

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

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

Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, January 23rd at 5:00pm
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

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

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Kyle Schieb & Kendal Lewis on the birth of their daughter, Mia, born on 11/23 (Thanksgiving)!!
- To Tim Meehan on winning the seat for Pension!!
- To John & Renee Coppa on the birth of their son, Maxwell John, born on 12/10!!

GET WELL SOON:

- Wishing a speedy recovery to Bill Kurtz after a successful knee replacement!

CONDOLENCES:

- To Richard Woodworth & family on the recent passing of his wife, Essie.
- To Toby & Carrie Malone & family on the recent passing of Carrie's brother, Steven.
- To the Person family on the recent passing of lifetime member, Clinton.
- To Todd Bliss & family on the recent passing of his father & lifetime member, Charles.

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

Active Members on Local 13 Health Insurance

You will be receiving new ID cards as of January 1, 2024, however there are no changes to the Plan Benefits.

Insurance Hour Requirement—Active Members

Your insurance coverage is determined every quarter, and it is based on the hours you work. Single coverage requirement is 360 hours and Family coverage is 430 hours per quarter. If you do not have excess funds in your Hour Bank, you will receive a bill for the hours you are short. The bill is sent by mail and e-mail. If the bill is not paid within 30 days, your coverage will be terminated. It is your responsibility to contact the Benefit Office to re-enroll once you earn the hours back in the following quarter. Please keep the Benefit Office updated with any address change as well as a current e-mail address. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 or at triciam@ualocal13.org.

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.

The Prudential Retirement app has been changed to Empower Prudential Retirement and is available to download through the App Store or through Google Play.

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%.**

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.

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 decess, 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: Open welding continues on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings until further notice. 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!

We would like to congratulate Shawn Schell on his new position as the Assistant Apprentice Coordinator! We are very excited to have him start in the new year!

The last day of classes is Thursday, December 21st. Spring semester will start on Monday, January 8th.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all our members and their families!!

RETIREE NEWS

We had our annual holiday lunch with turkey & all the fixings for December. **Charlie Thompson & Wayne Davis** won the \$25 Wegmans gift cards! We raffled off pies from Leo's Bakery! Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, January 9th**. Feel free to bring a dish to pass. – Terry Moore