



HEAT & FROST

LOCAL #118

NEWSLETTER

Business Manager: Wayne Laxton

SPRING ISSUE 2003

PACIFIC BLUE CROSS – HOUR BANK COVERAGE AND SHORTAGE NOTICES

When does my Health and Welfare Coverage start?

If you are a new member not yet covered on the Health & Welfare Plan, or if your coverage in the Plan lapsed, you must qualify for coverage by working 250 hours reported within 10 consecutive months. To affect your coverage, hours must be reported by your employers. There is a time lag for hours to be reported and processed.

For example, if you work at least 250 hours, between *February and April*, coverage begins in *June*.

Month	Hrs. this mo.	Total Hrs.	Comment
Feb	68	68	less than 250
Mar	160	228	less than 250
Apr	220	448	qualified for cov.
May	60	508	lag month
Jun	-	508	covered June 1

What are Shortage Notices?

Every month, if you are currently

covered, but do not have the 125 hours needed to continue coverage in the following month, the Plan sends you a shortage notice telling you how many hours you may be short at the next month-end. For instance, if you have 28 hours in your bank at the end of June, you'll be advised that to ensure coverage in August, you need to pay 97 hours @ \$1.35 = \$130.95.

What happens if I don't self pay my shortage notice?

Unless enough employer hours come in, your coverage will be terminated at the end of the month. The Plan mails you a termination notice, with important information about alternatives for continuing some of your coverage.

What difference does it make if my coverage terminates?

You lose important coverage under the Plan:

- You must pay your own MSP-BC (government medi-

cal) premiums, or be covered under your spouse's plan. This is not an option for a citizen living in BC. If the government finds out you have not been paying your MSP-BC premiums, it will bill you for ALL months missed (for instance \$108 per month for a family).

- You lose coverage for Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance.
- You and your dependents lose coverage for Dental and Extended Health.

If my coverage terminates, how do I re-qualify?

- If by accident you fail to pay a shortage notice and your coverage is terminated, contact the Plan *immediately*. You may then pay the actual number of hours you were short to reinstate coverage, plus the full 125 hours to ensure continued coverage for the following month.

(Continued on page 3)



WORK OUTLOOK

Sister Locals: As in the past couple of years, Local Union 110 expects to be in the position to take travel cards late June or early July. At this time, we have three members working in Local 119's jurisdiction at the Co-op Upgrader. Brother Vince Engel has advised that he should have more opportunities to put travel cards to work this year.

Shutdowns: A shutdown is underway at Eurocan Pulp in Kitimat. We will have four contractors on site and I believe that some of them will have to come to the list for manpower. This shutdown will last between four and six weeks.

Kamloops: A turbine generator will be going in at the Weyerhaeuser Mill. At this time, we understand that that the mill will be the General Contractor.

Also, on this project, a drug and alcohol policy will be in full effect. It was just a matter of time before a policy of this nature would be introduced to our workplaces. As I have said in past newsletters, work smart and safe. Let's not give anyone a reason to test us.

Port Alberni: We have three contractors bidding work at the Norski Skog Mill and should be advised shortly of the successful bid.

Burrard Thermal: At the beginning of May, our work got underway with a small crew. This project should have started in March but was pushed back.

GVRD Burnaby: This job will be underway for us sometime in May 2003. As I understand it, the delay is due to wrong-sized pipe and valves installed. After all, this is construction.

Vancouver Dry Dock: There is another vessel, "Queen of Surrey," scheduled to leave Deas Dock and come into Vancouver Dry Dock shortly. The members currently working on the "Queen of Coquitlam" should be able to finish that contract and then start on the "Queen of Surrey".

Regional Organizer for Canada

This office has received notice that Brother Vince Engel has been appointed Regional Organizer for Canada. We are looking forward to working with Brother Engel, who was the former Business Manager of Local 119 in Saskatchewan. Brother Engel brings organizing experience to his new position as he has been busy organizing in Saskatchewan for the past couple of years. We expect to see Brother Engel in our territory, as he does his evaluation of the Union share of work taking place in British Columbia.

Scholarship Draws

We are happy to report that this year's winner of the Ed Russell Scholarship draw was Gordon Karau, stepson of Brother Randy Remineitz. The winner of the Alyce Hodgkins Scholarship draw was Talon Leduc, daughter of Brother Richard Leduc.

Please note that the Alta Bernard/Florence Miller Scholarship draw will be held on July 8, 2003. Entry forms (found in your *International Journal* or call the office) must be received by the International Office by June 30, 2003.

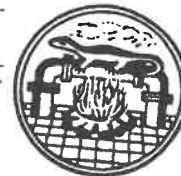
Conferences

As in past years, your Union Officers and Trustees of various plans will be attending conferences during the year:

- The Apprenticeship Conference takes place June 11-14, 2003, in Anaheim, California.
- The Business Managers'/Agents' Conference will be held in Washington, DC, July 5 through July 9, 2003.
- The Canadian Conference is scheduled for August 1 and 2, 2003, in Ottawa.
- The International Foundation of Employee Benefits will hold its conference November 21 to 26, 2003, in Orlando, Florida.

William (Bill) Bernard Testimonial Dinner

An appreciation dinner was held May 3, 2003, to honor General President Emeritus William Bernard. Brother Bernard used his wit, coupled with wisdom and compassion, to keep our Union strong and on an even keel over the years. There were many members who came to regard him as a personal friend—a man of compassion, dignity and fairness. These qualities were recognized throughout our industry and other affiliated building trades.



BCYT Convention in Victoria

The BCYT Convention was held in Victoria from March 30 to April 2, 2003.

It was a full agenda that included all delegates in attendance lobbying the cabinet ministers and MLAs, which was the largest lobbying effort that this government has seen and credit goes to Brother Joe Barrett who organized the event. There were several keynote speakers including Ken Georgetti, President of the CLC; Joy McPhail, Leader of the Opposition; Bob Blakely, Director of Canadian Affairs, Building and Construction Trades Department of the Canadian Office; Pat Dhillon, Business Manager of the Ontario Construction Trades Council; and Jim Sinclair, President of the BC Federation of Labour.

Reports were represented from the various councils of the BCYT. There was also a farewell reception for Tom Sigurdson who is now in Ottawa lobbying on our behalf.

In Memoriam

It is with heartfelt sorrow that I report to you the passing of the following brothers:

Brother Kip Kipling	January 2003
Brother Don Osbourne	February 2003

PACIFIC BLUE CROSS – HOUR BANK COVERAGE AND SHORTAGE NOTICES (cont'd)

- If you fail to contact the Plan office *immediately* on termination, you must re-qualify as if you were a new member. See "WHEN DOES MY HEALTH & WELFARE COVERAGE START." You will *not* be allowed to reinstate your coverage by self-payment after the first month.

It's not my fault – No one forwarded my shortage notice!

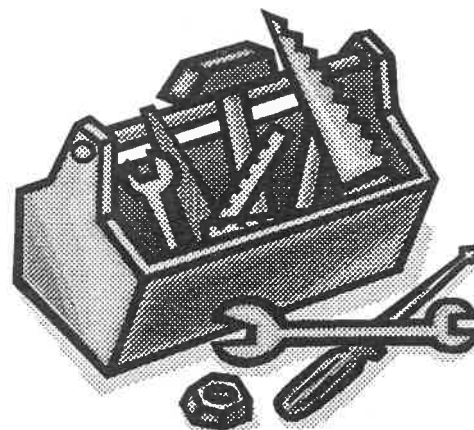
It's your responsibility to make sure the Plan knows your current address. If the Plan sends mail to the last address you gave, and that's not your current address, it's your fault.

Before Low Bid...

This was sent to me by a Union member who read it and was reminded of the work we used to do before "low bid" became the buzzword of the day.

*In the elder days of art
Builders wrought with greatest care
Each minute and unseen part
For the gods are everywhere*

The point of these lines is clear. In the old days, craftsmen did not cut corners. They worked carefully and they took care with every aspect of their work. Every part of the product was considered and each was designed and made to be exactly as it should be. These craftsmen did not relax their thoughtful self-discipline even with respect to features of their work that would ordinarily not be visible. Although no one would notice if those features were not quite right, the craftsmen would be bothered by their consciences. So nothing was swept under the rug. Or, one might perhaps also say, there was a work ethic that was adhered to.





ENCLOSURES

- Pension Newsletter
- Important Pharmacare Information
- Summary of Benefits
- Wage Negotiations



IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

Executive Board

Wednesday, May 21, 2003
Wednesday this month only!

Regular General Membership Meeting

Saturday, May 24, 2003 at
The Radisson Hotel
4331 Dominion Street
Burnaby, BC at 9:00 a.m.



Holiday Office Closure

Closed May 19, 2003, for
Victoria Day.

Wishing everyone a great
May long weekend!!

LOCAL 118 OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 4:30 p.m. Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The office closes at 12:30 p.m. to give working members the opportunity to contact the office on their lunch break.

DISPATCH RULES

It would seem that every now and then, this office must remind some members of the dispatch rules of our Local.

The Union does the dispatching, not the contractors, nor the members themselves. We have a problem with some members going to work with a phone call from the contractor or a friend working on site.

There is also the situation of members accepting a dispatch for work and then failing to show up at the job site. This is not fulfilling our obligation to supply qualified tradespeople to our contractors when required.

I ask that every member of this Local Union review the working rules and bylaws for the dispatch rules which are found in Article XI, Section 2, Paragraphs (b) and (c). This section is to be followed by every member.

DUES

I ask all members to read Article XII, Section 5 and Section 6(a) of your International Constitution, which starts on page 42.

Every month, members phone the office and ask for dues relief, or if they can pay next week with no suspension penalty. If we grant these requests, is it fair to those members who pay their dues on time?

Your officers are compassionate, however, we all have an obligation to pay our monthly dues on time.

For those of you who wish to get involved in your Local Union, being suspended is not an option. Article XX, Section 2 (a) of your International Constitution and Bylaws spells it out. To be eligible for office or any other local union office, a member must have "worked as a mechanic for at least one year and have been in continuous good standing without having been suspended for two years".

Being current with your dues enables the Union to issue you a travel card or letter should you wish to work in a sister local's territory.

The office staff phones every member who is behind in dues as a **courtesy** every single month. We take no satisfaction is suspending or lapsing members. **It is your responsibility to pay your dues on time. Please take care of it.**