

BLOWTORCH UA Local #13 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Techs

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

Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, August 27th at 5:00pm

PLEASE NOTE: The September Union Meeting has been moved from the 4th Tuesday to the 3rd Tuesday. The new date is Tuesday, September 17th at 5:00pm.

There will be nominations for (1) Examining Board seat at the August 27th meeting. Election will be at the September 17th meeting. Voting open from 3:00-6:00pm.

**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-4:00PM.*****

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.

CONTACT INFO:

- 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
- Jessenia Davis: Jdavis@ualocal13.org/ (585) 338-2360 ext. 108

SAVE THE DATE(S):

- 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!!)**
Tickets on sale Now.
- Saturday December 7th, 2024- Family Christmas party 10 am-12 pm. With the magic guy and photos with Santa.

NEW RETIREES: Congratulations to the August 1st retirees: Lonnie Keys!!

CONGRATULATIONS:

GET WELL SOON:

- To Rob Dixon as he receives cancer treatments.
- To John Cupicha as he receives cancer treatments.
- To Derek VanHouten as he recovers from recent blood clots.

CONDOLENCES:

- To Scott Donovan on the recent passing of his mother Joyce Donovan.
- To Paul Dreas on the recent passing of his sister Susan.
- To the Harter Family on the recent passing of lifetime member, Thomas.

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-4:00pm & 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 during business hours
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INSURANCE FUND NEWS

Hour Bank Reimbursement

For plan year (dates of service) May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024, you have until October 31, 2024, to submit your claim to Lifetime Benefit Solutions. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 or at triciam@ualocal13.org.

PENSION

Current Pensioner Changes

Any changes to your pension for taxes and banking must be received by our office no later than the 15th of the month prior. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Marciano at 585-338-2310 x106 or at triciam@ualocal13.org.

ANNUITY FUND NEWS

When logging into the Empower website to access your account, please make sure you are using a valid email address. If you need to change your address or have any questions, please contact Debbi Edizel in the Benefit Office for assistance at (585) 338-2310 x107.

Please contact the Benefit Office with any questions about the new Loan Application and Rollover details administrative changes with Empower. You can call Debbi at (585) 338-2310 x107.

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

The 1st Quarter statements are now available on the Empower website. 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 Guaranteed Fund interest rate for the period **July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 will be set at 2.10%**.

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.

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.

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.

**Classes Resume Tuesday September 3rd
Open Welding Starts Back Up Saturday September 7th**

RETIREE NEWS

A great cookout for our July lunch! **Rob Dixon and Steve Cardinal** won the \$25 Wegmans gift cards! Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, August 13th**. We will be having cookouts for the remainder of the summer! Bring a dish to pass. – Terry Moore