

January 13, 2012

There are currently 279 members on the out-of-work list representing approximately 92% employment. I would like to point out that 2,600 Local Union No. 5 members have never missed a day that they did not want to miss even though we have faced the worst economic downturn ever for construction.

The new referral system has been running now with very few issues. If you have any questions about the referral, please contact one of the referral agents or the Local Union offices. The new system does give you the ability to check your place on any of the twenty-two lists. Please remember to resign before February 1st.

There is nothing new to report on Highmark UPMC. We are continuing to meet with both and are awaiting a quote from UPMC.

There is nothing new to report about CE/CW classifications and the Small Works Agreement. Remember over six years ago we told you that we would control this issue and watch out for your interests. We have and we will continue to do so going forward.

On the political front, I continue to meet with members of all parties and all caucuses. Nothing has changed. The Republicans

are going to continue their attacks on labor at the Local, State and Federal levels. Every Republican Presidential candidate is openly anti-union. They are all on the record as anti Davis Bacon wages, pro National right-to-work and all have stated that unions are bad for the economy. As much as forty percent of our man-hours are funded by public dollars so these candidates may promise to cut your taxes by a few hundred dollars but they will also be eliminating multiple thousands of dollars in work opportunities. You will not have any income to pay taxes on. I will continue to urge you to contribute to the PAC Fund. It is the best tool we have to secure your employment.

Every January I take the opportunity to remind everyone to pay their dues. The rule of thumb is to have your dues paid in full by the first union meeting of the year. Paying your dues all at once at the beginning of the year provides the added benefit to the Local Union of having the use of the money longer, therefore, reducing the chances that Local Union dues will have to be raised. The local's largest expenditures such as per capita and taxes are due earlier in

the year. Also, many of the members that choose to make multiple payments end up being late at some point and lose their eligibility for certain benefits plus have to pay a reinstatement fee.

We are already receiving donations to the Unemployed Members Fund. If the 2,600 members that have never missed a day would just contribute \$20.00 each, we would raise over \$50,000. As it is now, last year only about ten percent of those employed members donated. So thank you to those who give to help their unemployed brothers and sisters.

I will conclude by congratulating the newly sworn-in apprentices and our year-of-service pin recipients.

Thank you for your attention and remember to work safely.