

BLOWTORCH

August 31ST, 2007 Issue

The work situation continues to improve. We had some good news out of Albany. Governor Spitzer has signed the school Modernization bill for the City School District. This represents over one billion dollars worth of work. Very good news for all of us in the Building Trades.

Please remember that if you are traveling outside of our jurisdiction for work that you check in with that sister local to let them know where you are working.

One of our members was seriously hurt last week from a fall. Remember that while you are working to always have safety on the mind.

Have a great and enjoyable Labor Day. Remember that all members & their families are welcome to walk in the parade.

There are many job opportunities for travel, please call Bill Kurtz if you are interested.

Local #13's new website is up and running 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.

A reminder to make sure to contact the Union Hall if you change job locations for any length of time. Be sure that you call the Union Hall when you go to work and to keep in touch with Bill Kurtz on the latest opportunities. I cannot stress enough the importance of signing the unemployment book at the hall when you are out of work. This helps us know when you are unemployed and when you become eligible for the Security Benefit Funds. Again, please remember to sign the unemployment book.

Congratulations to Kevin Brown and his wife on the birth of the son Christopher, born August 1, 2007 6lb 2oz.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Don Updaw. Don was a local 13 member for 41 years. Our deepest sympathy to the family of Robert Frank. Bob was a local 13 member for 45 years. Also our deepest sympathy to Dean Flynn and his family on the loss of his brother Stan. Stan was a local 13 member for 38 years.

Sorry to report that James Ziegler a fifth year apprentice is on local 13's sick list. We hope Jim has a speedy recover.

Please Note Clambake Change: We are having an Open House/Clambake to welcome all the members to our beautiful renovated Union Hall. Saturday September 29th, 2007 1:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M. Local 13 is located on 1850 Mt. Read Blvd. Ticket prices are Members & Retiree tickets are \$10.00 & Guests tickets are \$30.00. You can stop by & pick up your tickets at the Union Hall or call to reserve them.

Children Christmas Party: Saturday December 1, 2007 from 10:00 A.M. Till 12:00 P.M.

Local 13 Picnic, Saturday July 5th, 2008, 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. at Ellison Park, Creekside.

BENEFIT OFFICE: Please make sure all your beneficiaries are current especially if you have recently become married, divorced or you have recently had a child. You must fill out paper work in order to change your beneficiary. Please call the benefit office if you have any questions or concerns regarding your current beneficiary.

INSURANCE FUND: Please notify the Benefit Office immediately if your families' status changes, married, divorced birth of a child or you lose your coverage (spouse's coverage). New regulations only give us 30 days to make any enrollment changes.

You must contact the Benefit Office Immediately once you have become divorced. It is very important to provide a QDRO in order to protect your Pension & Annuity. Also it is illegal to

keep ex-spouses on our insurance plan after your divorce. This is considered Insurance fraud and if this happens you will be billed for the additional costs.

Starting May 1st, 2007 the Board of Trustees has required that all members have four (4) quarters coverage in their Hour Bank prior to receiving any reimbursements. This will significantly help build our reserves, which in return lowers our rates.

You can call **ESI** at **1-800-252-4555** or visit the web site www.theEAP.com. (Employee login) -(User Name: Plumbers and Steamfitters). **It's Free!!!**

Starting July 1st, 2007 Local 13 will no longer be offering LTD (Long Term Disability) due to the substantial increase in premiums. Local 13 will be mailing an enrollment card along with the coverage and premiums. The company is Colonial and they will be attending the next Union Meeting on August 28th to answer any questions. Also please call the Fund Office with any questions regarding LTD.

PENSION FUND: Anyone interested in retirement should contact John, in the Benefit Office, at least a few months before they want to retire. There are several documents you will need to bring in so we can process your application. During this time we can estimate your pension options and answer any questions about the retirement program. This will allow you to turn in all completed paper work before the deadline of one month prior to the date you want to retire.

The Fund Office has a section on the New Web Site. You can download Hour Bank Reimbursement forms, Beneficiary forms, & Retirees can download direct deposit forms.

ANNUITY FUND: There will be an Annuity training seminar September 13th @ 5:00 P.M. at the Union Hall.

If you have any questions call the prudential help line toll free (877) 778-2100. Also you can call us at the Fund Office at 338-2310 or (800) 884-7977. Remember if you default on a loan you cannot take another loan.

Please remember you cannot complete an online transaction for a period of 5 business days once a password is reset!!!

Guaranteed Income Fund will be at 3.90%. Annual Rate of return for the next six months (July 1, 2007 until December 31, 2007). **Fraternally Yours, John Tschetter**

Training news: Carl Colotti, Coordinator

All course reimbursements must have two weeks prior approval from the J.A.T.C. The J.A.T.C. **must** receive a Certificate of Completion within 90 days from the date of the course in order for the member to be reimbursed.

Attention All Apprentices!!! The first night of school for all apprentices will be Tuesday, September 4th, 2007 at 5:00 pm. This is a mandatory meeting to go over changes involving all apprentices and get your class schedule for the fall. The first night of scheduled classes will be Wednesday, September 5th at 5:00 pm.

We are scheduling an **HVAC Star refresher class** for September. Anyone interested in taking the class, please contact the JATC office.

The next **weld test** will be held on Saturday, October 13 at 7:00am. Please call the JATC office to reserve a spot.

We will also be scheduling a **Med Gas Test** for Saturday, October 6th. Please call the JATC office to sign up for the class or get your name on the list in order to re – take the portion of the test you need to take.

Safety Training: There is now a \$10.00 fee to replace a lost OSHA card payable to CY Concepts. Please keep track of your card. We are in the process of scheduling all safety classes for the upcoming year. Please watch the **Labor News** for specific dates.

Open Welding: Journeyman welding will start up again in September, beginning Saturday, September 8 @ 7:00am. We will be running 2 Orbital classes starting in September.

Call the JATC office to sign up as the **class sizes are limited.** **The classes will be first come first served.** The Kodak Weld Representative will be here for **continuity** on **Tuesday, September 25, 2007 @ 3:30 p.m. All UA certs** can be updated on this date. Please remember to check your continuity cards.

Special Note: The JATC Board has decided that we will need to collect a \$25.00 deposit for any testing event in order to hold a spot for you on test day.

Remember the Labor Day Parade is Monday, September 3rd, 2007. People that are interested should be at the Union Hall at 9:00 am. There will be a cook out after the parade. Any apprentices interested in helping clean up after the cook out please call the JATC office and sign up.

Retiree's Club

We had a big turnout for our Bar-B-Q lunch. Thanks to all who helped pull it off, we couldn't do it without you. **John Bondi** won the \$25 gift certificate and **Dan Richmond** won the free months dues. Our next retiree's lunch will be on September 11th. We hope to see you there. If you would like to bring a dish to pass feel free to do so. We have a stove hooked up for your convenience in case you bring something that needs cooking or warming up. You can e-mail me at jerryattricks@frontiernet.net with comments or suggestions for future meetings.

Check out the local's new web site. www.ualocal13.org There will be a Retiree's page on the home page soon. Please email me any suggestions as to what you would like to have on the Retirees page. Check out the Picnic photos. Fraternally Yours, Larry Tschetter

The next Regular Union Meeting is Tuesday September 25th, 2007 at 5:00 P.M. please stay informed and come to the union meeting.

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