

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 14, 2008

“Don’t think of retiring from the world until the world will be sorry that you retire.”

It was September of 1971 when I began my journey with Local 709. I spent a few years with Automatic of America and Viking Fire Protection before finding my home of 16 years with Allan Automatic Sprinkler. Over the years I became an active member of three Negotiating Committees and through the negotiations in 1995 I was appointed as Agent. In 1997 I was elected President and served six years in that office and as Business Agent. Then in 2003 you elected me your Business Manager/Financial Secretary and again re-elected me in 2006.

When I ran for Business Manager I was 52 and the youngest Agent we had. In my campaign letter of 2003 I wrote that it was my goal “to bring in new agents who will learn from my experience and have the opportunity to show you their strengths and capabilities for the future. They will have the time to prove themselves worthy of your support.” I believe that has been accomplished.

I also promised to keep Local 709 on a sound financial course. Each year’s audit has shown our Local with more money in the bank than ever before and we achieved it with one of the lowest dues structures in the country. You can thank our hard working officers and agents for this success because it is due to their organizing, signing new contractors, going after the non-union, control of the PLA work and new project agreements. Also, our new contract is in place and in effect until 2011. I am very proud Local 709 is in such great shape. My job is done.

Now here comes the hard part. I am sorry to say that I have to resign effective March 1, 2009 for medical reasons. I have been dealing with multiple ongoing health problems for some time but have tried to keep it private. My doctors suggested possibly a leave of absence or part time work, but I told them the same thing I tell all of you: There is no light duty in sprinkler work. You all deserve a full time Business Manager. I will always be supportive to Local 709. I will only be a phone call away. As our By-Laws require, President Mike Huerta will take over as Business Manager until a special election is held within 90 days of the date my office is vacated. It is time for me to retire and take care of myself for a change. I want to spend time with my wife, Linda and be around to watch my grandson, Matthew Salvatore, grow up; to stop and smell the roses.

A Special Called Meeting for Election of Three (3) Delegates to the 89th California State Pipe Trades Convention will be held on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 5:30 pm at the Local 709 James Duffy Meeting Hall at 12140 Rivera Rd., Whittier, CA 90606. Delegates must be members in good standing for a period of one year prior to date of the election. The President and Business Manager are automatic delegates. We will elect three delegates and one alternate. Nominees are Ray Calderon, Todd Golden, Chris Hannan and Kathy Reyes. In the event of a tie vote, a run-off election will immediately follow at the February 2nd Special Called Meeting.

Welding Certification Classes are now available for journeymen and apprentices who are on the out of work list. They are being offered through Local 250 and PIPE. If you are interested, please contact Robin or John at the hall, (562) 907-7622, and they will set it up for you.

TWIC (Transportation Workers Identification Card) will soon be required on many government jobs. Application packets will be sent out to all members as soon as available. For those members on the out of work list, Local 709 will subsidize your application fee if you meet the TWIC eligibility requirements. Please contact President Mike Huerta for more information.

2008 Base Dues Statements from Local 709 have been mailed out. Please call Judy at the hall if you do not receive your statement.

2008 Working Dues Tax Statements are mailed directly from the Building Trades Federal Credit Union. If you do not receive your tax statement, please contact the Credit Union directly at (714) 704-2800.

Death Assessments for 2008 are \$21.00 (7 deaths @ \$3.00 each) and are **due now**. Please send in your payment immediately. According to the U.A Constitution and By-Laws, any payment received must first be applied to the death assessment before applying to your dues. Death assessments are not paid by retired members.

Reminder: Effective January 1, 2009 there is a \$0.60 per hour increase to Benefits (\$0.50 to Health & Welfare and \$0.10 to Pension) to be paid by the Contractor, per our agreement. See enclosed wage sheet.

We are Saddened to Report the passing of Local 709 Brother A.T. Dickerson and Local 250 Assistant Manager Art Guzman. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all their families and friends during this time of loss.

"Few men of action have been able to make a graceful exit at the appropriate time."

I hope I do.

Fraternally yours,



Sal A. Chiaravalloti
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dates to Remember:

February 1, 2009 – Dues are Due

February 2, 2009 – Special Called Meeting for Election of Delegates to State Pipe Trades Convention

February 16, 2009 – Presidents Day Holiday (Double-time rate)

March 1, 2009 – Dues are Due

The Newsletter is also available online at www.sprinklerfitters709.org.

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 \$	
Month(s) Paying:	
Initiation Due:	
Death Assessment:	\$21 for 2008
Reinstatement Fee:	