

The Montana Laborer

Representing Montana's Finest

An official publication of Montana Laborers' Local 1686, LIUNA



August 2011

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

By Kim Rickard

It is hard to believe that it is already August and the summer season will be coming to an end sooner than later. The Construction work season started off slow and remains steady but not great compared to some years. Unfortunately it is a sign of the times. This is a direct result of less funding being available for construction projects financed in both private and prevailed wage sectors of our State.

Municipalities within the State have lowered tax bases, making less general funds available to be allocated for wages and benefit increases for our Public Employee members. The National Industrial Pension Fund for the Public and Non-Construction members is requiring increased pension contributions with decreased benefits and the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) has had legislative changes instituted that have resulted in the same, increased contributions and decreased benefits.

You have a critical role as a citizen to convince our State and Nation's representatives to take into consideration that the decisions that they are making are not benefiting working families. In fact the decisions that they are making are reflective of their biased opinions, not from their heart or to bluntly put it, not in our best interest. I believe that we, as working families are just looking for quality of life, which includes being able to pay for family essentials.



Kim Rickard
Business Manager

I also believe that none of us want to be classified as working poor just trying to make ends meet living from pay day to pay day. Unfortunately that is the path that we are going down.

This is where I am going to make my usual plea for member involvement. Your involvement is not only needed for your local union but the entire nation is in need of activists like you. In the coming months there are going to be various activities throughout the local union, the State of Montana, as well as the nation that will be in need of activists. This is where you can help. Your helping does not mean that you have to commit to hours upon hours of your personal and family time to help, just a few hours here and there are sufficient, every bit helps. It is also a great way to meet new friends within your community and develop relationships that will last a lifetime. So in the upcoming months you will see several communications coming from Local #1686 addressing issues and instructions on how to become an activist.

Many of you have already taken the first step to becoming an activist within Laborers' Local #1686 and I would like to take the time to thank all of you that voted in the recent Officer and Delegate election of Laborers' Local #1686. Whether you voted for me or not, the action of voting is a sign of activism and is appreciated.

I look forward to working with you to obtain our goal of improving and preserving the quality of life of which we all deserve.

***Yours in Solidarity,
God bless you and your families.***

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Butte Area

Brothers and Sisters, it's starting to look like a good summer for construction work. First of all I would like to personally thank all the members that voted in this past local election, and also for supporting the current Laborers team that has represented you since the merger. Thank you for having the trust in all of us and the understanding that we are working to better this union for all the members, and your families.



Mick Wonnacott
Field Rep

With that said, let's move into the construction work in the area. All of our signatory contractors are very busy with work in the area. McDonalds of Butte is rebuilding and so far everything is being done union, so let's hope it continues. Walgreens corp. is building a new building on Harrison Avenue, and every contractor on the project is union; H&H Excavating, Leprowse Construction, and Gruber Masonry. There are several Laborers that are employed by these contractors. Nelcon is still working daily on Harrison Ave and have signed an agreement with the Laborers and Operators. Tamietti and Sletten Construction have some bridge deck work south of Butte and seem to be making headway. Markovich and Bentley are both working on projects at MT Tech and moving right along. Tobiness Construction and Bentley are also performing work on the Town Pump of Rocker. Jay Fortune Construction and Sullway are both busy with construction work as well.

As you can see everybody is busy, let's just hope it continues. There are still some projects in the rumor stage, and I will report on them as soon as the projects are verified. The Butte area local meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm at the union hall and could use the support of the members

Mick Wonnacott

406-498-2537 (cell phone)

156 West Granite Street, Butte, Montana

Great Falls Area

Projects in the Great Falls area this construction season include; The Walsh Pacific Rainbow Dam Rehabilitation Project, work started for the laborers in October 2009 and continues today with scheduled completion in the spring of 2012. The work at Rainbow Dam has been challenging and physically demanding. Some of the required tasks involved; drilling & blasting, rock bolting, shot crete work, excavation, line & grade, pipelaying, compaction, material handling, form setting, form stripping, scaffold tending, carpenter tending, chipping and jack hammer work. Members of Laborers Local 1686 have poured, placed, vibrated, finished and patched almost 50,000 cubic yards of concrete on this project. They have performed this work consistently and with great skill. We appreciate Walsh Pacific and the opportunity provided to work on this historic project.

Sletten Building Projects include: Renovation work at the McLaughlin Research Institute in Great Falls. This research lab has added square footage and remodeled over the past few years to become a first class facility. The Benefis Medical Office Building in Great Falls is a four-story 80,000 sq. ft. facility that includes examination and medical procedure rooms along with offices to accommodate fifty-five physicians. One of the great features of this project is the skywalk that attaches the Great Falls Orthopedic Institute Building to the Benefis Medical Building. Agland Co-op, located in Wolf Point, has broken ground with post and girders in place. This will be a 13,000 sq ft facility, housing a convenience store with truck stop facilities, office space and an auto & truck repair shop.

Sletten Bridge Projects in the Great Falls area include: The Brockton and Big Muddy Bridge. The Belt Creek Bridge will be a new 148 ft long three span two lane structure with two concrete drilled shaft piers 50 ft. deep and 4 ½ foot in diameter. There will be 950 cubic yards of concrete formed and finished with 23,000 lbs. of rebar placed.

Tamietti Construction has a number of bridge projects in progress which include: The Toston Bridge Rehab Project, Warm Springs Bridge Project, Belfry Bridge & three bridges in the Havre area. Cooper Masonry projects include: A new commissary at MAFB, a new jail in Rocky Boy, an addition to the high school in Rocky Boy and numerous local repair and remodel jobs. A new building to house Pacific Cataract is anticipated in the near future.

Penhall Construction performed rehab work on the Warden Bridge in Great Falls. It is a 60 year old two lane structure with construction starting in June and was completed in early July. We had about 20 laborers on this project. Penhall will be back in Great Falls in August to perform rehab work on the Central Ave West Bridge for about one month.

Falls Construction has been installing utility piping at the Castle Ridge Residential Development south of Great Falls. They are doing subcontract work at the dams for PPL and hot water heating line work at MAFB. Boland Construction has been utilizing their horizontal boring machine to replace culverts in Glendive and Carter, a sewer line in Lockwood and a water line in Stevensville.

The Highwood Generating Station Project Phase 1 work is scheduled to be completed August 5th, 2011. This is a 120 MW natural gas fired combined cycle generating facility located about 8 miles east of Great Falls. A 46 MW simple cycle, similar to a jet engine, natural gas fired turbine generator has been plumbed in and wired along with a gas compressor, a transformer, auxiliary transformer and associated equipment. Start up is scheduled for Sept. 1, 2011 and Phase 2 work should be let in February 2012. The much anticipated TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline Project is on hold until permits are signed by the State Department giving us a go ahead, hopefully this spring. Schellinger Construction is working on I-15 in the Craig area, on ramps, off ramps, overpass surface rehab work, resurfacing, and stripping and guardrail installation.

NaturEner has three proposed wind farm projects in the Hi-Line area scheduled to begin in 2012; we will continue to monitor any relevant news concerning this work. Please take advantage of any training classes that are offered, the skills you possess are the key to opportunity and employment. Hope everyone has a great summer!



Brian Boland
Field Rep

Brian Boland

406-788-1107 (cell phone)

1112 7th Street South, Great Falls, Montana

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Billings Area

Work in the Billings area has been moderate so far this summer. Currently, there are approximately 58 journey workers, 1 apprentice, and 160 general laborers on the Billings area out of work list.

All contracts that were open for negotiations this spring have been settled. The most contentious agreement to settle was Knife River which is owned by MDU resources. Nationwide MDU Resources made a concerted effort to consolidate all contracts under their 401K plan and to get out of union pensions. The members ratified a contract to move to the 401K plan in exchange for a full seniority clause, a two year agreement with \$.25 wage increase the first year, and \$.15 the second.

At the May General Presidents Committee meeting, our request for group pay under the GPPMA agreement was presented. Greg Davis, LIUNA Construction Dept, met with representatives from Jacobs and Lockwood Green to further discuss the issue. The result of this meeting was that the contractors recognized the reasoning behind group pay and have agreed to pay it; the administrator of the General Presidents Committee issued the official notification by letter on July 20th. Further during the subcommittee talks, it was agreed that using a heavy/highway agreement wasn't working. Jacobs has agreed to fund the costs associated with developing an Industrial Contractors Association for the purposes of negotiating a wage addendum that will sever the tie from the COP Construction agreement. The local will continue to apply pressure to ensure that a new package will be ready for implementation with the normal May 1st contract cycle.

Since the start of the new federal courthouse, COP Construction has been the only contractor signatory to the laborers to be awarded a contract. They performed the off-site and on-site underground utilities. The general contractor, Mortenson Construction, is bidding the work out as they reach each phase of the project. In June Missoula Sheet Metal was awarded contract and will be using 2-3 laborers for the duration of their contract.

The cleanup and restoration on the Bison Pipeline has experienced lots of delays due the flooding, but at this time there are approximately 11 laborers on the job. The clean up of the oil spill in the Yellowstone River from the Silvertip pipeline owned by Exxon so far has over 600 workers from eight states; unfortunately zero are local Montana workers or Montana contractors. On July 7th, I attended a public meeting with Governor Schweitzer to bring this to his attention and was assured that he would do what he could to apply some pressure for using local workers.

The only project of size in the near future is the fall shutdown at Cenex Refinery. At this time the full extent of the work is not known, and all the contracts have not been awarded to know which will be signatory.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members for their support in electing me as an Auditor for #1686 and delegate to the International convention. I am honored to represent you daily on the job and extremely proud of the opportunity to represent you at the national level.

Becky Riedl

406-697-0309 (cell phone)

1111 Main Street #9, Billings, Montana



Becky Riedl
Field Rep

Missoula Area

I hope everyone had an enjoyable July 4th with family and friends, at the very least the weather has dried and warmed up some. The work in Western Montana has been slow to start but has picked up some in recent weeks.

More and more Interstate and Highway work is ongoing now that the weather is better. LS Jensen and Schellinger are working on Highway 93 South. LS Jensen has also been working on a water and sewer project at the University of Montana. Schellinger Construction has been busy on other projects throughout the State of Montana.

Westway Construction has been working on I-90 bridge decks near Superior. Concrete Barriers has just started on bridge overlays in the same area.

Gordon Construction has broken ground at the new Missoula parking garage on Front Street and should be ongoing for the next few months.

FD Thomas of Oregon has been awarded a project at the Rocky Mountain Lab facility in Hamilton, one of the requirements for this job is to pass an extensive background check. This project has not exactly been steady work, but more sporadic with a couple of days every week with the promise and hope of more work in upcoming phases.



Mick Mulholland
Field Rep

The new Highway prevailed wage petition has been prepared and continues toward getting the required number of contractor signatures so we can see an increase to benefit packages for our members working on these projects. Once completed it will have to be approved by the Federal government and adopted by the State of Montana.

My hopes are work for the Laborers to stay steady until the snow flies.

I would like to thank the entire membership who completed and sent in their ballots for our Local's elections and it will be my honor to serve as your President for 3 more years.

Another thank you to our Election Judges, Gene Fenderson, Trinkia Michalson, and Renee DeMontigny for the fine diligent job that was done in conducting the election for us.

In closing a few more thank you acknowledgements to members Pierre Rhouault, Drake Tomell, Mark Tomell, and Troy Brooks for your attendance at the "We are One" rally held on the Higgins Street Bridge that was organized by the Missoula Area Central Labor Council. Last but not least a hardy thank you to recently retired member and E-Board member Mike Curran for his years of dedicated service to the Laborers Union and a great car partner for the last five years traveling to and from Union meetings. Thanks again Brother Curran for keeping me awake and on the road it will always be appreciated.

Mick Mulholland

406-396-4435 (cell phone)

208 East Main Street, Missoula, Montana

MONTANA



John S. Ramasko Training Center for Montana, Laborers AGC Apprenticeship, Training & Work Preparedness Trust of Montana

2011 August - September Training Schedule

8/13

Full Cstop 8-4 call for location- class size is limited

CSTOP Refresher 6-10pm- call for location

8/29-30

OSHA 10 Helena -call for times

8/31

Skid steer- Helena- must call to be put on schedule, size limited

9/1

Forklift- Helena- must call to be put on schedule, size limited

9/7

First Aid and CPR Helena- must call to be put on schedule, size limited

9/8-9

MSHA Part 46- Helena- must call to be put on schedule, size limited

9/10

Asbestos Worker Refresher 8-5 call for location ,must call to be put on schedule

9/13

CSTOP Refresher- 6-10pm Great Falls (Labor Temple) must call to be put on schedule

9/14

CSTOP Refresher- 6-10pm Butte (Carpenters hall) must call to be put on schedule

9/30

Hazardous Waste worker refresher- Billings- call for location and times.

40 hour classes-must call to be put on list, class size limited- classes subject to change

8/15-20 and 22-23 (8 days)

Weatherization Technician-Helena

9/12-16

Masonry-Helena

9/19-23

General Construction-Helena

9/26-30 Asphalt-Helena

**Call Now to Reserve Your Place in Class
(800) 408-9766**

MONTANA

LABORERS



Executive Board, Officers and Staff

Kim Rickard

Business Manager/Sec. Treasurer

President- Mickey Mulholland

Vice-president - Mick Wonnacott

Recording Secretary - Jay Reardon

Executive Board - Debbie Ball-Giop

Executive Board - Kelly Johnson

Executive Board - Brian Boland

Sgt-at-Arms - Warren Smeltzer

Auditor - Glenn Gregor

Auditor - Becky Riedl

Auditor - Tylene Cato

Sanna Czifro

Elaine Bauer and Jamie Carroll

(Office Staff)

Montana AFL-CIO and LiUNA! Fighting for You

**By Chris Cavazos. Political Director
Montana AFL-CIO**

The 2011 session will go down as one of the most anti-worker legislatures in Montana history. We saw full out assaults on unemployment insurance, injured workers, public employees, and your right to register to vote.

However, with a united labor lobby team and the Governor's veto brand, most of these proposals were killed. We cannot allow for this type of anti-worker agenda in our state legislature to happen again. That is why the Montana State AFL-CIO and LiUNA! 1686 are implementing a strategic plan that will ensure workers win in the 2012 election.

With the increase of influence by corporate money in politics, it is more important now than ever that we build our activist network. We will never raise as much money or send as much mail as the forces working for corporate America, but we will always out match them with people power.

Attached is our Political Action sign up form, please sign it. Make sure that your fellow members sign it. We need to build our activist network now if we are going to be successful on election day in November 2012.

We aren't just collecting names to collect names. You will receive action alerts by email or text, and we will call you when there are events in your area. You will always be among the first to receive political materials from our state federation.

We have much more information on our website at www.mtaflcio.org and daily updates on our Facebook page. I look forward to speaking with all of you at your meetings, workplaces and door steps. Together, we can elect people that will fight for working families.

AFL-CIO Political Action Sign-up

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

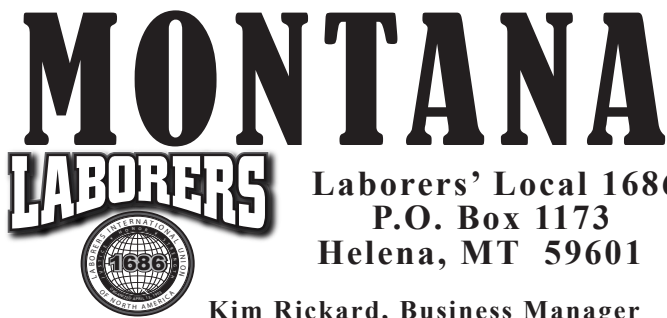
Email address _____

Signature _____

Fill out and mail in to: **Montana Laborers' Local 1686**

P.O. Box 1173

Helena, MT 59601



Kim Rickard, Business Manager

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UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

Executive Board Meeting* - Helena

1:00 PM First Sunday of each month

* Executive Session

General Membership Meeting

3:00 PM First Sunday of each month

Local 1686 Headquarters

3100 Horseshoe Bend Rd., Helena, Montana

Area Informational Meetings

Missoula – 2nd Wednesday of each month

Butte – 2nd Thursday of each month

Great Falls – 4th Wednesday of each month

Billings – 4th Thursday of each month

More Information: (800) 988-1686

Representing Montana's Finest

You Can Make a Difference

By Jay Reardon, Field Rep

Recently I attended a training that is the beginning of a process to revitalize organized laborers ability to make a difference in the 2012 election. For too many years we have depended upon others to protect the rights we have as union members and failed to actively participate in the political process. Because of that we saw the results of our failure to become politically active come to pass in the recent Montana Legislature controlled by those that wish to destroy unions. The failure to pass a pay plan for State Employees, attacks on the Public Employees Retirement System and numerous other bad legislation that impacts public employees was the result. If not for Governor Schweitzer Montana would have been Wisconsin all over again.

The only way that we can insure that this does not happen again is to get off the couch and get involved in the political process. The Montana State AFL-CIO under new leadership is currently developing a political plan to insure a worker friendly legislature comes to Helena in January of 2013 and that we elect a Governor that supports Public Employees and recognizes the valuable services that you

provide to Montana's citizens.

Those that wish to destroy the middle class and unions will spend millions of dollars to try and elect candidates that will support their cause. We cannot match them dollar for dollar but we can make a difference and defeat them by all of us giving our time and support to candidates that support working families and the middle class.

The choice is yours we can no longer depend on others to make sure our rights are protected, take the time to become involved in the political process research the candidates and volunteer some time to support those candidates that support our issues.

To find out how you can become involved please call the main office in Helena at 1-800- 988-1686 and we will get you signed up for our activist list in your area.



Jay Reardon
Field Representative