



Local 83

Robert Butler, President Russell Bartash, FST
Robert Monahan, Regional Manager
900 Commerce Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065
Phone: 518-489-1377

October 2024 Newsletter

From the desk of Regional Manager Rob Monahan:

As Local 83 moves into a new era, I'm pleased to announce we are expanding our organizing efforts. Our President, Bob Butler has been facilitating talks with general contractors in our area, these conversations have been productive in applying a top-down pressure and letting the building trades community know that Local 83 is standing up for our work. We are going to continue our campaign to reduce the amount of non-union sheet metal work in our jurisdictions with all resources available.

As we move closer to the Local & National elections, I would like everyone to look closely at the candidates that support our labor movement and help enable policies that create work opportunities for our membership. The local elections are often overshadowed by the presidential election, but the candidates we elect at the local level often have more of an impact on our day-to-day life. Please let your voice be heard and vote for your candidate of choice.

During a recent audit of the SMART National Pension Fund, the NPF determined that Local 83 (as the employer of the fund office admin staff) was not paying the same hourly contribution rate for the admin staff at the contractually agreed upon wage for more than 10 years. The NPF initially estimated that after factoring in interest that over \$300,000 was owed. If the NPF were to bring a lawsuit to collect money owed they would stand a very strong chance of prevailing in the lawsuit. The NPF would then be entitled to interest, attorneys fees, costs, and liquid damages along with an additional 20% on the principal owed. The NPF agreed to a settlement of a one-time payment of \$110,000 (this reflects a significant reduction in the number of contributions owed, as well as the elimination of interest and potential liquidated damages). If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at (518) 708-9914.

From the desk of Business Rep John Shutz:

Work remains steady with the NANO project on the horizon. I am still working with the contractors on winning smaller jobs and recruiting new members. If anyone knows someone that is interested in being a sheet metal worker now is the time. Have them reach out to me or fill out an application on our website.

We have been actively campaigning against our competition to win our work back, and plan to continue to win back our market share. Several weeks ago, other trades walked off a job in solidarity with the result of the job site being shut down which created a dialog with one of our major competitors. I appreciate the few members that have helped us. If you are interested in helping to stand up for our local, please give me a call @ 518-709-3691. If you see a project that you would like to know if it is UNION or not, please give me a call. REMEMBER WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!!!!

If you get laid off or go back to work, please notify the hall or myself.

From the desk of JATC Coordinator Stephen Savoca:

As we begin the month of October school is in session with 25 apprentices enrolled in the program. We are continually evolving the curriculum to meet industry needs, and plan to develop the program further as we move forward.

We have enrolled an additional apprentice this month, and their schooling will begin in 2025.

National Apprenticeship week is November 17th-23rd 2024 and recruiting additional Apprentices through job fairs and open house events are in our plans.

We have 2 instructors scheduled to attend Laser welder training in November 2024, the Laser welder will be received thanks in part to the ITI grant program which will pay for 90% of the cost of the equipment. Preparation for the Laser welder at our facility is in progress, with safety measures in place to protect the students as they use the equipment, and Journeypersons will have the opportunity to train on the equipment soon.

And as always, any Journeypersons that would like to access training and resources available from the ITI, please contact me by phone at 518-902-5043 or by email at ssavoca@smart-nerc.org.

SASMI – Have you been out of work and collecting unemployment since July 1, 2024?

Effective October 1st, we are now in Emergency SASMI time. Members who were out of work from July 1, 2024, to the present and received 8 weeks of consecutive NYS unemployment benefits may be eligible to collect a half SASMI check. The turnaround time for ER SASMI is quick (2-3 weeks) and you should contact Donna at the Funds office for an application. Again, this is for July 1 through December 10th, 2024.

Insurance Fund News

October is **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Eye Injury Prevention month, Domestic Violence Awareness month, Healthy Lung month, National ADHD Awareness month, National Dental Hygiene, National Down Syndrome Awareness, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month, Spina Bifida Awareness month and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness month**. I put this in the newsletter to remind you that there are organizations and groups all around that provide educational opportunities and services to assist everyone. Education is key. Please call the fund office if you have any questions or would like more information on a particular issue, we can point you in the right direction. **One of the many benefits of being in a union is the BENEFITS, make sure you are getting the most out of yours!**

Open Enrollment will be coming up in November for a January 1, 2025, effective date if you would like to change your health plan or look into what our plan offers. Do you need to make changes, have you married, divorced, added a child or need to remove anyone? Enrollments usually need to be changed by the 15th of December for a January 1st effective date. Please watch your mail for everything you need to know and then call the fund office with any questions.

OVER 65 Retirees – it is that time of the year that you are inundated with telephone calls, television commercials and mailboxes full of “Medicare Health Insurance Plans”. There are plans with no premiums and no co-pays and FREE prescriptions and you find yourself scratching your head thinking, “maybe I need to change”. While the fund office cannot make that decision for you, we encourage you to check with your County Office of the Aging and or any Seniors groups that you may participate with. They usually have an advocate who (usually at no cost) can assist you with comparing plans. We can provide you with our plan coverage that you can then review side by side with a plan you may be interested in. **SMW LU83 members are allowed to leave LU83 and come back on our insurance coverage ONE time.** Watch your mail for information regarding renewal rates and open enrollment.

Please note some important dates and mark your calendars!

The November Union meeting has been moved to **November 14, 2024 @ 5pm.**

The December Union meeting/Christmas party has been moved to **December 12, 2024 @ 5pm.**

Retiree’s meeting will be held **Tuesday, October 15, 2024.** Please call Angela @ 518-489-1377 ext. 3 to let her know if you are attending so she can plan lunch.

Starting with the January 2025 Union meeting we will be holding informational meetings with monthly topics such as insurance, annuity, retirement, etc. These meetings will be open to members and their wives and or family members and will run from 3:45 to 4:45pm.

Fraternally,



Robert Monahan
Regional Manager