

PIPE TRADESMAN

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

www.local520.com

SPRING 2011



[business manager's message]

Are You Proud to be Union?

Brothers and Sisters:

Our country is at a crossroads, and we as working, middle class Americans are fighting for our survival. The right wing conservative movement is doing all it can to do away with our union rights. Over the past 30 years of my working life, I have never witnessed or thought I would witness the worker vilification and attack on the middle class that is happening today. After decades of outsourcing, downsizing, exporting, and demoralizing the U.S. workforce, people wonder where the jobs went. As a pipefitter I can tell you that they are in China and other low-wage countries. American industry has turned its back on the American worker. Now we are faced with politicians who believe the problem is workers and union representation. Anyone who has been paying attention knows that our jobs are overseas and are not coming back anytime soon.

Last year the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in the Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission case that a corporation has the same rights as an individual in regards to campaign contributions and can spend unlimited amounts to influence elections. The last election cycle resulted in a Republican majority that is determined to destroy the middle class. We have the governments of state after state trying to implement right to work laws and eliminate prevailing wage laws and other protections for the working class. Just look at what's happening in Wisconsin. We are realistic enough to know we cannot match the finances of these corporate giants. But we can work

together in several ways to look after ourselves and the working class of this great nation in which we have so much pride. We must encourage each other and instill a can-do spirit within our ranks.

In order to survive we have to fight back. We've developed a strategy and we need the support of ALL of our members to make it happen – apprentices, rank and file members, retirees, and officers alike. We cannot be quiet any longer and let these unscrupulous politicians try to lay the blame for America's economic woes at the feet of workers, while the wealthy corporate fat cats continue to get a free ride. All Local 520 members need to get involved and we will contact you when your assistance is necessary. You may be asked to contact your elected officials to inform them of our positions, or to attend a rally where our collective voices can be heard. We will utilize all means of notification including phone calls, email and text messages.

For our efforts to succeed, we need participation from all members. When workers unite we are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. We must act now to secure our future and the future of our children. In the words of John F. Kennedy, "There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less than the long range risks of comfortable inaction." ▸

Perry C. Beck

questions & answers

Why We Are AGAINST "Right to Work for Less Laws"

Q: What is a "right to work" law?

A: Despite its misleading name, this type of law does not guarantee anyone a job and it does not protect against unfair firing. By undermining unions, so-called "right to work" laws actually weaken the best job security protections workers have – the union contract.

A state "right to work" law stops employers and employees from negotiating a type of agreement – known as a union security clause – that requires all workers who receive the benefits of a collective bargaining agreement to pay their share of the costs of representing them. These laws say unions must represent every eligible employee, whether or not he or she pays dues. In other words, "right to work" laws allow workers to pay nothing and still get all the benefits of union membership.

These laws aren't fair to dues-paying members. If a worker who is represented by a union and doesn't pay dues is fired illegally, the union must use its time and money to defend him or her, even if that requires going through a costly, time-con-

suming legal process. Because the union represents everyone, everyone benefits, so everyone should share in the costs of providing these services. Amazingly, non-members who are represented by a union can even sue the union if they think it has not represented them well enough.

And "right to work" laws offer no new protection for workers who choose not to join unions. Under federal law, no one can be forced to join a union or to pay dues not directly related to the cost of representing them.

Q: Will a "right to work" law benefit workers in our state?

A: No. Workers in states with so-called "right to work" laws have a consistently lower quality of life than in other states – lower wages, higher poverty, less access to health care and poorer education for children, according to data from the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Census Bureau. Why should our state adopt a losing strategy that lowers the standard of living for workers and their families?

Lower Wages

On average, workers in states with "right to work" laws earn \$5,538 a year less than workers in other states.

Less Investment in Education

"Right to work" states spend \$2,671 less per student on elementary and secondary education than other states.

Higher Workplace Fatality Rates

The rate of workplace deaths is 52.9 percent higher in states with "right to work" laws, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Unions Improve Living Standards, "Right to Work" Laws Don't

Overall, union members earn 28 percent (\$198) more per week than non-union workers. Hispanic union members earn 50 percent (\$258) more each week than non-union Hispanics, and African Americans earn 29 percent (\$168) more each week if they are union members.

Seventy-eight percent of private-sector union workers have access to medical insurance through their jobs, compared

(continued on page 4)

Checks & Balances

By now you should have received your new 2011-2012 membership cards. Please take a few minutes to verify that the information on your card is correct. I would also like to remind you to keep the financial office up to date on address or phone number changes.

Congratulations to Brothers Dave Flowers, Joe Hall, Bud Eveland, Brian Bathavic, Tim Bortner, Joe Crown, Don Eldridge, Mike Enders, James Enders, and Steve Zerbe on being elected as convention delegates. The delegates and the paid officers will represent Local 520 at the 38th United Association Convention. Please note that because of the Convention the August union meeting will be moved from Friday, August 12 to Friday, August 19, 2011.

I would also like to congratulate Brother K. B. Yerg on being elected a Trustee. I look forward to working with him on the many challenges that face our members and our funds.

At the February union meeting, the members of Local 520 voted on the allocation of our upcoming pay increase. The \$2.05 hourly increase was allocated as follows: \$0.85 in your paycheck with \$0.05 going to the UA PAC Fund, \$0.90 in Health & Welfare, \$0.25 in Pension and \$0.05 to the Industry Fund. This increase will go into effect May 1, 2011. You should have received a new PAC card in the mail; please take the time to complete the card and return it to Local 520. Signing and returning these cards is an important step in our ability to fight for our union way of life.

At the February meeting we also had the pleasure of drawing the names of ten students to be awarded \$500 scholarships. Thanks to your hard work, we are helping others to succeed. This year's winners are: Erin Bressler, daughter of Matthew Bressler; Rachel and Cassie Carbaugh, daughters of Danny Carbaugh; Nick Hall, son of Rich Hall; Joseph Marchese, son of Jeffrey Marchese; John Pelley, son of Patrick Pelley; Zachary Stuart, son of Jay Stuart; Eric Warner, son of Steve Warner; Dylan Wisner, son of Robert Wisner; and this year's Richard Brown Scholarship went to Amanda Sweitzer, daughter of Daniel Sweitzer.

As Spring arrives, please be safe on the job and enjoy the warm weather.

Fraternally,
Frank M. Kelly

[news & info from your trustees]

FOR YOUR BENEFIT

There is no reason to be trapped at home after hours without the benefits information you need... just enter the Local 520 Benefits Pipeline – Online

Medical and Vision Benefits (D. H. Evans Associates, Inc.)
www.dhevansassoc.com

You can check to see if a claim has been processed, view a copy of an EOB, look for a participating provider or link to the plan's other service providers. Have your new ID card ready and follow the online prompts to register.

Prescription Drug Benefits (Express Scripts, Inc.)
www.express-scripts.com

Not only can you register to order your mail order prescriptions online, you can do price checks for medications and determine whether a medication is a generic or preferred brand in addition to a number of other services. Have your new ID card ready and follow the prompts to register online.

Dental Benefits (Delta Dental)
www.deltadentalins.com

You can check to see if a claim has been processed, view a copy of an EOB, or look for a participating provider. Have your new ID card ready and follow the online prompts to register.

National Vision Administrators (NVA) – Opti-Vision Discount Program
www.e-nva.com

Look for a vision provider in your area for the routine vision services you need. Have your new ID card ready and follow the prompts to register online.

Annuity Fund Questions – BPAS
www.bpas.com

You can check your balance, change your investment selections, and rebalance your account, as well as a number of other services. Registering online the first time is easy; you will need your Social Security number and your date of birth. Or you can call 800-530-1272 for assistance 24/7.

Local 520 Health & Welfare Trustees:
James E. "Bud" Eveland
Frank Kelly
K.B. Yerg

Apprentice Alumni Association News

There will be a change in location for the monthly Apprentice Alumni Association meetings. All future meetings will be held at Ted's Bar & Grill, 6197 Allentown Boulevard, Harrisburg. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the Tuesday after the union meeting.

There are still some seats left for the AAA bus trip to Citizens Bank Park to see the Phillies vs. the Mets on Saturday, April 30. The bus will depart from the union hall at 9:00 a.m. and game time is 1:15 p.m.

Cost is \$100 per person and is payable at the time of registration. Please fill out the attached form and return it along with your check made out to "Local 520 Apprentice Alumni Association." Checks and completed registration forms should be sent to Ty Christman, 296 Mindy Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112.

AAA Bus Trip to Citizens Bank Park for Phillies vs. Mets April 30, 2011

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OF SEATS REQUESTED _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Local 520 Apprentice Alumni Association Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 27, 2011
7:30 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Manada Golf Club, 609 Golf Lane, Grantville

Format: 4-man scramble

\$55 per person (\$220 foursome)
Includes greens fee, cart, beverages, prizes and steak dinner following the tournament.

Deadline: August 13, 2011

Captain's Name _____

Phone Number _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

Please return this form with your check made payable to "Local 520 AAA" by August 13, 2011 to:

Don Eldridge
327 Douglas Road
Hummelstown, PA 17036

For questions or more information, contact Don Eldridge at 717-512-4441 or Chuck Fry at 717-571-9157.

Allergies: Nothing to Sneeze At

According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), an allergy is an overreaction of the immune system to substances that are harmless to most people, such as dust mites, mold, certain foods and even latex. The AAFA says that 50 million people suffer from asthma or allergies. Allergies are the fifth leading cause of chronic disease, with costs adding up to \$7 billion annually.

Allergic reactions can range from coughing and skin rashes to life-threatening anaphylactic shock. By far, the most common reactions are sneezing, headache, a runny or stuffy nose, headache, itching and watery eyes. These are the symptoms of "rhinitis."

All Rhinitis is Not Alike

Rhinitis is an occasional annoyance for most people, clearing up after a few days. But for 20-40 million people in the United States it can be a chronic problem. Allergic rhinitis may occur during certain seasons of the year or may last year-round.

Seasonal rhinitis, commonly known as hay fever, occurs mostly in the spring and fall and is due to pollens from trees, grasses and other plants. Rhinitis that lasts year around — perennial rhinitis — is due primarily to things that are constantly in a person's environment, such as pet dander and dust mites.

How to Avoid Allergic Reactions

Take steps to avoid the substances that cause you problems. For example:

1. Keep windows closed and use the car and home air conditioner. Stay indoors when pollen levels are highest.
2. Shower, shampoo and change clothes to remove pollen after being outside. Dry your clothing in an automatic dryer.
3. Avoid tobacco smoke. Avoid mowing the lawn if possible. If you must, wear a filter mask.

How to Treat Allergic Reactions

If you can't avoid coming into contact with substances that trigger your allergies, you have several options:

- Antihistamines are commonly used to suppress the production of histamine.
- Newer antihistamines that don't cause drowsiness — like Claritin® and Zyrtec® — are particularly popular.
- Lower-cost generic versions of these medications are available over the counter.

Also, prescription corticosteroid nasal sprays that reduce inflammation are recommended and have very few side effects.

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Training News

The J.A.T.C. recently conducted a 40 hour Medical Gas Installation and Brazing class. Nineteen members participated and everyone passed the written exam and the brazing portion of the program. Please contact the training center if you are interested in the next Medical Gas Installation class. We will contact those who sign up once there are enough people for the class and a date and time is scheduled.

The Thirty Hour OSHA class finished on March 19, 2011 and the next class will begin on April 2, 2011. The dates for the course will be April 2, April 16, April 30, May 14, May 21, and June 11. All classes are held on Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. May 14 and May 21 are back-to-back because of Memorial Day weekend.

We recently sent two instructors to the crane signal class and should be able to start classes in April or May. The area for the rigging module was excavated and should have the frame ready to be erected in April. The delay in the project was due to the snow and cold weather this winter.

Welding is still open on Thursday evenings and tests are administered on the last Saturday of the month if there is a request for testing. There will also be an Orbital Welding class held on April 5, 7, 12, and 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Class size will be limited so please call and reserve a spot.

Please take time to look at your certifications to ensure they are current. Brazing and welding must be done at least every six months and witnessed by a contractor. Updated weld certification cards will be printed at the request of the member.

Bud Herman is still doing AutoCAD on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There are still some spaces available, so please call the office if you are interested in attending.

Local Union Representatives

Jerry Gilbert
Patrick French
Brian Bathavic

MCA Representatives

Ed Grimm
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: _____

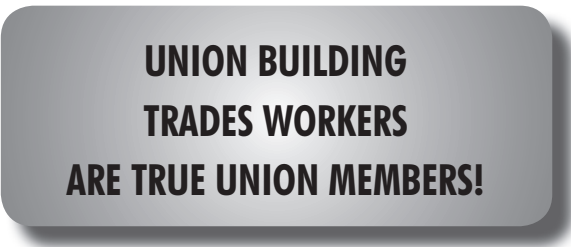
Address: _____

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)



with 51 percent of non-union workers. And 77 percent of private-sector union workers have access to guaranteed (defined benefit) retirement plans through their jobs, compared with just 20 percent of non-union workers.

Only 2.9 percent of union workers are uninsured, compared with 14.2 percent of non-union workers.

Q: How will a "right to work" law affect our economy?

A: We need to strengthen our economy, but a so-called "right to work" law would take us in the wrong direction. Our state has a better economic record than states with these laws. For employers, a union contract with lower turnover and higher employee morale equals higher productivity. By undermining contracts and depressing wages, a "right to work" law would reduce expendable consumer income and hurt productivity.

Q: Do we need a "right to work" law to attract new jobs to our state?

A: No. Industries locate in a state for many reasons, but "right to work" laws are not among them. Factors like workforce productivity, availability of skilled workers, transportation, closeness to markets and materials, quality of life and proximity to research universities are the keys to economic growth. We need to create good jobs throughout the state, but a "right to work" law will not persuade companies to move here.

Q: Who benefits from "right to work" laws?

A: No one. Some low-wage employers might think they would benefit from weak unions and low wages, but union members are also consumers. "Right to work" laws undermine the purchasing power of unionized workers. Employees covered by union contracts receive 28 percent more in wages and benefits than workers without unions. For female workers, the union advantage is 34 percent; for African Americans it is 29 percent. And for Hispanic workers, the union advantage is a whopping 50 percent. When "right to work" laws weaken unions and drive down wages and benefits, workers have less to spend and the entire economy – particularly small businesses – suffers.

Q: Without a "right to work" law, can a worker be forced to join a union?

A: No. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that no collective bargaining agreement can require anyone to join a union. Unions and employers may only negotiate contract provisions requiring non-members to pay their fair share of the union's costs in representing them.

Q: Is a union required to represent all employees covered by a contract (non-members as well as members)?

A: Yes. Under federal labor law, unions have the duty to fairly represent workers covered by a contract. That means non-members who do not pay dues get the same wages, hours and working conditions as members get under the established contract. Unions must bargain for everyone and enforce the contract terms for everyone in a fair, honest, non-discriminatory manner. Unions cannot refuse to pay the costs of arbitrating a grievance simply because it involves a non-member. A union that violates this duty of fair representation can be sued. This duty of fair representation applies whether or not the state has a "right to work" law.

Q: If our state enacts a "right to work" law, who will pay the costs of representing non-members?

A: Union members will be forced to pay not only their own share of representation costs, but also the full costs of those who do not pay their fair share of dues but still receive all of the benefits of union representation.

Q: Does a union security clause require non-members to pay full union dues?

A: No. Non-members are required to pay only the proportion of union dues related to collective bargaining expenses, so these costs are fairly shared by all represented employees.

Q: Can a union unilaterally impose a union security agreement?

A: No. The employer and the union must negotiate a union security agreement. If management refuses, there is no union security agreement.

Q: Why would an employer agree to a union security clause?

A: Many employers want to avoid the divisions and animosity that occur when some workers have to pay the costs of representing non-paying employees.

Q: Will a "right to work" law protect a worker's right to a job?

A: No. These laws guarantee no one a job, nor do they provide any due process or just cause protections against unfair firing. By undermining unions, so-called "right to work" laws weaken the best job security protections unions have – a union contract with a grievance procedure that requires employers to have legitimate, job-related reasons for disciplining or discharging an employee. ▀

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS
August
Union Meeting
Date Change

Due to the officers' and delegates' attendance at the United Association 38th General Convention that will be held on August 8-12, 2011, the August union meeting has been rescheduled.

The meeting will be held on the third Friday in August which is Friday, August 19, 2011.

Please mark your calendars.