

# The Rivet

Local 49 Newsletter

PRIDE IN CRAFTSMANSHIP

JUNE 2011



www.smwlu49.org  
505-266-5878  
1-800-378-5878

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### Upcoming Events

**PIN AWARDS BANQUET**  
August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
7PM @ Sheraton Airport

**UNION MEETINGS**  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday  
of each month at 7PM

**RETIREE'S MEETINGS**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  
of each month at 10AM

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## UNION - is a 5 letter word that starts with U!

Greetings to all members of Sheet Metal Workers' Local #49. As you all know this year started a little slow, but things are starting to pick up and our out of work list is continuing to reduce in size. Last year's man-hours were the lowest Local 49 has ever had

bidding for projects against unfair competitors. Equalizing the difference between the wages paid to our members and non-union sheet metal workers on selected projects to put Local 49 members to work continues to be one of the important functions of the Local

### Jobs Day, Legislative Session



Union. Local Union 49 will continue to target projects to get jobs for our members.

As a result local 49 made some adjustments on the Health and Welfare and presented it to the membership. The membership voted to approve the change for a period of one year. Let's see how this economy shapes up this year. I would like to thank the members that served

on the survival committee and the membership that showed up to vote. The Organizing Department of the Local Union continue to protect prevailing wages on public works projects by making certain that

to deal with. As a result of the low man hours local 49 formed a "Survival Committee" to get input from members and contractors on how to combat this high unemployment of our members and regain our fair share of the market. Your Local Union has not slowed its vital use of Equality Funds in an effort to assist our signatory contractors

on the survival committee and the membership that showed up to vote. The Organizing Department of the Local Union continue to protect prevailing wages on public works projects by making certain that

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## From your Business Agent

### ENERGY DRINK WARNING

In recent months there have been issues of members failing their pre-employment physicals because of drinking energy drinks like **Red Bull, Monster and Rock-Star** prior to the physical. These drinks have large amounts of caffeine. The main health risk associated with consuming these quantities of caffeine is the **effect it has on heart rate and blood pressure**. With large doses of caffeine, the heart rate can become so accelerated that it may lead to an irregular or quickened heart beat. In most cases the doctor will have the member reschedule for a later time but the accelerated heart rate can last long after the initial effects of the drink. This is especially true if you combine smoking with the consumption of the energy drink with an end result of members unnecessarily failing their physical. Please keep in mind that prior to a pre-employment physical you should have no intake of caffeine including coffee, and you should also refrain from smoking.

### COMMUNICATING WITH MEMBERS

Local Union #49 is looking into better and faster ways of communicating with members and making sure everyone stays informed of Union related issues. As you all know technology has changed the way many of us now communicate. Many of us now have computers with email and internet access while many more now have cell phones with texting capabilities. If you have an email address or cell phone number that we need to be update our records you can email me at [respinosa@smwlu49.org](mailto:respinosa@smwlu49.org) or Mona our Office Manager at [mcalderson@smwlu49.org](mailto:mcalderson@smwlu49.org). In addition many of us use social networking like Face Book and Twitter to keep up with friends and family. We are now starting Face Book accounts and will do our best to keep them updated at least once a week. Look forward to seeing you on Face Book.

### OUT OF WORK LIST

Over the last two years the economy has beaten us down. We have had upwards of 25 to 35 percent unemployment in our Local, as work was slowing down members without a Journeyman Certificate in most cases, were the first to be let go. Work is slowly starting to pick up and we are getting members back to work but as work starts to pick up our signatory contractors will need Journeymen with their New Mexico Sheet Metal Journeyman Certificate. Currently on the Journeyman Out of Work List 50 percent of the members do not have their New Mexico Sheet Metal Journeyman Certificate. As you all know most of the New Mexico contractors require a Journeyman Certificate as a condition of employment. If you do not have a Sheet Metal Journeyman Certificate you need to take the time and money to invest in yourself by getting certified.

If you do not have your license, or you need to renew your license, applications are available at the Local #49 office or by contacting PSI at 1-800-733-9267. These applications require a notary. If you need one, Local #49 can notarize your application. If you need someone to certify your hours worked and your work experience, Jerry Arms, Vince Alvarado, Tim Vasquez and myself have been authorized by PSI as qualified persons to sign as the certifying party.

Richard Espinosa (ESPO)  
Business Agent

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**FDIC** 

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## Come One Come All and Celebrate With Us!!

Save the date *Sheet Metal Workers' Local #49* will be having our **PIN AWARDS BANQUET** for members in good standing with no break in service. We will also celebrate the apprenticeship completion class of 2011, on their advancement to journeyman status. The banquet will be on *Saturday August 20, 2011* and will be held at the Sheraton Airport from 7:00 pm to 12:00 pm. located at 2910 Yale Blvd. SE. Next to ABQ Sunport in Albuquerque, NM.

Please RSVP by July 29, 2011 by calling  
505-266-5878.

Let's all come out and support our brothers' and  
sisters' who will be receiving an award.

It doesn't matter whether you are just starting out as an Apprentice or becoming a Journeyman, you must always try to improve your skills. Take classes in the field you think may offer you more opportunities that may come along. You can be assured that they will come your way.

Assaults on the working class some of us have said this assault on the public sector unions is not our fight. This shortsighted stance is just a plain wrong. Once these people have destroyed public unions they will come after us. This difficult battle in front of us

will be much harder to win if we sit back and wait for the battle to come to us. We need get involved now. Not one person succeeds in life without the help of others. The first three letters of the word Union are U-N-I, which equates with U and I. We are a brotherhood that shares a common interest and we must be willing to help each other.

Our opponent's strategy in the war on working families is becoming ever clearer to us and the amazing audacity of the depth and breadth of their plans is shocking.

In closing, I would like you all to know how proud I  
am of this Local and that we are  
"UNION STRONG"

**Sincerely and Fraternally,**

Vince Alvarado  
Business Manager / FST

*You have got to unite in the same labor union and in the same  
political party and strike and vote together, and the hour you  
do that, the world is yours.*

-- Eugene V. Debs

## Training News

The Grant classes are continuing with the addition of the Phenolic Class. Class schedule and registration can be accessed by using the ITI website <http://www.sheetmetal-iti.org/> and click on the training catalog tab. The first class will be July 18-20 (17<sup>th</sup> for those traveling from out of town). The Phenolic is a 3 day course in which you can become a certified fabricator and installer of the Phenolic Duct. Also there will be more Benchmark classes for those wanting to become certified in Detailing and Fabrication.

The Continuing Education Calendar is posted on the website <http://smwlu49.org/> for the remaining portion of the year. You can contact the office to sign-up for the class you would like to take.

I would like to say a special thank you to all the contractors, Bob Ryan, and Jeep for taking time and talking to all the apprentices this year. This was a great success as the apprentices got to hear what contractors are expecting from employees and history of the local union.

We also completed the Regional Service class which was a 160 hour course designed to get apprentices ready to be in the service sector. We will be having the course again next year but it will be a 200 hour course.

Jerry Arms  
JATC Training Coordinator

# Albuquerque, Amarillo, Lubbock

**H**ope everyone is off to a good start this year. Work was slow at the beginning of 2011, but it has picked up some. I have been busy talking to contractors, making job visits, and representing Local 49 at various work related functions.

During the first part of this year I have been working on getting certified payrolls for jobs in Albuquerque, NM and Amarillo, TX. I received the payrolls for the Amarillo job, but in Albuquerque it has been a challenge. The new governor has fired the state labor board, and has Workforce Solutions in turmoil. With all the resistance to our objectives, Local 49 contracted a law firm for legal support. We need to take action like this so these government departments will give us the information they legally should. This way they know that Local 49 means business.

I visited job sites on the base. One of the jobs was THE FLIGHT SIMULATOR. I checked the job and it was good to see one of our union contractors on the job. I also had “salts” planted in 2 different nonunion companies. The salts gathered foreman’s and office staff’s phone #s, and gave me check stubs to verify Davis-Bacon wages. Local 49 was represented at the NM Legislature. Our members came to Santa Fe to help out with our cause. We had 12 members as well as 12 apprentices to help carry signs and banners. Our supporters in the State House of Representatives vote on keeping anti-union laws from becoming law. But the votes are getting close to not favoring us. We only had a few of the bills for wages and other pro-union laws passed by 2 or 3 votes. Only the Democrats voted for us. We as voters must defend against these anti-union laws. So, I went to the county court house and took the oath to become a vote registrar. I have signed up 21 people to vote since I became official. I can sign up anyone, so come see me and become a registered voter. It will only takes about 10 minutes of your time.

During this quarter Local 49 signed up a new contractor. Mares Mechanical out of Bernalillo, NM is now part of Local 49. This is a small shop, but I told him with the power and knowledge of our workforce he can be confident to bid on bigger jobs.

I also attended a Navajo job fair up in Farmington where one of our contractors has a job on the Reservation. This job fair was in a community center and the place was packed for hours. I spoke to a lot of the Navajo people who were there and they are definitely counting on this project so that they can get back to work. James Yellowman came there to help me. His help was greatly appreciated.

**Amarillo, TX** In March, member Charlie Thomas and I represented Local 49 at a “Step up to Success” career day for the high school kids. We gave these kids some “hands on projects” to do. We spoke to the classroom of kids telling them the aspects of our trade. We give these kids another option, if they can’t go to college. We had quite a few that were very interested.

**Lubbock, TX** I talked with the members at Anthony Mechanical we discussed work that should be coming up. While I was there I found out they were bidding on some real competitive jobs. I reminded them that Local 49 wanted to help. I had their estimators contact Vince and Espo to work on targeted jobs such as schools, community colleges and federal work.

Once back in Albuquerque, I continued my attack plans on the non-union contractors. I found negative information on one contractor, and we are now pursuing legal actions.

Life was going good until the morning of May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011. I lost my 22 yr. old son Alan Gomez. Some of you may have known or worked with Alan as he was a Sheet metal Worker too. He started the trade at 18 right out of high school. He was well loved and will be missed. I want to thank all of you, who sent cards, gave donations, and who just knew and cared for Alan. He was very smart, hardworking, and fearless.

I will continue to work for you, my brothers and sisters, for the good of our locals future.

Mike Gomez  
Organizer Local 49

## Robert L. Jimenez, Our Newest Journeyman Out of Amarillo, TX



left to right:

Marcel Palomo Jr., Robert Carrasco, Robert L. Jimenez, Ted Clark, Joe Jimenez, Vince Alvarado

## Training News from The Albuquerque JATC

We are wrapping up the year here for the local apprenticeship program and my first year as a full time instructor. Let me start by saying that I could not be happier with the apprentices. Their hard work and eager participation made this year a joy to be involved in and I look forward to many more years of the same. I would also like to thank the staff here at our local for their help and participation. Without their help, this year could not have been as successful as it was. I would like to thank our contractors for taking the time to come in and speak with our apprentices on the importance of values and hard work in our industry. Lastly, I would like to thank Bob Ryan for

opening all of our eyes on the history of this great apprenticeship program. As August approaches, we will begin yet another year here, with returning apprentices and new ones alike, continuing the ever evolving chain of trade instruction. And with the help of eager apprentices, experienced journeymen and foremen who are willing to help train these hard working apprentices, we will continue to turn out the best, most knowledgeable and hardest working men and women in the sheet metal industry.

**Thank you,**  
John Pennebaker  
JATC Training

## SASMI and Your Health and Welfare Deduction

**S**ASMI Health and Welfare Benefits refusal Form. Your local Union Health plan will AUTOMATICALLY BILL SASMI FOR YOUR HEALTH & WELFARE COVERAGE. The way it is set up now, is that when your banked hours run out SASMI automatically picks up your insurance coverage. Southwest Service Administrators sends you a letter, letting you know that the Fund Office / SWS will bill SASMI for your Health coverage unless you check the box and return this letter within 15 days.

On that letter there will be one box stating the following:

***I DO NOT WANT*** Southwest Service Administrators to bill SASMI for my health coverage for this period. I understand this election:

Is effective beginning with coverage for July 2011 and cannot be changed, and continues until my coverage is re-activated through employer paid contributions. I and my family **will not** have medical coverage and cannot file any medical, dental or pharmaceutical claims during this period.

If you want SASMI to pay for your Health and Welfare coverage, do nothing with this form.

## 3rd Year Apprentices Final Projects

This year, in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year program, we had our apprentices design and build their own version of a barbeque grill. The lesson was an attempt to train them in architectural sheet metal, welding, layout, design and many other key elements of the sheet metal industry.

As you can see from the photo, the class was a complete success! The amount of creativity and effort put out by these apprentices was monumental. There is no doubt in my mind that the future of our industry lies in very capable hands.



John Pennebaker  
JATC Instructor

**UNION - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

cheating, dishonest contractors pay the sheet metal union rate as listed on state and federally funded projects. These organizers are working to provide equal bidding opportunity for our signatory contractors which will help to put our members back to work. Without this continuous work enforcing the compliance on public funded projects our union contractors would have no chance of being successful against contractors who will, given the opportunity, pay less than the prevailing rate of pay.

**Sincerely and Fraternally,**  
 Vince Alvarado  
 Business Manager / FST

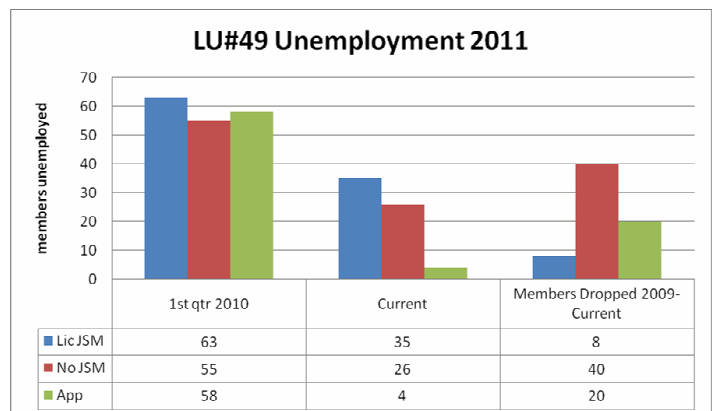
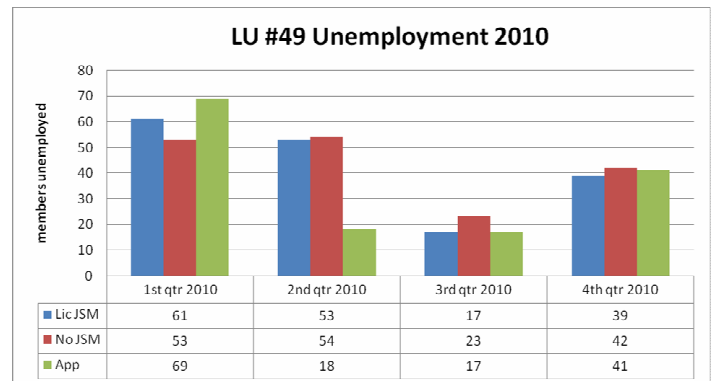
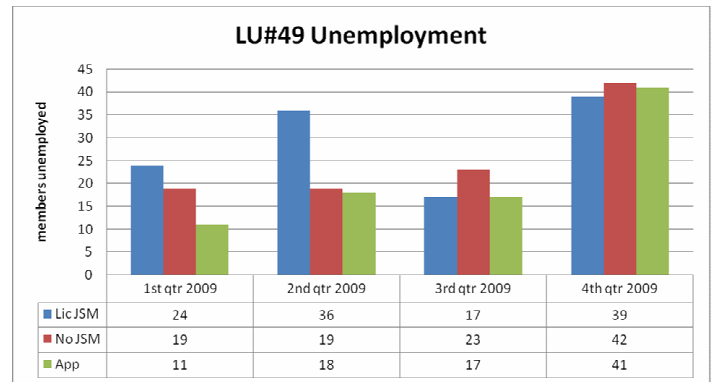
*In Unity there is Strength; we can move mountains when we're united and enjoy life. Without unity we are victims. Stay united.*

-- Bill Bailey

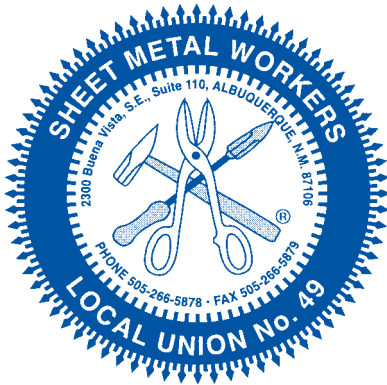
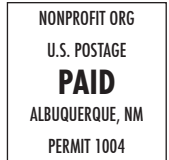
**Intel Job Site**



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Sheet Metal Workers' Local 49  
2300 Buena Vista S.E., Suite 110  
Albuquerque, N.M. 87106



[www.smwlu49.org](http://www.smwlu49.org)

**MISSION:**

To provide a better quality  
of life for the men and  
women and their families  
in the Sheet Metal Industry.



## **Southwest Service Administrator's Office**

**Southwest Service Administrators, Inc the plan administrator for SWMIA Local 49 is pleased to announce the opening of the Walk-In Service Center in Albuquerque.**

The office is located at 2300 Buena Vista SE suite 110-A same site as the Union Hall. The office hours will be Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM closing daily from 12:00-12:30 PM for lunch. This office will service your walk in needs such as claims status, eligibility status and general questions.

All of your CLAIMS and PAYMENTS will still need to be submitted to our Phoenix Office at 2400 W. Dunlap suite 250 Phoenix, AZ 85031.

You may continue to call the numbers that you are familiar with locally at 265-8422 x-7110 or toll free at 1-800-432-6636. We look forward to working with you.

Sam Salazar  
Southwest Service Administrators, Inc.  
Client Services Representative