

*Dear Brothers and Sisters:*

*Happy Labor Day! This is our holiday and everyone should be proud of it. This is the one holiday of the year that honors the contributions of all working people. Now, while it is not "Union" Labor Day, it very well could be. Let's take a brief look at what Organized Labor has brought to everyone's work life.... the 40 hour work week, the weekend, overtime, holidays, vacations, work place safety, protection from discrimination, minimum wage and so much more. Not all of these improvements affect every worker the same, some people work more than 40 hours a week, some work less, some people get paid holidays and vacations, some don't. The point is, that without Organized Labor, most people wouldn't have any of it. So, the next time someone asks you "What does your Union do for you?", tell them about your health care plan, which will remain in place even after you retire and your defined pension plan as well as your supplemental pension plan, and hourly wage – then you can tell them what Unions have done for you and your family.*

*I have a very special request to ask of our retiree members that may be reading this article – if you ever worked with deceased Brother Wayne Driggs, would you please contact Lisa at the Law Firm of Paul, Hanley and Harley at 510.559.9980, ext. 137. Thank you.*

*Things have been very busy around the hall, work is very good and if for some reason you are not working 40 hours a week, please call and talk to one of the Business Agents about work opportunities. Also, I am very pleased to announce that our Web Site is back up and running. This site is not a member exclusive site, as there are many other groups that we are trying to reach out to, such as possible new members or even end users or developers. This site is a work in progress and will be updated and changing on a regular basis. Please visit and let us know what you think – [www.sprinklerfitters483.org](http://www.sprinklerfitters483.org), suggestions and constructive input are always welcome.*

*Local 483 delegates have just returned from the 37th United Association Convention. I would like to thank all of my fellow delegates, Rick Mangan, John Crowley, Tony Santana, Jim Bollier, Ron Bender, Phil Gehrig, Ted Morris and Tony Rodriguez for their attention and work at the Convention.*

*The Convention was very interesting and very well attended this year. Obviously, one of the major issues coming before the delegates was the election of the General President. I am happy to report that current General President Hite was a decisive winner over challenger, Tommy Preuett – 2703 to 592. I am confident that the Hite Team has the UA headed in the right direction and will move our great Union forward.*

*An item that came out of the Convention, was a per capita (Dues) increase to the UA of \$1.00 per month per member. The good news is this will be the only increase for the next five (5) years. There was a lot of great discussions and ideas during the week, many of which you will hear more about in the upcoming months.*

*Have a great Labor Day Weekend and remember to visit us at [www.sprinklerfitters483.org](http://www.sprinklerfitters483.org).*

*Work Safe,*

*Stan Smith  
Business Manager*