

SMART Local Union # 83

May 7, 2015

Mark your calendars!

As we have done for the last few years the allocation meeting will be held in conjunction with our regular meeting this month, May 2015 at the Polish American Club, 225 Washington Avenue Ext., Albany, NY. The meeting will start at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to attend, so when the vote is taken you have had a voice in how the monies are allocated.

I have enclosed a spreadsheet outlining possible ways that the membership could allocate the \$2.15 per hour we will receive in June. There are a few funds where the amounts needed are mandatory by our participation in these programs. The SMW National Pension and the SASMI contributions are listed at the required amounts. Again these are only suggestions and can be modified before a vote is taken.

The insurance fund trustees are only asking for a \$0.20 per hour increase in contributions. Even though the man hours were up last year, with the possibility of going to individual accounts the insurance trustees know that if a switch is made there will be some large additional expenses in order to process the funds and allocate it to individual personal accounts. As was noted before, when we have some firm numbers and a determination of how the fund will work, (similar to some of the other mechanical trades in our area) we will hold town meetings for you to come hear the pros and cons and then vote if you want to send a request that the insurance fund trustees adjust the contributions and move away from the pooled joint account.

Since this is a union election year and the body voted for elections to be held at 3 locations this year, we have postponed the June meeting till the 4th Thursday of the month, June 25, 2015. This then allows for polling to be done 3 days in a row; **June 18th will be up in Plattsburgh, June 19th in the Glens Falls area** at the Eagles Club (where we hold our union meeting 2 times a year) **and June 20th in Albany** at our union hall. Exact time and directions to those locations as well as who is running for what offices will be sent out in the required notice in June.

IMPORTANT:

Keep in mind that nominations will be held at the hall on Saturday, June 6, 2015. To be eligible to run- a members dues for the month of June must be paid in May 2015 as well as having 2 years of continuous good standing.

Save the date- our Steak Bake will be held on September 19, 2015 at Lantier's Grove (Latham). Come join us for the fun, good food and prizes.

Keep a watchful eye for the notice from SMOHIT offering our members that have 20 or more years in the trade to attend asbestos screening this summer. You will have to respond timely in order to get scheduled to participate.

TRAINING - Unfortunately we have only had a few members sign up for any of the courses we offered to be held this spring. We have enclosed the signup sheet one more time in hopes that more members will take advantage of additional training during the spring/summer months.

HRA -There still seems to be some confusion on the process of sending in requests for refunds of non-covered medical expenses from ones HRA account, assuming you had money left in them. We are no longer with Prime Pay, your accounts have been moved over to RK flex. We have posted on our web site www.smwlocal83.org the forms, rules and IRS lists for you to refer to and print out in order to get your reimbursements.

T-Shirts - We have short sleeve shirts available for sale. We have lots of the safety yellow shirts with the Sheet Metal insignia on the back as well as the biker tees and some of the union worker shirts. For the summer we have stocked up on sheet metal tools for you to purchase.

Fraternally,

Mark B. Landau
President-Bus. Mgr.