As we work on our current projects and the work picture continues to grow, we continue to meet with new contractors and companies moving into the area, who are following the rise of the booming oil and gas industry here.

With V&M Star, RG Steel, GM Lordstown and other industrial projects under National Agreements, the projects have been receiving high comments from the management of contractors on site. This public support is a testimony to our membership and their dedication to getting the job done.

This new industry in oil and gas is different from what we've dealt with before; new training and welding procedures and safety programs are being instituted, all leading to greater opportunities for our members. M3 Midstream and Chesapeake Midstream plan to partner on a $900 million pipeline and processing infrastructure project that calls for the construction of two new processing plants, one in Southern Columbiana (Local 396) and the other in Harrison County (Local 495). Frank Tourer from Chesapeake/M3 Midstream, whom we have met through other companies in the industry, stated, "There is potential for more processing plants as development moves north through Mahoning and Trumbull Counties".

On March 22, 2012, Local 396 hosted an Energy Networking Forum, where we showcased our skills to over 200 companies, including Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center, NovTech (new company located in Warren Center involved in oil and gas), McDonald Steel, and Magnett. Also in attendance were representatives from YSU, Eastern Gateway Community College, and companies from the oil and gas: Chesapeake Energy and Ohio Oil and Gas Association. For our UA mechanical/signaling contractors, the purpose of the forum was to develop partnerships so that we can meet the demands for work and manpower in the years to come. It was reported in these meetings that even though we are early in the development of the oil and gas work, it is a 35-year process from harvesting the gas and oil from the drilling sites to the processing plants. Therefore, the demand for manpower will be huge.

We left this meeting with a direct line for UA contractors to bid this work, contact persons to build partnerships and desires to work together. A big thank you goes out to both Congressman Tim Ryan and Congressman Bill Johnson and their staffs for making this a big success. Our goal for the Plumbers And Pipers Local 396 was to have the first opportunities to put our skills to work in the Utica Shale, and to get a better understanding of what our needs are and how to better meet the demands of this growing industry.

Through the Executive Board and membership, we are now working with a company, Shale Comm, that will help us in marketing our union into the Shale Industry, as well as many other projects that are coming to the Mahoning Valley.

John Yale, from the UA Standard of Excellence, visited the V&M Star project. He met with all of the officers of our local union, general foremen, and stewards of the job site to discuss adding the Standard of Excellence to future phases at V&M Star and to other projects in the area.

The first Y.O.U.N.G. project was the Utica Shale Conference held at the Youngstown Covelli Center. We had much support and were able to showcase a large display. This conference opened many doors and produced a lot of opportunities.

Finally, thank you for all of your support and your hard work!

Fraternally,
Butch Taylor
Business Manager
President's Report

From George Popovich, President of Local 396:

Union Counselors Class started April 5th, with members Mark Turnbull Jr. and Tony Goclano participating, and many from other local unions involved as well. A big thank you goes out to our two members, as this is all volunteer work and a great way to give back to the community.

Congratulations to the 5th Year Apprentices, who will be completing their apprenticeship and becoming journeymen in June. They are: Jim Boggs, Bill Haggerty, Chad Hupp, Tim Mohney, Gene Page, Justin Sargent, Dustin Spalding, Paul Trupe, and Jake Yoder.

The 1st Year Apprentices will be sworn in as new members at the June union meeting. The future members are: Robert Crislip, Kevin Dibell, Nicholas Erwin, Donald Hall Jr., Justin Johnson, James Kaiser, Brian Kerr, Tyler Lias, Michael Price, Shawn Shaffer, Frank Swick, Donte Thomas, and Cliff Yambroviich. Congratulations to these hard-working apprentices.

The Spring Golf Outing to North Carolina continues this year, April 18-21st. Special thanks to members Bill Galla and Denny Jones for continuing this event. 50 members from Local 396 and other local unions will be attending the 12th year of this outing. Anyone interested in joining the LU 396 Golf League, please contact Denny Jones at 330-774-9500. The league plays every Monday at Bedford Trails in Coltsville, Ohio. The first day of the league is April 16th.

The Building Trades and United Way have teamed up for a Bike Run to be held Sunday, July 15th. The Run will start and finish at the Operating Engineers Hall, 291 McClurg Road in Boardman. The cost is $15 Rider/ $5 Passenger, with Registration beginning at 9:00 AM. All proceeds will benefit the needy in our community.

~IN MEMORIAM~


"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 your God and Savior."

396 RETIREEs

Ahhh, Retirement....the time to enjoy all of the things you never had time to do when you worked! Congratulations are extended to our recent retirees, and we wish you the best.

Retirees:
Danny Bullen (41 Years of Service), Kenneth David (22 Years of Service), Robert Booth (14 Years of Service), Terry Meikle (33 Years of Service), Don Markovich, Charles Lepowsky Jr. and Robert Nard.
A Word from the Business Agent

Brothers & Sisters: Since our last newsletter, work in our jurisdiction has exploded. Kvaerner has grown from 15 fitters at V&M to approximately 230, a bit shy of their projected 267 by the end of January. Our members and the travelers working at V&M are to be commended for their hard work and efforts on this project. Big jobs often mean big problems, however, injuries are down and productivity is up, and that is great! Kvaerner continues to improve work on the rotary furnace, hydrodynamics, and piping, and equipment installation. They have also been awarded the mechanical work at the new melt shop. Other contractors on the project include De-Cal Mechanical, Power Piping, Aolon Mechanical, McKamish Mechanical, McCarls, and IS&T, Inc. Their combined scope of work includes HDPF, underground water mains, and storm and sanitary sewers, HVAC, 2nd rough plumbing, instrumentation and WTP piping. Work at the new V&M Coupling Plant, Gas Main, and Finishing Mill have not been awarded yet.

Work apart from V&M has also been good. Our local work has kept our members and contractors busy. Current projects include:

1. Wean Foundation renovation—Warren
2. CVS & McDonalds—Boardman
3. Walmart addition—Boardman
4. Trumbull Memorial Hospital—Warren
5. Hillside Hospital—Howland
6. McDonald’s Warehouse—Lordstown
7. Bottom Dollar Foods—Youngstown
8. Ohio Turnpike Reststop
9. Windsor House—Champion
10. Hubbard Schools
11. Niles Schools
12. Brookfield Sports Complex
13. Extrudex Renovation—North Jackson
14. Cortland Library
15. Panera Bread Warehouse—Warren
16. Hubbard Manor
17. Patriot Metals—North Jackson
18. Lisbon Gov. Services
19. CCTC—Lisbon
20. Mittal Coke—Warren
21. RG Steel—Warren
22. Delphi—Warren
23. De-Cal Fab Shop—Youngstown
24. Aolon Fab Shop—Niles
25. Oakhill Renaissance
26. St. E’s—Boardman
27. St. Joe’s—Warren

Projects awarded include:
1. Niles Elementary School
2. Austintown School
3. South Range Sports Complex
4. YSU Lounge
5. General Motors Presswork

These are just some of the projects in our jurisdiction. Our industry depends upon jobs and opportunities to flourish. We currently have both, mostly due to the technology of the Gas Exploration Field. Our collective hard work in the field and in the hall is paying huge dividends for our local union. I know that our combined efforts will make 2012 a banner year.

Fraternally,

On The Training Front

"Without Labor Nothing Prospers.”
~Sophocles

The next weld test session will be April 21st. You need to call the hall to schedule your test. Please have your book number and which test you will be taking when you call in to confirm your attendance.

Under the new UA guidelines, Local 396 has adopted a new welding failure policy. It is as follows: If a welder is sent back to the hall for unsatisfactory welding by a contractor, the welder will come to Journeyman Welding with a Local 396 ATR for 9 hours (3 classes) and show improvement before being sent out to work as a welder again. If a second offense occurs, the UA has mandated that the welder’s certification be pulled and that the testing procedure be started over for that particular welding technique.

Residential Plumbing Classes are held on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 PM. Attendance is mandatory. The State Apprentice Contest will be held in Dayton, Local 162 the week of April 23rd. We will be sending 5th year apprentices Jim Boggs and TJ Mohney.

There will be a Backflow Recertification class held in the beginning of April. Please sign up with Rachel if you need to get recertified.

A CFC Certification class will be upcoming also.

We need to have a few more people to fill this class; if you are interested, please call and sign up.

Foreman Training Class with Bob Semko will be held in April if we have enough to run the class. We currently need 8 more members to sign up.

Finally, we are still in the running for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant. This grant is for Downhill Welding classes and we should know soon if we will receive this grant.

-Marty Loney
Training Coordinator
Above: Business Manager Butch Taylor appeared and spoke at a congressional hearing for the Oil and Gas Industry in March.

Above: The Local 396 display at the YOUNG Conference for Utica Shale last November. Another view of the display below.

Above: Many contractors and companies from the oil and gas industry gathered for the Energy Forum to meet with Chesapeake Energy.

Above: The local hosted an event for the American Welding Society last month.
Left: Int'l Representative T.L. Ranson performing the inspection for the fab shop for new contractor Evets Oil and Gas.