

January 2010

THE INFO CHANNEL

IN THIS ISSUE

Union Developments	1
Business Manager Report	2
Presidents Message	3
<i>You</i> -nion News	4
Shop Stewards	5
Back Page	

FREE ONLINE TRAINING FROM LYNDA.COM

In an effort to keep our members competitive and highly skilled, Local 1220 has acquired (5) training licenses from Lynda.com., an online training program with over 650 courses for Union members. Please peruse this site for a complete list.

This program is free only for IBEW Local 1220 Union members. Space is limited to (5) members at one time. During your (2) week period time-use, you can utilize the "subscription time-period" to learn as many programs as desired. Sign up on our web page. (We may as well stay productive during these slow cold months.)

PAYING YOUR UNION DUES ON LINE

The last day we will be accepting over the phone credit card payments will be Friday, February 26th.

After February 26th, if you want to pay with a credit card, the office will be directing you to our web page to follow the prompts to *Pay Your Dues Online*. You will need a valid email address to do this.

There are two sections. The top is for "*Standard Union Dues*", which is for the basic freelance dues. Choose how many months (3 months is one quarter) and "*Jump to the Payment Page.*" Or you may choose the second section: "*To pay working dues and/or regular membership dues together.*" Here you may choose to pay a specific amount for your dues.

After you "*Jump to the payment page,*" there is a text box "*Please tell us what months you are paying*" where you may type in comments regarding your payments. Then, "*Go to Payments*", to enter your credit card information.

You will be sent an email confirmation. The "*Shipping*" is a 3% fee that is added to your payment to facilitate bank fees and it will be automatically calculated for you.

Speaking of Paying Dues...

Please pay them ON TIME. Our local is also struggling. You may or may not know that the union has dropped the late fee and is now using an honor system; however, in order to keep this system in place, *dues have to be paid on time*. Thank you.

Honorary Withdrawal

The IBEW Constitution, Article XXIV, Sec.1 addresses Withdrawal Cards. To be eligible for Honorary Withdrawal, a member must leave the trade or be moved into management. It is not available if you are simply not working.

To apply for Honorary Withdrawal, you must send a letter to the regular membership meeting where it requires a majority vote to be granted. Include in your letter, your reason for leaving broadcasting and what you will be doing for a living henceforth.



Business Manager Report

Brothers and Sisters,

Now that the holidays have died down and work has resumed at its normal pace, the Union is left to make some very hard decisions. Our membership is down, our funds are down, budgets have been slashed, income to the local is down and we are looking for new solutions daily to streamline our operations and save money. The Local has implemented a virtual spending freeze.

The Union is saving, on average, over \$300 a week on salaries. We have come in over \$30,000 under the 2009 allocated budget. We saved money changing vendors, renegotiating our contracts, retooling our business practices, and streamlining our operations, but it's not enough. The backslide from our dues being at 1% for 2 quarters has depleted our funds enough to cause another dues increase as per the bylaws.

Working dues will be raised in April to 1.7%. Base dues will remain unchanged. As you may recall from previous newsletters, I was hoping to get the dues locked at 1.4%. It seems that even this will not be enough to run the Local and fully represent the members. A dues committee was assigned to assess what the Local needs in order to correctly function. Their report should be available shortly. In comparison to other similar local unions in the area, our dues are the lowest and based on net. The rest are higher and based on gross.

With everything stated above, I remain hopeful that the Local's financial setbacks will be quickly solved provided members pay dues in a timely fashion. Many members are falling behind in payments and many more have been dropped. In order for us to provide adequate representation to our members, our members must pay their dues on time.

Negotiations are in progress, others will be starting in the summer. All of our available resources will be allocated to these processes which leaves very little available for other needs. When the dues committee comes back with its findings, we will be able to more accurately assess our position and come up with reasonable solutions.

In Solidarity,

John Rizzo

Presidents Message

It would seem that once we have a current technical job assignment with an employer, additional technical information should simply arrive to us via "on the job training". Some of this information will be provided at work, but you will not receive everything that you actually need!

Your training certainly does not happen by osmosis! Perhaps you have been timid about asking colleagues regarding specific job related technical details. If so, is this because you are concerned about being perceived as a technical lightweight?

During your assignments, you will be judged by your demonstrated abilities, not just your perceived potential. Your supervisor may really be concerned with his or her crew scheduling, and not technology. Perhaps this person is very busy. Your supervisor may not be a reliable or available resource to you.

Unlike other professions where there is mandatory certification renewal such as in teaching or nursing, in our profession, learning is optional. There are organizations such as the Society Broadcast of Engineers that have programs for certification at different levels. Here is a link to several broadcast service associations.

<http://www.kab.net/OtherBroadcastAssociations/default.aspx>

In the meantime, when you hear a term that you are not familiar with concerning basic, general Digital TV, please look it up here: <http://www.dtv.gov/>

If you want to really have a fast, free, and thorough explanation of a specific detail, simply go to Wikipedia on the internet: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page Things like SD, SDI, HD, encryption, compression ratios, frame rates, scaling, cross conversion, closed captioning, cameras, fiber optics, satellite technology, just to name a few are clearly detailed there.

There are several publications for TV production and Postproduction, with one fine example being: <http://digitalcontentproducer.com/>

For you, it starts with writing down the desired topic and researching it when you have a quiet opportunity. Before long, people will be seeking *you* out to have a better understanding of their job functions and the bigger picture of what we are doing.

Also, do not forget to check out <http://www.lynda.com/> Then get on the local's list for your software learning sessions!

In Solidarity, *Glenn Hannigan, President*

YOU - NION NEWS

MEETING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Members can view the agenda, bills and copies of correspondence prior to the meeting. The hall is usually open by 6:30pm and the meeting starts at 7pm.

Please remind BM Rizzo that he keeps promising us beer after the meetings. Let's rally together and get him to make good on that!

The Executive Board Meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 19 at 8:15pm.

VACANCIES / OPEN POSITIONS

IBEW Local 1220 Executive Board: We are still in need of 2 additional members in good standing to join the E-Board. The Board meets every third Wednesday of every month.

WGN is in the process of hiring, please check out the local 1220 web page for more information.

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL

Mark Harper—WGN Freelancer
Along with our Retirees:

RETIREMENT:

Philip Hejtmanek—WBBM TV
Joseph Kozak—WTTW
Richard Leigh—WGN-TV

FIRST READINGS

Jeffrey Raatz—Program Productions

NEW MEMBERS

Jonathan Szwajkowski - WGN-TV
Joseph Campanella - WGN-TV
Derrick Metcalf - Program Productions

**The Video Production Contracts (VPC)
“A” Agreements have been ratified and
are in effect through December 2013**

SENIORITY PIN AWARDS

It is an honor to congratulate the following Local 1220 members on their many years of service in the IBEW:

The IBEW International Office sent pins and certificates last July, if the members are of “A” status.

50 YEAR PIN RECIPIENTS

Glenn Robinson Lewis Scott

55 YEAR PIN RECIPIENTS

Verne Blakeley	Warren Callahan
Joseph Gravagno	Charles Marden
Marvin Moberly	Charles Petty
Eugene Savitt	Michael Tracokas

60 YEAR PIN RECIPIENTS

Conrad Dahlberg	Melvin Marcus
Alan McKinstry	Donald Srenaski

70 YEAR PIN RECIPIENTS

Frederick Haake

Thank you, Brothers, for your dedication and service throughout the years.

“A” MEMBERSHIP AND THE IBEW PENSION

Active “A” (as opposed to “BA”) membership in the IBEW is required for participation in the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF). Any member of the IBEW may elect “A” membership by agreeing to pay the appropriate per capita dues and payments to the IBEW PBF. The cost is approximately an additional \$42 per quarter, with full benefits available after 20 years.

Article VI in the IBEW Constitution addresses the Pension Benefit Fund. Under “Resources” on the International’s web page (www.ibew.org) there is a variety of resources to better acquaint you with the full benefits, including Disability and Death Benefits. If you are interested in participating in the PBF, it offers full details and eligibility requirements.

You must file the Beneficiary Form (Form 124) electronically from the International’s web page. Then notify the union office, to recalculate your dues, and convert your membership to “A” status, synchronizing our database with that of the International Office.

Weingarten Rights & Your Union Steward

“If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated or cause an effect on my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my Union Representative be present at this meeting.”

In the event a problem arises whereby an investigatory meeting with your employer may possibly result in disciplinary action against you, you have **the right** to request authorized union representation during such meeting. This is why it is very important to know who your union steward is.

This meeting, if necessary may be postponed until your steward can be present to hear both sides of the dispute. If you enter a meeting without a Union Representative, and it turns into a disciplinary meeting, you have every right to ask that it be suspended until a steward or representative can be present.

This right is covered and recognized under the law. Please do not forget this. The need may never arise, but it should be remembered.

SHOP STEWARDS

WBBM TV

John Trautschold, Mark Losiniecki, Morris Jones, Howard Florence

WGN TV

Mary Bohentin, Jim Guthrie, Glenn Hannigan, Charles Hayes, Mike Clay, Jerry Howard, Richard (Ike) Isaac, Jordan Guzzardo

WTTW TV

Tom Siegel, Dan Rozkuszka, Peter Adrianopoli

WYCC TV

Andrew Freund

WCIU TV

Will Watkins

WTVO TV

Dave Seaton

WGN RADIO

Ed Wilk

WBBM RADIO

Steve Wright

WCEV RADIO

Jeff Frizzle

FREELANCE

Mike Sullivan, Scott Jones, Sean Mahan

INFO CHANNEL
NOVEMBER 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 an email 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:

Theo, Editor Info Channel
Radio + TV Broadcast Engineers
8605 W Bryn Mawr Suite 309
Chicago, IL 60631

FAX 773-693-0009
EMAIL info@ibew1220.org or Theo@ibew1220.org



REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF ANY CHANGES IN ADDRESS, PHONE OR

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???
INFO@IBEW1220.ORG
Take a look at our website @ www.ibew1220.org

**THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2, AT 7:00PM
AT THE UNION OFFICE
8605 W. BRYN MAWR AVE #309 CHICAGO**

PHONE (773) 714-1220

FAX (773) 693-0009

INFO CHANNEL

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