



# MidAtlantic CARPENTER

Number 2, Summer 2003



## WV Carpenters Help Heal Pfc. Jessica Lynch's Homestead

On May 19 and 20 apprentices and staff from the WV Carpenters Training Center volunteered their time to make life better for someone. Thirteen apprentices from all parts of West Virginia, the entire carpenter training staff, and other rank and file members were involved in a project to improve the home of Jessica Lynch in Palestine, WV. Jessica was recently rescued following her capture in Iraq as she served her nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The project was originally planned to expand a room on the home to accommodate Jessica during her recuperation. However, after community leaders, friends and family considered the project it became apparent that much more would need to be done. The original home consisted of a small cottage that served the family well prior to the incident of Jessica's tragedy, but was not accessible in any fashion for the handicapped. Lew Peck, Deputy Sheriff of Wirt County and organizer of the project states that "donations from businesses and the volunteer efforts of the trades have made the project possible.

"By and large, Unions have made the largest contribution to the project" say Peck. "We weren't expecting the numbers of carpenters that arrived here today. They just showed up and went to work without instruction,

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## New DC Area Journeymen Celebrated



DC Apprenticeship Grads were welcomed into the order of Journeymen on Friday, June 13 2003 at a graduation ceremony and dinner. Pictured here with guest speaker, Honorable Joanne Benson, Prince Georges County Maryland Delegate (center, bottom row) and the Joint Carpentry Apprenticeship Committee members are our new Journeymen:

### CARPENTERS:

**Hamdi Ahmed, Charles Baker, Eric Davis, C.T. Durbin-Washington, Terry Griffith, David Hardman, Brian House, Sean Kitt, Mark Lauer, Gary McDowell Jr., Michael Murdock, David Rankin, Dortha Rhone, John Shuler, Harold Sims III, Kevin Thompson, Abdul Kerim Yasin**

### MILL-CABINET

**Robert Bethke, Kenneth Moellman**

### PILEDRIVERS:

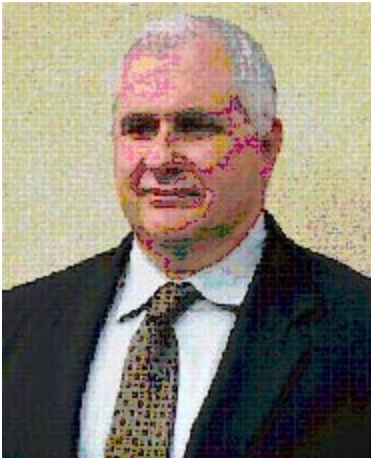
**Cheryl Jones, Jeffery Turner**

*Congratulations,  
Brothers and Sisters!*

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*IN THIS ISSUE: New Piledriver Agreement and Training, Sisters in the Brotherhood, Members in Action Photos, and much more!*

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## Tradeshow Members Show Their Skills

*Bill Halbert has 25 years of experience as a full time officer of UBC affiliates in Baltimore, Southern California, and Washington, DC and as an international union*

*representative. Halbert served an apprenticeship in carpentry and holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration.*

Dear Brothers and Sisiters:

Over the past several months the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters and the Trade Show Contractors Association jointly undertook the ambitious project of providing our trade show members with the opportunity to prove their mastery of craft skills in a four-hour long hands-on test. Five-hundred ninety-six (596) trade show members- or about ninety-five percent (95%) of those members who took the test- proved their competence by passing the comprehensive examination. The test covered carpet, install and dismantle, systems, floor marking and basic decorating. The testing, which began in December and concluded in May, was conducted over ten days at the Washington, D. C. Convention Center and three days at the Baltimore Convention Center. Remedial training for those members

who didn't pass the test the first time was offered at both convention centers. Ten highly qualified trade show members selected by the joint training committee proctored the testing. Those 596 members who passed the test now enjoy the title of "Certified Journeyman."

Journeyman upgrade training is underway. From June 2 through June 6 at the Washington, D. C. Convention Center, 40 members successfully completed rigging and aerial training and received certification in those specialties. From June 9 through June 12 at the Baltimore Training Center, 57 members successfully completed forklift training and are now fully qualified forklift operators. The joint training committees sent 8 members to Las Vegas for "Train the Trainer" training at the UBC's world-class, state of the art training center. The joint training committees have invested tens of thousands of dollars on testing for certification and training of journeymen. They will continue to invest significant funds in training for journeymen and new entrants to the industry (trainees) alike. In a future issue of the *Mid-Atlantic Carpenter*, I'll write about our ambitious program to recruit qualified entrants into our trainee program. Training in the trade show industry was dormant too long. My opinion is that Investment in training for our members is money very wel spent.

We have received national industry recognition for the outstanding success of our journeyman certification project. I congratulate every one of our trade show members who passed certification testing. In the near future, each of you will receive official journeyman certificates and certified journeyman photo identification badges from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters. Once again, congratulations and keep up the good work.

## Whoops! Our mistake

Several typographical and spelling errors in the last issue of the *MidAtlantic Carpenter* were brought to our attention. The most glaring was that of Baltimore Training and Apprenticeship Coordinator Danny Kuczinski's name being misspelled. Sorry, Danny.

From now on, the first member who reports an error to us will receive "Stand United" points which can be used to trade for prizes. See the Stand United ad on page 5.

## Mid-Atlantic Carpenter

Created and Published by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters.

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# Virginia Volunteers Rise to Organize

In Richmond at 5:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, the parking lot at Local 388's Union Hall filled up with union and nonunion carpenters. Due to a National Labor Relations Board vote over an hour away in Tappahanock, union and nonunion carpenter employees of DPR Construction piled into vans to cast their votes on whether or not the company would remain union. DPR is a union contractor that was attempting to walk away from our contract in Virginia, despite better relations with the Brotherhood in other parts of the country.

Organizers petitioned for an election on March 12<sup>th</sup>, seeking to be certified as the bargaining agent for the workers. Organizers and Local 388 Volunteer Organizing Committee members began house calling workers, union and nonunion. Latino carpenters were instrumental in their support of the union and in the turnout of Local 388 members and other carpenters. As the election drew near, phone banking nightly became the norm. Because of the remote election site, the union offered van rides to every eligible employee, regardless of union sentiment. The election marks another vote by carpenters in favor of the Brotherhood.

### What is Steiney-Daniels?

In union elections, only those workers employed by the company at the time of the decision by the National Labor Relations Board to have an election can vote. In construction, the "Steiney-Daniel" ruling created an exception for us, since we are a roving bunch that don't stay on one job for long.

**"To be eligible to vote in a board election, and employee must be in the defined bargaining unit for: 1) the payroll period immediately preceding the date of the regional director's decision and direction of election, the consent agreement, or the stipulation for election; and 2) in employee status at the date of the election. In addition, in the construction industry, all employees who have worked for the employer in the bargaining unit for 30 working days in the previous 12 months or for 45 working days in the preceding 24 months with some of that work coming in the past 12 months are also eligible to vote."**

Due to Steiney-Daniel provisions in the National Labor Relations Act, many employees took time off their present work schedules to cast their vote, adding to the conviction they saw as their duty to exercise their democratic rights. Their dedication was rewarded at the end of that day, by a vote of 26-3 (with 4 challenged votes) the Virginia District of the Mid-Atlantic Council of Carpenters upgraded to a new 9-A "Pre-hire" agreement with DPR.

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## Baltimore Training Center Up and Running

In the last *Mid-Atlantic Carpenter*, Baltimore Training Coordinator Danny Kuczinski expressed hope to start classes in a new facility by this Fall. Things are going so well that classes in blueprint reading, laser alignment, precision level, and forklift operation have already taken place. The front offices and classrooms, as well as the organizing office are finished and already in use. The main and training bays are due to be finished, up and running by the end of summer. In other words, Baltimore area carpenters, millwrights, and apprentices should start planning now to take advantage of skill upgrades classes.

Members and prospective members should drop by to take a look at our progress. We are located at 1407 Rome Road, off Benson Avenue.



BEFORE: Front Office



AFTER: Front Office

# Virginia Carpenters In the Community

Members of Carpenters Local No. 388 in Richmond, Virginia volunteer their time to build a handicapped ramp for an underprivileged family.



Woody Reed, Mike Mack, Mike Holden, Andrew McWilliams



John Balazik and Andrew McWilliams



Business agent John Balazik, a friend and Local 388 members John Henry Stephens and Andrew "Mac" McWilliams, and were among the crowd participating in building trades activities aimed at capturing work at several new power plants.



Organizers Cres Guerrero, John Ross, and Gary Johnson "walk the line" with building trades members at the office of the GC for the new Fluvanna power station.

## Lewis Appointed Agent for Tradeshow Local

Brother Al Lewis is the new Business Agent for the Tradeshow Carpenters Local 1110. However, he is anything but new to the Local or the Trade. His long experience as a 23-year member serving as President, Financial Secretary, and Shop Steward, and working trade show floors across the country gives him a broad range of experience and makes him able to understand members, contractors and client needs.

"I don't like to leave people, calls or letters hanging because I worry about them at home. I deal with issues directly as they come up. Otherwise I lose sleep" commented Brother Lewis.

Born and raised in the District of Columbia, Al served in the Navy for three-years before he worked at Walter Reed Hospital. A few years later he joined Local 1110 working full-time while also earning a degree in Political Science and History. He managed to earn credits in arbitration,



bargaining, and other relevant subjects at the AFL-CIO's George Meany Center for Labor Studies.

Training is one, if not the most important things that Al sees the local providing for members. Apart from the 90% of the Local's members who have been certified as Journeymen, new and innovative programs, such as Aerial lift and Rigging certification, are constantly being developed to further enhance and add value to members.

So, how does Al feel about the job so far? "No surprises" he replies, "I've been in this for so long it's what I expected. I'm also happy to be able to be working for the members. The way work is scheduled for 2004, I'll have plenty more to deal with" smiled Al.

# Volunteer Organizing- The UBC Needs YOU!

There are Volunteer Organizing Committees (VOC) presently forming in many areas of the Mid Atlantic Council. By giving time to your union, you can be on the front lines in the fight against declining wages and the abuse of 1099 independent contractors among other things. Also you become eligible to earn UnionPridePoints to redeem for prizes, which are displayed in the advertisement here.

As a member of a VOC you will:

- Receive training in communication skills
- Take part in working with unorganized carpenters that live and work in that area.
- Help train and share your experience with other Volunteer Organizers.
- Talk to non-union workers
- Attend public meetings or hearings
- Take part in actions such as informational picket lines

Get involved! Call the Organizing Department in your area for info.

**DC/NOVA Organizing 800 492-8144**

**BaltimoreOrganizing:410-737-9674**

**Virginia Organizing: 804-743-7458**

**West Virginia Organizing : 304-842-5431**

Remember, no one can better control our future than ourselves. Don't just talk the talk-Let's Walk the Walk...together.

# Organizador voluntario- La Hermandad te necesita!

Actualmente se estan formando Comites Voluntarios de Organizacion (VOC). Dando de tu tiempo, puedes ser protagonista en nuestra lucha contra el deterioro de sueldos y abusos con la 1099 entre otras cosas. Ademas tu podras ser elegible a acumular Puntaje para reclamar premios, los cuales aparecen en esta edicion.

Como miembro del Comite:

- Recibiras entrenamiento en habilidad de comunicacion
- Participaras en contactar trabajadores no organizados de esa area.
- Ayudaras a entrenar y compartir tu experiencia con otros organizadores voluntarios.
- Hablar con trabajadores no union
- Atender reuniones publicas o audiencias
- Participar en acciones tales como lineas de piqueteo

Atrevete! Llama al Departamento de Organizacion de tu localidad para informacion.

**DC/NOVA Organizing 800 492-8144, x126**

**BaltimoreOrganizing:410-737-9674**

**Virginia Organizing: 804-743-7458**

**West Virginia Organizing : 304-842-5431**

**CARPENTER VOLUNTEERS:**

**SHOW OUR UNIFIED PRIDE!**

When you volunteer to help our union in one of the wide variety of ways that only our members can, you earn points. You can redeem these points to get any of the following prizes, all proudly manufactured, embroidered and printed in the USA.

- Blue Baseball Cap with "Stand United" logo on front and "Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters" on back. One size fits all.
- Heavy duty Ash color sweatshirt with small "Stand United" logo on left breast.
- Ash T shirt with large logo on front and smaller on left breast. Available in long and short (not shown) sleeves.
- Fluorescent Green "Stand United" logo on the back, and "Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters" on left breast.
- Soft Fleece Flannel "Stand United" logo on left breast. Flights available in long and short sleeves. One size fits all.

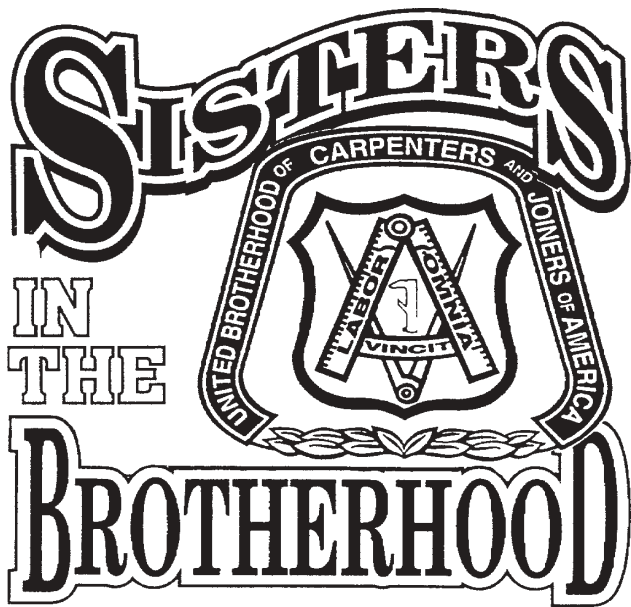
**Contact your local Organizing Department for more information on how you can get involved**

## Skill Upgrades Keep Members Working

On a recent Saturday morning in May, a group of determined Brothers assembled at the Washington D.C. District Training Center in Upper Marlboro, MD to learn the fundamentals of concrete form building. Under the supervision of instructors **Ernie Clay and Silvio Zavala, Brothers Oscar Sanabria, John Garcia, Fortunato Terceros, Marcos Sardan, Vicente Rosales, Rudyar Saavedra, Victor Quiroga, Alfredo Suaznabar, Richardo Pineda (pictured here), as well as Jose Saavedra, Andres Sahonero, Carlos Tellez, and David Claros** expanded their skills based at no cost to them.

Free training is available in all Districts of the Mid-Atlantic Council and is one of the greatest benefits members can use to increase their skill and value. Be sure to check out upcoming classes in your area by calling your local training coordinator.





Sister Cynthia Mills of Local 132 didn't exactly know what to expect when she arrived at the UBC Training Center in Las Vegas last month. However, what they did find was 250 other Sisters from 40 Councils from across the country making plans and taking action on what it means to be a Sister in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

To Cynthia and the other Sisters involved, it's all about organizing. "It can be intimidating when you're the only woman on a jobsite. If you see a younger woman on the site, she may feel like an outsider because the reality is it's mostly men. As union members and women, we can help her out, showing her the ropes, showing that someone knows how it feels and has been there before her, you increase the chances that she will stick with the trade and become a good worker and union member."

The conference included workshops in Leadership Development, Committee Building, Recruitment and Outreach, Mentoring & Membership Retention, and Organizing. Senator Hillary R. Clinton (D-NY) who gave a rousing speech regarding the increasing importance of women in the workplace in light of the present challenging economy.

Indeed, General President Douglas McCarron has backed up the activism with a pledge to form a Women's Committee at the 2005 General Convention, and encourage participation from all 50 Councils in the next Women's Conference to boost attendance to 500. Before any of this happens though, women need to step up and get involved by going to union meetings, or getting involved with Volunteer Organizing, or even starting a Women's Committee in your own area is a good first step.

Sister Mills remarked "I saw that I can make a difference." I can help set the direction and mindset of the Brotherhood, I was inspired to get the sisters and the brothers to take greater involvement in their locals."

## New 2311 Piledriver Agreement Ratified; Certifications Offered

Piledrivers Local 2311 unanimously ratified a new agreement with signatory contractors in the Washington D.C. area in May. The unprecedented three-year agreement provides for the biggest total package increase in recent history. In the first-year, Pilebucks will receive an unprecedented 4% increase from 2002 with similar substantial raises over the next two years to be distributed as seen fit by the membership.

Apart from it simply being one of the best monetary increases in past years, Wayne Heiston, 2311 Business Agent and member of the bargaining committee said that the contract is a stepping stone in a longer-ranging view.

"We wanted to continue to bring our members wages up towards equality in comparison to other area trades. The new contract will keep closing the gap between our package and the cost of living index" stated Heiston.

Sitting on the bargaining committee were Bill Halbert, EST of MARC, Dennis Meyers, District Manager of DC, Wayne Heiston, Business Agent for 2311 and Terry Milstead, Financial Secretary of 2311.

### WELDER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Additionally, Heiston wants all members to be aware of the training and certification which Local 2311 offers through the Carpenters Training Center in Upper Marlboro, MD.



There will be a standard D1.1 Journeyman welding class starting September 9, 2003. There are ten (10) open slots which can be reserved with a \$200.00 deposit, refundable at the completion of the course.

The School is also one of three certified by the American Welding Society to administer a D1.5 Unlimited Bridge code test. This test is offered bi-monthly. The certification is good in all 50 States for welding steel up to 1" thickness. Any member interested in either opportunity should contact Brother Heiston at 301-735-6660.



# The Millwright: An Ancient Trade in a Modern World

By: Richard Rowland, Millwrights Local 1402, Richmond, VA

Centuries ago the mill carpenter fashioned wheels, shafting and gears, from wood, putting the power of water to industrial use with the waterwheel turning millstones to grind grain. The earliest waterwheels have been traced back to the Romans as early as 650 B.C.

The ancient mill carpenters have passed on, as have ancient gears and millstones. As the centuries turned, steel, brass, and other alloys began to replace the wooden gears. This brought about a new breed of tradesman called Millwrights. An evolutionary process, progress and its pressure for specialization has increased rather than removed the need for millwrights today.

Around 1884, millwrights began asking for admittance to affiliate with local unions of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC). At the UBC's 1886 convention the millwrights were successful in getting the constitution amended to include the classification of "Millwright". Through the years millwrights have maintained a rightful place of leadership and recognition within the United Brotherhood's officers. Two past General Presidents have been millwrights and today Douglas J. Banes, a millwright, is the UBC's First General Vice President.



(Continued from *WV Carpenters...., Page 1*)

These guys are awesome! You can tell they know what they're doing and the work is quality."

The carpenters that volunteered for the project were lead by **Jeff Shepherd, a Journeyman from Local 899 in Parkersburg, WV.** Other volunteers were: Local 302 – James Hensley; Local 476 – Shane Rogers, Jeremy Queen, Ron Brown, Wilburt Hunt, Willie T. Potts, Mike Jenkins (Organizer); Local 604 – Daniel May, Frank Rosiak; Local 899 – Eric Gwynn, Jehovah "Dinks" Casto, Brett Childers, Jeff Copen, Gene Johnson, Tim Baldrige, Dan Radcliff, Dexter Shradler; Local 1207 – Larry Jividen, David Morris, Odie Parkins, Sr. (Training Instructor), Paul Shaffer (Training Instructor), Odie "Park" Parkins, Jr. (Training Coordinator).



"This has put faith back into our community and has drawn us all together" said Peck. There were a lot of people praying and hoping for a safe return of Jessica Lynch. Family members and friends are excited about Jessica's return home. Jessica is currently in the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. recovering from injuries and is expected to make a full recovery.

## !WANTED!

## IDEAS\*PHOTOS

Do you have:

-  A better title for our newsletter presently known as the *Mid-Atlantic Carpenter*?
-  Pictures of members on a picket line, on parade, or helping out in the community?
-  Ideas for a story, or a regular feature that will make the *Mid-Atlantic Carpenter* a better newsletter?

## LET US KNOW!

## Mid-Atlantic Carpenter

5701 Silver Hill Road  
Forestville, MD 20747



PRESORT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD  
PERMIT NO. 4492

## Local union contact info, meeting times and places

Attend your local meeting to find out what is going on in your area and council-wide.

<b>Local</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Monthly Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
3	56 19 <sup>th</sup> St.	Wheeling	WV	26003	304-233-2500	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	7:30 pm
101	801 W Patapsco Ave	Baltimore	MD	21230	410-355-0010	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	7:30 pm
132	5701 Silver Hill Road	Forestville	MD	20747	301-967-3133	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	5:00 pm
302	418 Seventh Avenue	Huntington	WV	25701	304-522-1192	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	7:30 pm
319	1202 Jamison St., SE	Roanoke	VA	24013	540-343-2621	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	7:30 pm
340	511 E. Franklin St	Hagerstown	MD	21740	301-733-4930	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	7:30 p.m.
388	3801 Jefferson Davis Hwy.	Richmond	VA	23234	804-743-7458	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	7:00 pm
476	609 Broadway	Bridgeport	WV	26330	304-842-5431	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	7:30 pm
604	1616 Mileground Rd.	Morgantown	WV	26505	304-292-0138	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	7:30 pm
613	7442 Tidewater Dr.	Norfolk	VA	23505	757-480-2238	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:30 pm
899	Rt. 5, Box 138	Parkersburg	WV	26101	304-428-0394	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	7:30 pm
974	801 W. Patapsco Ave	Baltimore	MD	21230	410-355-0011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:30 pm
1024	327 N. Centre St.	Cumberland	MD	21502	301-722-2141	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	7:30 pm
1078	1915 Charles St.	Fredericksburg	VA	22401	540-659-4805	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	8:00 pm
1086	78 Afton Parkway	Portsmouth	VA	23701	757-399-1058	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	5:00 pm
1110	5701 Silver Hill Rd.	Forestville	MD	20747	202-588-0644	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	6:00 pm
1145	5701 Silver Hill Rd.	Forestville	MD	20747	410-255-2424	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	6:30 pm
1159	2709 Jackson Ave.	Point Pleasant	WV	25550	304-675-4260	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	7:30 pm
1207	205A Tennessee Ave	Charleston	WV	25302	304-342-4321	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	7:30 pm
1354	12844 Parke Street	Aberdeen	MD	21001	410-355-0011	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	8:00 pm
1402	3801 Jefferson Davis Hwy.	Richmond	VA	23234	804-275-8090	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	8:00 pm
1548	801 W. Patapsco Ave	Baltimore	MD	21230	410-355-0011	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	8:00 pm
1590	5701 Silver Hill Road	Forestville	MD	20747	301-736-1590	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	6:00 pm
1665	6060 Franconia Road	Alexandria	VA	22310	703-922-8755	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm
1694	5701 Silver Hill Road	Forestville	MD	20747	301-735-6660	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	7:00 pm
1755	4600 Camden Ave.	Parkersburg	WV	26101	304-422-1593	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:30 pm
1911	2308 S. Fayette St.	Beckley	WV	25801	304-342-8181	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	7:00 pm
2033	Chester & Royal Ave	Front Royal	VA	22630	703-635-5049	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	7:30 pm
2311	5701 Silver Hill Rd.	Forestville	MD	20747	301-735-6660	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	6:30 pm

## Other Important Contact Numbers:

### **Baltimore MD District**

District Office: 410-355-5555 Organizing: 410-737-9674  
Benefit Fund: 410-686-2700  
Apprenticeship and Training: 410-882-5080

### **Washington DC District**

District Office/Organizing: 301-735-6660  
Apprenticeship and Training: 301-736-1696  
Benefit Fund: 800-424-2707

### **Virginia District**

District Office/Organizing: 804-743-7458  
Benefit Fund: 800-552-6972

### **West Virginia District**

District Office: 304-485-2300  
Carpenter Training Center: 304-428-1891  
Millwright Training Center: 304-422-7637  
Organizing Department: 304-842-5431  
**Benefit Fund: 800-553-9032**