

# THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

JUNE 2007

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Sisters and Brothers:

*The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor. [Vince Lombardi](#)*

As you have all been notified, our video production contractors will be remaining under the control and direction of this Local Union. With continued incursions into our jurisdiction by other Unions and by non-union workers (some of them our own members doing work for non-Union employers) we must step up our vigilance in the field. The regular weekly visits to our convention and meeting venues have proved unsuccessful in stemming the tide of violations. We will now increase our staff to cover this problem and you must expect a concurrent increase in salary expenses. For the immediate future, one of our Business Representatives will be in the field every week day and at least 3 weekend days per month. A time keeper must be appointed on every job. Each time you are called to work, when you ask when, where and to whom you report, remember to also ask who the time keeper is.

We have experienced some problems with member against member complaints going to managers. The first avenue of dispute resolution for any Union member MUST be a complaint to the Union Steward, the office of the Business Manager or the Executive Board. It is a chargeable offense to do anything that causes economic harm to a brother or sister in the IBEW. Bring your complaint to the Union through the avenues provided to you in the IBEW Constitution before bringing that complaint to management. While managers have to manage, we need to be sure that we are not violating our Union rules. Be advised that when charges are brought against a member, his or her shop members remove themselves and do not serve on the Trial Board, so that the Trial Board can be impartial in its rulings. Please come to your Union first.

We have recently opened negotiations with WTTW for a new collective Bargaining agreement. We held a shop meeting at the station recently to begin the process. We continue to negotiate with WCIU with the assistance of a federal mediator. We continue to negotiate with 3 of our video production companies for a sports and entertainment agreement. We are processing many grievances and handling many complaints and problems for our membership. We will meet with our membership in Rockford at least one time each month, and will begin to schedule shop meeting quarterly with our stations here in Chicago. In between these meetings, please keep your Shop Stewards informed of any contract violations.

Your Union officers and staff intend to keep their commitment to excellence.

In Solidarity,

*Madeleine Monaco*  
Business Manager

NEXT MEETING DATE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, AT 7PM

AT THE UNION OFFICE

Come in and discuss the business of your Local Union  
We need to plan for the long range goals of the Local.  
Your input would be welcome.

Planning for financing of additional staff  
Forecasting membership needs



## INFO CHANNEL JUNE 2007

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 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](http://www.ibew1220.org)

### JENN'S TAKE.....

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

I have been out in the field practically every-day and have been learning a great deal. Thank you, to those who have offered outstanding guidance: technically, politically, and realistically. I hope you know who you are. I am especially grateful to the 134 Stewards who tell it to me straight.

Local 134 carries a very big stick due to its strict enforcement of rules: both written and not. #1: **display a current union card.** We have been asked by them to insist that you wear buttons. Please do. They want the cameras identified, but we've yet figure out how. They need to be able to scan a room and see who IBEW is, and who are not. Rule #2: **union members do not do non-union work,** ever. Period. This is where you have lost some "teeth". But, I'll save that for another day.

We need time-keeper reports. The contractors should be supplying the name, but they aren't. The best I can do for the moment is: whoever is the first person listed on a job report, the union office will e-mail a confirmation to both the member and the contractor that they are the time keeper. This is very important, folks. This is where all the tracking of wages and benefits earned begins. We need your help to ensure we get what we agreed to. Since it's new, the hall will offer the reminders. This is needed for Sports events, too.

Researching upcoming event in Chicago is how we ensure our members are getting the work. If you know of any upcoming event that may need our attention, please send an e-mail and we'll follow up. We have a fairly good pulse on the city, but there is a lot going on.

I gratefully welcome Chris McKnight as our recording secretary; we can even read his writing! We need to be following "Robert's Rules of Order" more closely during meetings and Chris appears more that competent to enforce them. Anyone interested in the Thursday June 28<sup>th</sup> CPR class at 6:00pm, please call the office. We're also planning a tour around McCormick West – watch for an e-mail.

In the meantime, please display a current union card at all times. Thank you and remember: United we bargain, divided we beg. See you at the next union meeting.

*Jennifer Kastigar*  
Business Representative

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There has been a lot happening in labor recently, most of it bad. As the various free trade agreements were designed to help Americans, they have done very little to help American workers. We repeatedly hear of plant closings across the land as business leaders take advantage of these agreements and move production to other countries. One of the plant announcements in recent months is the anticipated closing of the Hoover Vacuum plant in Ohio where the workforce represents 15% of the income in the local economy. New owners from Hong Kong made the announcement after their recent takeover. Of the foreign threats, China is a notable example with a large population and untapped resources. As these countries ramp up in their own industrial revolutions, workers rights, safety and pollution problems are out of control. This month's National Geographic magazine has a very interesting article about business and starting factories in China. Without the economic and ecologic controls of western countries, Chinese businesses are setting up production facilities in record time and attracting foreign investors.

As we move into summer and temperatures start to rise, I must remind our members on the street to keep safe. As you know dehydration can cause a variety of ill effects including in severe cases, death. When working outside remember to drink plenty of fluid and when feeling ill get out of the sun, move to a cooler location and drink something. With Chicago's bid for the Olympics in full swing, local news is bound to spend a great deal of covering related stories. Many of these stories will take place outside as local crews will seek out possible venue sites and follow local politicians hoping to get a story. With all this activity, loss of fluid is a real threat.

As you may already know, talks are continuing between Disney owned ABC, WLS and NABET. The latest round ended on June 1 and the next meeting is not yet scheduled. I am sure the ABC workers are feeling the pressures of negotiations now that they have been meeting for such a great length of time. Please keep this in mind when working next to WLS employees. The employer has made some very serious demands of the union. Keep watching for news from this critical negotiation in the future.

A recent increase in grievance activity in the local points to the ever increasing importance of stewards as the first line of defense in supporting our jurisdiction. As a reminder to stewards, when writing your grievance be sure you have followed all the steps leading to the actual writing of the complaint. Be aware of timeliness and deadlines. Make notes of the facts of the people you have interviewed and when a meeting with management took place. Above all, when writing the actual grievance be sure to quote a contract section and add the words "and all other sections that may apply". This little phrase has saved many a grievance when more than one section of the contract could be involved in the infraction. Although many grievances do not end in arbitration, every procedure needs to be followed as if arbitration is imminent. Thanks for the hard work our stewards perform everyday.

I have been asking you for years to come out to one of the local union meetings but I want to be a little more forceful this month. We need your help. Members help make the local work by reviewing bills, hearing reports and making suggestions. But we have a problem, the same people are attending the meetings each month doing the work for all of you. We need you to come to a meeting and see what happens each month. So I hope you can attend the next local meeting, Wednesday July 11.th at 7:00 pm.

Fraternally,

*Al Skierkiewicz*

## YOUR UNION NEWS

### FIRST READINGS

Steven Lemerand—WGN TV Pd

### HONORARY WITHDRAWAL

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

Mark Borenstein—medically disabled

Sandra Russo-Wagner—no longer doing our work

### NEW MEMBERS

Matthew Bier—WTVO

### OUR SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of retired WGN Radio engineer John Lopatka who passed away recently. He will be missed.

### LOCAL 1220 BLOOD DRIVE

There is a shortage of blood in Chicago and we can participate in the solution by giving blood. Make an appointment or just drop in to any LifeSource location (find them on line) and tell them your blood drive code is "MRNB" You could

### CURRENT MEMBER STATISTICS

A members (participate in the IBEW Pension Plan) – 5

BA members (not in the Pension Plan) – 592

NM members not yet processed in full – 14

101 others are delinquent -not active members

We have contracts with 10 stations (2 nat'l) representing 481 of our members

We have contracts with 13 Video Production companies representing 130 of our members

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???

INFO@IBEW1220.ORG

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 11TH AT 7:00 PM**

**THIRD QUARTER DUES ARE DUE 7-1-07**

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[www.ibew1220.org](http://www.ibew1220.org)

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