

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

Bill Kurtz, Business Manager | Jim Caternolo, Business Agent

Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, September 24th, 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.

At the September 24th meeting, there will be a VOTE to change the General Election to the 1st Saturday in December.

NOMINATIONS FOR ALL OFFICERS: October 22nd Union Meeting. Nominations for (1) Pension trustee also. General election will be on Saturday, December 7th from 8:00am-4:00pm.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING MUST BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 15TH!!!! ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS must do this online training. Follow these steps:

1. Visit: www.theEAP.com – Google Chrome is the preferred browser.
2. Click the Employee & Family login button.
3. Click on REGISTER HERE; enter your Employer's name (UA Local 13) & click CONTINUE.
4. Fill out registration form to create username & password. (Only need to register ONCE)
5. Click COMBATING SEXUAL HARASSMENT icon.
6. Select the version of training you need (Employee or Supervisor). *If you are a FOREMAN, please complete the course for MANAGERS.
7. Click OPEN IN NEW WINDOW.
8. On the Terms of Use page, click "I Accept" to agree to the terms & conditions & click SUBMIT.
9. After completing all the training modules & concepts, you will be able to take the quiz and receive a Certificate of Completion.

We will also be offering classes at the Union Hall on the following dates:

- Thursday, September 19th at 5:00pm – 6:00pm
- Saturday, September 21st 9:00am – 10:00am
- Thursday, September 26th at 5:00pm. – 6:00pm

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

NOTICES & REMINDERS:

- The EXECUTIVE BOARD meetings have been changed from the 1st Tuesday of the month to the 4th Tuesday of the month starting at 4:00pm.
- 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!
- **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. Also, checkout our Facebook: www.facebook.com/UALocal13
- **FOR MEMBERS ONLY** – Effective July 1st, 2019 – we will now be accepting credit card payments for apparel sales, event tickets & book fees. Please remember there will be a \$3.00 fee per transaction.
- 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):

- HORSEPOWER MOTOR WORKS – Open house. Saturday, September 7th. Bring your own car. 825 Phillips Road in Victor. Call Zeke Betkowski w/ questions.
- CLAMBAKE – Saturday, September 21st. 1:00-6:00pm at Camp Eastman. TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!
- GENERAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Saturday, December 7th. 8:00am-4:00pm.
- KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday, December 14th. 10:00am-12:00pm. Crafts, Santa & The Magic Guy!

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Shaun Michael on the birth of his 1st child, Mia Nicole, born on August 6th!!

CONDOLENCES:

- To Jim & Dave Peck on the recent passing of their mother, Edythe (& AJ's grandmother).
- To Craig & Bob Wightman on the recent passing of their sister, Dava.
- To Mike Sweeney & family on the recent passing of his father, Gary.

GET WELL SOON:

- Get well soon to Richard Williams as he recovers from a recent hip replacement surgery.
- Get well soon to Tom Meleca's wife, Sandy, as she recovers from a stroke.
- Get well soon to Bob Wightman as he battles lung cancer.
- Get well soon to Jay Zwerka as he battles stage 4 metastatic melanoma cancer. He has started immunotherapy treatment & is doing well so far!
- Please keep Ken Schulz in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to tackle kidney cancer.

NEW RETRIEES:

- September 1st, 2019 – Mark Grammatico, Karl Kohn, Toby Sonricker & Tony Turrisi

BENEFITS OFFICE
Steve Ostrander – Fund Administrator

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.

HOUR 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.

Rx ONLY: Effective May 1, 2019:

All submissions regarding Prescription Activity must include the **ACTUAL ORIGINAL RECEIPT** from the point of purchase. We will **NO LONGER ACCEPT** an annual print out from your Pharmacy that establishes your purchase activity. **KEEP TRACK OF ALL ORIGINAL RECEIPTS!**

For any Rx activity PRIOR to May 1, 2019, we shall accept the Pharmacy printout if you are unable to produce the original receipt.

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-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 PROGRAM

The Guaranteed Income Fund has a guaranteed interest rate of **2.00% effective July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.** The interest rate will not fluctuate during this time.

ANNUITY FUND CHANGES!!! EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2019:

The Annuity Fund shall undergo a major reconstruction effective October 1, 2019. All Manning & Napier Funds (Pro-Mix and Target Date) shall be removed from the portfolio. All participants currently invested with any Manning & Napier Fund shall be redirected to a similar investment using American Funds Target Date Funds. Please note that this transition shall be completed with no blackout period necessary. Your affected investments shall move seamlessly. If, after the completion of this exercise, you feel the need to gain more knowledge, learn more about your new investment or understand where you have settled and maybe authorize further activity, please reach out to the UA Local 13 Benefit Office prior to initiating any changes yourself.

ANNUITY – DESIGNATED ROTH 2019 CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

The combined amount a participant may contribute as pre-tax elective deferrals and **designated Roth contributions** each taxable year is limited. Total contributions to the plan are limited to \$19,000 in 2019 (\$18,500 in 2018 plus an additional \$6,000 in 2015-2019) for employees age 50 and older. For later years, the limits are subject to cost-of-living adjustments. For more information, see www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/designated-roth-accounts-contributing-to-a-designated-roth-account.

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 Monday & Wednesday evenings plus Saturday mornings. There will be a weld test on Saturday, September 28th. 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 paperwork 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.

RETIREE NEWS

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

A wonderful submarine luncheon in August! A big thanks to all who helped with the cooking, preparing and cleaning, and to those that brought a dish to pass. **Craig Wightman** won the \$25 Wegmans gift card. The next lunch is **Tuesday, September 10th**. We will be having a cookout! Feel free to bring a dish to pass! – Larry Tschetter/Terry Moore