

# **NewsLetter**





#### FROM THE DESK OF BRYAN EDWARDS



Greetings to all, and on behalf of myself along with the entire staff of Pipefitters Local Union 211, we would like to wish every member and their families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. We hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, as well.

As we come to the close of yet another year, we have so much to be thankful for as members of this great Local Union. It seems as the years go by that the local unions, local police, and fire departments along with state and government jobs, are the only employees left that have a true pension. Chemical plants and city workers that aren't grandfathered under the pension plan are now only offered 401K plans instead of pension plans. The sad thing is that the companies are slowly but surely eliminating pension plans and much of the youth that I have talked to don't even know what a pension plan is. I have asked numerous young people to tell me what a pension is and 90% of them say it is some kind of retirement but are not really sure exactly what it is. Their answer is usually "it is like a 401K or something like that". My point is this; for us union members that have this pension, it is truly something to be thankful for.

As far as how the work is going for 2019, it was an average year for Local 211. The commercial manhours were down for 2019, but the industrial work and manhours are still growing. The HVAC side of Local 211 is where we are focused on growing at this time by adding 2 new residential HVAC contractors this year. Also, the signatory contractors are telling us that they can all grow their HVAC departments if we can produce more HVAC techs. Hearing the contractors plea for more techs, we have decided to add a new HVAC class this semester and another next semester, and then see if we need to possibly add a 3rd class next year. Our apprentice school is why we are the best, so lets keep producing the best in larger numbers for our partners, which are the signatory contractors. Although Pipefitters Local Union 211 is a large union it is also a large business, as well. Customer relations are huge along with production and quality and not to mention safety & training. We are the best at all these, so now is the time to grow this local union and help our contractors grow too. This past year we signed All Team Services and Bailey Mechanical HVAC, and I encourage each local 211 member to either use these contractors for your home HVAC needs, or please tell your friends & family about these residential HVAC contractors. They are both extremely reasonable on their rates. Using them will not only help them grow, but will allow them to hire more of our members. We are not only targeting the Deer Park location for growth, but also Beaumont, Corpus Christi, and Harlingen are all adding either new HVAC or new pipefitting classes. Over all this year we have added 3 new HVAC classes and 2 pipefitting classes. One of the pipefitting classes will be learning more fabrication for the fab shops. The ultimate goal through growing our apprenticeship and organizing new members & contractors is to reach the 4,000 member mark. The work boom is coming soon so we can reach this goal, expecially with your help. Please send anyone that you know that does any type of our work so we can not only grow, but by doing this we are actually giving these people and their families better lives by having a pension, family coverage insurance, and great wages. Let's share the gift of a better life with others!

Brother & Sisters, the future looks great for us and I believe we will grow in membership and in manhours throughout the next couple of years.

Once again I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please remember during all the hustle & bustle of the holiday season what the true meaning of Christmas is about. May God bless each of you & your familiy members. I wish you a blessed 2020.

Fraternally Yours, Bryan K. Edwards Business Manager







Brothers, Sisters, and Families, it's been an educational year.

It has been a pleasure working with you on your healthcare issues. I'm proud to say, seeing the recovery of the trust fund has been rewarding, but there is still plenty to do.

Brother Bryan Edwards has implemented text messaging to our contact system and with my recommendation to Zenith Administrators we will be asking for email addresses on your 2020 Demographic Forms. This will allow general correspondence to be shared via email, however due to privacy laws, personal information will still be protected by sending via USPS.

As many of you know, Ms. Leticia and I have been working with many of you on how to utilize the phone numbers on the back of your medical cards to your best interest. If you haven't, I would encourage all of you to set up an on-line account, not only with BCBS, but also Zenith.

With the Zenith site you will be able to check your eligibility and manhours reported to our H&W Offices. (These hours should match your National Pension hours.)

With the BCBS site you will be able to check your deductibles paid for the year as well as review your Explanation of Benefits (EOB's) as we are unable to view your claims in this office.

As previously mentioned there is still more to do. We are asking for the members to never forget that this Fund is a Self-Insured Fund. The monies paid in hourly are the same monies that pays for our medical claims. By utilizing options recommended by BCBS, you will save yourself and the Fund money helping to minimize the need to add future contributions to the hourly rate and allowing higher raises on your wages. Although we no longer offer Dental Coverage, the plan still offers Vision Services through VSP.

Happy New Year. As most of you know the 2020 Re-Enrollment period has begun. Many of you have overlooked the cover letter that was sent in September along with Demographic Form and Spousal Affidavit. This cover letter is asking for proof of eligibility, Marriage License, Birth Certificates, Court Ordered Guardianship Papers, Divorce Decrees, etc. Single members not needed. (This requirement is for everyone with H&W eligibility. If you choose not to provide this requested documentation your spouse and children will lose coverage January 1, 2020) You can expect no changes to the 2019 benefits into the year 2020.

Participate in Trust Fund Saving. We are asking everyone to participate in preventative medicine by getting your flu shots and well man/woman visits done annually. Both are done at no cost to you with an in network Pharmacy or Doctor.

MD Live; If you haven't signed up for the MD Live app and want to enjoy doctor visits in the comfort of your home or work at no cost to you, sign up today. All you have to do is text BCBSIL to 635483 and follow the prompts.

Good RX site: Many of you may want to compare the Good RX pricing vs. the Sav RX pricing when it comes to your pharmaceutical needs. Just pull up Good RX on the web and type in the name of the drug prescribed and it does the rest.

Without you, the members, it would not be possible for Ms. Leticia or myself to serve you on a daily basis. We both want to wish you a wonderful Holiday Season with a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Fraternally,
Mark Baker
Local 211 President & Fund Coordinator

# FROM THE DESK OF .....





"I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays, from my family to yours and I look forward to a prosperous New Year!"

- Mike Trahan



"I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. I would like to welcome all new members and apprentices to Local 211. I look forward to working with each of you. This is the time of year to remember the good things in life and be thankful for our blessings. We are anticipating a prosperous 2020. I pray you have a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year"

- John Guyon



"I just want to take this time to show my appreciation for all of our members. May you and your family have a merry holiday season and a happy New Year!"

- Ken Waybright



"Happy Holidays from our family to yours!" - Kevin Bickerstaff



"To all my Brothers and Sisters of this great local, my warmest wishes of the season from my family to yours. Let us cherish family & friends this holiday season. Best wishes for a happy New Year filled with health, happiness, and spectacular success. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!"

- Octavio Rojas



"From my family to yours, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May God continue to bless all our Local 211 families in the coming year!"

- Todd Longron



#### YOU MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING TO ATTEND THE KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHEN: DECEMBER 14, 2019

WHERE: PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 211

1301 W. 13th Street, Deer Park, Texas 77536

TIME: 11:00AM until 2:00PM

WHO CAN COME: ALL Local 211 Members and their Children & Grandchildren

It will be so much fun! Bring your children to see Santa and receive a free picture with Santa Claus. Every child will receive a free toy. There will be a station set up for letters to Santa, a Bounce House, Games, Cookie Decorating Station, Food, Drinks, and a cake to celebrate Jesus' Birthday.

Join Us For Lots of Family Fun!



#### **WORRY LESS and LIVE MORE**

#### Voluntary Benefits for PIPEFITTER 211 Members

I am sure that we can all agree that Worry and Stress prevent us from having the "Peace of Mind" that each of us desires and deserves. Have you ever said "If I knew then what I know now, I would have done different." We all have made mistakes by making decisions without adequate information.

LEGALSHIELD and ID SHIELD are voluntary products that are available to you through your union at a discounted rate.

As a member, you get unlimited consultation on unlimited matters from very reliable source. You also have protection to you and your loved ones identity that includes Monitoring and Restoration. The Legal plan also provides Estate preparation services which includes a Last Will and Testament, Health Care Power of Attorney and Living Will for you and your significant other at no additional cost. Other benefits are also included in the plans.

The costs for these Benefits are \$18.95 per month for a Family Legal Plan and \$14.95 per month for Family ID Shield Plan when purchased together. The Individual Legal Plan cost is \$16.95 per month and the Individual ID Shield Plan cost is \$8.95 per month.

Stop worrying and Start relaxing with LEGALSHIELD and ID SHIELD Today.

Call Claudis Stevenson Jr., Local 211 member since 1975

Ph: # 409-363-0090

Independent Associate for **LegalShield**<sup>SM</sup> (Accredited by the Better Business Bureau)

For more information visit this website: legalshield.com/hub/claudis

www.legalshield.com/info/pflocal211







Local 211's Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament will be held on April 24th, 2020 at Battleground **Golf Course. Please SAVE THE DATE!** 

# **PIPEFITTERS LOCAL UNION 211**

3rd ANNUAL FRESHWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT



MARCH 27th & 28th, 2020



Williams Hart has proudly supported our local unions since our founding in 1983.

We believe in the rights of individuals under the law.
When hardworking people are injured on the job
because of negligence, we fight to bring
accountability and justice in the courtroom.

If you or someone you know has been injured call us for a free consultation to discuss your case.





## ATTENTION APPRENTICES & JOURNEYMEN

Please check with the school office for your OSHA, EPA, Foreman, NITC, EPRI ETC cards if yours is older than 6 months!





#### **PAY YOUR DUES THE EASY WAY!**



#### Sign up for ACH!

Just call the dues office with your routing and account number, and we will draft your dues directly out of your bank account once a month. There are no extra fees!

Other options are: Pay online at <a href="https://www.pipefitterslocal211.com">www.pipefitterslocal211.com</a> or thru the ISAQR app.

Pay by mail. Send checks to 1301 West 13th Street, Deer Park, TX 77536

Pay at the window 7:30am to Noon and 1pm to 3:30pm Monday thru Friday.

On Union Meeting night the dues window is open till 6pm!

We accept credit cards at the window or online for an extra \$3 fee. We **do not** accept payment over the phone.

Did you know that every time you are delinquent on your dues you lose your death benefit? Don't let this happen to you. Sign up for ACH today!

#### **UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY!**

If you have lost a spouse to death or divorce or simply desire to change your beneficiary, please call the dues office to get a beneficiary card mailed to you. This is very important. Also, let your family know that if anything ever happens to you, they should contact the dues office regarding death benefits. These benefits are only available if your dues are current or if you are a life member.

#### <u>UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL & CELL PHONE PROVIDER</u>

Please make sure we have your current address, phone number, email address and cell phone provider. It is important that we are able to contact you with receipts, ballots, notices of meetings, newsletters, scholarship opportunities and various other news.

#### **DOWNLOAD THE ISAQR APP!**

You can pay dues through the app or check your skills. You can scan your card with the app to check your paid thru date. If you allow push notifications, we can notify you of meeting date changes, special events and announcements, and more. New features are still being added.

### **UNION MEETINGS**

Union Meetings are held on the second Tuesday, every other month, at the Houston Union Hall, 1301 West 13th St., Deer Park, TX at 6:00 p.m. Zones 195 & 823 Union Meetings are held at the Beaumont Union Hall and Harlingen Union Hall in unison with the Local 211 Meeting via video teleconferencing.

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EVERY MONTH. SS# OR BOOK#	
ROUTING #	
CHECKING ACCT #	
SAVINGS ACCT. #	
"ISF" FEE OF \$50.00 WILL BE CI RETURNS AND INCORRECT AC	HARGED FOR ALL COUNT NUMBERS
SIGNATURE:	

LAST (PRINT) FIRST	MIDDLE	SSN/SIN
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To the Secretary of Local	City	State
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	as the person t	to whom shall be paid any "Buria
Expense Benefit" to which I may		
responsible for the payment of my	funeral expense. I understa	and that if the aforementioned party
does not assume responsibility for r or the party who is more equitably		fit will be paid to the party who doe
WITNESS:	Dated this	
		(Member's Signature)



#### THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO GET INFORMATION FROM LOCAL UNION 211



#### **CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:**

http://www.pipefitterslocal211.com/

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:



https://www.facebook.com/Pipe-Fitters-Local-Union-211-Houston-TX-201282129896347/



#### **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:**

@PipeFitterLU211

**NEWSLETTER:** 

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

NOT RECEIVING YOURS?

CONTACT LOCAL 211 @ 713-644-5521 AND UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS!

# In Memoriam

Gordon Anthony
James W Avery
Loveless J Bergeron Jr
Earl R Brown
Thil Caletka Sr
Robert L Carr
Charles Ben Cockrell
Devin Custer
Joe Edmiston
Jerry D Franklin

Harold Gaddy Jr

John W Gibson Sr
Robert J Goolsby
Raynor Gunderson
Harvey Guidry
Jimmy Charles Hinson
Troy Hoffart
Patrick Hoyland
Blas Juarez
Jodie L Koenig
Steven T Martin
Billy J Morehead Sr

Harold Parker
Joel Pecina
Wayne C Peters
Donald Rightsell
James W Salter
Rickey D Schaeper
Josue Sabinal Serrano
Bobby Shugart
J A Stinnett
Henry G Talbert
Lewis Vinas