

# THE INFO CHANNEL

## RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

AUGUST 2007

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT.....1

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN.....2

YOU-NION NEWS.....3

MEETING NOTICE.....4

Brothers and Sisters,

The world knew that the brothers and sisters of IBEW Local 1220 were professional broadcast and video production technicians this month. We are very proud of our work in Masada, Israel for WTTW. David Broza at Masada will air on Channel 11 on September 6th and nationally on PBS in December. Set your Tivo or DVR.

And almost everyone in Chicagoland knew that our Union members were working in Grant Park at Lollapalooza for Camera Originals. You couldn't open a newspaper, watch television, listen to the radio or drive LSD or Michigan Avenue without hearing sounds of Lollapalooza.

Both crews worked long and hard and in difficult conditions. Both crews did a production for a music event. But how different can two gigs be? Our people made them both happen. It wasn't as hot in Grant Park as it was in Israel, but difficult conditions are not strange to Local 1220's professionals.

More on the home front, our members at WYCC TV and WKKC Radio have opened their new facility at Kennedy King College. We are all looking forward to interacting with the faculty and the students at this brand spanking new, state of the art, broadcasting station within Chicago City Colleges. Our future plans include working toward a brand new apprentice-type program similar to that IBEW Local 134 has at CCC, only in the broadcast arena.

And at another new facility—WBBM TV is going up story by story in Block 37 in Chicago. By this time next year this new state of the art facility will also be up and running. Our members, both staff and freelance are setting up the new facility and preparing for the new street level newsroom. Exciting times for Channel 2! We have asked all of our techs to request training on any of the new equipment coming in, and expect that that will happen according to the contract.

I'm getting tired of typing the same words every month, but we are still negotiating with the assistance of the Federal Mediator at WCIU. The negotiating committee is making progress and will continue to do so.

Our negotiations with WTTW are progressing well. Members at 11 should stick together and be sure to honor the current agreement until we have a new document to vote on.

Our work for a new Sports and Entertainment Agreement with a few of our video production contractors is going to be re-activated this month. We will provide more info as it becomes available.

We still can use email addresses from some of you. Email us at [info@ibew1220.org](mailto:info@ibew1220.org) with yours, please.

In Solidarity,

*Madeleine Monaco*

Business Manager

### NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, September 10, AT 7PM

AT THE UNION OFFICE

Come in and discuss the business of your Local Union  
We need to plan for the long range goals of the Local.

Your input would be welcome.

Increase our professional visibility—  
Solidify our goals within the industry



## INFO CHANNEL AUGUST 2007

This Newsletter is published monthly by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 1220, Radio and Television Broadcast Engineers, of Chicago, Illinois.

**Anything you might expect to read in a business letter or see in a telegram that pertains to this Local and your part in it will be communicated to you through this channel of information.** Consider this your dues invoice, your by-laws update, your meeting notice, and your call to participate.

Any article submitted for publication should be sent by mail, Fax or email to:

Jim Sterne, Editor Info Channel  
Radio + TV Broadcast Engineers  
8605 W Bryn Mawr Suite 309  
Chicago, IL 60631  
FAX 773-693-0009  
EMAIL jim@ibew1220.org

### A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Any member wishing to bring an issue of concern to the attention of the Executive Board of this Local Union may submit a request in writing to the Board at any time, [stating the reason for the request.](#)



**REMEMBER TO NOTIFY  
YOUR UNION OF ANY  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS,  
PHONE OR EMAIL**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY,ST,ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**COPIES OF ANY IBEW 1220 AGREEMENT MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST AT THE UNION OFFICE**  
Our contractors are listed on the web site—[www.ibew1220.org](http://www.ibew1220.org)

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to start off this month by thanking several people who have really served your local over the past year. We often forget that there are several people in the office who answer the phones, issue your membership cards, answer member questions and generally keep the place running. In the office Marie answers the phone and greets visitors while working on membership records, union cards and dues. Jennifer has been out at worksites more this summer but still helps a great deal while in the office with day to day tasks, preparing reports and other assignments. Jim is assisting with more negotiations as of late and is the local IT department insuring that the computers which handle membership, expenses, IBEW reporting, email and fax all continue to run smoothly. Finally, Madeleine has been doing an excellent job as Business Manager. I would think that most members are not sure what duties are required of a BM but the list is a long one. In recent years, employers have been on the attack against organized labor. The role of the BM has changed dramatically as these attacks have included blatant contract violations, employee harassment and dismissals. Arbitrations over job loss are at an all time high. It is imperative that a local has a strong and knowledgeable BM and staff to prepare and assist in arbitrations over these losses. Only someone with Madeleine's experience can accomplish what she has in the past two years. I would also like to thank my fellow officers for the outstanding job they have done helping to lead the local in the past year. Special thanks to John Trautschold and Ed Glab who keep me on task and fill in when I am absent—truly dedicated officers - and to Chris McKnight for serving as Recording Sec.

As I write this, one of the hottest and most humid days of the summer is beginning. I can't help but think of our members out on assignment during this brutal weather. There are those who cover sporting events, are shooting documentaries and news or are just carrying equipment or pulling cable. Please be careful out there, be sure to drink plenty of fluids and stay out of the sun as much as possible. Dehydration is common at this time of the year. If you feel suddenly exhausted or weak, or you notice you are not able to concentrate on a specific task, or you have stopped sweating while everyone around you is wet, your body is telling you something is wrong. Get to a cool place and drink some liquid. During this weather you may lose several liters of fluid and that needs to be replaced. Carry water with you and have some at your operating position during the day. Dehydration is a serious problem that can result in a hospital stay or something far worse. Please be careful.

As negotiations continue around our local, please keep in mind that these are sensitive times. Many members feel very stressed during contract time as their future is uncertain. Starting rumors or passing them along to other members, does nothing to help the cause. Don't let yourself or other members be rumor mongers. It helps the company and hurts the union. WLS members have been in very tough negotiations with the Disney Corp who have made some really outrageous demands of their workers. Please be supportive of this group even though they are not members of IBEW. You may hear of pickets, demonstrations or gatherings to help their cause in the next coming weeks—the first is on August 15th at 12:30 in front of Channel 7. Please participate if you can. They need our help, and their losses will be your losses. WE need to stick together.

See you all next month, and keep cool.

Fraternally Yours,

*Al Skierkiewicz*

# YOU UNION NEWS

## **FIRST READINGS**

CRAIG STEIN – AESTHETIC ABSTRACTIONS

## **HONORARY WITHDRAWAL**

VIRGIL HEMPHILL – RETIRED WORKS WITH A BAND  
JAMES CORDER – RETIRED FROM WBBM

## **NEW MEMBERS**

JOHNNY ZWIERZKO – EVENT ENGINEERING  
IAN VACEK – CAMERA ORIGINALS  
JOSHUA MILLER – PROGRAM PRODUCTIONS

## **IBEW BABY BOY:**

Selina and DANNY LUGO (FREELANCE) became the proud parents of baby boy Gael on May 16th. Gael, their first child, was 5 pounds 15 ounces and 18 inches tall. Congratulations and best wishes to the Lugos!



## **FAMILY NEWS:**

Our 1220 family: Eli Clarke's family is so proud of their daughter Gia, who has been accepted into Northwestern University's gifted program—at age 5!

And our extended Union family: Union members stick together. They stand up for just causes and by each other in times of need. Union Sisters and Brothers, Moms and Dads and kids, have helped Max Herrick since his birth almost three years ago. Max was born with a bad heart (HLHS syndrome) and a new heart is the only cure. Three open heart surgeries have been performed so far at Children's Memorial Hospital but doctors say he will need more operations and medicines for years. If you can help young Max grow to adulthood so he can join his Union family, working for union values call Margie Binetti at 630-253-3291 or visit [www.benefit4max.com](http://www.benefit4max.com).

## **WORK AVAILABLE AT WBBM:**

WBBM-TV continues its work on the new building at 22 W. Washington. Technical construction of the all HD facility begins very soon. Local 1220 will have a critical role in the construction of the technical plant and extra help will be needed soon. If you are looking for per-diem construction work at the new facility send your resume to David Hewitt, Manager of Technical Operations at WBBM. His e-mail is [dmhewitt@cbs.com](mailto:dmhewitt@cbs.com) or fax it to 312-202-3710. Please no calls. This work is covered under the CBS/IBEW contract.

## **GET WELL WISHES:**

To RICK GARAFALO (WGNTV) home recovering from robotic surgery performed at Lutheran General Hospital has our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

## **PER CAPITA CHANGES FOR 2008:**

Effective 1-1-08 there will be an increase of \$1.00 per month for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund contribution. Only a few of our members are participating in the PBF, but if any of you has any questions, please feel free to email us at [info@ibew1220.org](mailto:info@ibew1220.org), or call.

## **JENN'S TAKE:**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters.

Lollapalooza was one of those great experiences that I have to thank our Business Manager Madeleine Monaco and the entire membership for my job. Dave Cosby of Camera Originals put approximately 36 members to work in Grant Park for the third year in a row. I was fortunate enough to go see the crew in action on my daily tour of the various venues.

The BEST part was seeing so many displaying 1220 Union Cards and buttons! Now, THAT is claiming your jurisdiction! That simple display tells everyone else: "This is our work; this is what we do for a living." I appreciate the welcome and all the input from our members. I also visit some of our television stations and want to remind the staff members that they need to be wearing their Union credentials (cards and/or buttons) as well. The station jurisdiction issues can also become cloudy.

It was quite a different experience when I visited Northerly Island, where I saw many members working on a job that had not been fully reported as required by our contracts. Thank you to all who have been reporting on or admitting to the issues that annoy you the most. We are pursuing as many as possible from the office. We may need to be a bit more creative with the others. Remember, if it affects you, it probably is affecting another sister or brother who doesn't have the understanding or courage to speak out. Very rarely is anything a one-person issue.

I continue to visit the various venues to stay informed about the conventions and trade shows. The sports work by Local 1220 technicians has me a bit befuddled and the stations have their own set of procedures. I'm trying to conduct meetings during monthly visits to WYCC (now in their new facility), WTVO in Rockford (serious rains and flooding affected them this month—but they covered the story nevertheless), and I can't help but keep tabs on WGN – which leads back to sports—and our CBS and FOX Sports national agreements.

Please watch for and review the new IBEW Constitution when you get it. It was either delivered to your shop steward or mailed with this newsletter. There are some changes voted at the last IBEW Convention.

Video Production Freelance Members: Please maintain your time keeper reports. Your new agreement requires the assignment of one crew member to keep the time for all—you can call it in or e-mail [info@ibew1220.org](mailto:info@ibew1220.org) if you're pressed for time. This is documentation for your protection. From your report we can verify and track Flex Plan payments and proper payment of straight time and overtime and penalty pay. We really need every time keeper on every job to report for the crew.

It's true: United we bargain divided we beg.

In Solidarity,

*Jennifer Kastigar*  
Business Representative

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???

INFO@IBEW1220.ORG

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 7:00 PM**

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IS THE ONLY AUTHORITY FOR WAIVING OF LATE FEES.  
OFFICE STAFF HAS A MANDATE TO COLLECT THE FEE AND  
MEMBERS MUST PETITION THE BOARD FOR A WAIVER AFTER THE FACT.

PHONE (773) 714-1220

FAX (773) 693-0009

[www.ibew1220.org](http://www.ibew1220.org)

THE INFO CHANNEL  
RADIO + TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS  
I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1220  
8605 WEST BRYN MAWR #309  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631