Business Manager’s Letter

From James F. Coyne

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last fall’s congressional and Illinois gubernatorial elections gave a real workout to Local 130’s Political Action Task Force (PATF). Volunteers spent several weekends visiting the homes of voters to push for support for our candidates. We hosted a huge political rally to help elect several democratic candidates running for local, state and national offices, all gathered on our stage. While all our favorites were not victorious last November, overall we were pleased with the results and especially with the hard work put in by Local 130’s PATF volunteers.

That was last fall. Now on to the winter. Was this time for a well-deserved rest? No way!

Our PATF went to work right away on the city elections. Beginning in January, hundreds of plumbers returned to neighborhoods in our 17 counties on weekends to knock on more doors and gather votes for leaders who care about middle class working families. As you’ll see in the pages of this newsletter, Plumbers Local 130, UA, flexed its political muscle and went to work nearly every winter weekend. Our goal was to keep our friends, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and April 7 was a night to celebrate. There were plenty of people doing just that inside the Stephen M. Bailey Auditorium at Plumbers Local 130, UA. Chicago’s first-ever runoff election was finally over and Rahm Emanuel was victorious in his bid for a second term as Chicago’s mayor. So were several other democratic candidates and friends of union plumbers. Addressing the crowd of friends, supporters and media on hand, the jubilant mayor thanked everyone for a second term and “a second chance.”

The former U.S. congressman, who also served in the administrations of Presidents Clinton and Obama, said, “Being elected mayor of the city of Chicago is the greatest job I’ve ever had and the greatest job in the world. I’m humbled by the opportunity to serve you.”

Plumbers Local 130, UA, Political Action Task Force (PATF) stood by Mayor Emanuel while his campaign was in full swing. Some 384 PATF volunteers spent Saturdays and often Sundays over 11 weekends to campaign for democratic friends of Local 130. They knocked on doors, passed out literature and signs, encouraged people to vote and asked for their support. The well-manned, well-coordinated effort helped not only Mayor Emanuel but also several key City Council Aldermen who are friendly to Local 130.

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By 9:30 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, March 28, the floor of the mayor’s re-election headquarters on the northwest side was filled with volunteers, and the number grew by the minute. By the time Mayor Emanuel arrived, about 10 a.m., more than 200 volunteers had crowded inside to meet the Mayor and receive their assignment for the day.

An old wooden desk set in the middle of the floor served as the mayor’s stage, and he climbed on top so he could see all the gathered faces as he spoke. For the next 12-15 minutes, not one pair of eyes looked away as he related his love for Chicago, its people, its energy, and boundless opportunities for working people.

While we’ve been through tough times, progress has been made and we’re going to build on that going forward, he said. "When I became mayor there were only three cranes visible in the city of Chicago. Today there are 29 cranes out there and 1,200 people working on those construction jobs," he said. Chicago’s comeback from 13% unemployment is the largest today among America’s major cities. It only came about by “all of us working together.” He promised to add many more visible construction cranes and job sites going forward.

“It’s about jobs and businesses coming into the city of Chicago. That’s our number 1 goal!” he shouted. There’s a reason we’re the number 1 city for businesses moving to Chicago. There’s a reason we’re the number 1 city for job creation. “People are coming to this world-class city because we have world-class people!”

“We’re building a world-class city,” he repeated, “and this city, as long as I am mayor, will never be a Right to Work city!”

“If you believe in the promise of Chicago, what your parents did for you, and what you are trying to do as a father for your children — you have 10 days to secure it,” he implored everyone. “This is not only about me. It’s about your families and your future. Let’s go out and hustle like that’s what’s on the line.”

So they went into the community and hustled that Saturday. And on April 7th, their efforts were rewarded.
The 60th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade offered a full day of fun for plumbers and their families who met early Saturday morning at the union hall, where they gathered for coffee, juice and pastries. As the start time drew near, they filled nine chartered buses and retirees boarded two trolleys for the ride to the parade route downtown. After the parade, the buses returned everyone to the union hall for lunch.

The masses swarmed to claim a spot on the crowded sidewalk along Columbus Drive in the final hour of this mid-March Saturday morning. Musicians, dignitaries, police and parade marshals mingled in the street at the Balbo Street intersection. An occasional bagpipe or drumbeat rose above the street clamor as band members warmed up and marchers greeted one another at the starting line. One could feel the excitement rise as the time drew near.

It had all the normal attributes of St. Patrick’s Day in downtown Chicago. Yet, there were things about this year’s parade that made it even more special. For one, Chicago Plumbers Local 130, UA, reached the 60-year milestone in 2015 as organizers of the city’s traditional parade. So who better than United Association General President William Hite to lead as the Grand Marshal of the parade?

The UA General President, who admitted to being only a small part Gaelic, said that recent experiences have left him feeling “much more Irish than I thought.” In 2014, Hite signed a formal affiliation between the UA and plumbers and pipefitters of Ireland. He met with Ireland’s union labor leaders while visiting there and separately with Ireland’s ambassador and U.S. Secretary of Labor. The same year the District of Columbia Friends of Ireland named Bill Hite their “Man of the Year.”

Leading Chicago’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade was the frosting on the cake. With him were his family, including wife Patricia, brother, children and 9 grandchildren. “Local 130 does a great job putting on the parade,” he said. Hite explained there is a lot more to the experience than simply marching in the parade. “It was the whole atmosphere,” he said, “the kickoff dinner, meeting the queen and her court beforehand at the union hall, and the mass at Old St. Patrick’s Church.

Joining Chicago’s very own UA leader to lead the parade were Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Parade Chairman Local 130 Business Manager James Coyne. Chicago’s “first responders” were also represented at the front of the line by Guests of Honor Dean Angelo, President of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #7, and Thomas Ryan, President of Chicago Firefighters Union, Local 2. U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and Alderman Edward Burke rounded out the lead marchers.

At this year’s parade everyone was Irish, and they showed it again in their Kelly green garb, in their smiles and in their joyous enthusiasm. And everything seemed green: the cars, parade floats, buildings and, of course, the Chicago River! The emerald green river, a tradition that began quite accidentally in 1962, seemed especially bright on this perfect day with sunshine, moderate wind and temperature in the 60s.

At noon sharp, the bagpipes and drums sounded off and the Shannon Rovers behind Johnny Lattner began to march north towards the reviewing stand and nearly 1.5 million delighted parade watchers. Behind them were the Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick, the Parade Queen Lauren Corry and her court, and a long, long line of parade floats carrying smiling, waving children and adults, between marching bands and merrymakers who walked or danced their way up the street.

It was a great day for Local 130 members and their families. Perhaps no group of marchers matched ours in size; it appeared especially large this year. Our ranks filled the street for nearly a half block. Family and friends marched among us. Included were Bill and Liz Corry of Wheaton, IL, proud parents of Parade Queen Lauren Corry. Making sure things were authentically Irish on this day were Vincent Carroll, of Dublin, Ireland. He and his companion Klaudia walked with Local 130 plumbers. Vincent was a long way from Ireland, but found himself feeling right at home on this sunny Saturday afternoon.
In late February a group of Local 130, UA, officers led by Business Manager James Coyne met in Franklin Park for a special job site visit. They came to see plumbers build bathrooms, lots of bathrooms, which really isn’t out of the norm. This time, however, everything is getting built entirely indoors and offsite where the entire work environment is designed for efficiency, quality and safety.

It’s a way to build things better while creating new work opportunities for union plumbers. Thanks to the partnership of Local 130, one of its contractors, and an end user all working together and following Illinois’ Plumbing License Law, the partnership is working well, producing hundreds of bathroom pods built by our members in our area.

Before visiting the actual work area, Business Manager Coyne, accompanied by Business Agents Scott Spangle, Pat McCarthy and Pete Olson, shook hands with James Hill, II, President of The Hill Group, in the company’s conference room. With him were Anthony Camasta, Hill’s General Manager; Randy Hildeman, Plumbing Division Superintendent; and Nate Lenzen, Plumbing Fabrication Shop Superintendent.

The Local 130 visitors were invited to tour Hill’s fabrication and manufacturing operation where plumbers were not only fabricating bathroom pipe assemblies but also installing them in finished modular bathrooms, or “pods,” complete with sinks, toilets, showers and fixtures. Once through Hill’s assembly area and delivered to the job site, the pods require only a few anchor bolts into the floor, a water supply and vent hook up and they are ready for use.

The modular manufacturing operation is still a new direction for Hill, which got the idea a few years ago from a Texas contractor that manufactured hundreds of modular bathrooms for a new hospital there. Jim Hill said there was a strong push in healthcare construction at the time for more modular construction, so he approached a Chicago-area owner about the idea. They liked the idea and it appeared to be a good fit for a new hospital building about to be built in the Chicago area.

It was time to find a way to build a large number of modular bathrooms locally. No one had been doing it, and the time was right to change that. For another thing, Illinois’ Plumbing License Law required that plumbing systems installed in Illinois were to be built inside the state. Hill’s Franklin Park facility had the space, tools and access to the trained craftsmen that would be needed to put their plan into action. The contractor modified work areas inside its large fabrication and assembly buildings to create a process that facilitated the indoor manufacture of nearly 100 identical modular bathrooms that could fit into the hospital’s construction schedule. Organized labor stepped up to the plate too, working with the contractor to put together a competitive way for building the bathroom “pods” with union labor. A total of 8 crafts are now providing their skilled workers to handle this important new work, thanks to the successful partnership of owner, employer and labor that allowed it happen.

Hill’s 100,000-square-foot fabrication building is split between the three mechanical crafts — plumbers, pipefitters and sheet metal — that work inside. On this day, Local 130 plumbers are building copper pipe assemblies that will be installed inside and between the pods. “We spool everything. We’ll have a drawing of everything that gets fitted into the job with the stacks and risers, so everything is built exactly the way it is in the field,” said Nate Lenzen. “We wheel it into place, set it down, make the final connections and it’s ready to go.”

The assembly line here keeps things moving quickly. The pipe assemblies are built on long steel tables while held in place with magnets that may be easily repositioned, an idea borrowed from another contractor to provide speed and flexibility. The copper pipe assemblies are built, tested, labeled, shrink-wrapped and shipped to the field right from the shop. The whole area is well organized but remains a work in progress as new ideas come forward on how they might do things even a little better next time.

Local 130 plumber Todd Gleeson, St. Charles, IL, was fabbing a suspended water assembly on this day. Asked six months ago to work inside, he said he’d give it a try. So far he likes what he’s seen. “Inside it’s cleaner and you know what you are doing. They supply all the tools. You just come in and work at this table. You know what you are going to do each day,” he said.

“Frankly we’re getting better quality and better safety. That’s the most important thing for us,” Jim Hill said. The materials and tools are kept in the same place whenever you need them, and the workplace is always neat and clear of obstructions. The modular construction is also having an impact on the job site. For one thing, since everything is built before it arrives there is no scrap left on the floor.

“Scheduling here and in the field becomes easier. Clean up time, lost time Continued on page 10
There is plenty of floor space in Hill’s assembly shop to complete all the plumbing and other details and to store the finished pods ready for delivery.

Local 130 Business Agent Scott Spangle (left) and Hill Group President Jim Hill talk shop.

Pipe assemblies are built in the fabrication shop and then moved to the nearby manufacturing building for installation in bathroom pods.

When the outer shells are completed they are moved off the leveling plates to the finishing area where the plumbing fixtures, electrical, tiling and all other is work is done to complete the bathroom pod.

The finished bathroom pods arrive at the job site with toilet, sink and other fixtures in place and ready to use once the final piping connections are made.
60th Annual Chicago St. Patrick’s Day Parade!

Saturday, March 14, 2015
Always a busy season inside Plumbers Local 130, this winter was especially active with Chicago’s mayoral and city council elections taking place. They followed the fall’s U.S. Senate and Illinois gubernatorial elections. Equally important — as the new republican governor attempts to pass “Right to Work” and other initiatives to weaken labor unions — the city election merited its own rally. The Feb. 10 union membership meeting provided this opportunity. When the gavel signaled the start of the meeting, hundreds of eager Local 130 plumbers sat in rows across the union hall floor. Tiers of Chicago City Council aldermen joined labor leaders and other VIPs on the stage. They came not only to ask for support but also to reaffirm their support for Chicago’s union workers.

“I grew up in a union home,” announced 8th Ward Alderwoman Michelle Harris. “My dad was a bricklayer. That’s what put food on our table every night.” That brought cheers from the crowd. “I promise you we are going to partner with the state legislators to fight any attempts to weaken the union sector in Chicago or destroy middle class America,” she declared, bringing even louder cheers.

“We’re here to work with you, we love you and we thank you for all your support.”

Chicago Alderman Patrick O’Connor (40th Ward) expressed his gratitude for the help from Local 130 political action volunteers in his ward. “When Local 130 offers to help, you know it’s not just talk. They show up and they do the job.”

Sam Cunningham, 1st Ward alderman with the city of Waukegan, made sure that everyone knows, “You have a friend in the north. He may not be quite as big (as Chicago), but just as strong!”

The rally underlined the reality that these public officials were not only behind union plumbers because they needed votes. One speaker after another made it clear that their support went beyond that.

Local 130 volunteers have appeared in many areas of the city and our 17 counties of jurisdiction to help campaign for the re-election of Mayor Emanuel and all of our endorsed candidates. Local 130 joins these candidates in thanking everyone who helped their campaigns over several weekends leading up to both the Feb. 24th primary and the April 7th runoff and Municipal elections.

After the rally, members and guests retired to the basement hall for refreshments. What were their thoughts regarding recent tactics of the new Illinois governor in his first month in office? When asked, Walter Smith, a 1-year apprentice and employee of Mechanical Inc., said: “He comes from a different world than ours. He may actually think what he’s doing is right. But he’s not right, and he has no right to take away what we earn.”

Eric Gudmundson, a seasoned 18-year journeyman, said he’s seen and heard it all before. “The possibility of losing our Plumbing License Law, or benefits, seems to come back around every four years or so,” he said. The threat may be a little stronger this time and more overt with our new governor, he added, but he “looks to the supermajority of democrats in the legislature to protect union workers.”

Listening to what Illinois Representative and Local 130 member John D’Amico, at another table, had to say about it, Mr. Gudmundson’s comments seemed on track. “We should all take the governor’s threats seriously, but be prepared to defend what unions have fought for and won,” Representative D’Amico said.
Candidates in Attendance

John D’Amico
15th District - Illinois State Rep., LU130 member

Ira Silverstein
8th District - Illinois State Senator

Chicago City Council Members
Michelle Harris
8th Ward Alderman
Matt O’Shea
19th Ward Alderman

Walter Burnett Jr.
27th Ward Alderman
Deborah Graham
29th Ward Alderman
Carrie Austin
34th Ward Alderman
Nick Sposato
36th Ward Alderman
Marge Laurino
39th Ward Alderman
Patrick O’Connor
40th Ward Alderman
Mary O’Connor
41st Ward Alderman

Debra Silverstein
50th Ward Alderman
Patrick Daley Thompson
MWRD Commissioner (Candidate for 11th Ward Alderman)

Other Civic Leaders
Tom Giarrante
Mayor of Joliet
Sam Cunningham
Waukegan Alderman
Tim Koncan
Waukegan Alderman

Patrick O’Connor, 40th Ward Alderman
Joe Strong, Plumbers Local 130 U.A. Business Agent (center) with several Local 130 union members

John D’Amico, Illinois State Rep., 15th District, Local 130 Member and Marge Laurino, Alderman of the 39th Ward

Walter Burnett, Jr., Alderman of the 27th Ward

Nick Sposato, Alderman of the 36th Ward

Sam Cunningham, Waukegan Alderman
Local 130's 60th year as the organizer of city's
day's parade had special significance marking
our 60th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. This
moved along with plans and preparations for
a back seat during the election season. We
for the Naperville City Council.
who won the most votes in his re-election bid
his north side campaign office. I wish to
Local 130 for Mike's leadership in managing
also noted by Mayor Emanuel, who thanked
effectively the whole way . His performance was
who kept everything organized and working
Local 130's Director of Political and Municipal Affairs,
recognized and thank Michael Tierney , Local
in by our PATF staff and volunteers during
for that, and I am proud of the hard work put
by our PATF staff and volunteers during
these important elections. I would also like to
recognize and thank Michael Tierney, Local
130's Director of Political and Municipal Affairs,
keeping everything organized and working
effectively the whole way. His performance was
also noted by Mayor Emanuel, who thanked
Local 130 for Mike's leadership in managing
his north side campaign office. I wish to
congratulate Business Agent Paul Hinterlong,
who won the most votes in his re-election bid
for the Naperville City Council.
Normal events and operations didn’t take
a back seat during the election season. We
moved along with plans and preparations for
our 60th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade. This
year’s parade had special significance marking
Local 130’s 60th year as the organizer of city’s
annual celebration. Helping draw attention to
this was UA General President William Hite.
It was a special honor to have Bill at the front
of this year’s parade as our Grand Marshal.
There are a few special events that lead up to
the parade. The Parade Committee selects the
Parade Queen and Court at the annual Queen
Contest, held at the Plumbers Hall. Then
comes everyone’s favorite, the annual Corned
Beef and Cabbage Fundraising Dinner (please
see page 11 for more information about those
two great events). Besides helping to select our
Parade Queen and Court and build necessary
funds, they also add to the fun of the whole
event.

Since 1991, plumbers from Local 130 have
given up a Saturday to visit the homes of
special Chicago-area residents that desperately
need their help. This time they brought their
skilled hands to the Austin Neighborhood of
Chicago, and the City of Maywood. The annual
Rebuilding Together program, held on April 25th, was a huge success, and
I would like to thank our hundreds of members
who came out to help our community. Look
to our next quarterly for pictures from that
spectacular day of giving.

By now, all our members should have
received a letter about the upcoming
nominations. As written in our Constitution
and By-Laws, our May Membership Meeting
will provide the forum for nominations for
election of officers, business representatives
and standing committees of Plumbers’ Local
130, UA. Therefore, nominations from the floor
will be accepted at the May 12 Membership
Meeting. At the May Meeting, we’ll also discuss
the June 1, 2015 wage and benefit increase
allocation. All members who have been in
good standing for at least one year before the
election date are eligible to vote.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the
May 12 Meeting. Please come and help us keep
this great labor organization moving forward!

Upcoming Events

May 7 11 a.m. Retiree Luncheon with special guest
Bears Sportscaster Jeff Joniak
May 12 7 p.m. Plumbers and Technical Engineers
Membership Meeting, Nomination of
Officers
Jun. 9 7 p.m. Union Membership Meeting,
Officer Election
Jun. 11 7 p.m. Technical Engineers Membership
Meeting

Union Plumbers Build Modular Bathrooms

due to lack of materials – it’s all minimized
greatly,” Anthony Camasta explained.

Assembly Area

The pipe assemblies destined for the
bathroom pods make a short trip across the
parking lot to Hill's manufacturing building.
A portion of the concrete floor inside has been
perfectly leveled, forming six leveling plates,
as they are called. On top of these, the pod
outer walls, floor and ceilings are squared
and adjoined to provide an outer shell. From
here the shells are moved, two at a time, to the
finishing area.

At work trimming a pod this morning
was Local 130 plumber Michael Wright.
The seasoned journeyman with lengthy
residential experience said, “It’s all the same
work, but you can’t beat the benefits of
working in this environment. This is a way
better life,” he said.

Eight building trades in all share the work
here, installing water supply, copper pipe,
ventilation, conduit, bathroom fixtures, floor
tile and grout. Four styles of bathroom pods
were manufactured for use in various areas
inside the new hospital building.

Before shipping, the finished pods are
inspected, punch listed and shrink-wrapped.
The shop's overhead crane lifts and sets them
on a flatbed truck, which can carry up to 4
units. At the peak of the hospital project,
four trucks arrived a day, delivering up to
16 pods. The job site crane lifted the pods
to their destined floor. From there workers
used a pallet jack to move them into position.
Mixed crews — plumbers, carpenters and
electricians — supervised the delivery onsite.

Hill furnished 91 bathroom pods for their
first project. They are now busy building
78 similar modular pods for another area
hospital. The contractor expects to find more
markets for the modular bathroom pods —
for example, in hotel and apartment building
construction — in the future.

“We feel very fortunate,” Jim Hill said. “We
have the space and we have the capability to
do it all right here. We are happy to be doing
this in Cook County. It’s one of the most
exciting things we’ve been involved in. And
it’s the future, no doubt about it.”

“It’s a win-win situation,” Jim Coyne
added. “And look at the results!”
Queen Contest and Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

While the noon hour of March 14 marked the parade’s official start time, those behind the scenes and closer to its inner workings know that the parade is actually the final act of a much longer performance.

This year almost 100 young ladies competed in the annual Parade Queen Contest, held Jan. 18 in Local 130’s large upstairs assembly hall. Joined by family and friends, they enjoyed all the day’s festivities along with Irish music, food and refreshments. The 2015 parade Queen, Lauren Corry, and her court were officially introduced at the March 10 regular meeting.

The same month, an even larger crowd, more than 1,000 people, gathered around 99 tables at the Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. Here the Grand Marshal and Guests of Honor are introduced each year. While introductions and presentations came from the front of the hall, the year’s many parade sponsors were introduced on jumbo video screens installed for the event. Besides delicious, the food and fun successfully raised needed funds to help pay for the parade.

Contact Numbers for Members of Plumbers Local 130 UA

While you may ask to be connected to any of the following offices when calling the union hall, it might save you time to call the office you want directly. Here are the telephone numbers. Please keep them for your future reference.

Union Hall - Chicago .................. 312.421.1010
Apprentice School - Chicago ......... 312.421.1028
Pension Fund .............................. 312.226.5000
Welfare Fund ............................... 312.226.5000
Aurora Office ............................. 630.692.7342
Joliet Office ............................... 815.725.0278
Volo Office ............................... 815.759.5900

For more information contact:
Cheryl Stavropoulos
Email: cstavro@continentaltesting.net
Phone: 800-359-1313 Ext: 105

PLEASE NOTE: Effective August 1, 2014, all applications for exams and licenses are now submitted to Continental Testing Services. Visit www.continentaltesting.net for exams, first time licenses and license renewals. Continental Testing Services can be also reached at (800) 359-1313 or by email at tradelicense@continentaltesting.net. License renewal for Journeyman Plumber & Plumber’s Apprentice will continue to be performed online at the Department of Buildings’ website.

For information, test dates, application fees and online application, visit: www.continentaltesting.net/ProfDetail.aspx?Entity=1&ProfID=57
Apprentice Applications To Be Accepted June 16 - July 16

The Plumbers’ JAC will accept applications for the plumbing apprenticeship program on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m., June 16 - July 16, 2015.

A $25.00 registration fee (money order or cashier’s check only, payable to: Plumbers’ J.A.C., Local 130). The amount should be $35 if you wish to purchase the optional test-taking tip book. Applicants must be at least 18 years old (17 and a H.S. senior with a student I.D.); have valid driver’s license; birth certificate or U.S. passport; and sealed H.S. or college transcripts or a G.E.D. certificate.

Apply at one of these Local 130, UA offices: 1400 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607, (312) 421-1028; 2114 S. I-80 Frontage Rd., Joliet, IL 60436; (815) 725-0278; 31855 N. U.S. Hwy 12, Volo, IL 60073, (815) 759-5900.

Affirmative Action Statement, Notice of Non-Discrimination policy as to students. The Trust Fund for Apprentice and Journeyman Education and Training, Local 130 U.A. and Chicago Journeymen Plumbers’ Local Union 130, U.A., school admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, or sex to all phases of Apprenticeship. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin or sex in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school administered programs. A U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship-Approved Apprentice Program.