

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

Bill Kurtz, Business Manager
Jim Caternolo, Business Agent

The Next Union Meeting is Tuesday, June 25th, 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.

There will be an election for (1) Annuity Seat at the JUNE Union Meeting. Voting is open 3:00-6:00pm.

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.

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.
- The Front office hours are 8:00AM-4:00PM. 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. Tickets on sale NOW through July 5th. Cash/check only!
- APPRENTICE GRADUATION & SERVICE PIN BANQUET – Friday, July 19th, 2019 at the Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center. TICKETS ON SALE NOW! \$25 each – cash/check only.
- HEATS ON – Saturday, September 14th. More info soon!
- CLAMBAKE – Saturday, September 21st. 1:00-6:00pm at Camp Eastman. More info soon!

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Bob & Kim Mattle on the birth of their 5th grandchild, Jayden Robert, born on May 9th! Also congrats to Uncles Kyle & Colton!
- To Matt & Shannon Vazzana on the birth of their daughter, Norah Helene, on May 13th!!

CONDOLENCES:

- To Joe Root & family on the recent passing of his wife, Margaret.
- To Tony Messina & family on the recent passing of his mother, Loretta.
- To the Ribstein family on the recent passing of brother, Chad.
- To the Gorall family on the recent passing of brother, Ed.

GET WELL SOON:

- Get well soon to Bob Wightman as he battles lung cancer.
- Get well soon to Dan Smock as he recovers from a successful liver transplant! Please feel free to visit him at Strong hospital.
- Get well soon to Jay Zwerka as he battles stage 4 metastatic melanoma cancer. He has started immunotherapy treatment & is doing well so far!
- Get well soon to Joe Zambuto as he recovers from recent surgery.
- Please keep Ken Schulz in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to tackle kidney cancer.

NEW RETRIEES:

- June 1st, 2019 – Doug Hilsinger, Vicente LaBrosa, James Mason, Brian McEwen, Dan Smock & Don Tucker

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 THE FUND ADMINISTRATOR

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 REIMBURSEMENT—NEW GUIDELINES

Effective Immediately: We will **NO LONGER ACCEPT** Hourly 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

- We will **NO LONGER ACCEPT** reports from the Pharmacy listing your history of prescriptions. **You must submit the actual ORIGINAL pharmacy receipt.**

The entire reimbursement will be returned to you if it does not follow the guidelines listed above. No exceptions will be made.

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 **8:00am M-F**.

During regular business hours (8am-4pm) 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 FOR THE MAY CYCLE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.** All updates going forward will not be implemented until November 1, 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.

WELDING: Open welding is on Monday nights from 5:00pm-8:30pm, and Saturday mornings from 7:00am-11:00am. We will schedule weld tests as needed. 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.

Congratulations to the contestants in the New York State Apprenticeship Contest. Shaun Michael, Andy Wester, Rob Shaver & Mark Hellaby all performed extremely well! We have TWO winners; Shaun Michael (HVAC) & Andy Wester (Plumber). They will move onto the regional contest in Connecticut at Local 777 on June 4th-5th!

RETIREE NEWS

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

Great first cookout for our May luncheon! A big thanks to all who helped with the cooking, preparing and cleaning, and to those that brought a dish to pass. **Dick Preston** won the free dues. **Carl Colotti** won the \$25 Wegmans gift card. The next lunch is **Tuesday, June 11th**. Feel free to bring a dish to pass! – Larry Tschetter/Terry Moore