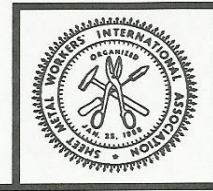


Sheet Metal Workers
Local Union #83
Newsletter



APRIL 2015

The **April 16th** union meeting will be held in Glens Falls at the Fraternal Order of Eagles #2486. Located at 80 Main Street, South Glens Falls. Tom Woods will be attending the April meeting to review items & answer questions. We will be serving pizza and soda at the end of the meeting.

Directions from Albany: Take Northway north to exit 17N. Stay on Route 9 North for approximately 7 miles past Blue Bird Road. This is located 2 blocks up the street from the American Legion Post.

Directions from Glens Falls & Points North: Take Northway south to exit 18. Take Corinth Road to Route 9 South. Go over river. Travel about 3 blocks, and it is located on your right.

Work continues to be steady but we probably won't be as busy as we were last year. The number of travelers has decreased to around 35 as compared to our high of 200 travelers in 2014. As members get laid off and are able to work at the global site we have been able to get them back to work in a relatively short period of time. Also, through the use of our market recovery program, a fair amount of work outside of Global foundries has been awarded to our employers.

We will be offering a number of journeyman up grade classes after the normal apprentice school year is completed. If we have enough people sign up we will be offering First Aid/CPR; Hazmat Refresher class, Welding refresher, Welding practice for certification and a Tool Hook-up. For your convenience a signup sheet has been enclosed, which you can return back to the union hall.

GOOD NEWS ... you CAN NOW pay your dues over the phone or in person using either a MasterCard, Visa or Discover. There will be no additional cost to the members for this service.

Please note that Donna had to go out of work in early March for surgery, she has recently returned to work part time for the next couple of weeks as she transitions back into working full time. In the interim Angela has been filling in for her but will moving over to fill in for Katie while she is out on maternity leave. The office staff will continue to do our best in answering your questions and assisting you with whatever issues may come up.

This year the Albany Labor Day parade will be held on September 11, 2015 which as usual will be followed by the free picnic, coupled with entertainment, games and a small petting zoo. Come join us as we promote our local in this annual event.

ALSO IN SEPTEMBER ... mark your calendars as we will be holding the Local 83 Steak Bake at Lantiers' Grove again, this year on **September 19, 2015**.

Snail Mail vs. E-mail

The Union members have asked us to start moving towards using email as a way to distribute Union news faster and less expensively. Any money that we can save on postage will help with our bottom line. If you are willing to receive your SMWLU #83 newsletter via email, please send an email to kcsmlu83@nycap.rr.com from the address you'd like us to send it to, write 'newsletter' in the subject line and give your name in the body of the email.

OVER →

HRA Update ...

If you recall there had been an issue with keeping the old HRA and we were told that based on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) the HRA accounts would have to be transferred to a VEBA. Later information regarding the ACA clarified that the HRA can be kept intact and be drawn on until the money in existing accounts are depleted. Unfortunately the ACA prohibits any new money going into an HRA that isn't fully integrated into one's health plan, so no new contributions will be made by the fund into existing HRA accounts.

For those of you that had balances remaining in your HRA account, we are pleased to announce that effective April 15th you will again be able to submit your HRA claims to RK Flex Services for 2014 that were not already submitted to Prime Pay and any new claims you incurred in 2015. If you go on the Local 83 website (www.smwlocal83.org) you will find the claim forms, a list of what items are eligible for reimbursement under federal guidelines, as well as directions on how to set up an account. As with the last provider you will be able to see what your account balance is and be able to submit claims online, additionally RK Flex has a mobile app you can use to access your account.

INSURANCE Update ...

The health and welfare subcommittee continues to gather information on how we might move away from pooled accounts and instead have individual accounts for one's health insurance. Some of the other mechanical trades have set theirs' up that way. There are pros and cons to moving in this direction and it has been decided that this would be a major move and impact a lot of members. Since the insurance fund trustees want to make sure that this is really what the majority of the membership want, they will be setting up town hall meeting to make a presentation to both the member and their spouses or significant others who have children with our members, where questions and concerns can be address in order for members to weigh their options. A vote will follow once the town meeting has been completed which will recommend that the trustees pursue establishing individual accounts or not.

Sympathy

Our thoughts, condolences and prayers go out to the family of James Teeling and Robert Meilinger who passed away recently.

FROM: Phil Stenglein (Organizer)

We the working class and the unionized building trades need to be educated and downright agitated as to what is happening in our nation right now. As you read this, there are a number of pieces of legislation in Congress and in the State Houses of Government designed to destroy Unions, and strip workers of the very rights we enjoy today that Unions fought for.

States that were once Labor Strongholds like Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri have passed, or are trying to pass **RIGHT TO WORK (FOR LESS)** laws designed to destroy Unions. Some States are even trying and have passed laws that **REPEAL THE PREVAILING WAGE LAW.**

New York is the most Unionized State in the country. They will be coming after us soon. We have already seen this starting with Gov. Cuomo's attack this budget season on the Teachers Union. These attacks are no coincidence. They are well organized, powerful and rich. They want more for themselves and less for us. What they don't want are educated workers.

We will be sending out a survey soon that asks you many questions and gives you ways to be active in your Union and community. A lot of you may want to be involved but may not know how. Please fill out this important survey and send it back to us, or bring it to our VOC meetings we have every month on regular meeting night at 4:15. Thank you and remember that apathy will make us extinct.

In Solidarity