

August 2023

Vol 45 No. 8

**MTCNLC.ORG** 

### We are ready!

The Metal Trades Council and Local Unions have worked diligently preparing for the upcoming negotiations. We have reviewed every Article, every Memo of Agreement, and every Side Letter. We Are Ready!

We have done the research, reviewed other contracts, and talked with other Unions who have recently negotiated contracts. We Are Ready!

We have developed proposals to correct contract language. We have developed proposals that will attract and retain people. We have developed proposals that will allow members to retire with more dignity. We have developed proposals to recognize the members in the middle who are often forgotten. We have developed proposals that will provide for greater job security and to make you safer on the job.

We Are Ready to meet with the Company in meaningful negotiations.

If the Company truly values our members we will return to you a fair, equitable, and reasonable Contract.

Beware of the rumors. Beware of the nay sayers. Beware of false prophets. We have agreed to nothing other than when and where we are meeting. There is no agreement until we have a complete agreement and then you will decide if it is enough.

In Solidarity Peter E Baker President

Don't forget to check our website for updates & current information!

MTCNLC.ORG

<b>Phone List</b>	
Peter E Baker MTC President	445-6383
John Adamson MTC Vice President	445-6383
Richard McCombs MTC Rec. Sec'y	445-6383
Cat Race MTC Sec'y Treasurer MTC Safety	445-6383
George Nowosielski Local 777	445-8170
Dennis Urquhart Local 1122 401-	-573-6956
Richard (Chick) McCo Local 261	ombs 445-2224
Jim Spencer Local 1871	445-8619
Pat Joyce Local 614	445-4973
Danny Sanchez Local 547	448-2577

575-1384

445-1216

445-6383

**Rob Hill** 

Local 493

Local 106

Janet Orr

MTC Benefits Rep

Paul Bruno



Here is an update on recent developments regarding the OPEIU Free College Benefit, as well as introduction to an exciting opportunity for our union members and their families.

We understand there has been uncertainty surrounding the Free College Benefit for continuing students and are sad to say, due to a decision by the Department of Education, the benefit is no longer available to you and your family. While this may be disappointing news, we believe change often brings new and exciting opportunities.

Our new union college benefit option offers up to 50 percent discounted tuition rates and still applies to your federal grant awards to reduce your out-of-pocket costs even further.

OPEIU's Discount College Benefit offers flexibility and numerous options for union members and their families to further their education. The program's extensive network of colleges and universities is comprised of accredited institutions committed to providing discounted tuition rates to our union members and their families, ensuring accessibility and affordability for higher education. Whether you are interested in pursuing an associate, bachelor's or master's degree, or are seeking to enhance your professional skills with undergraduate or graduate certificates, the program has a comprehensive range of more than 50 online degree programs and certificate offerings.

To explore the available programs and learn more about the discounts offered, visit OPEIU's website. You can explore the various opportunities available and complete the form and an admissions counselor - who is employed by the college or university you have been matched to - will contact you. The admissions counselor will guide you through the admissions process, discuss your career goals and program options and answer any questions you may have.

We are all saddened by the Department of Education's decision to end the free college benefit, but we believe education is a lifelong journey, and we aim to make that journey both accessible and rewarding. We are committed to providing opportunities that empower our union members and their families to reach their full potential.

#### The OPEIU Team

ACCIDENT & SICKNESS BENEFITS PROCEDURE

First: Contact Sedgwick 1-800-416-1808 or www.Claimlookup.com . State "Short-term Disability."

Second: Immediately Contact Aflac for Connecticut Paid Family Leave 1-877-449-8606 or CTPFL@Aflac.com. This is for the first 12 weeks of payment before Sedgwick will pay.

### **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.

**NEW HIRES:** Within the first 30 days after you start you must enroll yourself and your dependents in the benefits package. There are many choices for you to review and time limits for you to apply for these benefits. This is the only 30 days to execute access to the health plan. If you do nothing you will automatically get medical but will not receive dental, extra eye care, and additional life insurance or dependent coverage. Contact General Dynamics Service Center (1-888 432-3633) Monday - Friday 9am to 9pm. OR www.gdbenefit.com (24hrs/7days). Any questions call EB Benefits: 860-433-4201 or, Janet Orr Union Insurance Representative: 860-445-6383.

### 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.

### **LABOR'S VIEWS ONLINE**

LABOR'S VIEWS may be seen on opeiulocal106.org and the new Metal Trades Council web site mtcnlc.org. LABOR'S VIEWS is also accessible on EB computers link to the MTC website to Homeport.

### "Weingarten" Rights

Visit: Youtube Weingarten Rights: Training for Shop Stewards. Take ten minutes to see a brief video from OPEIU Local 8 about your rights. If YOU are sent to SECURITY for any reason or are being questioned by MANAGEMENT, YOU should request a STEWARD. YOU do not have to answer any questions until you have UNION REPRESENTATION. THIS INCLUDES CRITIQUES, "DECKPLACE" OR ANY OTHER INVESTIGATION.

### UNION COMMUNICATIONS

UNION STEWARDS: Sheryl Atencio D333 X36291 / Nate Newhouse D438 401-688-6852 1st Shift / Arlene Allard D221 X37797 2nd Shift / Cory Jacobson D321 X35569 3rd Shift. - Union Hall Phone #860-445-1216, FAX #860-446-0175, E-mail prof.emp@snet.net. (I do not get e-mails in the shipyard.)

opeiulocal106.org opeiu.org UnionPlus.org mtcnlc.org

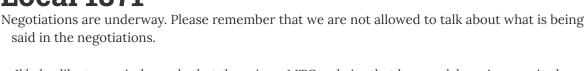
If you change your home address, phone number, or e-mail do not forget to notify the Union.

UNION MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED FOR JUNE, JULY & AUGUST. THE LOCAL 106 EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL STILL MEET AND IF SOMETHING DEVELOPS THAT REQUIRES A MEMBERSHIP MEETING THE UNION WILL NOTIFY EVERYONE.

#### SEPTEMBER UNION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, September 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Union Hall, 171 Thames Street, Groton, Connecticut. Paul A. Bruno Jr.





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 also communicate with each other.

As usual, I would like to ask my more senior members to please help the newer members around the yard. We're all brothers and sisters in this together. Let them know about the monthly meetings and encourage them to attend. Make sure they know who to contact if they need a steward as well.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF PHONE NUMBER? PLEASE inform a union representative. The company is not allowed to share this kind of information with us, so we only know if you tell us.

In case, there is anyone that does not know where they can check their paystub 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 see Christopher Wasilewski 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

First Shift OSM:

Mark Sousa 401-743-3033 Mike Fantacci 860-884-7339 Randy Branche 860-215-5384 Joseph Comforti 401-596-4168 First Shift ISM:
Mike Shell 860-790-9136
Ernie Richard 860-381-9213

First Shift All Other Areas: Janet Orr 860-608-8528 Kevin Mizer 401-580-0400 Ed Mctigue 860-463-7680

Second Shift OSM:

Bill Ericson 860-705-6739 George Blanchette 860-908-4149 Dustin Bennett 860-300-6164 Second Shift ISM:

George Raposa JR 860-908-0002

Second Shift All Other Areas: James Lawrence 570-579-4210

<u>United Way Contact</u> - Janet Orr 860-608-8528

MTC Benefits Rep - Janet Orr 860-445-6383

#### MEETING NOTICE:

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 meetings will be August 10th , and September 14th , at 3.00 p.m. at 18 Pleasant St Groton, CT 06340.



### **Local 1122**

Local 1122 would like to express our sincerest appreciation to those who attended our recent cookout. It was a pleasure to share a delicious meal and fun-filled afternoon with all of you. Your presence made the event even more enjoyable, and we hope that you had a wonderful time, too. We would also like to thank those who helped out with the preparations and setup. Your hard work and dedication helped to ensure that everything went smoothly, and we could not have

done it without you. Once again, thank you for all that you did to make our cookout a success.

As of now, there are no road jobs available, your union steward will keep you informed as soon as there is one.

I would like to remind everyone that we will have new hires starting soon. Please be on the lookout for them and help them as needed. If you see any new hires struggling, please offer your assistance.

<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:

1st Shift: Allen Claar All Nuclear issues 860-237-1114, Ron Ingves 860-334-8141, Alt Matt Fauquet 860-381-9196. 2nd shift Stewards: Alternates Elaine Key 860-460-7621, Reggie Setts 401-363-1954

**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 info. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

**REMINDER:** If you are out of work on compensation or accident & amp; 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.

**IMPORTANT:** 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 860-941-1579 and my email is painters.union@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your ongoing support.
Fraternally yours,
Dennis Urquhart
President/Chief Steward
Painters' Local #1122

## Buford's

# Family Restaurant

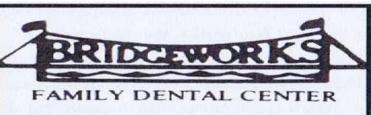


126 Poquonnock Road

Groton, CT 06340

860-446-1765

Mon: Closed, Tues-Fri: 6 to 1, Sat-Sun: 6 to Noon



Vincent Antonelli, D.D.S. Ted Malahias, D.D.S. Sean Kim, D.D.S., FAGD

> 115 Bridge Street Groton, CT 06340

446-8744

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FULL PARTICIPANT IN MTC DENTAL PLAN



### 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 do not 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 - Scott Partosan 860-433-5816 2nd Shift -John Ogden 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

Please continue to work safely, I want you to go home the same way you arrived. Warm weather is here so don't forget to stay hydrated and dress light!

Work safe - Robert Hill / Chief Steward

### LiUNA! L

### Local 547

### Feel the Power

For any reason, if you are being questioned by security or supervision, you have the right to request a steward. You must invoke that right before you answer any questioning.

If you have any changes to your personal information you must inform the union hall of said changes. The company does not share this information with the union, so I ask that you please contact the hall with any address or phone number changes. In order to notify you of any union news or information, your updated info is vital to the timely delivery of these notifications. The union hall's phone number is (860) 448-2577.

Fraternally Yours, Danny Sanchez

### Advertise Your Business Here!!!

If you wish to advertise with us, please contact the Metal Trades Office either by - Phone: 860-445-6383

Or

Email: metaltradescouncil@gmail.com Please Put Labor View ad in the subject line.

Thank You and look forward to hearing from you!

### **Local 261**



The next regularly scheduled meeting of IBEW Local Union 261 will be held Tuesday August 8, 2023, 2:45 P.M. at the IAM Lodge 1871 Union Hall located at 18 Pleasant St. If necessary, we will notify any social distancing rules that may be required. Masks will be recommended but not required at this time.

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 cannot attend the meetings any issues should be brought to our attention by contacting your Steward or this office. Please call me if you have any problems at any time. Send me an e-mail and let me know your issues.

The Local's phone numbers are as follows: 860-445-2224 main line, 860-445-8360. E-mail address: ibew261@frontier.com IBEW International web site: http://ibew.org

As you know the Union has been working on our proposals and strategies for the upcoming negotiations. I feel confident that our team has met all of our expectations and we are prepared to bring them forward. We will begin our talks next week. I think President Baker has said it best; "We are ready".

Are you ready to support us? I think you are.

I was recently contacted by 2nd District Congressman Joe Courtney. He wanted me to let you know that the Navy was very pleased with the successful sea trials that occurred on the USS Rickover. Well done to all involved!

We were recently informed that there could be a national security issue with employees using company phones and in some cases our personnel phones for company business if they have the "Tic-Tock" app on their phone. I have been asked to let you know that this can lead to discipline. If interested ask your steward; if he doesn't know tell him or her to call me.

Needs to be brought up again!!!!

Harassment: Priority 1. How do we change our culture to respect each other. This has become a serious concern and managed to be a leading cause of discipline here in the shipyard. We have all heard about the issues, the Company has provided direction, the whole country has suffered from it. Yet it continues! We need to respect our co-workers and their way of life. Sexual harassment, racial bigotry, gender preference, religious beliefs, personal appearance all need your respect. This is an hourly and salary problem. How do we get this culture change?

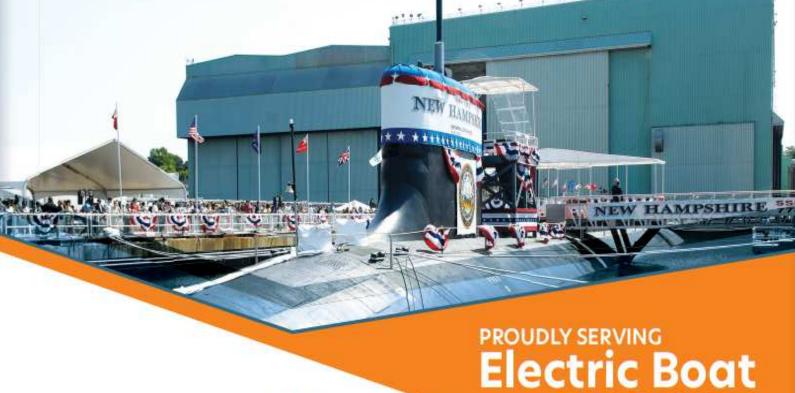
I will bring forward any of your ideas. Thank you, Continue to Work Safe!! Fraternally, Richard L. McCombs President / Business Manager

EB Optical Shop - ebopticalshop@gdeb.com 860-433-6934

STREET SIDE DOOR - open to employees, retirees, family members and contractors. Wed & Thurs -8 am.-330 pm. (closed 1-130 pm.)

1st & 3rd Saturday of Each Month - Closed

SHIPYARD SIDE - open to badged employees and contractors. Tuesday - 7 am.-430 pm. (Closed 1-130 pm) Friday - 6 am-130 pm.





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\*\*'4PY = Annual Percentage Yield) The EB Checking Acount 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 Clak 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 520 a month and rebated at the end of the month. The default APY of 0.09% 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 8 anking, 10 Debit Card transactions posted per month (excluding #IM transactions) and have a Direct Deposit of \$2,000 or more posted in each calendar month. Existing checking accounts are not transfer able to an EBChecking 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 qualified member number. APY effective May 15, 2023. This offer may be withdrawn at any time.



# Injured? Let us help you.



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Celebrating our 25th year supporting Electric Boat Retirees!!





### SPECIAL INVITATION

Beacon Retiree Benefits Group invites Electric Boat Retirees to participate in a special Medicare Medical & Prescription Drug Plan...

### 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.



### **EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS**

Morning sessions start at 10AM
The Hilton Mystic Hotel, Mystic CT
Wednesday, July 5, 2023
Wednesday, August 2, 2023
Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Late afternoon sessions start at 4PM Great Neck Country Club, Waterford, CT Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Refreshments will be served!

To reserve your seat, call us at L888.484.0414 or email us at RSVP@beaconmedicare.com

# MTC Apprenticeship Program Application for 2024 - Cohort 8



The application period for the MTC Apprenticeship Program will be open from August 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023.

### **Program Benefits**

The MTC Apprenticeship is a three-year program designed to supply Electric Boat with a well-trained workforce. The program offers:

- . On-the-Job training, rotating throughout your department gaining a more robust work experience.
- Expedited pay jumps
- Increased knowledge through Three Rivers Community College course & EB Training conducted during the work day.
- Gain confidence and responsibility in order to promote long-term personal and career growth at Electric Boat.

### How to Qualify

- Must have completed probation by January 1st 2024.
- Fill out application paperwork and turn it in to your supervisor (Supervisor can provide paperwork)
- Ask supervisor for recommendation
- The management will review your application and recommendations.
- You will attend an interview by department and union.
- Selected by department and union.

### Question or Support Contact

MTC Apprentice Program Rep

Mike Hickey

Tel: (860) 965-4425

(860) 433-2975

EB Apprentice Program Rep

Mike Bibalo

Tel: (860) 389-5148

Email: ebgrotonapprenticeship@gdeb.com



Local 777

By the time this article comes out, we should officially be meeting with the Company on contract talks. Please don't listen to rumors in the yard. Any information, updates, or current news regarding the talks will come out from the Metal Trades. It is a lengthy process, so please be patient with it.

With the amount of new members we have gotten in the Local, I am able to add a couple of stewards in the local. If anyone is interested in becoming a steward, let one of the steward know and they will get the names to me.

We would like to congratulate our latest retiree, James Blanchard. Jimmy was originally hired back in 1986 and most recently worked in the Inscription department. Have a long, safe, and healthy retirement.

Our next and last Union negotiated paid holiday is Monday September 4, Labor Day. I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer.



### Local 614

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Union Hall is looking a lot better these days thanks to a few of our stewards. They took the time to do a small clean-up, Including weed whacking and a good power washing. This was done after the new roof was finally been finished. They did this on their own personal time, so a big thank you to them.

Our membership has grown a lot over the past couple of years. We are up to 752 Boilermakers and that number continues to grow almost weekly, with the amount of hiring that the company is doing.

Remember your rights as a union member. The Weingarten Act states that if a discussion with management could in any way lead to being disciplined, terminated or affect your working conditions...ASK A STEWARD!!!

Don't forget that our regular monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:45 PM at the Union Hall at 22 Sacred Heart Drive, Groton. We have seen many new faces lately and hope to see even more of you.

Sincerely,

Patrick Joyce President

### **Insurance Update**

I'd like to thank everyone who attended the Health Fair , we had record breaking numbers at all locations!

TOTAL FOR ALL SITES - 2,644 TOTAL FOR THE SHIPYARD - 1,545

I'd also like to remind everyone of the EB Building Better Health Free Supplement Program. You may go to the Yard Hospital and receive the following supplements completely free.

- OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS (O-3)
- FOLIC ACID (FA)
- ASPIRIN (ASA)
- CALCIUM (CA)

- VITAMIN D (D3)
- VITAMIN C (VC)
- ZINC (Z)

Janet  $\odot$  rr

### **MTC Safety Report**

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

Weather has been crazy. Please dress accordingly. No sleeveless shirts, no ripped jeans that expose your skin, no shorts unless covered with coveralls, and NO baseball caps under your hard hats or any other caps.

We are still having issues with PPE. Hard Hat, Safety Glasses, Work Boots and Hearing Protection ARE REQUIRED, in building 260 and building 600 at all times. This is for your own protection. There are ear plug dispensers at every door leading into the buildings. No excuse for not having your PPE on when entering a building, not after you have entered and walked halfway into the building.

Remember, if you know of a safety issue please, stop one of your MTC Safety Reps, (we're all wearing the green vest that says, "MTC Safety "on the back) and point the issue out to us. And you don't have to give us your name, unless you want us to return to you with an answer. We will then need to know how to contact you.

Please be aware of the PPE lines and follow them. Passing the lines requires you to put your PPE on.

Be Safe Cat Race

