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PLUMBERS LOCAL 12



JAMES VAUGHAN

BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of the Local 12 Update. I hope you've had a safe and fun summer with family and friends.

We start off this issue with the great news that we have added a new industry to our Local: home heating technicians/chimney sweeps. We are proud to announce that the owner and employees of Plymouth Fireplace in Plymouth have joined Local 12, making them the first in the hearth industry to join our Local.

Great job by Matt Messinger to bring Plymouth Fireplace into Local 12 and thanks to owner Ryan Ward for signing on, giving him and his employees all the benefits of our union. We plan to pursue more workers in the hearth industry to join Local 12 so they too can experience the union difference. You can read more about Ryan's company and why they joined Local 12 on page 8.

You can also read on page 3 about some exciting projects we've got going

> Read more on page 2.



CHIMNEY INSTALLERS AND SWEEPERS JOIN LOCAL 12

Plymouth Fireplace and Energy Solutions recently became the first ever chimney and hearth company to join Local 12. The Plymouth Fireplace home heating technicians are the first in their industry in New England to join a plumbing industry union.

"If the plumbing industry has shown anything over the past century, it's that the right structure, training, and benefits elevate everyone — the companies, the technicians, and the customers. It only seemed right that the hearth industry should take the same step," Plymouth Fireplace Vice-President Ryan Ward said.

Ward and his employees were officially sworn in to Local 12 recently by Business Manager James Vaughan and will now work as unionized workers alongside their plumbing brothers and sisters in Greater Boston. Congrats Plymouth Fireplace and welcome to Local 12! > Read more on page 8.

CANOBIE LAKE FAMILY DAY

It was a great day of family fun at our annual Family Day at Canobie Lake Park in New Hampshire. Hundreds of members and their families came out, had a picnic lunch, rode the rides and enjoyed a beautiful summer day at the amusement park. Thanks to all who joined us.

> See all the photos on page 10.



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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **September 6** – Annual Local 12 Golf Tournament at Braintree Municipal Golf Course, 101 Jefferson St., Braintree
- **September 17** – Retiree Club at Local 12
- **October 15** – Retiree Club at Local 12
- **October 26** – Apple Picking at Honey Pot Hill Orchards
- **November 14** – Annual Pin Night
- **November 19** – Retiree Club

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Templeton, 76
Passed May 5, 2025
Initiated January 13, 1969

Robert Dyer, 59
Passed May 10, 2025
Initiated June 12, 2017

Harris Wong, 69
Passed June 13, 2025
Initiated June 1, 1998

Fernand Blanc, 87
Passed June 25, 2025
Initiated June 27, 1967

John Zella Sr.
Passed June 27, 2025
Initiated October 27, 1952

Richard Petrilli, 75
Passed July 27, 2025
Initiated April 28, 1969

► [Business Manager's Message, continued from page 1.](#)

on in Cambridge, including a new 10,000 square foot theater at the Museum of Science that our members are working on currently. We also have some great projects going on in Quincy that you can also read about on page 3.

This issue is chock full of information and photos, including pictures from the recent Apprentice Graduation, a retiree cruise in Boston Harbor, Canobie Lake Family Day and more! We work hard to keep you, our members, informed and active as we seek to strengthen our union.

Please take the time to read the business agent messages as each provides valuable information about YOUR LOCAL. Know that all our agents are out there working hard every day to keep the jobs coming in and that your members of leadership, including me, are available to you anytime you have an issue, question or concern.

Have a great fall and I look forward to seeing you all at an upcoming meeting, our annual Golf Tournament on Sept. 6, or at another event soon. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to Local 12. We are stronger together!

In Solidarity,
James Vaughan
Business Manager



2025 APPRENTICE GRADUATION

Congratulations to the Apprentice Class of 2025. We recently had the honor of celebrating our graduating apprentices' accomplishments at Granite Links in Quincy — they have all come so far since starting with us.

A special thank you to Local 12 Training Director, Rick Carter, and all the instructors at the training center for sharing your knowledge and expertise with up-and-coming plumbers. We are grateful to have a strong graduating class, full of awardees of perfect attendance and top marks.

Thank you to the sponsors, our partners at the Greater Boston Plumbing Contractors Association, and all who attended this fantastic event, and good luck to all of our recent graduates as you dive into your career with Local 12!

► [See all the photos on page 12.](#)

PATRICK MULKERRIN

BUSINESS AGENT



HELLO BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

I hope as we roll into fall, this letter finds you and your families well. As we have seen less jobs making it through the development process in Boston, we need to be more vigilant than ever.

Whether it's a two-bathroom retail location, four story stick built residential project or a 10-story commercial laboratory, we are chasing anything and everything. We have commitments to build union at Foot Locker, Victoria Secret and Dick's House of Sport-Braintree and three new projects in Quincy Center, including a medical office and two public parking garages.

The newest job I am chasing in Quincy, is 150 units on top of two levels of commercial space. They proposed the project in front of Quincy's Planning Board on August 6th. We have engaged with the developer and will have deep conversations leading up to the next September Planning Board Meeting.

WEYMOUTH RESIDENTS

Weymouth is the most densely union town in Massachusetts. Yet, our market share is minimal at best. Workers from Weymouth have taken a backseat far too long. The labor movement now has a friend in the Mayor's office in Mike Mollisse. We have an opportunity to elect a fellow union member to the council in Steve Shinney.

There is a lot on the line in Weymouth and we need every ally possible in every level of government for the foreseeable future when it comes to the potential developments in town.

While writing this letter, the state of Massachusetts awarded \$32.4 million for public infrastructure needed to proceed with the redevelopment of the former naval air station. That investment will hopefully drive more private investment into the redevelopment.

Another future hot area in Weymouth is the stretch of Rt. 3A from Saint Jerome's church up towards the Hingham shipyard. The town recently rezoned the area to revitalize that stretch of land and has already begun to clean up parcels to entice new businesses.

We NEED you to be involved. Involved in any capacity possible. There will be asks to attend public meetings for both the town of Weymouth and the tri town board. I can't stress enough how important these meetings are. We now have political friends and potential friends in place and we need to take advantage of that now. Help us give Weymouth's workers back their voice!

Fraternally,
Pat Mulkerrin

FRANK AMATO

BUSINESS AGENT



GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

I hope everyone had a great summer! Time spent with family and friends is always special — especially when we can enjoy the great New England weather.

As we head into the fall and winter seasons, it's a good time to reflect on the opportunities a union job provides: fair wages, strong benefits, and an excellent retirement package.

In recent months, I've had the pleasure of working alongside UA Local 12 plumbers who have now retired. We often say, "Well, you made it — enjoy yourself!" And that really is the ultimate goal: work hard, stay healthy, and earn the time to enjoy life after years of dedication.

I'd like to take a moment to talk about the City of Cambridge and the steady stream of projects it continues to provide for our membership. Cambridge has long been a reliable source of work hours, and this year is no exception.

One exciting project is the Museum of Science's major renovation, which includes the creation of the Public Science Common — a new 10,000-square-foot venue replacing the Cahners Theater. This space will feature a multimedia experience with 270-degree views of the Charles River, as well as upgrades to all core bathrooms and kitchen areas. TG Gallagher was awarded this great project, and it's rewarding to work on something that will entertain and educate the public for years to come.

Another key development is 585 Third Street in Kendall Square — a 250-foot-tall building with lab and office space, featuring a specially designed gray water system to help achieve LEED Gold certification. Local 12 signatory contractor JC Higgins is proudly on this project.

And EM Duggan is beginning work on what will be the tallest building in Cambridge — a LEED Gold-certified project at 121 Broadway from Boston Properties. Rising over 450 feet, it will be a new landmark on the Kendall Square skyline. The building will include 439 residential units, with 20% dedicated to affordable housing and 5% reserved for middle-income housing. Stay safe everyone!

In Solidarity,
Frank Amato
Business Agent-North
774-406-1983
FAmato@Local12Boston.org

CHAD CARBONE

BUSINESS AGENT



GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the last few weeks of what has been a truly great summer. As vacations wind down and we transition into the fall season, it's a perfect time to focus on professional growth and readiness for the months ahead.

Journeyman Training Opportunities

With the job market being as competitive as it is, now is the time to schedule classes for the upcoming journeyman training courses available at the hall. Maintaining your credentials — and adding new ones whenever possible — is vital for staying competitive.

From my own experience, opportunities often come to those who are prepared. Having the right weld certifications, brazing certifications, master's license, crane signaling credentials — you name it — can be the deciding factor in landing a job. You never know which certification will make the difference, so take advantage of every training opportunity you can.

Union Education Matters

The strength of Local #12 depends on our knowledge and involvement. The Labor Guild offers excellent online courses covering topics such as:

- Basic steward training
- Understanding and amending bylaws
- Union meeting procedures (Robert's Rules of Order)

These classes are a great way to expand your understanding of union operations, and best of all — you can be reimbursed for the cost upon completion.

Drug Test Preparedness

While Local #12 respects every member's personal life, it's important to always be ready for a job-required drug test. This includes having documentation for any prescription medications you take. If a test is required, bring your prescriptions with you to verify them with the testing lab and avoid delays in job placement.

Unemployment Benefit Assistance

Applying for unemployment benefits has been challenging recently. In the past few weeks alone, Local #12 business agents have helped at least 30 members navigate issues such as:

- ID verification delays
- Dependent verification problems
- Employers being slow to submit required paperwork

If you're experiencing delays in receiving benefits, please reach out to any of our business agents. We will do our best to help move your claim forward.

Protecting Our Jurisdiction

Policing our jurisdiction remains a priority. It's essential that every member understands what work falls under our rightful jurisdiction, both within the pipe trades and across the building trades in general. Please review our Collective Bargaining Agreement and don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

Looking Ahead

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone at our Apple Picking event this fall!

In solidarity,

Chad Carbone

Business Agent

Office: 617.288.6200 x145

Cell: 857.663.2535

CCarbone@Local12Boston.org



▲ Local 12 artifacts on display at the 2025 event: Building a Revolutionary Workforce: 250 Years of Apprenticeship Innovation.



TRAINING UPDATE

RICK CARTER

TRAINING DEPARTMENT



GREETINGS FROM THE TRAINING CENTER,

As you can imagine, the summer is going by very quickly for us here. We have made some changes to staff that will help us prepare our Apprentices, Journeymen and Journeywomen better for their future.

We want to congratulate Kimberly Garside on being appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Examiners of Plumbers and Gasfitters. Kim has already attended a few meetings and is doing a great job!

Darren MacDonald is taking on a different role at the Training Center, as the first ever Assistant Training Director for our Local. He will be a huge help in the future planning of our programs. I would like to thank the Education Fund Trustees for their continued support of our training programs. Darren was one of the first full-time instructors here and will continue to work with our current full-time instructors, supporting them with our new online initiatives, growing our jobsite technology training and service training track. These are just a few of the many duties he will be fulfilling.

Patrick Dean is now a full-time instructor. Pat has been a part-time instructor since graduating his apprenticeship in 2013. Pat is a great addition to the staff, and we are very excited to have him join our team full-time.

We have two Instructors graduating from the UA Instructor Training Program this year, Paul McSweeney and Patrick Dean. This program is an intense five-week program (one week every August) in Ann Arbor, Michigan where they learn from Michigan State University Professors and Industry Experts on the latest instructing techniques and newest technologies in our industry. Thank you for all the hard work you have put in to earn your Instructor certificates!

The Class of 2030 will be starting in the field this fall. If you meet a first-year apprentice on your job, please welcome them to our organization!

Journeyman Training

The 2025-2026 schedule for Journeyman training is now available on the Training Center section on the Local 12 website at PlumbersAndGasfittersLocal12.org.

I would like to encourage everyone to enroll into the CPR/First Aid classes being offered this year. You never know when you'll be faced with an emergency and need to assist quickly to help increase the chances of survival for a family member or coworker. There have been many instances where our apprentices and members used these skills either at home or at work. Most recently, a family member was pulled from the water unresponsive, CPR was performed, and that family member was saved.

A reminder to all, please keep your Medical Gas & Brazing certifications up to date. If you need to renew your Hot Work certifications, please sign up for a class. Hot Work certs are only good for three years. If you attended a class three years ago or longer you will need to renew.

Please check our website and the Local 12 app for the latest class offerings.

Fraternally,
Richard D. Carter
Training Director

ORGANIZING UPDATE

MATTHEW MESSINGER



BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer with friends and family. I can't believe we are so close to the fall months. Before we know it we will all be apple picking! I hope to see everyone and their families for another awesome year.

The last few months have been very busy on the organizing side with bottom up campaign efforts. We are still in the process of working with RCL Mechanical out of Raynham. We have now transitioned to the negotiating table with RCL and their legal council. I, Business Manager Jim Vaughan, and our legal counsel have met with RCL for four negotiating sessions so far. It looks as though we are moving in the right direction.

This is a very tough process because we are building a contract brick by brick, which takes time, but is very effective to create a solid contract. I have continued to speak with the employees at RCL and they are becoming more and more trusting of our organization which is creating a lot of talk around their shop. By engaging with the employees, we have been able to get these workers pay raises as well as added benefits. Not only are we helping their employees, but we are helping OUR signatory contractors by forcing RCL to increase their bid package with higher wages and benefits.

This is creating a more even playing field and bridging the gap on the estimating side of the business. There is a lot of work to be done. I'd like to thank the leadership team and the membership for everyone's hard work and continued support.

We are also engaged in some top down campaigns. A top down campaign is when we engage with the management team of a company or the owners themselves to bring them into the union as a company. This style of organizing is more straight to the point and less combative. Unfortunately, we don't see this style as often. But I'm happy to share that we signed Plymouth Fireplace through a top down campaign! This signing is the first of its kind not only here in Massachusetts, but throughout the country. This has created a huge opportunity for continued growth for Local 12. We have done our research and know of at least 18 Chimney Sweep companies that are now on our radar.

There were quite a few moving parts in this campaign but we navigated through those and were able to create a brand new CBA to kickstart a new division in Local 12! We worked together with the owner of Plymouth Fireplace, Ryan Ward, to create a wage and benefit structure that works for everyone to gain added market share and continued growth for both

the chimney company as well as our Local. This division within Local 12 will now create even more job opportunities and bring in added man hours to all of our funds. We look forward to working with Plymouth Fireplace and wish them the best.

If you would like to get more information or would like to be a part of our organizing efforts, please reach out to me either by phone, text or email. My cell number is (617) 433-0347 and my email is MMessinger@Local12Boston.org.

I hope everyone enjoys the remainder of the summer and I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events and monthly meetings.

UNITED WE WIN, DIVIDED WE FALL!

Fraternally Yours,
Matt Messinger

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MATT COLETTI



EASILY ACCESS YOUR HEALTH PLAN WITH MYBLUE

MyBlue is your personalized online member account that makes understanding and using your health plan simple.

DISCOVER THE POWER OF MYBLUE

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- YOUR CLAIMS AND BALANCES
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Get started

Create an account at bluecrossma.org or download the app from the App Store or Google Play. If you have questions, call 1-800-441-0803.

Scan here to view full-sized flyer

Sincerely,
Matt Coletti
Funds Administrator

LOCAL 12 NEWS



FIGHT FOR THE WORKING CLASS RALLY IN QUINCY

Thank you to all who joined the Fight for the Working Class rally with U.S. Representative Stephen Lynch! Thousands showed up to support working families, including members of Local 12 and other trades unions, as well as several elected officials and Ken Casey, lead singer of the Dropkick Murphys. Our very own Local 12 Business Agent Patrick Mulkerrin spoke to the crowd about the power of unions and standing together. It was a memorable day of action in support of unions and working families. Stay strong and continue to use your voice!





WHY PLYMOUTH FIREPLACE WORKERS JOINED LOCAL 12

By Ryan Ward, Vice-President of Plymouth Fireplace & Energy Solutions

Plumbing and chimney work have been around for centuries — trades steeped in history, craftsmanship, and tradition. Both share a rich heritage of problem-solving, technical skill, and a deep respect for systems that keep homes and buildings safe. These trades have always intersected, often working side by side.

As tradespeople, we owe it to ourselves — and to the future of our industries — to look back at that history, learn from it, and ask the hard questions: “What can we improve? How can we leave this trade better than we found it?”

For me, that’s where this journey began.

A Chance Meeting Turned Into a Big Idea

By what I can only describe as happenstance, my company, Plymouth Fireplace & Energy Solutions, was introduced to an idea that immediately made sense: “What if chimney and hearth companies could finally be part of the same union network that has elevated plumbing and gasfitting shops for generations?”

I’ve been a licensed Master Gasfitter for years, so I understand both sides of this coin. I’ve seen firsthand how well these trades complement one another, and I’ve also seen how far behind the hearth industry has lagged.

The average plumbing shop, thanks to strong organizational structures and union support, operates at a level that most chimney companies never reach. Meanwhile, the hearth industry — still shaped by small, independent outfits since the wood stove boom of the 1970s — has remained largely unchanged. There are tens of millions of heating appliances and chimneys in service today, but very few formally trained and certified technicians to service them.

If the plumbing industry has shown anything over the past century, it’s that the right structure, training, and benefits elevate everyone — the companies, the technicians, and

the customers. It only seemed right that the hearth industry should take the same step.

When I spoke to a friend who’s a Local 12 member and learned there was interest in bringing in a hearth contractor, I didn’t hesitate. By the next business day, I was already working on making it a reality. What I found on the other side was nothing but support.

The First of Its Kind

So here we are: Plymouth Fireplace & Energy Solutions is officially the first chimney and hearth contractor to become a signatory contractor with the Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 12. This isn’t just a business decision — it’s the beginning of a new chapter for our trade. Together with Local 12, we believe we can:

- ✓ Create real career paths for hearth technicians through strong wages, training, and benefits
- ✓ Raise the standard of work in chimneys, venting, and fireplace installations
- ✓ Showcase how well these two trades work together — plumbers, gasfitters, and now, hearth specialists
- ✓ Inspire other contractors to grow beyond the old model of small, seasonal shops

We’re proud to help set the standard and to do it with the backing of a union that shares our values.

A Thank You, and a Promise

To the leadership of Local 12 — especially Business Manager James Vaughan and Matt Messinger, Director of Business Development — thank you. This started as an idea you were bold enough to champion, and now it’s real.

To my crew — thank you for believing in this and in me. This is about building careers, not just jobs, and giving you the future you deserve.

To Local 12 members — we’re excited to work alongside you, learn from you, and grow with you.

This is just the beginning, but together we are paving a road that will change the hearth industry for the better.





CONGRATULATIONS, BRAINTREE LITTLE LEAGUE!

Local 12 congratulates the Braintree Little League team for their recent achievement—winning the New England Regional Championship and advancing to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.

The team beat the Bedford, NH team to secure their spot in Williamsport where they made a great effort in the series. They lost their first double-elimination game against South Carolina, but achieved a BIG win against Texas. Unfortunately, a close loss to Washington (3-2) put them out of the tournament.

Local 12 is proud to recognize these young athletes for their hard work. We have long supported sports in the community, and most recently joined our trades partners to install a new scoreboard at the Braintree High School varsity baseball field.



FAMILY DAY AT CANOBIE LAKE PARK



Scan the QR code to view all photos.







CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS

Paul McSweeney and Patrick Dean graduated from the UA Instructor Training Program this year earning their Instructor Certificates. This program allows individuals to learn from Michigan State University Professors and Industry Experts on the latest instructing techniques and newest technologies in our industry. Congratulations to Paul and Patrick, and thank you for your hard work and dedication.



CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF APPRENTICESHIPS

Local 12 proudly contributed historical artifacts to the 2025 event: Building a Revolutionary Workforce: 250 Years of Apprenticeship Innovation. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development put together this exhibit to celebrate National Apprenticeship Day and recognize the rich history of apprenticeship programs in Massachusetts. We are proud to have a comprehensive training program available to teach the next generation of plumbers our craft.



▲ A section of an ancient wooden Boston water main



▲ A meter from the 2018 Lawrence gas explosion

RETIREE CRUISE

In June, our Retiree Club enjoyed a cruise around Boston Harbor — complete with dining and dancing! Everyone enjoyed the views of the Boston skyline and memories of hard days at work together. Thank you to all who joined us for another great adventure!

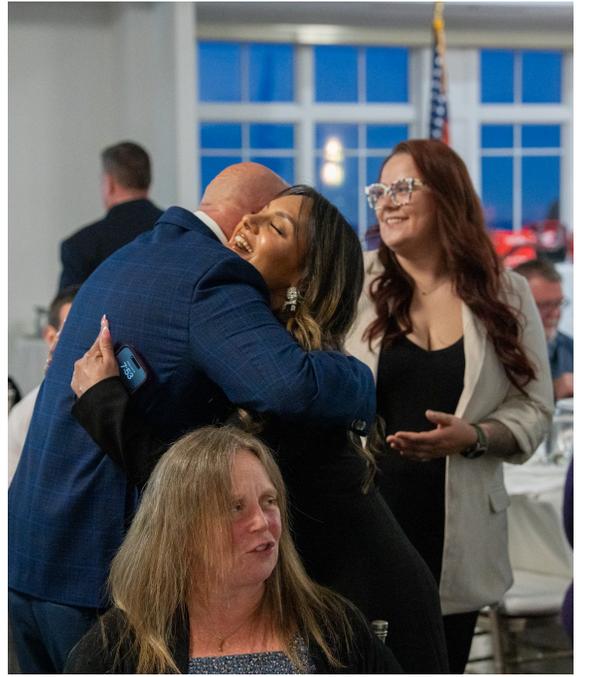


Scan the QR code to view all photos.





APPRENTICE GRADUATION



Scan the QR code to view all photos.





UNITED ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL PODCAST!

The United Association has introduced their new podcast with General President Mark McManus called Pipe Up! Listen to real conversations with UA Members across the trades! Listen to it on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, and iHeart radio.



LOCAL 12 APPAREL

Go to Local12Apparel.com/Local_12_Apparel/Shop/Home to shop all Plumbers Local 12 merchandise! Order online and have it shipped directly to you!



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We would like to congratulate all our 2025 scholarship winners! We were able to give out over \$30,000 in scholarships this year.

Walter Wilson UMass Scholarship:

- Therese Heim
- Julianna Pizzo
- Aidan Survilas
- Mckenzi Manchester
- Kelsey MacKinnon
- Ava Perrottii
- Tayla Sullivan
- Casey Petersen
- Colin Holden

In lieu of flowers for Brother Joseph Templeton and Brother Robert Snipes, Sr., money was donated to the scholarship committee in their memory. We were able to give out two scholarships in their names.

Brother Joseph Templeton Memorial Scholarship:

- Sara Naughton

Brother Robert Snipes, Sr., Memorial Scholarship:

- Benjamin Pfingston

FAMILY CORNER

Are you a golfer, musical enthusiast, foodie, hiker, dancer, a world traveler, gardener, fitness fanatic, hobbyist, a fisherman, car collector, weekend motorcyclist, animal lover, community volunteer, or have some really cool kids or grand kids you want to show off?

Do you have photos of your family members showing off their Local 12 gear?

Send all photos, with a short blurb, to Info@Local12Boston.org for a chance to be featured in the next edition.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE LOCAL 12 APP

Stay connected with everything Local 12 by downloading our APP! Here you can check your union dues, search Local 12 contractors, view news & events and much more! **Be sure to enable your notifications.**

If you have any issues regarding the APP please do not hesitate to give us a call at the Business Office (617) 288-6200 option 0.



SCAN HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



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**GUARANTEED APPROVED BENEFITS
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Up to \$750 per week
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LIFE INSURANCE AND AD&D
Member coverage up to \$250,000
Spouse coverage up to \$50,000
Dependent coverage for \$10,000

**If you can't work due to injuries,
illnesses, surgeries or death!**

**OPEN ENROLLMENT
COMING IN SEPTEMBER**

This program is administered by Union One Benefits Administration. Benefits are underwritten by MetLife.



Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 12
1240 Massachusetts Ave.
Dorchester, MA 02125

