MISSION STATEMENT: TO BE PIPING INDUSTRY'S FIRST CHOICE BY FOSTERING AND PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM THROUGH EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

May & June 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

The meetings listed below will be the only scheduled meetings for the period indicated. All United Association members must present their UNION CARD to attend the General Meetings listed below. ***NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.***

****PLEASE NOTE CANCELLATION OF PARTICULAR MEETINGS DUE TO COVID-19 AS STATED BELOW****

FINANCE COMMITTEE:	**TO BE DETERMINED**
EXECUTIVE BOARD:	**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 AT 4:00 PM**
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:	**CANCELLED UNTIL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED**
BRANDON MEETING:	**CANCELLED UNTIL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED**

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS #524, 525

With our deepest sympathy we inform you of the passing away of the following UA Local 254 Members:

Brother Scott Simpson - A Journeyperson Pipefitter and 13 year member, passed away on March 16, 2020 at the age of 59

Brother Jeff Modjeski – A Journeyperson Steamfitter and 4 year member, passed away on April 2, 2020 at the age of 62.

DEATH BENEFIT

This assessment is overdue! We have several members who have not paid the $30 death benefit for 2020. Please contact our office immediately if you have not yet paid.

WORK SITUATION

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, work has slowed down over the last 4 weeks.

We are hoping things will pick up in the near future. Eventually, there will be work in Portage La Prairie at the Roquette site, Snow Lake, Bunge Harrowby as well as a handful of projects in Winnipeg. These projects include, Merit pea processing, a new RRC building downtown, multi-purpose living facility on Stradbrook, and the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

We are still waiting to hear about tenders for Winnipeg North End Sewage Plant, and will keep you informed once we hear any information.

We understand this is a difficult time for everyone, and we want to extend best wishes to all our brothers and sisters. Stay safe and be certain, we will get through this together.

GENERAL NEWS

COVID-19: Local 254 made the decision to close our office on Monday, March 16th until further notice for the wellness of our staff and members. We no longer allow member walk-ins for any reason. Our hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 9:30 – 3:30 pm. Please contact the office within these hours to stay up to date with your union dues or any questions/inquiries you have. We encourage you to visit our website for all of the latest updates on COVID-19.

We hope you and your family are well considering the times we are currently dealing with. COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives and will continue to affect us in some way or another, for some time. We have worked hard to keep our membership informed through our website and push notifications. Manitoba Building Trades has also sent useful and detailed information by email and on their website. Please refer to the website and this newsletter for information about the benefits within our Health & Welfare plan to assist members in these difficult times.

To further assist members, the UA has put in place a 'dues relief' benefit; members eligible for this benefit will be credited one month dues for April. To be eligible, you must not be retired, and have not worked more than 40 hours in the month of March 2020. Accounts will be credited at the end of April, once all hours have been received for March. This benefit could possibly extend to May, so it is important to read any emails that come from Local 254. If you have not paid your death benefit for 2020, it is important to clear up this amount immediately. Our goal is to ensure our members do not receive a suspension during COVID-19 pandemic.

Negotiated increases will take effect May 1st, 2020. Due to COVID-19, negotiations that were in progress prior to COVID-19, are suspended. Refrigeration negotiations are suspended for 6 months, we will reassess as a committee at that time. Winnipeg School Division negotiations, also suspended until further notice. As soon as restrictions are lifted, we will resume General Membership meetings. In the meantime we will hold all other meetings in a safe format as soon

as possible. Please feel free to contact us for any Training, Dispatch or other information by emailing or calling the office.

MEMBERSHIP

Mark's Work Warehouse Commercial is excited to offer **Plumbers Union Local 254** employees the following 10% discount code redeemable at www.marks.com: **PROMO CODE** MC2020-64

While Mark's stores across Canada remain closed until further notice to stem the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our employees, customers and community, we remain open on marks.com. We recognize our clients require access to purchase industrial, health wear and safety apparel, footwear and accessories necessary to keep employees safe and comfortable on the job during this critical time.

- Employees will receive 10% off items purchased online at marks.com
- Mark's eCommerce business remains open to fulfill online orders
- Mark's distribution remains open to meet increased demand

Our carrier partners remain open to ship orders across Canada

- Coughlin has a Pre-Authorized Deposit (PAD) form that can be found on their website, using the portal login area and selecting Member Portal. Visit for details.

- **Did you know our website is capable of taking On-line Payments? Follow these simple steps to pay monthly dues and/or your death benefit:**

1. Open Google Chrome as your search engine tool.
2. Log on to www.ualocal254.ca
3. Click Payments Portal (top right corner)
4. Your username is your 9 digit membership card number. If you do not have 9 digits, add 2 zeros at the beginning.
5. Your initial password is your birthday MMDDYYYY
6. Once logged in, you will be able to select outstanding payments you wish to pay.

Please remember that Local 254 Newsletter only runs from September – June. Therefore this will be the last newsletter distributed until the fall, we hope you enjoy your summer!

GOOD AND WELFARE

We are enduring the COVID-19 Pandemic as a nation and we would like to remind you that UA Canada Provides us with support in work, health and life concerns. Morneau Sheppel offers a Member Assistance Program to assist you in taking the first step toward change. If you require assistance please visit www.workhealthlife.com or visit our website at www.ualocal254.ca for information.

To All Insured Members

To assist members dealing with social distancing and recognizing the present restrictions on dental and many health services due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the

Trustees of the Health & Welfare Trust Fund have implemented the following changes to the benefit plan design:

New Benefits – vCare, Healthcare Navigation, Cancer Assistance & Medical Second Opinion

To complement the People Connect mental health tool previously introduced, **effective May 1, 2020, the Trustees are coordinating the extension of new proactive products** whereby you and your eligible dependents will have the ability to access primary healthcare support via secure text and video chat through **vCare**, a Virtual Healthcare benefit accessible through an app on your computer or mobile device. In particular with COVID-19 and respecting social distancing concerns, this is a way to allow you and your dependents to address medical issues without having to physically go to a medical clinic. Additional complementary benefits are also being added.

While greater detail on each of the new benefits will be identified on the Local 254 website, a summary of the new benefits includes:

- **vCare**: Personalized medical support with healthcare providers via secure text and video chat to address your healthcare needs from the comfort of your home or any other convenient location
- **Healthcare Navigation**: Assistance with navigating the public healthcare system, providing a single point of contact throughout diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation to ensure continuity of care for you and your family
- **Cancer Assistance**: Personalized assistance navigating and understanding cancer treatment by oncology nurses and specialists to ensure you get the right treatment at the right time
- **Medical Second Opinion**: Offers consultation and recommendations to confirm the best course of action about your treatment plans or options

To enroll for vCare, you will be required to provide your Policy # and Certificate # (Member ID) – these can be obtained from your Prescription Drug card. If you do not have these, they can be provided by the Plan Administrator.

To register, you must go to the vCare link on the Union website or you can access directly via the secure link ***https://vcareregistration.com***. When registering, you will be required to create your individual password. As a first time user, you will then be directed to download the app (search for **Akira Healthcare**) from Google Play or the iOS store, and will then require your email address and password to access vCare.

Access to the Healthcare Navigation, Cancer Assistance and Medical Second Opinion benefits are through contacting Compass Health Care Navigation at 1-866-883-5956. You will be asked to provide your name, Member ID (can be obtained from your Drug Card), your Union Local and possibly your Provincial Healthcare # (depending on the nature of your call).

Pharmacy Home Delivery

To also assist Members with social distancing at this time, the Plan is partnering with Pocket Pills, a digital pharmacy, to offer home delivery of prescription drugs. While the Plan will benefit from the lower dispensing fees they charge compared to most other

pharmacies, it is the convenience of this provider and ease of their online platform that we wish to highlight. More information on this service will be forwarded to Members in the near future. In the meantime, please be aware that most pharmacies will provide home delivery of prescriptions drugs upon request.

Hour Bank / Self-Payments Adjustments

Given the present restrictions on dental and many health services, the Trustees have implemented a temporary 25% reduction to the Hour Bank monthly deduction and self-pay rates for May and June benefit coverage. Please refer to the attached chart for applicable monthly rate adjustments.

	Current	Eff.May 1/20	Eff. July 1/20
Hour Bank Deduction	**$242**	**$181.50**	**$242**
Self-Paying Members	**$100**	**$75**	**$120**
Retirees (Enhanced)	**$125**	**$95**	**$125**

To also assist self-paying members (including retirees), remittances for May and June coverage will automatically be submitted for reimbursement from their Healthcare Spending Account (HSA). Although self-payments are not generally eligible to be reimbursed under an HSA, it will be allowed for May and June coverage only to assist members during the COVID-19 crisis. Please note you must make the self-payment to be eligible for a reimbursement from your HSA. If you do not wish your self-payment to be reimbursed by your HSA, please contact the Plan Administrator at 204-942-4438 (toll-free 888-204-1234) or email 254admin@coughlin.ca.

This information will be posted on our website early May.

With Best Wishes, I Remain,

Fraternally yours,

Kyle Kalcsics

Kyle Kalcsics
Business Manager and
Financial Secretary

PITC

PIPING INDUSTRY TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF MANITOBA

Online Courses

- Pipeline Safety Course
- SCOT (Saskatchewan)
- Rights & Responsibilities (Saskatchewan)
- Aerial Work Platform (Scissor Lift)
- Fall Protection (Harness)
- WHMIS 2015
- Confined Space Awareness
- CSTS/09 (Alberta and DMS)
- Arc Flash Awareness
- Asbestos Awareness
- Fire Extinguisher Safety
- Ground Disturbance
- Hand Tool Safety
- Hoist and Rigging Safety Basics
- Ladder Safety
- Lifting Loads Safely
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- Lift Truck Refresher (Forklift)
- Lockout
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Propane Safety Program
- Safe Operations of Tele Handlers (Refresher)
- Scaffold Safety
- Slips, Trips and falls
- Working Safely with Compressed Gases

Ongoing Courses

- CPR/AED Level C is ongoing offering, run on an as needed basis, call to get on list
- AWWA Backflow Testers Certification and Re-Certification is an ongoing offering, run as needed. call to get on list
- Confined Space Entry is an ongoing offering, run as needed, call to get on list
- ***NEW*** Forklift certification class, run as needed, call to get on list

Upcoming Courses

- McElroy Pipe Fusion Certification
- AWWA Backflow full and recertification class please call to register
- Advanced Electrical for Service Workers
- Water Based Foam Systems: Installation, Testing & Maintenance (Sprinkler Fitters)
- CSA Rigging Class (Journeypersons only)

UA Local 254 is looking for Members who may want to instruct online courses or if a member has a request for an online course not currently offered, please call Steve Ducharme 204-956-7365

Please contact PITC to register for any classes 204-956-7365

PITC

PIPING INDUSTRY TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF MANITOBA

NEW  ***NEW***

PITC has released a new Learning Management System (LMS) called LITMOS.

Members will have access to this new training on the go! There are several micro-courses, as well as full online courses, webinars, and lots of training videos specifically for our Pipe Trades.

This will be accessible by phone, laptop, or tablet. Courses will be self paced and available on demand (must have an internet connection). You were sent an email with login credentials April 24, 2020.

You can go to ua254_pitc.litmos.com and use your member number as a username to log in. You will need to create a password.

or you can download the "SAP Litmos" app and go to domain name "ua254_pitc" and login that way.

Please call Steve Ducharme if there are any questions or course requests.

** Apprentices, please remember to sign the OUT OF WORK list when going to school. **

Please contact PITC to register for any classes 204-956-7365