



The TRADES

Volume 18, Number 2
February 2012

The Newsletter of the Washington, DC Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

A Message from Executive Secretary-Treasurer Vance T. Ayres

Hello brothers, sisters and friends,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas/holiday season and a happy New Year! Here is a review of what we have accomplished over the past few years as a Council, with all your help, and what we are in the process of working on for the DC Building Trades currently:

Maryland State Legislation-Laws Passed-

1. *Apprenticeship Opportunity Act - Requires non-union contractors to pay (.25 per hour) into registered apprenticeship programs or pay same to State Fund.*
2. *Prevailing Wage Enforcement Reforms: Increases penalties for violations if contractors disregard order of Labor Commissioner; adds strong protections for workers who report violations.*

Bills Pending-

1. *OSHA 10-Hour Safety Training Bill: Requires all contractors on State projects to certify all workers have OSHA training.*
2. *PLA Bill: Authorizes/Mandates PLAs for State Projects.*

Federal PLAs-

1. *Lafayette Construction/Renovation Project (\$110M PLA.).*
2. *St. Elizabeth's Adaptive Re-Use Project (\$52 PLA).*

County Legislation-

1. *Prince George's County: PLA Authorizing Legislation/PLA Program with County Executive (first projects being planned).*
2. *Prince George's County TIF Apprenticeship Legislation, requires contractors with bona fide apprenticeships on TIF-assisted projects.*

DC Accomplishments-

1. *We have started to build great relationships with multiple groups in DC and developed better relationships with some DC Council members.*
2. *We have been working on a Workplace Fraud Bill/Misclassification and have had a positive hearing.*

Virginia Accomplishment-

1. *On a very important note, I just found out we were able to stop some bad emergency legislation in Virginia that could change the 2nd phase of the Dulles Corridor not being done under a labor agreement that was proposed by Governor McDonnell and some of his Republican colleges!!!*
2. *We continue to have great relationships with a large number of elected officials in Virginia.*

In addition to the above, there have been several related developments that are relevant to and associated with the Government Affairs Program, which include the following:

- a) Regular Meetings of the Building Trades Political Committee (to coordinate political action, endorsements, etc.).
- b) Informal exploratory committee to lay groundwork for possible new MD Labor Caucus (includes you, me, Sen. Roger Manno and Del. Tom Hucker); and
- c) Launching of Construction Commerce Council (business-labor group founded to promote union construction in DC region).
- d) We have developed a great relationship with Charles County Commissioner President Candice Quinn Kelly.
- e) We have built and continued to build a relationship with a number of property management firms and now do multiple build-outs, rehabs and new construction with them.

I challenge all of you to purchase goods "Made in the USA," union made if possible, and to focus your money into local union contractors for your residential services if possible.

In solidarity,
Vance T. Ayres
Executive Secretary-Treasurer



Rodman Local Union 201

from Kevin McVeigh, Business Manager

Brothers, work is slow due to some projects being delayed, but we are sending some members back to work.

Correspondence from our International: there will NOT be an increase in dues this year.

Rodman Local 201 now has a Facebook page, "**Reinforcing Ironworkers Local 201.**" "Like" our page for DAILY updated information on Local 201 activities.

Once again with the New Year starting and taxes right around the corner, here is the break down for dues and deductions for 2011: 12 months dues at \$37.00, three deaths at \$18.00, 6% of your gross wages for check off, and all tools and gloves. For new members that paid Initiation fees, Apprentice \$100.00, A-Rodman \$100.00 and Journeyman \$250.00, these are tax deductible.

ANNUAL DRUG TESTING: You will receive a letter from Mobile Medical, but do not wait, call the Hall or Mobile Medical for your annual test date.

A REMINDER: you only have **72 hours** from receipt of the notice to take your drug test. If you fail to respond to this notice, you will be put on the inactive list. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS YOU MUST CONTACT THE LOCAL AND MOBILE MEDICAL (1-888-662-8356). If you miss the test in 72 hours the only ways to fix this is if you were out of town working (with pay stubs) or you have moved (prove change of address) or on vacation (prove with receipts: hotel, air fare etc.).

We have a membership drawing held at every regular membership meeting night (third Friday of every month) the names of all members in **good standings** are in the drawing and **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**. If there is not a winner \$25.00 will be added each month until someone wins. Due to the date this article was written, if there was not a winner at the January meeting, than February's meeting will be \$525.00.

Due to the date this article was written the following members could have gone suspended as of January 31, 2012 for being six months behind in their dues: E. Belton, A. Bonilla, R. Benitez, J. Cienfuegos, R. Cook, J. Dade, S. Medrano, D. Garcia, S. Guardado, L. Gutierrez, O. Hardy, J.

Hergett, A. Herenandez, C. Hernandez, M. King, A. Lemus, W. Martinez, J. McCormick, T. Nelson, E. Recinos, W. Pacheco, R. Palacios, J. Pena, C. Robles, J. Turner, J. White.

As of February you must have Death Assessment 2113 paid before dues.

Schedule of Meetings

Wednesday, February 1, 3:00 p.m.

JATC Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 12:30 p.m.

Retirees Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2:00 p.m.

Stewards Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 5:00 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

Friday, February 17, 6:00 p.m.

Local 201 Membership Meeting

Boletín de Noticias

Hermanos, el trabajo está despacio debido a que algunos proyectos están atrasados, pero estamos enviando a algunos miembros a trabajar.

Noticia desde nuestra Internacional: NO HAY aumento de la cuota para este año.

El Local de Rodman 201 ahora cuenta con una página en Facebook. "**Reinforcing Ironworkers Local 201**" diariamente es actualizada con las actividades que realiza el Local 201.

Con el comienzo de Año Nuevo y los impuestos a la vuelta de la esquina, aquí les alcanzamos detalles de las para cuotas y deducciones para 2011: 12 meses de aportaciones \$37.00 c/u, 3 pagos por fallecidos \$18.00 c/u y el 6% del total del salario para check off, además de compras de herramientas y/o guantes realizados. Para los nuevos miembros el pago inicial por Aprendiz \$100.00, A-Rodman \$100.00 y por Hierro \$250.00. Estos montos son deducibles de los impuestos.

PRUEBA ANUAL DE DROGAS: usted recibirá una carta de Mobile Medical, pero no espere, llame a la oficina o Mobile Medical para su fecha de prueba anual.

UN RECORDATORIO: Usted solamente tiene **72 horas** del recibo del aviso para hacerse la prueba. Si usted no responde al aviso, su nombre será puesto en la lista de trabajadores inactivos. **ES IMPORTANTE QUE NOTIFIQUE AL LOCAL Y TAMBIEN**

A MOBIL MEDICAL (1-888-662-8356) si usted se mueve o cambia su dirección. Si falta de hacerse la prueba de drogas después de 72 horas, la única manera de corregirlo es si usted estaba fuera de la ciudad trabajando (con colillas de cheque), si usted se ha movido (con prueba del cambio de dirección) o si usted estaba de vacaciones (prueba de recibos: hotel, boletos Aéreos, etc.).

Tenemos una rifa para la membrecía que se lleva a cabo en cada reunión de miembros (el tercer viernes de cada mes). Solamente los nombres de los miembros que se encuentren al día en sus cuotas serán incluidos en esta rifa. **USTED TIENE QUE ESTAR PRESENTE PARA GANAR.** Si no hay un ganador, aumentamos \$25 dólares cada mes hasta que alguien gane. Debido a la fecha que este artículo fue escrito, si no hubo un ganador en la reunión de enero, el premio será \$525.00 dólares para la reunión de Febrero.

Debido a la fecha que este artículo fue escrito los siguientes miembros podrían haber sido suspendidos desde el 31 de enero de 2012 por estar ser seis meses atrasados en sus deudas: E. Belteton, A. Bonilla, R. Benitez, J. Cienfuegos, R. Cook, J. Dade, S. Medrano, D. Garcia, S. Guardado, L. Gutierrez, O. Hardy, J. Hergett, A. Herenandez, C. Hernandez, M. King, A. Lemus, W. Martinez, J. McCormick, T. Nelson, E. Recinos, W. Pacheco, R. Palacios, J. Pena, C. Robles, J. Turner, J. White.

Para el mes de Febrero Usted ya debe haber pagado la Cuota por Fallecimiento correspondiente al 2113 antes de pagar sus cuotas mensuales.

Horario de Reuniones

Miércoles, 1 de febrero

a las 3:00 pm

Reunión de JATC

Miércoles, 8 de febrero

a las 12:30 pm

Reunión de los Retirados

Miércoles, 8 de febrero

a las 2:00 pm

Reunión de los Shop Stewards

Miércoles, 8 de febrero

a las 5:00 pm

Reunión de la Junta Ejecutiva

Viernes, 17 de febrero

a las 6:00 pm

Reunión de Membrecía

Plumbers Local Union 5

from the Business Office



We were all saddened to hear of the death of retired long-time Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer John E. McKee, Jr. I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of his many contributions to Local 5.



Johnny came out of his time in July 1973 and began his career at Local 5. He served on various committees and offices until he became Assistant Business Manager in July 1989, under Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer Andy Blanch. Johnny was elected Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer in July 1993, the youngest ever elected.

Johnny was always a gentleman. He always treated people with respect. He was proud of his union and was always mindful that he represented us and conducted himself accordingly.

Johnny wasn't afraid to get his hands dirty. When there was work to be done, he jumped right in. He was often seen in his Topsiders and shorts, mowing the grass at 12th Street or sweeping the sidewalks or shoveling snow at Allentown Road. Whenever a new procedure was initiated at the Business Office, Johnny had already thought the procedure through, up one side and down the other, and run several "dry runs" to make sure we were doing everything as well as we could.

Johnny was a tireless ambassador for working men and women and promoted the welfare of our members and the labor community at large wherever he went.

We enjoyed years of prosperity under Johnny's leadership. Our membership grew from 1,000 to nearly 1,700. Our funds and investments grew, and in October 1998 Johnny started our Retirement Savings Plan by reducing the Medical Fund contribution

by \$2.00 an hour and creating individual retirement savings accounts for our members. In October 1992, Johnny started the Industry Advancement Fund, a program that helps our contractors compete with open shop contractors and keeps our members working. He tirelessly fought for better working conditions, better pay and better benefits for our members. Our wage package was \$25.21 when Johnny was elected in July 1993. When he retired in July 2010, our wage package was \$52.49.

Johnny loved to drive. He never flew to conferences and meetings if he could drive there in less than ten (or twelve) hours.

Johnny was a lot like Harry S. Truman. The buck stopped with him. He accepted responsibility for decisions he made, even the unpopular ones. Johnny was equally at ease with attorneys, accountants, financial advisors, and politicians – always seeking the best for his membership.

Johnny liked to learn new things; if he didn't know the answer to a question or problem, he'd find out. If he didn't know how to do something, he'd figure it out. He enjoyed finding better ways to accomplish routine tasks.

Johnny loved simple things: his large, extended family; Ledo's Pizza; sitting on the beach; turkey with mashed potatoes and gravy; watching a movie through the eyes of his grandchildren.

Johnny was a modest man. He didn't particularly care to be singled out for attention. He would've hated that this article is about him. On his last day at the Business Office, he rolled out, forbidding anyone to make a big deal of it, and forbidding us to follow him.

Johnny retired after he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly referred to as ALS, *Lou Gehrig's Disease* or *Motor Neuron Disease*. Most of us, reeling in shock, Googled "ALS," "Lou Gehrig's Disease" and "Motor Neuron Disease," and found our worst fears confirmed. But Johnny, well, Johnny met his diagnosis with calm, quiet dignity and courage, electing to spend the time he had left with the people he loved most – his family. On Christmas Day he shared with his wife, Carol, that he felt he was a lucky man; that he'd had a good life. I couldn't agree more.

The day that Johnny died, the world lost

a very special man. He was the type of man that was more concerned about doing the right thing than he was about doing the easy thing; the type of man who looked out for his fellow man rather than take advantage of him. The type of man who led by example; who didn't expect anyone to do anything he wasn't willing to do himself. These are qualities that grow increasingly rare with each passing year. Our hearts are heavy at his loss, but we can also rejoice in the way that he chose to live and in the knowledge that he did not squander the time he was given on this earth. The Victorian novelist, Samuel Butler said, "To die completely, a person must not only forget, but be forgotten, and he who is not forgotten is not dead." With that in mind, I can say with confidence that our friend, brother, father, son, uncle, grandfather and husband is not gone completely. We have the opportunity to go forward in ways that will bring honor to a man who spent his life showing us how to be our best. Let's not forget the lessons we learned from him. Let's choose to be better for having known him.

Johnny is survived by his beloved wife, Carol; by his son, Shawn McKee, and daughter-in-law, Jennifer; by his grandchildren, John Edward "Jack", Grace Angela and Riley Joseph McKee; by his mother, Mary McKee; by siblings Bonnie, Patricia, Kathy, Frank, Therese and Joe; and a host of in-laws, nieces and nephews. Johnny was pre-deceased by his father, John E. McKee, Sr.

In closing, I believe Johnny has laid a firm foundation; it's up to us to keep it going. He would expect nothing less, and we could do nothing better in his memory.

Reminder! Reminder! Reminder!

• I would like to, once again, call your attention to Section 29 of our Bylaws: *Immediately upon notice of the death of a member, the Financial Secretary-Treasurer shall collect the burial expense assessments of five dollars (\$5) from every member to reimburse the burial expense benefit fund. Any member who fails to maintain his/her good standing in the Local Union by payment of all dues, fines, or fails to pay the burial expenses assessments within ninety (90) days and owes twenty-five (\$25) or more will not be entitled to receive the burial expense benefits. For your information, the Local 5 benefit was just raised to \$7,500.00 and the United Association benefit is pro-rated (\$500.00- \$2,250.00),*

Plumbers Local Union 5

continued

based on years of service. Today, the average North American traditional funeral costs between \$7,000 and \$10,000. This price range includes the services at the funeral home, burial in a cemetery, and the installation of a headstone.

- Some of you let your assessments get way out of hand. Please do not put us in the position of telling your family there is no death benefit for you upon your death because you are too far in arrears in your assessments. Currents assessments are available at the end of each monthly article in the Craftsman, our website www.local5plumbers.org, or by calling the Union Hall.

- The Medical Fund requires coordination of benefits with Medicare eligible retirees and eligible dependents. It is important that you and/or your dependents enroll for Medicare at age 65, or if disabled prior to age 65, when you are eligible for Medicare coverage. Be sure to enroll in both "Part A" and "Part B" of Medicare. Failure to do so will result in lower medical protection and greater out-of-pocket expense. Refer to "Coordination with Medicare" in the medical plan's *Summary Plan Description*.

- **Recently, the Medical Fund mailed "Member Certifications" to all participants. It is a two-page form in which you certify that all your dependents are eligible for coverage from our medical plan. This form must be returned to the Medical Fund in order to maintain coverage for your dependents.**

We send our congratulations to Brother Francis X. McKee and Brother Thomas

Woloszyn. Brother McKee retired November 1, 2011 with 18.8 years of service. Brother Woloszyn retired November 1, 2011 with 28.9 years of service. We wish them both long and happy retirements!

We send our congratulations to Sister Felicia Snell who was married to James P. Johnson on December 29th, 2011. We wish them many years of happiness!

We send our congratulations to Brother Josue Hernandez and Diane Rivas on the birth of their son, Xavier Josue Hernandez. Baby Xavier was born on January 3, 2012, weighed in at 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 23-3/4 inches E-E.

Please remember Brother Gary Printz, Jr., Brother Richard Walsh, Sr., Brother Tom Woloszyn, Brother Thomas Patrick Underwood, and Brother Richard Ward, Jr. in your prayers. Brother Gary Printz continues his rehabilitation, Brother Richard Walsh is battling stage IV colorectal cancer which has spread to his liver and lymph nodes, Brother Tom Woloszyn is battling liver cancer, Brother Tom Underwood is rehabbing from knee surgery, and Brother Richard Ward is recovering from injuries sustained in an auto accident. I know you all join me in sending healing prayers their way.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of John E. McKee, Jr. Brother McKee was born October 31, 1949, initiated December 11, 1968, and passed away on December 26, 2011. John was the brother of Local 5 member Francis X. (Frank) McKee and former Local 5 member Joseph J. McKee.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the

family of Brother Wilfred A. Berry, Life Member. Brother Berry was born August 24, 1915, initiated November 17, 1942, and passed away on December 17, 2011.

The Special Order of Business at our February 8, 2012 Union Meeting will be:
1. Vote on the Finance Committee's Report.

The Special Order of Business at our March 14, 2012 Union Meeting will be:
1. Vote on the Finance Committee's Report.

The Special Order of Business at our April 11, 2012 Union Meeting will be:

1. Vote on the Finance Committee's Report.
2. Vote on the C.B.A. wage increase for the remaining two years of the contract.

Current Assessments Due: Death 1144, Revolving 187 and Michael A. Collins Assessment (2012).

Calendar

Wednesday, February 8, 2012
Monthly Union Meeting at 5:00 p.m.
at the U.A. Mechanical Trades School

Wednesday, February 22, 2012
Executive Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
at the Union Hall

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
Monthly Union Meeting at 5:00 p.m.
at the U.A. Mechanical Trades School

Wednesday, March 28, 2012
Executive Board Meeting
at 3:00 p.m. at the Union Hall

Wednesday, April 11, 2012
Monthly Union Meeting at 5:00 p.m.
at the U.A. Mechanical Trades School

Wednesday, April 25, 2012
Executive Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
at the Union Hall

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