



SPRINKLER FITTERS AND APPRENTICES UNION

LOCAL NO. 281, AFL-CIO

of the UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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November 7, 2023

To the Members of Local 281, U.A.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The eligible members present at the regular monthly meeting of Sprinkler Fitters Union Local 281, U.A. held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, approved a Motion to amend Article XII Section 5 of the By-Laws of Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices Union 281, U.A. Article XII Section 5, Amended shall read: "Every member shall be notified of death by postcard and via electronic notification unless they choose to opt out of postcard notification."

If you would like to **opt out of the postcard notification** by U.S. Postal Service, **please complete and return the enclosed postcard to the Union Office.** Please be sure to include the email address that you would like the electronic notification to be sent. **If you prefer to continue to receive a postcard by U.S. Postal Service, you do not need to do anything.** Postcards will continue to be sent by regular mail to every member who does not opt out of postcard notification.

The next regular monthly meeting of Sprinkler Fitters Union Local 281, U.A. will be held on **Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the Local 281 Union Hall, 11900 S. Laramie Avenue, Alsip, Illinois. **This will be our annual Christmas Party meeting.** Food and refreshments will be served. There will also be door prizes and raffles awarded at the Christmas party.

The members of Local 281, U.A. have also voted the past fourteen (14) consecutive years to fund the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy/COBRA Subsidy for unemployed members that have lost their eligibility for Health & Welfare benefits. This COBRA Fund provides COBRA Benefits to those members currently receiving them from the Health & Welfare, and will also provide COBRA benefits to members in the future. This does not, however, provide COBRA Benefits to members that have already exhausted their 18 months of COBRA eligibility. The contribution rate for the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy/COBRA Subsidy is currently \$.40 per hour. Upon approval by the membership, this contribution amount will remain \$.40 per hour. Each year, the members present at the December Union Meeting have voted to continue to fund the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy/COBRA Subsidy. **The eligible members present at the December 7, 2023, Union Meeting will vote on the continued funding for this program. All Journeyman**

members, 4th year, and 5th year Apprentices in good standing will be eligible to vote on the funding for the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy/COBRA Subsidy.

The MCL/Voya Open Enrollment period for Supplemental Life, AD&D, Critical Illness, and Accident Insurance is currently available. The Open Enrollment will end on November 30, 2023. You can now purchase up to \$350k of Life and \$350k of AD&D to protect your family. Supplemental Life Insurance benefits are now extended up to age 75, regardless of active or retirement status, as long **as you begin coverage before you retire**. As always, there are NO MEDICAL QUESTIONS OR EXAMS. Get the coverage you need without any hassle.

Your choices can have a big impact — consider your options carefully and find the benefits that are right for you and your family. You can learn more about open enrollment here: go.voya.com/MCL2023 . If you have questions about this program or need help enrolling, please call the MCL Insurance Hotline at (888) 212-7822 or the Midwest Coalition of Labor at (800) 433-2099.

Local 281 will again host a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at the Union Office from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please bring the family to enjoy breakfast, crafts, games, and a visit from the big guy. Santa will be available for pictures from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. **Please RSVP to the Union Office if you plan to attend.**

I attended the N.A.S.I. Pension Fund annual meeting in October. The Pension Fund Trustees decided on an increase to the dollars per credit, from \$135.00 to \$140.00 per credit, for credits earned from 2024 forward. This increase will only apply to active members. The Retired Members will receive a one-time 13th check to be mailed in February 2024.

The Thomas M. Collins Scholarship will be awarded again this year. The Scholarship will be awarded to children or grandchildren of members of Sprinkler Fitters Union Local 281, U.A. that are attending **an accredited private high school**. The Local 281 Member must be in good standing. The scholarships will be awarded at the Union Meeting to be held on Thursday, February 1, 2024. The Scholarships will be selected by a random drawing that will be held at that meeting. Applications can be obtained by calling the Union Office. The applications may be picked up at the office or may be mailed. We also have the information and the application forms available on our website. The website address is www.sprinklerfitterchicago.org. **The deadline for Scholarship Applications is Tuesday, January 30, 2024, by 3:00 p.m.** All applications must be **received** in the Union Office by 3:00 p.m. on that date in order to be eligible for the drawing.

The 2024 Union Plus Scholarship applications are available. This scholarship is available to current and retired members of unions participating in any Union Plus program, their spouses, and their dependent children (as defined by IRS regulations) are eligible. At least one year of continuous union membership by the applicant, applicant's spouse, or parent (if applicant is a dependent). The one-year membership minimum must be satisfied by May 31, 2024. Applications are available online at <https://1unionplusscholars.communityforce.com>. **The application deadline is 12:00 Noon, (Eastern Standard Time), on Wednesday January 31, 2024.** This information is available on our website.

The 2024 CISCO Scholarship Applications are now available. This scholarship is available to children of members of trade unions affiliated with CISCO that are currently high school seniors. There is also a scholarship available to union members or contractor employees that wish to continue their education. Applications for this scholarship may be downloaded from the CISCO website at www.cisco.org. You may also contact CISCO at (630) 472-9411 to receive an application by mail. **Completed applications must be postmarked by Friday, February 16, 2024.** Again, the information is available on our website. I will let you know if any other scholarship opportunities become available.

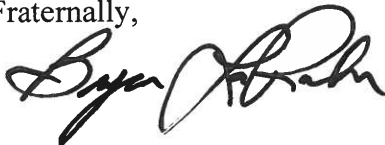
Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Mondays this year. Under the terms of our Collective Bargaining Agreement, Monday shall be considered the holiday. Therefore, all work performed on Monday, December 25, 2023, and Monday, January 1, 2024, will be paid at the double time rate.

The Union Office has outdated address and telephone contact information on many of our members. Please contact the Union Office as soon as possible to update your address and telephone numbers. Also, the mass emails sent out by the Union Office have been the quickest method to communicate with the membership on Union events and other important matters. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact the Union Office.

It is also very important that the Local and the Pension Funds have updated beneficiary information on all members. Please contact the Union Office for beneficiary forms.

On behalf of the Officers, Office Staff of Sprinkler Fitters Local 281, and the Health and Welfare Fund Staff, I would like to wish a happy and healthy holiday season to you and your family.

Fraternally,



Bryan LaRoche
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

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