

# THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

DECEMBER 2008

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### Sisters and Brothers:

Our Local has flourished throughout another year. With many challenges and also many opportunities, we will continue to work together to honor the purpose for our existence—among them:

To cultivate feelings of friendship among those of our industry

To assist each other in sickness or distress

To seek security for the individual

To elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependents

Our economic times are so difficult. Our employers are seeking cost cutting measures to stay viable. Our legislators are working to minimize the adverse impact on American industries. Our broadcast industry is incorporating new technologies that impact our employment. All of this as we await the changes, and the concurrent challenges that will come with a new administration. We worked hard to secure the future of American unions and we have very high hopes for what it will mean for every one of us in the labor movement.

So, in this month of many holidays, and many holiday celebrations, let us also celebrate our solidarity and our efforts to build a better life for the sisters and brothers in IBEW Local 1220. My special thanks to the officers and stewards who have given freely of their time during 2008. The small salaries paid to you is in no way an indication of your value to us. We could add several zeroes to each pay check you receive and still not match your worth. Thank you.

Make your December holidays special. Make some new year resolutions to continue the work of our Union and our industry with all of the pride that comes from doing your best work. Cherish the time you spend with your family and friends remembering how short life really is.

Whether you celebrate Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or Christmas,  
please know that I wish you a very

*Happy Holiday  
And a most productive  
2009!*

In Solidarity,

*Madeleine Monaco,*  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

NEXT MEETING DATE MONDAY, January 5, 7:00 PM

At the Union office

8605 W Bryn Mawr Ave #309, Chicago

You are the Union!

Join in conducting the business of your Local. Your input is valuable.



## INFO CHANNEL DECEMBER 2008

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)

## YOU UNION NEWS

### PER CAPITA INCREASES 1-1-09

The per capita payment to the International Office goes up by \$1.00 as of the first of next year. Please make a note of that. BA (non-pension) members will pay \$12.00 per month, making the minimum dues before applying earnings to the formula, \$43.50/month (\$115.50 per quarter).

### MEETING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Members can view meeting agenda, bills and copies of the correspondence 30 minutes prior to the meeting by appointment.

### UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Union Plus Scholarship application can now be accessed online at:

[www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/up.cfm](http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/up.cfm)

This scholarship is also available to child dependents of IBEW members.

### OUR SYMPATHY TO:

WILLIAM CORCORAN (WGN) on the loss of his sister and AL SKIERKIEWICZ (WTTW) on the passing of his brother Paul. Both in November.

### FIRST READINGS:

KATHRYN JANICEK – WGN NEWSWRITER  
VALENTIN RODRIGUEZ – WCIU  
CHRISTOPHER GERKEN – PROGRAM PRODUCTIONS

### NEW MEMBERS APPROVED:

MICHELE SWICKARD – WTTW  
GREGORY HALIK – Audio Visual One  
JAMIEL CHAPPLE - WYCC

### HONORARY WITHDRAWAL GRANTED TO:

The following have met the requirements for this status  
CONRAD "CAL" LANGENBERG retired from WTTW  
JAMES MASSARO – NO LONGER WORKING FOR CBS

### SENIORITY AWARDS

**25 YEARS** BOB ALBRECHT, KEVIN CASSIDY, HARRY DOYLE, ANNA MARIA KLINGELE, BILL LAING, KEN LYLES, RUSS RODRIGUEZ, CLARK SZABO, CARMEN TROMBETTA, DIANE VRLICH

**30 YEARS** CAROLYN BROQUET, BILL CRANE, KAREN DEMOS, GREGORY ERIKSON, JIM GUTHRIE, JIM KNOWLTON, MIKE STABEN, PERRY WHARTON

**35 YEARS** BILL CORCORAN, GREG GRESSLE, PHIL HEJTMANEK, JANICE HENDRICKSON, JIM HOLLAND, MORRIS JONES, ANDY KALAYTA, STEVE STRIBLING, AL SKIERKIEWICZ

**40 YEARS** DON COLEMAN, ED GLAB, JERRY SWANSON  
JIM WIRTH

All of the members above were invited to attend the December meeting to receive their pins and certificates of recognition. Those who were not able to do so were mailed their pins. Congratulations to all on your long years of membership in IBEW.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As 2008 comes to a close we need to look back at what we have accomplished and what lies ahead. Several contracts were settled during 2008. Of note, WTTW completed a three year agreement with a commitment to start negotiations prior to the close of the contract in June, 2010. This will help alleviate some of the work facing the local in the next two years as both WGN and WBBM/CBS contracts will open. At a time when financial problems are making daily headlines, the local has managed to continue to increase the cash on hand. This follows several years of careful financial planning and management by the local's officers and in particular, Madeleine and the office staff. The result is a strong financial future and for the first time in many years, a reduction in dues percentage.

WBBM has just completed the much anticipated move to the new loop studios. After months of work by many Local 1220 members, and spearheaded by Vice President, John Trautschold, the new facility is now on the air. All of the stations in town are anticipating the planned shutdown of analog transmission in a few months. To that end many are adding new equipment, new field production packages and high definition cameras to their inventories. Transmitter engineers are working hard to keep old transmitters on the air until the expected turnover date and program departments are busily working on new graphics and program planning. We can only hope that advertising revenues will pick up when the changeover finally occurs. Some of us older engineers still remember the original FCC plan to stop analog broadcasts by 1996 and hope that the transition will be a smooth one.

As I am writing this column, news of the financial problems at the Tribune Corporation have just been announced. Their owner had hoped to sell off some of the more profitable entities but the banking industry has slowed those types of acquisitions. WGN is one of the Tribune family of companies. Combined with the paper and other Tribune holdings, Tribune employees here in Chicago are certainly worried about their future. This news just prior to the holidays will certainly strike hard at some of our members.

I was privileged to be able to present service pins to Local members who celebrated a significant anniversary at the December meeting. Congratulations to the many members who have achieved this honor during 2008, including several members who have achieved 35 and 40 years of IBEW membership. We owe these members a debt of gratitude as the long success of this local is due to their persistence and continued union membership. I would like to wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday season. I hope that you will all be able to spend the holidays with loved ones and family surrounded by the joy of the season. Happy New Year, see you all in 2009.

In Solidarity,

*Alan J. Skierkiewicz*  
President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After many years of service to our Local Union, Brother Robert Kastigar has tendered his resignation from the Executive Board. His seat on that Board has been declared vacant as of 12-08-08 and we seek to fill it for the remainder of his unexpired term. Given the restrictions of our ByLaws, the replacement member shall have been a member for at least two years, and should not be a member of the bargaining unit already represented by two members on the Board. If you have an interest in serving your Local from January through June of 2009, please contact the office to determine your eligibility, and/or submit your offer to serve, addressed to me, prior to January 16, 2009.

Sincerely,

*Paul S Rodriguez*  
Chairman of the Executive Board

### REMINDER—RESOLUTION ON RECORD

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed by the members at the October 2000 Union Meeting:  
*(and still stands)*

No member of IBEW Local 1220 shall perform the work covered by IBEW Local 1220 for any employer who seeks to assign such duties under any IATSE Local 110 Agreement, without first having such assignment approved by the Business Manager or her designate.

Any member having knowledge of a violation of this resolution must report it to the Local Union Business Manager or her designate.

A copy of this resolution shall be mailed to all members and to all signatory employers at their address of record.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???

INFO@IBEW1220.ORG

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH AT 7:00 PM**  
AT THE UNION OFFICE  
8605 W BRYN MAWR AVE #309 CHICAGO

PHONE (773) 714-1220

FAX (773) 693-0009

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

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