

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

John Carpenter, Business Manager | **Jim Caternolo**, Business Agent

Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, January 24th, 2023

**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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED BUSINESS AGENT – DAN O’NEIL, and to all other officers that ran unopposed, as well as the other candidates for a job well done. The officers will be sworn in at the January 24th Union Meeting.

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
- Bill Blaschek: billb@ualocal13.org
- Alana Colotti Allen: alanac@ualocal13.org
- Bette Kwiatkowski: bettek@ualocal13.org

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Seamus Mykins on the birth of his daughter, Maeve!!
- To Kyle & Ashley Landes on the birth of their twins, Scarlett Bell & Sebastian William!!
- To Tim & Clare Rozek on the birth of their daughter, Lucia!!
- To Pat & Adrianna Mattice on the birth of their first child, Juliette Noel, born on 12/8!!
- To Steve Ostrander on the birth of his first grandchild, Noah Michael, born on 12/12!!

GET WELL SOON:

- To any member that has tested positive for COVID-19. Get some rest & we hope you feel better soon!

CONDOLENCES:

- To Zach Huff & family on the recent passing of his father, after a brief battle with cancer.
- To Dan Mantell & family on the recent passing of his father.
- To the McHale family on the recent passing of Pete & Tom’s father (Mike’s grandmother & Bob Bishop’s grandmother).
- To the Kellogg family on the recent passing of lifetime member, Bob.
- To the Haefner family on the recent passing of Joe’s brother, Bob.

BENEFITS OFFICE
FUND ADMINISTRATOR – STEVE OSTRANDER

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

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-4:30pm & FRIDAY: 8:00am-3:30pm. 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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LOCAL 13 MEMBER BENEFITS PORTAL

We are excited to provide you with direct access (via your cell phone or computer) to your personal benefit information. To register, simply use the **Benefit Office** tab on the UA Local 13 website and click on the **“Member Benefits Portal”** tab.

On your portal, you will have access to:

- Contributions / Work History
- Pension Calculations & Estimates
- Health Insurance Eligibility
- Annuity Balances
- Regulatory Notices
- Forms and much more

PENSIONERS

Your pension payment arrives on the 1st of every month. Please note we have updated our schedule for any month where the 1st falls on a weekend.

Effective immediately, all payments shall arrive on the 1st, **or the next business day AFTER the 1st.**

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

INSURANCE FUND NEWS—Active Members

Active Members on our Health Insurance plan are eligible for no-cost COVID tests. You can acquire up to eight over-the-counter tests at no cost per 30-day period from your pharmacy. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 or email at triciam@ualocal13.org.

ANNUITY FUND NEWS

New offering within the Annuity Plan! Effective January 1, 2023, the Annuity Joint Board of Trustees has voted to allow an “In Service Distribution/Withdrawal” to any active participant aged 59 1/2 or older. This is not a loan. It is a distribution or withdrawal from your account as a lump sum. **Empower must withhold a 20% federal tax** and you may elect a NYS voluntary tax upon withdrawal.

There is a mandatory 8 day waiting period for any distribution per IRS regulations. You may however complete the distribution application (in anticipation of the waiting period) if you require the funds closer to the effective date. If you are interested in obtaining funds while in active service, you may complete your application at any time by contacting Debbi Edizel at (585) 338-2310 ext. 107 or dedizel@ualocal13.org.

Prudential Retirement has been acquired by Empower. The transitional period is ongoing. See the latest updates by logging in (or registering your account) at www.retirement.prudential.com.

Also, the Empower, Prudential Retirement app is available to download through the App store or through Google play. The Prudential app has been changed to Empower Prudential Retirement (red stripes, blue background). You can enroll from the app as well.

Empower's Service Center is available to assist members with questions regarding their Annuity accounts. Their phone number is 1-877-778-2100.

Please be advised that the Prudential Guaranteed Fund interest rate for the period **July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 will be set at 1.70%.**

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 die, your spouse & family will be forced to begin legal proceedings to liquidate your accounts. Your loved ones will not receive any funds belonging to you without all legal measures being satisfied.

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 – BILL BLASCHEK**

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: *The last open weld day in 2022 is Monday, December 19th. Open welding will resume on Saturday, January 7th.* Continuity will be held on the 4th Tuesday in the ODD numbered months from 3:30pm – 5:00pm. ***Please stay up to date with continuity so your certs don't lapse!!***

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.

TEACHING: Anyone interested in teaching or helping with teaching, please reach out to Bill Blaschek.

VETERANS: The Veterans Club will be having more gatherings, stay tuned for upcoming dates.

**LAST DAY OF THE FALL SEMESTER IS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22ND.
Spring semester starts on Monday, January 9th.**

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE JATC!!!!

RETIREE NEWS

Our annual, delicious Thanksgiving meal with all the sides for our December luncheon! Dan Yatteau & Dick Maxwell won the **\$25 Wegmans gift cards**. Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, January 10th**. We will be having pizza & wings! Wishing you all a safe & happy holiday season! – Terry Moore