

## ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY

26, 6:30 PM

Well if you are reading this newsletter online then you read the post card! Thank you for stopping by the Town of Union's web site. This year because of the cost to remove snow from our roads, every department is saving money and not sending a newsletter and using postcards save us a few hundred dollars\$\$\$\$

For those of you that have come to these meetings before you know you this is your chance to ask just about any question regarding Town business. Exceptions are legal issues and talking about employees. The Board of Selectmen, Department Heads and I can answer questions a bit more thoroughly than we can during a Town Meeting.

If you have a question that will need some research we may have to get back to you , however if you wish to submit a question that needs research, let us know ahead of time and we can prepare the information.

Our ambulance and fire departments will be serving hot dogs and goodies for a minimal fee, come enjoy some good food, good neighbors and good questions and answers.

## SNOW SNOW AND MORE SNOW!

This year has been the most expensive snow removal year we have had in a very long time. Not only did it start in November it has never stopped and small amounts of snow over long periods of time cost as much as a large snowstorm. Our crew has done a fantastic job with Union roads and they thank you for all the calls and comments about the condition of our roads. This crew is adamant about having our roads clear and safe for our citizens and work tirelessly to get it done. Yes, like most other towns our budget is taking a bit hit and as I write this we are expecting another large storm with two more on the horizon.

## REVENUE SHARING

I am sure most of you have heard my previous comments regarding revenue sharing. In a nutshell the State of Maine is required by law to distribute 5% of your sales and income taxes back to municipalities. They have failed to do this since 2008 and attempted this year to take it all! This is millions of dollars of your money that should be in your town for you to decide how it is distributed.

This Manager and the Board have worked hard lobbying Augusta to get our money sent to us, and as of this writing it seems that the proposal to take it all will fail! ( continued next page)

**TOWN OF UNION**

(revenue sharing cont) It seems that enough of you have contacted your representatives and they have overwhelmingly supported restoring RS to the Municipalities. But beware as they are always trying to take money from us. The next goal is to get the full 5% restored and try to get what is owed us from previous years. They paid the debt to hospitals, now it's time to pay the towns.

**William Pullen Fund**

Applications are now being accepted for grants from the William Pullen Fund. Applicants must be a non-profit and the project must benefit citizens of Union and especially the youth of Union. Applications available online or by contacting the office. Deadline is March 1.

**Heating Oil Assistance**

We all know how brutal this winter has been and how hard it has been on the heating bills. There are many citizens in Union struggling to pay for oil and other heating sources.

Often we are asked how to donate to help Union citizens, in the past we have recommended you send your money to a third party organization (unnamed for a reason) who then told us it would be for Union residents only. However when asked for an accounting of known donations we have not received it, thus we really do not know if it goes to Union residents only.

Therefore this year we have been handling the funds here, it is not much more work than what we already do for regular general assistance and you are assured it only helps Union citizens.

So if you wish to donate please make checks payable to the Town of Union Assistance Fund and we will make sure a needy resident is taken care of.

**SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY AT 6:30**

**SNOW DATE WILL BE THURSDAY SAME TIME AND PLACE AND ANY POSTPONEMENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE WEB SITE.**

**HOT DOGS SERVED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, YUM**