Happy New Year, Arizona Pipe Trades 469! This last year has been a great one for our union’s Political Action Committee (PAC) and it deserves recognition for some notable accomplishments.

Last year our members’ political involvement was unparalleled, as we emerged from a series of union-bullying laws and reaffirmed the political power of Local 469. The increased unity of our members allowed us to strengthen and expand the efforts of our PAC, amplifying our voice in Arizona politics. Our political efforts paid off with measurable results, as last fall, we enjoyed a 10-for-10 landslide in general city elections across the state. This is a victory every member should embrace and celebrate, but this does not end our political fight. Our biggest political hurdles await us in the upcoming 2012 elections, but we are ready for the challenges.

Redistricting Arizona
Following the 2010 Census, Arizona was required to map new legislative districts to reflect the state’s shift in population. Arizona’s local elections have historically suffered from low voter turnout.
This year’s landslide victories of working-family friendly leaders marked another turning point for the Arizona Pipe Trades 469 PAC.

For several decades, we have weathered attacks with legislation that attempted to weaken us and rhetoric that threatened our continued prosperity. However, 2011 has been an unprecedented year for Arizona Pipe Trades 469 PAC.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and supportive membership, we have been able to take part in tide-changing victories. We were involved in 15 races in four different cities across Arizona in 2011. The victory was made possible through the incredible work of our supporters, members and volunteers throughout the past year. Last year’s success represents a turning point in our collective effort to protect working families and good jobs, and each of you were vital to our winning candidates’ success!

We called on you, our members, to join us in our grassroots efforts to elect those who will best support us at all levels of government, and you responded!

More than 400 of you collectively volunteered thousands of hours of your free time to fight for working families and good jobs. In the spring and fall of 2011, we supported a total of 15 candidates during the primary and general elections in four cities across Arizona. The majority of those races turned in our favor.

Our campaign efforts began with Goodyear’s spring city council race. There, two out of our three endorsed candidates won in the primary elections. Councilwomen Sheri Lauritano and Wally Campbell were both elected outright, and no run-off elections were necessary in the general elections. It turned out these wins were just a warm up.

In the fall general elections, the 469 PAC helped sweep 10 candidates into office in Phoenix, Tucson and Surprise. During this exhilarating cycle, every single Local 469-endorsed candidate won in their run-off elections.

As a direct result of our year-long efforts, organized labor helped elect three supportive mayors and nine friendly city councilmembers in major cities throughout Arizona – what a difference from one year ago! These elected officials understand the needs of working families and will fight to defend us against our detractors.

However, your hard work helped elevate the public’s view of unions, helping them to realize that organized labor is good for the community. We promote the same ideas as everyone else: keep people working, ensure prosperity for Arizona’s working families and improve the state’s economy.

We look forward to working with all of these newly elected officials to ensure Arizona jobs go to the best-trained workers in the state.

Members, we encourage you to vote and volunteer for the 469 PAC’s upcoming events. Contact Feruza Amanova, Torres Consulting & Law Group, 602.626.8805 or send an email to feruza@thetorresfirm.com to get involved.
Voter Information

Is your city or town holding city elections this Spring?
Are you ready for upcoming elections?

The following cities will hold elections for mayor and/or city council this Spring. Make sure to check if your city is holding elections and vote for the folks who will best represent you!

If you are not registered to vote, simply go to https://servicearizona.com/webapp/evoter/ or call 1-877-THE-VOTE (843-8683) for more information.

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Dedicated volunteers walked door-to-door, distributing campaign literature promoting endorsed candidates in Phoenix and Tucson.
Arizona Pipe Trades members congratulate Phoenix Councilmember Thelda Williams on her victory in District 1.

From left to right, Phoenix Councilmembers Michael Nowakowski (District 7), Daniel Valenzuela (District 5), and Michael Johnson (District 8) celebrate their win at the 469 Hall.
Celebrating the evening are, from left to right, Phoenix District 7 Councilmember Michael Nowakowski, Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, and Phoenix District 5 Councilmember Daniel Valenzuela.

Phoenix Councilmembers Thelda Williams (District 1) and Daniel Valenzuela (District 5) visit the 469 Hall to celebrate their district wins on Election Night.
leaving incumbents unchallenged in elections and allowing one party to dominate a district for decades. The new district maps have created an opening for electing labor-friendly candidates into office in both the U.S. Congress and Arizona Legislature, allowing us the opportunity to dilute anti-union sentiment in the state. Now is a key time for the Arizona Pipe Trades to begin to change the political landscape here in Arizona!

Expanding our political influence

The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) has a sizeable impact on 469. The ACC is the leading authority over the policies and actions that govern the operation of infrastructure in Arizona, solar in particular, as well as rendering final decisions on granting or denying utility project permits. Companies seeking to build in Arizona have to submit a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) to the ACC for approval.

Local 469 works hard to incorporate Arizona-friendly clauses within developer CECs, so that our signatory contractors and members are given equal consideration and a fair chance in the bidding process. This year, the ACC will have three out of five seats up for election, allowing our Local the opportunity to elect candidates who support the construction industry, high-skill growth, and local employee hiring, therefore making it easier for our CEC clauses to gain approval.

By way of the 2011 spring and fall elections, we strengthened our relationships at the municipal level with the elections of Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, and Surprise Mayor Sharon Wolcott, in addition to nine other city councilmembers across the state. I am confident we can continue our success in the upcoming Tempe local elections and help its working families elect a mayor and council who will continue the fight for livable wages and local job creation. Through strategic and strong political action, we can protect the interests of our members at the municipal, state and national level during this year’s elections.

2012 marks a year of expanding opportunity in Arizona politics. This year the Arizona Pipe Trades has the opportunity to expand its political threshold to the U.S. House of Representatives. Arizona will be one of the few states gaining an extra seat, increasing to nine. Additional seats ensure that Arizona will have a greater voice in national policy-making. Local 469 can be the key factor in helping to fill that seat and ensure our interests get carried to the national level.

2012 is the time to use Local 469’s increased PAC presence to develop, improve and expand our market share in Arizona.

Time to capitalize

2012 is the time to use Local 469’s increased PAC presence to develop, improve and expand our market share in Arizona. Members, the PAC needs your help with this year’s phone banks, sign pounding events, literature drop-offs, and other campaign activities. With everyone’s participation, we can continue our influential sweep all the way to Washington D.C. We have the opportunity to change the political climate of our state, as well as the nation. You have the power to build a brighter future for our state, so let’s work together to help ensure we emerge victorious at the end of this election cycle.
Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers!

Thank you to the dedicated 469 volunteers who donated their time for months supporting Arizona’s working families and working to elect labor-friendly politicians. Last year, hundreds of volunteers mobilized, playing a key role as the 469 PAC-endorsed candidates swept city elections. Our volunteers walked neighborhoods, called voters and knocked on thousands of doors. They informed residents about issues important to working families and helped them make informed decisions.

The 469 PAC fights for our local families and ensures that our union has the right to exist and prosper. Hundreds of you have stepped up and have gotten involved in your communities. Because of your commitment, 469-endorsed candidates had wins in all major city elections in 2011. These newly elected officials share our views and have made a commitment to help working families in Arizona. We thank our members for choosing to volunteer for 469 PAC and encourage you to continue volunteering. We could not have achieved our political successes without you.

Thanks to you, Arizona Pipe Trades 469 continues to increase its relevance in Arizona politics. We encourage all of our members to participate in one of our events to help make our PAC even stronger and even more important in Arizona politics. Looking forward, 2012 represents a grand opportunity with more political races and more opportunities to elect pro-469 leaders into key offices. We must stay strong and unwavering as we move forward. We appreciate your help and always look forward to seeing you at our events.

In February, the 469 PAC will again host the Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony at the Annual 469 Family Picnic. This event is an opportunity for the 469 PAC to show its gratitude for the work you have done for the Local. If you have volunteered for the 469 PAC, make sure to attend for a chance to win prizes and be recognized for your hard work. Don’t forget to stop by the 469 PAC booth and say hello!
Local 469 was pleased to host U.S. Congressional candidate Ann Kirkpatrick at the 469 Hall for October's Labor Leaders' Breakfast. Attendees included Arizona Building and Construction Trades Council affiliates, union leaders and 469 members, who spotlighted issues affecting working families.

With construction unemployment still on the rise, the forum allowed union leaders to have a clear understanding of Kirkpatrick's stance on issues that affect their organizations. 469 members also met individually with Kirkpatrick to address the challenges and issues that affect Local 469. Kirkpatrick offered promising solutions that were devoted to promoting infrastructure development in Arizona in support of working families.

The Labor Leader's Breakfast is one of many events the 469 PAC has hosted to promote political awareness of the pipe trades, but more importantly to improve the representation of our members in government.
Introducing the GO Line

In our last edition of the PAC Newsletter we asked readers to send us possible names for our new autodialer. The 469 PAC is pleased to announce that a winning entry for its “Name the Autodialer” contest has been selected: “Get Out Line,” or “GO Line.” We will use the service to relay campaign messages on behalf of endorsed candidates, promote our PAC interests to non-members, recruit participants for upcoming PAC volunteer events, and conduct internal and external phone banks. This year, the PAC made 9,757 phone calls using the GO Line, an electronic device that automatically dials telephone numbers. The automated calling device is a critical campaign tool that will strengthen our voice and help silence our political opponents in 2012. So the next time your phone rings, pick up and get ready to GO for your Local!

Stay Connected • Stay Informed • Stay Active

Twitter - @AZPipeTrades469 - Follow the Arizona Pipe Trades 469 on Twitter for up-to-date information.

Facebook - Search “469” on Facebook to check out photos of past events and stay current on upcoming events.

469PACPulse.com - In-depth PAC information and advocacy - become a cyber-advocate today!

TEXT “469” to “31-31-31” - Receive info about the local and PAC directly to your cell phone. Reply STOP 469 to opt out.

PAC Pulse

To find out more about your legislative or congressional district and 469-endorsed candidates, visit PAC Pulse (469PACPulse.com) for all the latest information.

Navigation is simple; starting from the home page, scroll down and click on “Stay Informed,” click on the link that reads “Action E-List,” fill out the attached confidential form, and finish by clicking “submit.”
For decades, unions have endured intense political attacks by union-bashing fanatics, but Local 469’s fortitude is greatly attributed to the strategic planning of our members and the tireless efforts of our Political Action Committee (PAC). However, Local 469 is only as strong as the members who support it, and our continued ability to unite and collectively voice our interests louder and more effectively than our opponents.

History shows unions that have well-orchestrated political teams that remain vigilant have the power to make a difference for everyone. In 1886, workers formed the Knights of Labor and fought to secure eight-hour work days for all employees. It was by way of unions’ political and economic resources that businesses were required in 1916 to provide Worker’s Compensation Insurance for working families. Unions were crucial in passing legislation benefiting all workers, including the Social Security Act of 1935, which provided benefits to unemployed and retired workers, in addition to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, a comprehensive federal law ensuring safety in the workplace. Their efforts have a substantial impact on social equality and work standards for both union and non-union workers, yet organized labor has remained the target of anti-union political punches.

Legislative attacks cripple trades

In 1946, anti-union advocates pushed for the enforcement of right-to-work (RTW) laws in Arizona, a direct attack against unions’ economic security. The title, RTW, had people believing the law was worker friendly. Instead, it directly attempted to curtail the rights and revenues of labor unions. The law created a doorway for free riders who enjoyed the benefits of unionization without paying dues. The situation is similar to a citizen not paying taxes, but reaping government benefits until it depletes its resources. However, the RTW legislation only passed by a margin of 12,000 votes, which suggests that the amendment may have failed if earlier PACs were as organized as Local 469 is today. The same could be said about past efforts to stop the repeal of Arizona’s Little Davis-Bacon Act.

Arizona’s Little Davis-Bacon Act required private contractors to pay prevailing wages to employees on all state-funded construction projects, but was repealed in 1984 by merely 10,000 votes, a less than 0.07 percent margin. Opponents argued the act hindered open market competition. However
it was actually a form of worker protection, ensuring they would always be paid a livable wage based on the existing economy and local wage rates. More importantly, the act encouraged the best contractors to do public work because competition was based on quality and not only price. Subsequently, Arizona’s Little Davis-Bacon Act raised the floor for worker training and experience. Despite its benefits, the law was repealed by interest groups that favored the dismantling of pro-working family provisions. Since its repeal, no measures exist to prevent low-bid contractors from undercutting workers’ wages in order to compete for state-funded construction projects. This consequently drives down local area wage standards. The repeal of our state’s Little Davis-Bacon Act demonstrates a substantial loss that could have been prevented with more proactive union political action.

Countering zealots and building social resilience

Local 469 must remain as influential as our political opponents so we can block their attempts to pass discriminatory legislation. An example is Senate Bill (SB 1365), passed in April of last year, that attempted to stifle our funding and freedoms. SB 1365 imposed a burden, exclusively on unions collecting dues, requiring members to annually sign up for payroll deductions. The bill was a blatant attempt by anti-union lawmakers to suppress the political speech of those whose views may be unfavorable to them. In September, Local 469 fought the bill in court on grounds of viewpoint discrimination and won. Our opponents realized we have an unwavering will to improve the lives of working families, and we will not be silenced.

Local 469 fights on all fronts for our members’ interests. We refuse to sit on the political sidelines. The 469 PAC worked closely this year with councilmembers in the city of Surprise to require that all development agreements include a mandate to meet with local trade groups. The PAC also worked tirelessly with developers at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to incorporate language in their Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) statements to promote the use of trained, local workers on large-scale projects.

By actively participating in ACC proceedings, we help to ensure 469’s interests are being represented on all potential large-scale solar projects.

Marching forward

UA Local 469 is in a key position with the relationships we continued to strengthen last year, and many more opportunities exist in 2012. However, we can only capitalize on our victories through the steadfast work of our volunteers. Every member plays a crucial role in determining our level of political success and our battle against anti-union sentiment.

If the past is any sign of the future, we have to be prepared to fight attacks against our union. We cannot afford to have additional legislation — like Arizona’s RTW laws — continue to impede our growth. Right now is a pivotal time and Local 469 needs everyone to be fully engaged. Be an active member in 2012, and together we will continue to work hard for the interests of our members.

ELEVATE YOUR VOICE, PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS
4th Annual Lunch on the Lawn!
Tuesday, March 27

Don’t miss our annual lunch on the Arizona State Capitol lawn!

- Meet your Arizona state senators and representatives
- Enjoy a free BBQ lunch at the Arizona State Capitol
- Convey your concerns and represent Local 469 to your state lawmakers
- Help us show our legislators that we mean business!

**Where:**
Meet in Phoenix at the 469 Hall, 3109 N. 24th St., Phoenix, Ariz.
Meet in Tucson at the 469 Office, 601 W. Rillito St., Tucson, Ariz.
Transportation will be provided from the hall and from Tucson and back.

**When:**
Phoenix - The bus leaves the hall at 10:15 a.m.; returns by 1:30 p.m.
Tucson - The bus leaves the hall at 9 a.m.; returns by 3 p.m.

**To sign up or get more details:** Call Feruza Amanova, Torres Consulting & Law Group at 602.626.8805 or send an email to feruza@thetorresfirm.com.