

Arizona

A Communication for the Members & Customers of UA Local 469



# PIPE TRADES

## Reporter

Spring 2011

Issue 23

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Investing In Our  
Youth-Boy Scout  
Plumbing Merit  
Badge Program  
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The Arizona Pipe Trades Reporter is a quarterly publication for the members of Arizona Pipe Trades 469, industry, government and community partners. To subscribe, send e-mail to [info@thetorresfirm.com](mailto:info@thetorresfirm.com) or contact Torres Consulting & Law Group at 602.626.8805.



## AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

**Phil McNally, Jr.**  
business manager

### *Opportunities, Formidable Work on the Horizon*

We are pleased to present our newly formatted news magazine, the *Arizona Pipe Trades Reporter*. With the ever increasing developments occurring in our industry, I felt it necessary to expand our communication efforts to keep everyone up to speed.

#### **Intel strong source of current and future work**

On Feb. 19, 2011, Intel announced plans to invest more than \$5 billion at their Ocotillo site in Chandler. The project, known as **Fab 42**, will be one of the most sophisticated, high volume semiconductor manufacturing facilities in the world. Obviously, this exciting news is a landmark opportunity for our contractors and our members. We will be sure to keep everyone informed as this project develops into reality.

At the present time, there are more than 900 Local 469 members employed by numerous contractors at this site, performing a vast array of piping scopes of work on a daily basis. In these difficult economic times, I am sure we are all aware of how fortunate we are to have these employment opportunities. Obviously, there are good reasons we continue to maintain our presence at this world-class facility. Among them is the commitment of our members and contractors to deliver a best-value product to the owner.

We can all be proud of our sustained success in this industry and look forward to continuing to meet these challenges.

Additionally, our members continue to provide this value to the industrial industry. With our contractor partner, Day and Zimmerman, we are maintaining the majority of the **APS power stations** in Arizona through planned outages. It is good to see our increased presence in this industry after a long absence.

Although the commercial market is struggling, we have been experiencing a slight uptick, and as the economy continues its slow improvement, we will keep working with our contractors to secure projects as they become available.

#### **Political climate demands our attention and action**

In February, I wrote a letter to the members discussing the political challenges we are facing. By now, the agenda of the ultra-conservative, right-wing politicians is no secret. From the national level to the local elected officials, it seems that any and all **labor organizations and their members are under attack**. Our ability to have a

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*“Today’s political climate: Our ability to have a political voice and our very right to exist are on the line.”*

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*continued on page 20*



## FIGHTING THE ANTI-UNION HYPE – A YEAR-ROUND ENDEAVOR

### Israel G. Torres

Torres Consulting and Law Group

### Defending Arizona jobs

The Arizona Pipe Trades has been very busy the past six months on the political front defending Arizona jobs, promoting the 469's membership, and fending off anti-union hysteria. Through it all, the Arizona Pipe Trades has come out on top for one simple reason – the facts are on our side. The whirlwind of consecutive events, fights and debates have shown 469's resolve and have clearly identified the forces that aim to defeat us.

Despite going toe to toe against foes with deep pockets and political capital to spare, the Arizona Pipe Trades has remained steadfast to its commitments to the working families of Local 469.

### Policy debate

Early last year, the Arizona Pipe Trades had a substantial win for Arizona workers at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), ensuring the use of Arizona labor on a \$2.2 billion solar plant in Mohave County. This policy change at the ACC enraged the Arizona General Contractors (AGC) and the Arizona Builders Alliance (ABA). Both of these groups want to keep the status quo,

allowing out-of-state workers to take Arizona jobs.

The AGC, ABA and a California anti-union organization called the Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction (CFEC) – which is an oxymoron when you learn about the group – began a united anti-union smear campaign labeling the 469 pro-Arizona workers initiative as a “union power grab.” This debate soon spilled over onto the floor of the ACC where 469 fended off two days’ worth of unfounded anti-union hysteria from the AGC and ABA. We are happy to report that after much debate, applicants must still work with trade organizations to utilize local labor.

### Building relationships and educating lawmakers

Anticipating legislative attacks from the AGC and ABA, the Arizona Pipe Trades hosted the 2011 Legislative Kick-Off Reception. The reception brought together state legislators, Arizona Corporation Commissioners, 469 members and P.I.P.E contractors. It allowed lawmakers to meet with the business owners / contractors who work hand in hand with 469. The evening was a big success with several dozen lawmakers attending, learning about the Arizona Pipe Trades, its apprenticeship program, members, and part-

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*“Not in recent memory has there been a legislative attack so uniquely focused on the Arizona Pipe Trades and its membership’s ability to provide for its families.”*

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ner contractors. The more familiar legislators are with 469's issues and concerns, the easier it is for them to protect the working families of 469.

Lawmakers had another chance to meet with members of 469 just a few months later at the 3rd Annual Lunch on the Capitol Lawn. The House Lawn was covered in orange 469 shirts as more than 100 members of 469 joined with lawmakers and staff to enjoy a BBQ lunch. Lawmakers were once again engaged with 469 members discussing issues important to the local and their families.

### **Anti-Arizona legislation aimed at Local 469**

As expected, the AGC and ABA drafted legislation that promotes the use of out-of-state workers. Sponsored by Rep. Harper and Sen. Shooter, two bills were passed attacking the commission's pro-Arizona position. This legislation was an outright attack on 469 and its membership's ability to have preference over out-of-state workers. Not in recent memory has there been a legislative attack so uniquely focused on the Arizona Pipe Trades and its memberships' ability to provide for their families.

### **Staying on course**

For the last three years, the Arizona Pipe Trades 469 has made huge strides in the political arena with its Political Action Committee (PAC). The 469 PAC has become very visible and has gained the ability to incite change. With this increased visibility and activity, 469 has drawn attacks from anti-union lawmakers, anti-Arizona organizations, and California anti-union groups. So far, the 469 PAC has been able to fend off attacks and continue to push its pro-Arizona agenda. If the PAC is going to be able to con-

tinue its forward progression, it needs to be able to impact more campaigns and educate more lawmakers. It is time for the Arizona Pipe Trades to reassess its resource commitment to the PAC as we continue to promote our pro-jobs agenda and battle the anti-union hysteria we are seeing across the country and here at home.

Thank you to all the members of the PAC and our political action volunteers – you have made a difference during the past year!



### **GET INVOLVED – STAY INFORMED!**

Sign up for **PAC Pulse**, 469's political action alert system – Visit <https://ssl.capwiz.com/thetorresfirm/mlm/signup/>. Check out the PAC Pulse website for the latest information about legislation and action taken by the PAC to influence the lawmaking process.

Register for news **e-blasts** – Visit [www.ualocal469.org/pac1.aspx](http://www.ualocal469.org/pac1.aspx), click on “E-mail Blasts,” and then “Join Our Mailing List!”

Follow Local 469 on **Facebook** – just log on and search for UA Plumbers and Pipefitters 469. “Like” us today!

Receive updates and event information via **text message** – Text “469” to 313131 and include your first and last name, as well as “apprentice,” “active,” or “retiree.”

# INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH – CONTINUING OUR TRADE

## Plumbing Merit Badge program a hit with Boy Scouts



Arizona Pipe Trades 469 prides itself on being involved in the community, beyond just the construction jobs that we do. This year, we have partnered with the Boy Scouts of



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*“The partnership with the 469 is amazing and setting the standard for future partnerships with other organizations.”*

*Clint Lawton,  
alumni director,  
Grand Canyon  
Council of Boy  
Scouts of America*

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America to help scouts earn their Plumbing Merit Badge. Through this program, our skilled members had the opportunity to pass along some of their pipe-trades knowledge and experience to the next generation.

The Plumbing Merit Badge was one of the original 57 Merit Badges issued by the Boy Scouts of America in 1911. One of the goals of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare capable, responsible, involved citizens and future

leaders of America, which is in line with the philosophy of 469. Our local and apprenticeship are proud to be part of that tradition. This is a great opportunity for Arizona Pipe Trades 469 to teach a new generation of future leaders about the union and the trade.

This is the first time the Grand Canyon Council Unit of Boy Scouts of America has partnered with an outside organization, and representatives of the council have been dually impressed with the quality of the Plumbing Merit Badge program. Scout leaders have described the partnership as “amazing” and





“setting the standard” for future partnerships with other organizations.

The monthly workshops take place at the Training Center in Phoenix. It has been a true “win-win” for both the scouts and the 469 apprentices. The apprentices built the materials necessary for the lessons to take place, and many have even volunteered their time teaching the scouts the curriculum alongside experienced journeymen. The scouts are introduced to a variety of plumbing topics including water recycling, cutting pipes, fitting, soldering, a new PVC pipe topic, and much more. 469 members and apprentices are at the cutting edge of new pipe-trades technologies, offering the latest insights into meeting modern plumbing needs.

Instructors use a combination of classroom, hands-on approach and an informal atmosphere – and it appeals to scouts of all ages – driving more and more scouts to sign up for the workshop. More than 57 scouts, from “Tenderfoot” scouts to “Life” ranks, have enthusiastically attended thus far.

These young men joined the workshop for various reasons ranging anywhere from “having fun,” to being more useful at home, to exploring possible career paths. Several of

the scouts stated that they prefer the 469 plumbing workshops to other workshops, due to the hands-on activities and fun atmosphere.

Parents have been excited and impressed with the instructors’ professionalism and the quality of material that the children are taught – not to mention the extra help they will get around the house!

Special thanks to the following individuals for their commitment – in support, time and effort – to this program. It does us all good to be involved in growing the next pipe-trades generation.

- Phil McNally, Jr.
- Rick Wieting
- Carl Triphahn
- Mel Ingwaldson
- Bill Brown
- Gary Jordan
- Anthony Importuna
- Larry Abril
- Chris Van Kirk
- Jerry Guy
- Skylar Daniels
- Ed Lopez
- Cathy Mayeux
- Tim Ray
- Shawn Masterson
- Jasper Rushford





## ON THE BUSINESS FRONT

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### Larry Abril

business representative

### **Pinto Valley Mine gives us a look into the past, as well as the future**

One hundred and twenty-five miles east of Phoenix near Globe at the Pinto Valley mine, I visited UA 469 member Fred Sanchez. Fred took me on a tour of the large open-pit copper and gold mine and we talked about his nearly four-decade career at Pinto Valley. A retired Army Reserve SeaBee, Fred has been steward for many years. The mine has seen a lot of change the last four years, with the work crew dropping from more than 600

proposed Rosemont Copper mine in southern Arizona, would create several dozen long-term jobs for members of 469, not including the jobs created during construction. For nearly two years we have been meeting and working with Rosemont Copper; introducing them to the 469's highly qualified workforce and offering our support as the mine moves through its permitting process.

With the price of copper and gold at record highs we can only assume this will lead to more mines and work for 469. We will continue to reach out to mining companies and developers with an eye towards the future. Copper has played a major role in Arizona's history and I believe it will play a major role in 469's future.

### **Davis-Bacon Compliance Monitoring Update**

As I described in the last newsletter, 469 is engaged in proactively monitoring Davis-Bacon projects in Arizona to ensure payment of prevailing wages. Currently, we are monitoring non-union contractors for Davis-Bacon Compliance on 14 cases. The value for all of the jobs awarded totals more than \$450 million.

We are encouraged by recent DOL activity on the Wellton Border Patrol project. Several months ago, I received a tip that Tempe Mechanical may have been skirting Davis-Bacon regulations and not paying their

employees to 54, including seven pipefitters.

This visit to the Pinto Valley Mine reaffirmed my long-held hope to see new mines open in Arizona. Mines, like the



## Davis Bacon Projects Under Review

| Project Name  | Place of Performance  | Project Description   | Job Value     |
|---|---|---|---------------|
| Piping Repair, Modification and Replacement of Hoover Dam                               | Hoover Dam, AZ/NV   | Perform piping repair, modification and replacement at Hoover Dam   | \$14,000,000  |
| Renovate Building 465   | Luke AFB, AZ 14100 W. Eagle Street Luke AFB, AZ 85309 US                  | HVAC, fire protection devices   | \$3,205,449   |
| Construct National Guard Readiness Center   | Florence, AZ  | Construct New National Guard facility with training facility, classrooms, change rooms, kitchen, sleeping quarters.   | \$6,357,000   |
| Construct National Guard  | Phoenix, AZ   | Construct New National Guard facility with training facility, classrooms, change rooms, kitchen, sleeping quarters.   | \$11,603,500  |
| Construct an Army National Guard Readiness Center, Camp Navajo, Bellemont, AZ           | Bellemont, AZ   | Construct approximately 52,860 sf and associated site work. The work is not limited to mechanical, electrical, and concrete trades but will include them.   | \$6,577,000   |
| New Border Patrol Station,  | Wellton, AZ   | A new Border Patrol Station in Wellton, Arizona to support 375 agents. The facility will consist of multiple buildings on a single site.  | \$22,143,428  |
| GRCA - Construct 64 Housing Units   | Grand Canyon, Coconino, Arizona; Grand Canyon National Park               | Construct two multi-dwellings to be made available to employees working Construct two multi-dwellings to be made available to employees working in Grand Canyon National Park. The employee housing will consist of the construction of two two-story apartment buildings consisting of a total of 16 apartments. | \$8,120,000   |
| Expand OR Suite Bldg 57 Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System                           | Tucson, AZ  | Construct a 6,100 sf addition to the second floor of Bldg 57 to expand the existing Operating Room Suite.   | \$4,992,000   |
| Reconfiguration and Expansion of Mariposa Land Port of Entry in Nogales, AZ             | Nogales, AZ   | Reconfigure and expand the existing Mariposa Land Port of Entry (LPOE) in Nogales, Arizona. The project will expand the existing LPOE to accommodate increasing volumes of privately owned vehicles, pedestrian and commercial traffic.   | \$111,134,000 |
| OR Humidification/DeHumidification  | Phoenix, AZ; Carl T. Hayden Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center | Work includes, but is not limited to: installation of new humidification and dehumidification system, including controls for Operating rooms 1 through 7 located on the 3rd floor   | \$2,687,000   |
| Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation                                   | Phoenix, AZ; 7th Street and Deer Valley                                   | Construct a 210,202 sf facility   | \$62,000,000  |
| Sells Hospital McQuay Chiller and   | Sells, AZ   | Installation of new chilled water supply and return lines that will connect the Sells Indian Hospital Outpatient Department (OPD) to main plant chillers.   | TBD           |
| Phoenix Soujourner Center Hope Campus Remodel   | Phoenix, AZ   | On-site exterior security improvements and facility renovations to enhance services to domestic violence clients  | \$1,907,224   |
| Modern Streetcar Project Update for Construction Associations and Construction Business | Tucson, AZ  | Modern Streetcar in Tucson Urban Corridor   | \$196,822,000 |

pipefitters according to prevailing wages. I contacted TCLG and they began the necessary public records requests which turned up some unusual deductions on their certified payrolls. DOL was notified and they initiated a sting operation for that project which included 12 senior investigators from throughout DOL's Western Region. Although there is an ongoing investigation, we have been informed that we were right to have notified the DOL.

We encourage our members, if they know of non-union companies not paying the correct prevailing wages to their employees, to contact us to help in this initiative.



UA Local 469 Member Fred Sanchez (left) and Business Representative Larry Abril.



UA Local 469

Thank you Picnic Com





# Annual Picnic Committee & Volunteers!





## WORKING ON ALL FRONTS TO IMPROVE OUR LOCAL

**Chris Van Kirk**  
business representative

As I write this, I am reflecting on our third annual “**Lunch on the Lawn**” that took place recently at the state capitol. The national focus on labor issues in states such as Wisconsin has deflected attention from

those issues that are taking place here in our own state. As you will learn, we are faced with legislation that could have a very harmful effect on Local 469, as well as other labor entities in the state. **We had a chance to ask questions of our legislative leaders** on a one-to-one basis at our event. Generally, it is much more difficult to have misunderstandings during those personal conversations.

There were two questions that I heard being asked a great deal at our lunch. Those were “Are you working on any legislation that would spur growth in the construction industry?” and “Are you working on any bills that would support using a local workforce prior to recruiting workers from out of state?” We had a good turnout of all the groups in our local union – apprentices, active workers, retirees and our contractors. I would like to thank all those who attended our event. It is important that those making the

legislation that will so profoundly impact us actually see who we are...not just who our union representatives are. That happened at our lunch.

Moving forward, it was exciting to hear of the announcement of the **new microchip fabrication facility** that is scheduled to begin construction in just a couple of months. The choice by that manufacturer to build the most advanced microchip production facility in the world in our backyard reinforces the need for us to continue improving the quality of the services that we provide to them. Along those lines, we are working to assist PIPE with the implementation of a standard for the joining of plastic pipe. Implementation of this procedure will reduce the possibility of joint failures that cost millions of dollars not only in advanced technology plants, but in all types of construction. My compliments go out to PIPE and the few individuals that donated so much of their time to make this happen.

This month was the third time we have sponsored a plumbing merit badge seminar for about 50 Boy Scouts. I wish that we had started this a long time ago. As I looked around the room when the boy scouts were performing their tasks, I noticed that not only the scouts but also the volunteers had

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*“It is important that those making the legislation that will so profoundly impact us actually see who we are... not just who our union representatives are.”*

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## DISPATCH AND FACILITY NEWS



**William Moody**

financial treasurer/secretary

### Phones

To get in touch with us, please call 602.956.9350 or 520.323.9476. You will then be routed to the auto attendant. By selecting “1” you connected to the job line; by selecting “2” you will reach union hall; by selecting “3” you will get Health & Welfare or funds office; by selecting “4” you will be connected to the apprenticeship; and, when you select “5” your call is routed to the special announcements line. The direct phone number for the job line is 602.956.9702 and the retiree’s direct line is 602.956.6083.

### Dispatch

As our work increases, we find that some of our members have not been keeping their certifications up to date. The officers of Local 469 encourage you to use the training center to update and acquire any training or certifications that you may need to keep or secure employment opportunities. Presently, anyone who possesses welding skills can be employed throughout the UA’s jurisdiction. Even when times are not the best, welders are in demand. With the upcoming projects in our state, we will need an abundance of qualified welders to build and complete them on time. Training is the key to everyone’s success for our future.

**602.956.9350 or 520.323.9476**

| <b>1</b>                        | <b>2</b>    | <b>3</b>                                      | <b>4</b>                              | <b>5</b>                        |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Job Line</b><br>602.956.9702 | <b>Hall</b> | <b>Health &amp; Welfare</b><br>1.877.429.7473 | <b>Apprenticeship</b><br>602.269.8213 | <b>Retirees</b><br>602.956.6083 |

Apprentices and journeyman should either be at the hall in person or when calling the job line (**602.956.9702**); **press 1** and leave the information requested for dispatch. When you leave a phone number, you need to answer the phone when called by the dispatcher in order to be dispatched. If you do not answer the phone, the dispatcher will move on to the next individual in line for that work call.

### Dues Payment updates

Because we know everyone has a busy schedule and with soaring fuel prices, we will be offering more ways to pay your monthly dues. Beginning March 1, 2011, we have the ability to accept dues payments over the phone and in the near future we will have online dues payments, as well.

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*“Presently, anyone who possesses welding skills can be employed throughout the UA’s jurisdiction.”*

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## RESIDENTIAL, LIGHT COMMERCIAL AND APACC SERVICE

### Mel Ingwaldson

business representative

### WJ. Maloney constructs solar thermal chiller

Many of our partner contractors are on the cutting edge of alternative energy installations, including a recent project by WJ. Maloney. The system – serving the University of Arizona campus – uses solar thermal-evacuated tubes to heat water for use in an absorption chiller, to add chilling

capacity to the campus' loop. In addition, the residual heat not used in the chiller is pumped through an exchanger in the pool mechanical room, helping to heat the student recreation center pool. The pool is literally utilized as a "cooling tower," eliminating the need to place an actual cooling tower on site.

*“Many of our partner contractors are on the cutting edge of alternative energy installations...”*

Community Service Agency (LCSA) provides an opportunity to simultaneously help struggling working families. When you make this donation of any amount up to \$400 for a joint filing (up to \$200 for a single tax return), you can use the credit to reduce your tax liability (dollar-for-dollar), or if you are going to receive a refund, the credit simply increases your refund by that amount. This means you can benefit LCSA and the families it serves without any out-of-pocket costs!

To make a donation and receive this tax credit, you can do so by mail or on the Internet at [www.lcsaphx.org](http://www.lcsaphx.org).

WJ. Maloney builds innovative solar thermal project at the University of Arizona



### Working Poor Tax Credit a win-win for donors

When the economy is tight, there are many people who could use a helping hand. At the same time, many of us are trying to decrease our personal tax liability throughout the year.

For those interested in receiving a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your Arizona state income tax, Labor's



Simply complete the form provided here and mail with your check to LCSA by Dec. 31, 2011. Or, if you do not plan to do it this year, save this form with your tax documents and

consider it next year.

For questions about this “win-win,” contact LCSA at 602.263.5741 or visit them on the Web at [www.lcsaphx.org](http://www.lcsaphx.org).



Joined by the Arizona Cardinals' Big Red and Baxter from the D'backs, Henry enjoys some fun at the APACC field goal posts that travel to many APACC events.



APACC's Henry the Gila Monster is ready to roll at the 469 Annual Picnic.

## ASBESTOS:

What you should know about your health and legal rights and why should you be tested?

Hotze Runkle, PLLC is proudly working with Local 469 Members and many other southwestern United States locals to screen members and evaluate any worker who believes he or she was exposed to asbestos. If your year of birth was 1963 or before and you have worked in the industry before 1980 for at least two years, you may have been exposed to asbestos. Each case is as unique as each member and Hotze Runkle needs to work with you on an individualized basis. For information about how to contact them, please see Mel Ingwaldson at the Union Hall.

***Yes! I want to contribute to LCSA's Tax Credit Program!***

(Please check one)

\$50       \$100       \$200       \$400       Other \_\_\_\_\_

LCSA 3117 N. 16th St., #100, Phoenix, Arizona 85016

(Please fill out following information so we can send you a receipt for tax purposes)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by Local 469 Member

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**





## SPECIAL FEATURE

*Editor's Note: This column – authored by United States Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis – recently was published in many news sources, blogs and websites throughout the world. It has captured the hearts and minds of many union members and labor supporters, and provoked thought in the organized labor debate taking place nationwide.*

### At The Table

U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis

I was “raised union.”

My mother, who immigrated to the United States from Nicaragua, worked the 3 p.m. to midnight shift at a toy factory after the birth of my younger twin sisters. She was a member of the United Rubber Workers, which later merged with the Steelworkers Union.

My father worked at a battery recycling plant and was a shop steward there for the Teamsters Union. His plant went on strike several times when I was a kid. During those times, he explained to my mother, my six brothers and sisters, and me that it would be tough. Although the union paid a small part of his wages when they were on strike, it was a hardship. But we understood that we had to make sacrifices. And we did.

When I was in ninth grade, my dad would come home at the end of the day and ask me to sit with him at our kitchen table. From his pockets, he would pull pieces of paper with writing in Spanish on them – notes given to him by his co-workers. There were all sorts of things scribbled on them: concerns about health and safety practices at the plant, questions about paychecks that didn't add up, and ideas about how to improve the efficiency and productivity of the line. He'd ask me to translate them into English for him.

The first time, I didn't understand what they were. When I asked, he explained: “They are the voice of the workers.” He said that the paper scraps started a conversation between the union and management. He told me it was a way to get them together “at the table.” After that, I understood.

My dad told that story to President Obama when they met. He said, with obvious pride:

“Hilda has been doing this sort of work for a very long time. She still understands.”

I do. And since then, for my entire adult life, I have honored, respected and celebrated

the voice of workers, which can only be guaranteed when they have the right to organize and bargain collectively.

That's important to remember, particularly now, as states and cities grapple with enormous fiscal challenges, and everyone must sacrifice to meet those challenges. The



public employees who are critical to our communities – from nurses to teachers to firefighters and police officers – have made and will continue to make sacrifices to help close budget gaps. But some state leaders have gone too far in the process. Budget sacrifices are one thing; demanding that workers give up their rights as union members – to take away their voice – is another.

For me, it's not lofty rhetoric. During my two years as labor secretary, I've seen firsthand time and time again how unions make remarkable contributions to the strength and prosperity of our nation. In workplaces from my home state of California to Washington, D.C., where I spend most of my time now, and everywhere in between, organized labor is helping businesses improve their bottom line, make workplaces safer and more productive, and ensure that

all Americans have the opportunity to achieve the middle class.

Organized labor does the same for state and local government “business,” too. I'm talking about the men and women who care for

our neighbors, teach our children, keep our communities safe and clean, and run into burning buildings when others run out of them. These dedicated public servants – many of them union members – do their important work with little fanfare or recognition. Through their unions, they have

a voice in their workplace, in their future... and most importantly, in our future.

They've made sacrifices, too – particularly in the past decade – and have worked closely with state and local leaders to help the public sector do what it is supposed to do. Their participation in our civil society is paramount to its success.

Their collective voice gives them the opportunity and the right to actually improve public education, public health, and public safety and security. They deserve the right to have their voices heard when they speak out for job security and safe workplaces. Unions fight for better wages and benefits, not just for their members, but for everyone. They advocate for quality jobs that build a strong middle class.

In hard times, we all understand the need for sacrifices. Scapegoating teachers, firefighters and bus drivers by taking away their basic rights is not going to solve any problems. This is a time to find ways to work together and forge compromise. Neither side will get everything it wants, and everyone should share in the sacrifice.

Collective bargaining – what my dad called sitting “at the table” – is a cornerstone of our democracy and our middle class. It shouldn't be cast aside in hard times. It can and should be part of the solution. Just as my dad explained to me with those paper scraps at our kitchen table, the best solutions come from people sitting down at the table together.



469 Business Manager Phil McNally (right) with US Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and TCLG's Israel Torres.



## CONTRACTOR CORNER

This edition of Contractor Corner features **University Mechanical & Engineering Contractors, Inc. (UMEC), an EMCOR Company — an industry leader in healthcare, biotech, data centers, higher education, semi-conductor, water and wastewater, hospitality, and other large technology and commercial projects.**



### UMEC – Approaching half a century in Arizona

In March of 1962, UMEC opened its doors in Arizona, serving its home state, as well as New Mexico and Utah. Forty years earlier, the company was founded in San Diego. During that time, UMEC has grown to become one of the largest and most respected mechanical contracting companies in the U.S.

### Keys to success: projects, people and practices

The team at UMEC – of which Local 469 has been an important part since 1979 – has enjoyed success and growth due to three key factors: its world-class projects, its exemplary

personnel and its progressive and customer-focused practices.

### Building the best

You do not have to look far to find one of UMEC's signature projects. Too lengthy to list, the projects built by UMEC solely in Arizona are numerous, including T-Gen, Lake Pleasant Water Treatment Plant, Downtown Westin Hotel, Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, Jobing.com Arena, Banner Gateway Medical Center, Downtown Phoenix Sheraton Hotel, Banner Estrella Medical Center and Caris Life Sciences, just to name a few.

Some specific projects that are cornerstones of their markets include the patient-care tower at Phoenix Children's Hospital, Maricopa County Downtown Court Tower and the University of Arizona Health Science Education Building in downtown Phoenix.

**Phoenix Children's Hospital** tower is the most prominent structure along the Piestewa Freeway in central Phoenix. With its eye-catching, multi-colored exterior, this 11-story, 766,000- square-foot facility's first phase opened in December 2010 with final completion in June 2011. UMEC not only constructed the tower's mechanical systems, it also played a key role in the design-assist phase for the project.

"Efficiency" is the magic word for the **Maricopa County Downtown Court Tower**, which will open in February 2012. Again with an integral role in design-assist services, UMEC aimed to develop solutions to provide the best value for the county's dollar – of particular concern in the age of shrinking



Maricopa County Court Tower



Phoenix Children's Hospital

public-sector budgets and economic slowdown. The 16-story, 680,000-square-foot building also was designed and built for user efficiencies, including underground passageways for the secure transport of prisoners to and from the nearby jail, the flexibility of future build-out of additional courtrooms and a high level of energy efficiency.

UMEC also is a key player for one of University of Arizona's newest facilities -- the **Health Science Education Building** in downtown Phoenix. Construction began in October 2010 and is slated for completion in summer 2012. UMEC and its workforce are distinctively qualified for this project. "We have a wealth of experience with the unique challenges presented and skills required when working at medical and biomed complexes," states UMEC President and CEO Brad Thornton.

### **Practices – on the cutting edge**

One of UMEC's major priorities – which no doubt contributes to its prominence in the industry – is its focus on providing a project owner with as accurate an estimate as possible regarding the cost and schedule for a project. UMEC prides itself in its **Budget Management Control (BMC)**, which strives to ensure that the mechanical cost estimate is taking all aspects of the project into account.

Working side by side with project engineers during the design phase, UMEC team members continuously monitor cost as it relates to the desired functionality and quality of the project.

Back that up with the well-trained, safety-focused workforce on the job site, and you have a winning combination! To ensure this, UMEC uses **safety, quality and productivity (SQP)** observation checklists to provide real-time, wireless data throughout its company and projects.

Additionally, UMEC holds **daily "toolbox" safety and pre-task planning meetings, in addition to "Stretch and Flex"** exercises to focus all job-site personnel on safety and to prepare together for a day's work.



U of A Health Science Education Building in downtown Phoenix

### **People make the difference**

UMEC not only strives for excellence in construction, but also as a community member. For example, EMCOR Pink Hard Hats were donned by UMEC workers on the Phoenix Children's Hospital job site last October to highlight **Breast Cancer Awareness** month. The month-long

*continued on page 20*

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continued from page 3 - **Opportunities, Formidable Work on the Horizon**

political voice and our very right to exist are on the line. Please be assured we are monitoring every development on a day-to-day basis. For the most current information, please visit [www.ualocal469.org](http://www.ualocal469.org). I will continue to keep the membership updated through additional mailings, as necessary.

Also, please be sure to read the **US Labor Secretary Hilda Solis** feature on page 16. Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting Secretary Solis and discussing the issues our members face here in Arizona, and was impressed with her genuine understanding of our struggles. After reading her position on labor, I am certain you will agree.

## **Convention, negotiations – a busy year!**

The **UA convention** will be held later this year in August and delegate nominations were held at the March 19 regular membership meeting. Election of delegates were held Friday, April 15 at the regular membership meeting.

**Negotiations** have begun and your negotiating team mailed each member a questionnaire to obtain your opinion on particular items. If you have not yet returned the questionnaire, please be sure to complete it and send it back, as it is important this committee hears from the membership.

As you can see, 2011 is shaping up to be a year full of both massive opportunity and formidable challenge. There is no doubt we stand ready to seize both.

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continued from page 19 - **Contractor Corner**

awareness campaign focused on encouraging early screening and detection. Additionally, UMEC promotes the educational advancement of our youth through its involvement in the Greater Phoenix ACE Mentor Program, which provides scholarships and mentorship to aspiring young construction professionals. Also, UMEC was the 2010 recipient of Community Health Charities Champion in Health Award.

## **Local 469 and UMEC – a partnership that works**

Many Local 469 members have had the opportunity to contribute to the exceptional projects brought to the region by UMEC. “We are proud to have the high caliber of 469 pipe trades craftspeople on our jobs,” says Brad Thornton, UMEC President and CEO. “Having the skilled personnel to ensure the quality of our finished product is critical to our success.”

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## **Company Information**

University Mechanical & Engineering

Contractors, Inc. (UMEC)

An EMCOR Company

1200 N. Sickles Drive • Tempe, AZ 85281

480.921.0903 • [www.umec.com](http://www.umec.com)

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## **EMCOR Group, Inc.**

301 Merritt Seven • Norwalk, CT 06851

203.849.7800 • [www.emcorgroup.com](http://www.emcorgroup.com)

*University Mechanical is a wholly owned subsidiary of EMCOR Group, Inc., a Fortune 500 leader in mechanical & electrical construction, energy infrastructure and facilities services, for a diverse range of businesses.*

huge smiles on their faces. We had volunteers from all of the groups in our membership...apprentices, active journeymen, retirees – all were enjoying what they were doing. I hope that I am around long enough to hear the first time someone says “You know, it was when we came to the apprenticeship training center for our **Plumbing Merit Badge** that made me decide to pursue the pipe trades as a career. That was a turning point in my life.” I believe that we have the opportunity with this program to demonstrate to many conscientious young men a possible avenue for their working career that is too often the best kept secret in the state.

In the last newsletter, I asked that everyone treat others as they wish to be treated. It appears that we still have a lot of opportunities to improve in that area. Lately, we have some of our members in supervision demonstrate that there isn't anything they won't do in an attempt to convince their contractor or the client that they are “on their team.” Unfortunately, if their contractor or the client knew the extent they went to make that statement true, I don't believe they would want them anywhere near their team. **Please remember that a career in supervision in our industry often results in working with people that you have worked with before.** Try to make everyone that you work with someone who would be happy to work with you again. I'm not asking that you make them all personal friends, all I am asking is you treat people fairly and don't take advantage of those who are defenseless.

We recently underwent a period where one of our largest clients decided that among the craft workers on the job, there had been enough minor incidents to convince them that a major one was just around the corner. Our contractors all responded to this in their own ways, and many of our members were unable to perform much work that week due to mandated safety training and work shutdowns instituted by the owner. While no one wants to encourage losing man hours, **sometimes when we have an opportunity to reflect on the processes required to perform our work, we collectively find a way to do it safer.**

Please use this latest period of re-training as an opportunity to re-double our efforts to ensure the safety of all of our workers.

Finally, I would like to **thank all of those who volunteered for our annual picnic.** I attended it, and I believe this was the most successful one to date. The planning, scheduling, and execution by the picnic committee and all the picnic day volunteers reinforces to me that we will continue to be one of the most successful labor organizations in the state. Thanks to all who participated.



## EDUCATION CORNER

**Rick Wieting**  
training director

On Jan. 10, the Apprenticeship Program began the spring semester, going through May 20. At this point, the apprenticeship is working to establish new Detailing classes and has launched an ongoing Tube Bending class for journeymen and apprentices, each class will be four nights a week for two weeks. Orbital Welding classes are almost every weekend of the month each month. Please register for the classes at the Training Center to ensure we have enough people to hold the class. CAD I & II – night classes – have started and will be ongoing to meet the needs of our partner contractors.

The Apprenticeship Program has had two Boy Scout Plumbing Merit badge programs providing more than 100 Boy Scouts with the merit badge. For the Boy Scouts to get their

Merit Badge they must join Copper tubing by a soldering method, cut, thread and join pieces of steel pipe and make a solvent cement PVC joint. My thanks go out to all of the volunteers, apprentices and instructors who assisted with this program. P.I.P.E. has also played a key role in getting this program put together. P.I.P.E. also put together a PVC/Plastics class and coupon testing equipment for journeyman certification in the United Association – the only plastics testing facility in the area.

Additionally, we will send an Instructor to Salt Lake City for the first UA Crane Signaller Certification and Examiner class at Local Union 140. This certification is accredited by the NCCCO and is good for a five-year term.



### WE BUILT IT!

Congratulations to 469 members and WD Manor, who helped build the **Musical Instrument Museum** in north Phoenix – it was recently named **Economic Project of the Year** by NAOIP, the Commercial Real Estate Association, Arizona Chapter. The award – presented on March 31 – recognized the challenging complexity of the project and noted that everyone who worked on it was able to take a very difficult facility and deliver it on time and on budget.

The Musical Instrument Museum contains items from 200 countries worldwide and is one of the most unique museums in the country. It is open every day of the week and offers something for all ages. To learn more, visit [www.themim.org](http://www.themim.org) or call 480.478.6000.

*Chiller at the Musical Instrument Museum's Central Plant, built by WD Manor and members of Local 469*



# MEMBER NEWS AND UPDATES

**Congratulations and welcome to our new members!**

| Name                | Initiation Date | Name                   | Initiation Date | Name                  | Initiation Date |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Sean Billingsley    | 1/21/2011       | Thomas A. Importuna    | 3/8/2011        | Brian A. Peru         | 2/22/2011       |
| Jacob D. Burke      | 1/21/2011       | Clark H. Iverson       | 3/4/2011        | Rene X. Pogue         | 3/10/2011       |
| Ronnie D. Bush, Sr. | 2/22/2011       | Anthony Kinlicheenie   | 2/4/2011        | John C. Ryan          | 2/24/2011       |
| Kyle Charley        | 1/14/2011       | Celestine Kinlicheenie | 2/4/2011        | Marquis L. Salazar    | 2/16/2011       |
| Hal E. Clark        | 1/3/2011        | Omar G. Lopez          | 1/21/2011       | Anthony R. Schollaert | 1/31/2011       |
| Chris Escalera      | 1/3/2011        | Jeff E. Markind        | 1/31/2011       | Gerald Sloan          | 2/18/2011       |
| Luis J. Garibay     | 2/11/2011       | Joseph A. McNally      | 1/21/2011       | Johnnie L. Smith      | 2/2/2011        |
| Averill Haskie      | 2/28/2011       | Dennis L. Medigovich   | 1/5/2011        | Charles L. Wildridge  | 2/2/2011        |
| Brian G. Hicks      | 3/4/2011        | Jason R. Nabors        | 2/17/2011       |                       |                 |

## Share your news with us

Do you have an accomplishment, unique travel experience or other interesting item you would like to share with your 469 brothers and sisters? Whether you finally got that eight-point buck, caught the biggest fish you ever saw, scaled Mt. Everest or won the World Tournament of Poker in Vegas, we want to hear about it! Send your stories – along with photos – to [info@thetorresfirm.com](mailto:info@thetorresfirm.com).

## Hear it through the pipeline

Readers may have noticed that this publication no longer includes a Trust Fund Update feature. Members are now receiving *Heard it Thru the Pipeline*, a newsletter exclusively devoted to keeping you informed about trust fund matters, health-care benefits, pension and other related items. If you have questions about your subscription or items you would like included in the newsletter, send email to [azpipenewsletter@segalco.com](mailto:azpipenewsletter@segalco.com).

## IN MEMORIAM

**Local 469 honors the following recently departed members:**

| Name               | Initiated  | Passed Away |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Harold J. Adams    | 4/1/1953   | 1/13/2011   |
| Donald E. Sullivan | 4/5/1961   | 12/19/2010  |
| Ralph C. Douglas   | 12/31/1948 | 2/6/2011    |
| B. C. Huff         | 4/30/1952  | 2/12/2011   |
| Charlie R. Seaver  | 12/15/1973 | 2/13/2011   |
| James Benicaso     | 9/16/1995  | 2/1/2011    |
| Edward N. Cooper   | 10/3/1962  | 2/5/2011    |
| R. E. Colyott      | 8/21/1952  | 2/20/2011   |
| James L. Townsend  | 9/16/1978  | 2/24/2011   |
| William J. Vaughn  | 8/3/1949   | 2/28/2011   |
| Manuel F. Garcia   | 4/18/1951  | 3/8/2011    |

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing  
and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada  
Local #469  
3109 North 24th Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-7399



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2011



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Retirees' Meeting**

Tuesday, May 10, 10 a.m.  
(next meeting Sept. 13)

**Union Meetings**

Friday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m.  
Friday, July 15, 7:30 p.m.

**38th UA Convention**

Monday, Aug. 8 – Friday, Aug. 12  
Las Vegas, NV

**Fourth Annual AZ Pipe Trades  
Health Fair 2011**

Theme: The Child in All of Us  
(pediatric wellness)  
Saturday, Oct. 1

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at  
the AZ Pipe Trades 469 Hall, 3109 N. 24th St., Phoenix.

**INFORMATION CHANGE FORM**

If you have changed your address, phone number or area code, use this form to send the information to Fringe Benefit Services immediately. Completely fill the form out, sign on the signature line and mail to:

**Fringe Benefit Services • 7010 North Broadway, Suite 106 • Denver, CO 80221**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Former Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

New Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_