



# 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 17, 2022

To the Members of Local 281, U.A.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The next regular monthly meeting of Sprinkler Fitters Union Local 281, U.A. will be held on **Thursday, December 1, 2022, 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.

This holiday season we will be collecting nonperishable food to help Faith Lutheran Church Food Pantry in Oak Lawn. The food pantry helps families in need, here, in our area. You can bring donations to the December Union Meeting. You may also drop off donations at the Union Office any time before December 15, 2022. Thank you for your support.

The members of Local 281, U.A. have also voted the past thirteen (13) 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 1, 2022 Union Meeting will vote on the continued funding for this program.**

The Collective Bargaining Agreement signed July 1, 2020, calls for a \$1.40 per hour economic increase effective January 1, 2023. There is a mandatory \$.10 per hour increase to the NASI Pension Fund contribution rate effective January 1, 2023 that will be funded from the January 1, 2023 economic increase. **Motions will be taken from the floor at the December 1, 2022 regular monthly meeting on the allocation of the remaining \$1.30 per hour economic increase. The allocation will then be voted on by the eligible Members present.**

**All Journeyman members, 4<sup>th</sup> year, and 5<sup>th</sup> year Apprentices in good standing will be eligible to vote on the funding for the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy/COBRA Subsidy and on the allocation of the economic increase.**

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, 2022. You can now purchase up to \$300k of Life and \$300k of AD&D to protect your family. Supplemental Life Insurance benefits are now extended up to age 70, 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/MCL2022](http://go.voya.com/MCL2022). 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 and Photos with Santa on Saturday, December 10, 2022, 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.

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 2, 2023. 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](http://www.sprinklerfitterchicago.org). **The deadline for Scholarship Applications is Tuesday, January 31, 2023 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 2023 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, 2023. Applications are available online at <https://1unionplusscholars.communityforce.com/login.aspx>. **The application deadline is 12:00 Noon, (Eastern Standard Time), on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.** This information is available on our website.

The 2023 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](http://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 17, 2023.** Again, the information is available on our website. I will let you know if any other scholarship opportunities become available.

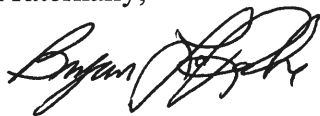
Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Sundays this year. Under the terms of our Collective Bargaining Agreement, Monday shall be considered the holiday. Therefore, all work performed on Monday, December 26, 2022, and Monday, January 2, 2023, will be paid at the double time rate.

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, U.A., 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

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