

NEWSLETTER

Brothers and Sisters of Local 354,

The lower than usual man-hours that we have been going through the last year are still upon us. Although this is not uncommon, it just seems like this trend is lasting longer than what we have seen in previous years. Some members have seen these cycles before, but many have not. In the construction industry there are always peaks and valleys, we are currently in a valley, and it's been in a valley for quite some time. In a way it reminds me of back in 2008 when the economy was in turmoil and no one, and I mean no one was doing any type of construction. There weren't any jobs out of town either. Luckily today there are jobs out of town for members to go to, but it doesn't seem like western PA is a magnet for new construction. If history repeats itself and I am a firm believer that it will, LU 354 will prosper in the future. Looking back to the 1970's and 80's, LU 354 was a strong 1400 member local; we had six coal fired powerplants that would employ 50-80, sometimes more, 354 members on outages that lasted anywhere from 6 to 12 weeks in the spring and the fall. We had three sizable fabrication shops that employed a fair amount of 354 members. We had work in steel mills, papermills, glass plants, breweries and we built a car plant! Roughly 60% of our membership always worked for the local contractors building and remodeling schools and hospitals. The other 40% made a very good living working the outages in the spring, taking the summer off, work the fall scheduled outage, then have the rest of the winter off.

Today we still have 60% of the membership working in the institutional sector, but with the change in technology, such as propress and pex tubing the same project that employed 15 to 20 members 40 years ago can easily be done today with 2-5 members. Currently we are down to two coal fired power plants and one of those is scheduled to shut down in 2025. Outages are about two weeks long and might employ 10 members. I can't remember the last time we worked at a Papermill, and the automotive and glass industry are gone! We still have a few contractors that are getting some work in breweries and steel mills but not like it was back in the day.

Our contractor base has decreased from years ago and we rely heavily on contractors from sister locals to bid and procure work within our jurisdiction.

Our membership has also changed. In the 80's, many spouses stayed at home. Today the number of stay-at-home mothers is very low. Many of the wives work very good paying jobs with great benefits, which in turn has relieved the economic pressures on the members to take a job to maintain employment.

Politics and demographics also play a part in procuring projects. We see that currently throughout the US there are many Mega projects going on in almost every state except for New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Recently there were announcements of starting up Three Mile Island and Philadelphia will have its fair share of work coming up at Limerick. Western PA is a different story. We have plenty of brownfield sites that are prime for picking and are perfect for manufacturing and energy facilities but until the Pennsylvania starts providing incentives for owners to invest in our area, I am afraid we will be seeing

more projects starting around us but not within the jurisdiction of Local 354. I firmly believe that projects will start to come around us, but I could not begin to guess how long it will take to win an award that will provide manhours to Local 354. Manhours are the locals only commodity, lower hours mean less money coming into funds to pay bills. Some might think that since we have a good portion of the membership working in sister locals that money is being sent back on their behalf, which is true. Healthcare and Pension money is sent back for the members accounts, but no money is sent back to fund the JATC, Fraternal Activities, Market Recovery and Political Fund accounts and in terms of dues, the local only receives 1% of dues collected from the sister locals. Every penny received helps but 354 has felt the strain from not having members working within the jurisdiction. Every local has gone through slow periods at one time or another and many locals go through peaks and valleys just as we do. I feel it is necessary to remind the members that have gone through slow times and to educate the members that have not seen times like this. But just as we have in the past, we will prevail and I'm confident our industry will rebound sooner than later. Our dynamics have changed in more ways than one, which is why Local 354 has made the commitment to start and grow the Plumbing and HVAC service division. If there is one sector of our industry that we can grow and provide jobs and increase manhours it is in this industry. To do this, we need contractors that currently provide service to end users, or contractors that are willing to jump into the arena. Most of the contractors are accustomed to build the building but are not geared to maintain and service them. We need to change this mindset. It is no small task to start a service program, but I am confident with the training we provide and the work ethic of the members of Local 354, we as a group will prosper in the near future.

On behalf of the officers and staff of Local 354 we wish you and your families a fabulous Fall and Holiday Season!

LOCAL NEWS-

In the last newsletter, I reported about the Bio Digester located in Homer City. We did have a few members on that project but due to Air Liquide the end user not paying the bills submitted by Gruppo the company building the project, all work has ceased. PSG and McCarls Inc. were the contractors that were subcontracted to do the mechanical work. I am hopeful that Air Liquide and Gruppo can come to terms so that the project can resume and put our members back to work.

We are still waiting for Governor Shapiro to make an announcement on a project at Homer City Power Plant. The rumor mill has been going strong and some of the projects that we are hearing about include wind and solar, hydrogen, data center and most recently Geothermal. We were hoping that the announcement would have been made in the third quarter of this year, but we are being told the announcement will be made sometime after the election in November.

Powerex located next to the hall in Youngwood is a manufacturer of electronic devices used by the US Military. They are currently looking to take advantage of President Bidens CHIPS act to produce capital to expand and upgrade their operations. State Representative Eric Nelson facilitated a meeting about 6 months ago with Local 354 and Powerex in hopes that the United Association could use their influence in Washington to help procure a grant. I am pleased to announce that the UA came through and Powerex was awarded a grant from the CHIPs Act. Even though they procured this money, it's still not enough to get the project started. They will need additional money from the Commonwealth. Representative Nelson has been quite helpful in navigating the PA grant process, but Powerex needed to find a lobbyist from PA to get them over the finish line. Local 354 introduced our lobbyist to Powerex and they are currently applying for the additional funds needed. The process will take some time, but I am confident they will be successful in procuring the funding within the next year. This will be another project that will be on the radar and hopefully provide work opportunities for 354 members.

Usually, construction demand is adversely affected during an election cycle. Election years can introduce uncertainty, leading to a more cautious but temporary slowdown in business decisions. This is what we

are seeing today. Although we have seen a few larger size projects bid prior to the election, such as Bedford High School and California University, after November 5th regardless of which candidate wins, more and more projects will be released to bid.

The locals drug testing company Drug and Safety Solutions is no longer providing testing, which forced us to find a new company. I am pleased to announce that Mobile Medical has been selected to provide drug testing for the membership. Choosing Mobile Medical provides testing facilities throughout the jurisdiction of Local 354. Members can go to one of these testing sites at their leisure to get tested and the results will be sent electronically to the member and the local will be notified which members have received a drug card. It is essential that members receive their drug test to be dispatched as per the CBA. We are still currently working on the contract, but I am sure everything will be completed in the near future and we will be set to go January 1, 2025. Once everything is in place more details about the drug testing procedure will be sent out to the membership.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITY-

The Idlewild Picnic was held on July 13th. This year the event was moved up one week due to Idlewild's schedule but the weather was beautiful and all attendees enjoyed the event.

The PA Pipetrades softball tournament was held on September 7th in Newark Delaware. Our Local 354 softball team played hard for two games but were eliminated in the double elimination tourney. Philadelphia Sprinkler Fitters 692 won the tournament beating Plumbers Local 27 in the Champion game.

Apprentice Graduation was held on September 28th at Seven Springs. Twenty-eight apprentices from the Class of 2024 received their diplomas and enjoyed a nice dinner. Congratulations to the Graduates!

The kids Christmas Parties are scheduled for December 13th, please mark your calendars. The invites will be sent out in November. The West Region will be utilizing the Westpoint Fire Hall and the East will be at the St. Michael Fire Hall in Sidman.

POLITICAL-

November 5th is Election Day. The presidential election is a hot button depending on your views. I am more concerned about our Union and Jobs! I am not going to tell you how to vote but the current administration is the best Pro Union administration since Franklin Delano Roosevelt and has introduced many pro-labor Bills that will help all building trades. All I can ask is that you exercise your right to Vote on November 5th. Another Federal race that could prove quite important is the US Senate race. Senator Bob Casey has been quite helpful in obtaining Federal grants that Local 354 has received in the past. He has helped us in the past and now needs our help. We do have some local races that I feel are just as, or even more important. Former Local 354 Business Manager George "Huck" Rattay has a heated race for the 51st State Representative Seat. Huck has been an advocate for Union Labor for as long as I have known him, even after his career with Local 354. Huck has been instrumental with various groups to help organized labor in all aspects. I encourage all members that reside within the 51st district to get your family and friends and help all of us by getting Huck elected to the State House. We really need friends in Harrisburg!!!

Two other races that will need our help are the 58th State Seat currently held by our friend Eric Davanzo. Eric is a Building Trades member and completely understands the issues that affect all building trades members. The last is State Representative Frank Burns representing the 72th district in Johnstown. Frank has a very good voting record on Building Trades and Organized labor issues.

Please if you live in these districts get your family and friends together and exercise your right to Vote on November 5th.



East Region

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

K & K Plumbing: -10- Members-Plumbing at Eisenhower Elementary, Ebensburg Center, Penn Dot District 9, Northern Cambria School, Locker Rooms at War Memorial.

Baer Mechanical: -12- Members – Working at North American Hoganas on various projects, West Branch School District, Johnstown School District, Plumbing job in St. Mary's and various other small jobs.

S.P. McCarls: -13- Members – Work in the Fab Shop, Altoona Verizon, Sewar and steam line at VA Hospital, Steam line at Huntington Prison, Penn Cambria School and a few projects out of town.

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

Darr Construction: -4- Members – UPMC Twin Lakes, Northern Cambria School and misc. work at Somerset Hospital.

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

Renick Brothers -17- Members- Eisenhower Elementary, Mental Health Building at Indiana Hospital, Chiller Plant at IUP, Rayne Elementary, New VA Outpatient in Indiana and Conemaugh Hospital in Johnstown.

Johnston Mechanical: -31- Members. Maintenance work at Conemaugh Hospital, Association of the Blind, VA Hospital, Plumbing at the New Sheetz Warehouse, Heat at United School 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: -3- Members – Municipal Building in Indiana, Steam line at IUP and various other jobs in local.

McKamish: - 4- Members – Sheetz Project.

McCarl's Inc.: -6- Members- Seward Station.

McClure Company: -1- Member- At Homer City School.

VEC: -6- Members – Artemus Compressor Station.

Fred Burns: -3- Members – At Dubois Treatment Plant.

Currently – There are 37 Journeyman off and 31 out of town working and 5 Apprentices are off.

Happy Fall!
Business Agent
Bill Cononie



West Region

APM Boiler: -6- Members – Working at Hilltop Energy.

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

Hranec: -4 – Members- at Boeing in Smithfield PA, Hillman Barge in Brownsville and other small projects in the area.

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

Keystone Fabrication: -15- Members-Building Trades Employed at the shop.

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

Lugaila Inc.: -11- Members- Working at Nemacolin Woodlands, Kiski School and Frazier School.

Mechanical Contractors: -6- 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: -11- Members – Working at ATI in Vandergrift, GE and service.

W. G. Tomko: -22– Members – Building Trades working at shop and in the field.

Wayne Crouse: -1- Members – At SCI Fayette.

Whitby: -6- Members- Employed at this time at Nemacolin Woodlands and other small projects.

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

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

HLT: -1- Member – Working on Service.

Shumar Industries: -4- Members- Working at shop.

Wheels Mechanical: -3- Member- Working at CCA Carter School in Monongahela and DNA Lab in Greensburg.

Scalise: -1- Member – Working at Uniontown Hospital.

East West Manufacturing: - 3- Members- Working at CCA Carter School in Monongahela, PA.

Enerfab: -2- Members – Working at Hilltop Energy.

McKamish: -4- Members – Working at Flexys and Arconic.

There are 35 members working out of town and 13 Journeymen and 0 Apprentice currently laid off at this time.

Happy Holiday!

Business Agent
Steven Fearer



Members Profile

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>WEST</u>
Bldg. Trades Journeyman	395	213	182
Bldg. Trades Apprentice & MES	54	24	30
Spec. Hsg./Div. Housing	21	14	07
Contr./Superv. Members & MES	02	00	02
Metal Trades	10	00	10
Retiree (MT, BT Disability)	154	92	62
Life Members	156		
<u>Total Membership</u>	792	343	293

REMINDER:

Local 354 has started a TEXT SYSTEM to inform members active and retired of their Brother and Sister Members passing away and/or other important information that may need to be sent out quickly and without doing a mailing.

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

Deceased Members

Richard Bogacki
Rodney J. Eckenrode



Recently Retired Members

William H. Daugherty
Dana J. Dofi

JATC LU 354 NEWSLETTER- October 2024

*I would like to start out by Congratulating the Class of 2024 Frank Deluca Award Winners: East Region- **David Glessner** / West Region- **Chris Stants**. These two guys carried the highest-grade point average over their 5 years in the Apprenticeship Program. Congratulations!!!*

I would like to send a big thank-you out to Bill Tomko. At a recent JATC Meeting, I asked the Committee for the approval to purchase a scissor lift. Bill Tomko offered to donate one to our JATC. Thanks again for always supporting our Local JATC!

Latrobe Fall Classic: We would like to Congratulate two Apprentices that were selected for the Scholarship Award: *Matt Senft and Nathaniel Neiderhiser*, both guys will receive \$500.00 towards their initiation payment.

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.

Reminder: Building Trade Classes are cancelled on November 5th. Please go out and exercise your right to vote.

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.

(Continue to next page)

Med Gas Certifications: We have a class starting in December for the West Apprentices. This will be open to any Member/ Journeyman that would like to join the class to get certified.

EPRI Rigging/ Signaling Certification: We have a class starting in December for the East Apprentices. This will be open to any Member/ Journeyman that would like to join the class to get certified.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024



MES News



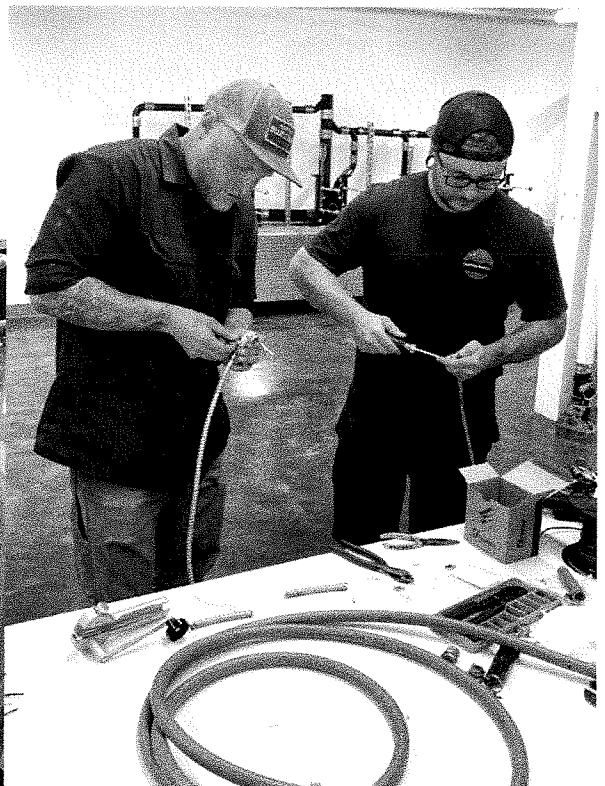
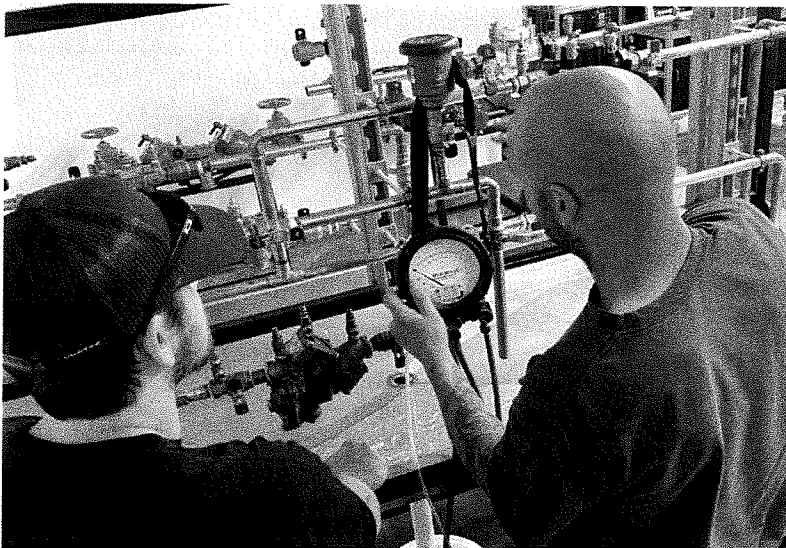
The MES (Mechanical Equipment Service) program in Latrobe is up and running!

We have been working on a number of projects since the last newsletter: Building and assembling trainers, developing labs, seeking out and applying for additional grants, making improvements to the school's infrastructure, and of course, continuing training of journeymen and apprentices. We recently upgraded the HVAC system for the ground floor, and added cooling to the second floor of the Latrobe facility. In previous newsletters you've heard me mention that we were recipients of state and federal grants. The funds from these grants has made much of the aforementioned activities possible. It was, in no small part due to the current administrations in Harrisburg (state) and Washington DC (federal) that we were successful in securing those grants. Please remember this when you and your families head to the polls in November!

Make sure that your contact information, (email and 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.

Lastly; I would like to report that, with the assistance of the UA and the federal ARC grant, that we have retooled all of our classrooms in all three schools with iPads, which provides our students with the latest educational technology.

Fraternally yours, Eddie Andolina





Thanks to The Biden-Harris Administration, United Association members are seeing historic wins that lead to more work, better wages, and a stronger UA. President Biden and Vice President Harris promised to be the most pro-union and pro-UA administration in history – and they're delivering.

Standing Up for UA Members – Tiebreaking Votes

- As Vice President, Kamala Harris has the ability to break any ties that occur in the Senate. She did just that on two occasions that directly impact the UA:
- Vice President Harris cast the tiebreaking vote for the Inflation Reduction Act, which included tax credits with strong labor protections attached to invest in an all-of-the-above energy future. Thanks to her, UA members are hard at work modernizing our energy infrastructure and delivering reliable, affordable energy to American communities.
- Vice President Harris cast the tiebreaking vote for the American Rescue Plan, which included \$86 billion to ensure the multiemployer pension system stays healthy and strong. Harris knows that if even one plan fails, it could bring the entire system down – and she took action to prevent that from happening.

All of the Above Energy Approach – Fracking

- Vice President Harris made it clear time and again where she stands on energy and fracking, even as her opponents and the media continue to distort her position. Not only does Vice President Harris support fracking, but she cast the tiebreaking vote to expand fracking and to provide more leases.
- On CNN and during the presidential debate, Vice President Harris made her position crystal clear: “I will not ban fracking, I did not ban fracking as Vice President of the United States, and in fact, I was the tiebreaking vote on the Inflation Reduction Act, which opened new leases for fracking.”

Passing Historic Infrastructure Funding with Strong Labor Protections

- Every recent president promised to modernize our infrastructure and finally restore the United States as a world leader. Under President Trump, GP McManus was even invited into the Oval Office on his first day as president, where he promised the UA and other building trades union presidents that he would get infrastructure done.
- The Trump Administration failed to deliver – just like each previous president before him.

- The Biden-Harris Administration kept their promise, and in just two short years delivered massive investments in infrastructure not seen since Eisenhower created the Interstate Highway System and Roosevelt passed the New Deal.
- More importantly, all the infrastructure funding included strong labor protections like Davis-Bacon prevailing wage, the use of project labor agreements (PLAs), and registered apprenticeship requirements.

A Detailed Breakdown of the Three Main Infrastructure Bills

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was the first of three massive victories for UA members when it comes to creating infrastructure jobs and protecting our way of life. We worked hand-in-hand with the White House and with both sides of the aisle in Congress to ensure the bill included strong labor protections and funding for UA projects.
- Included in the more than \$1 trillion in funding are direct investments in nearly every industry we serve including clean water infrastructure, carbon capture technologies, energy efficiency, heating, and HVAC-R, hydrogen, geothermal, natural gas, and nuclear, to name a few.
- Here's a more direct breakdown of the historic funding levels in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that will lead to millions of UA manhours:
 - **Clean Water Infrastructure**
 - \$19.7 billion for water infrastructure including funding for State Revolving Funds and WIFIA grants all with labor protections like Davis-Bacon attached.
 - \$50 billion for water resiliency.
 - \$1.15 billion for water storage, groundwater storage, and conveyance projects.
 - \$15 billion for lead line replacement.
 - \$10 billion to address PFAS and emerging contaminants.
 - **Clean Energy Infrastructure**
 - \$60 billion for new and emerging energy sources.
 - \$9.5 billion for carbon capture sequestration.
 - \$3.5 billion for energy efficiency including heating and HVAC.
 - \$8 billion for hydrogen hubs to demonstrate the production, processing, delivery, storage, and end-use of clean hydrogen.
 - *Appalachian Hydrogen Hub*: Up to \$925 million, 21,000 direct jobs – including more than 18,000 in construction (WV, OH, PA)
 - *California Hydrogen Hub*: Up to \$1.2 billion, 220,000 direct jobs – 130,000 in construction jobs and 90,000 permanent jobs (CA)



PROJECT 2025

TRUMP'S PLANS FOR A SECOND TERM

X WHAT IS PROJECT 2025?

- Project 2025 is an extreme, 900-page roadmap for a second Trump Administration. **It was crafted by anti-union and anti-worker officials to help corporations and the rich profit off our backs.**

X WHY SHOULD I CARE?

- The policies in Project 2025 **would be devastating to the UA, our Local Unions, and our members and their families.** The below descriptions of specific proposals in Project 2025 include page citations, allowing you to verify these claims for yourself.

X WHAT ARE THE SPECIFICS?

- **Repealing the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and other laws like the CHIPS Act** (Page 365).
- **Alternatives to unions**, which, according to Project 2025, **no longer appeal to Americans** (Page 599).
- The outright **elimination of public sector unions** (Page 82).
- **Repealing the Davis-Bacon Act** (Page 604).
- **Banning Project Labor Agreement requirements** by federal agencies (Page 604).
- **Loosening occupational licensing standards** (Page 606).
- **Elimination of voluntary recognition** as a means of obtaining union representation (Pages 602-603).
- **More investigations by DOL.** (Page 602)
- **Allowing overtime protections to be waived.** (Page 605)
- **Repealing union-buster disclosure requirements** (Page 602).

LEARN MORE ABOUT TRUMP'S PLAN AND
THE PEOPLE BEHIND PROJECT 2025 AT:
[UAGETINVOLVED.ORG/PROJECT2025](https://uagetininvolved.org/project2025)