

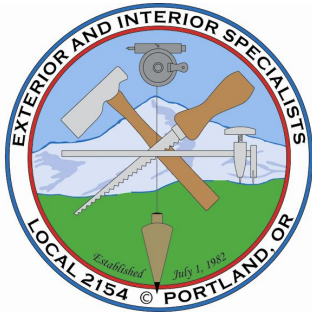
2154 Rocks Portland



Exterior & Interior Specialists

Local No. 2154

MEETINGS EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY, @ 5:00 PM



2154 Tips

- **Health & Welfare Questions?** Call the trust office at 503.222.9603
- **Contact the office if you would like to be set up on automatic withdrawal of union dues.**
- **If you need assistance with a contract issue, call the Portland PNWRCC office at 800.974.9052.**
- **New T-Shirts are in! Neon green and orange! We carry plumb bob reels & mags, hats, and other merchandise at the Local. Come on in, and deck yourself out with Union attire.**
- **No time to come by the Local? Remember, you can call and make a dues payment with a debit or credit card.**
- **Don't forget, you can check in on the out of work list, request forms or correspond with the Local via email at local2154@local2154.com!**
- **We welcome any guest articles, Please submit them to our Editor Bruce Epstein. You may send articles to:**

1125 SE Madison, Ste 207

Portland, OR 97214

Fax 503-232-9474

local2154@local2154.com

Please identify yourself and title your article.

Meeting News

by Bruce Epstein, VP Local 2154

We had our regular meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, including a special called meeting the same night and passed a motion for our new By-laws. We also passed a motion that if you make it to 11 out of 12 meetings in a calendar year (January-December) you can receive a jacket with the local logo on the front and back and also with your name on it. We also made donations to the Union For Kids Poker Run, as well as Jobs with Justice. We discussed the tentative agreement of the carpenters new contract. Guest speakers included Cliff Puckett, a Council organizer and Pete Savage the Regional Manager for Oregon and SW Washington. We had 45 members attend our meeting.

Serve Your Local

by Kathy Johnson, Office Mgr

There will be special called meetings (before our regular scheduled meeting) on May 21st to nominate, and on June 18th to elect, both officers for the local and delegates to the PNWRCC. The success of the union is dependent on the involvement of its membership. This opportunity to become an officer of the local, or a voice for the local as a delegate only comes around every few years. There are simple UBCJA requirements as outlined in the special called meeting notice mailed to all members in order to vote or hold office. Now is the time to jump at the chance. There are many positions open, so please consider taking on this important and fulfilling role. You will receive a stipend and/or be reimbursed for your expenses.



Trust News

By Jerry Auvil, Senior Trust Rep



Did you notice the Health Trust went from covering generally 80% of covered expenses using preferred providers to 90%? I hope so. The similar improvement was made to the HMO Kaiser Plan through deductibles. It was no small investment in reserves, about \$2.9 million.

Late in January, the trustees voted to approve moving to a new administrator, "Wm Earhart, Inc.". We have been reporting this at various meetings. For those who remember the last change, it will cause some confusion, but is needed as American Benefit Plan Administrators (ABPA) is not performing the job as was committed to when we hired them. Please bear with this transition. By July 1st our new administrator will be taking calls and servicing our needs. If you are having problems with our current administrator, ABPA, and they need to be addressed before July 1st, please call me at 503.701.5287.

Most of you are aware of the market place. It is up and down, but our portfolio design seems to be weathering the brunt of it and we continue to be in good shape for the long haul.

We are finally offering our retirees, after they reach Medicare age, a supplemental plan that is intended to maintain the coverage that you as a member has come to expect during your career. This plan for most retirees should cost less than what they are currently paying for the same coverage. We will monitor this plan to see if it accomplishes its intended targets. For you members who are not retired yet, file this away for when you do retire, that we are trying to provide at the most reasonable cost we can negotiate, healthcare coverage even when you are eligible for Medicare. This plan is paid for by the retirees and the trust is covering the minimal administrative cost to provide this plan for them. We are hoping that members will maintain their membership to support our efforts to help our retirees.

"We are finally offering our retirees, after they reach Medicare age, a supplemental plan that is intended to maintain the coverage that you as a member has come to expect during your career. This plan for most retirees should cost less than what they are currently paying for the same coverage."

-Jerry Auvil

I appreciate all the suggestions that members have brought to my attention for bettering our plan design. We trustees take those seriously and work to improve the plan on those ideas that are needed and we can afford. Some of those recently improved were; improved immunizations for our children, to increase life insurance to help out those we care for the most.

Finally, there have been so many hardship withdrawals from the vacation trust (for which there is a \$25 charge and drains the account to zero, and takes months to restart) that I must encourage you all to seriously consider it truly an emergency hardship withdrawal. I say this as it seems each month I have to confirm 3-4 members that they are not eligible because they have already tapped it for the year. Note; the vacation trust year starts September 1st and therefore the plan only allows one hardship withdrawal from each September 1st to August 31st.

Hope you and yours are well,

Faternally,

Jerry Auvil,



In Sympathy

Local 2154 is sad to inform that one of our members has passed away in the recent months. Please dedicate a moment to remember Steven D. McCarthy who is gone amongst our Brotherhood.



Tips and Ideas

by Bruce Epstein, VP Local 2154

◆Local merchandise for sale at cost, including new T-shirts, plumb bob reels and mags, come to a member meeting and check it out.

◆Injured on the job? Contact Ken Stroup at the Portland Council Office, 503.329.6785

◆May Primaries ———- Although the local is not endorsing any candidates, we would like everyone in our local and their eligible family members to VOTE !

◆Congratulations to our graduating apprentices!



M. Andrade	J. Arevalo	J. Barton	D. Boatwright	T. Boesel
I. Brown	S. DeWolfe	J. Espino	W. Ford	T. Gangwish
M. Harris	D. Hemmerling	J. Hernandez	T. Hodkins	N. Hume
B. Hutchinson	V. Kharlamov	E. Lee	R. Long	E. Lopez
J. Montesana	D. Ottenbacher	D. Prettyman	J. Ramirez	S. Ray
J. Sanchez	J. Scheer	P. Silva	J. Slighter	S. Uptmor
A. Warren	J. Wawrzyniak	S. York		



Protect Yourself

By Claudia Meraz, Admin Asst Local 2154

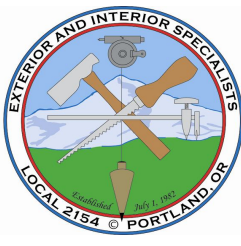
We have had recent incidents where carpenters have not received the proper rate of pay, for example per Diem or welders pay. Unfortunately these individuals were not properly **dispatched**, which made it much more difficult to negotiate a resolution with the contractor. Even if you have worked several years for a contractor, if you have been laid off more than two weeks the contractor is required to request a new dispatch. The contractor should get the dispatch to you for your review and signature. To ensure that you are properly protected you must follow up with the contractor to make sure this process is done. Many contractors fail to request a new dispatch because you are already in their payroll system. **It is your responsibility to protect yourself.** If you have any questions regarding this matter you can refer to the Wall & Ceiling Agreement Section 2.2 or call the local office.



Protégete

Por Claudia Meraz, Admin Asst Local 2154

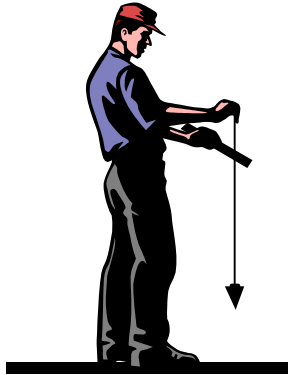
Recientemente ha habido incidentes donde carpinteros no reciben el pago apropiado, por ejemplo pago por día o pago de soldadores. Desafortunadamente esos carpinteros no fueron despachados, y resulto mucho más difícil negociar una solución con el contratista. Si haz sido descansado por mas de dos semanas es necesario que el contratista pida que seas despachado devuelta cuando regreses a trabajar, aún si has trabajado con el mismo contratista por varios años. El contratista debe de darte el despacho para que lo revises y lo firmes. Muchas veces los contratistas no siguen el proceso adecuado porque ya te tienen anotado en el sistema de nómina. Para protegerte debes asegurar que el contratista siga el proceso. **Es TU responsabilidad protegerte.** Para más información, consulta Artículo 2.2 del Acuerdo de Especialistas Exteriores e Interiores o llame a la oficina.



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Toll Free: 1-877-460-2154
Fax: 503-232-9474
E-mail: local2154@local2154.com

You can purchase plumb
bob reels and mags and
other merchandise at
Local 2154!



Screams From the Shacks, Part 2

By Tony Jeffrey

Reliable Drywall had it's office on 99W near the junk yards. When I went to pick up my check, there was a note on the door saying "All Invoices Reduced 10%". Bummer. And the door was locked. I couldn't see anybody inside. But as I was about to leave, I noticed some movement under the desk. I then called on my cell phone. A secretary emerged from under the desk to answer. She opened the door, gave me my check, explaining that the previous subcontractor had been angry and threatened her with a pistol. She didn't say if he got all of his money!

