



# The 421 Communicator

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**From the Business Manager....**In her State of the State address Gov. Nikki Haley declared, "We'll make the unions understand full well that they are not needed, not wanted, and not welcome in the state of South Carolina". She went on to say "I love that we are one of the least unionized states in the country, it is an economic development tool unlike any other". Haley's brazen anti-union expression is a sign of the times. From Statehouses and Congressional hearing rooms to corporate boardrooms and bankruptcy courts, organized labor is under attack. Union strength has been gradually decreasing for many years as a result of structural changes in the economy and dysfunctional labor laws. Foes of unions are now acting aggressively to try to hasten our decline.

Last year, Legislators who supported the effort to eradicate public sector collective bargaining rights in states like Wisconsin insisted that it was not an assault on unions in general. Yet these days private sector union members like us, are in the crosshairs as well. Indiana is in the heart of the Industrial Midwest, recently enacted a "right to work" law, the first state to take this deliberate step to weaken unions in more than a decade. Legislators in South Carolina, which is already a "right to work" state, recently passed bills that make it even more difficult for unions to operate. House Education and Workforce Committee chair John Kline, still furious over the Obama Administration's recess appointments to the National Labor Relations Board, has warned that it may be necessary to "overhaul" the National Labor Relations Act. What passes for good news in labor circles is the recent announcement by the Labor Department that the number of U.S. workers represented by a union held steady in 2011 rather than declining as it has done in the past. Union membership in private sector as a whole also remained unchanged at 6.9%. In the Carolina's the United Association is only at 1%. One of the many reasons for hopes that the economy builds some real momentum is that it would greatly improve the prospects for a revived labor movement, one that is capable of beating back the de-unionization agenda of our Legislators. This is once again an important election for the labor movement, you and me, Local 421. **Get involved, get out and VOTE!**

**Submitted by: Skip Howard,**

**Business Manager**

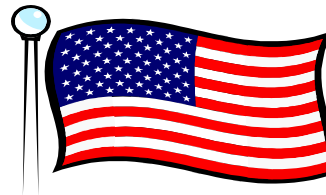
**Local Union 421**

**Political Information** ....There are 6,294,770 registered voters in North Carolina. Are you one of them? If not go to [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov) for information. If you voted in the primary elections May 8th, thanks for taking the time to do so. There were 2,182,675 ballots cast in the primary which is 35% of the registered voters.

The primary elections in South Carolina are June 12th. There were 2,630,530 registered voters for the 2010 election cycle. Of that number 1,358,548 voted, or just over half the number registered. For information on voter registration for South Carolina go to [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org).

The United Association has a public website on political information [www.uagetinvolved.org](http://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 and vote for the election this November, please send me an email at [bob@ualocal421.org](mailto: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.

**Submitted by: Bob Hughes**



**Welcome all new members to UA Local 421. Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Service Techs....** By becoming a member for Local 421 and the United Association, you are joining the voice of many! Our membership in the UA is over 300,000 strong, and includes over 300 Locals in the United States and Canada! Not the voice of a few! With less than 4% union membership in the Carolinas, every new member moves us one step closer to our goal of gaining market share and union density. We would like to welcome all of our new members of North Carolina and South Carolina to the Local 421 family.

**Submitted by: Joe Ellis**

**Service Training Steering Committee...**The third meeting of the committee was held on May 22, 2012. The training that has been offered so far this year was reviewed as well as the training currently scheduled for the remainder of 2012. It was noted that there will be additional classes added when definite commitments are made by instructors and dates and locations are finalized. The committee discussed what can be done to encourage more participation in areas where the participation has been low or non-existent. This will be a major point of discussion at the next meeting which is scheduled for 8/1/12. We also decided that it may be advantageous to move the meetings to different locations and involve additional people from other areas. During January and February STAR HVAC preparation review classes were held at the Concord training center. Total of 8 service technicians took the STAR Exam and 4 passed the certification exam. Additional STAR preparation classes and STAR exam are scheduled for Raleigh in the fall. Service technicians are encouraged to review the available scheduled classes and sign up for those classes they feel will enhance their knowledge and skills so that they can meet the 8 hr training requirement before 12/31/12 to qualify for increase that is effective 1/1/13.

**Submitted by Harold 'Rudy' Rudisill.**



**Leadburners...**By the time you read this all of you will know the Contract proposals of May 17, 2012 were rejected. Even though these proposals were rejected, the committee felt there should be a vote because the Contractors showed no willingness to compromise on the final outstanding points. Long hours were put in at the Atlanta meeting and then a series of conference calls resulted in the proposals we voted on. I want to thank the negotiating committee, Joel McClain, Jay West, Tom DeYoung, Bob Poletto and Bob Hughes for all their hard work during these meetings. On a more positive note, Jim Karnes recently celebrated a birthday and we should all call and wish him many more.

**Submitted by: Bill McNabb.**

Sauer job in Ft. Bragg, NC still hasn't started. The Charlotte, NC area has a few jobs available. Work on the road is still fairly slow for pipefitters. Hopefully our next newsletter will have more job listings. Please keep your welder continuities updated and attend an OSHA 10 class.

**Submitted by Reggie Bush, Local 421 Dis-**

## JATC Report

- Remember to check your weld cert/brazing renewal and DO NOT let your MED GAS license & brazing expire.
- **Remember to check the website [www.ualocal421.org](http://www.ualocal421.org) for all classes and updates on new classes added.**
- IF anyone has any special requests for training contact the Training Center.
- The Concord and Raleigh training centers are looking for volunteers, apprentices, journeyman and retirees to help this summer with clean up and new feature installations at the schools. This will include some pipe work, painting, carpentry and sharing ideas to help make our facilities the best they can be. To volunteer call Gay at 704-721-0517.
- We have had a very light response to members who may be interested in becoming instructors. We plan on focusing on particular members and their areas of expertise and using them to build a better, more rounded program. All apprentices are now required to graduate with demonstrated skills in both plumbing and pipefitting.
- In April Local 421 Apprentices from Raleigh, Concord and Laurens participated in a TRI-STATE (Georgia-Carolina Pipe Trades) Apprentice contest and competed against Apprentices from our four Georgia Locals including Local 72. BE PROUD 421!!! Our pipefitter apprentices took a solid 1st place and 2nd place and we took 2nd and 3rd place in all other categories (plumbing, welding and HVAC). Local 421 will have four Apprentices going on to the District 3 competition in New Orleans, LA in June. Mike Wood for pipefitting, Charles Putz for plumbing, Jeremy Rood for welding and Zachary Schafer for HVAC/service. Good luck guys!

We are putting together a basic computer knowledge class at The Concord Training Center for any apprentices, tradesman, journeyman and retirees that want to learn how to achieve basic functions. The new semester is approaching soon, here are the **MANDATORY** registration dates:

Raleigh - August 27 for 1st & 2nd year Apprentices, August 28 for 3rd, 4th, & 5th year apprentices. 5:30pm-9:30pm.

Concord- August 25 for ALL apprentices.

Laurens- Tuesday September 4th for 1st & 2nd year apprentices, Wednesday September 5th for 3rd, 4th & 5th year apprentices.

**June:** 6/2 & 6/3 NCPLB & Gas License Prep Raleigh - POSTPONED 6/9 NCPLB & Gas license Raleigh- POSTPONED.

**JULY:** Date to be Determined—Pipe Machining Class (limited to 10) - \*\* Travel Work Only \*\*

**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.**

If you did not send in a signed and dated 2012 Standard for Excellence by January 31, 2012 you have been removed from the out of work list. You will be placed on the list in the order we receive the Standard for Excellence form.

**Please be aware that the business office phones will be out of order July 26th and 27th, the Local is updating the phone system, sorry for the inconvenience.** Local 421 will also be sending out a post card as a reminder.

**Please make payments on a timely schedule.**

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

**As most of you know Maria White** ... just finished her 5 years as an apprentice, and had just passed her Journeyman's test in December. In February she had an unfortunate incident and lost her foot in a motorcycle accident, unfortunately the driver of the car that struck Maria and her husband Jim did not have insurance. While visiting the training center Maria received a call from a friend of her husband who has prosthetic limbs (veteran) and he found a therapist in Florida that will donate a prosthetic foot to her and train her to walk on it. Maria and her husband have not been employed since the accident and Maria is anxious to get back to work. I have committed myself as have others in the office to help Maria and Jim with the costs to go to Florida, stay in a hotel, gas and food expenses while she receives the fitting and therapy to again walk without crutches. Let us join together as the brotherhood we are and help a loyal tradesperson whose only desire is to get back in the field and return to being a contributing member of our Local. Anyone wishing to contribute can send money orders payable to Maria White mailed to c/o Mechanical Trades Carolina, 285 Litaker Ln, Concord, NC 28025. Maria's goal is to WALK up to the podium on August 3rd to receive her Journeyman's certificate at the 1st Annual Award Ceremony. Let us make that a reality.

**Training Director John Sciadini**


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

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; Never will I forsake you."*

*Hebrews 13:5*

**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)

**T-Shirts** XL- \$14.00, XXL- \$15.00, XXXL- \$16.00

**New safety shirts:** florescent yellow, green or orange.  
 Sizes L-4X \$ 16.00

**Sweat Shirts:** black,  
 M-L \$30.00, 2X-3X \$35.00

**Hats-** \$10.00  
**Pocket knife-**\$15.00  
**Coolers-** \$22.00  
**Sunglasses with case-** \$35.00  
**Long Sleeved Local 421 shirts-**  
 L-XL- \$15.00 2X-16.00 3X-\$17.00

 **Items for Sale**

 **Please call the business office to place your order 843-554-3655.**

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

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHARLESTON,  
SC  
PERMIT NO 119

Or Current Resident

### Local 421 Directory

#### Charleston Business Office

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

#### Raleigh Office

4510 Old Poole Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27627  
919-231-8005  
919-231-8054 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.\***

#### Website

Local 421  
[www.ualocal421.org](http://www.ualocal421.org)  
United Association  
[www.ua.org](http://www.ua.org)

#### Email Addresses

Skip- [skip@ualocal421.org](mailto:skip@ualocal421.org)  
Bob- [bob@ualocal421.org](mailto:bob@ualocal421.org)  
John- [john@ualocal421.org](mailto:john@ualocal421.org)  
Reggie- [reggie@ualocal.org](mailto:reggie@ualocal.org)  
Eddie- [ed\\_421@yahoo.com](mailto:ed_421@yahoo.com)  
Joe- [joe@ualocal421.org](mailto:joe@ualocal421.org)

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

#### Schedule of 2012 Union Meetings

On the second Saturday of the  
following months at 10:00am:

July 14th- 285 Litaker Lane,  
Concord, NC 28025

September 8th- 4510 Old  
Poole Rd, Raleigh, NC 27610.

November 10th- 7434 Fairfield  
Rd, Columbia, SC 29203.

**\*\*Locations  
are subject to change\*\***