

BLOWTORCH  
March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 Issue

The power house shutdowns are in full swing with opportunities in Oswego followed by the shutdown at Ginna. There is an open call for fitters, welders and valve techs at the power house in Oswego if any member is interested. Ginna's shutdown starts on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. For these shutdowns, we were able to help Oswego fill their call and it will also help us fill our commitment with Ginna. Thank you to all of our members who have already taken the weld test. For anyone still interested, the last weld test is on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Contractors are getting awarded projects; we just need the work to get started. Please call Bill Kurtz for information regarding 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

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

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](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.

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 goes out to the family of Rodney Thomas who suddenly passed away early this month. He was a beloved member of Local #13 and will be greatly missed.

Jim Scantlin is home recuperating after recently having surgery on his shoulder. We hope his recovery goes as quick as possible.

Congratulations to Richard Preston and his family on the birth of their new granddaughter.

**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 TODAY: Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008.**

**Save the Date:**

- **Local #13 Picnic:** Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. at Ellison Park, Creekside.
- **Clambake 2008:** Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
- **Children's Christmas Party:** Saturday, December 13, 2008 from 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**Benefit Office NEWS:**

**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:** There are new rules for Medical Reimbursement from your hour bank starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Go to [www.ualocal13.org](http://www.ualocal13.org) to review the changes, or call the Fund Office at: 338-2360 ext: 123. 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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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<sup>st</sup>, 2008 until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008).

**George Maloney, Fund Manager**

**Training NEWS:**

We will hold another weld test for Constellation (Ginna) on March 29<sup>th</sup>. 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. Our next MedGas Test is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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>.

The Trustees have changed the way we reimburse for classes. A new form is available at the Training Office and on the Local 13 Website. We are allowing reimbursement for training materials, DVD's and books that are not connected to a specific class completion certificate. This reimbursement is limited, and must have approval. Please remember all **course related** reimbursements must have two weeks prior approval from the J.A.T.C. We still require a Certificate of Completion within 90 days from the date of the course in order for the member to be reimbursed for these **course related** training.

**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.

The JATC Board has decided to collect a \$25.00 deposit for any testing event in order to hold a spot for you on test day.

**Jerry Landers, Training Coordinator**

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 March luncheon. **Larry Tschetter** won the free month dues and **Fred Kassel** won the \$25 Wegman's gift certificate.

Our next meeting is **April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008** and we will be serving an Italian cuisine including rigatoni with meatballs & sausage. 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](mailto:jerryattricks@frontiernet.net) with comments or suggestions for future meetings. If you would like to check out the retirees web page, go to [www.ualocal13.org](http://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 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008  
UNION MEETING.

Recording Secretary,  
Frank DeCarlo