

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

Bill Kurtz, Business Manager
Jim Caternolo, Business Agent

The Next Union Meeting is Tuesday, November 28th, 2017

ALL WORKING MEMBERS THAT GO BACK TO WORK OR CHANGE EMPLOYMENT STATUS MUST NOTIFY THE UNION HALL!!!! (Call Jim Caternolo)

At the November Union Mtg, there will be nominations for (1) Bldg. Corp seat.

TO KEEP YOU INFORMED, we need your current **ADDRESS, CELL PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL ADDRESS**. Please call Alana at the Union Hall with updated information.

- If you are out of work or change employers, please call the Union Hall with updates.
- **Please make sure you are up to date with your dues. There will be a \$50 reinstatement fee for anyone who is (3) months behind. NO EXCEPTIONS! Note the 1st of the 4th overdue month is when the reinstatement fee is assessed to your account by the UA.**
- Local #13's website is www.ualocal13.org. There is quite a bit of information to be found on the site including agendas, activities and general updates. I encourage you all to check out the site now and throughout the year.
- We have a "Job Line" that is for out of town work. If anyone is interested in out of town work, please dial 338-2360 and press option #4 to hear more information.
- The Front office hours are 8:00AM-4:30PM. If you need to come to the hall after hours, please give us a call first!

SAVE THE DATE(S):

- CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday, December 9th. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The MAGIC GUY performs at 10:30 a.m.!
- APPRENTICE GRADUATION BANQUET & SERVICE PIN AWARDS – Friday, July 20th, 2018 at the Convention Center. More info soon.

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Jerry Sullivan on being the newest member of the Finance Board!

CONDOLENCES:

- To the Thompson family on the passing of lifetime member, Bob Thompson.
- To the Grills family on the passing of lifetime member, Ray Grills.
- To the Bauer family on the passing of lifetime member, Norman Bauer.

GET WELL SOON:

- Get well soon to Kevin Sheehan as he is recovering from a fall with broken ribs & a removed spleen.
- Please keep Brother Ken Schulz in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to tackle kidney cancer.
- Please keep Brother Rob Tweedie in your thoughts and prayers as he was recently diagnosed with cancer. Rob, please know that you have all the support from your union brothers & sisters!

NEW RETIREES:

- November 1st – Don Russo & Jim Howe

NOTICES & REMINDERS:

- Call Alana at the Union Office for any announcements that you may wish to have inserted into your labor news column. We would like to be made aware of all family events.

BENEFITS OFFICE **Steve Ostrander—Fund Manager**

ATTENTION—OVER 65 RETIREES/MEDICARE

You should have received our 2018 Medicare Advantage Plan Open Enrollment brochure in the mail by now. If you choose to stay with your current plan, no action is required on your part. If you would like to switch to one of our other plans, please complete the enrollment form and return no later than December 8, 2017. If you are currently enrolled in our plan, note there are **new rates** as of January 1, 2018. Any questions, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106.

ACTIVE MEMBERS ON THE EXCELLUS HEALTH PLAN

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that the Fund Office is notified if you have a baby. **You MUST complete an enrollment form within 30 days of the date of birth** in order to ensure your child has coverage. If you fail to enroll your child within 30 days, your child may be ineligible for coverage until the next Open Enrollment period. Please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 regarding any enrollment issues.

CHECK RECIPIENTS

If you receive a check from the Benefit Office for any reason, a Pension payment, a Disability Payment, an hour bank reimbursement, or a recently issued Health Screening incentive check and it is not cashed within 6 months, it will no longer be honored by the Bank and another check WILL NOT be reissued. We encourage you to cash your checks promptly.

HEALTH INSURANCE RE-ENROLLMENT: URGENT NOTICE

If you become ineligible for health insurance, then you return to work, IT IS YOUR responsibility to contact the benefit office and re-enroll on the Health Plan. If you would like to re-enroll on the Insurance Plan, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 for details.

PENSIONERS

We have received phone calls that members have not received their Pension Check on the 1st of the month. The Benefit Office mails all checks in a timely fashion, yet the only way to ensure a 1st of the month payment is to enroll for Direct Deposit. If you would like to enroll in direct deposit, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106.

ANNUITY

The Guaranteed Income Fund has a guaranteed interest rate of 1.65% **effective July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017**. The interest rate will not fluctuate during this time.

ANNUITY - MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THE LOAN PROGRAM

If you are participating in the loan program and receive a letter from Prudential, it is imperative that you read all notices as it may be regarding a potential default on your loan. You need to adhere to all dates and instructions in the letter to avoid default. Prudential automatically defaults members if you are more than 90 days behind your payment date, yet you will receive 3 notices prior to default. It is extremely important you stay timely with payments. Once your loan is automatically defaulted, it is difficult to reverse. If you make payments after default, they will not be returned, as they are

considered Plan Assets. If you have questions regarding your loan, please contact Prudential at 1-877-778-2100 and refer to Plan number 767002. You will need to reference your social security number and loan number or contact Melissa Del Prete in the Local 13 Benefit Office at 585-338-2310 x107.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

According to Federal Law, if you terminate your Health Insurance Policy with Local 13, you may be subject to a penalty if you don't enroll in another Health Care Plan that provides minimum value. Please consult a Tax Advisor if you plan on terminating your health insurance. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Ostrander at 585-338-2310 x104.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING NEWS **TRAINING COORDINATOR – JOHN CARPENTER**

APPRENTICES: Reminder to fill out your **BLUE BOOKS** daily and to have your Foreman sign them. **We need a copy of your blue book MONTHLY**, due by the end of each month. Blue Books are a NYS DOL requirement and are YOUR responsibility.

WELDING: Open welding is Monday and Wednesday nights from 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Continuity is the WELDER'S responsibility**; if you lapse, you must re-test. We have continuity on the odd numbered months before the Union Meetings. There will be a weld test scheduled on the last Saturday of every month throughout the school year. You must receive approval and sign up for the weld test prior to the test date.

COURSE REIMBURSEMENT FOR OUTSIDE TRAINING: Course Reimbursement Applications must be submitted by member two (2) weeks prior to course date, and must be approved by the JATC Board prior to reimbursement. Applications are available on our website: www.ualocal13.org. All applications must have back up paper work explaining the courses, fees, etc.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES: Anyone interested in signing up for an elective in the spring, sign up before December 1st. Anyone interested in signing up for a regular class must do so before July 1st.

SAFETY TRAINING: Schedule will be available soon.

MED GAS RECERTIFICATION: Thursday, March 15th at 4:00 PM. You must sign up and put a \$25 refundable deposit down 30 days in advance. CASH/CHECK ONLY.

HVAC TECHNICIANS: Anyone interested in teaching for the HVAC program, please call John Carpenter. Even (4) weeks on a certain aspect of the trade could help!

RETIREE NEWS

FREE LUNCH!!! Every 2nd Tuesday of the month!!

A great turnout for our November soup, chili & cold cuts lunch. A big thanks to all who helped with the cooking and cleaning, and to those that brought a dish to pass. **Derek Van Houten** won the free dues and **Ken Moorhouse** won the \$25 Wegmans gift card. Next lunch is **Tuesday, December 12th**. It is our annual Christmas lunch with turkey, mashed potatoes & all the trimmings! Feel free to bring a dish to pass. – Larry Tschetter