CONGRATULATIONS!

Fun time was had by all at the Kid’s Fishing Rodeo held in June

Thank you to all volunteered for this event!
Business Manager’s Report
Greg Thoennes

The membership voted to approve a new three year Agreement on June 30th. I want to thank the negotiating committee of Oscar Thompson, JB Strange, Webb Crouch and Darrek Davis and also all of the Members that responded to the contract surveys. While we weren’t successful with everything that we sought, we feel that we reached a fair Agreement. The increases will cover any additional contribution needs for the Local’s fringe benefits and provide a modest increase on the check. The increases to $7 for the optional 401(k) feature of our IPT Defined Contribution Pension will allow those wishing to maximize their retirement savings to do so.

The Lincoln Land Building Trades Council continues to meet and negotiate with Marathon concerning the National Maintenance Agreement on that site. We will report on any changes as they occur.

We have recently completed the selection process for the new Apprentice class. We had a lot of very good candidates again this year and we will be accepting around 45. Notifications are going out now and we will have an orientation meeting next month. Several of our instructors will be attending the UA Training in Ann Arbor next month. This is a very impressive program and our instructors bring back a lot of great information to our program each year. The Educational Trust Fund is in really good shape and because the Membership has approved a $.09 increase in the contribution rate for this Fund, it will allow us to move forward with plans for improvements. We are in preliminary planning for a new facility in Terre Haute that will be used to train for fabrication and welding. This will also allow us to upgrade and repurpose some of the existing facilities. With the projected work and the number of Members nearing retirement, we will likely have to keep taking in large classes over the next several years.

We discussed at the June Union Meeting the upcoming United Association’s 39th Convention to be held August 1st through 5th, 2016 in San Diego. The UA has asked that we conduct nominations for delegates and alternates in February and hold the election in March. This is one month earlier than we have done in the past. The Membership did approve this motion. We will be providing more information in our newsletters later this year.

The Cronus Fertilizer Plant in Tuscola seems to be progressing slowly. We still anticipate the start of construction later this year. We will keep you updated as things progress.

The Kids fishing Rodeo in June went very well. The weather cooperated and I think everyone had a lot of fun. I want to thank Webb Crouch and the others that volunteered for making this a successful event.

It seems like the year just got started but we are making plans for all the Labor Day events. The Local’s Picnic is Saturday September 12th. Labor’s Family Day picnic in Lafayette is on September 5th. The Labor Day Parades in Terre Haute, Danville and Palestine are on September 7th. I hope that you are able to attend these fun events.
As of this publication there are 250 Members actively seeking employment with 31 of them being Apprentices and 19 Members on travel jobs. For the month of May we dispatched 129 Journeymen and 28 Apprentices, with 28 call backs and 17 travel requests. For the month of June we dispatched 83 Journeymen and 17 Apprentices, with 20 call backs and 18 travel requests.

Our out of work numbers have grown by 93 since my last article due to the completion of several outages. Work in the jurisdiction should improve towards the latter part of July or first of August with several projects slated to be hiring.

The Vermillion Rise site continues to work on infrastructure improvements but at a slow pace. One of the improvements is a water transmission line put out for bid the first week of July. The Reuse Board is still meeting with River View Energy, previously known as Clean Coal Technologies, about the possibilities of a future energy plant on site.

I know there are quite a few rumors circulating regarding when construction will start on the fertilizer plant in Tuscola, IL. Recently I was in Tuscola and I can assure you that currently the site is planted in corn but hopefully by next spring they will be moving dirt for this project.

We have been able to get a few Members out on travel jobs so anyone who knows of a travel job and would like to go, give me a call and I will do my best to get you there. Also when working on travel jobs PLEASE keep in mind that you are a guest. Everything that you do, positive or negative, directly reflects on all of Local 157 Members and could have a huge impact on future work for us with that local.

When you receive a robocall, be patient and wait to hear the entire recording, and then if you are interested in the job, contact the hall. When we are dispatching for travel work, unless it is an immediate need for people, we will take each members name down and dispatch according to your will travel out of work number.

Everything went great at the kids fishing rodeo last month. The Members and their children in attendance all seemed to have a good time. Next year I am going to try to schedule it for earlier in the year and hopefully we can have a bigger turnout. A huge thank you to all of you who helped with this event, whether it was cooking, measuring fish, baiting hooks or cleanup everyone did a terrific job. Thank you for your support.

As we begin our summer, there have been some very important Supreme Court decisions made that affect the lives of millions of Americans. Whether you agree with our Justices or not, these decisions show the power elected representatives and our system of government have over our lives in this country.

There was another decision made recently by our president that should also be acknowledged. President Obama plans to raise the wages of 5 million Americans who work more than 40 hours a week by requiring employers to pay them overtime. Many people might think that this is already the law in this country, but the 1938 New Deal-era law establishing the federal 40-hour workweek and requiring overtime for additional hours exempts professional, administrative and executive employees. Labor Department regulations define those categories, in part, through a minimum salary level. The threshold, eroded by inflation, has only been raised once since 1975. President Obama wants to raise the threshold to $970 a week, or up to about $50,400 a year, by 2016.

Many employees now receiving as little as $455 a week, or $23,660 a year, a level below the federal poverty line for a family of four, aren’t entitled to overtime pay because they are classified as “managers”. Workers in retail stores and restaurants are among those most affected.

The new rules, to be issued by the Labor Department, would be the broadest action taken by the Obama administration to boost the wages of middle and lower income workers, whose wages have stagnated.

President Obama has been shut down by Republicans in his attempts to get Congress to raise the federal minimum wage at a time when income inequality is emerging as an issue in the 2016 presidential campaign. It will be interesting to see how that debate evolves over the course of the election process.

Not getting involved in our political system and not having elected officials that represent your best interests could be very detrimental to your way of life... Every vote counts!
Field Representative's Report

Darrek Davis

As we enter into the half way point of summer we have seen a downturn in our employment and available jobs. Hopefully by the time you read this the hiring will have begun at Marathon for the August turnaround. The outage will begin the first week of August and peak manpower will be reached by August 15th.

The number of Members needed is as follows: 19 fitters, 7 welders and 7 firewatches for days. Nights will need 18 fitters, 14 welders and 5 firewatches. The duration of the turnaround is 45 days with the majority of the shifts working 6-10’s. The potential exists, if engineering allows, for some of the workforce to stay throughout the winter months to work on the crude expansion.

In recent months I have also spoken about the proposed expansion at the bio-diesel facility in Danville. It appears at this time work will begin the first week of August. Rough estimates from phone conversation that the owner was in the process of purchasing a tank farm from BUNGE, located next to the bio-diesel plant. If this transaction transpires it will add an additional 6 to 8 months to the project. This is great news for the Danville area which has not seen many sizeable projects in quite some time.

Gas Distribution work continues to remain strong with many of the utility companies continuing to update their aging infrastructures. We have been able to sign up 3 new Members in the northern portion of the state as the demand for skilled workers continues to grow in this industry.

In closing I want to briefly touch on politics, with this being an off year in the election cycle it is very easy to forget the damage that has been done to working men and women throughout the state. I encourage everyone to stay informed and educate others you come in contact with just how much our state is in a race to the bottom with the Republican leadership that is in place. We need to continue to be energized about this issue and do our part to begin to turn the tide in the next election.

Field Representative’s Report

Steve Snyder

Work continues to remain strong in the Northern part of our jurisdiction and should continue to do so throughout the remainder of the 2015 construction season.

Subaru Automotive Paint Shop addition continues to be going strong. I was onsite last week and met with Trinity Engineering and H&R Mechanical Contractors to discuss the Phosphate and ECO systems for the clear coat application for the automobiles. This is the last large stainless steel piping package left for this project. The scheduled start date for this work is the third week of July with possible overtime in the weeks ahead. H&R Mechanical has an outstanding track record throughout the United States with the United Association and the auto industries of North America. I look forward to working with H&R in the coming months. As I am writing this, Project Design & Piping and Shambaugh are currently in shut down mode at the plant working through the holiday. The size and scope of this outage has been resized to match automobile demands and will not be as large as previously reported.

Both Tate & Lyle North and South Plants continue to call for more manpower as Freitag & Weinhardt’s scope of work increases weekly. The three RTO unit installations at the South Plant are tracking on schedule and will be wrapping up in the weeks ahead. The North Plant bid work as well is on time and on schedule while more and more work is being taken out of the non-union’s hands. I don’t like to beat a dead horse however I want to personally thank everyone’s professional involvement in these two projects. Keep up the good work and show the owner and our competition what our training and skill level can accomplish.

Purdue work continues to brew as concrete and rebar move forward at a rapid pace on the Honors College Dorms. These buildings are a conglomerate of pan decking with poured concrete structural columns and beams with red iron structural steel in various architectural locations. All that equals more wait time for plumbing and mechanical systems to get started, however once real estate is opened up it will be a massive ramp up in manpower particularly for plumbers. Structure elements continue at the Active Learning Center as well on the other side of campus. Footers are being formed while the underground is scheduled to start the first of this month. Agronomy Farms new building is progressing nicely on the North side of campus and finally has reached the dry-in stage. All of this, plus various lab remodels and build outs at Bio Chem, Matthews Hall, Lilly Hall and Grissom Hall will keep our Members very busy for some time.

GE Aviation work continues with DA Dodd installing chiller piping. I made a trip onsite a couple of weeks ago and got to look at our work directly related to our competitors work and WOW. The old saying that “cheap labor is not skilled and skilled labor is not cheap” was very evident during our walk through. I look forward to more success at this plant and have scheduled a meet and greet with the plant Engineers once turnover is complete. The sales pitch on this will be an easy one.

All and all work looks to remain steady in the Northern part of the jurisdiction. Once again I urge you journeymen and apprentices to use our training centers to their fullest capacity to update or acquire new skills that will help us put you to work. I hope you had a great 4th of July and look forward to the Golf Outing at Rocky Ridge Golf course (see insert). Hope to see you there.
It doesn’t seem that long ago that we were shoveling snow off the sidewalks. Summer certainly has arrived, and a lot has been going on in the Training Center since the spring.

On Thursday, May 7th many of our 5th year Apprentices participated in the Ivy Tech Graduation Ceremony at the Hulman Center. It was nice to see the turnout of our Apprentices. The annual dinner honoring all those graduating will be held on Friday, September 18th in the Terre Haute Meeting Hall.

The weld shop is open this summer Monday through Friday as always; however, we are now open Monday and Tuesday evenings at all Training Centers. Instructors are on site to help brush up on your welding skills or to help earn another certification. Time depends on location. Contact us for details.

I had the opportunity to be a part of Region 2 Apprentice Competition in June, hosted by Local 440. Region 2 is made up of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, DC-Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. This was a three day event putting training to the test. The effort and skill of these men and women was outstanding.

Meanwhile, on June 6th and 13th we held the first Crane Signal Person Class. Please check www.ualocal157.org for additional classes. We have also wrapped up another Instrumentation II and Industrial Rigging Class. As you can see, we are doing our best to keep certifications current and Members well trained.

The Illinois Plumbing Continuing Education Class has been scheduled for Saturday, October 24th at the Hutsonville Training Center from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm (CST). For Danville the class will be held on Tuesday, October 27th from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm (CST). Just a reminder to Indiana Plumbers, this is a renewal year for Indiana Licensed Plumbers.

OSHA remains on the front burner, so we are making every effort to hold as many classes as possible. If you need your OSHA upgraded or would like to take OSHA 30, it is available to you. Please contact the Training Center if you are interested. Once there are enough Members signed up, we will make every attempt to offer the class.

We have recently wrapped up interviews for the new group of Apprentices. We had a great pool of applicants, and are in the process of making the final selections. Thank you to everyone who helped with this year’s interviews.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

*These meetings are MANDATORY!*

**Classes begin August 26th, 2015**

NEW APPRENTICE ORIENTATION - August 18th, 2015 - 6:00 pm - Terre Haute Meeting Hall
A2 - A5 APPRENTICE MEETING - August 20th, 2015 - 6:00 pm - Terre Haute Meeting Hall

**Graduation Dinner**

September 18th, 2015 at 6:00 pm
Terre Haute Meeting Hall

**WELD TESTS AT THE TERRE HAUTE TRAINING CENTER**

Saturday, August 15th, 2015 at 8:00 am
Saturday, September 19th, 2015 at 8:00 am
Saturday, October 17th, 2015 at 8:00 am

You must call the Training Center at (812) 877-1736 and let them know you are interested.
During the months of April and May 2015 your Health & Welfare Plan staff processed 14,783 claims, totaling $5,422,665.20.

In this article, I would like to state the Plan’s Reinstatement of Eligibility Rules.

An Employee who loses his eligibility shall become eligible again on the first day of a Benefit Quarter following receipt of Employer contributions in the amount of three hundred (300) hours at the applicable rate for the applicable calendar quarter. If the Employee works at least two hundred (200) hours but less than three hundred (300) hours, the Employee may pay the difference in order to reinstate eligibility. Payment shall be in an amount equal to the difference in the hours reported and three hundred (300) multiplied by the applicable Employer contribution rate and may only be made at the beginning of the reinstated Benefit Quarter.

Gaylon Borders III, a retired Building Trades Journeyman from Flora, Illinois passed away on May 9th, 2015. Gaylon was born on December 28th, 1945 and was initiated into the United Association on August 5th, 1974.

James B. Helton, a retired Building Trades Journeyman from Marysville, Indiana passed away on May 25th, 2015. James was born on May 29th, 1940 and was initiated into the United Association on November 19th, 1975.

James C. Carroll, a retired Building Trades Journeyman from Crawfordsville, Indiana passed away on June 29th, 2015. James was born on May 9th, 1936 and was initiated into the United Association on June 5th, 1956.

Joseph C. Rardin, a retired Building Trades Journeyman from Martinsville, Illinois passed away on July 2nd, 2015. Joseph was born on August 26th, 1925 and was initiated into the United Association on June 5th, 1951.
Postlewait-Griffin
OHS Scholarship Ride
Saturday Aug. 22nd, 2015 at Oblong Park

Sign-up: 8:00 A.M.  Kickstands up: 9:00 A.M.

All bikes & vehicles welcome; riding rain or shine!

FREEWILL DONATIONS APPRECIATED

The route is to
The Cross in Effingham.
Alternate routes may be
necessary due to road construction.

We will end up back in Oblong Park.
Prizes will be given at each stop.

Raffle Tickets may be purchased
at ride and in advance.

$1 each or 6/$5.

Raffle Prize is a Ruger 10/22 American Farmer Edition

Food & Auction following at American Legion at Oblong Park
OHS FFA members will have food prepared on our return.

Scholarship donations can be made at First National Bank in Oblong or Robinson.

T-shirts in limited numbers will be available for $12 at signup.
Pre-orders are appreciated to ensure availability.

For info or tickets contact:
Steve or Lisa Postlewait:
618.455.3664
Rachel Snider:
618.562.1297

In Loving Memory Of

Stephen Cole Postlewait
&
John (Corndog) Griffin

Both were members of Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 157

$15,500.00 in scholarships have been awarded to OHS graduates since 2010.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Plumbers & Steam fitters Local 157
Annual Family Picnic
Saturday, September 12th, 2015

On behalf of all the Local 157 Officers, we would like to cordially invite you and your family to this year’s Annual Family Picnic.

To be cost effective as possible, we are asking members to purchase guest tickets for non-family.

GUEST TICKET ORDER FORM
Ticket Request Forms Need Returned by A
Friday, August 28th A

NOT TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE GATE.

Ticket Prices: A $10 Adult (18 yrs & Ap) A
A A $5 Child (6 yrs & Ap 17 yrs) A

Number of Adult Tickets: _____ A
Number of Children Tickets: _____ A
Please make checks payable to: A
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 157 A

Name: ________________________ A
Address: ______________________ A
City, State, Zip: ___________________ A
Phone: ________________________ A

REMINDER: THERE ARE NO CAMPING AREAS IN ENCLOSED AREAS WHERE THE OFFICE BUILDINGS ARE LOCATED. A
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND THIS MATTER A


**Local 157 Picnic Rules**

1. Admission & all food, drink etc. will be free to all Local 157 & Travel Card Members working in the jurisdiction, including their immediate families. Immediate family includes the Member, spouse, & unmarried children. Single Members may bring a friend or their immediate family; that is their mother &/or father & members of their immediate household. Special Guest Tickets will be made available to the following: Contractors, Business Agents of neighboring Local Unions, City Officials, etc.

2. Guest Tickets MUST be purchased in advance through August 28th. There will be a charge of $10.00 for each adult (age 18 & over) & $5.00 for each child ages 6 – 17. There is no charge for children 5 & under. Members who bring guests will be responsible for their conduct.

3. NO MINORS WILL BE SERVED ALCOHOL. No person shall remove any food, beverage, etc. from the Picnic Area. No outside containers may be brought in for the purpose of filling with beverages. Any violator must leave immediately. Their Sponsor will be responsible for their compliance.

4. Any member, Travel Card Member or guest who creates any disturbance or violates any of the rules as set forth above must leave immediately.

5. The Elected Officers will be in complete charge of the Picnic & their decisions individually &/ or collectively, will be final & binding. Violation of these rules will be considered the same as a violation of the rules & by-laws of the Local Union & Members may be called before the E-Board.

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**LABOR’S FAMILY DAY PICNIC**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th**

Columbian Park, Lafayette, Indiana

Yellow Shelter’s #1 and #2

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

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**Labor Day Parades – Monday, September 7th**

Terre Haute

Line up at 10:00 am

at 11th & Wabash

Danville

Line up at 9:00 am

at the Railroad Crossing

next to Big 4

Palestine

Line up at 9:00 am

Call the Office for Location
Local 157
Golf Outing

Rocky Ridge Golf Course
Darlington, IN

Sunday, August 16th, 2015
Registration - 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.
Tee-off - 8:00 a.m. Sharp!
Format - Peoria Handicap
$45.00 per person

(Includes Green fee/cart lunch, drinks and raffle after the round)

Hole Sponsors - $150.00

Please send payment no later than 8/04/15 to Jeff Casto
5186 Saddle Drive Lafayette, Indiana 47905

Thank you in advance for your Sponsorship and we look forward to seeing you there!

Golf Committee Member,
Jeff Casto
(765) 477-4795, work
(765) 479-4677, cell

Donations are not tax deductible.
## August 2015

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NEXT UNION MEETING

Monthly Union Meeting
Friday, August 7th, 2015 at 8:00 pm in the Terre Haute Meeting Hall

Monthly Union Meeting
Friday, September 4th, 2015 at 8:00 pm in the Terre Haute Meeting Hall

Quarterly Union Meeting
Saturday, October 3rd, 2015 at 10:00 am in the Terre Haute Meeting Hall

Service Pin Awards

www.ualocal157.org

UNION DIRECTORY

Business Manager Greg Thoennes ~ gthoennes@ualocal157.org
Financial Secretary/Treasurer JB Strange ~ jstrange@ualocal157.org
Business Agent Webb Crouch ~ wcrouch@ualocal157.org
Field Representative Steve Snyder ~ ssnyder@ualocal157.org
Field Representative Darrek Davis ~ ddavis@ualocal157.org
Office Manager Patti Meskimen ~ pmeskimen@ualocal157.org
Funds Manager Sandy Reece ~ sreece@ualocal157.org
Training Coordinator Rich Cheever ~ rcheever@ualocal157.org
Welding Coordinator Bob Morgan ~ rmorgan@ualocal157.org

INDIANA PIPE TRADES DEFINED
CONTRIBUTION PENSION PLAN....................................................P.O. BOX 416
Seelyville, IN  47878
Phone......(812) 877-3588
Fax......(812) 877-2438

HEALTH & WELFARE PLAN.............................................P.O. BOX 3040
Terre Haute, IN  47803
Phone......(812) 877-2581
Toll Free.....(800) 837-5678
Fax......(812) 877-4542

QUARTERLY UNION MEETING
Saturday, October 3rd, 2015
at 10:00 am in the Terre Haute Meeting Hall

SERVICE PIN AWARDS

Next Union Meeting
Monthly Union Meeting
Friday, August 7th, 2015 at 8:00 pm in the Terre Haute Meeting Hall

Monthly Union Meeting
Friday, September 4th, 2015 at 8:00 pm in the Terre Haute Meeting Hall

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Service Pin Awards

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