

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

Bill Kurtz, Business Manager | **Jim Caternolo**, Business Agent

Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, January 25th, 2022

NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER 2021

If attending in person, you MUST wear a mask – regardless of vaccination status.

**IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING TEXT MESSAGES FROM LU13:
TEXT THE WORD “UNSTOP” TO THIS NUMBER: 877-515-8799**

To keep you informed, we need your current **ADDRESS, CELL PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL ADDRESS**. Please call the Union Hall with updated information. Please remember to update your **Beneficiary** info (with both the Union & Benefit Office) after any major life change, such as marriage, divorce, new children, etc.

Local 13 is now using the **UNION STRONG APP** to communicate instantly and directly with all our members. The app is **FREE** and will be used to send updates, notifications & important information. To get the app, text **UALOCAL13** to 888-403-4140 to download & you will automatically be following our local!

CANCELLED EVENTS FOR 2021

- Kid's Christmas Party – Unfortunately, we have decided to be extra cautious and cancel this year's Christmas party.

UNEMPLOYMENT LIST: If you get laid off, please **CALL** Jim Caternolo at (585) 355-2244 or the main line, (585) 338-2360 ext. 113. Jim will then put your name on the list & the date that you informed him.

VISITING THE HALL: The front door will be **LOCKED** until further notice. The Union Hall will be open from 8:00am – 4:30pm. Please do your best to complete your business via phone/email. ***If entering the building, you must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.***

The best way to contact anyone in the office is through **EMAIL:**

- Bill Kurtz: billk@ualocal13.org / (585) 338-2360 ext. 114
- Jim Caternolo: jimc@ualocal13.org / (585) 338-2360 ext. 113
- Steve Ostrander: sostrander@ualocal13.org
- Jamie Arena: jarena@ualocal13.org
- John Carpenter: johnc@ualocal13.org
- Alana Colotti Allen: alanac@ualocal13.org
- Sarah Johnston-Waugh (covering while Alana is on maternity leave): sarahj@ualocal13.org
- Tricia Marciano: triciam@ualocal13.org
- Debbi Edizel: dedizel@ualocal13.org
- Bette Kwiatkowski: bettek@ualocal13.org

GET WELL SOON:

- To any member that has tested positive for COVID-19. Get some rest & we hope you feel better soon!
- To Ron Behan as he recovers from a recent surgery due to a fall that ended with broken ribs & back.

CONDOLENCES:

- To the Mattle family on the recent passing of Bob's father-in-law (Kyle & Colton's grandfather).
- To Tom & Sandy Meleca on the recent passing of Sandy's mother, Cindy.
- To the Garrett family on the recent passing of Ed's wife, Doreen (Mike's Mother-in-law).

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To John Carpenter on continuing his seat on the Pension board!

NEW RETIREES: November 1st – Jeff Laverty & Geoff Pettifer

BENEFITS OFFICE
FUND ADMINISTRATOR – STEVE OSTRANDER

PLEASE BE ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY DIRECTIVE REGARDING COVID-19 VIRUS & PERSONAL VISITS TO THE BENEFIT OFFICE.

WE ARE MAKING GREAT HEADWAY WITH OUR FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19. HOWEVER, YOU MUST WEAR A MASK WHILE INSIDE THE BUILDING, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS.

The Benefit Office shall continue to be a permanently locked area of the building and access will be restricted to those authorized to enter. If you wish to speak to anyone in the Benefit Office, please continue to call or email and we will respond as quickly as possible. All face-to-face meetings shall be arranged on a scheduled only basis.

If you have information or documents that you are dropping off without an appointment, there is a stainless cabinet mailbox in the vestibule area of the building with labels for the Union Office (top slot) & Benefit Office (bottom slot). You may drop off any paperwork to us via this method. Please call or e-mail us prior to your visit so we know that your items are here.

THE BENEFIT OFFICE IS AVAILABLE M-TH: 8:00am-4:30pm & FRIDAY: 8:00am-3:00pm. PLEASE CALL: 585-338-2310

- Steve Ostrander: Ext 104 / sostrander@ualocal13.org
- Tricia Marciano: Ext 106 / triciam@ualocal13.org
- Debbi Edizel: Ext 107 / dedizel@ualocal13.org

STEVE OSTRANDER IS ALSO AVAILABLE VIA CELL PHONE (585) 354-6158. If it is a 911 matter, please call him anytime 24/7. Otherwise, please respect his business hours of availability.

INSURANCE FUND NEWS – Active Members

Local 13 Excellus Plan Members-You can now access your Insurance information with the Excellus BCBS Mobile App. Take our Health Plan with you 24/7. Visit www.ExcellusBCBS.com/Member to register your account.

- View your member card
- Track your deductibles and out-of-pocket spending
- Access your benefits
- View a history of your claim activity
- Find a provider or medical facility
- Access other member apps, such as Wellframe & MD Live

If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 for additional information.

MetLife Insurance Benefits

Effective May 1, 2021 all Active members enrolled in our Excellus Health Plan are now eligible for Cash Benefit payments. They are as follows:

- Hospital Indemnity Insurance pays cash benefits in the event of hospitalization
- Accident Insurance pays cash benefits in the event of an accident
- Critical Illness Insurance pays cash benefits in the event of certain serious diagnoses

Please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 for additional information.

Adding New Dependents to Insurance Plan

Our plan allows 30 days from the date of event to add a spouse or newborn to our Insurance plan. Please contact Tricia Marciano in the Benefit Office at 585-338-2310 x106 or triciam@ualocal13.org. DO NOT contact your employer; your insurance is administered through the Benefit Office.

ANNUITY FUND

Please be advised that the Prudential Guaranteed Fund interest rate for the period July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 will be set at 1.65%.

ROTH ENROLLMENT AND CHANGES

Contractors have been notified of the upcoming ROTH enrollment changes that will take effect November 1. Call Debbi Edizel at 585-338-2310 x107 or email dedizel@ualocal13.org if you have questions.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK YOUR PAY STUB AND ASSURE THAT YOUR DEDUCTION IS BEING APPLIED CORRECTLY.

If you see any irregular or incorrect information you must call this office immediately.

ALL FUNDS

Address Changes—All Members

Please remember to update the Benefit Office of any address and phone number changes.

Beneficiary Forms—All Members

Please remember to update your beneficiary forms. It is imperative when life changing events occur (ie: marriage, children, divorce). These forms are on our website in the Benefits Office section.

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

APPLICATIONS: 1st Tuesday of every month from 9:00am-11:00am & 1:00pm-3:00pm. Enter through training center man-door. MUST WEAR A MASK REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS!! Please view our website for more guidance.

BLUE BOOKS: Reminder to fill out your **BLUE BOOKS** daily and to have your Foreman sign them. Blue Books are a NYS DOL requirement and are YOUR responsibility.

WELDING/CONTINUITY: Open welding will continue on Monday nights 5:00pm-8:00pm and Saturday mornings 7:00am-11:00am. Continuity will be held on the 4th Tuesday in the ODD numbered months from 3:30pm – 5:00pm. There will be a weld test on Saturday, December 4th at 7:00am. Call John Carpenter to sign up.

VETERANS: We invite all Local 13 veterans to the Union Hall on Friday, December 3rd at 3:30pm for the FIRST ***Veterans Support Group Gathering!*** Food will be provided.

COURSE REIMBURSEMENT FOR OUTSIDE TRAINING: Course Reimbursement Applications must be submitted by the 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.

CLASSES: See John Carpenter for future classes.

RETIREE NEWS

The next retiree lunch will be on Tuesday, December 14th at noon! This will be our annual turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Please contact Larry Tschetter if you want to bring a dish for the Christmas dinner. **You must wear a mask when entering the building, regardless of vaccination status. WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ON ANY CHANGES AS WE HEAR FROM LOCAL & STATE AUTHORITIES.** – Larry Tschetter/Terry Moore