

## **BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs**

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

**Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm**

**There will be nominations for (1) Annuity seat at the March 26<sup>th</sup> Union Meeting. If an election is needed, it will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00pm-6:00pm.**

**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](http://www.ualocal13.org). The deadline is Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:johnc@ualocal13.org) / (585) 338-2360 ext. 114
- Dan O'Neil: [doneil@ualocal13.org](mailto:doneil@ualocal13.org) / (585) 338-2360 ext. 113
- Dan Pollock: [danp@ualocal13.org](mailto:danp@ualocal13.org) / (585) 338-2360 ext. 115
- Bill Blaschek: [billb@ualocal13.org](mailto:billb@ualocal13.org) / (585) 338-2360 ext. 109
- Shawn Schell: [shawns@ualocal13.org](mailto:shawns@ualocal13.org) / (585) 338-2360 ext. 112
- Alana Colotti Allen: [alanac@ualocal13.org](mailto:alanac@ualocal13.org) / (585) 338-2360 ext. 108
- Bette Kwiatkowski: [bettek@ualocal13.org](mailto:bettek@ualocal13.org) / (585) 338-2360 ext. 103

### **SAVE THE DATE(S):**

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

**NEW RETIREES:** Congratulations to the March 1<sup>st</sup> retirees: Rexford (Joe) Flynn & Gary Taylor, Jr.

### **CONGRATULATIONS:**

- To Kylee Vasile & Dominic Iacuzza on the birth of their first child, Ronan Dennis, born on 1/31!!
- To Ken Moorhouse on the birth of his 8<sup>th</sup> grandchild, Olive Mae, born on 1/11!!
- To Shane & Alex Militello on the birth of their son, Luke Russell, born on 2/18!!

### **GET WELL SOON:**

- To Charlie Thompson as he recovers at a rehab center, after a recent fall, fracturing 4 ribs.

### **CONDOLENCES:**

- To Tricia Marciano & family on the recent loss of her mother.
- To Scott Mattice & family on the recent loss of his mother.
- To Matt Temple & family on the recent loss of his father, Gary.
- To Leena Rasquinha & family on the recent loss of retiree, Ladislaus (Ladi).
- To Diane Rafferty & family on the recent loss of retiree, Mike.

### **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](mailto:triciam@ualocal13.org)
  - Debbi Edizel: Ext 107 / [dedizel@ualocal13.org](mailto: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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### **ACTIVE MEMBERS**

#### **Annual Summary Report and Pension Statement**

Please be advised that your Annual Summary Report & Pension Statement is in the process of being prepared. We are anticipating being able to provide these reports to you soon.

### **INSURANCE FUND NEWS**

#### **Hour Bank Reimbursement**

We are coming to the end of our plan year of May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024 for your Hour Bank reimbursement claims. Keep in mind you can only submit for *dates of service* during our plan year. **You have until October 31, 2024 to submit your claim to Lifetime Benefit Solutions for the plan year dates.** If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 or at [triciam@ualocal13.org](mailto:triciam@ualocal13.org).

### **ANNUITY FUND NEWS**

**Empower has completed the migration and upgrade of the UA Local 13 Annuity & Roth Plan from Prudential Retirement to their platform.**

Participants can call the **Empower Service Center** regarding their account at 1-833-569-2433. The hours are Weekdays: 8:00am-10:00pm EST and Saturday: 9:00am-5:30pm EST.

#### **The new Participant Website URL: [empowermyretirement.com](https://empowermyretirement.com)**

To login to your account, you will need to establish a new username and password for Empower. You can register on Empower's website or on the Empower App. If you are using the Empower-Prudential app, you need to replace it by downloading the Empower app (Red & White Stripes).

#### **To Register:**

- Click on *Register*.
- Choose *I do not have a PIN*.
- Follow the prompts to create a username and password. You will need to enter all of the following:

- Your social security number
- Your ZIP code
- Your last name (if your name has a suffix such as Jr. or III, please include)
- Your date of birth
- The next time you access your account, simply choose **Sign in.**

### **Statements**

You will receive two account statements after your account upgrades. The first will include activity from the beginning of the quarter until the date your account is upgraded. The second statement will include activity for the rest of the quarter. Both statements will be available after the quarter ends, as usual. Over several weeks following the upgrade, historical statements will be loaded in reverse chronological order and will be available under *Statements and Documents*.

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.**

### **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

### **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.

### **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 de cease, 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 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2024! RAISES WILL BE HELD BACK IF NOT COMPLETED BY THIS DATE!!!**

**APPLICATIONS:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### **REMAINING MONITOR DATES:**

**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – CANCELLED – WILL BE RESCHEDULED**

**WELDING/CONTINUITY:** Open welding continues on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings until further notice. Continuity will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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**

Delicious pasta, sausage & meatballs for our February lunch! **Al Derthick & Tom Meleca** won the \$25 Wegmans gift cards! Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**. We will be having our annual St. Patrick's Day themed meal with corned beef & cabbage! Feel free to bring a dish to pass.  
– Terry Moore

**ATTN GOLFERS!!!** Interested in joining the Local 13 golf league on Wednesday afternoons? Contact Carl Colotti before the end of March!

\*9 holes starting at 3:00pm every Wednesday for 18 weeks.

\*League cost is \$216.00 (carts are an extra \$8 per 9 holes).

\*Extra passes can be purchased if you'd like to play at any of the 3 county courses (Genesee Valley, Durand Eastman or Churchville).

\*Weekday pass for \$375.00 allows you to play any of the 3 courses as much as you want Monday-Friday.

\*Unlimited pass for \$475.00 allows you to play any of the 3 courses as much as you want ANY day.

\*Both passes will cover your golf league payment.

\*There are also senior (over 62) and military permits at no cost.

\*If you get one of those permits, the 18-week league will cost \$126.00.

**MUST CONTACT CARL COLOTTI BY MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>.** Roster must be turned in by March 31st.

Email: [carlc271@hotmail.com](mailto:carlc271@hotmail.com) // Cell: (585) 236-0374