

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 8, 2010

“I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to oneself and 90% how one reacts to it.”

The holiday season is over and a new year is upon us. I hope everyone had an enjoyable time with family and friends during this holiday season. We made it through a rather tough year and have embarked on a new year. I wish I had good news and could tell everyone when this recession would be over, however I do not have a crystal ball. All indications for now are showing that we are not quite through the recession. So we need to hang in there and ride this out until things begin to pick up.

At this month's Special Called Meeting, delegates were nominated for the 90th California State Pipe Trades Convention. Those nominated were Ray Calderon, Todd Golden, Ray Denis, and Vince Hollins. A Special Called Meeting for the election of three (3) delegates to the 90th California State Pipe Trades Convention will be held on Monday, February 1st, 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 1st Special Called Meeting.

Brothers and Sisters, it is amazing at how many members have been assessed a re-instatement fee and are therefore ineligible to vote and/or run for office, committees, or conventions. Remember that a re-instatement fee is applied when you have gone 3 months plus a day without paying your dues. Section 157 of the U.A. Constitution states, “A member owing over 3 months’ dues shall automatically be suspended from membership without notice of any kind. A suspended member is denied all rights and privileges and is not entitled to any monetary benefits.” This means that if you are working you may be removed from the jobsite and replaced or if on the out-of-work list, you would be removed from the list. You would also lose all voting privileges for a period of one year and you could also be denied entrance to Union meetings. Brothers and Sisters, I am not trying to be a hard nose about this but I do not think that it is fair for those members that pay their dues on time to support those that do not pay on time. As of the last election, the Local has a total membership of 975, 168 of which are apprentices, which leaves us with 807 journeymen and retirees. Of which 50% are eligible to run for office or committees and only 65% are eligible to vote. Which means that 35% of the Local has been assessed an r-fee in the last 12 months and 50% of the Local has had an r-fee assessed in the last 24 months!! This needs to change! So we will begin to send a reminder notice to those of you that are about to receive an r-fee and if you do not take care of your business, then you may be visited and removed.

Brothers and Sisters, I shouldn't have to remind you that this is your Local Union and not just a select few. It is your responsibility to attend meetings to be properly informed of the activities of your Union. Back at the October meeting, it was announced in the Executive Board report that a bill was paid for the JAC. Since then there have been some questions regarding the JAC. So at the February meeting we will have a discussion.

Union Holiday Reminder –Monday, February 15th, 2010 is a Local 709 holiday and any work done on this day is at the double-time rate.

Tax Information has been mailed out to each member. If you did not receive it, please contact Maribel or Judy @ the hall.

Reminder that the SIS Pension Fund is in the process of changing providers from Wells Fargo to New York Life. The blackout period will last until January 17th, 2010. After which you may view your account online @ www.bcomplete.com, you will need to setup a new username and password to access your information. Or you may call toll-free @ 1-800-294-3575, Monday through Friday, 8am to 10 pm EST.

Reminder for those members changing classifications – i.e. Journeyman to Retiree or Apprentice to Journeyman. Turn in your membership cards so that they may be updated by the UA.

Reminder that if you are on Disability, you need to provide us with a full return to work clearance. Meaning that you are 100% ready to return back to work, no light duty, limited or partial return to work. Remember that this industry has no light duty work period!

Reminder about Death Assessment – Death assessments must be paid in full before any monies may be applied towards monthly dues. In 2009, Local 709 experienced a loss of 13 members. Therefore 13 members @ \$3.00 ea. = \$39.00 death assessment. Retirees and Residential members are not required to pay death assessment per Local 709’s Constitution & By-Laws. For those of you that are on automatic withdrawal through Union Yes Federal Credit Union or another banking institution, please remember that any payments received in February will go towards the death assessment resulting in a missed monthly dues payment unless you pay the assessment in advance. Please pay this in advance so as to avoid falling a month behind on dues (as this had happened last year to several members). If you have any questions, please contact Maribel or Judy at the hall.

Fraternally yours,



Michael P. Huerta
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dates to Remember:

February 1, 2010 – Special Called Meeting for the Election of Delegates to the 90th 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 \$	
Month(s) Paying:	
Initiation Due:	
Death Assessment:	\$39 for 2009
Reinstatement Fee:	

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