

BLOWTORCH

JANUARY 25th, 2008 Issue

At our last union meeting on January 22, 2008 all our newly elected officers were sworn in. Congratulations to all the new officers. It is good to see that the Governor of New York State; Eliot Spitzer is going to concentrate on the upstate economy. He has already committed money for construction projects which will help our economy and bring job opportunities to our members.

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. Our sister Local 73, Oswego, continues to help us out with job opportunities while our area seems to be slow. The UA is in need of welders throughout the country. The shortage of qualified welders is taking its toll since many locals will not hire a fitter unless they are accompanied by a welder. The need for welders is a reality and will continue for years to come.

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.

Regina Kehoe has been in Strong Hospital getting her chemo treatment and medical procedures to prepare her for a bone marrow transplant which will possibly be needed. It was good news to hear that her brother is a perfect donor match for her transplant. If anyone is interested, there will be a donation box at the Union Hall for Regina and her Family.

Congratulations to Bruce Ezell and his wife on the birth of their baby boy Bruce Jr.

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.

Attention Members: George Maloney is the new Fund Manager effective January 1st, 2008. John Tschetter will remain in the Fund Office with George until February 1st, 2008.

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 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!!!**

PENSION FUND: Anyone interested in retirement should contact George Maloney, 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.

The next date to change your Annuity 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 (January 1, 2008 until July 1, 2008). **Fraternaly Yours, John Tschetter and George Maloney**

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.

Local 13 is starting up an email list-server for discussion of topics which are important to our HVACR Service Technicians. The Local 13 Service Tech email list is free for all interested parties. An email list-server will automatically distribute an email to all list participants. When you reply to the list, your reply goes to everyone. The easy way to become part of the list is to use the form at <http://www.freelists.org/list/service-tech13>.

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, March 25th, 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

Thanks to everyone who helped with the cooking and clean up and to all who brought a dish to pass at our January luncheon. **Charlie Yatteau** won the free month dues and **Dick Maxwell** won the \$25 Wegman's gift certificate. Our next meeting is **February 12th, 2008** and we will be serving our award winning chili's 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 February 26th, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. please stay informed and come to the union meeting.

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