

THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

JANUARY 2005

FROM YOUR BUSINESS MANAGER

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we begin a new year, full of solidarity and support, please remember to provide information to your Steward—and to call upon him or her for assistance in your workplace. There are some new Stewards to represent you, and there will be more added in the near future. We are grateful for their willingness to serve.

WBBM TV
John Trautschold, Carlos Monge, Mark Losiniecki

WCEV Radio
Jeff Frizzle

WGN TV
Joe Smith, **Mike Clay***

WLS Radio
Ed Glab

WGN Newswriters
Jerry Howard

WTTW TV

Al Skierkiewicz, Peter Adrianopoli, Tom Siegel
Gina Morri for Artists and Dan Rozkuszka for Floor Crew

WTVO TV
Mike Real

FREELANCE

John Rizzo, Jim Kimmons, **Richard Morckel*** and **Scott Jones***

* New this year

We sincerely hope that more of you will step forward and volunteer to serve as Shop Stewards. We specifically need at least one more at WBBM and several more at WGN TV. Please contact the office and talk to us about it. Together we are strong!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CONTRACTORS.....2 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....3 YOU-NION NEWS.....4
BYLAWS CHANGE.....5 RETIREES, HEALTH CLUB...6 BOYCOTT LIST.....7

INFO CHANNEL JANUARY 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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Info Channel
Radio + TV Broadcast Engineers
8605 W Bryn Mawr Suite 309
Chicago, IL 60631
FAX 773-693-0009
EMAIL mmonaco@ibew1220.org

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

WTVO-TV *
NORTH MERIDIAN RD
ROCKFORD, IL 61105

AESTHETIC ABSTRACTIONS
175 S MASON
BENSENVILLE, IL 60106

MEDIA PROCESS GROUP
770 N HALSTED #507
CHICAGO, IL 60622

PRODUCT PRODUCTIONS
1806 W GRAND AVE
CHICAGO, IL 60622

THEATRICAL LIGHTING CONNECTION
411 HEATHROW COURT
BURR RIDGE, IL 60521

WCEV RADIO
5356 W BELMONT
CHICAGO, IL 60641

WGN RADIO
435 N MICHIGAN
CHICAGO, IL 60611

WMVP RADIO
190 N STATE ST
CHICAGO, IL 60601

CAMERA ORIGINALS
125 WINDSOR DR #107
OAKBROOK, IL 60523

MIRROR IMAGE VIDEO
28 WOODLAND TRAIL
PORTAGE, IN 46368

PROGRAM PRODUCTIONS
870 OAK CREEK DR
LOMBARD, IL 60148

THREE PHASE MEDIA
1658 N MILWAUKEE # 144
CHICAGO, IL 60647

WCIU TV
26 N HALSTED ST
CHICAGO, IL 60661

WGN TV
2501 W BRADLEY PL
CHICAGO, IL 60618

WTTW TV
5400 N ST LOUIS AVE
CHICAGO, IL 60625

EVENT ENGINEERING
640 PEARSON ST
DES PLAINES, IL 60016

O.S.A. PRODUCTIONS
537 N EDGEWOOD AVE
WOODDALE, IL 60191

SHORELINE PRODUCTIONS
28 ASPEN RD BOX 1233
OGDEN DUNES, IN 46368

VISIONS UNLIMITED
2065 E EXCHANGE
CRETE, IL 60417

WBBM TV /RADIO
630 N MCCLURG CT
CHICAGO, IL 60611

WYCC TV
7500 S PULASKI RD
CHICAGO, IL 60652

FOX SPORTS – FOOTBALL
HOCKEY, BASEBALL, NASCAR
NATIONAL AGREEMENT

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

Happy New Year, 2005. We have some good news coming into the New Year. WGN settled the contract just prior to the New Year. After more than four years of negotiations, a contract was ratified by the shop. Thanks for all the hard work by everyone involved in this long and drawn out process. Thank you to the shop for supporting the effort taking place at the table. It was a stressful time for all involved and now we can get on with the job ahead.

Economic indicators and station work combine to make 2005 look like a good year compared to the past few. Recent news continues to bolster High Definition with November sales nearly 850,000 digital television receivers. In a recent Broadcast Engineering quote, CEA Market Research projected that 6.97 million DTV units were sold in 2004. In 2005, 10.77 million will be sold, 16.77 million in 2006, 23.25 million in 2007 and 27.05 in 2008. With those sales figures, the DTV audience is growing and with it will come more HD production. The wave of viewers predicted by the FCC is finally being realized.

John Trautschold (WBBM and Local 1220 V.P.) reported at the January meeting, that WBBM produced two local, holiday shows from remote locations. A Christmas Eve special from First Presbyterian Church and a live, HD, New Year's Eve Special from The House of Blues. In addition to the HD video, a live, 5.1 surround mix was also included in the broadcast. Those in attendance at Monday's meeting heard of the technical pitfalls of live television production with time delay units for six channels of audio. Congratulations to the crews for their hard work in all the venues around the city during the recent holidays. The audiences here in Chicago and around the country were able to enjoy one of the best celebrations in my memory.

I need to thank all the members who made it out for the January meeting. A nasty weather day right after a holiday weekend is not conducive to great attendance but many members turned out. Those members attending heard a report from the WCIU steward on all of the activity in that shop and upcoming plans to remodel master control. Although major remodeling projects are a very stressful time for all involved, they are temporary.

Those present also reviewed and approved the 2005 Local 1220 budget. Thanks to Madeleine and Bruce Rehberger's hard work in putting this together. Now that the membership is close to 700 strong, a solid budget is needed to help with future plans.

With all of the discussion of new contracts and remodeling projects, potential grievance situations were also indicated. When any member perceives that an employer has violated the contract in some way, the first step should be to alert your steward. The steward is the first line of defense for any union, but they can only manage a contract with the help of all the members. A steward's responsibility is to collect information from all the parties involved, review the contract and alert the business manager or office of the situation and information gathered. Individual contracts outline specific procedures that must be followed and places time limits on each of the steps. The procedures usually require that a steward perform those tasks. Should a steward be unsure of which action to take, it is imperative that the business manager be contacted. On occasion, legal advice is needed and that can only occur through the business manager. In the event a steward is not present, please contact the office directly. In most cases, a timely reaction will correct the problem without filing a grievance.

See you all next month,

Fraternally,

Alan J. Skierkiewicz

PAGE 3 JANUARY 2005 INFO CHANNEL

YOUNION NEWS

FIRST READINGS

WITOLD JANCZAK – WBBM
JASON COLON – WGN TV NEWSWRITER
MARK HARPER - REAPPLYING

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL GRANTED:

These members have met the IBEW constitutional requirements for Honorary Withdrawal status.
BILL BROWNE – RETIRED WBBM TV
CRAIG MARLOWE – MGMT ONLY FOX

GET WELL WISHES:

DIANE VRLICH (WBBM TV) recovering from surgery.

IN SYMPATHY:

To DAVE SEATON (WTVO) who lost his mother.
To RANDY PIANT (WGN) who lost his father.
To the friends and family of JERRY GERRARD (freelance) who died last month.

COURT REPORTERS UPDATE:

Our meeting scheduled for January 5th was cancelled at the last minute due to the forecast snow storm. The rescheduled date, time and place is as follows:

Molly Malones
7652 Madison St.
Forest Park, IL
708-366-8073

Wednesday, January 19th 6:00 pm

THANK YOU RECEIVED:

From PADS—who accepted our donation of turkey dinners (left over from our December Meeting dinner).

BOYCOTT ON!

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

UNION SCHOLARSHIPS

- 1) THE UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIP—Applications now available at www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/Scholarship05.pdf. Or call the Union office.
- 2) IBEW FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP—Applications available at 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.**

PAGE 4 JANUARY 2005 INFO CHANNEL

“INFO CHANNEL” TO BE PROVIDED ELECTRONICALLY

Last month 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/voiceatwork/efca.cfm.
Let your representatives know where you stand.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE IBEW LOCAL 1220 BY LAWS

Article 10 Section 5 to read:

- (a) "A" and "BA" members Basic dues of \$31.65, plus 1.7% of all base pay above \$1,715.00 per month
- (b) Applicable International per capita to be paid in addition to the above dues.

The Executive Board voted to reject this proposal. The members present and voting at the January meeting voted to concur with that decision. The ByLaw change proposed will not be mailed out for a vote and it therefore dies.



DE PAUL LABOR ED PROGRAM ANNOUNCES SPRING CLASSES

If you are interested in Labor Leadership Classes, or in special classes on the history of Women Labor Leaders, please contact the office for enrollment forms. Spring classes begin the week of January 24.

RX FOR ILLINOIS

A new program exists for the uninsured and the under insured in Illinois. To learn more visit them on line at WWW.RXFORILLINOIS.ORG or call 877-RX-FOR-IL.

RETIREES NEWS:

STEPHEN LASKER (WBBM Retired) reports in on his great vacation in Puerto Rico with 2 year old grandson Jack, who had his first dip in the ocean.

BOB JANNEY (WGN TV Retired/Former Business Manager) reports that he has been ill and to more doctors this past year than in all the rest of his life. He had 3 surgeries and missed the WGN Reunion after Thanksgiving. We hope you get better, Bob.

JOHN GAUSE (WGN Retired) had his daughter send a note. She says he is now 92 and still reads our "Info Channel" each month.



DUES QUESTIONS

The Executive Board has heard special requests recently regarding dues payments. These decisions were rendered— Union Dues at the current rate of 1.7% are payable on the following:

- All Travel Pay
- All retroactive pay increases and signing bonuses
- All settlements rendered to members after legal action against their employers

All members not permanently employed at a station have a dues obligation of \$109.50 per quarter to remain members of IBEW 1220. That's \$438.00 per year.

Honorary Withdrawal status is controlled by the language of the IBEW Constitution, Article XXIV.

Please refer any questions to the Union office by email info@ibew1220.org or phone 773-714-1220.

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.

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 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 for locations and a virtual tour.

UNION MASTERCARD



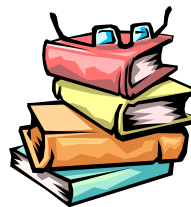
The IBEW logo on a credit card with special benefits. Call the Union office for an application.

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
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST AT 7:00 PM
BE SURE TO BRING YOUR UNION CARD

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8605 WEST BRYN MAWR #309
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED