



Plumbers & Pipefitters

Local Union 354

NEWSLETTER

Brothers and Sisters,

I realize this newsletter is a little later than usual and I'm not making excuses but even though we have lower than average manhour numbers over the last year, the officers and I have been extremely busy. Since the beginning of the year, we were heavily involved meeting and negotiating the Building Trades Collective Bargaining Agreement along with the Speculative Housing Agreement. Currently, we are negotiating the Metal Trades and Mechanical Equipment Service contracts which will expire in September and October respectively. Interviews for new apprentices were conducted in April and May along with a Vendor Day and Open House for our new HVAC/Plumbing Training Center in Latrobe. Currently we are looking to get things in order for the Idlewild picnic. I will have more details about the above events later in the newsletter.

As stated previously, our current man hour situation is mediocre at best. This time of year, we should be seeing nearly full employment, although we are seeing a slight swing upward, we are still not where we need to be. In January we were fortunate to have a sizable project at Nemacolin Woodlands which employed around 60 members working for Whitby Plumbing, Limbach and Lugaila Mechanical. Currently this project has about 25 members working. We are hopeful that there will continue to be projects coming up at Nemacolin that will keep 354 members employed for quite some time. Other projects that have been procured but are still waiting to man up are the Sheetz Warehouse in Claysburg, Johnston Mechanical has the plumbing and McKamish has the heat. Renick was the low bidder on the Punxsutawney School and Overdorf Snyder Mechanical was the low bidder on the Punxsutawney Hospital, currently this project is delayed due to material issues.

There is one other project we have been keeping an eye on and that is the Bio Digester Project located in Homer City. Gruppo, a company from Italy, has been hired by Air Liquide from France to build a facility that extracts methane from cow manure and refines it so that it can be injected to gas pipelines. We are being told that PSG have partnered with McCarl's to provide mechanical expertise for this project but both PSG and McCarl's representatives have stated that they have not received any drawings or direction from Gruppo and they couldn't understand the delay. We will do our best to keep the membership informed of this project. The Building Trades are also being told by Governor Shapiro that there will be an announcement sometime before the end of the year about a project at the Homer City Power Plant! Many rumors are stating that it could be anything from wind and solar or natural gas/hydrogen. We all know that the UA doesn't get any manhours from wind and solar and I am hoping that whatever the project is, it will provide work opportunities for the members of LU 354.

The officers, staff and I wish you and your families a wonderful and safe summer!

Local News:

The JATC Committee accepted 6 apprentices into the East and 6 into the West regions along with 3 MES apprentices. This year's application pool was down from recent years but the applicants that applied were very solid. There was one apprentice that resigned the day of orientation. If you have the chance to work with or meet the following new members welcome them in the Union.

EAST

Charles George
Myciah Long
Baily Miller
Andrew Nycum
Issac Kokoski
Stephan Kovalick

WEST

Colton Domurot
Gabriel Hotz
James Mosher
Austin Seese
Stewart Ryan
Lance Wellington

MES

Christian Cramer
Nathan Farabaugh
Christian Lindberg

I would also like to recognize and congratulate the recent graduates of the Apprentice Program.

EAST

Ryan Farabaugh
Cole Glessner
David Glessner
Dylan Glessner
Mike Keller
Dan Lichtenfels
Trenton Lohr
Nathan Martin
Josh Mattes
Ian McCleary
Robert Sokira

WEST

Cole Anderson
Bryce Bolish
Alec Calcek
Lonnie Felentzer
Gerald Frank
Rich Hilty
Charlie Johnson
Mark Laird
Travis Pierce
Dustin Stange
Christopher Stants



**CONGRATULATIONS
AND
GOOD LUCK TO ALL!**

The current CBA was ratified by the membership at a special meeting held on May 10th at Ligonier Town Hall. The contract is currently being printed but in addition to the contract, members will be receiving a binder that will include The Health & Welfare Summary Plan Details (SPD), the Local Union Bylaws and Work Rules. The SPD is being reviewed by the Plan professional and should be approved for print by the end of June. If you would like to have a copy of the CBA prior to the above items being mailed to you please contact Jayne at the union office and it can be emailed or sent to you. In addition, the Speculative Housing contract was ratified by the division trade members on May 29th and a copy was sent to those members.

Members, I realize that all of us have very hectic schedules with work, school, family and community involvement, but it's very disappointing that we have not had quorum all year except for the April meeting which was held to vote on the first proposal of the CBA that was not ratified. The regular monthly meeting that was held on May 3rd did not have a quorum either. The officers and I were prepared at the beginning of the year to have some dialogue concerning the CBA that was set to expire at the end of May but we were not able to due to having to cancel the meetings! Not having a quorum is not unusual for Local 354, over the last 20 years there have been quite a few meetings cancelled due to lack of a quorum, but to go this long without having a meeting is unacceptable. Each and everyone of us took an oath of obligation when we became members into this local union, you will find that we stated when we took this pledge that we would faithfully attend all meetings of the Local Union unless prevented by sickness or other causes beyond our control. Every year there are always a few meetings that will be cancelled due to holidays that fall on or around the first Friday of each month, the rest of the meetings should be attended, if each of us can make a commitment to attend monthly meetings regularly it would be a great help. As I stated there are some meetings that will be cancelled due to holidays, please let this serve notice that the July 5th meeting will be **CANCELLED** due to Independence Day that will be observed on the previous day July 4th.



Fraternal Activity:

Retirees Luncheons were held on June 5th in Youngwood, June 6th in Ebensburg and June 7th in Dubois. Each location was well attended and was enjoyed by all.

The Idlewild Picnic will be held in July 13, 2024. The information to obtain tickets was sent out on June 14th. The procedure for obtaining tickets will be the same as last year. There will be a few things that the membership will notice when they get to the park. The reduced man hours the local has been experiencing has left the Fraternal Fund much lower than I would like and we had to cut corners where we could. This year the members will take notice that there will be a limited amount T-shirts for sale and there will only be one style of shirts available in addition the complementary potato chips and snacks will not be available, there will be however ice cream and soda as usual.

Health & Welfare:

Friendly reminder that the Funds Office is now located within the Youngwood Union Hall. If you have any questions or require assistance from the Funds Office, please call 724-925-7238 option 2. Should you reach the Funds Office voicemail, please be sure to leave a message and your call will be returned promptly.

The Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local Union #354 Welfare Fund is pleased to continue to offer solutions to balance your life, work and wellness through the member assistance program LifeSolutions. LifeSolutions is available at no cost to you and your household dependents. All LifeSolutions services are private and confidential and offer their services 24/7. The primary goal of LifeSolutions is to ensure the mental health of our membership so that we can consistently contribute to the growth of our Union and community. LifeSolutions can be contacted by phone (1-855-209-8762) or via online access (www.lifesolutionsforyou.com). Make sure to reference our organization code LU354 when contacting LifeSolutions.

We are proud to announce that the Member Portal is in the final review stages and will be launching soon. The Member Portal will allow members to access their individual records to help members track eligibility status, employer contributions, view quarterly statements and more! Please watch for a letter to come in the mail in the following weeks announcing the Member Portal launch date.

Politics:

I feel confident that there will be another Newsletter going out before November but just in case I would like to inform the membership that former Business Manager of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 354, George "Huck" Rattay was successful in the primary and is running in the General Election on November 5th for the PA House of Representatives 51st District. I would like to ask for all who live in that district or if you have friends or relatives live in the 51st District to please support Huck on this campaign. We truly need friends of labor in any and all public offices and without a doubt Huck is a friend of all union members!!!



2024 Years of Service Pins & Certificates

Soon will be distributed to those that are being awarded
this year 2024 for 25-60 Years of Service
Be looking for them by mail around September.

Congratulations to our 27 whom are receiving their
50 Year Life Time Memberships



Anthony Barone
George J. Bonsell
Ralph F. Demi, III
David J. Donato
Carl A. Eckberg
Bartley P. Eckenrode
Richard W. Heinbaugh
Gary Henry
Glenn A. Himes
Timothy H. Jackson
George E. Kohler
Allan D. Lehman
Kenneth G. Lowry
Randon R. Mottern
James C. Moyer
Thomas P. Price
Wayne B. Sarver
Wayne N. Snare
David J. Stenger
Harry D. Stoner
Joseph B. Tamasy, Jr.
Thomas J. Troup
Robert H. Twele
Harold A Warfield, II
Barry W. Weston
David W. Willochell
John A Wilson, Jr.



Congratulations!

Eastern Region

Triple H Mech.: -4- Members – Working at SGL Carbon, GKN Sinter Metals, Mersen Carbon, Air Gas in Ridgeway, Mathison in St. Mary's, Brockway Glass, Graftec in St. Mary's and Johnsonburg Wastewater Treatment Plant.

K & K Plumbing: -12- Renovation at VA Home, Plumbing at Eisenhower Elementary, Ebensburg Center, Penn Dot Dist. 9, Northern Cambria School, Locker Room at War Memorial and Laurel Ridge State Park.

Baer Mechanical: -18- Members – Working at North American Hoganas on various projects, West Branch School District, Somerset Little League, Johnstown School District and various other small jobs.

S.P. McCarls: -14- Members – Work in the Fab Shop, Altoona Verizon, Sewar and steam line at VA Hospital, Steam line at Huntington Prison, Hot water system upgrades at Forest Hills Elementary and a few projects out of town.

OSMI Mech: -2- Members – Penn Highlands in Dubois, Penn Highlands Elk, Penn Highlands Brookville, Penn Highlands Tyrone and a few small projects in the local.

Darr Construction: -3- Members – UPMC Twin Lakes, Northern Cambria School and misc. work at Somerset Hospital.

Somerset Steel: -2- Members –various projects around local.

Renick Brothers -18- Members- Eisenhower Elementary, Mental Health Building at Indiana Hospital, Punxsutawney High School, Chiller Plant at IUP, Rayne Elementary and Conemaugh Hospital in Johnstown.

Johnston Mechanical: -30- Members. Maintenance work at Conemaugh Hospital, Johnstown Association for the Blind, VA Hospital, Plumbing at the New Sheetz Warehouse and Plumbing at the New Building at VA Home.

Hallstrom Clark: -2- Niagara Cutter, SGL Carbon, and a few maintenance projects in the area.

John Hall: -2- Members – Municipal Building in Indiana, Steam line at IUP and various other jobs in local.

McKamish: - 7- Members – Sheetz Project.

McCarl's Inc.: -2- Members- Seward Station.

McClure Company: -12- Members- Everett Schools, St. Marys School and Clearfield Vo-Tech.

VEC: -4- Members – Artemus Compressor Station '

Currently – There are 42 Journeyman off and 32 out of town and 0 Apprentices are off.

Business Agent
Bill Cononie



West Region

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

Hranec: -4 – Members- at Mt. Macrina Manor, Brownville High School and other small projects.

John Hall: -2- Members- Working service and some small projects.

Keystone Fabrication: -13- Members-Employed at the shop.

Limbach: -17- Members – On various projects and service such as, Excelsa Health at Latrobe, Aqua Source, and Nemacolin Woodlands, DNP, Power X, Westmoreland Hospital, Westinghouse and St. Vincent.

Lugaila Inc.: -13- Members- Working at Nemacolin Woodlands, Kiski School, Ramsey School in Mt. Pleasant and Frazier School.

Mechanical Contractors: -5- Members- On project outside the local in West Virginia Local 152 and a housing complex in Uniontown and other small projects.

Sentry Mechanical: – 2- Members – Working at this time on service.

SSM: -13- Members – Working at ATI in Vandergrift, SCI Fayette, City Brewing, Palace Theater, Penn Trafford Elementary Schools and service.

W. G. Tomko: -18- Members – Building Trades working at shop.

Wayne Crouse: -2- Members – At SCI Fayette.

Whitby: -9- Members- Employed at this time at Nemacolin Woodlands and Somerset Trust in Greensburg.

Powell Mechanical: -1- Member - Working at various Verizon buildings.

Woods Refrigeration: -1- Member – Working on various service projects.

HLT: -1- Member – Working on Service.

Huckestien: -1-Member – Working at Brownsville School.

Shumar Industries: -5- Members- Working at shop.

Wheels Mechanical: -1- Member- Working at CCA Carter School in Monongahela.

Whitby: -13- Members – Employed at this time at Nemacolin Woodlands and other small projects.

East West Manufacturing: - 4- Members- Working at Nicely Elementary, Metzgar Elementary and Greensburg High Schools.

There are 20 members working out of town and 37 Journeymen and 1 Apprentice currently laid off at this time.

There are many job opportunities coming up out of town including Columbus, Ohio. If you are interested in going to one of the projects in Columbus, be prepared for short notice. Many times, when the call comes in, they want the members there the next day to sign in at their hall. Also, there are long term call for Paducah Kentucky, Atlanta Georgia and North and South Dakota to name a few.

Enjoy your summer!

Business Agent
Steven Fearer



Deceased Members

Benjamin O. Gibson
Marc L. Hanlon
Douglas Haupright
Robert C. Hoffer
Timothy W. Landis
Harvey J. Mountain
William F. Over
Frank Wass



Recently Retired Members

Paul Budicky
Jerry D. Clinger
Ronald Delsandro
William J. Grose, Jr.
David R. Miller
Timothy A. Pucci
Christopher Tamasy
Gregory J. Sloan
Mark D. Symons

Don't forget!

Annual Family Picnic

Idlewild & Soak Zone

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Return or call for your member tickets
Guest Tickets Go To: [www.idlewild.com /groupevents](http://www.idlewild.com/groupevents)

Members Profile

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>WEST</u>
Bldg. Trades Journeyman	404	216	188
Bldg. Trades Apprentice & MES	55	22	33
Spec. Hsg./Div. Housing	19	14	05
Contr./Superv. Members & MES	02	00	02
Metal Trades	08	00	08
Retiree (MT, BT Disability)	153	92	61
Life Members	133		
<u>Total Membership</u>	<u>797</u>	<u>344</u>	<u>297</u>

REMINDER: Local 354 has started a TEXT SYSTEM to inform members active and retired of their Brother and Sister Members passing away.

If you would like to be a part of the system, please contact the Local Union Hall Office at 724-925-7238 or send your name and cell phone number to jpeoples@uanet.org or mail to PO Drawer I Youngwood, PA 15697



MES News



The MES (Mechanical Equipment Service) program in Latrobe is progressing nicely!

We indentured our second first-year class of MES apprentices, and last year's inaugural class has progressed to second-year status on June 1st of 2024. There have also been multiple Journeymen training classes held at the Latrobe facility including Backflow certification and Orbital welding. We have also begun "continuing education" courses for building trades journeymen in MES curriculum. The first of those classes began in May, with 16 Journeymen students. This class encompasses both "basic" and "intermediate" electricity. The class is a blend of: on-line, in-person, and hands-on training. It is also a prerequisite for classes that will follow. Be looking for this class and others to be offered throughout the year. Make sure that your cell phone number is up to date at the union hall if you are interested in any continuing education opportunities; the open classes will be offered through the local's texting system.

In the last newsletter, I reported that we had recently been awarded a federal ARC grant. We have been utilizing those funds to acquire equipment, build training labs, and advance all of our training programs and initiatives. I cannot exaggerate the important role that politics played in our success in this matter. We had multiple insiders tell us throughout the process that under a typical Republican administration; a union's grant application (regardless of merit) has little to no chance of getting approved. These funds have been crucial, especially during these lean times. Please remember this when you head to the polls in November!

Lastly; I would like to report that we hosted an open house/vendor day event at the Latrobe training center back in May, with the goal of connecting with contractors, industry leaders, area schools, and the community at large. This was the first, of probably, many of the kind. There were 18 vendors/manufacturers' reps putting on presentations, and our school and the trainers that we have developed thus far were on display. The event was featured in a couple local and regional newspaper articles. For details, please visit: <https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/unity-center-begins-second-year-training-union-apprentices-for-in-demand-hvac-service-work/> Or simply go to TribLive and search "HVAC". You know, we always quip that we're "the best kept secret" in PA; events like this go a long way to remedy that! We're getting the word out!!!

Fraternally yours, Eddie Andolina



JATC LU 354 NEWSLETTER- June 2024

The JATC would like to thank Mel Deneen for his dedication to the Apprenticeship Program for the past 20 years!! Mel will still be helping with the weld testing but has decided to step back from the duties of a full time Instructor. Thanks again for all you have done for the JATC!!

Continuity Reminder: Moving forward all reminders for Weld/ Medical Gas Continuities will be emailed. If you have changed your email address or need one on file, please call the JATC, 724-925-8108, to make that change.

Forms: Weld Request Forms, Continuity Forms, Background Clearances and Apprentice OJT forms can all be found on our website, lu354.com

On the home page, go to the very top of the page *click **Apprenticeship***, then from the drop down menu *click **forms***.

Apprenticeship Opportunities: If you know of anyone interested in the Building Trades or the MES Apprenticeship Program, have them visit our website: lu354.com

On the home page, click on the ***“click to apply”*** button. They must fill out all the necessary paperwork and listed items to be considered and then mail or drop off at our Youngwood office.

Med Gas and Backflow Recertifications: We are currently scheduling Med Gas and Backflow Recertification classes. If you are soon to expire an email will be sent out in the near future.

Orientation 2024/2025: Apprentice orientation for the upcoming school year will be scheduled for the end of August with BT (Building Trade) School starting the day after Labor Day, September 03, 2024.

Latrobe Fall Classic: The date for the Latrobe Fall Classic is set for September 20, 2024 at Highlands Golf Club, Seven Springs. Get your 4somes together. Mailings will be sent out next month.

We are always looking for more pics to publish online please email to: lu354pictures@gmail.com