



Ha'aheo 675

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PLUMBERS AND FITTERS UNITED ASSOCIATION LOCAL 675, AFL-CIO



Most recent apprentice graduates celebrate with Local 675 officials and the training staff

72 New Journeymen Honored

The Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry on June 28 welcomed 72 newly certificated journeymen at its 42nd apprenticeship graduation attended by family friends and trade-related personnel. They completed their programs during either the Fall 2007 or Spring 2008 semesters.

The new craftsmen honored at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom dinner included:

Plumbers: 25 from Oahu; 4 Maui; 5 Kauai; and 1 Hawaii.

Refrigeration/AC: 26 Oahu, 2 Kauai, and 4 Hawaii.

Fire Sprinkler: 5 Oahu.

Recognized for perfect attendance were: Richard Ihara-Hawaii; Justin Kimura, Keith Kotani, Mason Koreyasu, Steven Stalcup-Oahu, all in Refrigeration/AC.

Also acknowledged were local winners in their respective specialties who represented Hawaii in a recent regional contest in Seattle: Nicholas Ramos-Plumbing; Steven Stalcup-Refrigeration/AC; and Kawehi Kawainui-Fire Sprinkler.

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT



*Business Manager
Reginald Castanares*

Imagine for a second. We're now in both an economic and saber-rattling crisis. Both, we must admit, can be tabbed "man-made." Yet history tells and reemphasizes that desirable positive changes have occurred in the midst of the "worst of times."

If you sense that's where our country is and that there are individuals and organizations that view the current downside a challenge and are actually working to effect a turnaround, then dream a little more, if you will.

Yes, the obstacles are seemingly overwhelming. But we are involved with some of the signs of imminent change, none to do with politics. In fact, a few things are happening to ensure a confidence-building future aimed at directly benefiting and enhancing our trades. At this point it's premature to disclose anything. Before year-end you'll be the first to learn about the unfolding of these pending developments.

The resumption of this *ohana* publication was planned to coincide with what your leadership sees a prospective meaningful year of vigorous changes effecting our trades, the industry, and the community. Like anything connected

with a disruptive downfall as the economy, changes best come incrementally, a piece at a time, meaning that changes may not be noticeable at first glance but will be recognized over a stretch of time.

We hope members will view *Ha'aheo 675* as an informative and sharing vehicle and regarded also as an exchange of membership views and suggestions, open to sharing. We further welcome ideas on format and story ideas. It is your mirror, about you and the events and changes that shape our industry. Lastly, always remember it's your publication.

Mahalo,

Business Manager
Reggie Castanares
and the Staff

Water & Electricity Do Mix

Someone once said that Water and Electricity do not mix. NOT TRUE! A New Era begins! Never before have the Plumbers and the Electricians Unions, the only two licensed crafts, ever come together to make plans and share ideas to begin to form a more perfect **UNION**. The Mix is great! The Flow of Water and Energy is a force to be reckoned with. What's good for our members and our families is good for our Union and our community benefits.



Local 675 Business Manager Reginald Castanares and his IBEW Local 1186 counterpart Damien Kim forge a new working relationship for their Unions.

A Fresh Beginning

"Yes, we can."

In tune with his mantra, we join all brotherhoods throughout America to help President Barack Obama conquer the awesome challenges that he and Congress face. We expect that only hard work and sound decisions over the new administration's first term will ultimately restore the nation's economic health. The work force has pledged its support.

The same unselfish dedication is also needed at the state and local levels. America historically has depended on the sweat and skills of labor to raise and maintain the highest living standards in the world. We are prepared to apply our ingenuity and skills to return America to the forefront.



Business Manager Reginald Castanares and Vice President Valentino Ceria congratulate Warren M. LaFrance on his 60th year with the UA Local 675 at the Union's recent membership year-end gathering. Absent was Ken Kaitsu, who shared the same distinction.



James Castro, left, and Thomas H. Nakano were among 18 sharing the stage upon being recognized after 55 years as Local 675 members.

129 Mark Anniversaries

Ken Kaitsu and Warren M. LaFrance, each with six decades in the trade, topped the list of members recognized for longtime service at Local 675's annual Oahu holiday celebration at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Also honored were the following 127, likewise marking their anniversaries:

55 years:

Donald L. Amaral, James Castro, A.K. Fujimoto, Walter S. Ishikawa, John C. Johnson, Larry S. Kaneshiro, Henry T. Kitahara, Gilbert K. Masuda, Roy S. Mikami, G.S. Muramoto, Thomas H. Nakano, Phillip T. Okubo, Ralph T. Shimokihara, Edmund T. Tajima, Roy K. Tamanaha, Thomas J. Tsuha, Antone Vierra, Yoshihiko Yoshimura.

50 years:

Alvin Alana, Richard D. Baldomir, Albert M. Fukusawa, Albert Y. Ginoza, Stanley Kakugawa, Clarence O. Kawamoto, James M. Kawamura, Warren Kodama, Tatsuo Kubota, Clarence Lee, Charles M. Maeda, Robert M. Makimoto, K. Miyake, Howard T. Miyamoto, Harry Nakagawa, Richard M. Nakama, Kiyoshi Nakasone, Clarence M. Oshiro,

Herbert Oshiro, Miyoshi Otani, Jackson K. Pang, Preston M. Sato, Sadao Shimabukuro, Toshiichi Sumida, George Suyemoto, Seiichi Takara, Melvin Tamayose, Melvin K. Tawata, Wallace T. Yamashita, T. Yasuda.

45 years:

Samuel E. Barrett, Robert M. Fernandez, Albert Freitas Jr., David H.H. Hee, Wally M. Heirakuji, Rudy K. Kau, Thomas K. Kawamura, Richard H. Kaya, Ernie M. Kondo, Robert M. Kuakini, Edgar Leeteg, Leonard L. Low, Winfred S. Lucero, Richard Martin, Melvin Masaki, James H. Morton, John L. Nagasawa, Roland I. Nobuji, Irvin K. Pang, Allen T. Sagawa, Frank T. Shimodoi, Britton M. Takamori, Norman M. Tokuda, James Tsuji, Kenneth Tsuji, Roger H. Tyau, Elbert H. Yoshimura, George L. Young.

40 years:

George Alameda Jr., Steven K. Angay, Charles T. Chung III, Earl DeSilva, Roy Freitas, Yasuo Hara, Roy J. Ikeda, Wayne H. Kawakami, Michael A. Kiyabu, Gordon M. Kodama, Peter Kubo, Richard J. Kuniyoshi, Michael W. Kurashima, Ronald L. Lau, Stanford G. Lau, Clayton H. Machado, Myles H.

Mishima, Allan H. Murakami, Robert M. Nagamine, Glenn Nakashima, Paul T. Nakaura, Derek M. Oshiro, Allen H. Sakuoka, Edwin Shirakata, Daniel Shiroma, Edwin Sugai, Mark T. Tamashiro, Stanley S. Tanaka, Wayne K. Tani, Elpidio R. Tivera, Katsuo Tokumura, Alvin K. Tonouchi.

35 years:

Richard C. Burns, Wesley T. Hamasaki, Arnold J. Hatzenbuhler, Richard R. Ito, Donovan E. Lewis, Myron K. Matsumoto, Clyde M. Minamishin, Scott S. Mineshima, Wayne F. Nakagawa, Robert Neceda, Calvin K. Nomura, P. Ronquilio, James Valdez, Joel Yanagida.

30 Years:

Kevin K.S. Ching, Steven Fujita, Gary I. Haraguchi, Morris A. Inasaki, Angus S. Kaneshiro Jr., Alenn Kaopuiki, Dan K. Kawamoto, Kevin B. Kim, Errol T. Okuno, Walter S. Oshiro, John P. Rosario.

25 Years:

Alan K. Arakaki, Raynold Correia, Kenneth Hayashi, Herman K. Kang, Wesley T. Kuroiwa, Woo I. Lee, Scot M. Minemoto, Gary O. Nam, Terry H. Oye, Lance M. Tamate.

A Premier Apprenticeship in the Building Industry

Most oldtimers will concede when they entered a trade program they weren't sure of career longevity until perhaps after completing their apprenticeship. As they further progressed they realized they were on the track of an enriching and sustaining vocation that would along the way sharpen their appreciation of values important to themselves and family.

There hasn't been a survey but a guess is that members who have successfully endured UA Local 675's five-year training program could all rightfully claim it is a challenge equal to that of a collegian completing a four-year baccalaureate curriculum.

The difference between the two is that the craftsman in the course of training has combined related ("book-learning") classroom experience with on-the-job ("hands-on") skill training as an apprentice hire of an employer, while the collegian is on his own, responsible for tuition and course fees and no related paid internship.

Local 675's training program embraces these crafts under its jurisdiction: plumbing, refrigeration/air conditioning, fire sprinkler protection, and pipefitting/welding. The training includes familiarity with tools and equipment of the trade (the "hands-on" phase) and related intensive "book work." For Oahu residents, classes are conducted weekly, all at a converted Pearl City warehouse that spaciouly houses the trades' notable state-of-the-art resources. Neighbor Island apprentices also attend similar weekly classes, their venues at a community college campus.

The statewide program is overseen by the Oahu-based staff headed by training coordinator **Vernon Rosa**, who assumed the position in January 2008. His fulltime assistants are **Harold McDermott Jr.** and **Kirk Kageno**. The program relies also on some 40 others as instructors with training backgrounds and currently associated with other agencies.

Setting policy and procedures is a board of trustees, represented equally by the **Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association** and **UA Local 675 Training Fund**. The "day-to-day" functions are in the hands of the **Honolulu Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee for the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry**, its involvement to ensure staff, course program, and facilities stay first-rate.

A mobile unit, purchased two years

ago, has proved a popular educational vehicle for promotion of the industry. It will continue to be utilized at job fairs and wherever requested.

The recent purchase of an existing building in Iwilei will eventually provide space for four classrooms planned for refrigeration and computer classes. These will supplement resources at the primary Pearl City facility, in use since the early 1990s.

Spring Skill Upgrade Training Offered

The Training Office announces 9 classes scheduled this spring targeting UA Local 675 members interested in upgrading their skills in various areas. Some classes are offered in conjunction with already enrolled apprentices.

Registration deadline is one week prior to the starting date of a class selection, acceptance on a first call basis. A class requires a minimum ten to start. An additional class may be scheduled if enrollment surpasses a classroom limit.

Courses that require a textbook can be purchased the first night of the class. Also a **refundable** \$20 deposit may be required for funding purpose only, to meet a State funding requirement that a class start with a minimum of ten students.

To register, call the Plumbers & Fitters Training Office, **456-0585**.

Auto Cad LT (28 hours)

April 13 thru May 6 (Mondays/Wednesdays) 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Backflow (28 hours)

March 9 thru April 8 (Mondays/Wednesdays) 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Compressor Repair (8 hours)

March 9 thru April 8 (Mondays/Wednesdays) 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.
April 13 thru May 6 (Mondays/Wednesdays) 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

First Aid/CPR Certification (6 hours)

March 21 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
April 18 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
May 16 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Introduction to Basic Computer (28 hours)

Wait-list for interested parties

Pipe Prefabrication (28 hours)

April 13 thru May 6 (Mondays/Wednesdays) 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Plumbing Fixtures & Repair (28 hours)

March 9 thru April 8 (Mondays/Wednesdays) 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Rigging (28 hours)

March 9 thru April 8 (Mondays/Wednesdays) 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Valve Repair (28 hours)

April 4 thru April 25 (Saturdays) 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sending Signals on the Government Beat

For more than 15 years our Union has kept a wary eye on issues at both the legislative and regulatory fronts whose actions could impact traditional and changing trade practices. At the same time we also recommend technological and trade innovations that show the promise of significantly improving our role in the workplace and require legislative support.

Local 675 is among the enterprising brotherhoods that continue to impress governing officials as well as the private management sector that our efforts and concerns go beyond self-interest and that what we advocate bear meaningful positive implications for the community-at-large.

We will use this column to keep you updated on ongoing efforts. We also welcome your views on issues and anything you think could be pursued for the benefit of our trades, economy, and the public. Address them to *Ha'aheo 675*, 1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level, Honolulu, HI 96813.

As you know, the State Legislature started its 2009 60-day session on January 21. The City Council is at work at City Hall year-round. Contacts with

Hawaii's elected delegation in Washington, DC, are done directly, by phone or correspondence. Ties with the leadership at all legislative levels remain positive and congenial.

In addition to the above, we maintain a close watch on matters covered by the regulatory arms that affect our trade

operations, most notable among them, the Contractors License Board, the Board of Electricians & Plumbers, State Labor & Industrial Relations Department, the Department of Accounting & General Services (DAGS), Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO).

Retirees Club Sets Early '09 Events

UA Local 675 Retirees Club kicks off the year with a general meeting at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Moanalua Golf Course. To attend the meeting and planned golf tourneys, please call Glenn Hashimoto, president, 383-9633.

The first golf outing will be Wednesday, March 18, tee-off at 11:00 a.m. at the Makalena Golf Course.

In Memoriam

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to families of our brothers deceased since January 2008

- Myron K. Yamasaki, Oahu 2/11/08; Kai K. Nishiyama, Maui 2/15/08; Masami Kumagai, Oahu 2/19/08; Melvin W. Paulos, Oahu 2/29/08; Charles N. Nitta, Oahu 4/2/08; Minoru Shiraishi, Oahu 6/3/08; Robert S. Fujikawa, Oahu 6/30/08; William D. Revilla, Hawaii 6/30/08; Makoto Anzai, Oahu 7/1/08; Robert L. Marquina, Oahu 9/5/08; Satoru Yoshishige, Kauai 10/20/08; Seiji Yamamoto, Oahu 10/28/08; Samuel R. Yette, Oahu 11/4/08; Lawrence E. Cadorna, Maui 11/5/08; George F.L. Fong, Oahu 11/15/08; Randall Pace Sr., TN 11/28/08; Joseph K. Angay, Hawaii 12/16/08; Earl M.T. Ching, Oahu 12/20/08; Wallace H. Nakasone, Oahu 1/13/09.



Local 675 workers on the job at the ongoing Maryknoll School gymnasium project due for completion later this year. At top, Continental Mechanical apprentice Shane Oshiro is threading pipe, and below, journeymen Michael Yamada and Randall Matsuzaki, of Economy Plumbing, prepare the underground piping to tie into the chill water piping on the other side of the wall.



Undergoing current renovation and ready for occupancy by late summer is the UA Local 675's recently purchased building in Iwilei, adjacent to the Dole Cannery office/visitors complex. The structure will include space for classrooms supplementing those at the Pearl City training workshop.

Improved Changes to Health/Welfare Plan

- Most Retirees are now eligible for 15 years of health & welfare coverage (previously ten years) and their surviving spouses, ten years (before, 5 years).
- Medicare eligible Retirees no longer with health & welfare coverage have a new alternative to re-enter coverage if they pay the full premium cost.
- Your Retiree dental plan with Hawaii Dental Service now covers 90% to 100% for services previously covered at 50% to 70%, with an annual limit per eligible family members of \$1,500 (up from \$1,000).
- Medco is HMSA's new partner for its Mail Order Prescription Drug Program. Under the program, a 90-day supply of your maintenance medication will be directly delivered to you for only \$2.00, so convenient and money-saving.
- Your Vision Service Plan benefits were improved by adding prescription safety glasses to protect eyes at work and increasing the standard frame allowance from \$120 to \$130.
- Your 24-Hour Fitness benefit continues for monthly dues of \$10 for you and \$19 for a family member.

June 30 Deadline Set for Plumber License Renewal

The renewal of a plumber's license will henceforth require enrollment in a continued competency course covering current updates to the 1997 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC). Attendees will be monitored during the one-session four-hour course but will be exempted from a course exam.

The new requirement is part of an amended state law governing licensed plumbers and electricians.

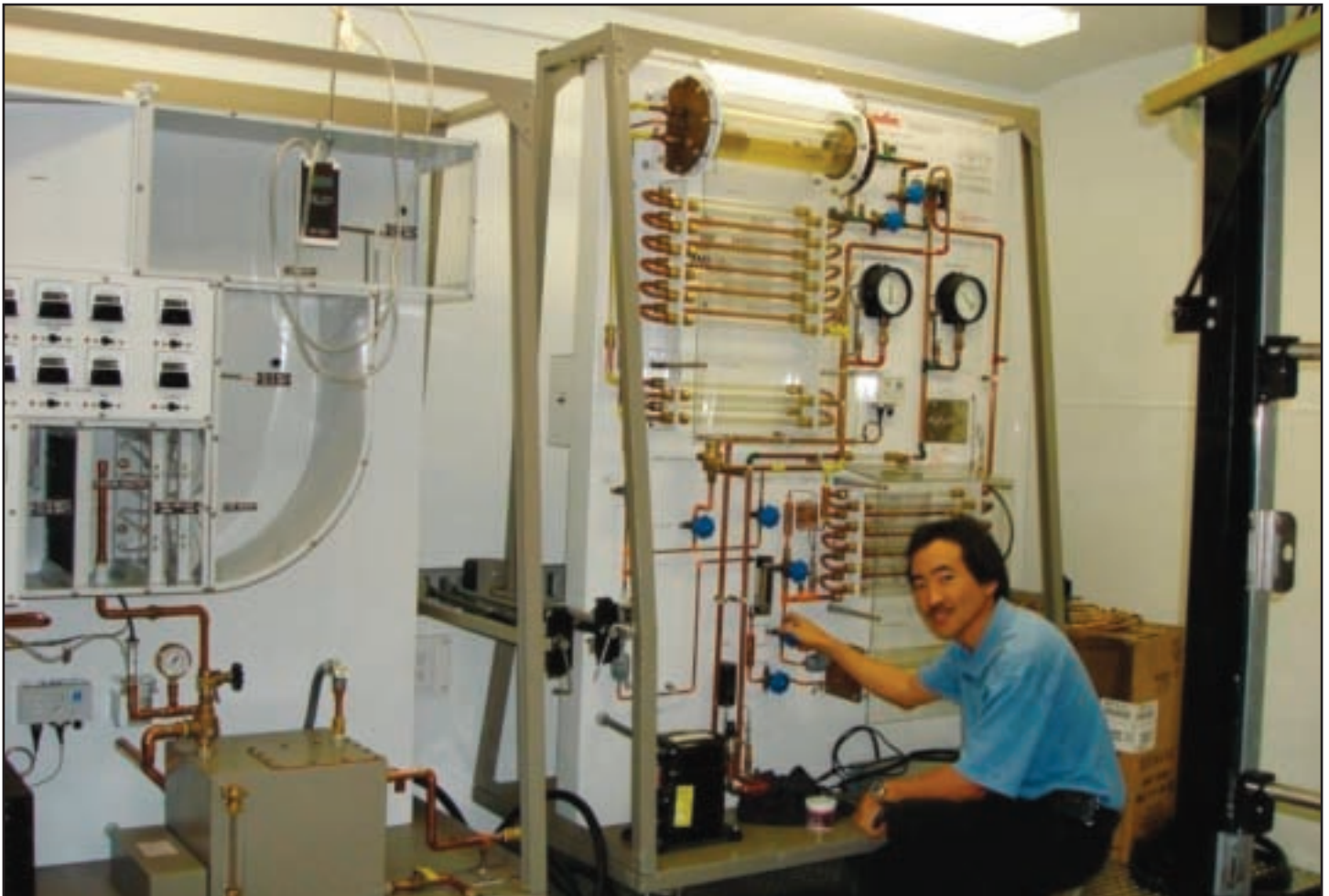
If not renewed by this coming June 30, the currently held license becomes forfeited, meaning plumbing work cannot be performed. After the deadline, the license may still be renewed but subject to an exam that must be taken by June 30, 2010. After that, if one decides to return to the trade, he or she must then reapply as a new applicant.

Local 675 members can arrange to take the mandatory course by calling the Training Office, 456-0585. It is preferred one does so with fellow employees of their signatory employer.

Plumbers on a Neighbor Island may inquire about classes with the following: Hawaii Community College (Wilt Watanabe, 933-2305); Kaua'i Community College (Jennifer Defuntorum, 245-8909); and Maui College Community College (Brenda Lee 984-3401).



Exterior, above, and interior views of the Union's mobile trailer, first of its kind among island building trades. The traveling education arm, provided by a grant from Local 675's parent UA, has captured statewide interest since its debut in 2005. The UA last year made available a second trailer to accommodate increased requests from the Neighbor Islands, schools and job fairs.



Kirk Kageno, assistant training coordinator, provides a clear view of the instrument panel inside one of the mobile trailers utilized as the Union's educational outreach program.

To Cherish with pride
 **Ha'aheo 675**
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PLUMBERS AND FITTERS UNITED ASSOCIATION LOCAL 675, HI

*Ha'aheo 675 is the official publication of the Plumbers and Fitters United Association Local 675,
 1109 Bethel Street, Honolulu, HI 96813
 (808) 536-5454*

Reginald Castanares
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Donovan Lewis
President

Valentino Ceria
Vice President

Tracy Tanouye
Recording Secretary

David Kamakea
Sentry

Send Contributions/questions regarding Ha'aheo 675 to the Editor

HONOLULU HAWAII
 LOCAL 675

Plumbers and Fitters United Association Local 675

1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level
 Honolulu, HI 96813

Calendar of Events

Monday, March 2, 2009
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 Washington Middle School - Cafeteria

Tuesday, March 3, 2009
KONA RAP SESSION
 Kahakai Elementary School

Wednesday, March 4, 2009
HILO RAP SESSION
 Waiakea Intermediate School

Monday, April 6, 2009
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 Washington Middle School - Cafeteria

Tuesday, April 14, 2009
MAUI RAP SESSION
 Maui Community College

Wednesday, April 15, 2009
KAUAI RAP SESSION
 Kauai Community College

Monday, May 4, 2009
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 Washington Middle School - Cafeteria

Tuesday, May 12, 2009
KONA RAP SESSION
 Kahakai Elementary School

Wednesday, May 13, 2009
HILO RAP SESSION
 Waiakea Intermediate School

A Letter from Congressman Neil Abercrombie

Congressman Neil Abercrombie sent a personal letter to Mr. Castanares requesting he convey the following message to our members.

"I congratulate the members of Local 675 for supporting candidates who share the values of Hawaii's working families to provide a living wage, quality education for our children, reliable medical benefits, and a safe place to live."

Congressman Abercrombie also expressed his admiration to each of you for making the extra push to contact your family members to participate in the most precious right we have, the right to vote. With Hawaii's own, President Obama in the White House he will bring a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to our national government with a touch of our special "Aloha Spirit".

Stay in touch with Congressman Abercrombie's efforts, log on to his e-page, www.house.gov/abercrombie

YOUR PHONE CONNECTIONS

Local 675 Office 536-5454
 1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level

Administrative Office .. 536-4408
 1109 Bethel Street, Suite 403

Health & Welfare
 Pension, Annuity
 Vacation & Holiday

Training Workshop 456-0585
 731 Kamehameha Hwy., Pearl City

Credit Union 537-9135
 1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level

*Call office promptly
 on address change.*