



Newsletter *Cheyenne, Wyoming*

UA LOCAL 192

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BUSINESS MANAGER
BRIAN ALMQUIST

It's a New Year and looks to be a good one!

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. It has been slow here at the Local these last few months. Tony has been doing a great job keeping guys busy for those who like to travel. The work is coming. This looks like it's going to be a great year for us. We have 3 signed PLA's (Project Labor Agreements). We still have one to go. We are going to try out Haskell Corporation. They are an interesting company and we look forward to working with them. The corporate office is out of Bellingham, WA and the regional office is out of Utah. From soldering salmon cans in the 1890's to servicing power houses today, they will put a good group of our guys to work at the Naughton Power Plant in Kemmerer, WY this Spring. They will have a few months of work. The contract is for bottom ash and scrubber repairs. Also Clear Creek Plumbing and Heating has signed a PLA with us. They are a Union company up in North Dakota. They are plumbing a new building up in Rapid City for Black Hills Power Corp. We are working on a separated commercial agreement which they and few other contractors are looking forward too. For now, the PLA will do. They are doing the job up there at the Industrial rate. Also MMC Contractors out of Kansas City signed a PLA at the Industrial rate as well up in Rapid City. They are fitting and plumbing new additions to Rapid City Regional Hospital. This will be a lengthy project. Target end date on this one is September 2019. MMC will be subbing work out to Heil Mechanical in Rapid City as their local contractor. Heil will be signing a PLA with us as well. The Capital Building is off to a real slow start but we hope to get guys out to US Engineering here within the next couple months. US Engineering says they will run 10-12 hands out there, may peak out at more. Moorhead has a project or two coming up along with some work in the outage in Wheatland. We hope to hear soon if we have a union contractor doing the SCR project up in Wheatland. AZCO is always bidding work in our area. Speaking with the West side contractors, it sounds like the mines will open up there pockets a bit this year. Also ICI has picked up a project at Simplot. We will be having some pre job meetings here at the Hall at the beginning of the month.

New Membership Cards

We have been getting a lot of questions about the look of the new membership cards. The UA has issued these cards with a QR code on the back with no area for stamps. If you were to scan the QR code with your smart phone at the moment you will get a under construction notification. The QR code will not be ready until this Summer sometime. It will also double as your travel card. When you go to another Local, they will scan you in and it will let us here at the Local know where you are. This is important because starting this year all traveler's paying dues, 1% will come back to their home Local. The card is also good for 3 years now. I know many of you are using the stamps to keep track of your payment status, please give us a call every once in awhile and we will also do our best to give you reminders, I know Kathy has always been pretty good at that.

Credit and Debit Card Payment Method Coming Soon To Local 192

We are working on logistics to finally get credit and debit cards accepted here at the local. The trick is getting everything to talk to our Membership Program we use here. The goal is to swipe your card if you come in. Call us and pay over the phone and pay on our website.

Next Union Meeting

Our next Union Meeting will be held in Rock Springs at the Carpenters Hall, 6:15 pm on Thursday March 16th. It is the 3rd week next month because I will be out of town at the Mechanical Contractors Association Convention in San Diego. We will have an informational meeting in Casper at the Iron Workers Hall on Tuesday March 14th at 5 pm.

BY- Laws Changes Approved

Changes to Union Meeting locations are as follows: January, February, April, May, July, August, October and November meetings will be held in Cheyenne at the Local. March and September meetings will be held in Rock Springs, most likely at the Carpenter Hall if available. If not probably at the Holiday Inn. In June the meetings will be held in Casper. At the Iron Workers Hall. This change to the By-Laws were approved at the last Union meeting on February 9th. I can't promise every month but definitely when important issues arise we will hold informational meetings where there isn't a Union meeting. We will be having a lot of work in South Dakota so we will in the future definitely hold some informational meetings up there as well.

OVER →

Health Insurance Reminder

I would like to take a minute and remind everyone to check and make sure your spouses and dependants are covered on your insurance. Everyone who is covered would have their own insurance card. If they do not and you think they should please call Cigna at 1-800-244-6224. I would also like to remind everyone that you must work 140 hours to maintain your insurance eligibility. Every work hour after 140 will go towards your hour bank. You can get a max hour bank of 560 hours or 4 months. If you do not work the 140 hours you can buy into the COBRA plan. The cost of COBRA did go up as of January (see chart below). The Health plan unfortunately does not accept step children. If you adopt a child, the adoption must be 100% finalized before that child can have eligibility. That is how the plan is written up. I, or the Local do not have the power to make an exception to any of these rules. It is how the plan document is written. Good news though; the dental portion of the plan is coming back. The Health and Welfare Fund is making some changes that I can not yet reveal but it looks like around July 1st, plus or minus a month that will take affect.

COBRA Rates- Active Plan

<u>Medical, Prescription Drug, and Vision</u>	<u>Effective 1/1/2016</u>	<u>Effective 1/1/2017</u>
<i>18/36 Months</i>	<i>\$960</i>	<i>\$1,143</i>
<u><i>Extended 11 Months</i></u>	<u><i>\$1412</i></u>	<u><i>\$1681</i></u>
	<i>Members in Good</i>	<i>Members in Good</i>
	<i>Standing</i>	<i>Standing</i>
<i>18/36 Months</i>	<i>\$830</i>	<i>\$988</i>
<i>Extended 11 Months</i>	<i>\$1,219</i>	<i>\$1,451</i>

PAC Committee is Getting Involved

The PAC committee is getting more involved. We do have a lobbyist provided to us from the RMDC5 and we have been using him and he is doing a great job. There was HB181 introduced this session. This bill would prevent us from writing any PLA's to a government entity or any entity receiving government grants. This hasn't happened in quite awhile, we normally write our PLA's in more of a private owner situation. However this bill would stop us in writing a PLA if it were to come up. Kim Floyd our Executive Secretary for the Wyoming AFL-CIO has been sitting up at the temporary Capital Building (Jonahs Building Park) and monitoring these bills for us and brought this one to our attention. We immediately got our lobbyist and International Representative involved and we all had a meeting to define what this all means and how we are going to fight this. We put a real good team together. We got Kim Floyd, the President of the Building Trades Doug Thomas, the Business Manager of the RMDC5 Howard Arnold came up from Colorado. Also we had our very own Tony Haller and a couple contractors from the IBEW. Rick Allen our new International Representative and myself had to leave town a couple days before the testimony hearing in front of the committee. A huge congratulations to those guys for they were able to kill that bill in committee.

Also a few of us, myself, Russ Pafford, Summer Iverson and Tony Haller went to SHAPE Wyoming, which was a one day convention put on by the Equality State Policy Center of Wyoming. This convention was basically how to pass a bill 101. It was real good to get a refresher on how to take an idea, put it on paper, get it to your legislature and get it introduced to the House and/or Senate. For me the main take away from this class is to get to know your representative. This is what we will do. The committee has a few ideas and we are going to get them written down and see if we can't have some bills to introduced next session.

Rick and I flew to Reno where we attended the Northwest Pipe Trades Conference. It sounds like work is going to explode everywhere here very soon. The only Local that didn't have much to report was Alaska. With the oil so cheap they are really suffering up there. While we were there we went and visited some of Local 192's members who are working out at the Tesla site. There are just over 600 UA members working at that site. That place is indescribably huge. It has a 2.2 MMSF foot print. So far they have built 6.6 MMSF and when it is finished it will be 10 MMSF. This will be the biggest structure in the United States. We were told that it will take 200 UA members just to maintain it after it starts full operation.