

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

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

Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, January 25th, 2022

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

At the January 25th Union Meeting, there will be nominations for (1) Building Corp. trustee. If needed, an election will take place at the February 22nd Union Meeting from 3:00pm-6:00pm.

**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 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!

RETIREEES' DUES UPDATE: As of 1/1/22, once you reach **(40) years of continuous membership** (no reinitiation fees), your dues rate will go from \$20/month to \$10/month. You must pay through the month of your initiation date before the rate will decrease. (50+ year members continue not having to pay dues.)

2021-2022 IAP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: The application form is now available at the union hall or on our website at www.ualocal13.org. The deadline is Friday, March 18th, 2022. This is available to high school seniors graduating in 2022 with a parent or guardian that is an active member of Local 13.

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
- Jamie Arena: jarena@ualocal13.org
- John Carpenter: johnc@ualocal13.org
- Alana Colotti Allen: alanac@ualocal13.org
- Bette Kwiatkowski: bettek@ualocal13.org
- Sarah Johnston-Waugh: sarahj@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 John Kiehle as he recovers from COVID.

CONDOLENCES:

- To Pete & Jeanie Huckstep on the recent passing of Jeanie's father, Robert Baldree, due to the tornadoes in Kentucky. Robert was a UA Pipefitter Engineer.
- To Terry Moore & family on the recent passing of his brother, George, an LU13 retiree (50-year member in 2022).
- To the Walsh family on the recent passing of former member, Dan.

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Kevin Cook & Erika Gringer on the birth of their son, Kevin Jr., born on 12/13!!

NEW RETIREES: January 1st – Bruce Bowes, Paul Ransley & Paul Tesch

BENEFITS OFFICE **FUND ADMINISTRATOR – STEVE OSTRANDER**

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

AS WE ARE WITNESSING A RESURGENCE IN POSITIVE CASES DUE TOOMICRON, WE SHALL CONTINUE WITH A NO PERSONAL CONTACT POLICY WITH BENEFIT OFFICE STAFF UNLESS AN APPOINTMENT IS MADE IN ADVANCE AND THE FACE-TO-FACE BE CONDUCTED IN THE MAIN MEETING HALL WITH MASKING AND DISTANCING PROTOCOLS IN PLACE.

YOU MUST WEAR A MASK WHILE INSIDE THE BUILDING, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS.

Beneficiary Forms—All Members

We can't emphasize enough how critically important it is to have current beneficiary forms on file with this office. Your accounts, Pension, Annuity Balance, Life Insurance, Hour Bank Balance or any other Benefit account WILL NOT be transferred to anyone without a current Beneficiary Form on file. If you decease, your family will be forced to begin legal proceedings to liquidate your accounts. An Executor will need to be established, Power of Attorney, an Estate will need to be created and so on. Your loved ones will not receive any funds belonging to you without all legal measures being satisfied. If an Estate is not created, your funds may reside with NYS until such time they are deemed abandoned. **Please update your beneficiary forms. DO NOT PUT IT OFF!!** It is imperative when life changing events occur (i.e.: marriage, children, divorce). These forms are on our website in the Benefits Office section.

GENERAL NEWS

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

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 NEWS

As of November 5, 2021, all Prudential Annuity distributions and loans have an 8-day waiting period from the date of the request before they can be processed/paid out. This is a rule that is imposed by the IRS. If you call in or go online to make the request, Prudential representatives will explain the wait period.

Please be advised that the Prudential Guaranteed Fund interest rate for the period January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 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.

ALL FUNDS

Address Changes—All Members

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

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 is on Monday & Wednesday nights from 5:00pm-8:00pm and Saturday mornings from 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, January 15th. Call John Carpenter to sign up.

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: Anyone interested in CAD or Medical Gas, please call John Carpenter.

VETERANS: We had a nice turnout for our first gathering. We are planning another one in the future!

RETIREE NEWS

Retiree lunches are cancelled until further notice, due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in Monroe County. We are tentatively planning for a March lunch & will keep you posted. Please stay safe & healthy! In the meantime, we are starting a remodeling process of the bar & kitchen area!! – Larry Tschetter/Terry Moore