

PIPE TRADESMAN

United Association of Journeymen & Apprentices of the
Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada

www.local520.com

WINTER 2008



[business manager's message]

Looking Toward 2009

The single most labor-changing event in my 32 years as a free trade unionist has been the election of Barack Obama as the President of the United States of America. I would like to thank all of our members and families for their support for our candidate.

This president will inherit a host of problems left over from a less than stellar previ-

ous administration: economic collapse on a scale not scene since 1929, poor world relations and a negative reputation with our allies and world nations, and terrible labor and public policies toward all working men and women in America, promoting the race to the bottom with wages and benefits. Change will take time and is on the way!

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520 Training Department is developing a program to prepare our welders to qualify for this work.

We encourage our members to fill the void for this shortage for welders on these and other projects. Our and your personal economic well being may depend on adapting to the changes needed.

vania Mechanical Contractors and Local Union 520. In this newsletter there is a survey form to fill out and send to my attention at the 520 Headquarters.

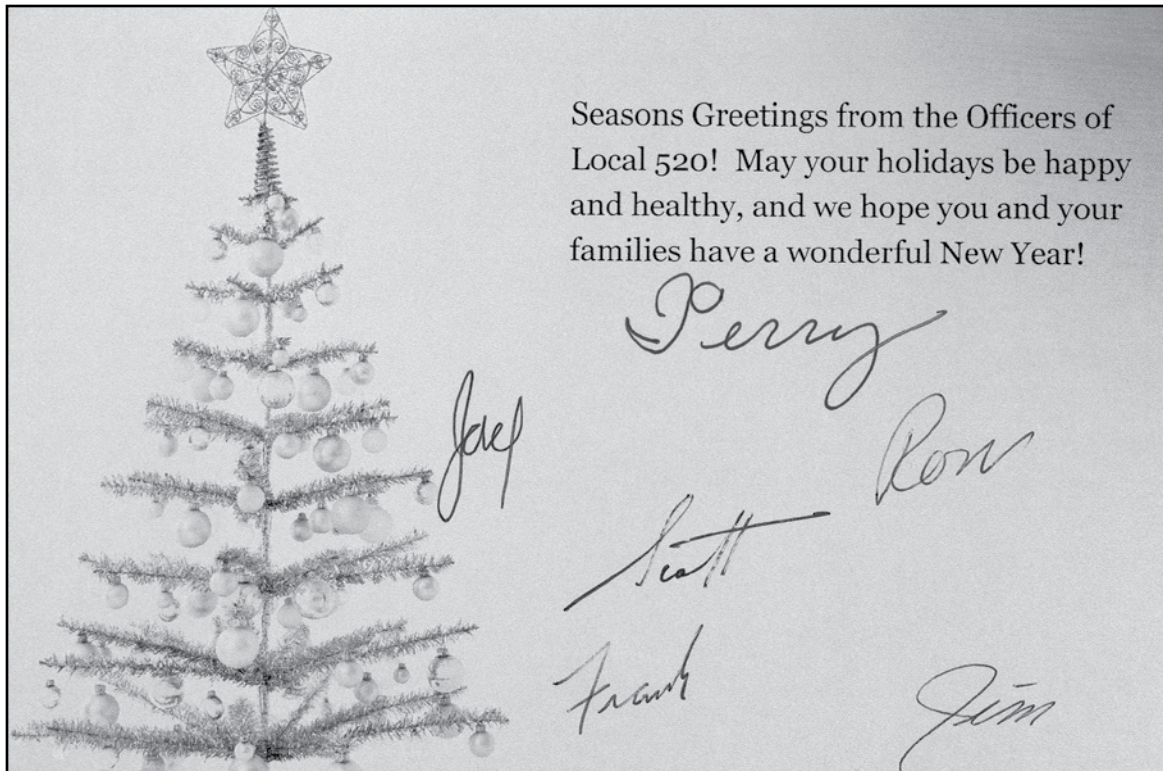
As we enter the next year we will continue to move and position our local as a vibrant, changing and viable source for the workforce of tomorrow. Through training, political action, and organizing we will prevail and continue to serve the economy of Central Pennsylvania.

I would like to thank all of our members for being a part of the free trade union movement. I also wish all of our members and their families a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!!

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Perry C. Beck



Seasons Greetings from the Officers of Local 520! May your holidays be happy and healthy, and we hope you and your families have a wonderful New Year!

In spite of the economic news, 2009 will bring negotiations for our Local Contract Agreement between the Central Pennsyl-

G.R. Sponaugle & Sons

I doubt there are too many of us active today who had the good fortune to work directly for G. R. "Barney" Sponaugle. Those who did knew him as a tough, fair and knowledgeable businessman. They will carry with them the memories of Barney on projects past that always seem to sweeten as they fade. The rest of us will know only Barney's legacy, G. R. Sponaugle & Sons, Inc.

Barney was a plumber by trade and founded G. R. Sponaugle & Sons in 1956. The young plumbing company was centered around his simple philosophy that later became a well known UA motto "Do it right the first time".

The Sponaugle Family has built on Barney's success for three generations now. That young company with the sim-

ple philosophy has grown into the most versatile mechanical/electrical/communications firm in Central Pennsylvania. Their familiar yellow vans can be seen from the blossoming State College area, where GRS, Inc. has established a solid beachhead, to York and south.

For half a century GRS, Inc. has been a valued partner of Local 520. Each year the Sponaugle Family demonstrates their appreciation of our partnership by presenting the G. R. "Barney" Sponaugle award to the "Apprentice of the Year" as selected by Tom Murphy and our Training Department staff. This year's deserving recipient was Justin Feltman of McAlisterville. Local 520 and G. R. Sponaugle & Sons: together we "Do it Right the First Time"!

Local 520 Beats Hurricane and Tournament Field

Once again, Local 520 brought home the Championship in the PA Pipe Trades Softball Tournament, held September 5th-7th in Wilmington, Delaware. Hurricane Hanna tried to rain us out completely, but we didn't let her spoil our victory! Many thanks to all who played, coached, and supported our team to glory! ▶



Tournament MVP Todd Hoffman (left) and Coach Jack McIntyre (right)

**UNION BUILDING
TRADES WORKERS
ARE TRUE
UNION MEMBERS!**

Checks & Balances

In this edition of the *Pipe Tradesman* you will find a Contract Negotiations Survey. Please take a moment to help us by giving us your opinions and comments concerning the upcoming negotiations. As the April 30, 2009 anniversary date of our contract approaches, your input on the issues will be greatly appreciated.

The new 2009-2010 membership cards will soon be in the Union hall office. As we receive the cards from the United

Association I will stamp the backs to show current dues status and then mail them to the members. When you receive your new membership card, please take a few minutes to verify that all of the information on it is correct.

At this time I would like to wish each member and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ▶

Fraternally,
Frank M. Kelly

For Your Benefit

The trustees would like to remind our members that as of May 1, 2008, D.H. Evans Associates, Inc., the Fund's Contract Administrator, was appointed the Claims Payor for the Hospital, Medical, and Surgical Benefits Plan for the active and non-Medicare entitled retired participants.

Just prior to May 1, 2008, new Identification (ID) cards were issued to eligible participants. Now that we are more than six months into the change, some participants are beginning to receive denials from Highmark for services provided on or after May 1, 2008. In these cases, the patients must contact the provider and ask that their claims be resubmitted to the address on the new ID cards.

To avoid any problems, please remember to show your new ID card(s) to all of your providers for the next several visits and request that they update their records. Otherwise, claims submitted on your behalf may be forwarded to an incorrect address which will result in a delay of claims processing.

As we approach the holiday season, your trustees would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! ▶

James "Bud" Eveland
Frank M. Kelly
K. B. Yerg

New Rates for Share Certificates

Share Certificates - \$ 500.00 Min - effective 3/20/08

	Rate/yr	APY
3 months	3.455%	3.500%
6 months	3.552%	3.600%
9 months	3.552%	3.600%
12 months	3.601%	3.650%
15 months	3.357%	3.400%
24 months	3.601%	3.650%
36 months	3.650%	3.700%

We are now accepting applications for checking accounts, check cards, and home banking. Call your credit union for more information.

We also have available for your convenience - Gift cards and money orders for reasonable cost.

www.local520fcu.org

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SURVEY

Make your voice heard! Do you have comments or opinions about the upcoming Contract Negotiations in 2009? Send your thoughts and ideas to Local 520 to the attention of the Business Manager!

Just fill out this form and mail it in today!



Send to:

Local 520
Attn: Business Mgr.
7193 Jonestown Rd.
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Membership Responsibilities

1. Monthly dues stamp is the responsibility of the member whose name is on the card.
2. Be sure to check certifications and qualifications for referral.
3. When employed as superintendent, estimator or in any other such capacity, it is the member responsibility to notify the referral office of employment status.
4. If laid off, call in to the referral office immediately after the layoff, not before.
5. Remember, eight hours work for eight hours pay.
6. Upgrade your skills for the changing work marketplace. ▶

Keep Your Certifications Current

Please contact the training facility or stop in and we will check your file. Welding and brazing certifications expire if the individual does not weld for six months, but the code and the UA welding program states that if a welder's certification expires, he can get them back by doing one test that includes all the processes. That means if they have expired for one year or ten years, there is a way to get your certifications without having to test for each certification you had.

OSHA certification does not have an expiration, but some contractors require employees to renew the OSHA course every three years, and Built-Rite needs to be renewed each year. If a job you are taking requires the 10-hour OSHA course, contact a Business Agent to find out if your OSHA certification needs to be renewed.

CFC certification does not have to be renewed but there are certifications such as R-410A that may be required to work with that refrigerant, and NFPA 70E is needed when working inside electrical panels.

Backflow prevention certification is required to be updated every three years, and most plumbing licenses have to be renewed each year.

Medical Gas Installation needs to be upgraded every three years as the code is revised, while the Brazing section is every six months.

There is the S.T.A.R. program that requires our members to renew that qualification every five years and next year we will set up another certification for Rigging.

With all these certifications, your work schedule, taking courses to upgrade your skills and trying to find time with your family, we understand it is possible to have a certification lapse. The staff does send notices when your certification will expire but maybe you are in the middle of an outage or working in another state and sometimes that memo may not reach you. We know the time you spend to get your certifications, so if any of them has expired, give us a call and maybe we can help.

We have contacted Liebert Cooling and they will conduct a two part seminar, one week in January and one week in March. The contractors will give names of our Service Technicians that are employed by them and attending the seminars. There will also be an R-410A certification class scheduled for January. Contact the training office if you are interested.

AutoCAD class is still being offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and welding class is on Thursday evening starting at 6:00pm. If you intend to take shop courses the dress code is work boots, long sleeve shirts, long pants without holes, and safety glasses. We will supply the glasses. Dave Muro will be conducting an orbital class after the Christmas holidays and we will contact members that have registered for the course.

A few months ago the business man-

ager reported on pipeline work that will require downhill welders to support this project. We are working with the UA and Local 798 to decide how to bring downhill welding courses to our facility. We do have a list of members that are interested and if a decision is made on dates and times we will contact everyone who signed up for information.

Thanks go to Dave Flowers and members of the Apprentice Alumni Association for their hard work during the year raising funds and sponsoring the banquet at Hollywood Casino. Local 520 donated rooms to all the graduating apprentices: Richard Christiana, Mark Brubaker, Justin Feltman, Derek Hench, Greg Kotay, Matt Pietzsch, Norry Van Horn, and Brady Zerbe. Six graduates received Carhart jackets from the J.A.T.C. for having perfect attendance over five years. Mark Brubaker received the Lewis Jean Welder Award, and Justin Feltman received the G.R. Sponaugle Apprentice of the Year award.

Our Training Committee, Instructors, and staff wish all the members and their families a Happy Holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the classroom and shop when you have the opportunity. ▀

Local Union Reps.

Jerry Gilbert - Chairman
Patrick French
Brian Bathavic

Mechanical Contractors Reps.

Ed Grimm - Secretary
Jerry Wills
Mike DeSanto

Please check off any classes you are interested in attending and return this form to:

Local 520 JATC

7193 Jonestown Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

	Weekdays		
	Sat.	Sun.	1 or 2
1. Orbital Welding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. OSHA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Backflow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. DDC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Valve Repair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Transit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Blueprint Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Start Test & Bal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Plastic Welding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Pneumatics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Pneumatics (on line)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Advanced Electric	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Welding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. CPR & 1st Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Oil Burners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Advanced Oil Burners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Basic Computers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. AutoCAD 2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Codes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Built-Rite	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Basic Elec. & Refrig.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Medical Gas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Customer Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Advanced Refrig.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Which of the following Journeymen Class dates/times meets your schedule?

Course No.

- Evening Classes 6-7PM _____
- Evening Classes 7-10PM _____
- Saturday Classes 7AM-3PM _____
- Saturday Classes 8AM-4PM _____
- Classes from May-August _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS WELDERS CONTINUITY REPORTING FORM

Local Union No. _____ Contractor/Owner AFT _____

Welder's Name _____ Phone _____

Card No. _____

Welder Continuity Information - Last date process used

GTAW _____ GMAW _____ SMAW _____ TB _____ Other _____
(Tig) (Mig) (Stick) (Torch Braze)

I certify that the statements made in this record are correct.

Signature _____

Date _____ Title _____

MEDICAL GAS CONTINUITY

(must be on a contractor letterhead)

We wish to use provision QB-322 (a) of the ASME Section IX Boiler Vessel Code. Renewal of Qualification: Renewal of qualification of the performance qualification is required: when a brazer operator has not used the specific brazing process for a period of six months or more; or, there is a specific reason to question his/her ability to make brazes that meet the specification.

Brazer's Name: _____

Address: _____

Card No. _____

This individual has successfully brazed using the procedure set forth by National ITC Corporation, BPS 98-101, and has not exceeded a period of six (6) months without making a braze to this procedure.

_____ Original Certification Date/or Last Continuity Date

_____ Date of Most Recent Brazement

Sincerely,
(Title)

PA Sportsman

Last month, Brother Rick Enders was hunting in Utah, near the Colorado border, with Wild Mountain Outfitters Guide Shawn Labrum. Rick had been trying for 15 years to get a license to hunt in this area. He finally got the license, and this huge elk is the result of his efforts.

Send your Sportsman photos with descriptions to tina@local520.com and we'll try to publish them in a future newsletter! ▶



Annual PA AFL-CIO Essay Contest

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO has announced its annual "Unionism in America" Essay Contest. This contest was created to promote in students an awareness of the Labor Movement's vital contributions to this nation's economic, social, and political fabric. Once again, this year there are three categories for the contest, with three awards in each category:

- **Category I - Graduating High School Seniors:**
Why should we vote as Union Members, as Workers, and as a community?
- **Category II - Students Attending an Accredited, Post-Secondary Institution:**
The Health Care Crisis in the United States – how does it affect our families, our jobs, our retirees, and our communities?
- **Category III - Affiliated Union Members Attending an Accredited Institution:**
What does a true Voice@Work mean to you? (Democracy in the Workplace.)

The essay contest provides high school students graduating in the year 2009, students currently attending an accredited institution, as well as affiliated union members attending an accredited institution an opportunity to learn more about the Labor Movement's involvement in the social and economic development of our country.

The deadline for entry in the essay contest is January 31, 2009. Applications can be obtained by contacting Tina Fornstrom at the Local 520 Union Hall, (717) 652-3135, ext. 11. ▶

United Association of Journeymen & Apprentices of the Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry of the United States & Canada
7193 Jonestown Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112
717-652-3135

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Have Any News?

Please send newsletter submissions (including photos) to:
tina@local520.com

We look forward to hearing from you! ▶

[local 520 scholarship award committee]

2009 Scholarship Drawing

At the February 13, 2009 Union Meeting, Local 520 will provide \$4,000 in Scholarship money via a lottery drawing to eight recipients.

To be considered for one of the eight \$500 scholarships, please complete the following application and mail it to Local 520, together with a copy of your Fall 2008 semester grades and proof of college attendance, i.e. copy of a tuition bill or student identification.

Eligible persons are the sons and daughters (including legally adopted sons and daughters) of members in good standing, or sons and daughters of deceased members who were in good standing at the time of their death.

To be eligible, applicants must have completed the semester carrying 12 or more credits and have maintained a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.

After eligibility is verified by the Scholarship Committee, qualified applicants will have their names entered into the lottery drawing to be held at the February 13th meeting.

Deadline: Applications and all necessary paperwork must be received by Local 520 prior to January 31, 2009.

If you have any questions, please call Tammy at (717) 652-3135, extension 13.

2009 Local 520 Scholarship Award Application

Student's Name _____

Member's Name _____

College or University _____

Year of Education (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) _____

Please complete this form, attach a copy of your Fall 2008 Semester grades and proof of attendance and send them to:

LOCAL 520 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD COMMITTEE

7193 Jonestown Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112