



December 2023

To All Members of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 344

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Member Deaths

Brother, **Olen E. O'Bryant**, Membership Number 1022960, died 12/1/2023. He was a Retired Journeyman Pipefitter.

Brother, **James S. Hulce**, Membership Number 1070665, died 12/3/2023. He was a Retired Pipefitter Refrigeration Journeyman.

ATTENTION "ACTIVE" PARTICIPANTS ON THE H&W FUND INSURANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 344 will transition from using the BCBS provider network to utilizing the UnitedHealthcare Choice Plus Network for provider selection. This new arrangement with UnitedHealthcare (UHC) is expected to generate savings for you and the Fund, all while improving access for you and your family to hospitals, clinics, surgeons etc. **It is important to make sure that your current providers are in the new network.**

In general, you should find this transition to the UnitedHealthcare Choice Plus network to be seamless as most providers in the previous BCBS network will also be found in this network, but you can start preparing now for this transition by visiting whyuhc.com/uhss.

- Find out if your primary physicians, specialists, and hospitals are in-network, simply navigate to whyuhc.com/UHSS – select:
- Find a doctor or facility
- Select the UnitedHealthcare Choice Plus network
- If the location that appears is not correct, click on change location. Enter a street address, city, and state, 5-digit zip code, or country. Update location.
- Select the type of medical care or enter a provider name or service and click Search.

You will receive new ID cards late in December for the effective date of January 1, 2024. Use the new ID cards for any health care services you need after that date.

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"Unionism has helped to give to everyone who toils the position of dignity which is his due"

- Your new group number effective January 1, 2024 - UHSS Group Number: 78800586
- Member Services Number: 866-236-3148
- Provider Services Number: 866-596-8447

In the meantime, if you have any questions relating to the transition to United HealthCare, please contact the Benefit Office at 405-682-4581.

***** We will continue our relationship with Teladoc under a new arrangement with UnitedHealthcare. Please look for additional information to come pertaining specifically to Teladoc Health.**

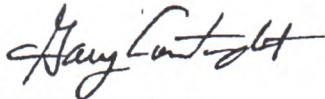
Central Oklahoma Labor Federation 2024 \$1,000 Scholarship

Starting December 18th as an affiliate of the Central Oklahoma Labor Federation, members of Local 344 who are in good standing or the child or grandchild of a member in good standing, are eligible to apply. Applicants must graduate high school in 2024 or before and be attending a 2 or 4 year college or graduate school. Applications are at the temporary Union Hall (7530 NW 23rd St., Bethany, OK 73008).

2023 Tax Information is enclosed.

*Have a Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year!*

Fraternally,



Gary Cartwright
Business Manager

Enclosure

GC/dw
opeiu381
af1-cio

**2023 INCOME TAX INFORMATION
FOR MEMBERS OF PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS
LOCAL UNION NO. 344**

ACTIVE OR RETIRED MEMBERS WHO REACHED AGE 65 BY DECEMBER 31, 2001:

Paid 12 Months Dues @ \$19.00 per month..... \$228.00

**ACTIVE OR RETIRED MEMBERS WHO REACHED AGE 65 BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2002
AND DECEMBER 31, 2006:**

Paid 12 Months Dues @ \$23.00 per month..... \$276.00

**ACTIVE OR RETIRED MEMBERS WHO REACHED AGE 65 BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2007
DECEMBER 31, 2019:**

Paid 12 Months Dues @ \$24.00 per month..... \$288.00

ACTIVE OR RETIRED MEMBERS WHO REACHED AGE 65 IN 2023:

Paid \$24.00 per month, effective the month following their 65th birthday

MEMBERS WHO RETIRED IN 2023 AND WHO WERE UNDER AGE 65

Paid \$31.00 per month, effective the month following their retirement date

ACTIVE MEMBERS WHO WERE UNDER THE AGE OF 65

Paid 12 Months Dues @ \$34.00 per month..... \$408.00

RETIRED MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN WITH THE UA FOR 40 CONSECUTIVE YEARS:

Paid 12 Months Dues @ \$10.00 per month.....\$120.00

WACO (Working Assessment Check-Off)

Two and a half percent (2.5%) of gross wages for contractors in Local 344's jurisdiction

NOTE: If you worked for a contractor(s) out of the jurisdiction of Local 344, you must acquire your working assessments and/or travel card dues from your own records.

If you paid a Reinstatement Fee or Initiation Fee in 2023, these are also deductible.

**Gary Cartwright
Business Manager**