

BLOWTORCH
March 7th, 2008 Issue

Any member interested in the shutdown at the power house in Oswego, there is an open call for fitters, welders and valve techs. The start date for employment will be Monday, March 10th. Call Bill Kurtz if interested. There will also be opportunities, after that shutdown, at Ginna. Ginna's shutdown starts on Friday, April 18th. The Ginna shutdown is starting to schedule weld testing and start dates. The weld testing dates are as follows: Saturday, March 8th; Saturday March 15th; Saturday, March 29th. Anyone interested can call the Union Hall; also, call to fill out the proper paper work packet for processing.

Nominations were held at our last union meeting for (1) pension and insurance trustee to fulfill George Maloney's term. The nominees are Clint Byer and Brandon Tumia. Elections will be on March 25th, 2008.

At our next union meeting, Tuesday, March 25th, we will be making decisions on our raise. We have \$1.70 coming on May 1st!

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 a weekly basis. Anyone that needs these forms or who has questions should contact the Hall.

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.

Our deepest sympathy to Ray Arnold and his family on the loss of his mother. Also our condolences to the family of Armand McCall who recently passed away.

IAP Scholarship Applications for 2008 are available at the Union Hall please call (585) 338-2360 so we can mail you one or stop by and 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, 1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Children Christmas Party: Saturday, December 13, 2008 from 10:00 A.M. - 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 (formerly 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.

Local #13's EAP: Employee Assistance Program 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, and Retirees can download Direct Deposit forms.**

ANNUITY FUND: If you have any questions call the prudential help line toll free 1-877-778-2100. Also you can call us at the Fund Office at 338-2310 or 1-800-884-7977. Remember if you default on a loan you cannot take another loan, until defaulted loan is repaid.

The next date to change your Annuity election is April 2008. We now have an A, B, and C plan! Call the office for details.

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 1st, 2008 until July 1st, 2008).

George Maloney, Fund Manager

Training news: Jerry Landers

Thanks to all who donated blood at our Red Cross Blood Drive held on February 14th. We collected 26 units!

We will hold another weld test for Constellation (Ginna) on March 8th. They are looking for welders who can pass the UA-22 Tig and Stick Procedure. Please call the Training Office to get your name on the list.

There is still time to sign up for our Foreman Class, set to begin March 26th, 5:00 PM at the Union Hall. There are openings for the Med Gas class that will begin Tuesday March 18th. Call soon to sign up.

Local #13 has 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>.

Remember, 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 Mornings. 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 February luncheon. **Bob Martin** won the free month dues and **Dick Maxwell** won the \$25 Wegman's gift certificate.

Our next meeting is **March 11th, 2008** and we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with corned beef and cabbage and all the trimmings. 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, March 25th, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. please stay informed and come to the union meeting.

John Perticone, Business Manager

ATTENTION !!!!

LOCAL #13 MEMBERS

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, March 25th, 2008
AT THE LOCAL #13 UNION HALL
FOR ONE (1) PENSION & WELFARE TRUSTEE
1850 MT. READ BLVD.
ROCHESTER, NY 14615
POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 3:00 p.m. TO 6:00 p.m.
In the event of a tie, there will be a runoff at the upcoming meeting

Recording Secretary,
Frank DeCarlo

ATTENTION !!!!

LOCAL #13 MEMBERS

THERE WILL BE NOMINATIONS
FOR TEN (10) BUILDING CORP. MEMBERS
FOR THE THREE (3) YEAR TERM

AT OUR UNION MEETING
ON TUESDAY, March 25th, 2008
AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE LOCAL #13 UNION HALL.
1850 MT. READ BLVD.
ROCHESTER, NY 14615

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT OUR
TUESDAY, April 22nd, 2008
UNION MEETING.

Recording Secretary,
Frank DeCarlo