



DISTRICT COUNCIL 4 Update

October 2023

Painters, Tapers, Glaziers, Glassworkers, Billboard Posters, Wallcoverers, Printing Presswork and Pre-natal-Perinatal Workers

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Dear Brothers & Sisters:

As we head into the fall we are optimistic with the work outlook remaining strong for most locals. And as we look back at the past year we have been fortunate with lots of work all over Central and Western New York. We will always be recruiting journey people, apprentices and specialty workers. Along with new contractors to add to our base of employers. It is a year round attitude that will keep our Union strong and growing. As always, referrals are welcome and appreciated.

It seems no matter how much emphasis is put on it, we consistently hear misinformation regarding the Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA's) and some member's lack of understanding concerning it.

In 2011 the Federal Government mandated that employees had to have some form of employer-based insurance in order to access their HRA. So, that means either you must have insurance through the hall or you must have insurance through your spouses employer to access the health funds. Without any of these you are not considered to have employer-based insurance. You will not be able to access the HRA funds in your account until you do get employer based insurance or when you retire.

The Health Plan was amended so that retirees are able to access the HRA upon retirement. So once retired, you can turn in receipts for yourself or your spouse without having to show proof of insurance. This means that even members who are currently not able to access the HRA (those without employer-based insurance – such as Veterans or Native Americans who get health insurance from outside sources) will be able to once they retire.

This next part is very important: If you don't get insurance from the union hall (and you get health contributions as part of your benefit package) we need to have a waiver on file that proves to the federal government that you don't need insurance and have it through another source. If you don't have a waiver on file with the Union and you don't respond to our letters and outreach, we are obligated by federal law to automatically sign you up for a single plan that we offer.

The Federal Government guidelines for these HRA accounts dictate that the health money can only be given out after a member has paid the bill. We must have a receipt on file to reimburse any health money. Again this is a federal law and if we don't follow these regulations it would be considered tax fraud. Depending on the value of any money wrongfully given out, it could amount to a felony if the funds are given out without the appropriate documentation/ receipt.

As I have stated before, I recommend every member with questions contact their Business Representative, as they are all Health Fund Trustees and can help answer your health insurance questions. The Trusts Funds staff can also assist with questions and explain how to properly navigate the process.

As always work safe and work smart.

In solidarity,

Michael Hogan
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
IUPAT District Council 4



IUPAT DC 4 of WNY & CNY



BRIAN LIPCZYNSKI

Director Of Service Representatives

As the summer comes to a close, we are gearing up for all of the mega projects throughout our council. We have to continue recruiting for all of our trades/crafts to get names and numbers for the upcoming workload. If we fall behind, another trade would happily come in and do our work. We will keep fighting to preserve what is ours and keep pushing forward to try to grow and extend our market share through organizing by any means necessary.

With this job comes many different tasks. Representatives and Organizers are often spread thin and can not spend as much time on one certain aspect of the job as they would like. Please, if you have something pressing that you need done and have talked to someone on staff about it, reach out to me and I can try and take care of it or have someone take care of it in a timely manner. There are multiple people working for you. You should have multiple contacts throughout the staff.

As much as I do not try and preach about politics and elections, I have to mention it here. Elections have consequences. Multiple District Council 4 staff has been helping support our brothers and sisters in Florida who are potentially going to lose their right to bargain. This is because Governor DeSantis has signed SB256. Florida is already a right to work state and this bill is requiring every unit to have 60% of membership and cards signed yearly. This could lead to a decertification which would make their contract and right to collectively bargain disappear. This bill is designed to weaken the ability of public employee unions to fight for fair wages, safety on the job, and protect workers facing discrimination, harassment, or unfair treatment. This is not the first bill of this type and is kneecapping unions. The unions should be the ones knee capping and laying the ground rules for everyone else. We have to be smart and help out people who help us out. Project Labor Agreements and legislation supporting us and our programs/certifications are the gold standard. This is not a Red versus Blue issue. This is who supports unions versus who doesn't support unions issue.

As always reach out to me (716-429-7489) with any questions or concerns. Treat everyone as an equal and be kind. Life is too short for hostility in the workplace. Work safely and get home to your families after an honest day of work!



FRANK STENTO

Director Of Organizing

Brothers and Sisters of District Council #4,

The Summer is winding down however the traditional ebb and flow of our industry has been tossed out the window. Our jurisdiction is thriving with current and upcoming projects including higher education, medical, entertainment, infrastructure, housing, hospitality, municipal projects, welcome centers, manufacturing hubs, tech hubs, sports complexes, and airports. Our market share is holding steady, and our membership has seen a slight uptick but our growth, despite steady efforts has been too slow. Our contractors are handcuffed by the lack of qualified personnel which, although common among all industries, is not something we will make an excuse for. The impact of this is the inability to bid additional work which restricts expansion. The time for real growth is now while demand is here and if we don't seize it, we may not have an opportunity quite as impactful to capitalize on in the future.

Our District Council 4 Organizers, along with other departments, will continue our offensive regarding recruitment and retention as well as our vigilance on those that wish to diminish our markets. We have hit 90+ job and career fairs since the beginning of the year. We work intensively with our community partners, hit regular job visits to promote the opportunities within our crafts, and pursue digital and social media marketing avenues. We look at ways to get out often and early to our youth and build a brand awareness that we as an organization can be proud of. It is encouraging to see more genuine interest from counselors and teachers, but this will take time to change the "college first" mindsets. We will need to do a solid job retaining and mentoring every apprentice that steps onto a jobsite or into one of our training centers. Our council staff will be pushing towards observance of apprenticeship ratios, as the best way to grow always will be from within. Many of our signatory contractors understand the need for hiring and training apprentices as our future painters, tapers and glaziers while others exacerbate the problem.

We will need to expand our volunteer organizers to help us promote the careers we at DC4 offer as well as play a role as watchdogs on construction sites. A revamped Steward program will be rolled out in the coming months. We must continue our reputation as the most highly skilled, trained and educated workforce performing our crafts & always act like professionals as if our livelihoods depend on it. The Volunteer Organizing Committee or VOC has been getting involved with community projects as recently promoted. At its core the VOC is more about getting active and engaged within our Council structure whether that means canvassing for candidates that support labor, walking a picket line with fellow Union brothers and sisters, or showing up early at events to help setup. Community is something our society is lacking these days and it's the same within most organizational structures. Union solidarity is something that helps build up "our DC4 community" and our relationships within. We all want to be able to come home safe, earn good wages to support our families, and have a sense of purpose.

I would point out, and stats would reflect that a career with the IUPAT DC4 does that. We can and will need to continue to adapt and improve our roles to push forward and get some wins for our members and our families. We will need fresh ideas and fresh viewpoints from our rank and file to do so. We all have skin in the game and bring something to the table. Every member has the ability to be a labor leader in large and small ways.

As always work safe, enjoy your loved ones & God Bless.



MARC BRAUNSTEIN

Director of Training

I hope all of my DC 4 brothers and sisters had a great summer while spending time with family, friends, and loved ones and staying busy working hard and safe. It was great to see everyone at the DC 4 Darien Lake picnic and I look forward to seeing a lot of you during our busy training season this winter.

I was lucky enough to attend the IUPAT Leadership Conference in August 2023. There were a few major topics and talking points that General President Jimmy Williams Jr. spoke about, and these topics were also a major theme of this conference. We, at DC 4, have been talking about these topics as well. The first topic was growing our Union consistently through our Apprenticeship Programs. Most of our contracts have a 3:1 Journeyman to Apprentice ratio in them. The IUPAT is at a 5:1 ratio. We need to add 13,000 apprentices to be at the 3:1 ratio. The second topic was creating and inclusive IUPAT, where everyone regardless of race, age, or sexual orientation feels welcome, and feels like this is their Union too. Another topic was Recruitment and Retention. This is a major issue we are facing across the country and here in DC

4 as well. Over 170,000 members have left the IUPAT in the last 10 years. We lose 50% of our new members in the first year of employment. We have to do better at retaining our members through conversations and Mentorship. GP Jimmy Williams Jr. also talked about "Get comfortable being uncomfortable". We need to be on the offensive and not the defensive. It is our responsibility, as Union members, to have conversations, get back to the basics, and to teach the value of being in a Union to our new members. This will help with our retention. The last topic was empowering our membership to participate and run our Union at every level. When our Union stands together, we have the potential to be more powerful than any force in our industry. Let's build the IUPAT we know we can be!

Our busy training season is right around the corner. Our Apprentices will be starting school in December. Our Fall Health and Safety/Upgrading Training calendar is on dc4.org and our full schedule will be completed soon. Please check the website for classes. Our text blasts are the most effective way to reach our members, especially when we have information on new classes or changes to classes that we need to get out. If you are not signed up to receive the texts from DC4, I recommend you call our Office to get signed up.

I hope to see all of our qualifying members at the 2023 STAR event on November 4, 2023, in Rochester, NY. This is always a great event and I wish everyone luck with the raffle.

Please contact the FTI of W&CNY Office 716-565-0112 with any training or apprenticeship needs. Stay safe out there!



DAN LAFRANCE

Director Of Political Action

I hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable summer and was able to spend time enjoying the beautiful weather with their family and friends. As I have said in the past, we stay out of races until after the primary unless it is an incumbent that we have endorsed in the past and they supported our issues. With that being said, the primaries are over and we are still meeting and speaking with candidates to find out where they stand on Davis-Bacon (prevailing wage), PLA's (Project Labor Agreements), Apprenticeship Language & Local Hire Language and we will continue to update our list of endorsed candidates.

I ask that you reach out to your Business Rep as we get closer to Election Day and prior to you voting to get the latest updates. We ask that no matter what party you are affiliated with, that you please consider supporting and voting for the candidates that we have vetted. We spend a lot of time interviewing candidates and only endorse candidates that support Davis-Bacon (prevailing wage) and PLA's or other language that benefits union members such as local

hire agreements and apprenticeship language and the ones we chose not to support may be pushing to have projects done without a PLA or any other language which may cost you your next job. We endorse candidates for the sole purpose of them doing what is right for our members, their families, our contractors and our union. The vetted candidates we endorse will/or have voted in favor of PLA's, Davis-Bacon, Apprenticeship Language and believe in workers earning a living wage and benefits.

ENDORSEMENTS 2023

Buffalo Region

Erie County Leg 2nd District	April Baskin	Cheektowaga Highway	Richard Rusiniak
Erie County Leg 3rd District	Mike Kooshoian	Cheektowaga Supervisor	Brian Nowak
Erie County Leg 4th District	John Bargnesi Jr	Evans Town Council	Laurie Reitz
Erie County Leg 5th District	Jeanne Vinal		
Erie County Leg 7th District	Tim Meyers	Amherst Council	Angela Marinucci
Erie County Leg 10th District	Deb Seeber	Amherst Council	Mike Szuka
		Amherst Highway	Steve Floss
Erie County Executive	Mark Poloncarz		
		Orchard Park Town Board	Florina Alshiler
Mayor of Niagara Falls	Robert Restaino	West Seneca Council	Molly Martin
		West Seneca Council	Jason Scheckenberger
Hamburg Town Clerk	Cathy Rybczynski	West Seneca Council	Kim Conidi
		West Seneca Supervisor	Chris Rusin

Rochester Region

Monroe County Executive	Adam J. Bello	County Leg. 16th District	Dave Long
District Attorney	Sandra J. Doorley	County Leg. 18th District	Lystra McCoy
County Leg. 8th District	Mark C. Johns	County Leg. 22nd District	Mercedes Vazquez Simmons
County Leg. 11th District	John B. Baynes	Irondequoit Town Council (2)	Grant Malone John Perticone

Oswego Region/Watertown Region

City of Oswego Mayor	Rob Corridino	Oswego County Leg. 19th District	Marie Schadt
City of Oswego Council	Chance Adams 1st Ward Gary Thompson 7th Ward	Oswego County Leg. 25th District	Frank Castiglia
		Town of Scriba Town Supervisor	Kelly Lagoie
Oswego City Court Judge	Kristin A Shanley-Graves	City of Fulton Mayor	Jim Rice
Oswego County Leg. 5th District	Amy Connolly	City of Fulton Council	Jeffrey Cobb
Oswego County Leg. 16th District	Jay Scanlon		

Syracuse Region

These Endorsements were not voted on by the time article was due. We will send a list to members once they have been voted on.

Ithaca Region

Supreme Court	Cheryl Insigna	
Ithaca Common Council	Cynthia Brock	1st Ward
Binghamton City Council	Mike Dundon	7th Ward

IMPORTANT DATES to Remember

October 28th 2023	Last Day to Register to Vote in person, online or by mail (must be received by 10/28/23)
October 23rd 2023	Last Day to Submit Change of Address must be received by this date
October 23rd 2023	Last Day for Absentee Ballot Application by Letter must be received by this date
November 6th 2023	Last Day to Apply In-Person for Absentee Ballot
November 7th 2023	Last Day Absentee Ballot to be postmarked by (received by 10/15/22) to Local Board of Elections or poll site in your county or delivered in person

The DC4 Volunteer Organizing Committee (VOC) helped out the VFW Post 1419 in Hamburg, NY. The VOC members restored the paint on the Historic M60 Tank to its former Glory!!! The M60 is an American second-generation Main Battle Tank (MBT) This tank served in the Korean War. Special thanks to the following DC4 VOC members for making this happen: Seth Spangler, Rob Hirner, Dominic Puricelli, Billy Mayer, Byron Reyes Calero, Marling Lisseth Garcia, Tim Hinton, : Richelle Johns and her son Ben, Wes Schlossin, Guy Falsetti, and Marc Braunstein.



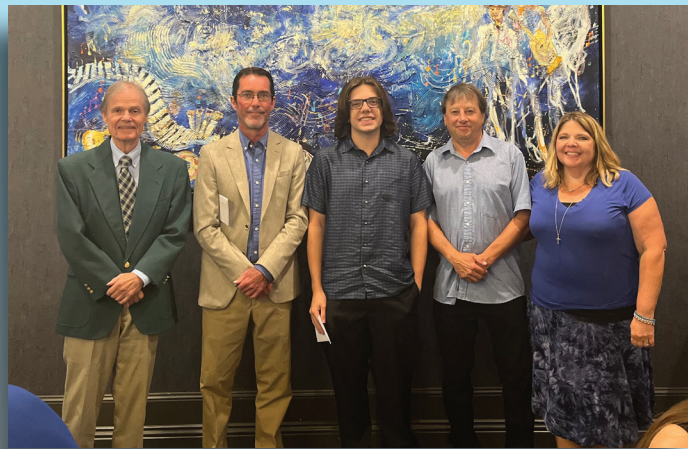
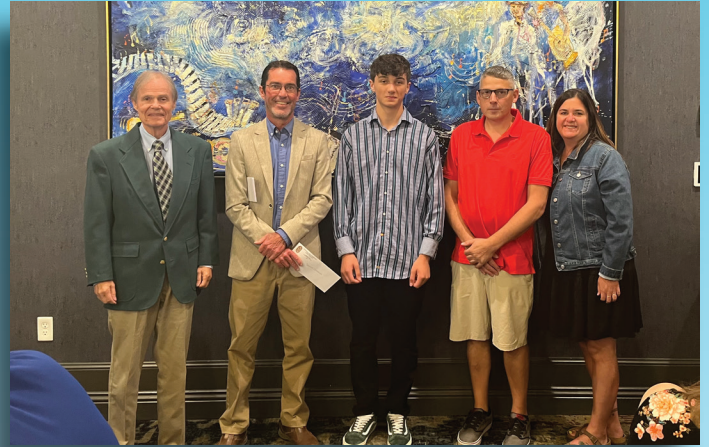
19th Annual Patch Golf Outing

For 19 years now, the support of DC #4, its affiliated locals, members and businesses have helped improve the lives of children in need and to ensure that their futures are bright and productive. Thank you all very much for your generosity.



Painters District Council #4's scholarship fund, named the James H. Wolford Scholarship Fund after former General Vice President James H. Wolford of our international, was voted on by the memberships of Painters Locals #43 and #112 in 1984. Up to five recipients each year at \$1,500.00 for four years each is the reward. Professors Richard Herdlein of SUNY at Buffalo State, Mary Odden of SUNY Buffalo, and Cathleen Morreale of SUNY Buffalo make up the committee whom decide the awards.

This year the awardees are Makayla Kegler, Salvatore Constantin, Riley Boody, Joseph Lagana, and Rhiannon Dom-browskas. Congratulations and keep up the good work!



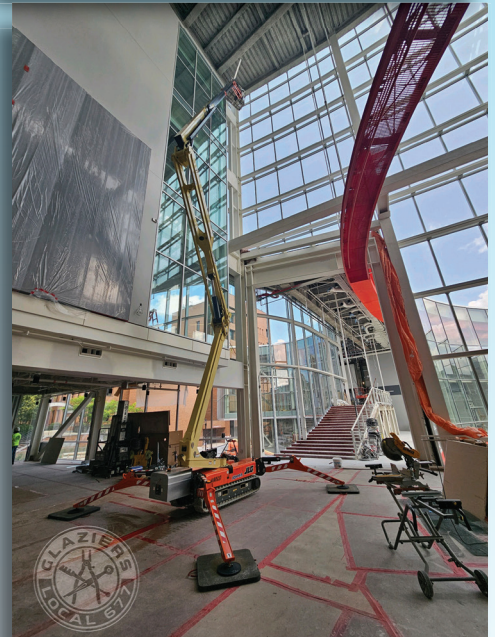
“LABOR DAY PARADES”



ANNUAL D.C. #4 FAMILY PICNIC AT DARIEN LAKE THEME PARK

Darien Lake Family Picnic is getting bigger than ever. The support each year is overwhelming and to see everyone having a good time is priceless. It doesn't go unnoticed the hard work each and everyone of our members puts in each day. So to have a day with beautiful weather and that you all can relax with friends and family is very special.

MEMBERS AT WORK



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR CHECKS

Thanksgiving Holiday:

The office will be CLOSED on Thursday November 23rd as well as Friday November 24th in respect of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Requests for checks need to be made by Monday, November 20th BY 12:30PM. The checks will be available for pickup on Wednesday, November 22nd from 8:30AM until 4:30PM.

Christmas Holiday:

The office will be closing at 12:00PM on Friday December 22nd and CLOSED on Monday, December 25th in respect of the Christmas Holiday. Requests for checks need to be made by Tuesday December 26th BY 12:30PM (as usual) for the week of Christmas. Checks will be available for pickup on Thursday December 28th as well as Friday December 29th from 8:30AM until 4:30PM and 8:30AM until 12:00PM respectively.

New Year's Holiday

The office will be closing at 12:00PM on Friday December 29th and CLOSED on Monday, January 1st in respect of the New Year's Holiday. Requests for checks need to be made by Tuesday, January 2nd BY 12:30PM (as usual) for the week of New Years. Checks will be available for pickup on Thursday, January 4th as well as Friday, January 5th from 8:30AM until 4:30 PM.



International Union of Painters
and Allied Trades of America and Canada, AFL-CIO
585 Aero Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Proudly Serving Western
and Central New York in the
counties of Allegany, Broome,
Cattaraugus, Cayuga,
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Chenango, Cortland,
Delaware, Erie, Genesee,
Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis,
Livingston, Madison,
Monroe, Niagara, Oneida,
Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans,
Oswego, Otsego, Schuyler,
Seneca, Steuben,
St. Lawrence, Tioga,
Tompkins, Wayne,
Wyoming and Yates*



D.C. #4 LOCAL MEETING NIGHTS

	MEETING HALL LOCATIONS	MEETING NIGHT	CITY/TOWN
#11	701 West State St.	2 nd Wednesday, 5:30pm	Ithaca
#17	585 Aero Drive	Meets Quarterly	Cheektowaga
#31	615 West Genesee St.	1 st Monday, 6:00pm	Syracuse
#38	216 Cayuga St.	4 th Tuesday, 7:00pm	Fulton
#43	585 Aero Drive	2 nd Thursday, 6:00pm	Cheektowaga
#112	585 Aero Drive	2 nd Monday, 6:00pm	Cheektowaga
#150	244 Paul Rd.	2 nd Wednesday, 4:30pm	Rochester
#178	701 West State St.	1 st Tuesday, 5:00pm	Ithaca
#660	585 Aero Drive	2 nd Friday, 6:30pm	Cheektowaga
#677	6605 Pittsford Palmyra Rd.	1 st Monday, 5:00pm	Fairport
#1203	625 Delaware	Meets Quarterly	Buffalo

LOOKING FOR WORK?

Call the Regional Business Representative:

Buffalo/Niagara Falls/Jamestown/Olean

Dominic Zirilli (716) 393-7915
dzirilli@dc4.org

Brian Lipczynski (716) 429-7489
blipczynski@dc4.org

Ithaca/Elmira/Binghamton

Dan Jackson (315) 744-5280
djackson@dc4.org

Oswego/Watertown/Syracuse

Dan Lafrance (315) 396-3301
dlafrance@dc4.org

Rochester

David Chaffee (585) 413-8699
dchaffee@dc4.org

Rochester/Syracuse/Binghamton

Joe Comfort (585) 727-6228
jcomfort@dc4.org