



# NewsLetter

**VOLUME 34 - FEBRUARY 2017 1301 W. 13TH ST., DEER PARK TEXAS 77536 (713) 644-5521**



Eight years ago, Barack Obama became the first African-American president. This was a major event in our nation's history in and of itself. But he brought with him a message of hope and change that invigorated political participation that this country hadn't seen in decades. In his 2008 presidential campaign, he addressed income inequality and became a voice for the working families and the poor who bore the brunt of policies and laws that had long helped only those at the top of the income bracket. His optimism combined with his simple campaign slogan, "Yes We Can," gave so many people who had felt isolated from the political process a sense that they would have a part to play in the future of this great country. We embraced his optimism as we headed into the worst economic crisis the country had seen since the Great Depression. The Great Recession of 2008 was devastating for tens of millions of Americans and the auto crisis that followed made a bad situation even worse.

It was Obama's hope and vision of change that lead us through that trying time. During the auto crisis, Obama stuck to his principles and his bold action saved the auto industry and more importantly, saved millions of families and their communities from collapse. He extended the auto rescue loans which began with President George W. Bush in late 2008 which helped save millions of jobs.

His priority with the auto rescue plan was to keep as many people employed as possible and for those who did lose their jobs, President Obama, with the help of Congress, extended unemployment benefits for laid-off workers. Now, eight years later, the Detroit auto industry is thriving and UAW members who work in the auto industry made significant gains in the 2015 bargaining agreements. We should also remember what President Obama has done to raise wages for working Americans overall. Under Obama, the Department of Labor changed contracting regulations which raised the minimum wage, addressed wage theft and transparency, health and safety hazards, sexual harassment, and discrimination.

Obama also extended minimum wage and overtime protections to home health care workers. Most of these workers are women of color and immigrants whose income fell below the poverty line prior to Obama's labor policy reform.

Obama's National Labor Relations Board appointments, which Republicans fought throughout much of his presidency, have made it easier for workers to organize by creating new union election rules. Obama's NLRB also recognized the right of temporary employees and graduate students to form their own unions. Obama took on inequality as soon as he took office. The first bill he signed after becoming president was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. This was an important piece of equal pay legislation that addresses gender pay inequities. Obama's idealism and his commitment to helping lift people out of poverty can be seen in his efforts to reshape the way this country thinks about health care. The Affordable Care Act provided coverage for low-wage workers and people who had no access to medical insurance. The United States was one of the few countries in the developed world that views health care as a privilege and not a right. With the passage of the Affordable Care Act, it is doubtful that our country or our politicians will view health care through this lens again.

We didn't always agree with Obama, especially on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, but the positives that he brought to the country far outweigh the negative. Throughout his two terms, his idealism that we can change our country for the better didn't falter.

His legacy of supporting workers and working families and those in poverty should be noted as we come to the end of his eight years in office.

*Dennis Williams, UAW President*



## FROM THE DESK OF BRYAN EDWARDS



Greetings Brothers and Sisters. I hope everyone is having a Blessed and Prosperous 2017. I am looking forward to a very productive year for Local 211, especially in the dispatch department. I have been meeting with several new contractors as well as out of state union contractors that already have work in our jurisdiction. The exciting news about this is that most of their jobs are industrial jobs. I see growth this year, not only in man hours, but also in membership numbers. At this time Business Agent Mike Trahan is manning our nuclear outage at S.T.P. This outage is a larger outage in length and the largest number of hands we have seen in quite some time. Local 211 is looking at 150 hands for a 37 day outage. This will definitely give Local 211 a great start in 2017.

Due to the upcoming opportunities in the industrial sector, I have decided to **allow a \$100 dollar reimbursement for any MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING that receives or renews his or her TWIC card through the month of April.** This offer is effective January 30, 2017 through April 30, 2017. **Show us your receipt & TWIC card** to get reimbursed.

At the recent UA convention, which was held this past August 2016, a decision was made to raise the dues \$5.00 per month on the elder members aged 80 years and older. I do not agree with this at all, so at the last union meeting I made a motion to cover the cost of these elder members and the motion passed unanimously. I would like to say "thank you" to the all the members that passed this motion because our elder members live on a fixed income and their pensions are not even close to what ours are today.

In closing I would like everyone to know that our **next union meeting will be changed to the 1st Tuesday in March. The meeting will be held on March 7th, 2017.** The reason for this change is because Mark Baker and myself will be at the Gas Distribution Conference on March 14th. Since the UA has granted Local 211 the entire southern half of Texas, the jurisdiction of all gas distribution work, it is not an option to be present at this conference. Rescheduling any union meeting date is not something that I like to do, but I have no option this time. Rescheduling union meetings will be few and far between in the future.

I want to wish all of you a Blessed 2017 and may God Bless each of you & your families.

*Bryan K. Edwards, Business Manager*

## UNION MEETINGS

The next Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at the Houston Union Hall, 1301 West 13th St., Deer Park, TX at 6:00 p.m.

Zone 195 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Beaumont Union Hall in unison with the Local 211 Meeting.

We are pleased to announce that you are now able to pay online with your VISA, MASTERCARD, or DISCOVER debit or credit card. Log into the website at [www.pipefitterslocal211.com](http://www.pipefitterslocal211.com). There will be a \$3.00 service fee added to your transaction. **We are no longer accepting credit cards by phone.** Of course you still have the option of mailing in your dues or paying at the window or signing up for ACH. ACH allows us to directly debit your bank account once a month between the 15th and 20th for that month's dues. No service fee will be added to an ACH transaction. On the left you will see an ACH enrollment form. You may complete it, cut it out, and drop it by the dues office or mail it to: Pipefitters Local 211 Dues Office 1301 W. 13th Street, Deer Park Texas 77536. As you know, our system automatically adds fines to your account if you become delinquent on the 1st of the month. Please keep up with your dues! The dues office phone number is (713) 644-2395. Thank you.

ACH WITHDRAWAL APPLICATION

STARTING DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ GIVE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL 211 PERMISSION TO DRAFT \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FROM MY ACCOUNT BETWEEN THE 15<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> OF EVERY MONTH.

SS# OR BOOK# \_\_\_\_\_

ROUTING # \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKING ACCT # \_\_\_\_\_

SAVINGS ACCT # \_\_\_\_\_

\*\$3<sup>00</sup> FEE OF \$50.00 WILL BE CHARGED FOR ALL RETURNS AND INCORRECT ACCOUNT NUMBERS

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

## LOCAL 211 RETIREE'S CLUB

The Retiree's Club meets one Wednesday every other month. The schedule for February thru June is as follows:



**February 22**

**April 26**

**June 28**

Check this out!



Check this out!

### Statement by UAW President Dennis Williams on President Trump's Executive Order Withdrawing from the TPP

The following is a statement from UAW President Dennis Williams regarding President Trump's 1/23/17 Executive Order withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement "UAW members around the country have long rallied against the deeply flawed corporate driven TPP that puts quarterly profits before worker paychecks. We commend President Trump for withdrawing from the TPP and Congressional leaders, such as Sherrod Brown and Debbie Stabenow, for their leadership in opposing this job killing trade agreement. This is a victory for American workers and families."

## This Is Why You Need a Union

BY RAJU CHEBIUM | JANUARY 23, 2017

The new administration and Congress are coming into power at a time of growing income inequality, giving working people an important reason to join unions.

The average income of the top 1 percent of families rose from \$990,000 in 2009 to \$1.36 million in 2015 – a jump of 37 percent. In that same time, the average income of the bottom 99 percent grew only by 7.6 percent – from \$45,300 in 2009 to \$48,800 in 2015, according to economist Emmanuel Saez.



Unionized workers are paid more and have superior benefits compared to nonunion employees. On average, union workers earn 27 percent higher wages. They are also 60 percent more likely to hold down jobs that come with employer-provided pensions.

Nearly eight in 10 union workers have jobs that provide health insurance. That alone is a reason to join a union given that Trump and his congressional allies are bent on dismantling the life-saving Affordable Care Act but have yet to produce a viable alternative.

Another reason why working people need unions: To hold their employers accountable.

Consider this example: According to a [lawsuit](#) filed by the U.S. Department of Labor, a worker at a beef jerky plant in West Virginia rushed to help a coworker who got part of his thumb sliced off by a band saw. Rather than praising her, her employer fired her complaining that "production was slow," according to the U.S. DOL's Complaint.

This type of behavior is bound to escalate if corporate owners are allowed to operate with impunity. This case is a stark reminder of why workers need unions—to hold employers accountable for their actions and to treat workers fairly and humanely.

# Zone 195

## FALL 2016 OBLIGATIONS



### MEETING WITH TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

At our October 5, 2016, Building Trades meeting we had the pleasure of being introduced to Julian Alvarez, the Commissioner of Labor for the Texas Workforce Commission. After our meeting in Beaumont, Mr. Alvarez toured our Beaumont Apprenticeship School. Afterwards we discussed some the issues of obtaining grants through TWC. He stated that a lot of money goes in to "Schools for Profit". Mr. Alvarez was very impressed with the fact that our Apprentices attend and complete a 5 Year Program and are completely debt free with no student loans to pay-off. While with other institutions/schools, students can be anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in debt, and have trouble getting a job because they have no "on the job" experience. Mr. Alvarez's thoughts regarding Union Training Programs seemed to be positive. He said he is very much against out-sourcing any jobs in Texas and sees the Apprenticeship Programs as being a very excellent way to train people for a career. We told Mr. Alvarez all about the work that is scheduled right here on the Gulf Coast and let him know the vastness of Local 211's Jurisdiction and that we are ready to put our Brothers and Sisters to work. If any further information comes from this meeting in the future, we will let you know!



# JATC Apprenticeship School

Joining the Piping and Welding Apprenticeship School is a highly rewarding career path for an individual who is motivated to learn the piping trade and become an active member of a proud and noble trade union. The rewards of Union Apprenticeship Training are the good wages and benefits you receive as a skilled craftsman. You'll be working under the protection of a union contract with insurance, pension and health and welfare benefits. Pipefitting, Welding and HVAC Service Apprentices get paid while they train on the job and attend night classes two nights a week or on the weekend for five years. After the completion of 5 years as an Apprentice, the apprentice will break out as a Journeyman and obtain top scale pay and a long successful career as a Pipefitter, Welder or HVAC Service Technician.

For more information on our Apprenticeship School please call (713) 649-0201.

JATC Apprenticeship School  
1301 W. 13th Street, Suite A  
Deer Park, TX 77536

The Apprenticeship School is now located in the same building as the Union Hall.



**ATTENTION APPRENTICES & JOURNEYMEN**



**Please check with the school office for your OSHA cards  
dated before August 2016!**



# golf Tournament



Coming April 2017



Local 211's Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament will be held on April 21st, 2017 at Battleground Golf Course.

**WILLIAMS ♦ KHERKHER**  
williamskherkher.com



Proud to represent Pipe Fitters and all union members and their families when they have been harmed through the negligence of others.

**THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO GET INFORMATION FROM LOCAL UNION 211**



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.pipefitterslocal211.com/>

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:



<https://www.facebook.com/Pipe-Fitters-Local-Union-211-Houston-TX-201282129896347/>



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:

@PipeFitterLU211

NEWSLETTER:

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.  
NOT RECEIVING YOURS?

CONTACT LOCAL 211 @ 713-644-5521 AND UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS!



# In Memoriam

*Timothy J. Danahy*

*Ealton C. Knight*

*Leopold Valchar*

*Lester Ericson*

*Billy Lane*

*David L. Henderson*

*Johnnie R. Morrison*

*Curtis J. Jill*

*James R. Pyle*

PIPE FITTERS U.A. LOCAL 211  
1301 WEST 13TH STREET  
DEER PARK, TEXAS 77536

