

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 354

NEWS

Brother and Sisters,

I hope this newsletter finds you well! I am hesitant to say anything BUT I think we might be out of the woods in reference to Covid!!! According to the PA Government page, there were 737 reported cases of Covid on April 1, 2022 compared to 55,855 reported cases in January 2022! Some experts think there will be some sort of variants of Covid that will pop up over the next few months, but it will become weaker and not have lasting effects. Airports and the Airline industry reports that the mandatory wearing of facemasks at the airports and on the planes will be lifted sometime in mid-April or soon thereafter. Like most of you, I am grateful that this virus that affected the globe is on its way out!

It is hard to believe that it has been two years since the Covid first hit the U.S. Looking back on how it started, progressed, the many different opinions from different health care experts, wearing masks, staying six feet apart, going through gallons of hand sanitizer and finally getting vaccinated. The world has done a good job getting past this. I realize there could be some lingering effects, but I want to thank the membership for taking the necessary precautions to keep all safe. Unfortunately, with all the precautions that we did take, we still lost a few members due to the virus. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families that are left behind!

I'm glad that when I turn on the evening news that the first story, we hear isn't about Covid. Now the big story is Russia invading Ukraine! Some might ask how will this affect us? Have you looked at the price of gas lately? The average gas prices in the U.S. are around \$4.00 a gallon add on the excise tax that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania adds on, has us spending up to \$4.30 a gallon! This is due to the fact that Russia is a major producer of oil and natural gas and this conflict has sent prices higher in the past month. Russia is also the world's largest exporter of wheat, although the U.S. imports very little directly from Russia, we have not been immune to the crunch to commodities caused by the conflict. We have all seen food prices increase and I am afraid that we have not seen the ceiling yet. Of course, the other way that we will see volatility is with our pensions, many of you have looked at your statement from John Hancock and see that you are down a bit, the reason for the volatility isn't all due to Russia, but the conflict hasn't helped. The 1st quarter of each year is usually flat or drops a bit but add in the feds looking to increase interest rates and inflation, it spells Volatility. Then you have supply chain issues, which started with Covid and has been amplified by the conflict, has been seen especially in the construction industry, delays getting steel pipe, and electrical components have adversely slowed our industry!

But we must remember just as the energy crisis and stagnant growth in the 70's, the recession in the 80's, the financial crisis caused by the savings and loans industry in the 90's and the housing market collapsing in the early 2000's, we the members of the Trades of Organized Labor persevered and although there were some hard years we came through just as we will this time. Brothers and Sisters, we were very fortunate that we were busy for the 4 years prior to Covid, and it has been a strain to all of us over the last couple of years. We must remember that Local 354 supplies manpower to the contractors when they are the successful bidder on the project. We do

not procure projects for the contractor. We do however make the contractors aware of projects coming up to bid but it is on them to bid and procure the work so we can supply them with the best trained workforce in the country. The construction industry operates on peaks and valley! I feel that although we do not have many Industrial Projects on the books in the near future, we do however have quite a few projects getting ready to start that should employ most of the membership by early summer, if the supply chain issues do not delay these projects any further. Later in this newsletter, we will list the upcoming projects that will be starting along with the projects that are coming up to bid.

On behalf of the officers and myself, we wish that all members and their families have a Safe and Happy Summer and we look forward to seeing you at the events that are scheduled throughout the year!

LOCAL NEWS-

The Service Tech Training Center in Latrobe has not yet been completed due to the electrical contractor waiting on a few electrical components to get started. However, we continue to develop curriculum and add pieces of equipment each week. The school has been used for some ICRA and Backflow Training and we hope that we can be fully completed in the very near future. We are putting much effort into developing this program to grow the local union; this is part of our industry that we can increase membership since we are only doing a small percentage of this work. Unlike the building trades side where the contractor has to bid on projects to put members to work, service contractors perform emergency and maintenance service to customers who call them and build relationships, the only way they get called is to perform this service and do it well.

To gain attention and market share for this venture, we have produced a commercial that will be broadcast in the very near future. We have been re-inventing our LU 354 website and just as soon as the website goes live with the updates, the commercial will run on cable networks. Keep an eye out!

The Local and the JATC Committee has started interviewing Apprentices for the new year. As most of you know we did not accept a class last year due to Covid. To keep up with attrition we will certainly need a class this year in both regions. Chad and the instructors have been busy attending job fairs and schools to help with the recruitment process. Once the class is selected, they will start in June. Some might think, why are we taking a class of apprentices with the work situation the way it is, and it is a valid question but the downturn in work is temporary and with the numbers provided by the UA shows that in 2005 we had 661 active members, 2010 dropped to 583, 2015 showed 536 and today Local 354 has 521 active members. This proves that we have not kept up with attrition and add the average age of the local is 54, more members will be retiring each and every year. Through organizing and accepting new apprentices our goal is to increase membership over the next few years.

The membership should have received by now the Nominations notice for the Local 354 Officers Election, which will be held in June. Nominations for elected officers will be held on Friday, May 6th at the membership meeting at the Town Hall in Ligonier, the meeting as always starts at 8:00 PM. The Elections for these officers will be held at Ligonier Town Hall on Saturday June 4th from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Please exercise your right to vote!!!

The unemployment debacle is still a big issue for the Trades. The new system, which was implemented about 10 months ago, still is a work in progress. Local 354 has been diligently trying to stay in front of this issue. State Representative Eric Nelson was instrumental in providing information and an introduction to Michelle Mills who has been very helpful with 354 member's unemployment issues. We all thought that within a few months, the bugs would be worked out and everything would be good. Then fraudulent attacks by hackers on members accounts were

reported, the members whose accounts were hacked will tell you that it's a long process to get resolved, one member is going on 8 months and is still trying to get it resolved. There are other members who get this issue fixed then turn around a week later and is hacked again. Frustration came to a head in February when numerous members were either hacked or simply trying to apply for benefits and kept on getting kicked off the site or the site told them they entered the wrong birthdate. I think all of us know our birthdays! Again, State Representative Nelson came to the membership meeting in March and spoke of the issues concerning the Unemployment Site and stated that his office would help anyone if all efforts failed. Fortunately, Michelle Mills has been a tremendous help and recently has been able to help all our members' issues in a very timely fashion. Michelle agreed to meet with membership again to speak about the changes that are being implemented to improve the site and to train members on what and what not to do when filing for unemployment benefits. It was agreed that she will meet with the membership on Tuesday, May 10th at 6:00 PM to further educate the membership on UC benefits. Please put this date and time in your phones and calendars so you don't miss this important education session.

On a final note Local 354 Brother and International Representative for the state of Pennsylvania and New Jersey David J. Donato retired on December 31, 2021. Dave has been a fixture of Local 354 since he first joined back in 1974, shortly after completing his apprenticeship and received his journeyman status he successfully ran for Finance Committee of the Local in 1980, was appointed Business Manager in 1990 and from there continued to rise through the ranks when in 2003 he was elected Business Manager for the local, an office he held until 2011 when United Association General President William P. Hite assigned him to the Office of International Representative for the UA. Dave's charisma, leadership abilities, and complete understanding of our industry produced a man that we are proud to call brother. Although he is more than a brother, Dave is viewed by many as friend, father and absolutely a labor leader that we can all look up to and try our very best to emulate. We wish Dave and his wife Dawn a very happy, blessed and long retirement. Godspeed Dave Donato!!!

With Dave's retirement, the State of PA and New Jersey have the distinct privilege of welcoming Kurt Krueger as the International Representative. Kurt is a young bright individual who brings to the table new thoughts and ideas to lead the UA into the next generation. Congratulations Kurt we wish you the best of luck in your new adventure.

FRATERANL ACTIVITIES-

With the Retirees Luncheons fast approaching and the Family Picnic at Idlewild then add on the Local's 50th Anniversary celebration coming in September the Frat Committee has been hopping! The Committee has met on several occasions to discuss ideas on trinkets and shirts for the events coming up this year. Many do not think about the preparation that goes into these events, but the committee that is in place have done an outstanding job thinking of different things that I feel the members will appreciate. The Retiree Luncheons will be held on:

June 8, 2022 – In Youngwood

June 9, 2022 – In Ebensburg

June 10, 2022 – In Dubois

Notices will be sent out in the near future, please mark your calendars to save this date.

The Idlewild Family Picnic will be held on July 16, 2022, as always we will send information for the tickets about a month prior. We look forward to seeing you there!

By the time, you receive this newsletter you should have received the "Save the Date" cards for the Local 354 50th Anniversary Celebration to be held September 24, 2022 at Seven Springs Resort. With this being, the Golden Anniversary of the Local the Frat Committee has upped the

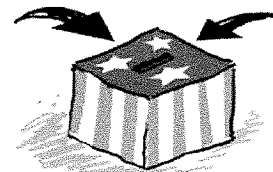
ante on the gifts that all attendees will receive. I think everyone will enjoy what they have picked out. The decision was also made to employ a company called Union Histories to take care of all the mailings, sell ads, and produce a professionally done program book. In an effort to help offset some of these costs to bring the membership an everlasting experience, the Frat has decided to raffle off a 6.5 Creedmore Rifle that has been handmade and designed with the Local 354 50th Anniversary emblem on the stock. The rifle was produced by Local 354 member Lynn Crisi who owns and operates Paint Creek Armories located in Windber, PA. The tickets for the gun which run \$20.00 will be sold at the union meetings and functions, or please get in touch with any one of the officers to purchase your tickets. We hope all of you will attend this landmark celebration.

POLITICS-

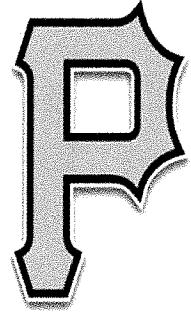
On May 17, 2022 the Primary Election will be held, this is not your ordinary election. All Building Trade Unions have the opportunity to put not only a building trade's member on the ticket for Governor but they have the chance to put a UA brother in the State Capital. UA Local 420 Brother Dave White announced his candidacy for governor early in the year. Brother White attended the January Membership Meeting and addressed the members with his vision for the Commonwealth. It was at this meeting that Local 354 has done something that I cannot remember if it was ever done before. A motion was made from the floor to endorse and support Dave's run for Governor, the motion was seconded and by unanimous vote the motion passed. This I believe is the first time the local has endorsed a candidate in the primary that was not an incumbent, let alone a republican. Yes, that is right Dave White is running on the Republican ticket!! Many in the labor movement raise their eyes when they hear that we are backing a R, but brothers and sisters I have said this time and time again, we are going to support those who support labor, it doesn't matter which party they belong to. 10 years ago, we wouldn't consider supporting a republican, but over the years the environmentalists have wiggled their way into the Democratic party and the Dems have slowly turned away from labor in favor of Windmills and solar panels to produce electricity. All building trade locals realize that we depend on power plants whether its coal fired or gas to make our living. The current administration is taking pride in ruining our livelihood and entering Pennsylvania into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which will make it impossible for conventional power plants to operate in turn, will be forced to close leaving the door open for wind and solar to produce our electricity. Although we are not opposed to other sources of electric, but wind and solar cannot produce enough electricity to satisfy our needs. Alternatives such as these are simply supplements and not replacements! The Democratic Nominee for Governor is Josh Shapiro, Josh is a fine Attorney General, and became nationally known for his investigation of allegations of sexual abuse of the Catholic Church. We cannot deny that as Attorney General he did his job and he did it well, but I am concerned about his stance on Energy and his beliefs on RGGI, both of which adversely affect our industry. Dave lives our issues as building trades members, he will not support right to work legislation, he will support the separations act and prevailing wage. He promises to repeal RGGI on day one of his term, if the act gets passed by the present Governor. He understands that PA needs industry to move here and is willing to make it easier for industry to move to PA, bringing good jobs and benefits so that all can prosper. If they can do it in Ohio and in neighboring states, we should do it here. He wants what we want!! To get Dave on the Ballot against Shapiro in the General we need to do our part and get him elected on May 17th. It is the only decision that makes sense for Local 354 and the Building Trades!

Please get out and VOTE on May 17, 2022

If you are a registered Democrat, you cannot vote for Dave White in the Primary. The dead line to change your Party affiliation is May 2, 2022.



Western Region



Fazio Mech: -5-Members – Employed throughout Local 354.

Hranec: -3 – Member- in shop and other small projects.

John Hall: -5- Members- Working service and some small projects.

Keystone Fabrication: -10- Members-Employed at shop.

Limbach: -10- Members – On various projects within the Local including Excelsa Health at Latrobe.

Lugaila Inc.: -3- Members- On various projects.

Mechanical Contractors: -5- Members- on a projects in the local and jobs outside the local in West Virginia 152 and Pittsburgh.

Sentry Mechanical: – 2- Members – Working at this time, one on service and one on a project outside our area.

SSM: -9- Members – Working at ATI in Vandergrift and Latrobe Brewery and other small projects.

W. G. Tomko: -27– Members – 21 working Building Trades and 6 working Metal Trades.

Whitby: -5- Members- Employed at this time at various jobs and at Nemacolin.

First American Industries: -2- Members – Working at Ringold High School.

Enerfab: -2- Members working at Hilltop.

Gunning Mechanical: -4- Members working at Greensburg schools.

McCarls: -1- Member working at this time.

McKamish: -1- Member working at Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital.

Powell Mechanical: -2- Members working at Verizon in West Newton.

There are 40 members working out of town and 57 Journeymen and 15 Apprentice currently laid off.

Work in the future:

Brownsville Prison replacing chillers and piping. Waiting on material.

ATI Vandergrift, had some drawing changes so will be bidding soon for the big package.

Amazon Warehouse in New Stanton is clearing property now, so bids will be going for that project.

Pitt of Greensburg job for the HVAC.

Hempfield School construction next year.

Our sister locals have reached out and said they will be looking for some manpower help in the near future, Locals 152, 449 and 189.

Business Agent
Steven Fearer

Eastern Region

Miller & Son: -3- Members – A few maintenance projects in the area.

Triple H Mech.: -5- Members – Working at SGL Carbon, GKN Sinter Metals, Mersen Carbon, Air Gas in Ridgeway, Mathison in St. Mary's, Brockway Glass, Graftech in St. Marys and Johnsonburg waste water treatment plant.

K & K Plumbing: -7- Members – Bedford Borough Building, Oklahoma School, Crawford Apartments and Westmont School District Field House.

Baer Mechanical: -19- Members –Working at North American Hoganas on various projects, Penn Highlands East, Medwell 2nd Floor, Bath and Body in Altoona, Social Security Office in Johnstown, Johnstown High and Suppes Ford Sewer.

S.P. McCarls: -16- Members – Work in the Fab Shop, VA Hospital, Penn State Dubois, Delgrosso in Tipton and a few projects out of town.

OSMI Mech: -4- Members – Penn Highlands in Dubois, Penn Highlands Elk, Penn Highlands Brookville, and a few small projects in the local.

Darr Construction: -4- Members – Hillman Cancer Center in Somerset, Johnstown Airport and the Addison Township Building.

Somerset Steel: -3- Members –various projects around local.

Plant Service Group: -5- Members- At Conemaugh Station.

Renick Brothers: -19- Members- Penn Highlands West ER and Conamaugh Hospital in Johnstown.

Johnston Mechanical: -15- Members. Maintenance work at Conemaugh Hospital, Association for the Blind, VA Hospital and work at St. Francis College.

GM McCrossin: -20- Members – At Houtzdale Prison and water treatment plants in the Altoona area.

John Hall: -3- Members – Oklahoma Elementary in Dubois.

Reno Brothers: -3- Clearfield County Prison

Huckenstein Mechanical: -7- Johnstown High School.

Wheels Mechanical: -7- IUP Science Building.

Currently – There are 42 Journeyman off. 32 are out of town and 3 Apprentices are off.

Business Agent
Bill Cononie



4th Quarter 2021 Organizing Report

Since the last Newsletter Local 354 has brought the following members in the local through organizing.

Metal Trades Apprentice

Jeremy Ganoe
Kevin Dunlevy
Jacob Bunisky

Spec. Housing- Apprentice

Gibson Myers

Welcome all to Local Union 354!

I have been traveling throughout the local talking to unrepresented workers, and non-union contractors to increase our contractor base and market share. Last month the Pa State Organizers group did a mini blitz in Pittsburgh. I spent a few days with the other Organizers in the state talking with non-union Service Techs.

Over the past few months, I met with non-union contractors and discussed becoming a signatory contractor. Joe Rohrer, Special Representative from the UA Organizing Department has visited our local twice this year and has attended a few of these meetings with me. Brother Rohrer comes to our local, with his wealth of knowledge in organizing and has been a big help.

We have signatory contractors that need Service Techs, so if anyone knows a Service Tech who has at least 2 years of field experience and may be interested, please have them contact me. We are always interested in building the MES Service Program.

April 18th in the West, and April 26th in the East I am teaching the Construction Organizing Membership Education Training or (COMET) class to the 4th and 5th year Apprentices. If any Journeymen are interested in taking the class, please let me know. I'm sure it would not be a problem for you to sit in with the apprentices.

I hope you and your family stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Don Arena

Organizer

Members Profile

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>WEST</u>
Bldg. Trades Journeyman	396	217	179
Bldg. Trades Apprentice	85	37	48
Probationary Apprentice	0	0	0
Spec. Hsg./Div. Housing	26	17	09
Contr./Superv. Members	02	00	02
Metal Trades	12	00	12
Retiree (MT, BT Disability)	199	108	91
Life Members	123		
<u>Total Membership</u>	<u>843</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>341</u>

JATC Information

Weld tests have been scheduled for both region on Saturday, May 7th 8:00 AM start time. You would need a weld request in prior to May 7th to be scheduled for a test.

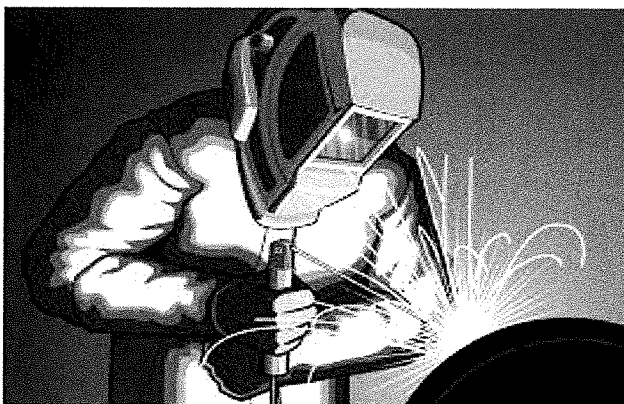
Reminder to all apprentices the end of the year aptitude testing is scheduled Friday, May 6th in the West Region and Friday May 13th in the East Region.

For those who have not completed their EPRI rigging certificate we will be holding an EPRI Practical class at Local 66 Training Center on May 21st at 9:00 AM. The JATC office will be contacting those that need this. For those members that have a EPRI rigging certification the 5 year renewal classes will be scheduled in the very near future. This will consist of a 4-hour review class with the exam scheduled a few days later.

Back Flow and Med Gas recertification class will be scheduled as needed.

Last night of classes are May 12th, clean up starts on May 14th – 26th.

The PA Pipe Trades recently held the PA State Apprentice Contest the hosting locals where Local 449 and Local 2. Representing Local 354 was Jason Hruska as our plumber and Kenton Pucci on the welding. Bothe represented Local 354 very well! Congratulations to both of these guys!



Deceased Members:

Larry Beckwith

David L. Calcek, Sr.

James A Carden, Sr.

Louis J. Ceccarelli

David L. Constantino

William E. Edwards

Robert L. Hammaker

Robert A. Irwin

Scott W. Lafferty

Milton E. Nickola

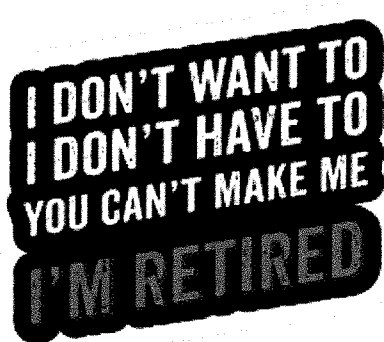
Ralph K. Nutt

Burt L. Ruth

James L. Snyder, Sr.

Martin P. Williams

James Zawatski



Recently Retired

Joseph A Basal

Joel T. Keen

Jeffery A. Komondor

Timothy W. Landis

Greg McKlveen

David D. Woomer

SAVE THE DATES

To: All Plumbers and Pipe Fitters LU #354 Retirees

West Region

Wednesday – June 8, 2022

At the YOUNGWOOD JATC

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

East Region

Thursday – June 9, 2022

At the EBENSBURG JATC

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

East Region

Friday – June 10, 2022

At LUIGI'S RISTORANTE – 32 N. Brady St. DuBois, PA 15801

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Annual Family Picnic

At

Idlewild & Soak Zone

Saturday, July 16, 2022



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!