

April 2025

Vol 47 No. 4

MTCNLC.ORG

On April 28th we will celebrate Workers Memorial Day.

April 28th is the anniversary of President Nixon signing the OSHA legislation into law.

OSHA regulations are the minimum worker protections that must be provided by employers.

We have been fortunate that we have moved from a reactive to a more proactive cooperative safety program reducing our recordable injury rate ten fold and preventing an unknown number of deaths.

We have not gone far enough! Not until everybody shares in our commitment for a safe workplace will we have succeeded in providing the safest workplace possible.

At the same time we are making these gains, the Trump administration is trying to roll back worker protections by eliminating OSHA.

There are unscrupulous employers who will take complete advantage and put people at risk over profits but I believe that we will continue to promote safety engineering, cooperation, and education.

Please continue to work safely and in the words of Mother Jones "Mourn for the Dead, and Fight Like Hell For The Living!"

Phone List

I HOHE HICE				
Peter E Baker MTC President	445-6383			
John Adamson MTC Vice President	445-6383			
Nathan Newhouse MTC Rec. Sec'y	445-6383			
Janet Orr MTC Sec'y Treasurer	445-6383			
George Nowosielski Local 777	445-8170			
Dennis Urquhart Local 1122 401-	573-6956			
Richard (Chick) McCo Local 261	mbs 445-2224			
Mark Sousa Jr Local 1871	445-8619			

Pat Joyce 445-4973 Local 614

Danny Sanchez 448-2577 Local 547

Rob Hill 575-1384 Local 493

Paul Bruno 445-1216 Local 106

Janet Orr 445-6383 MTC Benefits Rep

I remain, Fraternally Yours

Peter E. Baker President MTCNLC.ORG



The Marine Draftsman Association (MDA) is currently in contract negotiations with Electric Boat on a contract that expires **April 4th** at **Midnight**. It is our hope that they reach a tentative agreement by that time.

However, in the event that there is a strike, Metal Trades Council represented employees <u>MUST</u> report for work.

There are other ways that we will be able to support the MDA.

If you have any questions contact your local union.



DIGNITY AND RESPECT

These are the two words and actions you should think about when you are addressing any matters with coworkers or supervision. If there is any issue speak to your Union Steward.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL APRIL 28th

The Workers' Memorial Day Ceremony to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew our efforts for safe workplaces will be on Monday, April 28th at 6:00 a.m. rain or shine. The ceremony will be held at Washington Park, City of Groton.

<u>UNION COMMUNITY ACTIVIST NETWORK (UCAN) TRAINING</u>

UCAN is a four (4) night program by the United Way that trains members to get a better understanding of the Union and how community services benefits all of us. The classes will be held on May 6, 8, 13 & amp; 15 from 6 to 9 PM. We will sponsor five members to participate. If you are interested please contact the Union office.

INCREASE YOUR 401(K)

Regretfully most of you do not have a Pension plan for your future. You will be relying on your 401(K). Therefore, this would be a great time to make a small increase in your 401(K) deductions. Years from now you will be thankful for what you did.

UNION REMINDERS:

NEW HIRES YOU must stay on top of your insurance coverage. There are many choices for you to review and time limits for you to apply for these benefits. Between days 0-30 of your date of hire you must enroll yourself, and your dependents, in the benefits package. It is important to enroll as soon as possible. Do not be late. I suggest that you call to make arrangements for health insurance since all calls are recorded. In the past, there were problems with online enrollments. There are many options to choose or reject. Contact General Dynamics Service Center (1-888 432-3633) Monday – Friday 9am to 9pm. OR www.gdbenefit.com (24hrs/7days). Any problems or questions call EB Benefits; 860-433-4201 or MTC Union Insurance Representative Janet Orr: 860-445-6383.

"Weingarten" Rights

If <u>YOU</u> are sent to <u>SECURITY</u> for any reason or are being questioned by <u>MANAGEMENT, YOU</u> should request a <u>STEWARD. YOU</u> do not have to answer any questions until you have <u>UNION REPRESENTATION.</u>

<u>Youtube Weingarten Rights: Training for Shop Stewards. View the brief ten minute video from OPEIU Local 8.</u>

www.opeiulocal106.org

Visit this site and search the many links of valuable information. The Media Center is one example that is updated by our International Union with new information on Union Benefits and current issues of interest.

APRIL UNION MEMEBRSHIP MEETING

Monday, April 14, 2025, at 5:30 pm and will be held at the Union Hall, 171 Thames Street, Groton, CT.

MAY UNION MEMEBRSHIP MEETING

Monday, May 12, 2025, at 5:30 pm and will be held at the Union Hall, 171 Thames Street, Groton, CT.

STEWARDS FOR EB:

1st Shift Nate Newhouse D438 401-688-6852 & Sprian Hubbard D274 860-213-6733 2nd Shift Arlene Allard D221 X37797 3 rd Shift Corey Jacobson D321 X5569

UNION COMMUNICATIONS:

Local 106 Web Site opeiulocal106.org

Local 106 Phone 860-445-1216 FAX 860-446-0175 e-mail prof.emp@snet.net

Do not send e-mails to any EB addresses. We may not get them.

<u>If you have sent an e-mail and did not get a response in a day or two please call the Union Hall.</u>

International Union Web Site opeiu.org

International Magazine White Collar

Union Benefits UnionPlus.org

Metal Trades Council mtcnlc.org

If you change your <u>home address</u>, <u>phone number</u>, or <u>e-mail</u> do not forget to notify the Union.

PLEASE, TRY TO ATTEND UNION MEETINGS.

Paul A. Bruno Jr. President/Chief Steward

We have more T-shirts available for \$15 each. Stop by the hall to get one. Call your steward to let us know you'll be stopping by.

I'd also like to remind people that there is an MTC website that has our labor views on it along with other information. Mtcnlc.org Also join our facebook Local Lodge 1871iam where we can communicate with each other.

In order to check your pay stub online, you need to login to your fidelity netbenefits page. On the home page, halfway down, click on the link titled "GD ESS". On the next page click "Go to GD ESS". This will bring you to the Employee Self Service homepage where you can find a link to your paystub.

INSURANCE UPDATE: If you are out for more than 30 days and need to pay insurance, the General Dynamics Service Center will mail you a form and instructions. If you do not receive this letter in a timely manner, please call (888)432-3633.

Before you retire, please contact the union, and let us know. You **DO NOT** need to submit a withdrawal card. Retirees can receive a union jacket and/or watch. 40 years or more will receive both. 15-40 years will receive a watch.

Make sure to inform the union if you will be out of work for an extended amount of time so that we can make sure your dues are adjusted.

If you are a Military Veteran, please contact Mike Shell (860-790-9136) on first shift for support.

New Members: Between days 0-30 days after your date of hire you must log onto the General Dynamics Service Center website at www.gdbenefits.com to enroll yourself, and your dependents, in the benefits package. As always, do not forget to use the safety boot and eyeglass program that was negotiated by the MTC. A list of the different shoe manufacturers and times that they will be outside the front gate is available. The eyeglass store is open on both the inside of the main gate and the outside entrance for your convenience, check bulletin boards for the times they are open.

IMPORTANT: If you are put on notice, going to be disciplined, or sent to Security to give a statement of any kind, you have the right to have a steward present. Your first words should be, "**I want to talk to a Steward**".

Union Hall Phone Number: 860-445-8619

Chief Steward: Mark Sousa Union Hall: 860-445-8619

First Shift OSM: First Shift Machine Shop: First Shift All Other Areas:

Larry Donn 860-608-8226 Ernest Richard 860-381-9213 Richard Gingerella 860-710-5815

Randy Branche 860-215-5384 Kevin Mizer 401-580-0400

Mike Fantacci 860-884-7339 Ed Mctigue 860-463-7680

Tyler Qualley 860-514-6596 Janet Orr 860-608-8528

Second Shift OSM: Second Shift ISM: Second Shift All Other Areas: Bill Ericson 860-705-6739 Sherry Mullins 860-876-3723 Nick Banker 860-917-4182

Ryan Butler 860-333-7618 Third Shift All Areas - Nate Cook 401-688-6852

United Way Contact - Janet Orr 860-608-8528 MTC Benefits Rep - Janet Orr 860-608-8528

MEETING NOTICE:

George Blanchette 860-908-4149

Dustin Bennett 860-300-6164

Meeting dates for the year will be posted on one notice in all areas. Take note of dates that fall on months with floaters. Next regular meeting will be April 10th at 3:00 p.m.at 18 Pleasant St Groton, CT 06340.

The Worker's Memorial is held each year on April 28th at 6:00 a.m. to honor union brothers and sisters who lost their lives while on the job. The ceremony takes place at the Workers Memorial Monument in Washington Park, Groton, Connecticut.

There's been no mention of additional road jobs at this time. The conversation remains focused on the current road jobs that are going on now, which may be extended as further updates become available. I will ensure that union stewards are informed and will share any new information.

Every Monday, a few stewards from our department and I meet with Jordan Dumas to discuss what's happening within the department. If there's anything you'd like us to bring to his attention, please let me or a steward know.

<u>Debit Card Replacement</u>: If you happen to lose your Fidelity Health Savings Account (HSA) Debit Card, log onto FidelityDebitCard.com to request a new one.

<u>Subbase NSSF and ARDM Shippingport request form</u>: The Department will no longer survey, you will have to fill out a form. See your steward for this form.

Stewards: First shift Stewards: Allen Claar All Nuclear issues 860-237-1114, Ron Ingves 860-334-8141, Chris Wilson 860-961-2930,

Alternate Dan Sager 860-941-4236

Second shift Stewards: Matthew Cassidy 860-989-9600

Third shift Stewards: Jose Mendes Alternates Elaine Key 860-460-7621

SAFETY: Just a reminder that safety is everyone's concern. If you see an unsafe act you should report it to your Union Steward or M.T.C. Safety Steward. They will take the necessary actions to correct the situation. Contact MTC safety at 860-445-6383.

If you are sent to Security for any reason or are being questioned by any Management, YOU SHOULD REQUEST A STEWARD!!!

REMEMBER, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO UNION REPRESENTATION, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS WITHOUT THIS REPRESENTATION.

IMPORTANT: Members who are out of work on any leave of absence such as Workers Compensation, Sedgwick short term disability insurance, FMLA, etc. it is your responsibility to pay your portion for medical, dental, and vision. You can be dropped from your benefits if you don't keep up your payments.

Please don't forget to notify the Union Hall (860-442-8281) if you change your address, phone number, or name. **We need to have the correct information!**

When you notify the company of these changes they do not give the Union this new information. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

REMINDER: If you are out of work on compensation or accident & sickness insurance or any unpaid leave it is your responsibility to pay your dues. If your dues fall behind more than three months, your membership could be suspended. If you are out of work and have any questions regarding your dues, please call the Union Hall at 860-442-8281.

<u>IMPORTANT</u>: It is advised that you notify me one week in advance or as soon as you know when you will be returning to work from any Medical, Compensation or unpaid leave. The company doesn't know if you kept your dues paid up while you were out. It is important that I know your return date so I can submit a letter to the company to have your dues zeroed out under non collected. Once the company takes out your dues it will take me at least a month to return your money.

The monthly Union meeting of Painters' Local #1122 will be held every 4th Monday of each month at the Union Hall 597 Broad St., New London, Ct. at 7:00 PM. Second shift employees please give your foreman 24 hours notice if you plan to attend the meeting. If you have any problems/issues to discuss, the union meeting is the place to do this.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me. My numbers are 401-573-6956 and my email is painters.union@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Fraternally yours,

Dennis Urquhart

President/Chief Steward

Dennis Flanagan DDS Msc 56 Whitehall Ave. Rt. 27 Mystic, CT

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- Clover Sonoma



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Appleton Farms

Dinner

- Tyson
- Hormel
- · Farmer John
- Kunzler Brand
- Del Monte
- Dole
- Kraft
- Ore-Ida







Local 493

REQUEST A STEWARD If you are being sent to Security for any reason or are being questioned by management you have the right to have a Steward present. You don't have to answer any questions until you have union representation.

STEWARDS

1st Shift - Keith Coppin 860-433-4657 Scott Harris 860-574-0208 1st Shift Alt - Jonathan Vogt 860-433-4657 2nd Shift -Ray Deptulski 860-433-4657

SAFETY: Safety should be everyone's first priority when working in the shipyard. If you see something unsafe or are being asked to do something that you feel is unsafe, please contact a steward for guidance. You can also contact MTC Safety at 860-445-6383

Reminder when operating forklifts or machines please be careful. Be aware of your surroundings. Watch for hazards inside and outside the machine - people, other moving machines and vehicles, objects in your path.

Please Work safe - Robert Hill / Chief Steward

Local 547

Feel the Power

Here is a list of our current stewards -

Daniel Sanchez - 860-857-2224 - Chief Steward Mark Kelliher - 860-271-3748 - 1st Shift All Areas Mike Campi - 860-309-6422 - Fire Dept Brandon Caisse - 860-227-5893 - 2nd Shift All Areas

Please reach out if you need anything, and continue to work safely. Fraternally yours, Danny Sanchez



















If you want to receive email notices from the Union, please email MetalTradesCouncil@Gmail.com and provide the following information.

Name:	
Badge:	
Local Union:	
Email:	

Your information will not be shared or sold.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of IBEW Local Union 261 will be held Tuesday April 8, 2025, 2:45 P.M. at the IAM Lodge 1871 Union Hall located at 18 Pleasant Street. This will be the third Tuesday because of the Veteran Day floater opportunity.

Please note: It has been officially agreed that we will continue to observe our floater week by changing our meeting date to the following week.

If you can't get to the meetings, Send me an e-mail and let me know your issues.

The Local's phone numbers are as follows: 860-445-2224 main line, E-mail address: ibew261@.gmail.com IBEW International web site: http://ibew.org

First of all, I would like to apologize for not submitting an article in March. I have no excuses just missed the deadline. Hopefully I will do better going forward.

Good News: We have been told that the hiring freeze will be lifted in May. We expect to have increases in all shops. Currently we are hovering around 630 members, give or take through attrition. We feel that there is a need in the electrical service trades. Facilities, Temporary Services, Pre-heat, and ECC workload has steadily increase but their crews have not increased even before the hiring freeze. These positions are essential for providing electrical services for Operations. With the proper training many of these positions can be filled from within Not to sound critical but the Company has added or filled many upper management positions. I'm sure some are necessary; some I am not so sure.

More good news: We are getting some sections delivered which will keep us busy, especially in the Columbia Program. It means more opportunities for overtime, job security, learning new skills for advancement and eliminates the stress from the uncertainty of possible layoffs or being flexed to other trades or shifts .It also keeps your supervision busy so that they don't have time to "birddog" you on their interpretations of rule & regulations violations. That doesn't mean you can be on your phones, it means you will probably be too busy to be on your phones.

OSE Good News: They have finally selected a Department Head for the North Yard. We were hoping they would had taken a person from with-in but Will has served some time in OSE as well as other Electrical Shops. My experience with him in the past has been good and he always seemed to listen to us. I would like to give him a chance and see what he can do. Assuming that position will be no easy task.

More Good News: I think? We just arranged to send fifty OSE electricians to a Mississippi shipyard. There are concerns but I have been assured that they will be treated fairly. Our members will have an opportunity to add to our reputation. I ask each and every one of you to continue to support our reputation. Please remember you are just not representing yourself but your brothers and sisters as well as the Company's. Your actions count!

Not so Good News: Columbia Program Third Shift. As you know the Company has decided that a properly manned third shift is required to meet our schedules and productivity. On paper it looks good. Reality not so good unless it is done right. When I stated "properly manned" I meant with good, qualified personnel including good, qualified supervision. It means selecting personnel who can and are willing to work that shift. It means having the proper logistics, engineering, Safety Department, administrative personnel, transportation support access to required tools & equipment, service trade support personnel. and of course, a place to get some food. And now someone has decided that this group should be working four 10 hours days. I'm sure there are some who will like that and it could be an incentive for more volunteers, but they never even approached the Union to discuss this option and all the issues that go with it .Right now that idea is on hold until we can discuss it and determine how it impacts our contract. It

appears that we need to contact the supervision in the area and let them know that this is not a Quonset Point, and they can't just do what they want whenever they want. You would think they would try to go through Human Resources for something like this.

More Good News: The Company has contracted food trucks at various locations in the shipyards to supplement our cafeterias. Unfortunately, it has created an issue about people lining up too early to utilize the vendor. I have been asked to support their issues, which I agree we cannot leave the workstations earlier than the prescribed times. But I am asking them if we need to figure out some method that will allow our members to get served in a timely manner. Any suggestions?

One other thing that needs to be said. Foreign bodies to eyes is a major concern for both the Company and Union. Eye injuries are serious and need to be prevented. The Company has pretty much provided every style available that will help to get employees to wear them. Proper eye protection is essential and must be

worn where it is needed. Hopefully by the time you read this the MDA Union will have a tentative agreement before their contract ends. There are a lot of rumors about the status and where they are. Of course, we support and hope they settle with a fair contract but if not, please wait for our direction before you take any action.

Please continue to work safely.

Fraternally,
Richard L. McCombs
President / Business Manager
IBEW LU 261

AFL-CIO WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, April 28, 2025 Washington Park, Groton 6 a.m. Rain or Shine





Please join us for our annual Workers' Memorial Day Ceremony

To remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew our efforts for safe workplaces.

> Sponsored by: Southeastern Connecticut AFL-CIO AFL-CIO Community Services



Directions to Workers' Memorial (site located at Washington Park, Groton, CT)
From 95 North or South - Take exit 87 - At first light take a right onto Meridian Street - 2nd driveway on left

Protect Workers Now!

For more information call: AFL-CIO Community Services at 860-464-3325



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***(A PY = Annual Percentage Yield) The EB Checking Account is a "Split Rate Tiered" account for General Dynamics Electric Boat employees who qualify for membership. Proof of employment may be required. 3.00% APY is paid on balances up to \$10,000. Balances over \$10,000 earn 0.25% APY. All Charter Oak foreign ATM fees will be rebated. Surcharge fees charged by other financial institutions or networks will be rebated up to \$9.99 each to a maximum of \$20 a month and rebated at the end of the month. The default APY of 0.05% will be applied to all tiered balances if account conditions are not met and ATM fees will not be rebated. Rates are variable and can change at any time. To earn the stated APYs your account must have e-Statement, Online Banking, 10 Debit Card transactions posted per month (excluding ATM transactions) and have a Direct Deposit of \$2,000 or more posted in each calendar month. Existing checking accounts are not transferrable to an EB Checking Account. Existing members may open a new EB Checking Account under their existing account and must meet the account conditions to qualify. Only one EB Checking Account, Sun Checking Account or Go Checking Account per gualified member number. APY effective May 15, 2023. This offer may be withdrawn at any time.



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Celebrating our 25th year supporting Electric Boat Retirees!!





PROGRAM DETAILS

- This special group program is ONLY available to Medicare eligible Electric Boat retirees and spouses.
- This program was created in 1999 by your friends at the MTC, the MDA, Carpenters Union and the RSEA.
- Over 2,500 retirees & spouses participate!
- All plans, rates & benefits are the same in all 50 states!
- There are no individual plans comparable to these unique group options.

Morning sessions start at 10AM
The Hilton Mystic Hotel, Mystic CT
Wednesday, April 2, 2025
Wednesday, May 7, 2025
Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Late afternoon sessions start at 4PM Great Neck Country Club, Waterford, CT Wednesday, April 16, 2025 Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Refreshments will be served!

To reserve your seat, call us at 1.888.484.0414 or email us at RSVP@BeaconMedicare.com

Work. Article II of our current contract is pretty clear. It states" Non-bargaining unit employees, including supervisory employees, shall not perform work on any hourly rated jobs listed in Appendix A, except in the instruction or training of employees."

The word supervisor, or supervise, is pretty clear also. We do have numerous hourly working leaders that can help our newer members, along with hourly training instructors and hourly ALC trainers to help. Our hourly mechanics are also there to help answer questions and help.

So let me also be clear, Supervisors doing our work is neither required or desired. If you witness any supervisor working, notify any steward. If any boss wants to work that bad, maybe they should apply for a different position or location.

This April 18th, a Friday, is our next Union negotiated paid holiday.



At our March 11th union meeting we had our vote for the recording secretary position and Andrea Chabotte won. Congratulations on the win Andrea!!

We have received the new sweatshirt order at the hall. We now have zip up and pullover hoodies in hunter green and cardinal red, as well as the black we originally had. We also now have crew neck sweatshirts in hunter green as well as cardinal red. If you don't already know we have a Facebook page. Please follow us @ Boilermakers Local 614 to get updates and news from our International.

Also the pay week ending on March 16th, 2025 our 4% contractual raise should be seen in our checks.

Important

If you are going to be put on notice, disciplined, or sent to Security for any reason, you should request a Union Steward!! It's your right to Union representation, and you don't have to answer any questions without Union representation present.

Union Communications

Chief Steward- Mike Bushek 860-884-0765

Business Manager - Shane Gilligan 860-817-4341

Union Hall- 860-445-1120

Please don't forget to notify the Union Hall if you change your address or name. When you notify the company, they do not give the Union the new information.

Please remember for members who are out on any leave of absence such as Workers Compensation, Sedgwick short term disability insurance, FMLA, etc., it's your responsibility to pay for your medical, dental and vision. They can drop you if you fall behind.

Don't forget that it is that time of year to get your new boots. If you don't know how much money you have for boots, please see a Union Steward for the boot list.

See you all at our next scheduled Union meeting Tuesday April 8th, 2025, at 2:45 pm at the Boilermakers Union Hall, 33 Sacred Heart Drive Groton CT, 06340.

Patrick Joyce

President

EB Optical Shop -

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Shipyard Side	1:00-6:00PM*	6:00AM-6:00PM*	Closed	Closed	6:00AM-1:30PM	Closed
Street Side	Closed	Closed	6:00AM-6:00PM*	6:00AM-6:00PM*	Closed	Closed

MTC Benefits

April is Stress Awareness Month.

Everybody is affected by stress. Sometimes it is sudden onset, other times it is manifested over long periods of times.

Stress is often misdiagnosed because it can affect your health in many different ways.

Stress should never be ignored and you should never try to self medicate. There is help available through our Benefits Plan and the Employee Assistance Program to help you manage life's stressors.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is completely confidential. EAP phone number 866-743-6551

MTC Safety Report

Painters - Boilermakers - Electricians - Laborers Machinists - OPEIU - Pipefitters - Teamsters

April is Distracted Drivers and Move More Month.

Be sure to watch out for forklift drivers as their vision is obscured and they can't always see you. Remember to walk in the designated areas and keep an eye on your surroundings, because walking is working.

Thank you, and continue to work Safe!

Safety Office

860-433-2811