

BLOWTORCH

December 21ST, 2007 Issue

Congratulations to all of our newly elected officers. We had a great turn out. There were 460 members who voted in this election. It was great to see such large participation. Now that the election is over, lets all get back together again and moving this great organization forward. The swearing in ceremony will take place at our next scheduled union meeting on January 22, 2008. Our International Representative Jim Cahill will be swearing in our new officers at our January meeting.

We need to make sure that we are completing the apprentice reports. Anyone that has an apprentice or pre-apprentice on your job, it is your responsibility to send in reports on their progress & abilities. The pre-apprentice report is due on weekly basis. Anyone that needs these forms or who has questions should contact the Hall.

We are anticipating some demand for 1104 welding certification to work on Pipe Line work. Anyone interested, let the hall know so that we can set up a Saturday class.

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.

IAP Scholarship Applications for the 2008 are available at the Union Hall please call (585) 338-2360 so we can mail you one or stop by & pick one up. The deadline to have the completed application returned to us is Friday March 21st, 2008.

Save the Date: Local 13 Picnic: Saturday July 12th, 2008, 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. at Ellison Park, Creekside.

Clambake 2008: Saturday September 27th, 2008 1P.M.-6P.M.

Children Christmas Party: Saturday December 13, 2008 from 10:00 A.M. Till 12:00 P.M.

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.

Local 13 has negotiated special discounted fees for dental work with Western New York Dental Group (formally Dental Associates). You will be receiving a mailing on these special fees.

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 considered fraud to keep ex-spouses on our insurance plan after your divorce. If this happens you will be billed for the additional costs.

Attention: Medicare Blue Choice and Medicare PPO Members- Starting January 1st, 2008 your Go-Getters benefits increased to \$650.00. Call 1-800 659-1986 for your 2008 benefit card. No more claim forms.

Local 13's EPA provider is ESI. 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; please call the Fund Office with any questions regarding LTD. Colonial will be at the November meeting.

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: 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.

If you made an Annuity Plan Election change, it should have taken place November 1st. Please check your pay stubs/rate. The next date to change your election is April 2008.

Starting September 1st 2007-you are not eligible for an Annuity Distribution unless you have been out of work for 180 days (6 months). You may still work up to 120 hours during the 180 days and still be eligible.

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: Jerry Landers

We are scheduling a number of classes for after the first of the year. The 30 Hour OSHA class will be every Tuesday and Thursday for 5 weeks. We are also offering journeyman classes in AutoCAD, Plumbing Code, Med Gas, Orbital Welding, as well as an **HVAC Star refresher class** for February. Please check the Local 13 website for more information. If you are interested in taking a class, please contact the JATC office.

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.

Please note: There is now a \$10.00 fee to replace a lost OSHA card payable to CY Concepts. Please keep track of your card.

Open Welding: Journeyman welding will continue to be available on Monday Nights and Saturday Morning. The Kodak Weld Representative will be here for **continuity** on **Tuesday, January 22, 2008 @ 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.

Retiree's Club

We had a great turnout for our Christmas lunch. Thanks to everyone who helped with the cooking and clean up and to all who brought a dish to pass. **Joe Grussenmeyer** won the free month dues and **Dick Maxwell** won the \$25 Wegman's gift certificate. Our next meeting is January 8th. We'll be having homemade soups and cold cuts. 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 retirees web page, go to www.ualocal13.org and click on membership news and you will see a link to the **Retirees Home Page**. Fraternally Yours, Larry Tschetter

The next Regular Union Meeting is Tuesday January 22, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. please stay informed and come to the union meeting.

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