



LABOR'S MTC VIEWS

114 Poquonnock Rd, Groton, CT 06340

March 2023

Vol 45 No. 3

MTCNLC.ORG

Phone List

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MTC Rec. Sec'y

Cat Race 445-1277
MTC Sec'y Treasurer
MTC Safety

George Nowosielski 445-8170
Local 777

Dennis Urquhart
Local 1122 401-573-6956

Richard (Chick) McCombs
Local 261 445-2224

Jim Spencer 445-8619
Local 1871

Pat Joyce 445-4973
Local 614

Danny Sanchez 448-2577
Local 547

Rob Hill 575-1384
Local 493

Paul Bruno 445-1216
Local 106

Frank Ward 401-499-9661
MTC Benefits Rep

The Metal Trades Council and affiliated Local Unions have begun preparing for the upcoming contract negotiations. This is a painstaking process that consumes hundreds of hours.

In the near future you will be asked to help prepare by participating in an anonymous survey. These surveys are developed by the International Association of Machinists Research Department. The responses are computer read and tabulated.

The results of the surveys will help us prioritize the issues that are most important to the membership. Please follow the directions and answer the questions honestly. We will continue to work diligently so that we are well prepared for these negotiations.

Another topic I'd like to touch on, please check all your mail! Please read everything, members are losing benefits! If you are on a Leave of Absence, you are responsible to pay your medical premiums in full to Fidelity within the allotted grace period! If you are ever unsure call EB benefits at 860-433-4201 or the GD Service Center at 888-432-3633.

As always, I appreciate the good work you do. Please continue to work safely and watch out for the other guy.

Fraternally,
Peter E Baker
President



CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of our retired brothers Ronald Pike and Richard StSauveur. Ron was an Administrative Clerk in Department 330. He retired in 1998 after 36 years. Dick was Administrative Clerk in Department 203. He retired in 1997 after 23 years.

OPEIU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Applications now are being accepted for the 2023 OPEIU educational scholarships, and all members are encouraged to apply. Full details, rules and applications can be found at OPEIU.org under the Members Resources link, as well as on the OPEIU app.

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 Friday, April 28th at 6:00 a.m. rain or shine. The ceremony will be held at Washington Park, City of Groton.

UNION COMMUNITY ACTIVIST NETWORK (UCAN) TRAINING

UCAN is a four (4) night program (Tuesday & Thursday) from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on May 9th, 11th, 16th & 18th at the United Way of Southeastern CT – 283 Stoddards Wharf Road, Gales Ferry, CT, and graduation will be held May 24th. Local 106 will reimburse up to 5 members in this program. The training will give you a better understanding of the Union and how community services benefits all of us. Call your Union Hall at (860) 445-1216 or your AFL-CIO Community Services Rep. Maggie Marley at 860-464-3325.

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) deduction. 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. You are now eligible to join the insurance between days 0-30 of your date of hire. 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. If you are married or married with children, they will not be covered. 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 Frank Ward: 860-501-3263.

"Weingarten" 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.

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

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.

MARCH UNION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, March 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. and will be held at the Union Hall, 171 Thames Street, Groton, Connecticut.

APRIL UNION MEMEBRSHIP MEETING

Monday, April 10, 2023, at 5:30 pm and will be held at the Union Hall, 171 Thames Street, Groton, CT.

STEWARDS FOR EB:

Nate Newhouse D438 401-688-6852 & Sheryl Atencio D333 X36291 1st Shift / Arlene Allard D221 X37797 2nd Shift / Corey Jacobson D321 X5569 3rd Shift

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

International Union Web Site - opeiu.org / International Magazine - White Collar / Union Benefits - UnionPlus.org / Metal Trades Council - mtcnlc.org

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

PLEASE, TRY TO ATTEND UNION MEETINGS.

Paul A. Bruno Jr.
President/Chief Steward



Local 1871

The company is currently looking for ambassadors to represent EB at local hiring events to help recruit new talent. If you are interested, please let us know.

Your union negotiating committee has begun discussing the upcoming contract. Once we have created a questionnaire, we will get it out to the members. Please take your time in filling them out and return them as soon as possible.

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.

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 - Chief Steward: James Spencer 860-705-2266 - United Way Contact: Janet Orr 860-608-8528

Stewards List

First Shift OSM:

Mark Sousa 401-743-3033
Mike Fantacci 860-884-7339

First Shift ISM:

Mike Shell 860-790-9136

First Shift All Other Areas:

Janet Orr- 860-608-8528
Kevin Mizer- 401-580-0400

Second Shift OSM:

Bill Ericson- 860-705-6739

Second Shift ISM:

George Raposa JR- 860-908-0002

Second Shift All Other Areas:

David Chirchingo- 860-949-5258

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 March 9th, and April 13 th , at 3:00 p.m. at 18 Pleasant St Groton, CT 06340.

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

STREET SIDE DOOR - open to employees, retirees, family members and contractors. Wed & Thurs -8 am.-3:30 pm. (closed 1-1:30 pm.) 1st & 3rd Saturday of Each Month - Closed

SHIPYARD SIDE - open to badged employees and contractors. Tuesday - 7 am.-4:30 pm. (Closed 1-1:30 pm) Friday - 6 am-1:30 pm.



Local 1122

Congratulations to Daniel Sager on his admirable accomplishment of winning the MTC outstanding apprentice award! His unwavering dedication and hard work deserving of such an esteemed award shows us just how much Daniel was willing to push himself. It is through this effort that he has secured his place as one of the finest apprentices in his cohort. He is a true example to future apprentices and a shining light of success in our field.

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.

With the weather getting colder, please dress warm and wear the proper PPE. There are hand warmers and insulated gloves in the tool cribs. Please be sure to check the weather forecast before coming to work, so that you can dress appropriately.

Unfortunately, the road job to Newport News that so many looked forward to has been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. Nevertheless, we must remain optimistic that there will be more road jobs available in the future.

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

Subbase NSSF and ARDM Shippingport request form : 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, Alternate Matthew Fauquet 860-381-9196.

Second 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 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.

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



Local 261

The next regularly scheduled meeting of IBEW Local Union 261 will be held Tuesday March 14, 2023, 2:45 P.M. at the IAM Lodge 1871 Union Hall located at 18 Pleasant Street. 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>

I like to begin by congratulating our recent Cohort 4 Apprentice Graduates. Angela Gibbs, David Kendall, Samuel Kinsman, and Shelby McNeely all were successful in completing the academic and working hours requirements needed. Congratulating / Well Done!

I am pleased to report that the Union Leadership has begun their planning for negotiations. This is discussions on how to proceed and make proposals. First on the agenda is designing our survey questioner which we hope to be passed out in March. This is how we expect it to work: The International of the Machinist have a computer program that will provide the survey sheets. Our Stewards will make sure that everyone will receive the questionnaire. There will be a one (1) week period for everyone to fill it out and return it to their steward who will then give it to me, and I will process it back to the Machinist program which will tabulate the results. As we said this will be essential for us to set our priorities when we start meeting with the Company. It is very important that you complete the survey in a timely manner with legitimate and reasonable requests. Names are optional and not required.

The Union has recognized that we have a serious problem with harassment in the shipyard. All types, sexual, gender preference religion, disabilities, etc. The Company also knows we have problems. They have policies and regulations that carry some very stiff discipline. We also recognized that it is a problem with salary as well. I deal with an average of two per month some locals twice that amount. It must stop, and the culture must change beginning now. We need to learn to respect one another and their differences. I would like to think if we had a better culture our work environment would be easier and less stressful, and we actually could like coming to work. I would like to hear from anyone who could offer some ideas.

Thank you, Continue to Work Safe!!

Fraternally,
Richard L. McCombs
President / Business Manager

Buford's



Local 493

Family Restaurant

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.



126 Poquonnock Road
Groton, CT 06340

860-446-1765

~Hours~

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

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

The weather is still cold so please prepare and dress accordingly. Layers will be your best friend. Snow is here so please be safe while on the road and in the yard.

Work safe - Robert Hill /Chief Steward

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!

FAMILY DENTAL CENTER
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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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, April 5, 2023

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Late afternoon sessions start at 4PM

Great Neck Country Club, Waterford, CT

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Refreshments will be served!

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





Local 777

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Hillary Young . Hillary, Or Charlie, as most remember, passed away recently . Charlie started back in 1958 and retired in 1998 and was an active retire in the local.

Remember to change your address with the Local , as well as the company, when moving. We are getting numerous mailings back, that shouldn't be happening.

The different departments are continuing to hire new members. If you have a new member in your shop or crew, we should all be helping them adjust and fit in to the shipyard. Its hard to be a newby, and remember, we all were new at one time. With that being said, its okay to not know everything at first, there is a learning period. But after awhile, if someone is not catching on, it's a problem. Such is the case with some of the newer supervisors. We trust that when a supervisor, management, assigns a job to our members , that it is ready to work. That means it is safe, all signatures are in place, proper briefings have been done, adequate time given to understand the job, and in some cases a hands on approach has been taken. And most times this is done. But in some recent cases , the above is being ignored. When our members are at fault, the company is quick in some cases to administer some type of discipline. This doesn't always apply in the management area. Especially in our overhaul world. There is a specific order of work that applies, and again I want to remind our members, if you do not understand your assignment , or feel something is not right, stop and do not proceed until you are comfortable . There is nothing wrong with questioning something you do not understand.

I want to remind everyone that it is your responsibility to contact the main office in Meriden about paying your dues upon going out on A and S, workers comp, leave of absence, military duty, retirement, or, any other reason for absenting the payroll deduction process.

The Company continues to keep hiring large numbers of people. We are currently working out details where our own members would help in the hiring process called "Ambassador Program". More info will be put out at a later date.



Local 614

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

We have been having a problem with management, mainly ship superintendents, doing our work. This is an Article II violation of our contract. I get the Safety angle of moving something that could cause harm, but there is a line that get crossed way to often. If you see anyone from management doing our work, please ask them to stop and tell them that is our job. (they sure don't want us to take their work!). If you don't feel comfortable confronting a member of management, please talk to a steward. That's our job.

Electric Boat nearly had a catastrophic incident with the failure of the 263 basin pontoon. If that failed with a submarine on it, it could have been fatal to our some of our workforce as well as Navy personnel. I am not sure as to how severe this will impact our schedules. I hear there is on going construction on a new one that is being pushed aggressively. Hopefully that gets here in a timely manner and no one building it gets hurt. You may be hearing a lot of rumors about this affecting our workload, but that is all just rumors. We have a SHIPload of work coming and the company is struggling to get people who want to work here.

Our regular monthly meeting is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2:45 PM at the Union Hall at 33 Sacred Heart Drive, Groton. I have seen many new faces recently at the meetings. That is great. You young guys (and girls) are our future! This Union is Your Union! Let's keep it strong!

Sincerely;

Patrick Joyce
President

Insurance Update

The EB Family Pharmacy has a service that delivers prescriptions to Building 88 and across from the Yard Hospital on Tuesdays.

From now on the prescriptions that were delivered across from the Hospital will be moved to the Safety Conference Room in Building #7 at the top of the Main Yard hill.

They will give you your prescriptions on Tuesday from 1:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Frank Ward
Union Insurance Representative
401-499-9661

MTC Safety Report

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

Well I have to say I'm floored at how many people think it's ok to walk through the 260 building without PPE. Mostly hearing protection, and it's not just hourly. I am finding just as much management doing the same thing. What the heck management. You're supposed to lead by example. Then, I ask, Do you have hearing protection? And the reply is,

“Oh it's in my bag”, or “I forgot it“

And not one of you makes the effort to GO GET IT. Again, including management. I want to give management the courtesy I hope they give the hourly. Let's remind each other and make an effort to get the PPE in question. These rules have been put in place for your safety. Past practice says we need them . Come on people, this isn't kindergarten. Your grown ass adults. When you accepted the job at EB you accepted the rules along with it. Now start following them. All of you. It's simple.

Be Safe



Cat Race 1st Shift 860-405-4784	Sean Banks 1st Shift 860-326-4832	Derek Wilcox 1st Shift 860-326-4729	Jim Palmer 1st Shift 860-326-4341	Bill Zaks 2nd Shift 860-326-4353	Safety Office 860-433-2811	Metal Trades 860-445-6383
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