

BLOWTORCH
May 2nd, 2008 Issue

Red Wings baseball tickets are available for anyone interested in going to a game this season. There is a signup sheet at the Hall to reserve the seats.

The work outlook is starting to get extremely busy with quite a few projects that are starting to get underway, including some school projects. Keep in touch with the Union Hall for job opportunities.

The new raise went into effect May 1st. If you have any questions, please call the Hall or check Local #13's website for our new wage rates.

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.

Local #13's 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 is extended to the family of Keith Hilsinger on the loss his father. Also our condolences go out to the family of Walter Roach who recently passed away. He was a beloved member of Local #13 and will be greatly missed.

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's Christmas Party:** Saturday, December 13, 2008 from 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Local #13 is having a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for **Regina Kehoe** on **Sunday, May 4th, from 12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. at the Union Hall.** Anyone that would like to attend may buy tickets at the Hall in advance or at the door. Cash or checks made out to Local #13 are acceptable. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults or \$6.00 for children under the age of 10. Bring the whole family as well as all your friends! There will be plenty of food, door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. We hope to see you there!

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:

May 1, 2008

Re: Benefit Money for Insurance

Q. Where does the \$6.40 an hour I contribute go?

A. The majority of the money goes to medical coverage, the remainder goes towards dental, short term disability, the EAP program, Life Insurance, Accidental death and dismemberment insurance, and Administrative cost (the cost to run the office).

Q. How is the \$6.40 broken down?

A. See the chart below.

	PER/HOUR	PER/MONTH
Medical	\$5.41	\$827.40
Dental	\$0.39	\$ 55.03
Short Term Disability	\$0.16	\$ 22.06
Employee Assistance Program	\$0.02	\$ 1.83
Life Insurance, Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$0.09	\$ 11.73
Administration Costs	\$0.33	\$ 46.29
Total	\$6.40	\$964.34

Family Plan 420 hrs. x \$6.40hr = \$2688.00
Single Plan 390 hrs. x \$6.40hr = \$2496.00
(13 weeks = 1 quarter)

There are new rules for Medical Reimbursement from your hour bank starting May 1st, 2008. Go to 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. (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: Starting May 6th, 2008, Joan Termini, our new annuity specialist will have some new hours available to you. She will be here Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. and Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M.

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.

You can change your annuity election up until October 17th, 2008 and it will take effect November 1st, 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:

We are scheduling Saturday Open Welding through the month of May. If there is enough interest we will continue into June. We have a WELD TEST set up for May 24th, if you are interested in testing please contact the Training Office.

It's not too early to sign up for **FALL CLASSES**. Please call the Training Office for details. For journey workers interested in taking HVAC courses, there is a sign up list in the hall. Stop in and look over the training schedule and requirements.

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>.

As you know, 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.

The Kodak Weld Representative, Contractor Representative, and our Authorized Testing Representative will be here for **continuity on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 @ 3:30 P.M.** All UA certs can be updated on this date. Please remember to check your continuity cards.

The Training Office will collect a \$25.00 deposit for any testing event in order to hold a spot for you on test day. This is refundable on the day of the test. Please have this deposit in to the office a week before the test date. Thanks!

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 April luncheon. **Francis Brusseau** won the free month dues and **Gerald Glaser** won the \$25 Wegman's gift certificate.

Our next meeting is **May 13th, 2008** and we will be embracing spring by having a cookout. Burgers, hotdogs, sausage and chicken and of course all the trimmings that belong at a cookout. 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. If you would like to 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**.

Fraternaly Yours, Larry Tschetter

The next Regular Union Meeting is Tuesday, May 27th, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. Please stay informed and come to the union meeting.

John Perticone, Business Manager