



S.M.W.L.U. #83 NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2015

From the Desk of Mark Landau

Just a reminder: As we have in the past, we will be holding our Christmas party following the regular meeting in December. The Christmas party will be held on Dec. 17th and in conjunction with the regular meeting, we will be holding our raffle to help a former brother, Reginald Skeete. Reggie had a brain operation and then heart attacks as well as some strokes. He applied and was then denied social security disability. This resulted in him having to resort to collecting bottles and cans in order to put food on the table. His wife left him and he has 3 small children. The Local has decided to raffle off various items during the meeting, many of which have been donated by the International Association, sister locals and companies/vendors from the Albany area. **Please plan on coming to see old friends and break bread with your brothers and sisters. Be sure to bring some extra cash so you will be able to participate in the many raffles we will be holding so that Reggie can provide Christmas presents to his three children.**

With the downturn in work, the Local has targeted many jobs in hopes that our contractors will win jobs and provide employment opportunities for the membership. At the present time, we have earmarked \$250,000 to win work. Not all these projects will be won, but we hope that it will generate work opportunities for the members prior to any additional work being offered at Global Foundries. Later in the newsletter, Larry Warzek will be outlining additional classes for the membership to take to enhance their education and skills so that you might be able to find employment within our local or travel to locals where work opportunities are more plentiful. If you haven't signed up through Local #83 for the job bank, please consider doing so. Keep in mind that your name only remains in the job bank for about 3-4 months. At this time, you must re-enter your name for job consideration.

NOTE: Keep in mind that the local has purchased light weight jackets which will be on sale later in December. These include fleece zip-up's which are embroidered and nylon blend zip-up's which are also embroidered. The cost ranges from \$45 - \$75 depending on style and size. We also have a variety of sweatshirts for purchase. These will make excellent Christmas presents.

We do ask that you take the time to purchase American made and local items when doing your holiday shopping this year.

FROM: Rusty Monahan- Business Representative

Twenty thousand. Think about that number. What could we do with twenty thousand? Or what couldn't we do without twenty thousand. Over the last four years we have lost that many skilled craftsmen. Whether it be through retirement, change of careers, or going non-union. How about our work being done by others? We have twenty thousand union sheet metal workers in Canada so it could be said, in a sense, that we lost Canada. We used to be a Nation that produced, and manufactured. These jobs supported the middle class. These jobs also supported unions. Now, we are a service based Nation. We, as a trade, still produce and manufacture, but we still fall into the service end of employment. We provide services. Did we miss the bus? Is it too late? If we are a service industry, shouldn't we in fact be changing our minds and habits? Should we be demanding from ourselves a higher standard? Whether it be with higher education and superior craftsmanship. There should be no sheet metal related job that we refuse, and we should expect the same attitude from our contractors! We all have comfort levels, but change doesn't come from comfort it comes from discomfort. Let's start the discussion now so in four years we will not be talking about another twenty thousand again. **Please let me or the office know if you are laid off or when you return to work. If unemployment calls we need to have you on the list!**

From: Phil Stenglein – Organizer

In late August we sent out a letter to members who were laid off at that time explaining about **SALTing**. Several members have contacted me since then inquiring and or participating in this program. With the extended periods of unemployment we have at this present time, it is understandable that members feel a sense of urgency or desperation about finding work. As a Union member you should NOT ever go to work for a nonunion contractor on your own accord. Remember, the Sheet Metal community is a small one. We spend a good deal of our time going to nonunion jobsites. If I come across any member working non-union who is not in the **SALTing** program, you are in violation of the SMART constitution and will be brought up on charges.

With that being said, if approved by the local and the IA, the program may give you the opportunity to go to work for a nonunion contractor under the guise of the Organizer for the purpose of Organizing. We need more signatory contractors and your help might make this happen so we have more work opportunities not only for yourself but also

for other brothers and sisters in our union. If you did not receive the aforementioned letter or would like to know how the **SALTing program** works please contact me @368-4488.

From: Larry Warzek – JATC Coordinator

Not long ago, we offered the membership the opportunity to sign up for a number of classes. Only one of them had enough people sign up for us to hold the class cost effectively. We recently completed the welding certification upgrade class and will be giving certification tests this weekend. We are once again asking the membership to consider signing up for the following classes: OSHA 30, general welding, foreman training, CAD or testing & balancing. Please send Angela Grant an email listing any classes from above that you would be interested in taking. Her email address is angelalu83@nycap.rr.com. If you do not have access to the internet, then call her at 489-1377 ext. 5 to sign up. When we have enough people signed up for any class, we will contact you with dates and times. As always, there will be a \$100 deposit for each class once the class has been established to ensure that those who signed up will actually attend. Once you complete the course, your deposit will be returned to you.

ANNUITY LOANS

As you may be aware, the annuity committee re-instituted the loan opportunity to the membership and will review loan requests four times a year. Since they recently have met, please keep in mind that if you are interested in a loan, it must be submitted by early March to be considered at the next meeting. As part of the new loan requirements, if there are a number of new defaults on loans, the trustees will once again suspend the program.

ASBESTOS TESTING

SMOHIT medical screenings will be held March 14-16, March 28-31, June 20-22, and June 27-29, 2016. There are 8 appointment times each day. We will schedule for BOTH March & June sessions now so that if we need to expand dates we can. In the near future SMOHIT will be sending out the written invitations to those that are eligible.

Blue Shield

For those of you that have coverage with our fund and use BS you will be receiving new insurance cards this year effective 1/1/2016. This new card will be for both Medical and Prescription coverage. Please throw your Express Scripts card away and update your pharmacy with your new information so you don't get over charged for new prescriptions filled after 1/1/2016. Keep in mind there is an additional \$50.00 Co-pay for your first Rx each new year.

PAL

If you would like to receive a reimbursement of your PAL contributions, please send a written notice that includes your Name, Address and Social Security number to the Union Hall to that effect postmarked no later than 12/31/15. PLEASE NOTE!!! Your name and address will become public information as we are required by law to report all checks written from the Political Action Account & that information is included in the LM-2 posted on the DOL Website. Checks will be mailed out by January 16, 2016.

New Building

The building committee had its first meeting and will be establishing sub-committees within that group so that the search and purchase or building of a new facility can be done in a timely manner, but yet with the correct location and cost to benefit the membership. They have started outlining the approximate size and number of parking places we would be looking for, but will be looking for locations that will offer tax incentives or grants to keep the costs low. We are looking to purchase a building that will allow us to train the processes our apprentices and journeymen need to know now and be able to be modified as technology changes. The JATC in conjunction will be purchasing new or newer equipment to provide the needed training our craft requires.

REMINDER: Check your Dues Receipt! Are you current?

IN MEMORIAM – The following members passed away during 2015. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends during this holiday season.

Alfred DuPont	Robert Meilinger	Kenneth Tompkins	Albert Leininger	
Roderick LaFleur	Eric Pellerin	Mark McArdle	Dwight Doepel	Robert Pitkat
Ralph Matarazzo	Adalbert Furman	Thomas Martinez	LeRoy Walker	



The Union Officers, Rusty, Donna, Angela, Phil and I wish you a safe and joyous holiday season.



Fraternally,

Mark B. Landau
President – Business Manager

Fraternally,

Rusty S. Monahan
Business Agent