

June 2010

THE INFO CHANNEL

IBEW 1220 Radio and Television Broadcast Engineers

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Third Quarter Union Dues are due July 1, 2010

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See you at the union meeting
Wednesday July 7 at 7:00pm

We will have a year in review
and refreshments will be served.

There will also be a
Raffle for 2 Sox tickets.

The Info Channel is published by IBEW Local 1220 in Chicago, IL.

Anything you might expect to read in a business letter or an email that pertains to this Local and your part in it will be communicated through this newsletter.

Consider this your dues invoice, your bylaws updates, your meeting notice and your call to participate.

If you would like to submit an idea or article for this newsletter, please contact the union office.

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BYLAW AMMENDMENT VOTE

Watch your mailboxes. Every member who is in good standing will be sent a ballot.

The Bylaw change amendment that was proposed in May was discussed and not amended in any way at the June union meeting. It will be presented to the Executive Board for a final review before they order the mailing of ballots.

Dues Bylaw proposal: New Language

Article X (10)

Section 5. The monthly dues shall be:

(a) "A" and "BA" Members Basic Dues of \$26.50, plus 1.5% of all base pay above \$1,500.00 per month.

When the General Fund reaches one and one quarter (1.25) years of budgeted operating expense or more, dues shall be reduced by 0.2% of all base pay (1.3%) over \$1,715.00 per month.

When the General Fund falls below one (1) year of budgeted operating expense additional dues of 0.2% of all base pay (1.7%) over \$1,200.00 per month will be dues from each member.

Dues adjustments will become effective in the quarter following the treasurer's quarterly report that shows an adjustment is necessary. Yearly budgets will be determined by February 1st and amended by August 1st if necessary.

Old Language:

Article X (10)

Section 5. The monthly dues shall be:

(a) "A" and "BA" Members Basic Dues of \$26.50, plus 1.4% of all base pay above \$1,715.00 per month.

When the General Fund reaches \$200,000.00 or more, dues shall be reduced by 0.4% of all base pay over \$2,400 per month.

When the General Fund falls below \$150,000.00 additional dues of 0.3% of all base pay over \$1,412.00 per month will be dues from each member.

Dues adjustments will become effective in the quarter following the treasurer's quarterly report that shows an adjustment is necessary.

Business Manager Report

The first of July marks the 1-year anniversary for the current administration. Over the course of the year, we have had successes and disappointments but we have shown steady progress. Looking back, the Local was dysfunctional under the past administration. Members refused to communicate, participate, or even pay their dues. We've tightened our belts, refined our operations, actively engaged our members, and chased down delinquent non-members for ever penny owed.

Where are we now? Members pick up the phone and call. Members email and come to Union meetings. Many offer great advice and wisdom, some have questions, and others give me an earful and bust my chops to keep me honest. The point is that we are beginning to communicate and we still have a way to go. We still need two (2) members to serve on the Executive Board. Interested parties should contact the hall.

Our spending has been at a standstill. Dues have been assessed and need to be fixed. We have filed several grievances and have upcoming arbitrations. We have fought hard at negotiations. WGN-AM Radio was going to implement until I got to the table. WYCC is threatening the same. We are fighting for respect from management and are slowly making headway.

Moving ahead and looking to the future we have some major obstacles to overcome. WGN-TV negotiations have ground to a standstill and CBS negotiations will start in August. Combine that with the open WYCC, WTVO, and WCEV contracts and we will have quite the juggling act on our hands. Add two Arbitrations to the mix, stir in a couple of Organizing campaigns with a pinch of mandatory IBEW meetings and we have ourselves a potential recipe for disaster.

Fortunately, your Local has a great team in our office support staff. We can pull this off, but we can't do it without your help. I challenge each and every one of you to come to the next Union meeting. Get involved. Find out what's going on in your shop. Be a part of your Union. We still have a long way to go. How we get there is up to you!

IN SOLIDARITY, JOHN RIZZO, BUSINESS MANAGER

Presidents Message

Many of us, over the years, have participated in a job action such as informational picketing or have been on strike. Future action may be necessary because employers are taking huge bonuses and at the same time not rewarding workers for their performance, dedication, education, loyalty and perseverance. When picketing, would you feel those passing by are supporting you and your colleagues? It would be natural to think so. Should they be? Are you on board with them and their situations? Maybe one man who sees you built clothes' washers and dryers, until his plant got shut down after sixty years of operations, because of outsourcing to other countries. Perhaps a lady visiting in Chicago is employed by an Ohio tire plant, which is about to close due to unfair foreign government subsidized imports. Steel plant workers are also suffering lay-offs.

So... the next time you are shopping for a product, in the same way that you would expect passersby to read and adhere to your sign, you should be taking a moment to make sure that the product you plan to purchase is made in the United States, and preferably made by "Union labor". There are many good reasons for this choice by you; these products meet safety and quality standards according to government or industry testing in the United States.

Consider all of the defective and dangerous items sold in the United States, but not made in this country. Recently recalled items include "Shrek" drinking glasses containing cadmium, and jewelry containing toxic levels of cadmium, antimony, and barium. Other recent recalls include baby and toddler toys and artificial leather purses and wallets containing high levels of lead. A friend of mine recently told me of the passing of his young dog, due to the formaldehyde content in the rawhide bones he purchased; those bones were imported from China! Do you remember the defective drywall used heavily for "Katrina" victims?

When it is time to replace your vehicle's worn out brake rotors with new ones, you may be able to choose a high quality U.S.A. brand; the difference in the metallurgy and product performance could save a life. When you need to replace food storage containers in your kitchen, look for U.S.A. made containers that are safe and contain no bisphenyl (BPA); this chemical leaches into the food or water stored in the container. You may also want to avoid PVC in food storage containers. To make sure your food storage containers are safe, it is best to check the recycling code number on your containers. The safer code choices are 1, 2, 4, and 5.

Many industries in the U.S. have been damaged primarily from greed to make a bigger profit. If you look diligently, you will find that most products are still available from United States manufacturers. Why don't we challenge ourselves when making future purchases, to find U.S. and union manufactured products? We all should make this a personal goal! Here are a few links to help us get started: <http://www.uaw.org/cars>
[http://cwa6215.org/Union Made Products-Automobiles %26 Tires.pdf](http://cwa6215.org/Union_Made_Products-Automobiles_%26_Tires.pdf)
<http://www.howtobuyamerican.com/content/db/b-db-american-union-made.shtml>
<http://manufacturethis.org/?p=6379>

Fraternally,

Glenn Hannigan, President

YOU – NION NEWS

REGULAR UNION MEETING: **WEDNESDAY JULY 7th AT 7:00PM**

It has been one year since John Rizzo has become our Business Manager. Join us for a year in review, where we can informally discuss our options, budgets, and future operational plans.

Refreshments will be served before and after the meeting.

The Business Mgr. will be raffling off a pair of White Sox tickets to one member (officers excluded) in attendance at the meeting.

Executive Board Meeting **Wednesday June 23rd at 8:15pm.** **(Examining Board begins at 7:45pm)**

Two (2) vacancies still exist for the Executive Board.

Eligibility: Any member in good standing from any station (except WTTW—we already have two) may answer the call to participate. Please consider being an active voice in your Local!

NEW MEMBERS:

Richard Hoffman: WGN-TV

Bradley Piper : WGN-TV

Cameron Highlander:

Program Productions

David Roman

Program Productions

FIRST READINGS:

Norm Kelley: Visions Unlimited

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL:

Keith Altavilla : Freelance

WGN News recently won the 2010 Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for News Documentary of the year. Recipients of the award were WGN News anchor Steve Sanders, producer Pam Grimes and photojournalist Mike D'Angelo. The award honors exceptional achievements in electronic journalism since 1971.

Congratulations to Local 1220 member Mike D'Angelo and Pamela Grimes (longtime member, currently on Honorary Withdrawal) on a job well done!

IBEW Local 1220 Sisters: Here is your call to participate

The 2010 Sixth District Progress Meeting and Women's Conference will be in Ypsilanti, MI on September 22-24, 2010. The Women's Conference begins at 8:00am on Wednesday and the 6th District Progress Meeting is Thursday and Friday (until noon.)

If you are a Sister and may be interested in attending this meeting on behalf of our Local, please contact Business Manager Rizzo for the full schedule and more information.

IBEW Local 1220 Brothers and Sisters:

Thank you to all our members who have continued to pay your dues in a timely manner.

That allows us to conduct the business of the local which includes organizing, negotiations, and pursuing viable grievances. **All of the members that have remained in continued good standing should be commended.**

Thank you to the members that have remained in close contact with the office and who have honored any arrangements with us to work together. Some of you have been paying unemployed dues. Others have made making arrangements to pay monthly.

Thank you for paying your working dues before you work, if paying unemployed dues or returning from Honorary Withdrawal.

Thank you to all of our out-of- town members, both 1220 and members of other locals, for responding to our notices. If members continue to pay their dues in a timely manner, we can continue to avoid the "late fee" policy.

Our membership numbers have dropped. Some members were granted Honorary Withdrawal. Some were denied HW because they are still working in our jurisdiction. With the tough economics, some members dropped and others pleaded for reductions in dues claiming "unemployed" status.

Honorary Withdrawal and Unemployed Dues:

There appears to be some confusion about honorary withdrawal and how one becomes eligible for either HW or paying unemployed dues.

Honorary Withdrawal is only granted to members who are no longer working in our jurisdiction and have been in good standing for the past two years. Either they retire or they are working completely out of our industry. Just because you have not worked "union" does not make you eligible for HW status. Any requests for honorary withdrawal must be addressed to the membership in writing and you must be dues current to be eligible.

If you are denied honorary withdrawal, your only option to leave the IBEW is to drop out. The International Office drops your membership automatically if you are six months in arrears.

You may request "unemployed dues" for up to two quarters once every two years. This will be taken into consideration by Business Manager Rizzo and the Executive Board will reviewing each case individually. If after six months of not doing any union work, you may again then request an honorary withdrawal

If you are granted honorary withdrawal, you must be dues current before working any IBEW job. This is governed by the IBEW constitution. If you work while on honorary withdrawal, before reactivating your membership, your HW status may be revoked. Otherwise, it is not fair to our dues paying members, who we are thanking at the top of this page.

Please continue to keep in contact with the office. Help us help you.

Dues can be paid through the 1220 web page only.

The office no longer has the capability to take credit cards or checks over the phone.

The next regular union meeting will be held on
WEDNESDAY JULY 7th, at 7:00pm
"A Year in Review"
8605 W. Bryn Mawr Ave #309 Chicago
Food & Refreshments +
DRAWING TO WIN 2 White Sox TICKETS
August 1ST @ U.S. Cellular Field vs Oakland

Following the guidelines of the IBEW
6th District Office:

**The Union Office will be closed
Monday July 5**

**In observance of the Fourth of July
Holiday.**

**All business calls will be returned on
Tuesday July 6.**

God Bless America!

IBEW Local 21 Michael A Kunas Memorial

Golf Outing Saturday June 26th at 10:30am
Lincoln Oaks and Lincolnshire Country Clubs
390 E Richton Road Crete, IL 60417
Full Day includes: Putting Practice, Driving Range,
BBQ Lunch, Dinner, DJ, and Open Bar
\$500 for a foursome—Singles is \$150,
Call 630-960-4466 ext. 567

**Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells
GREATWOLF.COM 1.800.559.9653**

Great Wolf Lodge is offering all IBEW members and their families to enjoy a savings of 20% OFF their "best available rates on all standard suites"

They have a colossal indoor water park, 100-game arcade, a luxurious spa and fantastic restaurants – all under one roof.

After all, you deserve a little fun after all your hard work and this is our little way of saying, "Job well done!"

Offer is guaranteed through Dec 31, 2010 when reservations are made 14 days prior to arrival.

**When making reservations, use
Corporate Code: IBEW1220**

The Rules:

- *Offer valid only in Wisconsin Dells, WI until 12/30/10.
- *Valid per night for single or multiple night stays; must be mentioned at time of reservation.
- *Limited to standard suites only, based on availability.
- *May not be valid during holiday and blackout periods or combined with any other discount or promotional offers.
- *Multiple night minimum stay may apply.
- *Offer based on four (4) guests per room and may be terminated at any time without notice.
- *Must have one individual 21 years of age or older staying in each room.
- *Must have valid ID and union card or yellow ticket at check-in.

IBEW Members are automatically eligible to take advantage of
Various discounts available through UNIONPLUS.ORG
AT&T is the only cellular service that is organized, so they offer
ALL UNION MEMBERS A 15% DISCOUNT