

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

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From the Desk of Mark Landau

There will be 2 special orders of business at the September 17th regular meeting which will be held at the Union Hall. At that time, we will hold nominations and elections for four positions that will be held by union members for the building committee. Those four individuals will be in addition to those members who are automatically on the committee (the corporation members as well as the JATC trustees). This committee will assist in determining if we will purchase a building with enough existing parking and modify it or if we will purchase a piece of property on which to build from scratch. As most of you are aware, the membership has already made the initial \$.10 contribution to the JATC to help fund this endeavor. The concept is that an additional \$.10 per year will be allocated the next 2 years, and that should create enough money to pay off a mortgage within 15 years.

At the same meeting, there will be a nomination and election of the conductor. Previously, at the regular election, no one ran for that position, and we need to be sure to fill it in a timely manner.

At the last regular meeting, we discussed that there may be a need for workers in the state of Massachusetts. The State of Massachusetts now, like the state of Connecticut, requires that workers who perform the tasks performed by sheet metal workers hold a state license. Local #83 will be providing a class for those members who are unemployed and willing to take work in Massachusetts. Upon completion of the class as well as signing up, taking and passing the licensing exam, the body voted to reimburse the members the out of pocket cost for the exam and getting the license. Additional classes that shall be offered by the local will be noted in other portions of this newsletter.

We are still selling Steak Bake tickets, and so far, not many have been purchased. Keep in mind that the body passed the vote that if a member purchases a \$40 ticket and attends the Bake, they will be reimbursed for the price of their ticket. We strongly encourage the members to participate. Everyone has a great time. Where else can you eat lunch and dinner, play games and walk away with a door prize (minimum value of \$10) and drink soda and beer on tap all day? Consider bringing friends and family! All will have a good time!

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

From the Desk of Rusty Monahan

With this slowdown of work, we all hope will be temporary, let's put together some ideas for mechanic upgrade classes. A list of upcoming classes will vary on participation. We hope anyone interested will be signing up. Taking time from you and your family to take these classes and attending union meetings is hard. To make the hard choices in our future, we need to make these sacrifices.

On your way home from work, notice the work that is being done by others that should be done by us. Think about how we can get these jobs back and what classes our union can offer to help in our cause. By continuing our education, we become a more valued craftsman. By being a valued craftsman it will allow our contractors to hopefully bid outside their comfort zone knowing they have a reserve of qualified people to man these projects. It's better to be prepared for opportunities than having opportunities and not being prepared.

Let's not forget about the upcoming steak bake this September 19th. I hope to see a lot of us there.

I have approached the JATC and offered to be the teacher for a journeymen upgrade class (foreman training). You will see that as one of the classes listed below, and I strongly encourage the membership to participate. There is a lack of journeypersons who are willing to take on this responsibility. In an effort to promote ourselves as a trade and be compensated for that added responsibility, we need to put our best foot forward so that not only the membership, but the employers, are successful which will lead to more work opportunities in the future.

From the Desk of Larry Warzek

Now that the summer is complete, we will be offering a number of journeymen upgrade classes. The what, where and when will be dependent on who signs up and if the majority are unemployed. We may have day time classes instead of evening classes when appropriate. Those classes will include: Foreman training, TAB, General Welding, Plate Welding for Power Plant Work (S.C. and GA) and Haswoper.

Please call Angela as soon as possible, and she will add your name on the appropriate signup sheet. As always, once a class has been designated as being hold, a \$100 deposit will be required.

Local #83 was fortunate to receive a grant for an additional Haswoper class. This is a 43 hour class and will be offered during the day. We need a minimum of 15 people to qualify for the grant. It is our hope to offer this class soon so we need to know if you'd like to take it as soon as possible.

Next Union Meeting – September 17, 2015

From the Desk of Phil Stenglein

SALTING - Now that work has slowed down, we will be looking for volunteers who qualify to help our cause by being union SALT's in non-union shops. The members must be pre-approved prior to searching for non-union positions. Approval not only comes from our local, but must be acquired from the national as well. Please contact me to discuss this further.

LABOR DAY PARADE – Let's show solidarity and come participate in the Labor Day Parade which is being held on Friday, September 11, 2015. Those that want to participate should meet at the under the bridge Corning Reserve parking lot where buses will be provided to carry participants up to the staging area which is located across the street from the State Capital at Academy Park. (Academy Park is located on the eastern end of the old NYS Museum building.) The parade is scheduled to start at 6pm. Marchers will walk down the hill, over the bridge and into the Corning Preserve where entertainment, free food and drinks will be served. The event is completely free and family friendly. A band, other entertainment and a fireworks display will be provided. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 368-4488.

From the Desk of Frank Maguire – Chairman of Golf Committee

Enclosed please find the 2 inserts for the use of members and friends noting the location and date for the golf outing and registration form. We have done well with donations, and more prizes will be given out this year.

General

The local continues to request that members update us on their change of address, phone numbers and email addresses. We continue to request that all members provide us with their email addresses in an effort to save on postage and so that they will receive information more quickly.

HRA

As a result of the fund prospering in 2014, the insurance fund trustees made the decision that they would make a contribution to those members with coverage in the amount of \$4.00 per hour for every hour over 1400 worked in 2014.

This was supposed to be effective September 1, 2015. Just before that date, the fund found out there were a number of issues and tasks that needed to be done before the members could access their monies for reimbursement via the internet. A lot of data needed to be hand entered as well as programming changes. Unlike most HRA or HSA plans, we have, in the past, allowed the monies to be used for the claims from the year that had passed. This will be allowed again so the members can submit their claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred in 2014. There have been computer glitches, and unfortunately the ability to submit claims online is still not up and running but should be shortly. We will post that info on the Web once we know the exact date. The good news is that you can submit your claims via the regular mail right now, and you should be able to file for reimbursement via the internet by 9/14/2015. Those claims forms are also available on our website.

Note: a notice will be mailed out shortly telling you how much was contributed to your account for the 2014 period.

If you have any questions call Mark Landau, Funds Manger at 421-5099.