

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

**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.

2023-2024 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 15th, 2024. This is available to high school seniors graduating in 2024 with a parent or guardian that is an active member of Local 13.

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
- Shawn Schell: shawns@ualocal13.org / (585) 338-2360 ext. 112
- 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):

- Saturday, June 22nd, 2024 – Seabreeze Picnic & Scholarship Recipients.
- Saturday, July 13th, 2024 – Apprentice Graduation & “Years of Service” Pin Banquet.
- Saturday, September 28th, 2024 – CLAMBAKE! At the Webster Fireman's Field.

NEW RETIREES: January 1st – Peter Huckstep

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Rob Mykins on the birth of his grandson!!

GET WELL SOON:

CONDOLENCES:

- To Carol Ramble & family on the recent passing of lifetime member, Richard (Ricky's father & Jason's grandfather).
- To Rita Lagana & family on the recent passing of lifetime member, George.
- To Julie Bondi & family on the recent passing of lifetime member, John.
- To Colleen Bogart & family on the recent passing of retiree, Paul.

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.
-

INSURANCE FUND NEWS

Active Members on Local 13 Health Insurance

WellNow Urgent Care will no longer be part of the Excellus BlueCross BlueShield (BCBS) network effective January 1, 2024. This change affects all WellNow locations within the Excellus BCBS New York 31-county service area. This change means that WellNow Urgent Care is now considered an out-of-network provider. If you have out-of-network benefits in your health plan, you may still receive care at WellNow locations, but it may result in higher out-of-pocket costs. *U of R / Rochester Regional Health Urgent Cares are NOT affected by this.*

Hour Bank Reimbursement Guidelines

- Claims are processed by Lifetime Benefit Solutions
- Claims must include the following: (Name of service provider, Date of service, Description of services rendered, Amount charged, Name of person who received the services & your proof of payment)
- If you are submitting expenses under another insurance plan, you must submit an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statement
- All dental expenses must include an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statement
- Questions: Contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106

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

Empower will mail or email participating members with the migration communication entitled “Understanding your upgraded Empower experience”. Along with relaying the specific days that members will not be able to make transactions in their account, it will highlight a few other things to look forward to, i.e. new website, new mobile app, and expanded call center hours.

Empower will send a second communication on February 6 and 7 to provide instructions on how to register your account on the new Empower website.

Please be advised that the Prudential Guaranteed Fund interest rate for the period **January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024 will be set at 2.05%.**

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.**

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

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**

REMINDER THAT ALL REQUIREMENTS (BOOK FEES, MANDATORY WELDING, MAKE-UP CLASSES) MUST BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 1ST, 2024! RAISES WILL BE HELD BACK IF NOT COMPLETED BY THIS DATE!!!

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!

MED GAS: We would like to schedule a Med Gas certification class for March 2024. Any journey person interested in getting their cert, please contact the hall.

RETIREE NEWS

We started off the new year with pizza & subs for our January lunch! **Roger Blackburn & Bob Byer** won the \$25 Wegmans gift cards! Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, February 13th**. We will be having pasta & meatballs! Feel free to bring a dish to pass. – Terry Moore