

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

Bill Kurtz, Business Manager
Jim Caternolo, Business Agent

The Next Union Meeting is Tuesday, April 23rd, 2019

ALL WORKING MEMBERS THAT GO BACK TO WORK OR CHANGE EMPLOYMENT STATUS MUST NOTIFY THE UNION HALL!!!! IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP US UPDATED; NOT THE CONTRACTORS! (Call Bill Kurtz or Jim Caternolo)

Any member who is planning to travel out of our jurisdiction; you must let Jim Caternolo know and you MUST check-in AND check-out with the out-of-town local that you travel to.

ATTN ALL DUES PAYING MEMBERS: We will NO LONGER be waiving the \$50 reinstatement fees if you are late!!!!!! IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP UP ON YOUR DUES!! Please do not wait until the last minute to call or stop in to the hall, because we may not be available when you get here!

There are NO EXCUSES anymore; now that you can pay your dues ONLINE, AT ANY GIVEN TIME!! If you do not yet have that information; PLEASE CALL ALANA ASAP!!!!!! (585) 338-2360. She will gladly get you setup to pay online.

The 2019/2020 United Association Scholarship application is now available on www.uanet.org. Must be submitted by June 1st, 2019. Please visit the UA website for more information.

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

- **RED WINGS SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE ON THE FRONT COUNTER!!!**
- 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.**
- **YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE OR THROUGH THE MOBILE APP!! Contact Alana to find out how!!**
- **DUES CREDIT CARD FEE; AFFECTIVE JULY 2018: \$3.00 PER TRANSACTION.**
- 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):

- SEABREEZE PICNIC – Saturday, July 6th, 2019. More info soon!
- APPRENTICE GRADUATION & SERVICE PIN BANQUET – Friday, July 19th, 2019 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. More info soon!

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Joe Ruthven & family on the birth of his grand-triplets: Joseph III, Freya & Finley!! They were born pre-mature & are spending some time at Strong's NICU. In a sad turn of events, Joseph III did not make it. Please keep the family in your thoughts & prayers!
- To Zach Gillette & family on the birth of his 1st boy, Archer, born on March 12th!!

CONDOLENCES:

- To the Kariuk family on the recent passing of brother, Mike.
- To Tom Aswad & family on the recent passing of his father.
- To Joe Ruthven & family on the loss of his newborn grandson, Joseph III.

GET WELL SOON:

- Get well soon to Joe Zambuto as he recovers at the Jewish Home from recent surgery.
- Please keep Dan Smock in your thoughts & prayers as he battles liver failure.
- Get well soon to Ed Gorall as he fights lung cancer.
- Please keep Ken Schulz in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to tackle kidney cancer.

NEW RETRIEES:

- April 1st, 2019 – Ron Allen, Keith Conklin & Keith Urbonas

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FUNDS MANAGER

In accordance to regulations regarding the protection of personal health information (PHI) and to also enhance the integrity of this office and respect privacy of both verbal and written communications with our members and their families, ***The Benefit Office main door from the hallway will always now remain closed and locked.*** If you arrive unannounced or without an appointment, you will no longer be able to walk directly into the office area. You must push a button at the door to request the specific person you wish to speak with. If that person is on the phone or is engaged with another participant, you will be asked to have a seat in the hallway, or you may relax in the front waiting room until that person becomes available. I thank you all in advance for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to deal with your personal matters with the upmost discretion and respect.

HOURLY BANK ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT UPDATE:

Please be advised that the annual reimbursement clock is updating as of May 1, 2019. **ALL REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THIS OFFICE BY THE END OF BUSINESS (4:00pm) FRIDAY APRIL 12.** This pertains to all medical claims payable for the previous Plan Year. *After April 12, any reimbursement applications containing receipts from 5/1/2017 – 5/1/2018 will not be accepted.* Your entire submission will be rejected, and you will be required to re-submit a new application without these receipts.

HOURLY BANK REIMBURSEMENT—NEW GUIDELINES

Effective Immediately: We will **NO LONGER ACCEPT** Hour Bank Reimbursements if we receive them as follows:

- Not in order as they appear on the Reimbursement form
- On a separate sheet of paper other than our Reimbursement form
- Anything in a plastic bag

The entire reimbursement will be returned to you if it is not in the proper order as listed above. No exceptions will be made.

DCO TAX DEDUCTIONS

As I am sure all of you are aware that the current federal administration had recently passed a major tax reform initiative. Part of this tax reform may have affected your ability to write off your dues check off contribution and the monthly dues you pay over the counter. The statement below was taken directly from the IRS website:

Changes to the deduction for un-reimbursed employee expenses

*“The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act also suspends all miscellaneous itemized deductions that are subject to the 2% of adjusted gross income floor. This change affects un-reimbursed employee expenses such as uniforms, **union dues** and the deduction for business-related meals, entertainment and travel.”*

Please check with a tax professional for guidance on this matter prior to claiming any deductions or submitting a completed tax form. The UA Local 13 Benefit Office has no direct knowledge of your individual situation or ability to claim this deduction.

GYM MEMBERSHIPS

Please be advised that we are now promoting the **Excellus Blue 365** program. The Blue 365 program is an independent wellness program - managed through Excellus – that provides discounts to area gym memberships and other interesting features. **This program is not affiliated with our UA Local 13 Insurance Plan. It is a discount program open to all Excellus customers nationwide.** Blue 365 can be found online at www.blue365deals.com.

OFFICE HOURS

The Benefit Office is open beginning at **7:00am M-F**. Please call or stop in prior to beginning your work day for any regular or urgent needs. **During regular business hours (8am-5pm) it is highly recommended that you call ahead to make an appointment with myself or the staff.** If you choose to walk-in, it is likely that you will experience a wait time. If ever you have a concern that requires an urgent response, please call my cell phone at (585) 354-6158. Leave a voicemail message and I will return your call as soon as possible.

CHANGES IN MEDICAL COVERAGE/MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

Please remember that ANY and ALL changes, terminations or enrollments with a qualifying event pertaining in any way with your medical coverage must be performed in writing and within 30 days of the actual event.

ANNUITY ROTH PROGRAM

Please be advised that **ALL ROTH CHANGES TO YOUR ANNUITY PLAN must be completed and submitted to this office NO LATER THAN THE END OF BUSINESS (4:00pm) FRIDAY APRIL 12, 2019.** After this date, any and all changes, additions, terminations or any other request pertaining to the post tax deduction of your wages will not be implemented until NOVEMBER 1, 2019. There are absolutely no exceptions to this statement. We must allow a reasonable amount of time to accommodate your Roth updates not only in our system but share this information with every signatory employer so that everything is ready to go beginning Monday, April 29, 2019.

The Guaranteed Income Fund has a guaranteed interest rate of **2.00% effective January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019.** 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 Debbi Edizel 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. **MONITOR DATES: Monday-Thursday, April 22nd – 25th.**

WELDING: Open welding is on Monday and Wednesday nights from 5:00pm-8:30pm, and Saturday mornings from 7:00am-11:00am. There will be a weld test at the end of April. You must be approved by a CWI prior to taking the test. ***STAY UP ON YOUR CONTINUITY!* If you are expired more than 120 days, the UA will no longer accept your continuity sheets.**

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 course, fees, etc.

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!

CLASS SIGN-UPS: Class sign-up sheet is posted at the hall. To enroll in regularly scheduled classes, you need to sign-up in the month of June.

MEDICAL GAS COURSE: Beginning Monday, May 13th, 2019. (2) week course: Monday-Thursday + Saturdays. Test on Saturday, May 25th. You must sign up for this class by April 10th. \$25 Deposit CASH/CHECK ONLY, plus sign paperwork!

RETIREE NEWS

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

A delicious St. Patrick's Day meal for our March luncheon! Corned beef & cabbage!! A big thanks to all who helped with the cooking, preparing and cleaning, and to those that brought a dish to pass. **Gene Garvey & Scott White** won the free dues. **Kevin Wade & Bob Byer** won the \$25 Wegmans

gift card. The next lunch is **Tuesday, April 9th**. We will be having our annual Easter ham & sides!
Feel free to bring a dish to pass! – Larry Tschetter/Terry Moore