

S.M.A.R.T. L.U. #83 NEWSLETTER

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Special Order of Businesses

- (1) REMINDER: This month's regular meeting is being held at the union hall on the 18th at 5:30pm. With upcoming negotiations, it has been determined that we need to establish the negotiating committee a little earlier than normal; therefore, as a special order of business, we will be electing the negotiating committee positions that are available outside those deemed necessary to be automatic. Based on the motion made and passed, there will be four positions available, and nominations and elections will be held that day. The Business Manager and Business Agent are automatically on the committee per the SMART constitution. Historically, the vice president and the recording secretary had been automatically on the committee. In this coming election, based on the body's decision those two positions will not be automatically on the committee.
- (2) As you are aware, the JATC and the union are looking to purchase a new facility. When the allocation in 2015, it was presented and approved that the first \$.10 per hour would be allocated effective 6/1/2015. That presentation also noted that we would be looking for an additionally \$.10 for the following 2 years for a total of \$.30 per hour in the third year. The plan was that we would take a 15 year mortgage to pay for the facility. Since the building committee has met and raised some questions regarding the facility. To be fair and open, we will have a discussion amongst the membership to gather input and ideas for the committee's further consideration. If possible, please plan on attending so that you can provide input and be an informed member.

From the Desk of Mark B. Landau, President-Bus. Mgr.

As you are aware, over the last year or so, we have lost a number of active members due to illness. Over the years, the office has continued to remind the membership to update their beneficiary cards. If you have failed to do so, and God forbid something happens, whoever is currently listed on the cards will receive your benefits regardless of whether you would want them to or not. If there is any chance that you have not updated your cards, please contact the office, and they can let you know who you have listed as beneficiary.

The cost of gas continues to tumble. This is definitely having a direct affect on future work opportunities at Global Foundries. The owners' main source of income is related to the oil industry, and therefore, the funds needed for current projects and certainly any future projects will remain limited for a while. As has been noted previously, there will be work opportunities in other jurisdictions and out of state. The union previously provided a willing to travel form which is now posted on the website. If you are interested in taking work out of town, please fill out that form and return it to Angela Grant in the office at angelalu83@nycap.rr.com or fax at 518-453-9284.

We previously listed a number of journeymen upgrade classes for the membership to sign up for. Finally, there was enough interest in the foreman training class and it is now under way. For your convenience, we are attaching that form for you to complete, and again, fax or email to Angela Grant. (Her contact info is listed above.) In most instances, we need a minimum of 4-5 people to sign up and provide their deposit check to offer the class. Please consider enhancing your education which may result in greater future work opportunities.

HRA Update: Within the next 10 days, you should be receiving your printout from Express Scripts showing the co-pays that you paid for yourself and your dependents. This is an easy source for you to use in placing a claim for reimbursement for the 2015 period. Keep in mind, if you have already submitted some of your Express Scripts' co-pays to either Rose & Kiernan or Jaeger & Flynn Associates, those items must be crossed off the printout so you do file for a duplicate reimbursement.

Just a reminder that we are no longer using Rose & Kiernan as the providers for our HRA services. Effective January 1, 2016, Jaeger & Flynn Associates took over that responsibility, and the necessary forms and instructions are available on this website. It is very important that you keep in mind that **any claims that were incurred in 2015 must be submitted and received by Jaeger & Flynn prior to March 31, 2016.** 2015 claims received after that date for services and co-pays will no longer be eligible for reimbursement. There will be no exceptions.

If the membership has any questions or issues with their medical coverage (Blue Shield) or RX coverage (Blue Shield Express Scripts) please contact Jaeger & Flynn Associates at (518) 792-0042 option 1 or by email at jfaflex@jaegerflynn.com.

UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS: In the very near future, you will be receiving a questionnaire requesting input on items relative to the upcoming contract talks. With the downturn in employment, we will your thoughts on language changes which would improve the union's ability to protect and preserve your rights. Again, just a reminder, we will be electing the negotiating committee at this month's meeting, and we need your assistance in getting the best possible candidates elected to those positions.

Sympathy

Our thoughts, condolences and prayers go out to the family of Evelyn Maxwell who passed away on December 25, 2015. Evelyn had been one of our administrative secretaries for over 25 years. She was not only an employee but a friend to the entire membership.

From the Desk of Rusty Monahan

We lose most often from indecision not bad decisions. We all never want to commit to a decision for fear it will be the wrong one. We see it on job sites, home, and about everything we do. How far could we be if wrong wasn't an option. How bad is wrong any way. Mike Hauf used to say, what are they going to do take away my birthday. Committing to a decision is forward movement. There is no wrong that we can't make right. We have got to realize that trying and failing is better than not trying at all. With the choices we make there will be failures but there will also be successes. The choices we will make in our near future will have a definite outcome on what our lives will become. We have contract negotiations coming up, the purchase of a new building, expansion of the job markets, and journeyman upgrade classes. Let's start coming up with ideas, suggestions, and more union involvement to move us forward.

Our office needs to know when you have been laid off and/or return to work. Should unemployment call and ask for a confirmation on a date you went on the list, and we have no information or wrong information, they could potentially terminate your claim. Also note that the contract book requires you to notify the Hall when you return to work. If you have signed up for the willing to travel list and work opportunities come in, it will save the office time and money if we knew you were already working and no longer needed the opportunity.

From the Desk of Phil Stenglein

Communicating with its members is vital to a Union, especially in today's hostile environment towards Unions and workers in general. The way we communicate in the world today has also changed. As a Union and a Labor movement, we can use these new social forms and methods to our advantage. In light of this we have teamed up with the NYS AFL-CIO to provide a mass texting format for our members. To sign up for this very important item, open up your messaging as if you were going to send a text to someone. Type in "877877" as the number you are texting to. Then, type the message "smwlocal83" and hit: send. You should get a "welcome SMWLocal83 member!" You will be asked for your name and address, text back the required info and you will be registered! This way we can target specific members to send texts to. For instance, if there is an important school construction project vote coming up in your area, we can send you a reminder to get out and vote. We can use this in so many ways we do not have enough space here. We will only use it for important reminders or news. We will not be texting you every day with useless information. This is very important. Please, if you use your phone to text, sign up for this important source. Thank you! If it doesn't work or you have any questions please call me @ 368-4488.

Items for Sale: The new embroidered fleece jacket and medium weight coats and have arrived. There are three colors in assorted sizes. Prices range from \$ 48 - \$ 78 depending on style and size. Get yours while we have them in stock.

Just a reminder: pertinent information is available at the Local #83 website at www.smwlocal83.org.

Office Hours:

Hours: M – W 7:30 to 5:00

Thursday 7:30 – 4:30

Friday 8:00 to 4:00

From the Desk of Larry Warzek – Training Coordinator

Please indicate the class(es) you intend to take below:

Tool Hook Up (12-15 hrs.) _____ Date to be determined

Welding- Basic/Refresher (8 nights) 3 hrs. per _____ Date to be determined

30 hours OSHA (30 hrs.) _____ Date to be determined

The cost of this class is quite expensive so the Local SMACNA Group has agreed to split the cost if we can have 15 students.

First Aid/CPR (9 hrs.) _____ Date to be determined

Plate Welding * (15 hrs.) _____ Date to be determined

***For employment at a nuclear site in South Carolina or Atlanta.**

In order to take those welding jobs at the nuclear site one must be able to pass the background check and their drug test.

Preparation for the Massachusetts (12 hours) _____ Date to be determined
Sheet Metal/ HVAC license

(Keep in mind that in order to work in Massachusetts ones OSHA 10 card cannot be more than 5 years old). The body made a motion that passed to reimburse any member who takes the class and then goes to take the exam and passes it. Cost around \$400.00. That fee includes

* Foreman Training _____ An online class (done at home)

*Supervisory Training _____ An online class (done at home)

Name (Print)

Signature

*Requires e-mail address

Date

You should also include the \$100 deposit for the class which will be returned once you have completed the class. Please write in the memo the name of the course/courses this is being sent in for.

Please return by February 16, 2016