

NEWSLETTER –MARCH 9, 2009

“Change is a challenge and an opportunity, not a threat.”

As previously stated in the last two newsletters, with the resignation of the Business Manager, Sal Chiaravalloti, and per the Constitution and By-Laws of Local 709, I assumed the office of Business Manager at our last meeting on March 2, 2009, pending a Special Election to fill the unexpired term. Also at the March 2, 2009 meeting I tendered my resignation from the office of President, effective March 3, 2009. In doing so I abided by the Constitution and By-Laws of Local 709, by not holding more than one office and to also assure that the Local Union checks have the required two signatures. With my resignation the Vice-President, Chris Hannan, will assume the President’s office along with all related duties and after having been briefed previously about my resignation, the Executive Board has chosen William J. Small to be the Vice-President pending the Special Election to fill the unexpired term. Our attorney Jeff Cutler has provided us with his legal opinion of the situation during this transition of officers pending the Special Election and we are following such advice.

A summary of the offices that have changed recently and may be changing in the next 90 days:

President +	Chris Hannan
Vice-President *	William J. Small
Business Manager *	Michael Huerta

+ = No change in office until 12-31-2009.

* = Special Nomination & Election to fill Office for the unexpired term, until 12-31-2009.

One of Sal’s last duties was to attend the NASI Health & Welfare and Pension Funds Trustees meeting in Detroit. Sal advised me that it was not a very pleasant meeting. There the trustees were informed that the Pension Fund has lost over \$1 Billion Dollars (previously in the “Green Zone” and valued at over \$3.2 Billion Dollars) and are not sure which zone it may be certified as being in (“Green”, “Yellow”, or “Red”), along with the possibility of losing even more money. Now no one, not even the trustees, are sure of what it will take to help alleviate the loss, pending a large gain in the stock market. So we, being the working members of Local 709, must all be prepared for some changes to take place in the near future in order for the Pension Plan to survive. If you are currently retired there should be no change in your retirement benefits. I shall keep everyone informed of any changes passed by the trustees (of which I am not one).

On one last note, I want to personally thank Sal for all his hard work done on behalf of Local 709 and to wish him and his wife, Linda, a happy, healthy, safe and long retirement. Enjoy the Dodger tickets and have a cold one for us! We will definitely miss you in the office and try not to forget your coffee cup!

A Special Called Meeting for Nominations for the Offices of Vice President and Business Manager will be held on April 6, 2009 at 5:30 pm at the Local 709 James Duffy III Meeting Hall at 12140 Rivera Rd., Whittier, CA 90606. These nominations for office are to fulfill the unexpired terms through December 31, 2009 only. Also at this meeting, the recently conducted Audit will be presented to the Executive Board and membership, by our Auditor, Ken Homer of Miller, Kaplan, and Arase.

A Special Called Meeting for the Election for the Offices of Vice President and Business Manager will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Local 709 James Duffy III Meeting Hall at 12140 Rivera Rd., Whittier, CA 90606. The Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. In the event of a tie, there will be a Run-off Election held on Saturday, May 23, 2009. It too will have the Polls open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eligibility to vote at a Local Union election is stated in Sec. 124: "No member shall vote at any election of any description unless he or she has been a member in good standing in the Local Union where the vote is being taken for a period of one (1) year immediately prior to the date of election. Any member who owes or has paid a Re-instatement Fee within a period of one (1) year immediately prior to the date of election shall not be eligible to vote in any Local Union election." I hope to see all eligible members out there to vote.

California State Pipe Trades Scholarship Contest applications are being accepted until March 31, 2009. This is an excellent opportunity for your son or daughter to be awarded \$2,500 for their four-year college education. Please contact Judy or Maribel at the hall for further information and applications or visit the www.calpipes.org website.

Welding Certification Classes are still 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 Schledorn or John Holmes at Local 709 (562) 907-7622 and they will set it up for you.

TWIC (Transportation Workers Identification Credential) will soon be required on many government jobs. For those members on the out of work list, Local 709 will subsidize your application fee if you meet the TWIC eligibility requirements. Please call me for more information.

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

2008 Tax Statements were mailed directly from the Building Trades Federal Credit Union. If you did 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.

Anglers interested in a day of Sport fishing, should contact Local 709 member Robin Hillis at (562) 531-8636 or (562) 818-4628.

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

Fraternally yours,



Michael P. Huerta
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dates to Remember:

March 17, 2009 – Retiree Meeting

March 31, 2009 – Deadline for California Pipe Trades Contest

April 1, 2009 – Monthly Base Dues are Due and Payable

April 6, 2009 – Special Called Union Meeting for the Presentation of the Audit and Nominations
For the Offices of Vice President and Business Manager

April 23, 2009 – Retiree Golf Tournament

May 1, 2009 – Monthly Base Dues are Due and Payable

May 2, 2009 – Polls Open for Special Election of Vice President and Business Manager

May 4, 2009 – Union Meeting

May 7-10, 2009 – California State Pipe Trades Convention, Palm Springs

May 23, 2009 –Run-off Election (If Needed)

May 25, 2009 – Memorial Day Holiday (Double-time rate)

May 27, 2009 – 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: \$21 for 2008

Reinstatement Fee:

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