

**NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 14, 2009**

*“There is very little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative.”*

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday with their family. WOW! The end of the year has come upon us rather quickly, can you believe it? Where has the year gone? We have experienced quite a bit this past year but have made it through!

We recently had our Annual Service Pin Awards Luncheon on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. There were approx. 70 members and their families in attendance. All of the recipients enjoyed the conversations and the BBQ.

We also had our Annual Christmas Party / Toy Drive this past Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank all who brought toys for the kids at Children’s Hospital. You have brought a smile to the face of some small sick child. This year we unfortunately will not be able to play “Santa”, as the CDC has initiated some new rules since the outbreak of the H1N1 (swine flu) virus.

We received a ruling in regards to the Inflatable Rat trial. Unfortunately it did not go our way, as President Chris Hannan was found guilty. He was ordered to pay a fine and court costs. We are in the process of discussing an appeal strategy with our Attorney Ellyn Moscovitz.

I received quite a number of calls these past couple of weeks regarding a recent mailer which was sent out. It stated “UNION DUES TO BE INCREASED”. Well let me tell you, the members of Local 709, that there has never been a thought nor any talk of us increasing dues. Besides, in order for something like that to happen there would have to be a resolution put before the body, and then it would go before the Executive Board for their recommendation, then there would be discussion one month and then the following month there would be more discussion and then a vote following that discussion. The vote count for it to pass would have to be 2/3rds of the members present voting for the resolution. Otherwise it would die. Local 709 has one of the lowest dues structures amongst all the sprinkler locals and to accomplish it, we run a very tight organization!

The election for Finance Committee and Examining Board was held this past Saturday at the Hall and the results are as follows (listed in order of votes received highest to lowest) (\* = Elected to office):

Finance Committee

James J Hosey\*  
Thomas Sirrs\*  
Louis Lucas\*  
John Holmes

Examining Board

Raymond Calderon\*  
Thomas Collister\*  
Robin Schledorn\*  
Kathleen Reyes  
Cesar Suarez

Congratulations to all of our new officers elected for the 2010-2012 period.

I would also like to take this time to congratulate those members who just recently retired. Just know that your retirement was well deserved and I wish you the very best in this new chapter of your life. Remember to stay involved with the Local by attending the Retiree events held each month. Enjoy!

**Union Holiday Reminder** – Christmas Day, Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and New Year’s Day, Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 are Local 709 holidays and any work done on those days is at the double-time rate.

**A Special Called Meeting for Nominations for Delegates to the 90<sup>th</sup> California State Pipe Trades Convention** will be held on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Local 709 James Duffy Meeting Hall at 12140 Rivera Rd., Whittier, CA 90606 at 5:30 pm. The Convention will be held in Monterey on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, May, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We are entitled to five (5) delegates to the Convention. The President and Business Manager are automatic delegates; therefore we will need to nominate at least three (3) additional delegates and one (1) alternate. Delegates must be members in good standing for a period of one year prior to the date of the election, meaning having no re-instatement fees charged to you for a period of one year. We will also have the installation of new officers at this meeting by Local 709's good friend, UA Special Representative Bob Lamb.

**A Special Called Meeting for the Election of Three (3) Delegates to the 90<sup>th</sup> California State Pipe Trades Convention** will be held on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at the Local 709 James Duffy Meeting Hall at 12140 Rivera Rd., Whittier, CA 90606 at 5:30 pm. We will elect three delegates and one alternate. In the event of a tie vote, a run-off election will immediately follow at the February 1<sup>st</sup> Special Called Meeting.

**Reminder that the SIS Pension Fund** will be in the process of changing providers from Wells Fargo to New York Life and thus there will be a blackout period from December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 through January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 while the final changes are put in place. For those of you which are receiving monthly withdrawals, that process will not stop.

**Reminder Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010** – \$0.10 per hour increase to Health & Welfare and \$0.50 per hour increase to Pension per the contract. This increase in contributions is from the contractors. A new wage sheet is enclosed.

**We are Saddened to Report the passing of** Lifetime Members Virgil M. Fees and Kenneth J. Weaver, and Brother Gregory R. Paige. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends during this time of loss. They will surely be missed.

**I'd like to wish every member and their family, a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!! See you in 2010!!**

Fraternally yours,



Michael P. Huerta  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

***Dates to Remember:***

*December 25, 2009 – Christmas Day Holiday (Double-time)*

*January 1, 2010 – New Year's Day Holiday (Double-time)*

*January 4, 2010 – Special Called Meeting for the Nomination of Delegates to the 90<sup>th</sup> California State Pipe Trades Convention and the Installation of Officers*

*February 1, 2010 – Special Called Meeting for the Election of Delegates to the 90<sup>th</sup> California State Pipe Trades Convention*

*February 15, 2010 – President's Day Holiday (Double-time)*

*February 24, 2010 – Retiree Potluck / Bingo*

Reminder Check payable to: LOCAL 709

Check/Money Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Journeyman \$26; Apprentice \$26; Residential \$24; Retired (65 B4 12/31/01) \$15; Retired (65 B4 12/31/06) \$19; Retired (All Other) \$20 Mail to: 12140 Rivera Road., Whittier, CA 90606	
Amount \$	
<b>Month(s) Paying:</b>	
<b>Initiation Due:</b>	
<b>Death Assessment:</b>	<b>\$21 for 2008</b>
<b>Reinstatement Fee:</b>	