



UA LOCAL 396 JOURNAL

WINTER 2022

From the Desk of the Business Manager...

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

“A man is not paid for having a head and hands, but for using them” Elbert Hubbard

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and is staying safe and healthy.

Local 396 has been very busy overall. The Battery Plant has been keeping our members busy as well as over 120 travelers working in our jurisdiction.

As is customary after the United Association National Convention, we have gone through our By-Laws and some recommendations will be coming to the body. We will have three readings of the by-law changes over the next few union meetings. The recommended changes will be voted on by the membership after the third reading takes place. Thank you to all that served on the By-Laws Committee.

Even though the stock market has been quite volatile. Our health and welfare, pension and annuity funds have been holding their own. According to our fund administrators, we will face some challenges in 2022 but overall, there is no reason to believe that 2022 will not be a prosperous year.

The work outlook remains positive also. Ultium Cell Battery Plant is humming along with minimal issues. The announcement of the Bartlett Maritime project in

Lordstown is a work in progress. A second gas fired power plant is also still on the radar in the Trumbull Energy Center. Hospital work should be on the rise also. (Please keep your certifications up to date.)

In early February, President Biden signed an executive order on the use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal construction contracts. This executive order on the use of PLA's will ensure a level playing field during the bidding process for our contractor partners, raise quality and safety standards on Federal projects, streamline coordination on large multi-trade projects and require fair wages, benefits and opportunities for apprenticeship.

Congratulations to Brent Kelley who has been named to the Mahoning County Mental Health Board. This will help us to be able to steer our members to the proper agencies if needed. Thanks Brent for stepping up!

Please note that the membership now has the opportunity to enroll in auto pay for monthly union dues and death benefit. This will automatically deduct from either a credit card or debit card on the first of each month. If you are interested please contact Stacey for more information.

Fraternally,
Marty Loney
Business Manager

A Word from the Business Agent

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had a healthy and good holiday season. We are still busy at the General Motors Battery Plant. There are still a few more contractors to start at the battery plant. A battery recycling plant is to get going in Lordstown. Locally we have some hospital work and some smaller jobs going.

Congratulations to Marty Loney for retaining his position on the Western Reserve Port Authority.

The Heath and Welfare Fund is doing good. We had a twelve month reserve at the last meeting. Make sure you keep your itemized receipts any time you use your Benny Medical Reimbursement credit card to avoid suspension of your card. You also should be getting a notice in the mail from our Local 396 Pension Plan regarding a change to the retirement age. This will take effect on July 1, 2022. This modification is if you have reached age 62 with 30 years of credited or vested service then you will not incur the 6% per year penalty from normal retirement age of 65 to age 62.

Fraternally,
Brent Kelley

President's Report

Brothers & Sisters,

Please save the date for Local 396's Annual Golf Outing on July 16, 2022 at Knoll Run Golf Course. As well as the Family Fun Day at Clay's Park on August 6, 2022. More details will follow.

We have short sleeve shirts, long sleeve shirts, hoodies, ball caps, golf shirts, buck knives, and welding lens available for purchase at the union hall.

Thank you to the By-Laws Committee for all of your hard work.

Fraternally,
James Nolfi

On the Training Front...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the first half of the 2021-22 school year in our rear view, we are finally starting to see some normalcy return to our program. Throughout the past two years, and especially 2021, we have certainly had our share of illness between our Apprentices and Instructors, but thankfully we made it through with no serious issues and we can now direct our full attention to the task at hand; preparing our Apprentices for the work ahead.

One of the biggest challenges we face as a training program is fulfilling the "On the Job Training" requirements for our Apprentices. Throughout their five years each Apprentice is required to complete at least 1600 hours per year of field training in order to advance to the next level of their Apprenticeship. When work is scarce this can be quite a struggle for the Business Agent and the JATC. Fortunately, with the abundance of work in our jurisdiction and our Sister locals, we have not had trouble putting our Apprentices to work.

When the work is good in our jurisdiction it also means that the funds are good. In the past five years we have been fortunate enough to have had two large projects (Lordstown Energy and the Ultium Cells) which have generated quite a bit of money for our training fund. Although we cannot rely on this as a steady source of income for our fund, it has given the JATC an opportunity to make some significant improvements and additions to our program.

In the last JATC meeting, a motion was passed to have the JATC cover the cost for Medical Gas tests, braze continuities, and backflow exams. Prior to this it was up to the Journeyman to cover the cost for their own cert. The JATC plans to keep covering these fees as long as fund remains strong.

In addition to the Journeyman fees we plan to capitalize on the increase in our fund by making some much need-

ed improvements and upgrades to our training facility. In the HVAC lab the fourth year Apprentices are working on the piping phase of our trainer project. When it is complete there will be two main 4" loops which will have the capability of running at least six different heating and cooling systems. This trainer can not only be used for the Apprentices learning HVAC but also for the Pipefitters/ Plumbers learning how to pipe these systems.

In the plumbing lab we are planning to add a medical gas system in order to give our Apprentices some "hands on" training prior to taking the certification class. If all goes as planned this project will begin this year with the fourth year Apprentices.

By far the most expense part of our program to maintain is our welding lab. Although it is costly to keep this going, it is most certainly one of the more important and difficult parts of our trade to master. We have added four new welding machines in the past year and are now taking quotes for a new fume extraction system to replace ours which is quite outdated. This new fume extraction system is a much needed improvement to our lab and will help to maintain a clean safe environment for our members and instructors.

We have invested a lot of money and time into our welding program over the last 20 years but the most valuable tool that we have are our instructors who dedicate their time to teaching our Apprentices and Journeymen. We currently have 21 different Apprentices with pipe welding certs and a total of 41 certs out of those Apprentices. By the end of this year we would like that number to be closer to 30. Our ultimate goal is to have every Apprentice fitter and plumber with a weld cert before they complete their fourth year.

In addition to our normal instructors several volunteers have come in on their own time to help share their own knowledge with our Apprentices. Ron Struble, Bill Haggerty, Dave Gordon, Jack Meier, and Johnny Knox all took

time out of their schedule to come in and help out in our welding class on Saturdays and during the evening. If you see any of these Journeymen please thank them for going the extra mile.

The OSA State Apprentice Competition is finally back on for 2022 after having a two year hiatus due to Covid19. This year's contest will be held at UA Local 94 in Canton the week of April 18. We will be sending two Apprentices to the contest this year to represent Local 396. Sam Sprague will be going as the Plumbing Apprentice and Vince Dodgson as the HVAC tech. I'm sure both of these Apprentices will represent us well and please congratulate them and wish them the best of luck if you see them.

In addition to the Apprentice training we are constantly focused on maintaining the Journeyman certs that you all have, and helping you to attain new ones. Below is a list of the upcoming classes for spring:

- **EPRI Industrial Rigging/Crane Signaling** - Will begin in mid-March
- **EPRI Industrial Rigging Recertification** - Saturday, March 26 8:00am - 12:00pm
- **Full Backflow Tester** - Will begin Monday, March 21
- **Backflow Testers Recertification** - Will begin Wednesday, March 22 at 6:00 pm
- **Medical Gas recertification** - Will begin Wednesday, March 2 at 6:00 pm

*As always you will be notified if your cert is ready to expire and if you are interested in any of these classes please reach out to me at (330) 501-5115.

Fraternally,
Rick Boyarko

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Upcoming Union Meetings

March 3, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

- Second reading of proposed By-Law changes

April 7, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

- Third reading of proposed By-Law changes with voting to follow

May 5, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

- Disbursement of Wage Increase
- Nomination of Officers and Delegates

Official Notice will be mailed at a later date

June 2, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

- Election of Officers & Delegates

Official Notice will be mailed at a later date

Location: *Operator’s Engineers Hall
291 McClurg Road
Boardman, Ohio 44512*

Saturday, July 16, 2022 (SAVE THE DATE)

Local 396’s Annual Golf Outing
Knoll Run Golf Course
More details to follow

Saturday, August 6, 2022 (SAVE THE DATE)

Local 396 Family Fun Day
Clay’s Park Resort
More details to follow

JAC Test Fees Change

At the January 2022 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee meeting it was approved to have the JAC fund cover the cost for Medical Gas tests, braze continuities, and backflow exams.

~IN MEMORIAM~

Local 396 recognizes its members who have recently passed

Edward Meeker, initiated 1962, died 11/12/2021

Martin Markovich, initiated 1957, died 11/15/2021

Jay Sargent, initiated 1980, died 11/27/2021

Dennis Walker, initiated 2010, died 02/17/2022

“O God, Who has called hence the soul of our Brother/Sister who has departed this life. You who alone Knowest the secrets of each heart, with all its trials, sorrows and temptations we beseech Thee to have mercy upon him/her, and also upon all those, our brothers and sisters, who have gone previously; pardon each sin that they have committed and give them rest, light and peace in Thy everlasting Kingdom; all of this we beg through you our God and Savior.”

~RETIREES~

Ahhh, Retirement....the time to enjoy all of the things you never had time to do when you worked!
Congratulations are extended to our retirees and we wish you the best.

Jason Hickman, 37 years of service