

The Rivet

Local 49 Newsletter **PRIDE IN CRAFTSMANSHIP**

April 2007



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Upcoming Events

May 19th

Apprentice Appreciation Luncheon

Local 49 Election June 2007

Date & Location of Polling Places to be Announced

Web-site is being updated with a **NEW LOOK!**

Visit us at www.smwlu49.org
(To be complete this month)

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SPRING IS IN THE AIR

It brings me great pleasure to take this opportunity to inform the membership of Local 49 of all the promising new hope for the future of this wonderful organization. I hope that this springtime finds you, your family and friends in the best of health. As for our Local, I feel that the future has never been better.

I want everyone to know that I truly do appreciate you for allowing me to be your Business Manager for the last 15 months, it has been my honor. I have many reasons to be grateful for I know that I could not have accomplished any of this without the help and support of the current office staff and membership.

I was able to gain a tremendous amount of confidence because of the support of your former Business Agent Ritchie Howells. For those of you who did not know, Ritchie

was able to retire December of last year. Although Ritchie is retired he continues to serve as a Trustee of our Locals 401-k and Health and Welfare Funds as a volunteer. That's what I call dedication, many thanks to you my friend.

With the vacancy of this position I was happy to recommend Richard Espinosa as our next Business Agent and fortunately your E-Board agreed with me and appointed Richard as Agent. This all transpired December of last year. Richard has a long history of volunteering and serving as trustee for the local. Welcome aboard Richard, I know you will continue to do a great job for the local.

Employment in the local slowed down last year with minimal activity at Intel and the UNM Childers Hospital layoffs. In 2005 I was told we had 3 to 5 years worth of work, unfortunately things slowed down through the winter. We have been dispatching members out to work and it seems that we will have full employment this spring. I have been told that our big Uranium Enrichment Plant in Eunice, New Mexico will be putting members to work later this fall. That should keep us working through the winter.

We currently have members working for API on the San Juan Power plant up in the Farmington, New Mexico area. It has been many years since our members have worked at this facility. This bag house project is scheduled to



East Side Sierra Providence Hospital El Paso, TX

CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD

We are once again approaching a critical time within our organization. Upcoming in May 2007 we will be holding nominations for all elected positions. Next year we will be facing another contract. Remember within any organization you can only be one of two people, either part of the problem or part of the solution. I would encourage everyone to become part of the solution. Every member has someone to offer.

The only way anyone will know your idea is if you offer it. So get involved and make your union stronger. We face a tough challenge in every area of our industry to increase our membership and stay competitive. It is easy to grow complacent and say we are doing fine. But in reality look at all the areas, population has increased, thus so should the size

of our union, if it is not growing the same rate as the non-union well then we are losing more and more work. These last several years have been very successful for this union, and I hope it will continue.

I would encourage every member to get involved in some way, by attending union meetings at least 3 times a year. I would also like to thank the current executive board for a fine job. They have made a tough decision but not without careful thought and consideration. One of their best decisions was to submit a by-law change to move the regular union meetings to Friday nights versus Saturday mornings.

As per the Constitution and Ritual, the first reading was in March so it will be read two more times and then be voted on at the May meeting.

I personally feel this will help make it easier to attend meetings, as Saturdays do interfere with family and activities. Also for the outlining areas (El Paso, Lubbock, Amarillo) it would be best to hold area meetings every quarter or so to keep them informed. If you are one of those people who could not make a Saturday meeting I would encourage you to begin attending and help get this changed. The goal of the union is to do what is best for the majority of the people and not exclude others; this to me would be a win, win situation. So please over the next several months get involved, share your ideas. It is easier for 350 people to solve any problem than 9. Choose now to become part of the solution!

Jerry Arms, President

TRAINING NEWS

Sheet Metal Workers LU #49 JATC was proud to host the 2007 Regional Contest here at the training facility on January 19-20. The contest has had major changes in the last few years making it more applicable to the industry. Now apprentices compete in categories of our trade versus year of apprentices. It is now divided into 5 areas: HVAC, Service, TAB, Architectural, and Industrial (welding). This year the following apprentices competed in this year's competition as follows; HVAC-Joshua McGinty (Design Build), Service-Charles Blomberg (Miller Bonded), and Industrial-Tyson Nemudrov (JB Henderson). All three contestants did a great job representing this local and Charles went on to win the regional contest thus he competed in the National Contest held in Indianapolis, ID on March 21-23. He placed 5th out of 12 contestants. Good job Charles!

We now have our welding facility up and fully running with a new Lincoln Electric filtered exhaust system (12 booths) and 9 new Miller Power Mig 350 welding machines. These machines are capable of doing Mig, DC Tig, and DC SMAW. We will be looking into the purchase of AC Tig machines to continue to do aluminum. Joe Giarratano is

scheduled to attend the CWI (Certified Welding Inspector) class to be held in April. Once he passes this class we will then take the next step and have the facility certified then we can begin welding certifications again.

We will be starting Journeyman refrigeration classes in the next few months. I will have information on exact dates on the website when it becomes available. The classes will be on Thursday nights and run through the summer. The training program will be undergoing more changes in the upcoming months as we seek to acquire another 3000 sq. ft to operate a large classroom and begin work on a TAB Lab. We are on now marketing for the recruitment of apprentices so more news to come in the future.

Jerry Arms, President

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NEWS FROM THE STATE LEGISLATURE

As many of you know the anniversary of the passing of our brother's Anthony Magoffe and Camerino Michel was April 1st. I would like to ask each of you that you take a moment to remember our brothers who passed on in the line of duty for our union and contractor.

Because of the passing of our brothers it brought to light a clause in the rental agreements that holds the rental and manufactures harmless if an incident or death arises due to poor maintenance or manufacture malfunction. Because of this clause Senate Bill 69 became a priority for Local 49 during the legislature. This bill is a true effort of Labor and Business partnering together, this bill was supported by the New Mexico Building Trades Council, Sheet Metal Workers Local 49, SMACNA New Mexico Chapter, U.A. Local 412, Plumbers and Pipe Fitters, and Local 611 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, along with the Construction Industries Associations.

Senate Bill 69, sponsored by Senator Pete Campos changes the fact that if an incident or death arises out of equipment failure the indemnification "hold harmless" clause will not be upheld. If the incident or death arises due to the contractor's lack of training, abuse, misuse, or negligence concerning the equipment the indemnity "hold harmless" clause is upheld. This makes each party responsible for their own actions. This assures safety to the construction workers in New Mexico holding rental companies to the highest standard of responsibility for providing safe, well-maintained and certified equipment. Furthermore, it ensures that our contractors provide their employees with the proper training to operate the rented equipment for its proper use.

WORK SAFE

Richard Espinosa, Business Agent

NEWS FROM WEST TEXAS-PANHANDLE

As the school year finally comes to an end, we have members whose kids will be graduating. In the past, the Texas AFL-CIO has given scholarships to some of our members' graduating seniors. Cody Clark, Ted Clark's son, was a recipient and graduated from the Police Academy in Denton, Texas. Angela Martinez, my daughter, received one and will be a junior at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. This year Jonathan Alvarez, son of Mike Alvarez, has applied for the scholarship and looks like he's got a good chance of getting it. We also have one apprentice who will finish this year's program, Joe Jimenez, will soon be a journeyman. Congratulations to all the seniors, apprentices, graduates and those pursuing degrees, for a great accomplishment!

We have been fortunate in keeping our entire membership working last year and looks like we will be able to keep everybody working for a while. Some of you might remember a turn-around we did at Owens Corning about 15 years ago. Well we're doing it again. Chapman Inc. out of Penn. will be working in Amarillo for about two months.

It appears we may have a journey-person license in place as early as the end of the year or the first of next year.

Finally I have nominated our newsletter The Rivet for "Newsletter of the Year". Hopefully we will know something in August.

Have a great year and work safe.

WORK SAFE Billy Martinez

Spring Is In The Air

Continued From Page 1

last all year. It is such a joy for me to see members working on a large hospital job in El Paso, Texas. I do not believe that we have had such big jobs there in the past 15 years. I know that with the hard work and craftsmanship of our members, Lewis and Lambert will continue to beat out the non-union shops for market share in El Paso. Amarillo and Lubbock currently have full employment with a shut down at Owens Corning Fiberglass in Amarillo. Thanks to all the members and travelers who have made the sacrifice to help us man that job since it is at a lower pay rate.

I am quite happy with the results of our organizing department. We have employed 3 youth to youth apprentices over the past year. These young men have gone in to work in non-union sheet metal shops and gathered up valuable information critical for us and our union contractor to help gain more market share for all of our futures. Joshua McGinty, Dominic Baca, and Pat Lucero have impressed non-union owners by being the model employees and proving that Local 49 has the best apprentices in the Industry. Our apprentices are the future leaders of this local. Keep up the good work.

You are all invite to our Apprentice appreciation luncheon on the third Saturday of May after our union meeting. I suspect that by then we will finish the remodel of our meeting room here at suite 110. In closing I want to wish everyone a safe and productive summer.

Let's work Safe.

Your Business Manager,
Raymond N. Diaz

NEWS FROM WEST TEXAS & SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO



*East Side Sierra Providence Hospital
El Paso, TX*

Business Manager - *Raymond Diaz*

Job Superintendent - *Joe Chazarreta*

Foreman - *Luis Cano*

Journeymen - *Herman Cesneros and
Pablo Mares*

Classified Worker - *Eric Balwin*

Apprentice - *Jaime Lugo*

Pre-apprentice's - *Siprian T. Rivas
Juan L. Ojeda
Esai A. Sandoval*

Hello to all. I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well. On this same note, good news is that U.S. Engineering Co. a large plumbing contractor, has subcontracted Lewis & Lambert Industries a union mechanical contractor from Dallas, TX all the sheet metal work. The New Eastside Sierra Providence Hospital currently has some of our Local Union members taking part in the construction of this large project.

I would like to congratulate Brother Javier Macias from Alamogordo, New Mexico on starting Macias Heating & Cooling, this make's his company one of our newest signatory residential contractors.

The work in Las Cruces has been a little slow lately, but we expect it to pick-up within the next couple of weeks. All the surrounding school districts are currently working on construction drawings to remodel current schools and the construction of new schools, starting from Pre-K schools all the way to new High Schools.

Finally, local elections are coming up, I encourage all of you brothers, sisters, family members and neighbors to get out and exercise your right to vote.

Until next time my friends, have a great summer.

Vince Alvarado





Pictured Left to Right:
*Dominic Baca, Jerry Arms and
 Patric Lucero*

JOBS DAY RALLY

Santa Fe, New Mexico

On Saturday, March 3, 2007 the hard working members and their families of all the Building Trades Unions volunteered to march on the State Capital Building (The Round House). This day is scheduled annually to let our Political officials know that organized labor is strong and health in New Mexico. After a nice lunch we make our presents know on the hill. I will be looking forward to seeing you there next year God willing.

Raymond N. Diaz



Left to Right:
Dan Rivera and Jon Weger

WHERE CAN YOU TURN FOR HELP WITH HEALTH CARE?

As a participant of the New Mexico Sheet Metal Health & Welfare fund you can also turn to your health plan administered through Southwest Service Administrators, Inc.

Southwest Service Administrators Medical Management department is available to assist you while you're in the hospital. They can help with getting your medically necessary equipment, home health care, transfers, and explain your coverage and benefits when you or a family member is in the hospital. They will be your health care advocate when you are faced with managing a complex process alone.

Southwest Service Medical Management department provides you with access to trained medical staff that will assist you in coordinating care. They can help you understand the disease process, what to expect and the steps you can take to reach your goals. They can help your

health care providers understand your health benefits and limit unnecessary spending.

Being a prudent health care user will keep you and your Health & Welfare Fund in tip top shape. We recommend that you arrange all your care from In-network providers. On the chance that you're out of network or that there are no providers within the network, Southwest Service Administrators can negotiate a discounted rate. Southwest Service Administrators is the reliable source for this information – not your providers or hospital discharge planners. Please use your health plan's services to ensure your out of pocket expenses are as low as possible.

Please call Southwest Service Medical Management at 505-265-8422 or 1-800-474-3485. They are there to help you.

Southwest Services Administration

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MAINTENANCE OF GOOD STANDING

Article Sixteen (16), Sec. 13(a). Responsibility for establishing and maintaining good standing in accordance with this Constitution rests entirely with each individual member.

As announced December 2006 Local 49 is now accepting VISA and MasterCard!

You can now pay your monthly dues by Check, Cash, Money Order, Visa, MasterCard or Bank Card (with Visa/MasterCard logo). We have made available to every member the opportunity to sign up for automatic payment of dues to be deducted monthly. Contact the union hall to make arrangements.

We also announced December 2006 that this office will no longer send out Courtesy Suspension Notices as we have in the past. It is the member's responsibility to keep his/her dues paid and current. After a two (2) month grace period, membership will be suspended and the member must re-instate his/her membership in order to return to work or to remain on the out of work list.