

June 2013

### Special points of interest:

- New Classes
- Work In Our Area

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Summer is almost here, soon kids will be out of school and the weather will be heating up. We have a lot of things happening in our area. You may have heard the rumors about UA Long Beach Local Union 494 being merged into other UA Locals. This is a true possibility. Recently the UA General Office sent a letter to local 494, 250, 582 and 78 regarding a merger of 494 into 582 or into locals 250 and 78. A hearing date has been set for June 20<sup>th</sup>, I will update you as I have more information.

I am excited to inform you that this is the first Drips that we will be emailing to the membership. This new method of delivering the news of our union gives us more flexibility and allows us to improve the content of the newsletter, along with the ability to control the cost of mailing the newsletter. If we do not have your email address please update it online on our website or call the office.



### Improving Education

I am pleased to announce that we will be offering a new Service and Repair Class called Service and Repair 101. This class is a four day class that will be held on Saturday's. Most of the class will be hands on. We expect to begin offering the new service and repair class along with other new technology classes when the new semester begins. Additionally, we are currently developing the curriculum for a Service & Repair 102 class.

UA Customer Service is a class that helps to identify which materials and tools go on a truck. This class addresses general drain cleaning and the fundamentals of safe camera usage. It addresses the essentials of working with PEX/Copper, Galvanized/CPVC PVC residential wall hung carrier and bowls, faucets/stops/supplies, and showers and tub. This class also touches on water quality/plumbing appliances, basic electricity, water heater trouble shooting and repairing.

## Work In Our Area

I am pleased to be able to say that we are finally starting to see work breaking ground in our area. This is causing movement in our out of work list which is a great and necessary relief for our membership. If you are interested in the specifics I encourage you to call the office and speak with Jeremiah and Doug. Some of the projects we are seeing take form are:

**The Wilshire Grand Project:** Today if you were to drive by you would see that there is a considerable amount of construction going on above ground.

**The Millennium Hollywood Project** is moving to the Los Angeles City PLUM for comment this week. The Millennium Hollywood project will be a dynamic mixed-use project split between two parcels along Vine Street between Yucca Street and Hollywood Boulevard. The project comprises a total of 4.47 acres of land.

Millennium Hollywood will be a new Hollywood spectacular for the 21st century, upholding the tradition of magnificent and innovative architecture just as the Capitol Records Tower did in its day.

On a more upsetting note, it seems after many years of service on May 9, 2013, Hollywood Park announced in a letter to our plumbers and all other employees that they will be closing their doors. Hollywood Park President F. Jack Liebau announced that the track would be closing at the end of the fall racing season in 2013. In the letter, Liebau stated that the 260 acres on which the track sits, "now simply has a higher and better use," and that "in the absence of a favorable change in racing's business model, the ultimate development of the Hollywood property was inevitable." It is expected that the track will be demolished and replaced by housing units,

park land and an entertainment complex, while the casino will be renovated. It is also anticipated that Hollywood Park's racing dates from 2014 onward will be transferred to Santa Anita Park and Del Mar Racetrack.



The closing of the track is an unfortunate loss. The track was opened in 1938 by the **Hollywood Turf Club**. The racetrack was designed by noted racetrack architect Arthur Froehlich. At one time its Chairman was Harry Warner of Warner Brothers, and its 600 shareholders has including members of the founding Board of Directors some of Hollywood's impressive luminaries, such as Jack Warner, Harry Warner, Al Jolson and Raoul Walsh.

## **Business Agent Doug Marian**

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

We are heading into the summer months still hoping the job prospect increases. There are several projects started downtown that could be putting people to work this summer. As we spread out away from downtown there are many projects starting or getting close to start. Some of these projects are fairly large and multi-year. The Wilshire Grand is about to be torn down but we are still looking at January before they start manning that project. The Courthouse, Museum, MTA, Trade Tech, The Forum and NBC projects have started. Century City, Hollywood, Universal Studios theme park expansion, NBC Universal Studio expansion including hotels and the Port of Los Angeles including Ports O' Call are projects in the planning stages with some close to starting.

If anyone is interested in service and repair or currently working as a service plumber or class helper and want to expand your knowledge of service we are offering a new course. This July for the first time we are offering a new Plumbing Service Technician course at the Compton School for residential service. The courses are set at 3 levels, starting at residential and continuing into commercial. Please go online and use the link to the Training Center for details and scheduling.

**Apprenticeship:** On March 16 we held our Local apprentice contest at the Compton Training Center where we had 6 contestants. Local 78 was represented at the state contest in Burlingame by Omar Galindo. The state contest consisted of 18 plumbing apprentices competing for that chance to go to the regional contest. After a great effort competing against 17 of the State's best Omar took second place. Well done, a great showing for Omar and Local 78.

The Annual Apprenticeship Fundraiser Golf Tournament was a great success this year. We held it at San Dimas Canyon Golf Course, the course was beautiful, we had a great turnout. Coming up on July 27th we have our Annual Summer Run, all vehicles are welcome, please come out and join us, it is a lot of fun and helps pay for the apprenticeship events. The fliers are available on our website: [www.uaplumber78.com](http://www.uaplumber78.com)

**LAUSD, District employees (Unit E):** Well with prop 30 looks like the District should receive some much needed additional funding. M&O is slated to have their budget increased, the goal is back to the 3 percent. There's also an attempt to return staffing back to 2007 levels. Many plumbers have returned however most are on special projects funded by bonds and grants. The back log of maintenance calls are increasing, the increased funding should secure more positions and return many of the plumbers that were laid off. We will also be heading into negotiations for our wage re-opener.

**LA City employees under MOU 2 & MOU 13:** The City still showing a budget deficit is trying to have us solve their problem again. The CAO's office continues to try and re-open the contract again. The City Coalition of which we are a part of is declining to re-open. We may meet and confer as part of a mutual gains approach to the problem. The JLMBC has selected Blue Shield and Kaiser as the new medical providers, pending approval by the Mayor.

**LA City Housing Authority:** We are in the middle of full negotiations for a successor MOU. Unfortunately, we are also in the middle of funding cuts, furloughs and uncertainty, partially due to the sequester in Washington, causing negotiation to be very difficult.

**Fraternally,  
Doug Marian**



### **Reminders:**

**Annual Poker Run Apprenticeship Fundraiser**

**- July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Local 78 Bi-annual Family Picnic**

**- September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

## Why I believe in Labor Unions

My story starts in 1934 in East Prairie, MO. A small country town in the Boot Hill Section of S.E. MO. I was five (5) years old and my dad was working in one of the two saw mills in our town. Because of the great depression his take home pay was \$6.60 weekly for a five and a half day week. One Saturday my dad came home quite upset. His boss informed all his employees, that the other saw mill had cut the wages of all his workers. So to remain competitive he had to lower all of his men's wages ten percent.

In the meantime my mother was cleaning other women's homes, and doing the washing and ironing of other family's clothing, trying to make ends meet for her family of six. My older sister graduated from high school, but couldn't afford to buy her year book because the price was \$0.50.

After Pearl Harbor Day (December 7, 1941) a lot of families including mine, moved to the nearest city to get to work in the defense plants. St. Louis, MO was the city we moved to. My father got a job with one of the railroads which by now was unionized and paid fairly well. My mom got a job in one of the defense plants working the swing shift making a fair salary. I had just finished the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at McKinley High School, but felt I had to quit to help my family economically.

I went to work in a factory making children's desks, as luck would have it after only three months, the workers voted to go union. After walking the picket line for four (4) months our company went union. Unlike a lot of owners, Mr. Klein called a meeting of all his employees and asked for suggestions on how we could speed up production to make up for our raise in pay. Many small suggestions were made, but one outstanding by a Mrs. Wakefield caught the owners attention and caused quite a stir. She disclosed that she had made numerous request to the plant superintendent to simply install a couple of fans in the last 10 feet of the assembly line coming out so the desks wouldn't be too hot to handle while attempting to pack the desks in shipping cartons. His constant refusal resulted in Mrs. Wakefield having to push the emergency panic button shutting down the assembly line in order to get the back log of desks into their cartons. Mr. Klein took

immediate action. Extended the assembly line by ten feet and added not two but four large fans. He then fired the plant super and replaced him with Mrs. Wakefield resulting in a whopping ten percent increase in production. Almost overnight our work place became much less stressful.

I worked there until 1947, when the unexpected death of my father changed our lives. My mother went to visit her brother in Compton, California a suburb of Los Angeles, she like it so much she decided to stay. She got a job in L.A. and after a few months, sent for me. With only a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education I was having trouble finding work in L.A. Out of the blue, a repair plumbing contractor hired me part-time. Being a union shop I had to join the union. So in October of 1948 I was inaugurated into Local 78 of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters of the USA and Canada. Sixty four years later I am still a proud member, and again my life was changed for the better. The union plumber's apprentice program has a very strict and mandatory schooling system. Every apprentice must attend night school two nights a week for five years (10 semesters) no exception. The curriculum included math, mechanical drawings, isometric drawing, blue print reading, welding, city code, estimating, etc. If you failed the exam at the end of each semester, you received no pay raise and had to take the semester over again. You can see the incentive here.

In 1950, the Korean War interrupted my schooling I was drafted into the army and served two years in Berlin Germany as an M.P. during the Berlin air lift. After returning home in 1952, I resumed my apprentice schooling. At this time another change leads me to go to work for Liberty Plumbing Co. which was owned by a fine Gentleman by the name of Milton R. Levitt and a great relationship began. Two and a half years later I finished my apprenticeship and became a fully certified journeyman plumber. As a reward for my hard work, Mr. Levitt gave me a raise and made me a foreman overseeing the work on many plumbing projects. As our relationship grew and the size of our company increased over the next five years I was promoted to V.P. in

charge of operations. A position I held until my retirement in 1987. In this capacity I was now estimating and negotiating larger plumbing projects with some of the larger contractors in L.A. at one of these meetings with a builder who built all of the Princess Hotels worldwide for D.K. Ludwig (wealthiest man in the world). I was asked to solve a mechanical problem between his architect and mechanical engineer. My union schooling and job experience enabled me to help them to the extent that this well-known architect and builder then advised their mechanical engineer to consult with me while designing any of their future projects. I very humbly attribute this compliment to Local 78's union apprentice schooling. It was about this time I decided to get my contractor's license.

The test for a California Contractors License is quite intense and takes eight hours to complete. Although some people have trouble with it, my mandatory union schooling came to my rescue again. After receiving my plumbing contractor's license from the State of California I decided to stay with Liberty Plumbing because of my unique relationship with Milt Levitt and the satisfaction of doing a good job. I remained there another 23 years.

After 34 years at Liberty Plumbing and 39 years in Local 78 plumbers union, I retired in 1987 at age 57 with a pension that happened only because of the importance of labor unions. I am fully aware that some exceptionally gifted people with only a 9<sup>th</sup> education reached a much higher success than I, but for us less gifted ones like me labor unions provided the difference. I hope this story of mine will convince a lot of people that the current and false propaganda put forth by the anti-union movement, that labor unions have seen their day and are no longer needed is completely false. Labor Unions (particularly private sector) are needed today as much as any time in our history, to preserve and help restore our fast dwindling middle class. There are no down sides to labor unions only benefits to our society.

Robert D. Hall

## Business Agent Jeremiah Ashmore

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

As we enter into summer, work is starting to pick up. I attended a meeting for the Wilshire Grand Project this month. The \$1.6 billion 70 story Hotel with Office and retail space is scheduled to have its first concrete pour on October 16. Kaiser South Bay has just finished the decks so they are in full steam with piping. Some other big projects going on in our area are L.A. Live Marriot hotel, The Forum Renovation, Emerson College, Ace Hotel, the Vermont Wilshire Project, the Sunset & Gordon Project. In the last couple of months I've been

hitting the jobsites. Local 78 has put several Stewards on Projects, and will continue to do so. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about a project, don't hesitate to call me at the office. I have received quite a few calls which help me address issues on jobs.

### County

For the County, We have had several meetings with the Building Trades and all the craft Unions regarding the upcoming negotiations for MOU 411 & 412. We take the proposals to the county sometime in mid-July. If you have questions feel free to

contact me at the office.

### Studios

Not too much going on at the studios right now. I've had the chance to meet most of you. I look forward to meeting the rest of you in the near future.

### LACCD

Gary Cook and I, along with Jim Adams from the Building Trades met with LACCD a couple of weeks ago regarding some classification issues. I will inform you on the issues and the results once I have more information.

Fraternally,  
Jeremiah Ashmore

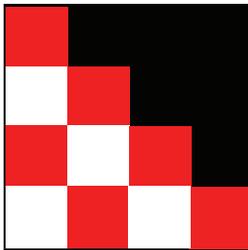
## In Memoriam

Please take a moment to pray and remember the following Brothers and Sisters who have passed away since the last Drrips.

Cecil Johnson  
William Marietti, III  
John Roche  
Preston Smith  
Robert Sweeney

### Next Membership Meeting will be held:

Date: September 12, 2013  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Place: LA/OC Building & Construction Trades Council  
1626 Beverly Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90026



## CALLING ALL MEMBERS LOCAL 78 PICNIC

When: September 14, 2013  
Where: Los Angeles Police Revolver & Athletic Club

Watch for more details



## Daughter of Local Union 78 Member Awarded Annual Scholarship



Katherine Dittmer the daughter of Local Union 78 member Edward Dittmer has been named as one of the newest recipients of the California State Pipe Trades Council Scholarship. Each year applications are accepted between January 1 and March 31.

Thirty-Two (32) college scholarships of \$2,500 each are awarded to the sons and daughters of members of Pipe Trades Local Unions affiliated with the California State Pipe Trades Council. The scholarships must be used for study at an accredited U.S. four-year college or university.

Sons and daughters of Pipe Trades Union members may apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must be a member of a Local Union affiliated with the California State Pipe Trades Council, and currently in good standing for at least one full year. Students' transcripts must indicate a grade point average of no less than 2.5. The applicants may be:

High school seniors graduating in June and attending a U.S. 4-year college or university during the coming academic year; must provide an official high school transcript as well as proof of regis-

tration at, or acceptance to, a four-year college or university.

Full-time community college students attending a U.S. 4-year college or university during the coming academic year; \*must provide an official community college transcript verifying full-time attendance, as well as proof of registration at, or acceptance to, a four-year college or university.

Full-time students currently attending a U.S. 4-year college or university and continuing full-time attendance during the coming academic year; must provide an official college or university transcript verifying full-time attendance. \*If the school transcript does not list your current "classes in progress," you must provide documentation that clearly verifies your current full-time registration. After verifying the eligibility of the applicants, the California State Pipe Trades Council Scholarship Foundation submit completed applications for judging by an external, independent panel comprised of professional educators through the University of California.