

THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

MAY / JUNE 2005

FROM THE UNION OFFICE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CONTRACTORS.....2	PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....3	YOU-NION NEWS.....4
OFFICERS LISTING5	PICNIC & BENEFITS6	BYLAWS7
	MEETING NOTICE.....6	

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Near the end of May, many of our Stewards, both newly appointed and experienced, traveled to the fine facility at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, to the Friedrich Center, and experienced a few days of training presented by the excellent staff of the School for Workers.

For these three short days, our group, which also included the Business Manager and two stewards from our sister Local in Milwaukee, was immersed in labor history, contract law, union procedures and policies, and education on the absolute best way to function as a Union Steward.

The program began with an overview of Unions and society. We discussed our role in the business world and our current status. We discussed the principles of Union Representation, the role of the Union Steward, his or her duties and rights, and how to present a grievance. We worked on planning member mobilization.



We discussed in a casual setting the ins and out of our daily work lives. We shared contracts and work experiences. We brainstormed possible fixes for each others problems and concerns in the workplace. And we shared the Union experience.

With this educational format, we reached a new level of understanding for our brothers and sisters in other Unions, other Locals, and each other's shops. From freelance to staff, long time shop member to new steward, each attendee was enriched by the valuable exchange of information.

It is our intent to continue the educational process, for our rank and file membership as well as for our Officers and Stewards, in order to make this a better Local Union in every way.

We stand stronger together than we do alone.

In Solidarity,

Ro Wratschko

Quote Of The Day - "I pity the man who wants a coat so cheap that the man or woman who produces the cloth will starve in the process" - Benjamin Harrison (23rd President, 1889-93)

INFO CHANNEL MAY/JUNE 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
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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

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

WTVO-TV *
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

FOX SPORTS – FOOTBALL
HOCKEY, BASEBALL, NASCAR
NATIONAL AGREEMENT

AESTHETIC ABSTRACTIONS
P.O. BOX 802
CHICAGO, IL 60616

AUDIO VISUAL ONE
4625 N 25TH AVE
SCHILLER PARK, IL 60176

CAMERA ORIGINALS
125 WINDSOR DR #107
OAKBROOK, IL 60523

CHICAGO MEDIA CONVERSIONS
3353 S PRIARIE
CHICAGO, IL 60616

EVENT ENGINEERING
2334 W NORTH AVE
CHICAGO, IL 60647

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

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

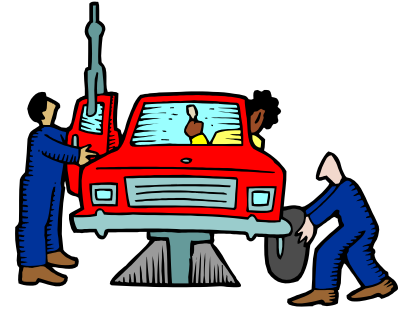
VISIONS UNLIMITED
2065 E EXCHANGE
CRETE, IL 60417

NOTE THE AGREEMENTS FOR GOLAN PRODUCTIONS & HOOF AND MOUTH HAVE BEEN CANCELLED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

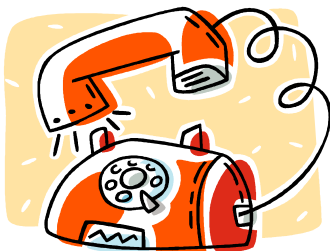
Although I don't usually dwell on the problems involved in other unions or those in other states, a few articles have struck me rather hard recently. Unrelated articles in several magazines have discussed the declining sales in American cars especially GM. Although none of the articles would go into any depth on the possible causes, there were plenty of statistics showing the downward slide in market share (34-21% over the last 8 years) the huge load that union contracts put on the company and the ever increasing burden of retirement benefits on the company. One article went on to state that the company is now consuming more than it produces due to the costs involved in employee benefits, operations and retiree compensation. Regardless of my opinion of GM, the discussion of union contracts and retirement benefits was a sharp stick in my side. We in this local for many years now have prided ourselves in our relationships with our employers. We recognize the need to help them be competitive and profitable and negotiate accordingly. Our contracts, in my opinion, do not burden the company with language that is costly or inefficient. We seek equitable work rules and benefits for our members that in some cases are less expensive than those provided to non union employees at the same company. Our demands for retirement benefits are in line with the general population in most cases and do not reward employees for early retirement and long lasting burdens on the employer. Unfortunately, there is some change on the horizon. With the recent news of Social Security Reform, increased drug costs and rising medical insurance, our members and the American people are losing each day. Although none of these articles I read went into any details about the "union" benefit load, I suspect that drugs and medical are a huge and unforeseen expense. Each year, medical costs are rising at far above the inflation rate, and drug costs are shockingly high compared to other countries. There is something going on in these industries and the whole story has yet to be told.



We here at Local 1220 will continue to negotiate fair and just agreements to the best of our ability and with as much foresight into these rising costs as we can gather. We will continue to consider retirees when negotiating as all of us will be in that position at some point in the future. We will participate in discussions and other activities that will bring equitable pricing and practices to both the medical and drug fields here in Illinois.

You may have heard that a rewrite of our local union bylaws was needed. That long overdue process has begun, with all of the officers working on a committee to conform the document to current International Constitution language, federal law and IBEW recommended practices. My goal is to have a completed proposal for the membership to vote on by September. If you have any suggestions for changes that you feel are needed, please contact me or one of the other officers as soon as possible.

There is an interesting article on the IBEW website that reports on the attempt by SBC and others to push through telecom legislation in Illinois recently. Local 21 (Downers Grove) spearheaded the defense. The article describes the bill, "The telecom bill would have abolished penalties on the company when service didn't meet defined standards and terminated state rules regulating SBC's fees for customers and firms." Additionally, the bill would have deregulated many of the emerging new technologies. I also received a notice of HB4050 that will require full reporting of your financial data to a state authority when applying for home loans. Although it is meant to prevent lenders from targeting home loans for low income families, it appears to be an invasion of privacy by the state. Please review and let your representatives know your opinion.



See you all next month, Wednesday, July 6.

Fraternally,

Alan J. Skierkiewicz

YOU'NION NEWS

FIRST READINGS

NATHAN ARGER – CAMERA ORIGINALS
ORAL USER – CBS NEWS

NEW MEMBERS:

NELSON HOWARD	LUIS CARRERAS
WAYNE SIMONCELLI	RESA RECOON
CURT BAGBY	CHRIS FUYDAL
TOM MOORE	MIKE SHAMUS
RICHARD WHITE	

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL GRANTED:

The following members have met the requirements for the granting of this status:

MIKE TOMPARY – GOING TO MANAGEMENT
LAUREN POLLOCK – NOW AT UNIVISION/NABET
WANDA VAZQUEZ-AJAYI – not working at all

IN SYMPATHY:

To LAWRENCE DENNIS (freelance) and his family on the loss of his mother, Carolyn Dennis-Jackson April 14.

To the family and friends of Lillian Henderson, BOB COCHRAN's (WGN TV) sister, who passed away last month.

To the family and friends of LOWELL RYMAN WGN TV who passed away recently after a long illness. All of his friends and family will miss him, but especially his WGN Channel 9 friends.

To the family and friends of Al Clee WTTW Retired who died earlier this month. He will be missed.

To the family and friends of Patk Gallagher (FREELANCE) who was killed by a car in the street in front of his house late in May. Such a loss!

To the family, friends and many Union Brothers and Sisters of former IBEW 1220 President /Business Manager, Marvin Balousek. Marv passed away this month. He had given us his old papers and books, and kept in touch on a regular basis. He will be missed.



Marv circa 1951

To the family and friends of WAYNE THING (WBBM Retired) who died recently. So sad to see you go!



To those who remember fondly Brother Ralph Aulwurm, Jr, (WBBM Retired) who died on June 6, 2005. Blue horizons, Ralph!

CONGRATULATIONS:

To RISA RECOON APPELBAUM (WBBM) on her marriage June 13th. Best Wishes!

COURT REPORTERS UPDATE:

We continue to work on representation of Illinois Official Court Reporters. We have just received word that the IL State Senate has passed a bill to assist in our efforts, by changing the employers of our Court Reporters from the Illinois Supreme Court to the Chief Judges of the Circuit Courts. Thanks to IBEW Legislative Director for Illinois Lonnie Stephenson, to Alan Goddard, to Renia Boykin and to every Court Reporter and Union member who called their State Senators to make this happen.

We have provided personal web mail accounts for each of the Court Reporters we have on record here and a letter has been sent to them with the address and password. If you wish to contact us, please email info@ibew1220.org.

OUR CREDIT UNION ON LINE:

The Xerox Federal Credit Union—our Local's official credit union—has a web site filled with current, valuable information. Please check it out! www.xfcu.org

GET WELL WISHES:

To RICH DAVIES (WTTW) who is out recovering from a broken knee

AUDIT REPORT RECEIVED:

Our accounting firm has provided a quarterly random audit for us for the period of January 1, 2005 through March 31, 2005. They have found no discrepancies during this audit.



Financial statements are available for viewing upon request by Union Members at the Union office.

LABOR CONCERT

"Fan the Flames of Discontent", a concert celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Industrial Workers of the World, will be held on Saturday, June 25th at 8:00 pm at the Chicago Preston Bradley Center, 941 W Lawrence (at Sheridan).

Tickets are \$20.00 (\$15.00 for members of any union) available at :

New World Resource Center,
1300 N Western,

at www.iww.org/chicago or by calling 815-550-2018.



IBEW 1220 OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE BOARD AND STEWARDS

OFFICERS

BUSINESS MANAGER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY—RO WRATSCHKO
PRESIDENT - AL SKIERKIEWICZ
VICE PRESIDENT—JOHN TRAUTSCHOLD
RECORDING SECRETARY—KIMBERLY HOLTMAN
TREASURER—BRUCE REHBERGER

EXECUTIVE BOARD

JOHN RIZZO—CHAIRMAN
MIKE AIELLO **ED GLAB**
BOB KENT **MIKE MCKENNA**
GINA MORRI **GREG PALMER**
BARB SHINTANI

STEWARDS

JOHN TRAUTSCHOLD
CLARK SZABO
SCOTT JONES
ED GLAB
BOB KASTIGAR
BOB BOXER
AL SKIERKIEWICZ
GINA MORRI

MARK LOSINIECKI
RICHARD MORCKEL
JEFF FRIZZLE
ED WILK
JOE SMITH
MIKE MCKENNA
TOM SIEGEL
MIKE REAL

STEPHEN WRIGHT
JIM KIMMONS
CHRIS FAULKNER
MIKE CLAY
JERRY HOWARD
DAN ROZKUSZKA
PETER ADRIANOPOLI
JOHN RIZZO

UNION MEMBERS IN POLITICS

Our Union brothers and Sisters are elected every year to offices on every level of government. That's dog catcher to school board—county election board and city councils, everything. The IBEW would like to identify those of their members who are currently serving in public office and those who are running for public office. Please let the Union office know if that is YOU!



SOME EARLY UNION HISTORY....

Florence Lowe “Pancho” Barnes is often remembered as a flamboyant, eccentric character and is often portrayed in a comic way (remember “The Right Stuff”?) But she was a stunt pilot for the movies in the 1920’s. If you have seen the current movie about Howard Hughes (The Aviator), it gives you a realistic picture of the danger of stunt work. In The Aviator there is a scene depicting the making of Hughes “Hells Angels” in which 3 pilots are killed in a crash. That facts behind that scene are real and Pancho Barnes watched those fellow stunt pilots die to make a movie. She then formed the Movie Stunt Pilots Association, which later became a Union. That Union gave the pilots a modicum of protection and an ability to determine how the stunts were executed. Her contribution to unionism is hardly remembered, but extremely important to those who work as stunt pilots today.

There are pioneers in our industry who made safety and professionalism their priority and although the world doesn't know them as it knows Pancho Barnes, we owe them the same debt of gratitude for paving the way for us. If you have a Union pioneer story to share—send us a note and share.

Info@ibew1220.org

SECOND ANNUAL UNION PICNIC

IBEW 1220

SATURDAY, SEPT 10, 2004

CATHERINE CHEVALIER WOODS

EAST RIVER ROAD @ BRYN MAWR
(just west of Union Hall)

Bring your family
GAMES—FOOD— FUN

Please let us know how many are coming
Call 773-714-1220 or email info@ibew1220.org



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.

UNION MASTERCARD



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

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.



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.



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



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.



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.

LIFE INSURANCE



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

BY LAWS CHANGES PROPOSED

At the March meeting the following two proposals were presented:

1) TERRY ROOS Card# 5122289 - Proposed By-law change:

Article 10 Section 5 to read: (a) All members, "A" and "BA", shall pay union dues based on their **gross wages**. Dues shall be calculated at 1.5% times the member's gross wages.

Payment of dues shall be deducted from the members payroll check. The member's contractor shall collect said dues and mail a monthly check and statement to the union office. Said statement will include members name, address, gross wages, and amount being paid per member. Dues of 1.5% shall be in effect for one (1) year from approval of the IBEW international. Every consecutive year on the anniversary date of this by-law change, dues will increase .1% (1/10th).

(b) Applicable International per capita shall be paid from dues collected in (a) above
(c) (d) (e) Be Deleted

2) DON JOHNSON Card# 4158874 - Proposed By-law change:

Article 10 Section 5 to read: (a) "A" and "BA" Basic dues of \$2.50 plus 1.7% of all base pay.

Proposal one was discussed but not amended at the April meeting. It now goes to the Executive Board for their decision (to send out for a vote or to reject) Proposal two was discussed at the April meeting and amended as follows: Basic dues of \$2.50 plus 1.7% of all base pay limited to 40 hours per calendar week. It now goes to the executive Board for their decision (to send out for a vote or to reject)

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD DID NOT MEET IN APRIL.
BOTH PROPOSALS WERE ON THE AGENDA FOR MAY 16**

At the April meeting the following proposal was presented

3) ED GLAB Card # 2654096—Proposed By-law change:

Article 10 Section 5 to read as follows: The monthly dues shall be (a) "A" and "BA" Basic dues of \$26.50 or 1.5% of gross wages, whichever is greater.

Wherever "Dues Checkoff" agreements are in effect: The employer or contractor shall deduct Basic Dues plus one-third (1/3) of the International per capita and all assessments (as provided in Sec. (b) below), on a monthly basis, from the Member's pay. Such funds shall be forwarded to the Local Union Office on a monthly basis, or as otherwise negotiated.

Wherever "Dues Checkoff" agreements are not in effect: Each individual Member shall be responsible for payment of Basic Dues plus the International per capita and all assessments (as provided in Sec. (b) below) on a quarterly basis to the Local Union Office. Basic Dues shall be calculated at the end of each quarter's gross wages, and delivered to the Local Union Office by the fifteenth (15th) of the month following the end of that quarter (i.e. First quarter dues are payable no later than April 15th).

The rate at which Basic Dues are assessed shall be subject to annual review by the Business Manager and Executive Board based on the balance in the General Fund and anticipated expenditures. Any proposed change in such rate shall be subject to approval of a majority vote of those present at the next General Membership meeting. Any rate change will go into effect at the beginning of the next quarter. Delete sect (e)

This Proposal (#3) was discussed and amended at the May Union meeting, to delete the paragraph beginning "The rate at which" .and ending "at the beginning of the next quarter."

THIS PROPOSAL WAS ALSO ON THE AGENDA FOR MAY 16.

The Executive Board, at their May 16th meeting, agreed that it was in the best interests of the Local to reject all three of these proposals and explore further the facts and figures and the needs of the Local Union. The proposals above are therefore returned to the members at the June meeting as rejected. The efforts of the makers of these proposals were recognized and respected.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???

INFO@IBEW1220.ORG

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 6TH AT 7:00 PM
BE SURE TO BRING YOUR UNION CARD

PHONE (773) 714-1220

FAX (773) 693-0009

www.ibew1220.org

THE INFO CHANNEL
RADIO + TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED