

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

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

Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, May 24th, 2022

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BUSINESS MANAGER, JOHN CARPENTER!!!! He will be sworn into office at the May 24th union meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW TRAINING COORDINATOR, BILL BLASCHEK!!! Looking forward to seeing what he will bring to the apprenticeship program!

We would like to wish Bill Kurtz a VERY HAPPY RETIREMENT!! Bill has been in the office since February 2003! We thank him for being our leader for almost 20 years! Wishing all the happiness & relaxation in this next chapter for him & his family.

At the May 24th Union Meeting, there will be nominations for (1) annuity trustee, (1) pension trustee, (1) conference board trustee & (1) examining board trustee. Election will be at the June 28th union meeting from 3:00pm-6:00pm.

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!

ROCHESTER RED WINGS TICKETS: Sign-up sheets are available at the union hall (on Alana's office door)!! Stop in & sign up for a game (1 game per member)!!

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.)

SAVE THE DATE(S):

Saturday, June 25th, 2022 – SEABREEZE PICNIC! Tickets ON SALE NOW at the union hall!

Tuesday, July 12th, 2022 – RETIREEES "Years of Service" pin ceremony.

Saturday, September 10th, 2022 – CLAMBAKE! At Long Acre Farms in Macedon.

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.

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

- John Carpenter: johnc@ualocal13.org / (585) 338-2360 ext. 114
- Jim Caternolo: jimc@ualocal13.org / (585) 338-2360 ext. 113
- Jamie Arena: jarena@ualocal13.org

- Bill Blaschek: billb@ualocal13.org
- Alana Colotti Allen: alanac@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!

CONDOLENCES:

- To Randy Vermeulen & family on the recent passing of his mother, Ruth.
- To Bob Crowell & family on the recent passing of his daughter, Cynthia Lee.
- To the Goeltz family on the recent passing of William. He was a lifetime member with 65 years in the local!

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Larry Cusaac on the birth of his daughter, Lamira!!
- To Jim Montinarelli on the birth of his first grandson, Koda James!!

NEW RETIREES: May 1st – Lloyd Key, Russell Militello & John Wilson

BENEFITS OFFICE
FUND ADMINISTRATOR – STEVE OSTRANDER

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

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE BENEFIT OFFICE WORKS DAILY WITH YOUR PERSONAL & SENSITIVE INFORMATION. NO WALK IN TRAFFIC IS PERMITTED. THE ENTRANCE IS LOCKED AT ALL TIMES. ALL MEMBERS WISHING TO PERSONALLY MEET WITH BENEFIT OFFICE STAFF MUST CALL AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT IN ADVANCE.

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. There is also a mail slot to the right of the main Benefit Office entrance door. Please call or e-mail us prior to your visit so we know that your items are here.

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

- Tricia Marciano: Ext 106 / triciam@ualocal13.org
 - Debbi Edizel: Ext 107 / dedizel@ualocal13.org
 - Steve Ostrander: Cell Only - (585) 354-6158. If it is a 911 matter, please call him anytime 24/7. Otherwise, please respect his business hours of availability.
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INSURANCE FUND NEWS

INSURANCE HOUR BANK TO ANNUITY VOLUNTARY TRANSFER PROGRAM

Eligible Active members will be receiving a postcard in the mail around the 2nd week of May to enroll in this program. In order to be eligible a member needs to have an Hour Bank Balance of \$25,000 as of the May 1, 2022 Eligibility period. This program is only available for enrollment once

a year. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 or at triciam@ualocal13.org.

Hour Bank Reimbursement—New Balances for May 1, 2022-April 30, 2023

We are in the process of updating the new balances for the May 1, 2022-April 30, 2023 Plan Year with Lifetime Benefit Solutions. They will be available approximately by the 3rd week of May. If you are looking to submit a claim with a date of service after May 1, 2022 prior to this update in their system, you will receive a denial. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 or at triciam@ualocal13.org.

Hour Bank Reimbursement—Automatic Claims Transfer

Did you know that you can enroll in Automatic Claims Transfer with Lifetime Benefit Solutions? This option is only available to Active Members enrolled in our Excellus Health Insurance Plan. You will not need to submit out-of-pocket claims under the U.A. Local 13 Medical Plan for reimbursement from your Hours Bank. Instead, Excellus BCBS will notify Lifetime Benefit Solutions whenever you or your dependents have a claim under our plan which results in out-of-pocket cost and Lifetime Benefit Solutions will automatically reimburse you for that amount. To enroll simply contact Lifetime Benefit Solutions Customer Service at 1-800-327-7130.

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

Prudential Retirement is being acquired by Empower, the nation's second largest retirement plan provider. The website, login credentials and the Participant Call Center phone number will remain the same. You may receive more information shortly by email or by mail. See the latest updates by logging in (or registering your account) at www.retirement.prudential.com.

In January, the Prudential Annuity Disbursement forms were revised to include 2022 Federal Marginal Rate Tables, and a worksheet to help determine the appropriate Federal tax withholding. Prudential's Participant Call Center is available to assist members with questions regarding this IRS required section of the form. Their phone number is 1-877-778-2100.

Also, the Qualified Joint and Survivor Annuity explanation is now provided in the Prudential Retirement Loan and Disbursement forms.

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%.

ALL FUNDS

Address Changes—All Members

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

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.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING NEWS
TRAINING COORDINATOR – JOHN CARPENTER

APPLICATIONS: 1st Tuesday of every month from 9:00am-11:00am & 1:00pm-3:00pm. 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 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 weld tests throughout the summer. 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 taking classes in the fall must contact the training office in the month of June.

VETERANS: We had a nice turnout for our first gathering. There will be more to come!

RETIREE NEWS

A delicious pasta, meatballs & sausage lunch in April, courtesy of Terry & Zeke! Carl Colotti & Dick Preston won the Wegmans gift cards. The next lunch is **Tuesday, May 10th**. It will be our first cookout of the year!! Feel free to bring a dish to pass. – Larry Tschetter/Terry Moore