

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

Bill Kurtz, Business Manager | Jim Caternolo, Business Agent

**Next Union Meeting: Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**ALL WORKING MEMBERS THAT GO BACK TO WORK OR CHANGE EMPLOYMENT STATUS MUST NOTIFY THE UNION HALL!!!! IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP US UPDATED; NOT THE CONTRACTORS! (Call Bill Kurtz or Jim Caternolo)**

**Any member who is planning to travel out of our jurisdiction; you must let Jim Caternolo know and you MUST check-in AND check-out with the out-of-town local that you travel to.**

**The 2020 IAP Scholarship application is now available on [www.ualocal13.org](http://www.ualocal13.org) or at the Union Hall. Must be turned in by Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Alana for more information. (585) 338-2360.**

**We will begin discussing the new contract & raise allocation at the FEBRUARY Union Meeting. It will be voted on at the MARCH Union Meeting.**

**NOMINATIONS for the Building Corp will take place at the MARCH Union Meeting. Election will be at the APRIL Union Meeting.**

**As we transition to a paperless filing system; we have noticed that A LOT of beneficiary cards are very outdated (we know that the designated beneficiary has passed, divorced, etc.) OR that they have not been signed by the member. Please feel free to stop into the hall & update your beneficiary card at any time, if necessary.**

TO KEEP YOU INFORMED, we need your current **ADDRESS, CELL PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL ADDRESS**. Please call Alana at the Union Hall with updated information.

## **NOTICES & REMINDERS:**

- Call Alana at the Union Office for any announcements that you may wish to have inserted into your labor news column. We would like to be made aware of all family events!
- **Please make sure you are up to date with your dues. There will be a \$50 reinstatement fee for anyone who is (3) months behind. NO EXCEPTIONS! Note the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> overdue month is when the reinstatement fee is assessed to your account by the UA.**
- **IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING THE AUTOMATIC TEXT THAT GOES OUT TO LET YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE ALMOST (3) MONTHS BEHIND... please text "HELP" to the number 71536. That will unblock the service & you should receive all future texts!**
- Local #13's website is [www.ualocal13.org](http://www.ualocal13.org). There is quite a bit of information to be found on the site including agendas, activities and general updates. I encourage you all to check out the site now and throughout the year. Also, checkout our Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UALocal13](http://www.facebook.com/UALocal13)
- The Front office hours are 8:00AM-4:30PM. If you need to come to the hall after hours, please give us a call first!

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

- Seabreeze Picnic – Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. More details in the spring!
- Apprentice Graduation/Years of Service Pin Banquet – Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. More details in the spring!

## **CONGRATULATIONS:**

- To Phil Thomas on the birth of his grandson, Noah!!
- To Mark & Amy Gottermeier on the birth of their first child, Dean Andrew, born on 2/1!!

## **CONDOLENCES:**

- To Dan O'Connor & family on the recent passing of his father & LU13 lifetime member, James.
- To Brian Mawn & family on the recent passing of his father, Eugene.
- To Kenny Ruffel & family on the recent passing of his grandmother, Shirley.
- To Steve Baker & family on the recent passing of his daughter, Cheryl.

## **GET WELL SOON:**

- Get well soon to Craig Wightman's wife, Nancy, as she recovers from a fall.
- Get well soon to Tom Meleca's wife, Sandy, as she recovers from a stroke.
- Please keep Ken Schulz in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to tackle kidney cancer.

## **NEW RETRIEES:**

- February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – Dan Gramlich, John McGinnity, John Pilc & Mark Williamson

### **BENEFITS OFFICE Steve Ostrander – Fund Administrator**

## **PENSION RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS**

Please remember that all Pension Applications must be submitted to Tricia Marciano **no less than 3 months in advance of the actual date of retirement**. A copy of your birth certificate, your spouse's birth certificate and marriage certificate must accompany this completed application. Furthermore, please be aware that this office **limits acceptable retirement applications to 5 per month** due to the required hours needed to certify all your data. Once we have five, that particular month is closed, and your retirement would be advanced to the following month.

**If you submit a Pension Application for retirement which is required 90 days prior to your requested date of retirement and you withdraw your application, your request shall be terminated. Any subsequent application shall be treated as a new application subject to another 90-day processing period. This is the only fair and equitable protocol for all who follow the application timeline process, and NO EXCEPTIONS shall be made.**

If you are interested in retiring, please call the Benefit Office for a confirmation of the earliest month available at the time of your call. We will not slot you into a retirement month however until we **actually receive** the completed application and accompanying certificates.

## **HOURLY BANK REIMBURSEMENT—NEW GUIDELINES**

Effective Immediately: We will **NO LONGER ACCEPT** Hourly Bank Reimbursements if we receive them as follows:

- Not in order as they appear on the Reimbursement form
- On a separate sheet of paper other than our Reimbursement form
- Anything in a plastic bag

**The entire reimbursement will be returned to you if it is not in the proper order as listed above. No exceptions will be made.**

**Rx ONLY: Effective May 1, 2019:**

All submissions regarding Prescription Activity must include the **ACTUAL ORIGINAL RECEIPT** from the point of purchase. We will **NO LONGER ACCEPT** an annual print out from your Pharmacy that establishes your purchase activity. **KEEP TRACK OF ALL ORIGINAL RECEIPTS!** For any Rx activity PRIOR to May 1, 2019, we shall accept the Pharmacy printout if you are unable to produce the original receipt.

### **GYM MEMBERSHIPS**

Please be advised that we are now promoting the **Excellus Blue 365** program. The Blue 365 program is an independent wellness program - managed through Excellus – that provides discounts to area gym memberships and other interesting features. **This program is not affiliated with our UA Local 13 Insurance Plan. It is a discount program open to all Excellus customers nationwide.** Blue 365 can be found online at [www.blue365deals.com](http://www.blue365deals.com).

### **OFFICE HOURS**

The Benefit Office is open beginning at **8:00am M-F. During regular business hours (8am-5pm) it is highly recommended that you call ahead to make an appointment with myself or the staff.** If you choose to walk-in, it is likely that you will experience a wait time. If ever you have a concern that requires an urgent response, please call my cell phone at (585) 354-6158. Leave a voicemail message and I will return your call as soon as possible.

### **CHANGES IN MEDICAL COVERAGE/MANDATORY NOTIFICATION**

Please remember that ANY and ALL changes, terminations or enrollments with a qualifying event pertaining in any way with your medical coverage must be performed in writing and within 30 days of the actual event.

### **ANNUITY PROGRAM**

The Guaranteed Income Fund has a guaranteed interest rate of **2.00% effective July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.** The interest rate will not fluctuate during this time.

### **ANNUITY FUND CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2019:**

The transfer of participant account balances from Manning & Napier Funds (Pro-Mix and Target Date) to a similar investment using American Funds Target Date Funds was completed. If, after the completion of this exercise, you feel the need to gain more knowledge, learn more about your new investment or understand where you have settled and maybe initiating any changes yourself, please reach out to the UA Local 13 Benefit Office.

### **ANNUITY – DESIGNATED ROTH 2019 CONTRIBUTION LIMITS**

The combined amount a participant may contribute as pre-tax elective deferrals and **designated Roth contributions** each taxable year is limited. Total contributions to the plan are limited to \$19,000 in 2019 (\$18,500 in 2018 plus an additional \$6,000 in 2015-2019) for employees age 50 and older. For later years, the limits are subject to cost-of-living adjustments. For more information, see [www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/designated-roth-accounts-contributing-to-a-designated-roth-account](http://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/designated-roth-accounts-contributing-to-a-designated-roth-account).

### **ANNUITY - MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THE LOAN PROGRAM**

If you are participating in the loan program and receive a letter from Prudential, it is imperative that you read all notices as it may be regarding a potential default on your loan. You need to adhere to all dates and instructions in the letter to avoid default. Prudential automatically defaults members if you are more than 90 days behind your payment date, yet you will receive 3 notices prior to default. It is extremely important you stay timely with payments. Once your loan is automatically defaulted, it is difficult to reverse. If you make payments after default, they will not be returned, as they are considered Plan Assets. If you have questions regarding your loan, please contact Prudential at 1-877-778-2100 and refer to Plan number 767002. You will need to reference your social security number and loan number or contact Debbi Edizel in the Local 13 Benefit Office at 585-338-2310 x107.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

According to Federal Law, if you terminate your Health Insurance Policy with Local 13, you may be subject to a penalty if you don't enroll in another Health Care Plan that provides minimum value. Please consult a Tax Advisor if you plan on terminating your health insurance. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Ostrander at 585-338-2310 x104.

## **APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING NEWS** **TRAINING COORDINATOR – JOHN CARPENTER**

**APPRENTICES:** Reminder to fill out your **BLUE BOOKS** daily and to have your Foreman sign them. **We need a copy of your blue book MONTHLY**, due by the end of each month. Blue Books are a NYS DOL requirement and are YOUR responsibility.

**WELDING:** Open welding is Monday & Wednesday evenings plus Saturday mornings. There will be a weld test in March. You must be approved by a CWI prior to taking the test. **\*STAY UP ON YOUR CONTINUITY!\*** **If you are expired more than 120 days, the UA will no longer accept your continuity sheets.**

**COURSE REIMBURSEMENT FOR OUTSIDE TRAINING:** Course Reimbursement Applications must be submitted by 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.

**HVAC TECHNICIANS:** Anyone interested in teaching for the HVAC program, please call John Carpenter. Even (4) weeks on a certain aspect of the trade could help!

**CLASS SIGN-UPS:** Class sign-up sheet is posted at the hall.

**MED GAS 6010 INSTALLER:** Need at least (10) signed up. Starts Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. 2-week course. Monday-Thursdays 4:00pm & Saturdays 7:00am. Must give \$25 deposit cash/check only.

**OSHA 10:** February 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evening starting at 4:30pm. Call the hall to sign up!

## **RETIREE NEWS**

### **FREE LUNCH!!! Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month!!!**

Delicious pasta, sauce, meatballs, sausage & more for our February luncheon! A big thanks to all who helped with the preparing and cleaning, and to those that brought a dish to pass. **Tony Messina** won the free dues & **Jim Badura** won the \$25 Wegmans gift card. The next lunch is **Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**. We will be having our annual St. Patrick's Day meal – corned beef & cabbage! Feel free to bring a dish to pass! – Larry Tschetter/Terry Moore