Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 396, with the support of its membership, is working on building common threads that will tie us to many exciting and upcoming projects, mainly the Marcellus/Utica Shale project. In order to accomplish this, Local 396 has built partnerships that will help market our skills in the piping field.

The first major partnership is with the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber. The Chamber’s support of Local 396 will help showcase our talents and upcoming opportunities to the United Association. Tom Humphries, president of the Chamber, wrote a support letter to U.A. General President William Hite over the work we have done in the past and our future work on energy projects. In this letter, Humphries states, “As a result of a recent opportunity for us to work with Butch Taylor and the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 396 on another project, I thought I would update you from my perspective on the great working relationship that we at the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber have with the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 396. Looking back, I have been working with Local 396 on various economic development opportunities in our community for the past 10 years, along with the Building Trades, various companies and contractors.” Humphries goes on to state that “although 2-3% of the time we do not agree or see eye to eye on a particular issue, 97-98% of the time we have successfully found ways to work together for the betterment of everyone.” He also touches on the Marcellus/Utica Shale opportunities, informing Hite that, by working together as a community and bringing all of the stakeholders together, “we have the greatest opportunity to be successful. In fact, we are confident that we will be successful.”

The next important partnership we continue to build is with our elected officials, particularly Congressman Tim Ryan and Congressman Bill Johnson, both of whom have been instrumental in supporting the Local.

With the support of these officials and the Regional Chamber, Local 396 has the opportunity to showcase two U.A. Trailers at the Covelli Center in November for the Marcellus Shale Trade Show. In a letter to UA President Hite, Business Manager Butch Taylor informed him of the Trade Show and states to him, “This Chamber of Commerce is the fourth-largest in the state of Ohio and, with the Trade Show, we would be marketing our skills to the businesses that will be working in this industry. The Chamber is willing to put Local 396 center-stage at this important function.” Butch then asked for the UA’s support in order to get our UA members working on these projects; their support in this matter would greatly help in powering the work to go union.

This Trade Show, known as the YOUNG 2011 Conference & Expo, will take place November 30th, 2011. It is the first-of-its-kind and is gathering much attention throughout the valley and even the country. The Vindicator posted an article on their website on this event and states that the conference will provide great educational opportunities for the public, and has already “landed a few prominent sponsors, including V&M Star, which is investing $650 million in a new rolling mill because of the shale industry, and Chesapeake Energy Corp., which has said Ohio’s Utica Shale could be worth as much as $40 billion.” Local 396 is extremely excited for the opportunity to showcase our skills and network with the other companies. It is only with our partnerships with the Chamber and with the UA that we have been able to access this opportunity.

General President Hite, along with Steve Kelley, Kenny Ruggles, Jerome O’Leary, and International Representative T.L. Ranson. Also instrumental in helping the Local with this show has been Mike Arndt of the UA Training Department, Terry Urbananek, and Jim Pavesic.

By strengthening all of these partnerships, the Local has been pro-active in garnering important opportunities such as the Marcellus Shale/Utica Trade Show. Hopefully events such as this will help get our hardworking UA members onto these projects.
President’s Report

From George Popovich, President of Local 396:

I would like to thank the membership for sending me to the UA National Convention, held recently in Las Vegas. Unfortunately, I did NOT win enough to retire, so I’m still here!

A lot of business was discussed and reports on this will be given at the September union meeting. The Local 396 delegation represented our local well.

In other news, as per Article XIV, Section 5 of our By-laws, a committee is being put together to review and amend the by-laws. Members interested in this committee should contact me (cell phone 330-718-5289) or the hall. We will be starting late September. Those already interested in the committee include Mike Davis, Lonnie Potts, Mike Alfano, and Ed Rowland. If you have previously told me you wanted on and I failed to list your name, please contact me. Stay safe this Fall.

Fraternally,
George Popovich,
Local 396 President

Upcoming Union Meetings:
(First Thursday of the month, 7:30 PM)
*October 6, 2011
*November 3, 2011

The 2011 Youngstown Area Heart walk was held September 17th, 2011 to support the American Heart Association. Wes Prout, president of Prout Boiler, Heating & Welding, played an instrumental role in this Heart Walk, and through his efforts collected $1500 in donations from Local 396, our sister locals, AFL-CIO and the WRBT.

Total donations for the event topped $169,000. The Local donated in memory of the members who we have lost to heart disease.

Heart diseases claim more than 865,000 lives a year, so awareness and fundraising is critical. A big thanks to Wes and all of the donors, sponsors, and participants!!

Heart Walk:
* Monday, April 9, 2012

The Western Reserve Building Trades Fish Fry will be held Friday, October 28th. Doors open at 7:00 PM.

The event will be held at the Operating Engineers Hall, located at 291 McClurg Road in Boardman. Admission is $15.00. Please stop by to enjoy delicious fish & sausage sandwiches, beer, and raffles.

LOCAL 396 13TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The annual golf outing will be held Saturday, October 1, 2011 at Bedford Trails Golf Course, located at 713 Bedford Road in Coitsville, Ohio.

The cost is $60.00/person, payable to LU 396. This includes green fees/car, lunch, dinner & beverages.

Tee Time: Shotgun start at 9:00 AM

Format: 4-Person Scramble, pick your own team members or we can fill in the teams.

Please join us for tons of prizes and fun! Deadline for payment is September 23rd. Please call Local 396 at 330-758-4596 for more info.
Delegates from the Local attended the United Association General Convention in August. The convention annually gathers delegates from across the country to plan the United Association’s future.

In attendance at this year’s convention were 3,300 delegates from over 300 locals throughout the United States and Canada. The delegates gathered in Las Vegas for one week to elect a new United Association leadership team, as well as to vote on a broad range of issues. Delegates also listened to speakers talk about labor roles in the economic recovery and the upcoming 2012 presidential election.

Local 396 sent 7 delegates to the convention: President George Popovich, Vice President Brent Kelley, Coordinator/Training Director Marty Loney, members Bob Jones and John Orr, and Business Agent Tim Callion and Manager Butch Taylor.

The first issue of the convention was the election of UA General Officers for the next 5 years. After discussion of the election process, delegates voted and the following were elected: For General President, Bill Hite was elected for a 2nd term, along with long-time friend of Local 396, Steve Kelly as Assistant General President. Mark McManus was elected as General Secretary-Treasurer (replacing Pat Perno, retiring from the position). All International Representatives and Special Representatives were elected to their terms; T.L. Ranson remains as our International Representative. Ken Broadbent was elected as Vice-President of the District 2 General Executive Board, Marty Naseef was elected as HVAC Representative and Ken Ruggles was elected as the Representative to the Energy Department. These men are all from Ohio, Pennsylvania, or West Virginia.

Delegates voted on changes to the UA Constitution and By-laws. These changes included a 5-year strategic job plan. Outlined in this plan was Skilled Training and Workforce Development. This plan will support improved and increased apprenticeship participation, expand/diversify recruitment policy (VIP), and develop new organizing, training, and certification programs.

Also outlined was Contractor/Owner/Industry Relations. This includes direct marketing to end-users (within the Standard of Excellence), as well as establishing local and regional tri-partite programs (between owners, contractors and the UA) and promoting alternative bidding (PLA’s, Best Values).

The next issue involved Political Action and Government Affairs, which includes establishing strong political action programs in every local union and maintaining first-class government affairs at the international level.

Finally discussed as part of the 5-year plan was Promoting Local Union Leadership, with strategic planning for state associations and for local unions. This includes promoting apprenticeship, craft-licensing and pro-union policies.

Convention delegates also got to hear from a number of guest speakers, including a video message from President Barack Obama. Obama stated, “As President, I wake up every day and think about what we can do to get more Americans back to work and help their families get ahead. And I will not rest until every American who wants a good job can get one, and anyone who wants to join a union can do so."

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka also spoke. Trumka’s speech noted that we build the country, we make it run, and we have a right to a decent, fair standard of living for us and our kids. We also have a right to “some health care, some security when we retire, and the chance for our kids to do better than we did. We earned that right.” Many other guests spoke about the future and the strengths of the United Association.

Many of the programs that the UA has adopted, Local 396 has already instituted with our P.I.P.E. Program. Ultimately gathered from the convention is that it is critical that we work together, discuss the issues that need addressed, but to ultimately continue to work together as one.

Fraternally,
Butch Taylor
A Word from the Business Agent

Greetings Brothers & Sisters, I hope your summer has been safe and fun! Marcellus Shale talk still dominates the printed and spoken news. Everyone seems to be trying to capture a portion of this tremendous revolutionary opportunity. V&M Star remains the biggest attraction in the Valley. Since our last newsletter Kvaerner-Aker has 15 pipefitters on site. They have also projected a manpower hiring schedule for the next six months, peaking in January 2012 to 267. Kvaerner-Aker is currently working on Utility Piping, which includes air, argon, nitrogen, and oxygen lines. Kvaerner is also establishing an on-site fab shop in preparation for hanger and pipe fabrication work. Plans are also in the making to begin the Tube Max hydraulic system in early October. De-Cal cut the size of its on-site work force, awaiting the awards for the gas main, fire main, and water treatment plant. However, their Fab Shop crew has increased as they work on projects un-related to V&M II.

Work at RG Steel also picked up this summer for McCarl’s and Local 396 members. RG Steel Blast Furnace had weekly shut-downs in August and kept a small McCarl’s crew on-site for almost a month. As always, thanks to the members who accept these short calls to man our work. If we don’t do the work someone else will. Work at the mill should resume by the end of September.

Other projects underway in the Valley are Patriot Metals Meltshop with MKS Mechanical using a small local crew, performing cooling tower and vacuum piping work. Working under portability is Standard Plumbing on utility piping. Cattrail Mechanical is finishing a piping job at the Ergon refinery in the most southern tip of our jurisdiction. Work has also begun at McDonald’s warehouse at Commerce Park in Lordstown, Niles High School, Dicks Sports Boardman, Boardman High School and Erie Terminal Apartments with Local 396 contractors receiving bid awards on the projects.

I recently met with Ben Davis, project manager for the Chesler Group in charge of construction at the New Wean Foundation building in Courthouse Square in Warren. I supplied Ben with a contractor list and notified them about bidding this job. The city of Warren administrators are also considering a new one-step city government building using funds from a 24 million bond issue. City administrators are open to a Project Labor Agreement if and when council approves the bond plan. I will continue to monitor the developments regarding the one-stop administration project.

In closing I encourage all members to prepare themselves for the work opportunity at hand. Welders and fitters should refresh their talents if they have not been used in a while. Remember there are no shortcuts to safety! Fraternally,

Bell Lowenovic, ex-
plaining the new equipment at the De-Cal Fab Shop.

LOCAL 396 RETIREES

Retirement...a time to enjoy all of the things you never had to time to when you worked!

Congratulations to our recent retirees:
Jerry Miller, 20 years of service
Dan Prokup, 33 years of service
Chris Hanna, 34 years of service
Dave Poptic, 41 years of service

The AUTUMN RETIREES BREAKFAST is planned for Monday, November 14, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. This will be held at the Local 396 Union Hall/training center. Guest speakers will be in attendance and topics such as benefits will be discussed.

PLEASE RSVP TO RACHEL AT 330-758-4596 EXT. 5 BY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH.

YSU FOOTBALL TICKETS
Attention members: Youngstown State Football season tickets are available. If you are interested in attending a game, please contact the hall. (First come, first serve)

~IN MEMORIAM~

Local 396 remembers its members who have recently passed: Robert Tate, Michael Biroschak, Michael Rakocy, James O’Hara, Sr., Eugene Wagner, Edward Renz, and Jay Toth.

“O God, Who has called hence the soul of our Brother/Sister who has departed this life. You who alone Knowest the secrets of each heart, with all its trials, sorrows and temptations; we beseech Thee to have mercy upon him/her, and also upon all those, our brothers and sisters, who have gone previously; pardon each sin that they have committed and give them rest, light and peace in Thy everlasting Kingdom; all of this we beg through you our God and Savior.”