



# U.A. LOCAL 324 NEWSLETTER

## FALL 2017

### Business Managers Report



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

As we turn the clocks back and head into fall the work picture remains busy in all construction sectors on Vancouver Island. Our success continues to show by the amount of projects our contractors have secured for our members. I believe our members are the most experienced and dedicated piping trade professionals on Vancouver Island. The construction sector on Vancouver Island looks bright for the foreseeable future. We need to be mindful when it comes to supplying enough manpower for the future. Consideration needs to be given to our members entering retirement over the next 5 years and is therefore imperative that we recruit and allow the youth entering the trades to start planting the seeds for future growth in Local 324. Local 324 initiates approximately 30 first year apprentices every year. Based on the growing demand that number will need to increase. The BC NDP government has announced additional funding for shop training in high schools. This is a great start and I feel more attention/education needs to be taught to the youth to help increase the awareness of opportunities in the piping trades. Our growth in membership is directly related with the increase of our market share. Also, many of our signatory contractors are expanding their office staff to accommodate the increased work load. I am currently moving forward with a marketing plan to grow our plumbing service sector. The UA had started the Plumbers 911 marketing program in the United States approximately 5 years ago. The program has helped many UA locals increase man hours and expand their memberships. Local 324 has signed onto the program with the UA and we are currently awaiting the official trademark approval in Canada. Once we are up and running we will be the first Canadian UA Local to embark on this marketing initiative. I'm excited about growing the plumbing service sector which I believe will provide continuous employment for some of our members.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the members voted on the Victoria Shipyard collective agreement. The members accepted a 5 year agreement with a 1<sup>st</sup> year signing bonus, 2<sup>nd</sup> year 3.75%, 3<sup>rd</sup> year 2% plus \$0.20 fringe benefit, 4<sup>th</sup> year 2% plus \$0.10 fringe benefit, 5<sup>th</sup> year 2% plus \$0.10 fringe benefit.

UA Local 324 started off our annual charity events in July with the Fishing Derby held at Pedder Bay Marina, which had over 60 members looking to catch the largest salmon & bottom fish. Next was our annual charity golf tournament at Olympic View with 64 members in attendance. Both events were well attended with partial proceeds going to local charities. BC wild fires caused significant damage and decimated many parts of our province this summer. Local 324 members realized the devastation that the fires had on families and stepped up to donate \$2000 to the Canadian Red Cross BC Wild Fire relief fund. The 50/50 draw at the golf tournament raised \$370 that will provide two families with food hampers over the upcoming holiday season. On September 12<sup>th</sup> we invited Joe Roberts "Push for Change" to give a presentation to our members. "Push for Change" is about helping end youth homelessness. Members passed a motion to donate \$5000 to this very important cause. I'm very proud of our membership for donating to all of these charities!

#### [New Projects Secured](#)

**South Island Projects;** Camosun College Health Sciences Bldg, UVIC Health Sciences Bldg, UVIC District Energy Project, The Encore, 989 Johnson St, Capital Park Phase 2, The Juke Box, The Summit at Quadra Village, Royal Roads Centre for Environmental Sciences, Pacific Christian Elementary School, Knox affordable housing, Pacific Landing Phase 2, Hayward Condo, Island West Manufacturing, Trillium Seniors Care Facility.

## **Business Managers Report...continued**

*North Island Projects*; VIU Health Sciences Building, Nanaimo Christian School, Pinecrest School, Cumberland Energy Upgrade, Port Hardy Airport, Cape Mudge

### **Victoria Shipyard**

We will be entering a very busy time in the shipyard. December 1<sup>st</sup> we will see the Star Princess Cruise ship coming in for 7 days. December 15<sup>th</sup> is the start of the North Star LNG conversion which will continue through Jan 2018. December 20<sup>th</sup> we will see the OSFV arrive at Ogden Point until April 2018. In March we will see the HMCS Winnipeg arrive for a 6 month refit. In May, The Anzak New Zealand Frigate will arrive for a 6 month refit. This is positive news for our members looking for an opportunity to work at the shipyard.

### **Health and Wellness**

Opioid Crisis - As everyone is aware there is a major issue regarding opioid drug use in BC. The construction sector is proving to show a higher use / deaths based on statistic data. I would like the membership to know that we have both an Employee Assistance Program and a Construction Industry Rehabilitation Program to help our members in need. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you require any assistance. Any inquiry or information provided to our members is always kept strictly confidential.

### **Joint Conference Board**

Brother Alasdair Reid was elected to the JCB Committee in October. Congratulations to Alasdair and thank you to all nominees that ran in the election.

Fraternally yours,

Jim Noon  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary



## **MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE JANUARY 1, 2018**

### **OWING TO THE ACTION OF THE 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL UA CONVENTION**

ON JANUARY 1, 2018 THE MONTHLY DUES OF EACH MEMBER WHO HAS NOT REACHED AGE 65 WILL AUTOMATICALLY INCREASE BY \$2.00 PER MONTH OVER AND ABOVE THE AMOUNT OF MONTHLY DUES THAT WAS IN EFFECT IN THE LOCAL UNION ON DECEMBER 31, 2017

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018 **MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL INCREASE** FROM \$39 PER MONTH TO **\$41 PER MONTH**. ANNUAL DUES INCREASES TO \$492.00

## **~ IN MEMORY 2017 ~**

**Alex Caird**  
**John O'Neill**

**GUNTER SCHNARR**  
**JAN EILERTSEN**  
**KEN SANDWITH SR.**

**DARREN MANN**  
**Al Hickman**

## JOINT TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

**Apprenticeship competitions** this summer started the same way as we left off in the Spring, flying high. Early June at the Skills Canada Competition in Winnipeg Manitoba, saw **Kyle Horne win the gold medal** in steamfitting and the additional honour as the top competitor for the province at the event.

Three of our apprentices who won at the **Western Canadian Pipe Trades Apprenticeship Competition** went on to compete in Toronto, Ontario at Local 46 in the U.A. National Apprenticeship Competition.



**Colin Hosokawa (sprinklerfitter), Kyle Horne (steamfitter), and Jameson Moore (plumber)** all competed with vigor and great resolve. These apprentices represented our local proudly and faced their challenges head on. It was a great week for all of them. Jameson came out on top at the Nationals, winning Best Plumbing Apprentice as well as receiving the Winning Attitude Award. To receive this award, all the competing apprentices vote for the apprentice they believe represents the best qualities in an apprentice. After his win at the National, Jameson went on to compete at the International competition in Ann Arbor Michigan, August 11-17. Jameson represented our local with benevolence and integrity.

### Course Updates

In September, eleven 324 members successfully completed the **NAUSC Fire Sprinkler Inspection Testing and Maintenance** course which was led by Brother Ron Perkin. This was a 40 hour course that ensures the proper inspection testing and maintenance of water based sprinkler systems are followed as per NFPA 25.

October has seen the start of another **NAUSC Foreman** course led by Brother Dave Small. This course is also 40 hours in duration and will run through to the end of November.

The **CSA/NAUSC Medical Gas** course is on schedule to start in December, running through January. This course will be co-led by Brothers Alasdair Reid, Bob McPherson, and Jamie McPherson.

In 2018 we will run our first Construction Organizing Membership Education Training (COMET) course to be led by Brother Shawn Kuemper. We are also planning another NAUSC Shop Steward Course. Dates for both courses are not yet confirmed but if you are interested in attending, please send your name to Haylee at [haylee@ualocal324.com](mailto:haylee@ualocal324.com)

Regards

Jamie McPherson  
Training Director UA Local 324



### UNION OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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### CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The union office will be closed from noon on Friday, December 22nd through Monday, January 1, 2018

**We will re open Tuesday, January 2, 2018**



## ANNUAL CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Sunday, December 17, 2017 12:00 TO 4:00 PM  
at the Da Vinci Hall 195 Bay Street Victoria

Please Register children 10 years of age and under at the Union Hall  
250-382-0415 Toll Free for Up Island Residents 1-888-382-0415

Registration Deadline ~ Friday December 8th

We will be accepting Donations at the door to give to Santa's Anonymous

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**HEALTH & WELFARE** Please watch for a Health and Welfare Notice arriving before the new year that will outline the upcoming benefit changes that take effect January 1, 2018. New booklets will also be arriving in the new year.

**MSP Reimbursements are underway** Premiums are currently being reimbursed to the end of September 2017. Maximum reimbursement is 12 months. Proof of paid premiums may be emailed to Jan directly, faxed or dropped off at the hall.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The deadline for submission of 2017 extended health benefits receipts to D.A. Townley is June 30, 2018. Claim forms are available on the website or at the union office.

**Pension Benefit increases effective January 1, 2018!** Unreduced retirement date changed from age 64 to age 62. 5% benefit increase to members, former members, retired members, spouses and beneficiaries! Watch for a detailed Pension notice coming before the new year.

**On line courses available** WHMIS, Confined Space, Fall Arrest, Asbestos Awareness. If you request an on-line course, PLEASE ensure you complete it! Please email Haylee to request your enrolment.

**Ticket Renewals** MTPF provides reimbursement for the renewals of Gas, Cross Connection Control and certain Welding Tickets. Reimbursement may take 4-6 weeks. Submit your renewals to Jan by email or drop off at union office.

**Address & Phone number updates** Please remember to call the hall to advise of changes to phone numbers and addresses to keep your information current.

### Upcoming 2017 & 2018 Holidays

Christmas Day	~	Monday, December 25th, 2017
Boxing Day	~	Tuesday, December 26th, 2017
New Years Day	~	Monday, January 1st, 2018
Family Day	~	Monday, February 12th, 2018
Good Friday	~	Friday, March 30th, 2018
Easter Monday	~	Monday, April 2nd, 2018
Victoria Day	~	Monday, May 21st, 2018

