



Founded 1889

UNITED ASSOCIATION

of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of
the United States and Canada

UA Local Union: Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 777
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Subject: COVID-19 DUES & UPDATE

April 21, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

I want to take this moment to let you know that I am thinking of you during this difficult time. Although your level of anxiety may differ depending on where you live, I know you are worried about what lies ahead and how this pandemic will impact us. I wish I could tell you what the future holds, nothing feels worse than uncertainty. What I do know is that together we will continue to persevere through the entirety of this pandemic. This virus does not have a nationality, an agenda or a political affiliation. It exists to spread wherever and however it can. This is not a time for blame or division. There is no playbook for this. Having a deep empathy and understanding for one another is needed more than ever right now.

Though our office is not physically open, we are still fully functional with the exception that we are not accepting any in-person meetings at this time. We continue to serve the membership with the services you have grown to expect and deserve.

Currently the local is in a great financial position. With the help of the UA, the local's attorney, the full-time Officers of Local 777, the Executive Board and Finance Board, we have approved to pay the monthly dues for our members who are currently laid off or furloughed. The local will pay the monthly dues for anyone who has been out of work due to a lay off or furlough from January 1, 2019 through the current months of April, May and June 2020. If you have paid dues in advance for any of these months, the local will give you a credit on your dues on the back end. This also applies for any of our marine trades members that work at General Dynamics in Groton.

The JATC Training Center will remain closed until at least June 1, 2020. In order to keep the apprentice training continuous, we are working both onsite and remotely. Class materials which included 250 sets of packaged textbooks and assignments were mailed out to every apprentice. All of our instructors have attended webinars on how to utilize the UA OLR (Online Learning Resource) which utilizes PowerPoint, quizzes, books in e-format and the Blackboard Course Management System. Every apprentice is assigned a user account for these materials and will communicate with instructors via email.

The JATC Training Center is always a busy place. While there are fewer people in the building, it has become busier with the additional work to adapt. We are succeeding to the point that we do not believe that any apprentice will have to extend their term for classroom training requirements.

Michael Rosario
Business Manager, FST

Peter Alfieri
Assistant Business Manager

Anthony Camillucci
Business Agent

John Higgins, Jr.
Business Agent

Michael Larson
Business Agent

Jay More
Organizer

Our Training Coordinator Vinnie Valente, full-time teachers Tom Deenihan, Dennis Laperle, Mark Thomas, Chris Capozzi and all of the part-time teachers, we cannot thank you enough for all of your efforts to continue educating our members during this unprecedented time.

The Connecticut Pipe Trades Fund office also continues working onsite and remotely. Their hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated, especially during this time when our members have so many questions, fears and anxiety. They are continually assisting members by confirming eligibility, processing claims, annuity withdrawal applications and ensuring that all of our retiree's pension checks are processed without delay. Their ability to move quickly and run operations smoothly without interruption is commendable. Their dedication to our participants is second to none. They go above and beyond to assist our participants to the best of their ability.

Once again, it is essential that we provide accurate information. Before you repeat something, please get a hold of the union hall to ensure the information is accurate. Sharing false information not only makes everyone's job harder, it distracts the focus from the real issues at hand. We take an oath when we are sworn into the Local. Part of that oath states that we, at all times, will assist members of the United Association to the extent of our ability and defend them when unjustly treated or slandered and to cultivate the warmest friendship and brotherly love for each and every member. As members and individual's, we must support each other.

To our retirees that receive their monthly pension benefit through direct deposit or hard copy checks will continue to receive their benefits on time. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns as I am always available for your calls. I look forward to when we can meet for monthly retirees' meetings again.

In closing, this country has experienced several calamities and disruptions over the past century from world wars and terrorists' attacks to financial crises and pandemics. We will get through this together one day at a time until we reach the end of this crisis. Stay healthy, stay positive and remember this too shall pass. Never forget that together there is nothing we can't overcome.

Fraternally,
PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 777

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Rosario".

Michael Rosario Business Manager, FST