

THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

JANUARY 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT...1

YOU-NION NEWS.....2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....3

MEETING NOTICE.....6

Sisters and Brothers:

**Happy New Year to each and every member of our Local Union!
My wish for you this year is that we all survive these difficult economic times.**

I am pleased to announce that our Local Union Treasury has reached the point where an additional dues deduction has been triggered. **As of 4-1-09, your Union dues will be based on only 1% of your earnings**, not the current 1.4%, nor the previous 1.7%. This is the first time since this By Law for dues was voted in by our members, that we have reached this level of funding and been able to lower your dues cost (and it probably couldn't come at a better time).

Because the Tribune Corporation has declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy we have retained as legal counsel a bankruptcy expert with the firm Ungaretti and Harris. We are also speaking with one of the International Reps who has led his Local Union through an experience like this for advice and information. Our contract with Tribune for WGN Radio expires March 31, and WGN TV expires June 30, 2009. We will keep our members informed as things progress.

The economic downturn has affected all of our employers. This is a time to be the greatest value to them that we can possibly be. A skilled technician, worth his or her weight in gold, is a commodity that every one of the companies we work for can make use of and appreciate. Be the best. Give your best effort. Make yourself invaluable.

That being said—this is also a time when employers are cutting corners, and cutting management staff. Sometimes those who take over for the employees who are let go are not familiar with our contract provisions and our past practices. We must help them to know what is right and proper under the collective bargaining agreement that is in place. No Union member has the right or power to waive any of the minimum conditions set forth in any of our agreements without prior written consent of IBEW Local 1220. If an employer approaches you for relief or a waiver of any contract provision, please direct them to this office.

On January 20, 2009 we will inaugurate a new President, one who believes in the Union movement and stands up for organized labor. Each of you who belong to this Local Union will reap the benefits of that effort. We are proud to have contributed to the effort that will help keep our Union alive for the future.

In Solidarity,

Madeleine Monaco,
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

NEXT MEETING DATE TUESDAY, February 3, 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 JANUARY 2009

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

YOU UNION NEWS

PER CAPITA INCREASES 1-1-09

The per capita payment to the International Office is now for BA members (non-pension) \$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 the agenda, bills and copies of the correspondence 30 minutes prior to the meeting by appointment.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The application for Union Plus Scholarships available to members and child dependents can now be accessed online at: www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/up.cfm

The William A Lee Memorial Scholarship, also available to members and their children, has also been announced. 10 will be given—5 academic based and 5 by random-drawings. Obtain your app online at www.chicagolabor.org

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

TOM WILSON (WTTW) on the recent loss of his father. And to Union staff employee DIANE COZZI, on the loss of her father. They will both be sorely missed.

FIRST READINGS:

JAY SANTIAGO – WCIU MICHAEL RUHLMAN – CBS (NE)

NEW MEMBERS APPROVED:

BENJAMIN EADS - WCIU

CONGRATULATIONS—IBEW BABY:

AMANDA (WBBM) and JASON (WGN) COLON and big brother Aaron welcomed baby girl Anastasia on 12-10-08.

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL GRANTED TO:

The following have met the requirements for this status
ROBERT SWEENEY – no more CBS work

THE INADEQUATE COSTS OF LABOR LAW VIOLATIONS

Federal Law	Backpay	Compensatory Damages	Fines, Punitive Damages	Additional Penalties
NLRA	✓	✗	✗	✗
EEO	✓	✓	✓	✓
FLSA	✓	✓	✓	✓
OSHA	N/A	✗	✓	✓

The Inadequate Costs of Labor Law Violations, American Rights at Work, November 2008.

Employers have little reason to abide by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), as the financial disincentives of violating the law are minimal. From firing, demoting, or retaliating against workers for their support of a union to ignoring their duty to negotiate a contract, many employers blatantly violate the NLRA. Other major federal employment laws impose fines or damages on employers who break the law. Yet the NLRA's nominal deterrents do little to prevent employer lawlessness compared to the costs of violating minimum wage, discrimination, and health and safety protections.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DIGITAL CONVERSION

As I sit down to write this, I received a thread notice from an amateur radio site. The message read that problems were arising for the planned shutdown of analog TV transmission next month. The chairman of the House Telecommunications and Internet Committee (which oversees the FCC) was investigating reports that the FCC was falling behind in its coupon program for digital receivers. As the national and local news picked up on the story, it was reported that the FCC had run out of reimbursement money to fund the coupon program and may at this point be incapable of filling more than 200,000 coupon requests. Without the coupon subsidy for digital receivers, consumer households could be left without TV service if "over the air" is their only method of receiving TV signals. I know many stations were committed to this planned shutdown. WTTW's transmitter facility is being repurposed for WBBM's new digital frequency. Engineers from both WTTW and WBBM have been working hard to make the conversion, modify the transmitter and associated equipment and move needed equipment out of the space WTTW has occupied since Sears Tower opened in 1975. What will happen? Watch for updates.

EFCA

A bill has been introduced in congress, the Employee Free Choice Act, (H.R. 800/S. 1041). This piece of legislation is a strike against those anti labor forces that have legally thwarted organizing efforts over the past few decades. Introduced in the House by George Miller and in the Senate by Ted Kennedy, the bill calls for employees ability to choose to be represented by a union using the signature cards only. In the past, an NLRB election was needed. Many organization efforts failed as employers identified and then harassed or fired union organizers and leaders while waiting for the election. Under this new legislation, a majority of members signing intent cards could force a company to recognize union representation and then come to an initial agreement within a specified period or have Federal Mediators step in to insure a first agreement. The law would also allow for increased fines for companies that abuse their position during organizing efforts, providing for triple lost wages should an employee be fired while participating in the organizing effort. Finally, and likely the most important, the NLRB would be forced to seek injunctions against employers who engage in unfair labor practices.

Under current law only unions can be fined, punished for unfair labor practices and have virtually no recourse to anti organizing efforts. Employees can be pressured or fired without recourse for participating in a union effort. If you have not heard of this bill please research it and help us get support for the passing of this legislation in Congress. President Elect Obama supports this legislation and now that more democrats will be serving in Washington, the bill has a real chance of passing. Until now the Republicans have stalled efforts to bring it before the House and Senate for a vote. Our International President, Ed Hill has asked all IBEW local unions for their support. Please watch for announcements of meetings to discuss this legislation and how you might help to get it passed.

LOCAL UNION FUNDS

Ed Glab, our union Treasurer reported at the January meeting that union funds have reached an all time high. This triggers another dues decrease (as stipulated in the local bylaws) starting in April. At a time when income is falling and the local is facing two big negotiations, this added buffer is welcome news. Thanks to Madeleine and her staff and the officers for helping the local to become financially strong once again. See you all on Tuesday, February 3, at 7:00 PM.

In Solidarity,

Alan J. Skierkiewicz
President

REMINDER-LOCAL UNION RULES

Please be advised that the members of this Local Union have voted the By Laws into place by majority vote (by mail ballot to every member). These By Laws mandate that dues are payable quarterly in advance. There is a penalty for failing to honor this By Law and that penalty must be applied fairly and evenly by the staff of the Local Union office. Every member of the Local is given a copy when they join and again whenever there are changes voted in. If you need another copy, please let us know.

In addition, we are allowed by law to apply any payment received to the oldest amounts due and have made that a rule as well. This office must apply that provision fairly and evenly to all members. As you read this, you should have in your possession an Official IBEW Receipt which shows your dues paid through March of 2009.

Please don't ask us our staff to do something that they cannot do. Send any request for consideration in writing to the Executive Board Chairman, Paul Rodriguez, 8605 W Bryn Mawr Ave #309, Chicago, IL 60631, or forward email to Madeleine Monaco, Business Manager, at mmonaco@ibew1220.org and it will be delivered to the Board.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???

INFO@IBEW1220.ORG

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD 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

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