of things scribbled on them: grievances about health and safety, questions about paychecks that didn't add up, and ideas about how to improve the productivity of the line.

He'd ask me to translate them into English. At first, I didn't understand what they were. When I asked, he explained: "They are the voice of the workers." It was from him, as a young girl, that I learned about the critical need for workers to have a voice on the job and a seat at the table.

Today, I honor his memory with a call for unity and strength – a commitment to keep building on our achievements to meet the urgent needs of working families.

One thing is certain: the promise of the great American worker will never be broken. Working together, there's no challenge we can't overcome.

Respectfully,

Hilda L. Solis

Local 421 in trying to address the needs of the Lead Burners is going to institute a Metal Trades Division. We are doing this to give the men that are primarily engaged in non-traditional Lead Burner jobs a means to advance to journeyman status. Feel free to call Bill McNabb with any questions.

Metal Trades Division of Lead Burners

The Metals Trades division of the UA Local 421 Lead Burners division, hereinafter called Lead Tradesmen, Shall be subject to all rules and regulations of the UA Constitution, Section MT-1 through Section MT-20.

In addition, they shall have all rights and privileges afforded Lead Burners under the contract between UA Local 421 and the National Lead Burning Association, with the following exceptions:

- They may only reach Master Journeyman scale by passing the Journeyman lead burning test and reaching the five year anniversary of the test as set forth in Article III paragraph E.
- Lead Tradesmen shall advance in pay as their membership card ages with no benchmark test, provided they have completed the required training.
- Lead tradesmen may not be put in a supervisory position over Journeymen Lead Burner.
- Lead Tradesmen may only be put on "Lead burning" jobs as helpers, and only when all qualified Lead Burners are employed.

Lead Tradesmen must complete the following training requirements in order to advance in each pay rate each year.

- Year One** Rigging—Online – puresafety.com
Hand tool care and use OSHA-10
- Year Two** Crane Signaling—Online—puresafety.com
Advanced Crane Signaling—Online—puresafety.com
Blueprint reading—Online
- Year Three** Advanced Crane Signaling 2—Online—puresafety.com
Advanced Blueprint Reading—Online
- Year Four** OSHA 30

In order to initiate the Lead Tradesmen Division of the Lead Burner Division of UA Local 421 the following special provisions will be put in place.

- Any member who wishes to become a Lead Tradesman and who has been in good standing with Local 421 for more than 5 years may initiate a trade change and receive a journeyman Lead Trades card.
- Any member who wishes to become a Lead Tradesman and who has been in good standing with Local 421 for less than 5 years will be classified according to the age of their membership card and will have to complete the specified training in order to advance in years and pay rate.
- Any member engaged primarily in the homogenous bonding aspect of the Lead burning trade may initiate a trade change subject to the above stipulations.

Training required to receive negotiated wage increases:

- **Journeyman**— OSHA 30 **Apprentices**— OSHA 10
- **All Members**— Forklift Operator Certification & Scissor-Lift Certification

JATC REPORT

Weld Testing Dates:

MUST CALL 704-721-0517 TO SCHEDULE

Concord - Donald Bean, September through January - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 8am to 5pm

Concord - Billy Boulware, September through January - Saturdays - 9/15, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 12/8, 12/22, 1/5/13, 1/19/13

Raleigh - John Freeman, September through January - Wednesdays & Saturdays- 8/29, 9/8, 9/12, 9/22, 10/6, 10/10, 10/20, 11/3, 11/7, 11/17, 11/28, 12/8, 12/22, 1/2/13, 1/12/13

The Fall Semester dates have been set, make sure to check at your school for the dates you are required to attend. Make sure to check with your Instructor for any required materials needed for your classes. Any questions regarding your status, Apprentice level or classes, you must call (704)721-0517 **ONLY**. Any questions regarding Due or Benefits call (843)554-3655 **ONLY**.

APPRENTICES:

If you are not currently enrolled in a class, contact the Concord Office at 704-721-0517 to avoid expulsion.

Our First Annual Recognition Banquet was a big huge success. From the feedback, everyone enjoyed the evening. The quest speakers representing the Federal and State Government and The UA were impressed with the turnout and the awards being presented.

Update: Maria White, has gone through additional surgery on her leg, is almost ready to receive her prosthetic and will be traveling soon to Florida. We are still taking any contributions towards her trip. Call Gay at Concord Training Center (704)721-0517, for information/donations. We would like to thank all those that have contributed thus far.

Make sure to check website (www.ualocal421.org) for Weld Testing Events and Journeyman & HVAC classes. (Pre-registration required for all of the above)

Websites

Www.ualocal421.org www.ua.org

On behalf of Mechanical Trades Carolina & UA Local 421 JATC, I wish to extend my thanks and profound appreciation to Mr. Eddie Drescher for his 13 years of service to our Training Department. Eddie has been a passionate leader of our Training Program, as he has provided a foundation upon which we have grown. His forward thinking has allowed Mechanical Trades Carolina & UA Local 421 JATC to be a leader in the 21st century education for the Journeymen and Apprentices of our district. We have been privileged to have him as a part of our team and a personal friend. He will be missed; we wish you a happy and relaxing retirement. Best wishes!

Service Training Steering Committee Update ...

The third meeting of the Local 421 Service Training Steering Committee was held on August 1, 2012. Represented at the meeting were management and supervisory personnel from JCI and Siemens. Local 421 was represented by several service technicians along with Joe Ellis and Harold "Rudy" Rudisill.

John Sciadini outlined some of the updates to training in general – especially as it applies to apprentices and also service technicians.

Joe Ellis explained how the UA training department has made a commitment to support the service training initiative by making proven specific training available as well as funds to assist with our local needs.

It was suggested that several additional classes for rigging and signaling be scheduled to be held in various areas. Those persons successfully completing the class will receive a card signifying their qualification.

Planning continues on how to bring service training to areas remote from any of the training centers.

HVAC Star Certification Preparation Class...

A class is currently scheduled in Raleigh which will be held over four (4) evenings on October 9,10,23,24 from 5:30 – 9:30 pm. At least ten (10) participants are required for the class to be held. Please contact Gay Caughell at the Concord Training facility (704)721-0517 to sign up for the classes. A Star Certification Exam will be scheduled a few weeks following the preparation classes. Those successfully passing the exam will receive Star Certification.

North Carolina HVAC/R Apprentice Contest ...

The North Carolina HVAC/R apprentice contest will be held on Friday, October 19th in Raleigh at the NC State Fair. We encourage apprentices to seriously consider participating. The contest is open to all registered apprentices who have not completed their apprenticeship by October 2012 and have not been a previous 1st place winner in a prior NC State HVAC apprentice contest. Contact John Sciadini for additional information about registering for the contest at (704)721-0517. Registration is done on-line at the NC Department of Labor website.



Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a pleasure being the dispatcher for Local Union 421. However, I have decided to begin the next chapter in my life and I am going into semi-retirement. I will be coming into the hall one week out of each month to help out, and also if Bob is out I will be filling in for him. Bob Hughes is now the dispatcher for Local

Union 421 members, and will be accepting all of the dispatch phone calls. I have enjoyed working with you all and building friendships with you as well over the years.

Fraternally,

Reggie Bush.

P.S. See you on the next one.