

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

John Carpenter, Business Manager | **Dan O'Neil**, Business Agent

Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, September 19th, 2023 (PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF SEPTEMBER – MEETING DATE WAS MOVED)

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

*****THE UNION OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00AM-4:30PM.*****

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.

UNEMPLOYMENT LIST: If you get laid off, please CALL Dan O'Neil at (585) 455-5798 or the main line, (585) 338-2360 ext. 113. Dan 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
- Dan O'Neil: doneil@ualocal13.org / (585) 338-2360 ext. 113
- Dan Pollock: danp@ualocal13.org / (585) 338-2360 ext. 115
- Bill Blaschek: billb@ualocal13.org / (585) 338-2360 ext. 109
- Alana Colotti Allen: alanac@ualocal13.org / (585) 338-2360 ext. 108
- Bette Kwiatkowski: bettek@ualocal13.org / (585) 338-2360 ext. 103

SAVE THE DATE(S):

DIVERSITY MEETING – EVERY 3RD MONDAY AT 4:00PM. Zoom is available.

Monday, September 4th, 2023 – LABOR DAY PARADE!! Join us at the union hall by 8:30am for coffee & donuts. The shuttle buses will take us to the parade & back! Stay for a cookout at the union hall!

Saturday, September 23rd, 2023 – CLAMBAKE! At the Webster Fireman's Field. TICKETS ON SALE NOW!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

NEW RETIREES: September 1st – Guy Femiano, Kevin Kimber & Andrew Murawski

CONGRATULATIONS: Congrats & welcome back to Cory Ward, after a year-long deployment overseas!

GET WELL SOON:

CONDOLENCES:

- To Rob Dixon & family on the recent passing of his sister, Barb and brother-in-law, Ed, in a tragic motorcycle accident.
- To Shad Horn & family on the recent passing of his father, Kenneth.
- To Dave Brightman & family on the recent passing of his father, Theodore.
- To Lynne Littlefield & family on the recent passing of her husband & 13 member, David.

BENEFITS OFFICE
FUND ADMINISTRATOR – STEVE OSTRANDER

ALL MEMBERS WISHING TO PERSONALLY MEET WITH BENEFIT OFFICE STAFF MUST CALL AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT IN ADVANCE. – Thank You

**THE BENEFIT OFFICE IS 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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INSURANCE FUND NEWS

MET LIFE ANCILLARY BENEFITS

Did You Know???

If you are covered on our Excellus Health Plan, you are eligible for cash benefits through MetLife. This program offers significant benefits to you under four available policies:

- **Short Term Disability**
- **Critical Illness**
- **Accident**
- **Hospitalization**

If you have experienced any of these conditions, we urge you to call Met Life at: Metlife.com/mybenefits or call 1-800-GET-MET8 (1-800-438-6388).

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.

LOCAL 13 ACTIVE & RETIREE MEMBER BENEFITS PORTAL

Please use this portal for 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 page 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

ANNUITY FUND NEWS

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.**

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, 2023 through December 31, 2023 will be set at 1.95%.**

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 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**

CLASSES: Fall semester will begin on Tuesday, September 5th at 5:00pm.

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: NO OPEN WELDING IN AUGUST. It will reopen on **Saturday, September 9th**, and continue with Monday evenings and Saturday mornings. 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: Stay tuned for the next meeting!

RETIREE NEWS

We had delicious pizza & subs for our August luncheon! **Tom Meleca & Steve Yatteau** won the \$25 Wegmans gift cards! Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, September 12th**. Feel free to bring a dish to pass. – Terry Moore