

PIPED-IN



Jim Noon

Jim Noon

Business Manager
Financial Secretary

Stefan Plusa

President
Union Representative

Gord Wickett

Vice President

Darren Vaux

Training Director

Jan Lageri

Office Manager

Haylee Downey

Apprenticeship Training



Business Managers Report

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

It has now been over 15 months since the Covid-19 pandemic started here in BC. I know it has been difficult for everyone coping with the changes as well as abiding by all the protocols. The third wave has been challenging. We have had covid outbreaks on a few of our jobsites with some members testing positive for covid, and the site closed. I am happy to report these members have recovered and the sites reopened. As BC prepares to re open the Province and lift protocols, we need to continue to work safe on our jobsites. As you are aware, handwash stations were installed on jobsites at the beginning of the first wave of the pandemic and continue to help keep our members safe. We continue to work toward changes for better toilet facilities. This has been an issue for decades and our members deserve better. I brought this concern forward to the BC Building Trades and they acted on this matter. The BCBT hired an independent company to write a report on the need for flush toilets. This was a thorough report which outlined many reasons why improvements are needed. The report will be sent to government for review, and I am hoping we will see some positive legislative changes in the near future. Members can support this change by signing a petition at www.getflushed.ca.

The work picture has been fairly slow for the first quarter of 2021. Many of the larger projects secured are still a couple months away from taking off. We continue to secure a number of residential condos which is great news for our members. I believe low interest rates and the demand for housing continues to drive the condo sector. The institutional and commercial work is steady with many schools, university/college and hospital expansions. Industrial work is about to get busy with the recent announcement that Paper Excellence is looking to make a significant capital investment at the Crofton Pulp mill. This is promising news for our industrial sector which has been somewhat quiet for a few years. We are also anticipating many travel card opportunities for members especially at the Kitimat LNG project.

Seaspan: The Cornerbrook Submarine work is beginning to wind down, but work on the Chicoutimi will start to increase. The Chicoutimi is slated to undock at the end of summer. Ottawa phase 1 is almost complete and work on phase 2 has started with a completion date of Sept 30th. The HMCS Regina is expected to arrive in October, this is another year long refit. The tote ship Midnight Sun is expected to arrive mid-December and depart mid-February.

I hope you and your family continue to remain safe during these unpredictable times as I believe covid case counts will decrease with the ongoing delivery of vaccines.

Recently secured projects;

Victoria High School, 4000 Seymour, Dockside Green Condo's, Sooke & Drennan M 'Kola affordable housing, Children of the island Day Care, Gorge Road Hospital Victoria Clinic Renovation, The Wedge Condo, The Skinny Condo, The Pearl Condo, Cook St Condo, Amica Somerset Seniors, Duncan RCMP Station, ICU Expansion Nanaimo Hospital, Nanaimo Correction Center, Hamond Bay Elementary, CFB Comox Heating Upgrade.



Brother David Ell

Jamie McPherson Appointed UA Canada Training Specialist

Director of Canadian Affairs, Terry Snooks, appointed **Bro Jamie McPherson** as the new Training Specialist for UA Canada on April 26th, 2021. Due to this appointment, Jamie will be stepping down as our Joint Training Director, President, and JCB member. For the past 12 years, Jamie has managed the training needs for our members and contractors with dedication and success. He has been our union president for 13 years and has done a proficient job in conducting our General union meetings each month. Jamie has been a member of our Joint Conference Board and has been through numerous collective bargaining sessions and dealt with settling grievance disputes for our members. Jamie will be remaining on the PPBS and MTPF committees and will continue on the JCB negotiating committee until a new agreement has been ratified. On behalf of all the officers and members of UA 324, I would like to wish Jamie all the best in his new position!

New Appointments

I am pleased to announce the appointments of **Brother Darren Vaux** as our new Joint Training Director/Coordinator and **Brother Landon Martin** to the Joint Conference Board Committee. **Brother Stefan Plusa** has been appointed to the position of Union President. Darren, Landon and Stefan began their new roles on April 26th, 2021. I am confident that all three will represent our members well in their new positions.

Fraternally Yours,

Jim Noon

Business Manager/Financial Secretary



Training Report

By Jamie McPherson

We are starting to upload different courses onto Local 324's D2L portal, for various subjects, including; Cross Connection Control, Gas B, and various levels of apprenticeship training. We still do not have firm dates for any face-to-face training but we are hopeful that we may be able to start early fall 2021. Courses that will be top of the list are NAUSC Supervision Level 1 & Level 2, CSA Medical Gas, and NAUSC Inspection, Testing, & Maintenance of Water Based Systems.

A message from Jamie McPherson

Spring air has moved onto Vancouver Island and with it some new changes. I stepped down as Joint Training Director, President, and JCB member on April 25, 2021 to tackle a new role with UA Canada as a Training Specialist. It has been a great honour and privilege to serve this local as Joint Training Director for the past 12 1/2+ years. I will be looking after a lot of the development for the UA Canada LMS based courses which will help not only our membership but members across this country and the US. Brother Jim Noon has made an excellent choice in a replacement with brother Darren Vaux filling the role as Joint Training Director. Darren will continue to deliver great

and expanding training opportunities as we come out of this pandemic. Working with Darren for as long as I have, I have great confidence that the local will be in good hands.

I would like to thank all the Vancouver Island Piping Industry Joint Training Committee members and instructors that I have had the privilege to work with over the last 16 years for their dedication and support. I would especially like to thank VIPIJTC chairman brother Terry Caird and brother Bob McPherson. Both of these 50+ year members have stepped down from the committee after many years of service. Their dedication to training in this local has always been a passion of both of theirs.

*All the best
Jamie McPherson
Training Director*



Dispatch Update

by Stefan Plusa, Union Representative

The work picture for multi story residential and commercial work has started to pick up and we are antipating steady dispatching throughout the summer and into the fall.

The work picture for Pipefitters should start to increase due to an upcoming shutdown in Crofton in June, and for the incoming calls for travel cards to Kitimat. Due to a BC first rule, Local 170 is obligated to call us first for travel cards and we have compiled a list of members who are interested in travel card work. We will call members in order from the available list. Currently we have 11 members working in Kitimat and we hope to see more calls come soon. The jobsite is only accepting Red Seal Steamfitters, and ITA registered Steamfitting Apprentices at this time. Chartered flights to Kitimat will leave the island from Nanaimo. At dispatch, a current drug test will be required. Do not get a drug test until you are contacted to do so. THC should be refrained from use for at least 30 days to ensure a pass. WHMIS 2015 is required and an online course will be provided to you if you do not have it.

The Shipyards while currently quiet, should begin to pick up in the fall when the HMCS Regina and the Toteship arrive.



Brother Scott Brett

IMIRA/UA 324 and Victoria Shipyard Negotiations Update

Collective bargaining for the renewal of the commercial/institutional agreement commenced with our IMIRA contractors on March 2nd and concluded on April 21st with a Memorandum of Agreement. A special Called Meeting notice was mailed to members to participate in the virtual meeting on May 13th. A review of the memorandum was provided at this meeting. On May 18th, a ballot with mail in voting instructions was mailed to members. The deadline for the mail-in ballots to be returned is June 9th, by 5 pm. Ballots will be counted on June 10th.

Collective bargaining for our Victoria Shipyard agreement commenced back in February. Negotiations are currently ongoing with no further information to report at this time.

40th UA Convention Delegate Results

The 40th UA Convention is scheduled for Aug 23rd-27th 2021. Even though the Convention is scheduled to take place in San Diego it may be held virtually due to the pandemic. The final decision will come at a later date. I would like to thank all the nominees for running for a position to represent our local union at the convention. We received a total of 167 ballots with 7 rejected. I would like to give special thanks to our election committee who conducted the election process from start to finish. Here is the list of delegates in order of votes.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Jamie McPherson | 8) Alasdair Reid |
| 2) Stefan Plusa | 9) Mike Ellis |
| 3) Gord Wickett | 10) Robyn Hacking |
| 4) Dave Small | 11) Dave Ell |
| 5) Bruce Gowers | 12) Jack Lindboe |
| 6) Landon Martin | 13) Matt Doran |
| 7) Steve Crowe | |



Brother Tyrel Smith



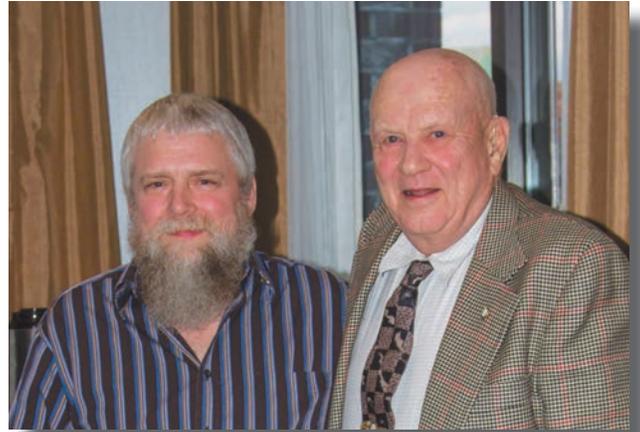
Brother Johnny Buck



Brother Alex Lewis

Entertainment/Events In Recognition

Due to Covid-19 we have cancelled our Annual Award banquet again this year. This is unfortunate news as this is a first class event bringing together our graduating apprentices and long term service recipients to celebrate their achievements. I would like to congratulate all of our graduating apprentices and long term service award members! We will mail out member service pins and apprentice awards in the coming weeks for 2020 recipients. We recognize the names of our 2020 recipients in this edition of piped in. Let's hope we can resume with this great event next year.



Brothers Bill Wickett (r) and son, Gord Wickett (l)

I would like to give special recognition to Brother Bill Wickett who has reached his 70th year as a member of the UA this August 2021. Bill volunteered and dedicated countless hours to our union. Bill also served as Joint Training Coordinator from 1992 to 2001. Congratulations to Brother Wickett on this milestone!



Trevor Botkin (l) Executive Director, Hero Victoria with Brother Jim Noon (r).

2021 UA 324 Charity Golf Tournament

HEROWORK VICTORIA is currently working with the Salvation Army to update the kitchen facilities at the Johnston Street location. Local 324 has donated \$500 towards the upgrade. Thank you to all the UA Members who have stepped up to volunteer on weekends to make this renovation happen.

2021 UA 324 CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT is scheduled for Saturday September 25th at Olympic view golf course. The golf fees will be \$125.00 per player with some proceeds going to a local charity. We will have a sign-up sheet at the union hall starting June 1st.

All other entertainment activities have been cancelled until further notice.

Health & Welfare Plan

Our health and welfare plan is in good shape. The trustees have decided to extend the 100% reimbursement coverage for Extended Health Benefits until June 30th, 2021. I know this has helped out many members financially as we continue to deal with this pandemic. I would like to remind members to register through the DA Townley web portal which will allow members the ability to track their usage, access account information and benefit information. Members can enroll by going to our website and click on the DA Townley New Web portal mobile app located under the Health and Welfare icon. I know the pandemic has created increased stress for our members and families and I want you to know that we have an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to help. Members and their immediate family can access help by calling 1-833-778-2627. The EAP program is completely confidential and there is no cost to you. For those of you submitting claims to DA Townley for 2020 extended health benefit receipts, please note the deadline for submission is June 30, 2021

Pension Plan

Our pension plan has been resilient during the pandemic. The pension plan is in solid shape due to positive investment returns and an increase in contribution hours. Since the 2008 financial crisis the Plan's assets have increased from \$23.5 million to \$89.3 million at the end of 2020. Eligible plan (vested) members will receive their pension statements during the month of June. We will also include a pension plan brochure to give members updated information about the plan.

Scholarship Opportunities

The Mechanical Trades Promotion Fund awards two \$2000.00 scholarships and two \$1500.00 bursaries each year. These awards are open to the children and spouses of UA 324 members and IMIRA contractors. In addition, The Vancouver Island Building Trades Council is offering five \$1,000.00 awards towards UA 324 members children currently enrolled or accepted in a trades related foundation program at an accredited college. Both applications can be found on our website under downloads. Deadline to send in applications is Nov 1st, 2021.

In Memory

Wayne Andrews February 6, 2021

Robert Hindson June 15, 2020





**2020
Service
Awards**

**The Recipient of the 2020
Bill Wickett Recognition Award
goes to Jamie McPherson**



*Brothers Bill Wickett (l) and
Jamie McPherson (r)*

65 Years
Hank Den Otter
Les Smith

60 Years
Stan Hodgkinson

55 Years
Walter Hausberg
Robert McPherson

50 Years
Ken Pungente

45 Years
Brian Chalmers
Dale Dhillon
Gerry Egeland
Wayne Gill
Barry Haworth
Norman Key
Louis Lussier
Andrew McMullan
Elgin Norman
Robert Weaver
Derek Wynn

40 Years
William Burt
Rick English
Robert McCarthy
Brian Nairn
John Van't-Haaff

30 Years
Terry Bueckert
Dan Fitzgerald
Troy Fleming
Rob Kroppmanns
Hank papenhuyzen
Stefan Plusa
Tim Wilson

25 Years
Wade Leahy
Rene Milkert
Boyd Moehling
Steve Philpott
Dan Snider
Dylan Wilson

2020 Graduating Apprentices

James MacLeod: 2020 Top Plumbing Apprentice & Top Overall Apprentice

Brad Cuthbert: 2020 Top Sprinklerfitter Apprentice

Gord Aikman: 2020 Top Steamfitter Apprentice

Graduating 2020

PLUMBING APPRENTICES

Justin Arts
Pascal Beaucage
Leland Brame
Matt Chester
Jerry Chiuten
Darren Connerly
Darren Cotic
Jason Gill
Rocky Grewal
Cody Henderson
Thomas Johnson
Pierre Lauzon
Tyler Lepine
Dan Lonneberg
Tyler Lucente
Collin Menzies
Philip Pharand
Michael Woodrow

Graduating 2020

SPRINKLER FITTING APPRENTICES

Collin Diggins
Mike Fisher
Collin Grant
Dreyden Lindquist

Graduating 2020

STEAMFITTER APPRENTICES

Dan Coleman
Reece Costain

Plumbers & Pipefitters Building Society AGM

The Plumbers and Pipefitters Building Society will hold their AGM on Tuesday June 8th at 6pm. We will also hold an election to fill two director positions. The meeting will be conducted virtually due to Covid-19. Members interested in attending are required to send an email to admin@ualocal324.com. A meeting link will be sent out to all confirmed members prior to the AGM.



New Property - 2763 Leigh Road

Work continues on the property of the future home of Local 324. Final gravel base and compacting has been completed, and the guard rail is now complete on the retaining wall.



UNITED ASSOCIATION

OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND
PIPEFITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

LOCAL UNION NUMBER 324
919 ESQUIMALT ROAD, VICTORIA, BC V9A 3M7

