

## LOCAL 1220 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Business Manager/Financial Secretary	Ro Wratschko		
Asst Business Manager/Office Manager	Madeleine Monaco		
Administrative Assistant	Marie Kowalski		
Business Representative	Jim Sterne		
President	Alan Skierkiewicz	Vice President	John Trautschold
Treasurer	Bruce Rehberger	Recording Secretary	Kimberly Clevenger
Executive Board	Tom Biondo, Chair	Mike Aiello	Bill Browne
	Bob Kent	Mike McKenna	Gina Morri
	Greg Palmer	John Rizzo	Barbara Shintani
Shop Stewards	WBBM TV	John Trautschold, Carlos Monge	
	WBBM Radio	Andy Kalayta	
	WGN TV	Joann Prihoda, Ike Isaac, Joe Smtih, Steve Stabile	
	WGN TV Newswriters	Jerry Howard	
	WTTW TV	Peter Adrianopoli, Tom Siegel, Al Skierkiewicz	
WTTW Floor Crew	Dan Rozkuszka	WTTW Artists	Gina Morri
WCEV Radio	Jeff Frizzle	WCIU TV	Chris Faulkner
WGN Radio	Ed Wilk	WLS Radio	Ed Glab
WMVP Radio	Bob Boxer	WTVO TV	Mike Real
	WYCC TV	Ricardo Islas	
Freelance	Richard Morckel (Goodyear/CBS)	Jim Kimmons (CBS/FOX)	John Rizzo (Local)

## BURST

### UNDERSTANDING & TESTING DIGITAL TELEVISION

HD + SDI WAVEFORM MONITORING & TESTING FOR THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Another educational session is planned for May 12th, from 1 pm to 5 pm at NBC Tower  
454 N Columbus Drive Second Floor "His Way Theater"

Sponsored by  
NABET Local 41  
+  
IBEW Local 1220



No reservations  
are required

Just show up for the  
training

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I often wonder if members read my column, so I am always happy to hear from you. John Dickinson wrote a letter to remind me that the Democrats are not blameless on labor issues. John is absolutely right, labor has been attacked from both sides of the political arena in the past. I will try to present a more balanced viewpoint in the future. I would like to include part of an article John sent along relating to labor's role in bringing us to the present state of affairs and to balance my previous columns.

"In the past decade, the AFL-CIO has lobbied Congress on three major issues of any importance to union members:

1. Oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement;
2. Oppose permanent normal trade relations with China;
3. Support drilling for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The unions lost every vote. Demonstrating his savvy political skills, the head of the AFL-CIO, John Sweeney, repeatedly throws the federation's support to political candidates who opposed labor on all three issues. So if you ever find yourself negotiating with Sweeney, make sure your opening bid is "nothing." Sweeney's curious lose-at-any-price strategy has cost the unions everything. The only two Democratic presidential candidates to vote with the unions on any of these issues - not all, but any - were Representatives Dick Gephardt and Dennis Kucinich. Gephardt was out of the race after the first primary, and Kucinich can't break beyond the Aliens-Kidnapped-My-Mother crowd. (Dennis Kucinich did his tax return this week, and under "occupation" he wrote "Jay Leno punch line.") There is only one candidate for president who didn't vote for NAFTA, didn't vote for trade with China and supported drilling in the ANWR. That candidate is George Bush. He got into office by beating Al Gore - the guy who was the head cheerleader for NAFTA. And unlike Dick Gephardt, Bush spends more time on the phone with Jimmy Hoffa than with Barbara Streisand. As president, Bush enraged free traders - and our precious European "allies" - by imposing tariffs on steel imports."

It is important that we become informed voters this year. Please consider the candidates wisely before you cast your vote. If you haven't

registered yet, it is an extremely easy process. Please register soon, we need your vote.

In contract news, WGN TV rejected the latest offer from the company. I am sure the committee is exhausted after the ordeal of the last few months. Please hold together, the unity you have shown thus far is sending a message to the company. Watch for news from your Business Manager and negotiators of any impending action or planned meeting dates. I hope the company is as interested in resolving this contract as you, the members at WGN. There have recently been negotiations with WGN Radio, and the members there will vote on a new contract next week. There is also a new contract at WCEV Radio. The WTTW shop ratified a Supplemental Agreement last month. This agreement outlines a new contract with wage increases and a term through June of 2007. It calls for some additional committee work on conforming language for some areas but should result in a signed contract by May or June. Thanks to the negotiating team for their perseverance over the past 19 months. We had a successful representation election at WLS also. Welcome the WLS radio production group and wish them well in their negotiations for a first contract.

This month is NAB and Ro and many members will be out at the show. Please watch for reports on new equipment in future newsletters.

On a different front, Thompson Electronics, Inc. Has announced their intention to close Ohio and Indiana plants involved in making CRTs. From the IBEW website..."On March 17th, Thompson announced that the Circleville and Marion plants will close, forcing 1,375 IBEW members out of work. The tube production will be moved to Mexicali, Mexico." Thompson, who also owns Grass Valley, appears intent to reduce its manufacturing, worldwide and move into services related industries.

See you at next month's meeting on Monday, May 3rd. Meetings all start at 7:00 pm.

Fraternally,