MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERS,

I know it has been some time since our last published newsletter. There are number of things I would like to inform you of!

Let’s begin with the Local 343 Trust Funds. All of the funds are growing and doing great, none better than the Defined Benefit Pension. I am happy to say that the Pension is funded well over 100%. The Pension is doing so well, that the trustees approved the purchase of a 44,000 square foot building located at 220 Peabody Road, Vacaville CA, to house the Local 343 Trust Fund office, with enough room to lease space to the Local Union, Hiring Hall and the Apprentice Training Center. This is a positive investment for the trust. It will allow for a much needed expansion not only for the Apprentice Training Center, but also the Local Union. We hope to be moving in to our new home in late summer 2018.

We should all remember the people that have come before us in the trade and paved the way for where we are today. Taking care of our Retiree’s should be a priority to all of us. Saying that, last year we did a trial of a dental plan for the Retiree’s. Not only did we get good feedback from the Retired members, we also received positive feedback from the insurance provider. The information that we took from both sides, was a great tool for the trustees to look at the future of these benefits. With the information that we gathered, I am happy to announce that we will continue to provide the Retiree dental plan that we offer for the foreseeable future.
The State Building and Construction Trades has been working with all of the oil refineries in California, negotiating 5 year project labor agreements (PLA’s) for all maintenance and turnaround work. That along with SB-54, is prompting all of the non-union companies to either become union, or cease operations in those sites in the state. For local 343, this means Valero. One of the companies that has performed this kind of work in Valero is Timec/Broad spectrum. We have had many meetings with Timec on becoming union signatory contractors and are very close to an agreement with them. This will not only benefit the local union as far as work hours that we have not had for 15-20 years, but will also contribute to the health of our trust funds. We look forward to welcoming Timec and the new union members that will be organized into local 343 as well as the other contractors that we have been meeting with.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Local 342 Business Manager, Derrick Kualapai, and his entire staff. Derrick and I have been working together over the last year, keeping in close contact regarding the ongoing talks with the refineries and contractors, focusing on remaining unified in our views. We have been to many meetings together and had too many conversations to count. Local 342 has always lent a hand to local 343, whether it be work for our members, or giving training to our members when they had room in their classes, and not asking for anything in return. For that, I would like to thank Derrick, the Business Agents, the Officers, Training staff and every member of Local 342 for their brotherhood and help.

With new opportunities, come some new challenges. One of the new challenges for Valero, is their new policy for drug testing and background checks. These are some very strong requirements, and are a state wide, if not nation wide policy for Valero. These tests and background checks will be run through the DISA program. The good part of that is that DISA is a very reputable company, with a high standard for accuracy in test results, and privacy for your information. The bad thing is that if you have ever had a positive result in the DISA system, and did not take care of it properly, you will have a lot of work to do. It is sometimes problematic going back in time to take care of a result that was either disputed, or positive.

Part of that program will include but not be limited to, a hair follicle test that will look back 90 days, an 11 panel urine test that will also look for masking agents and synthetics, and a breathalyzer test. A fail on any of these test will result in a lifetime ban from Valero Refinery Benicia, and Southern California. These are Valero requirements and sadly are not negotiable. These new policies will not only be for the maintenance and turn around work, but for anyone that wants to go on to Valero property.

The requirements for the RSO/OSCA card has some changes that you may or may not know about. On July 1st, 2018, anyone wanting to work in Valero, or any other oil refinery in the state, will have to have taken the full 20 hour requirement of the OSCA/RSO program. This will consist of an 8 hour “refinery safety overview”, the 8 hour “safety as it pertains to crafts”, and the 4 hour “principals of petroleum refining” classes. You can take these classes at the OSCA training center in Martinez. The other requirement to work in Valero, is the TWIC card. Please check your expiration date, and make sure if you have one, you renew it before the deadline. If you do not have a TWIC card and would like to get one, please start the process early, as it can take a long time to get. We plan on having some work opportunities at Valero and would like for our membership to be ready and able to take the calls when they come.
The work opportunities in Napa and Solano counties look good for the upcoming year, and we are hopeful that we will have union contractors bid on and be awarded these jobs. If you need any information or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call me at the Local Union business office at (707) 644-4071.

Fraternally yours,

Steve McCall

Business Manager

UNION MEETINGS

Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 6 PM.

The Union meeting is open to ALL members and classifications. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate in the business of the Union. Mark your calendars for the Wednesday, April 11, and May 9 meetings.

NEW 50 YEAR LIFE MEMBERS

Congratulations to our 50 YEAR MEMBERS for their Dedication and Service!

April 2018
Melvin Rodrick
Edward Casner
Harry Sample

February 2018
Maurice Geerdes
Arthur Culloty

May 2016
Charles Lopez
Thank you so much for all the wonderful, kind and generous donations we received for the 7th Annual Children’s Winter Wonderland.

Local 343 7th Annual Children’s Winter Wonderland

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED!

Mark Gallelo—ACCO  Barry & Crystal McCall  Steven McCall & Family  John & Merilee Flynn
Shelley & Andy Dowdle  Rodney & Linda Cameron  Maura Schulz—Union Dental  Richard Reiswig
James & Helga Mullen  Melvin & Amy Rodrick  Richard & Barbara Ford  Tina Anstey  Michael Lescure—Lescure Co.
Eric & Tammie Savage  John & Ginney Hernandez  David Varley & Family  Philip & Alice Reese  Doin Winters
Glen & Melanie Rushing  Merle Finnerty & Family  Earl Swetland & Family  Ronald Walker & Family  Dennis & Sherrie Soares
Ed Coppock & Family  Alberto Olmedo & Family  Pablo Rojas & Family  John T Hankes & Family  Gregory & Tina Simon
Mike Ayers & Family  R.L. Minix & Family  Gary Doerr  Fred Lehman  Paula Bailey
Jennifer Knott  Paula Harris  Bianca Bergin  Nichole Camara  Wayne Horne & Family
Linda Wallis  Gerald Gramstad & Family  Javier Rosell  John Doyle  James Aken & Family
Ryan Donaldson  Michael Morilla & Family

Benefitting our Member’s Children ~ December 8, 2017

Thank you to all who have donated Benefiting our Member’s Children – December 8, 2017
SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR

UA PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL UNION 343 LIFE INSURANCE

This is a summary of the annual report of the UA Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 343 Life Insurance, EIN 94-0925634, Plan 501, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The annual report has been filed with the Department of Labor, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Insurance Information

The plan has a contract with The United States Life Insurance Company in the City of New York to pay certain life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment claims incurred under the terms of the plan. The total premiums paid for the plan year ending June 30, 2017, was $18,880.

Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The item listed below is included in that report:

1. Insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of United Association of Journeymen Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 343, who is the administrator, at 401 Nebraska Street, Vallejo, California 94590, telephone (707) 644-4071. The charge to cover copying costs will be $1.75 for the full annual report or $.25 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan, 401 Nebraska Street, Vallejo, California 94590, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, DC, or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to Public Disclosure Room, N1513, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20210.
It is an exciting time to be a member of Local 343! Work is plentiful. With all the local work and travel work, there are not too many members out of work. The new Local 343 Hall and Training Center is a huge project that is long overdue. We will also be able to get back into the Valero Refinery, thanks to SB54 (Senate Bill 54).

Fortunately, travel work is still going strong with 51 members currently working in Local 342 and 49 members working in 467. Local 38 has eight members currently working, Local 290 has six working and Local 393 has three working members. The work in 342 is primarily at the Chevron refinery, where the updated RSO (Refinery Safety Overview 8 hours) card is required. There is also plenty of uptown work, including high rises, hospitals and bio-pharm work. Local 467 has work at the SF Airport, as well as high rises, commercial and bio-pharm work. Local 393 is predicting a need for a large amount of manpower by this summer.

Air Systems is the mechanical and plumbing contractor for the ongoing projects at North Bay Medical Center and Solano College. The mechanical and plumbing contractor for Partnership Health and the Kaiser Fairfield MOB is Lawson Mechanical. Intech Mechanical has the PG&E Project in Vacaville and the FSUSD Public Safety Academy in Fairfield. Kinetic Mechanical Systems (KMS) is wrapping up the IKEA Distribution Warehouse in American Canyon. The Will C. Wood High School Stadium Project is in full swing for J.W. McClanahan, along with the Solano County Jail Re-Entry Facility starting the top-out phase. ACCO Vacaville and Bell Products of Napa both have several commercial projects that they are currently working on, as is Tyrrell Plumbing and Mechanical. PMI has a small crew at Budweiser. Benicia Plumbing and North Bay Plumbing have several members working on a number or residential projects throughout Local 343’s jurisdiction. The Local 343 Hall and Training Center is well underway. The plans for the purchased, vacant OSH building in Vacaville at 220 Peabody Road are almost finalized.

Steve McCall and I have visited several training centers. We are planning on visiting more Locals in the very near future. Along with the help of the Local 343 training instructors, we are working together to build what we believe will be a top-notch training facility. The new facility will have a large welding area with 20 welding booths, as well as a classroom and lecture section. There will be an outdoor area where the rigging structure and crane will be located. Three large classrooms, one for HVAC, pipefitting and plumbing, with plenty of room for hands-on training, will be present in this new facility.
Capturing more work at our local Valero Refinery is finally within our grasp with SB54, which states that 60% of the workforce must have graduated from a state-approved Apprenticeship Training Program. Companies that have been historically non-Union are now looking to the Unions for such workers. Employees of these Non-union Companies are going to be organized into each of their craft-specific Unions, and then be assessed by these Unions and placed according to how they perform during their assessment. I was able to attend an assessment at Local 342 to watch the progress. Ninety percent of those being assessed were at an appropriate Apprentice level, while about 10% assessed at a Journeyman level. By the time you read this, we should have met with our Examining Board and Officers to go over the testing process that will take place at Local 343.

Fraternally yours,

Eric Savage
Business Agent

LOCAL 343 MERCHANDISE

We have Local 343 merchandise available for purchase, these items include T-Shirts. Stickers and pins are also available.
(Hats coming soon)

Journeyman Upgrade Classes Offered

If you are interested in any of the classes listed below please call the Union Hall or the Training Center to sign up.

- NCCCO Signalpersons Certification
- Medical Gas Installer/Brazer Certification
- Industrial Rigging/EPRI Certification
- AutoCAD

WELD BAY

Please call to check the schedule for availability.
If you are practicing for a weld test we will open the weld bay daily.
MEDICAL GAS INSTALLER RE-CERTIFICATION:

For those who hold a current Medical Gas Installer certification: If your certification will be expiring soon, you will be required to take the Re-Certification exam based on the 2015 NFPA 99. We will be holding a refresher course in the summer for those Journeyman who certification will be expiring.

MEDICAL GAS INSTALLER ASSE 6010:

Building Trades Journeyman that are interested in obtaining the Medical Gas Installer Certification, please contact the Training Center to add your name to the list to receive notification of the next available course date.

MEDICAL GAS BRAZER CONTINUITY:

If your six (6) month Medical Gas Brazer qualification will be expiring soon. You can keep your Certification current by,

- Submitting a letter of continuity from your employer. You may obtain a copy of a continuity form from the Training Center. The continuity letter must be on your employer’s letterhead and submitted to the Training Center.

- You may also schedule a time to come to the Training Center on Tuesday or Thursday evenings between the hours of 4PM and 6 PM and braze a joint. The JATC will then submit a letter of continuity on your behalf.

- Please note when submitting continuity, the date performed must be on or before the expiration date.

- If you have let your braze certification lapse you may come in and braze a coupon. The JATC will submit your braze to National ITC on your behalf for approval.

Applications for Apprenticeship:

The Committee is not accepting applications at this time. Anyone interested in applying for the Apprenticeship Program may call the Training Center office at 707 557-0509 Ext. 203

Members please recommend our Apprenticeship program to anyone you feel would be a good fit for the trade. Applicants must have the willingness to make the sacrifices needed to be committed and dedicated to a lifelong career in the Pipe trades industry.

At the time of this newsletter we have 58 active apprentices.
Please welcome the new Apprentice class that has started.

The Committee has taken in 15 new apprentices.

FOR SALE / LOCAL 343 JATC

We have a variety of books and calculators available for purchase, these items include:

- Pipe Trades Pro calculator
- Pipe Fitter’s Blue book
- Pipefitter Field book
- Tube Bending
- IPT’S Pipe Trades Handbook
- IPT’S Crane & Rigging Handbook

Apprentice Contest

May 15—17, 2018
A & J—Van Nuys Training Center

HOLIDAY / WAGE SCHEDULES

For all of the HOLIDAY and WAGE SCHEDULES, please refer to our website or contact the Local UNION office.

Wishing you and your Family a very Happy Easter!
The Defined Contribution Statements for the quarter ending December 31, 2017 have been mailed. If you have not received your statement please contact the Fund Office.

**DEFINeD CONTRIBUTION:**

**HOW TO CONTACT THE TRUST FUND OFFICE**

Mailing Address:
401 NEBRASKA STREET
VALLEJO, CA  94590

TELEPHONE:
(707) 648-7066
(707) 648-2674 (FAX)

EMAIL: pbailey@local343.org

**UPDATE MARITAL STATUS:**

Marital Status can affect benefits. It is essential that the Fund Office is up to date on your marital status.

**UPDATE DEPENDENT STATUS:**

Dependents status can affect Benefits. It is essential that the Fund office is up to date on Dependent Status. If you have a new Baby, acquire a new child through Adoption, Marriage etc., you must notify the Fund Office within 30 (thirty) days of the event date. Dependents are not added without proper notification and documentation.

**UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:**

It is essential that the Fund Office has your correct address!! If you need a Change of Address Form, you can request one from the Fund Office at (707) 648-7066. If you fail to submit your change of address, the Fund Office may suspend the mailing of information regarding your benefits.

**Local 343 Trust Funds:**

- Watch for OPEN ENROLLMENT materials coming soon in JUNE 2018
- 2017 PENSION statements will be mailed in APRIL 2018
NEW RETIREES

2017

Pete Freres — August 2017
William Shirley — June 2017
Michael Skotarzak — May 2017
Douglas Kuznik — March 2017
Kyle Wheeler — February 2017

2016

Lance Reese — November 2016
Jerry England — November 2016
Edwin Humma — October 2016
Gregory McCart — June 2016
Jeffrey Andrews — June 2016
Eddie La Brada — April 2016
Edwin Gooding — April 2016
Dennis Jones — April 2016
David Huntley — March 2016
Frank Saitz — March 2016
Patrick Pettit — January 2016

Contact Paula Bailey in the Trust Fund Office.
MEMBERS DISPATCH TO OTHER LOCAL UNIONS:

U.A. LOCAL NO. 343 TRUST FUNDS

TRAVEL CARD DISPATCHES:

DEAR BROTHER/SISTER:

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT WHEN YOU ARE TRAVELING OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME LOCAL (LOCAL 343) TO ANOTHER LOCAL OUTSIDE OF LOCAL 343 JURISDICTION, YOU SHOULD SUBMIT COPIES OF YOUR PAYSTUBS MONTHLY.

DUE TO THE UNTIMELINESS OF RECIPROCITY, THIS WILL KEEP US UP TO DATE WITH YOUR HOURS FOR YOUR HEALTH AND WELFARE ELIGIBILITY.

WHEN YOU ARE LAID OFF, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY YOUR LOCAL UNION OFFICE AND TRAVELING LOCAL UNION OF YOUR LAYOFF.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE UNION HALL OFFICE AT 707-644-4071.

YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!!

SINCERELY,

U.A. LOCAL 343 TRUST FUNDS
MetLife Dental:

Requesting a pre-treatment estimate

MetLife suggests you get a pre-treatment estimate before you have certain complex dental services performed, such as crowns, bridges, dentures or periodontal work (typically those that will cost over $300), so you can appropriately budget for the service or discuss what potential alternative treatment options may be available, if necessary.

Requesting a pre-treatment estimate is like submitting a claim before the dental procedure or service has taken place. The process is simple, and it gives you important information about what services are covered and at what level benefits may be payable. Your dentist can find out what your plan may pay and what your out-of-pocket expense may be while you are still in the office.1

To receive a benefit estimate, simply have your dentist submit a request for a pre-treatment estimate online at www.metdental.com or have him/her call 1-877-MET-DDS9 (936-3579) and follow the simple prompts for a pre-treatment estimate submission. You and your dentist will receive the benefit estimate (online or by fax) for most procedures so you can discuss treatment and payment options.

Advantages of Obtaining Pre-treatment Estimates Online:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Advantage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Receive benefit estimates quickly which can help to eliminate coverage and cost surprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convenient</td>
<td>Avoid the wait time of mail delivery to receive your estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accurate</td>
<td>Reduce errors since the information is confirmed at the time the estimate request is submitted online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We make available to your dentist general information regarding eligible benefits under your dental plan. If you have questions during your next visit, your dentist may be able to provide you with information, either by going online to www.metdental.com and selecting “Eligibility and Plan Design”, or calling 1-877-MET-DDS9 and requesting a “FastFax” of your dental plan information. Please note that this website and phone number are specifically for dentists and cannot be accessed by plan participants.

As a plan participant, you may call 1-800-842-0854 and follow the automatic prompts to have a FastFax copy sent directly to you. FastFaxes can provide you information about your plan design, eligibility for services, and other features of your plan.

1. Actual payments may vary depending upon annual maximums, plan frequency limits, deductibles and other provisions at time of payment.

Like most group benefit programs, benefit programs offered by MetLife and its affiliates contain certain exclusions, exceptions, waiting periods, reductions, limitations and terms for keeping them in force. Please contact MetLife or your plan administrator for complete details.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company | 200 Park Avenue | New York, NY 10166
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Navigating life together
Frequently Asked Questions About Preventive Dental Care

What is preventive dental care?
Preventive dental care is all the things you do (or should do) to take care of your teeth and gums: brushing, flossing, eating a healthy diet, and seeing your dentist regularly to help avoid dental disease.

Why is preventive dental care important?
When it comes to the health of your teeth and gums, preventive dental care is smart. Brushing and flossing help to remove plaque from the surfaces and in between teeth, keeping your teeth looking and feeling clean. A healthy diet, low in sugar and other refined carbohydrates, helps keep your whole body, including your teeth and gums, in good shape. And routine dental exams and regular cleanings may help prevent the incidence of higher-cost treatments such as periodontal surgery, root canals, extractions and fillings. After all, early detection and prevention are key to minimizing your need for more serious dental treatment.

How often should I see my dentist?
There are no clear guidelines stating how often a person should see the dentist. Some studies suggest once a year, others say every three or six months. Depending on your current dental health, your dental history, your risk factors for dental disease, and your personal preference, your dentist will recommend the frequency of visits that’s right for you.

What does the American Dental Association say about routine dental care?
The ADA recommends the following steps for good dental health:

1. Brush your teeth twice a day with an ADA-accepted fluoride toothpaste.
2. Replace your toothbrush every three or four months, sooner if it shows signs of wear.
3. Clean between teeth daily with floss or an interdental cleaner.
4. Eat a balanced diet, and limit soft drinks and between-meal snacks.
5. Be sure to receive professional cleanings and oral exams on a regular basis.

What questions should I ask my dentist about routine dental care?
Which toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and/or other products do you recommend for my teeth? Based on my dental history and current oral health condition, how many dealings do you recommend I have each year, and why?
Am I at risk for any dental diseases? If so, why? What changes should I make in my routine dental care to help control this risk?


This brochure is intended for your general knowledge. This information is not a substitute for visiting a dentist nor does this information replace advice given to you by your physician or dentist. By making this information available to you, MetLife is not engaged in rendering any medical or dental advice.
IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BROTHERS

We mourn the loss of our beloved Brothers and Friends.

They will be greatly missed.

Raymond Canepa — January 31, 2018
James (Jim) Hoagland — November 19, 2017
Frank Wornig — October 11, 2017
William West — July 24, 2017
Daniel Colombo — May 4, 2017
Raymond Sanderson — January 1, 2017
Thomas Wright — December 17, 2016
Randal (Randy) Hess — June 21, 2016
Jack Jamison — January 21, 2016
Robert (Bob) Mullen Sr. — January 8, 2016
Richard Anderson — October 3, 2015

U.A. PRAYER

“O GOD, WHO HAS CALLED HENCE THE SOUL OF OUR BROTHERS/SISTERS WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE. YOU WHO ALONE KNOWEST THE SECRETS OF EACH HEART, WITH ALL ITS TRIALS, SORROWS AND TEMPTATIONS; WE BESEECH THEE TO HAVE MERCY UPON THEM, AND ALSO UPON ALL THOSE, OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHO HAVE GONE PREVIOUSLY; PARDON EACH SIN THAT THEY HAVE COMMITTED AND GIVE THEM REST, LIGHT AND PEACE IN THY EVERLASTING KINGDOM; ALL OF THIS WE BEG THROUGH YOU OUR GOD AND SAVIOR”
Vallejo CA 94590
401 Nebraska Street
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 343