

# THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

FEBRUARY 2005

## FROM YOUR BUSINESS MANAGER

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This month's newsletter is also being sent to your personal IBEW 1220 email box. Please remember to check it on a regular basis for pertinent and timely information and updates.



If you need assistance with retrieving those messages or accessing your email, please call the office at 773-714-1220 or email us at [info@ibew1220.org](mailto:info@ibew1220.org).

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## INFO CHANNEL FEBRUARY 2005

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:

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR 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. The Board will review all requests and contact you to schedule the issue at a future meeting. They meet on the 3rd Monday of each month.



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

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

## I.B.E.W 1220 CONTRACTS

WLS RADIO 190 N STATE ST CHICAGO, IL 60601	WCEV RADIO 5356 W BELMONT CHICAGO, IL 60641	WCIU TV 26 N HALSTED ST CHICAGO, IL 60661	WBBM TV /RADIO 630 N MCCLURG CT CHICAGO, IL 60611
<i>WTVO-TV</i> * NORTH MERIDIAN RD ROCKFORD, IL 61105	WGN RADIO 435 N MICHIGAN CHICAGO, IL 60611	WGN TV 2501 W BRADLEY PL CHICAGO, IL 60618	WYCC TV 7500 S PULASKI RD CHICAGO, IL 60652
	WMVP RADIO 190 N STATE ST CHICAGO, IL 60601	WTTW TV 5400 N ST LOUIS AVE CHICAGO, IL 60625	
AESTHETIC ABSTRACTIONS 175 S MASON BENSENVILLE, IL 60106	CAMERA ORIGINALS 125 WINDSOR DR #107 OAKBROOK, IL 60523	EVENT ENGINEERING 640 PEARSON ST DES PLAINES, IL 60016	FOX SPORTS – FOOTBALL HOCKEY, BASEBALL, NASCAR NATIONAL AGREEMENT
MEDIA PROCESS GROUP 1327 W. WASHINGTON ST #103 CHICAGO, IL 60607	MIRROR IMAGE VIDEO 28 WOODLAND TRAIL PORTAGE, IN 46368	O.S.A. PRODUCTIONS 537 N EDGEWOOD AVE WOODDALE, IL 60191	
PRODUCT PRODUCTIONS 1806 W GRAND AVE CHICAGO, IL 60622	PROGRAM PRODUCTIONS 870 OAK CREEK DR LOMBARD, IL 60148	SHORELINE PRODUCTIONS 28 ASPEN RD BOX 1233 OGDEN DUNES, IN 46368	
THEATRICAL LIGHTING CONNECTION 411 HEATHROW COURT BURR RIDGE, IL 60521	THREE PHASE MEDIA 1658 N MILWAUKEE # 144 CHICAGO, IL 60647	VISIONS UNLIMITED 2065 E EXCHANGE CRETE, IL 60417	

**NOTE THE AGREEMENTS FOR GOLAN PRODUCTIONS & HOOF AND MOUTH HAVE BEEN CANCELLED**

COPIES OF ANY IBEW 1220 AGREEMENT MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST AT THE UNION OFFICE

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Superbowl is over and things can now quiet down as we wait out the winter and watch for signs of spring. Normally, that would be the end of the basketball and hockey seasons and the start of spring training for baseball. But the hockey strike/lockout continues with no end in sight. As of today the strike enters it's 147th day and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, stated that without a settlement by this weekend there may be no 2004-2005 season possible. Should there be an agreement by Sunday the commissioner feels that a modified season of 28 games and the normal 16 team playoff structure should be possible. A Canadian sports magazine recently reported as much as \$20M lost revenue due to the strike. Considering the number of teams in the US, the losses here must be exceedingly high. As the season continues to be non-existent, IBEW members in the U.S. and Canada continue to be hurt by the lack of TV coverage. Here in Chicago, sports coverage has been thin with the Bears dieing early, the Bulls just recently starting to win and the lack of NHL Hockey. At least they are back at the table.

As trends improve for HD set sales, plans for more HD production are in place. HD production company HD Ready has recently taken delivery on it's new trailer body to be outfitted for HD production. The design of this new truck will be influenced by the music production that HD Ready currently is involved in. The plan is to begin work on the interior this week and complete as much of the interior as can be in order to show off the truck at NAB in April. Please watch for more news on this venture in the future.

I was invited to attend a retirement seminar for municipal workers recently. The purpose was to bring members (employees of a suburban school district), who are close to retirement, up to date on the rules and procedures involved in retirement. The IMRF oversees the pensions of school workers, village employees and fire fighters and police throughout the state. A representative of Social Security and the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund were both present and outlined the procedures and requirements for retirement in Illinois. Both representatives had some interesting ideas and info on retirement that all members should be aware of. I suggest that you contact your own retirement professionals and the Social Security Administration if you are near retirement or over fifty years old. These last few years require some planning.

Mr. Bush announced in his State of the Union address that he is requesting sweeping changes in the Social Security system. This is the bomb that everyone has been talking about since I started working here in 1973. Members over 55 will likely be affected the least, but those between 45 and 55 have some real planning and investment changes to consider. The current issue of the IBEW Journal has an article titled "Social Insecurity". You should all read it when you get a chance. Retirement investing, 401K and 403B plans, etc. will be more important than ever if the sweeping plans for reform go into place. Don't be caught out in the cold, get a plan now.

The back cover of the Journal also has an announcement on the annual IBEW Safety Poster contest. This is a design contest open to all current IBEW members. The subject is Safety in the home, at the workplace or while at play. See the back cover for details. I know we have some talented people in our ranks, give it a try.

Hope to see you all very soon. Try to make it out for a monthly union meeting. The dates are printed on your card. See you next month, meetings start at 7:00 PM.

In Solidarity,

Alan J. Skierkiewicz

## YOUNION NEWS

### FIRST READINGS

Adriana Correa – WBBM pd  
Richard White – Fox (Nascar)  
Christopher Fuydal – CBS/Fox pd  
Nicole McCreary – WBBM pd  
Curtis Bagby – WGN  
Rick Erwin – Visions Unlimited  
Courtney Copenhagen—WGN Newswriter PD  
Dennis Gates—Aesthetic Abstractions

### GET WELL WISHES:

To DIANE VRLICH (WBBM TV) who is recovering from surgery and needs our good thoughts and prayers.

### COURT REPORTERS UPDATE:

A meeting will be held this month with the DuPage and Kane County Court Reporters. Please continue to communicate with us at info@ibew1220.org. And let us know your email address, too.

### BOYCOTT ON!

Supporting UNITE/HERE against Hotel Intercontinental & Four Seasons in addition to Congress Plaza.

### IN SYMPATHY:

To DAVE SEATON (WTVO) and his family on the loss of his mother Barbara on December 25, 2004. She will be missed.

## UNION SCHOLARSHIPS

- 1) THE UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIP—Applications now available at [www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/Scholarship05.pdf](http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/Scholarship05.pdf). Or call the Union office.
- 2) IBEW FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP—Applications available at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org) & the union office
- 3) WILLIAM A LEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP applicants MUST use this form

### CFL SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

Select Only One

I wish to participate in the academic competition for the CFL William A Lee Scholarship Program

I wish to participate in the random drawing for the CFL William A Lee Scholarship Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Union Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
(applicant or parent)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: WILLIAM A LEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL-CIO  
130 E RANDOLPH, SUITE 2600/CHICAGO, IL 60601

**PLEASE DO NOT CALL/NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE SENT UNLESS REQUESTED IN WRITING**

The presentation of the awards will be made at a reception. Winners, their parents and representatives of the Unions involved will be invited to the presentation. **WINNERS MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE THE AWARD.**

## “INFO CHANNEL” TO BE PROVIDED ELECTRONICALLY

A few months ago we provided almost all of our members with an email address and a discrete password. Please expect a message from your Local Union at least once each week to this email box. The web-based email will allow you to access your IBEW 1220 account from any computer with internet access. This newsletter will soon be sent electronically, and the Union will save greatly in time and labor costs. Check your email every week!

## EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

The future of labor unions is resting on passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. Senate Bill 1925 and House of Representatives Bill 3619 bans a major weapon from management’s arsenal — stalling negotiations for years. This legislation would automatically bind both management and union to arbitration or mediation within a few months. If we had this legislation on the books, WIFR would have a contract now. Management has been stalling these negotiations for years!

Please learn more about this vital legislation at [www.aflcio.org/aboutunions/voicework/efca.cfm](http://www.aflcio.org/aboutunions/voicework/efca.cfm).  
Let your representatives know where you stand.

## WEINGARTEN RULES

Please remember that Weingarten rules apply to phone conversations with management as well as with face to face meetings. We all have a legal right to be represented at meetings which may result in disciplinary action by our employers. Take a Union representative with you, or have one present by speakerphone should you be in this position. It’s your right, please exercise it.

## PROBLEMS WITH FELLOW UNION MEMBERS

When a problem arises with a fellow worker—union brother or sister—your first course of action should be to discuss it with the Union office. Any action which may result in economic harm to a fellow member could be a chargeable offense under the IBEW Constitution. The Union can help you, please bring the problem to us.

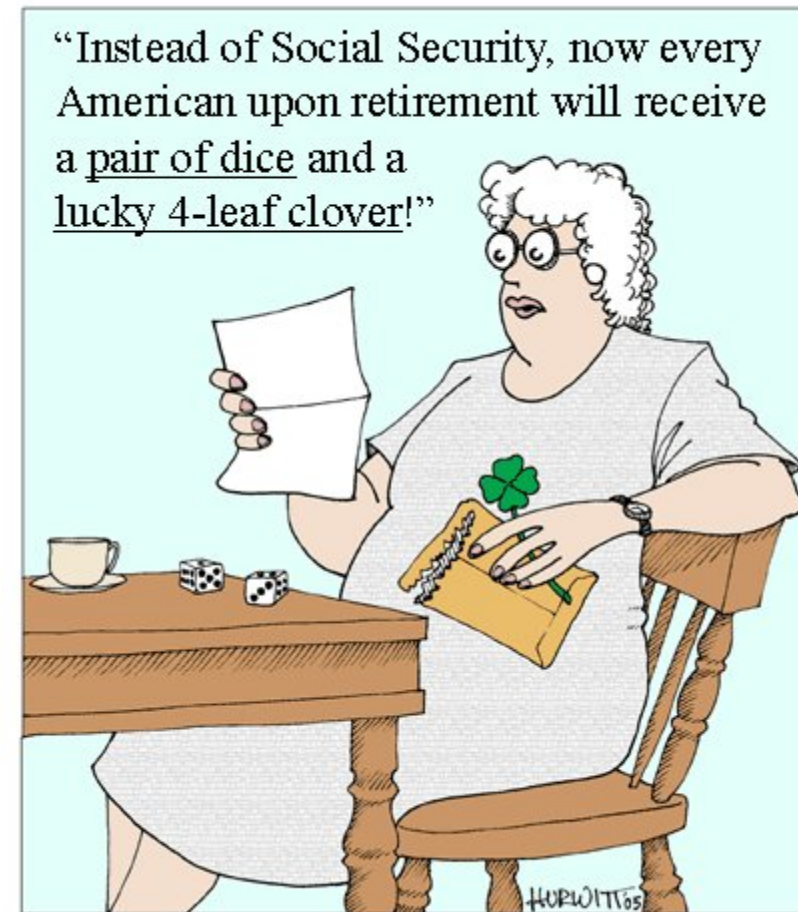


## RETIREES NEWS:

Jim Mulqueeny turns 79 on February 24th. He has enjoyed a recent trip to Greece and has been sailing in the British Virgin Islands.

## DO NOT FORGET TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS

Contact your senators and representatives to give them your input on the changes proposed to social security.



## BENEFITS

### ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FLEX PLAN



For most freelance and/or per diem members of our Local Union, an amount in addition to their hourly wage is contributed by the employer to this plan.

Contact the Flex Plan at 1-888-353-9401 or log on to [www.flexplan.com](http://www.flexplan.com).

### ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY 401K PLAN

For some freelance and/or per diem members, additional deposits are made to this plan. Check to see if your employer contributes. Inquire further at the above phone number or email address.



### BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD PPO

For those not eligible for the Entertainment Industry Flex Plan, this health plan is currently available to our members. Contact Wes Wenk at Wenk Insurance Agency (847) 433-8370

### HEALTH & DENTAL DISCOUNTS



Union Plus offers a discount program on two different levels. Call 1-800-228-3523 or go online to [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org) and click on health savings.

### MORTGAGE LOANS

Low interest mortgage loans for any member of the IBEW. (800) 475-7933



### HEALTH CLUB DISCOUNT



A 20% discount off monthly dues and a discounted enrollment fee at Lake Shore Athletic Club. Contact Alison at 312.944.4546 and go online to [www.LSAC.com](http://www.LSAC.com) for locations and a virtual tour.

### UNION MASTERCARD



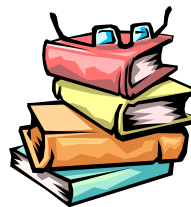
The IBEW logo on a credit card with special benefits. Call the Union office for an application.

### NEW CREDIT UNION

IBEW 1220 is now affiliated with the Xerox Federal Credit Union (XFCU). Call 847-296-4291 or ask us for an application.



### SCHOLARSHIPS



IBEW Founders scholarships are annually awarded to an IBEW Member for college education. Watch your IBEW Journal.

Chicago Federation of Labor Scholarships for our members' children. College tuition for seniors in the Chicago area.

Watch the INFO CHANNEL for details.

### LEGAL SERVICES

Union Privilege Legal Services provides a referral service with reduced rates. Call the Union Office for the list of participating attorneys.



### LIFE INSURANCE



Union Privilege – access to a group rate arranged by the IBEW. Watch your IBEW Journal and your mailbox for offers.

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND AT 7:00 PM**  
BE SURE TO BRING YOUR UNION CARD

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