

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

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

Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, April 23rd at 5:00pm

There will be an election for (1) Annuity seat at the April 23rd Union Meeting. Voting is open from 3:00pm-6:00pm. Candidates: Steve Mallaber & Brandon Titus

**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
- 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, April 27th, 2024 – Celebration of Life for Charles Bliss. Camp Eastman – Rotary Cabin. 12:00-5:00pm.**
- Saturday, June 22nd, 2024 – Seabreeze Picnic & Scholarship Recipients.
- Saturday, July 13th, 2024 – Apprentice Graduation & "Years of Service" Pin Banquet at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Contact Alana for group code if you wish to stay the night at the Hyatt Regency Hotel!
- Monday, September 2nd, 2024 – Labor Day Parade (& picnic at the hall afterwards).
- Saturday, September 28th, 2024 – CLAMBAKE! At Minett Hall at the Dome **(NEW LOCATION!!)**

NEW RETIREES: Congratulations to the April 1st retirees: Roderic Ramble, Ryan Secora, Robert Tobin

CONGRATULATIONS:

GET WELL SOON:

- To Craig Wightman as he recovers from a recent knee surgery.
- To Rob Dixon as he has recently been diagnosed with rectal cancer.

CONDOLENCES:

- To Dorothy Skye & family on the recent passing of lifetime member, John.
- To Chuck Nesbitt & family on the recent passing of his grandfather, James McAtee.

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

Medical/Dental Plan Open Enrollment – Active Members

You should have received the UA Local 13 & Employers Group Insurance Fund **MEDICAL OPEN ENROLLMENT PACKAGE**. This is your “once a year” opportunity to enroll in our plan as well as add any dependents onto our plan. **The deadline to return your enrollment form is April 19, 2024.** If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 or at triciam@ualocal13.org.

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.

ANNUITY FUND NEWS

ROTH Enrollment and Changes Due by April 15, 2024

Please mail, drop off, or email the ROTH enrollment form with your election or changes to your existing election by **Friday, April 15** to Debbi Edizel. Any changes will take effect May 1st. Call Debbi at 585-338-2310 x107 or email dedizel@ualocal13.org if you need a form or have questions.

If you are making a first-time election, remember that you are making a six-month commitment that you can't change until Nov. 1st.

Once you have enrolled in the ROTH, you don't need to fill out another form, unless you want to stop or change the percentage amount for the upcoming period.

Please also notify your employer of any upcoming ROTH election or changes taking effect May 1st to insure proper deductions.

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

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 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**

LAST DAY OF CLASSES IS THURSDAY, MAY 2ND

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 July 2024. Any journey person interested in getting their cert, please contact the hall.

RETIREE NEWS

We had delicious corned beef & cabbage for our March St. Patrick's Day lunch! **Al Derthick & Tom Meleca** won the \$25 Wegmans gift cards! Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, April 9th**. We will be having our annual Easter ham with all the trimmings! Bring a dish to pass. – Terry Moore