



PLUMBERS AND GASFITTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 1
OF THE
UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING
AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
NEW YORK CITY

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Inside Sentry
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April 1, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am writing to update the membership about how Plumbers Local Union No. 1 is working through this unimaginable and unprecedented time in our nation's history.

Ensuring that every Local 1 member and their family has the necessary health insurance to protect themselves during today's pandemic, Coronavirus (COVID-19), is the TOP PRIORITY of Local 1. No member should be put in the position to choose their health over wages.

On March 22, 2020, Governor Cuomo modified the "State of Emergency", which prevented Local 1 from being able to operate out of our Headquarters located in Long Island City, NY. Effective March 23, 2020, the Local Union Office Staff was given the tools to work remotely from home. The Union's phone system has been modified so that the Staff can assist you with processing dues payments or answering any questions that you may have. A dial-by-name directory has also been set up to leave a message for any of the Business Agents. At the present time, there are four (4) Business Agents on call daily acting as the Agent of the Day to handle any questions or concerns that you may have.

As we all know Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.6 to "*Shelter In*", is just a matter of time. On Friday, March 27, 2020, Governor Cuomo modified his present Executive Orders to shut down construction jobs, specifically those labeled as Commercial Office and Residential Condo Buildings, with the exception of Hospitals, Airports and Mass Transportation.

"No one should have to make the impossible choice between losing their job or providing for their family and going to work, especially during this pandemic."

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Therefore, Local 1 is urging every member to abide by the Governor's Executive Orders. It is because of rules like "Social Distancing" that lives will be saved and you and your family will be protected.

1. Plumbers Local Union No.1

Phone System:

There are 3 *New Prompts* on the phone system that can help guide you through.

- **Dial 1** to Pay Union Dues
- **Dial 2** for General Information and to Pay Union Dues
- **Dial 3** for a Dial-By-First-Name Business Agent Directory. Just type the first 3 letters of their first name.
- For the Business Manager, the Financial Secretary-Treasurer and the Business Agent-at-Large please Dial 2 and leave a message with the Office Staff member who answers your call.

2. New Weekly Unemployment Benefits:

To apply for the *NEW Weekly Unemployment Benefit* please refer to the Local 1 website (www.ualocal1.org) under the FUND OFFICE tab. You can simply download a copy of the Local 1 Weekly Unemployment Benefit Application, fill it out and either fax or scan it back to PIB along with your proof that you have applied for NYS Unemployment. As of March 22, 2020, Local 1 has suspended the in-person filing of applications to comply with the “State of Emergency” requirements that have been imposed.

Remember this benefit is for only members who are eligible for Local 1 Health Benefits. To clarify what this means is that any member applying for the Local 1 Weekly Unemployment Benefit should have had the qualifying hours prior to applying for this benefit.

This benefit provides members with additional monies during this unprecedented time. If any member is caught falsifying any information, they will be subject to *Disciplinary Action in the form of charges or fines filed against them and will have to pay back all of the benefit money to the Fund.*

3. Plumbing Industry Board

The PIB is also complying with the “State of Emergency” and has shut down Fund Office operations as of March 23, 2020. The Fund Office Staff are now working remotely and their new phone system is up and running. They can be contacted at their temporary telephone number at 718-223-4313 or via email at info@ualocal1funds.org.

At the present time the PIB has now instituted some additional programs to make it easier to make payments.

- Express Pay – Members can use this service to make credit card or electronic checking account payments to the Fund Office for their continuation of coverage benefits such as COBRA or Retiree Coverage.
- US Alliance Credit Union – The Fund Office can use this service to make electronic payments to member's accounts. Members that do not have an account can open one online. This will allow payment of weekly Unemployment Benefits and Welfare ASB Benefits.
- Member Correspondence/EOB's – The Fund Office can use a combination of the MyBenefits Portal (See Enclosed Flyer) and also the USPS, although mail delivery and pick-up is limited at this time. Email and fax can be used by members to submit forms and documents to the Fund Office.

4. Jacob Javits Convention Center

I have signed onto a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Jacob Javits Convention Center to assist in the expansion of an Emergency Triage Hospital with 1000 beds, using Plumbers Local Union No. 1 members at the house rates.

5. Additional Emergency Triage Hospitals 1000 Bed Units

Governor Cuomo has slotted four (4) Additional Emergency Triage Hospital Centers throughout the five boroughs of NYC. Although the sites have yet to be finalized, they are looking at one in every Borough, as explained during last week's Press Conference with the Governor. He stated there was a possibility of using Aqueduct Racetrack, the Brooklyn Cruise Ship Terminal and the CUNY Schools in Staten Island and the Bronx.

Local 1, along with all of the other Building Trades Affiliates, have always led the way in every disaster that has affected New York City. Therefore, I will be signing onto an Emergency Response PLA to assist in building these four (4) Additional Emergency Triage Hospital Centers. These projects will most likely be working around the clock in order to meet the Governor's requests.

6. HR 748-The CARES Act

I have included a copy of a Memo from the UA regarding HR 748-The CARES Act in with this mailing. This will help all members have a better understanding of the Emergency Benefits that the Federal Government has put in place to help with the financial burdens of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). It includes outlines of the new Federal Unemployment Benefits which allows Local 1 unemployed members to apply for an additional \$600 per week of benefits for a period of 4 months. This is above the NYS Unemployment benefits. Waiting periods have been waived and provides an additional thirteen (13) weeks. It is these types of benefits that will help us get through this unimaginable and unprecedented time in our nation's history.

“Stay safe.... This is just a temporary moment in our history, and this too will pass. But, not without some type of sacrifice and losses!”

Fraternally yours,



Michael Apuzzo
Business Manager

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Enclosures