

March 2010

THE INFO CHANNEL

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Dues Change as of April 1, 2010

Bylaws and funding levels have triggered the Dues to be set at 1.7% of base earnings **effective APRIL 1, 2010.**

Freelance base dues remain \$115.50 per Qtr. plus any working dues.

Working Dues over \$4,236 of earnings per Qtr. will be billed at 1.7%

New Bylaw proposals will be forthcoming in an attempt stabilize any future dues issues and prevent the need for an assessment. Proposals are following the findings of the Dues committee assigned to research the issue and make recommendations.

Three ways to pay your dues:

Mail or bring in a check.

Pay your dues online. It's fast and easy. (3% processing fee)

If you bank electronically, use Bill Pay, for free. Your account number is your IBEW card number. It takes approximately 10 days to process, from "pay a bill" to monies actually withdrawn.

ATTENTION CBS MEMBERS

If you haven't sent in your surveys, please do so immediately. Time is almost up. Silence on the contract means that you are happy with things the way they are. If you want a say, fill out the survey and mail it to the hall. It's up to you.

FREE training

Lynda.com training is available to all of our members and it's **FREE.** The waiting list is short and now is the best time to sign up. Just visit the union website and sign up today.

It's not a trial. There's nothing to buy. It doesn't matter if you have a PC or Mac. You don't even need to own the software you want to train on. It's been paid for by the Union to help you. Upgrade your skills, become invaluable to your employer, and sign on today.

Business Manager Report

Brothers and Sisters,

HOLD THE LINE!

Many members have made this very clear to me in past months. A common thread across the board is that members don't wish to give up what they have earned and fought for. We all understand the economy; we get it. But in the end, we are people. We have families, mortgages, grocery bills and we need our jobs to help pay for these things. The one thing that is evident; we need to make sure that the company remains financially strong so our jobs can be protected. We have made sacrifices to ensure our longevity.

The biggest obstacles we face today are from several stations presenting a united front. They're all asking for the same things. They all believe that the answer to their problems are unpaid lunches, salaried employees (i.e. no overtime), and more layoffs. Our sacrifices often go unremembered in the current rounds of negotiations. All that matters is the here and now and the greedy Union is standing in the way of company profits. Often times it's management, or mismanagement, that's the real culprit. Yet we understand and shake our heads, knowing that we will be asked to make more sacrifices when the next contract comes. Right?

Wrong. This is where we hold the line. Give and take are both parts of a 2 way street. We don't "give," without "get." We can only do this if we are willing to step up to the plate and do our part. "That's not my job." is a phrase of the past. From now on, we do it all or someone else will. If you are too comfortable and don't wish to learn new skills and perform additional duties, your days are numbered. From now on we must be prepared to bring our "A" game or just stay home.

CBS contract talks are beginning shortly. If you haven't sent in your survey/suggestion sheets, please do so now. Silence is not a political statement. Your voice is only heard if you use it. WGN negotiations are underway and we are listening to the company. We hope that they are listening to us. Keep wearing the red shirts on Thursday and keep a watchful eye out for potential contract violations. WYCC negotiations are stalled. We will be attempting to get creative shortly to move this along. The Federal Mediator was no help. WCEV is avoiding coming to the table. Legal action may be our only recourse.

In Solidarity,

John Russo

Presidents Message

I would like to remind my Brothers and Sisters about important safety concerns to be observed while in the workplace and when driving to and from assignments. Sometimes, while I am driving or waiting in stop and go traffic on the expressway, I notice ENG, SNG, and EFP vehicles en route. For the most part, EFP (sports remote) vehicles are traveling long distances with professional drivers moving expensive and heavy 50+ foot trailers. I rarely see anything questionable with these drivers or their vehicles.

When it comes to the other categories of trucks and cars, often times I notice something disturbing such as: speeding, too fast for conditions, illegal lane usage, failure to wear shoulder belts, non-hands-free cell phone use (in Chicago), distracted driving, aggressive driving, failure to yield, failure to signal, tailgating, poor judgment at railroad crossings, equipment violations (i.e. lights, cracked windshields, filthy windows, etc.), overloading, and the like. This is no exaggeration! Lake Shore Drive is a real problem place for bad ENG truck operation! Aside from the safety issues, many of these vehicles have HUGE logos on them! Consider being the focus of other motorist's complaints. If you get stopped or have a crash, don't expect "a pass" from the state, county, or local police, just because you work for the media. Actually, you may be under even greater scrutiny being a member of the media! In addition, keep in mind that you can get killed just as easily by driving poorly, even though you are driving in a company vehicle. And yes, we have had several job terminations, suspensions, and lawsuits involving members of our local, resulting from on the job traffic incidents. The assignment that you were sent on may be timely and important, but please get there safely! If there is a passenger (reporter), let them be the one to help with the phone. Or, get the proper hands-free devices and use them.

Take a look at the vehicle you have been assigned. Do the tires look worn, cracked, or damaged? Obtain a good tire pressure gauge and check for the correct tire pressure. Are the tires the correct size? Is the tire **load rating** appropriate for the (modified) vehicle? You should see the information such as "Load range "E" on the information stickers in the door opening and on the tire. As an example, the tires on a Ford Van news truck are very different than the tires on a Ford Camper or passenger van of the same year and model. How does the vehicle feel going down the road? If it is scary report it! Check the lights, oil level, wipers, registration and insurance paperwork, and other routine items. If necessary, discuss these elements with the assigned fleet manager. Avoiding a crash has to be **your** concern, if you are behind the wheel!

Please consider other personnel riding with you, as well as the general public! Links for job safety concerns: *Here is the ENG Safety page with some valuable information, manuals, quizzes and sobering stories and photos:* <http://www.engsafety.com/> *The CBS ENG Safety manual may be found at the following site:* http://www.ibew45.org/member_resources/pdfs/cbs_eng_safety.pdf *Studio information:* This publication comes from the U.K. but the concepts apply well here in the U.S.A. "Health and Safety in Audio Visual Production: Your Legal Duties" *HSE has published this informative publication:* <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg360.pdf> *Here is a studio safety checklist that could be modified and used for your situation:* http://www.vccd.edu/assets/pdf/risk_management/rm_intra_tv_studio_insp.pdf *Ladder safety:* http://www.osha.gov/Publications/portable_ladder_qc.html

You are all invited to attend the general membership meeting on April 8th, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the hall. If you are a steward in our local, please attend the general membership meeting or file a steward's report prior to the meeting.

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. Thank you Business Manager Rizzo for the refreshments after the meeting.

The Executive Board Meeting will be on Wednesday March 24 at 8:15pm. We still need two more members. ANYBODY?

TRAVEL CARDS ACCEPTED

Carmelo D'Amico from Local 1547
Jeremiah Cell from Local 45

NEW MEMBERS:

MiLisa Hickman—WCIU
Jared Kole—Program
Matthew Jakusz—WGN TV
Matthew Young—Program
John Lewis—CBS Missouri
Jim Boring—FOX Sports

FIRST READINGS:

Thomas Korzeniowski—WGN TV
Caeron Hilander—Program Sports WI
Michael Lewis—CBS, Kentucky

RETIREMENT:

Alan Rosen—39 years at CBS!

SYMPATHY TO:

Mike Kolar on the loss of his father,
Frank Kolar

Correspondence from the International Office:

These items were presented at the union meeting, but no action was taken: the local is not sending anyone. If anyone is interested in attending on their own, please contact the union office for details.

.The Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) will hold its national convention on April 5-8 in Las Vegas.

The IBEW International Women's Conference will be held on July 21-24, at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

From President Hill: It was discussed amongst the IO Officers, and decided that the **posting of local union minutes on a web page or the internet is no longer allowed.**

The IO is in the process of updating the list of IBEW members elected to public office. **Please let us know if you are currently holding a public office**, so we can forward that information.

The **IBEW Founders' Scholarship** is available to members who have been in good standing for the four years preceding May 1st of the scholarship year. More information is available on the International's web page.

The **Greater Chicago Food Depository** is seeking Donations in the annual FeinsteIn Challenge to end hunger. **Philanthropist Alan Shawn FeinsteIn will offer a proportional match on all donations received between March 1 and April 30.**

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.

Lately we have noticed an influx of grievances. As long as we have a Collective Bargaining Agreement, we will follow those rules that we have agreed to.

When you feel that the company might be violating the CBA or if you are being asked to perform a duty that you feel could be a violation of the agreement, contact your steward immediately. It is important to understand that grievances pertain to contract violations, not hurt feelings or lack of work.

Remember to perform the assignment first and then grieve it after unless it is an issue of safety. Bring any issues of safety to your steward immediately. If push comes to shove, call the hall.

Lastly, please do not take it upon yourself to “confront” management. Those meetings may lead to discipline. Be smart. Use your stewards.

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 MARCH 2010

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:

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Radio + TV Broadcast Engineers
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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
THURSDAY APRIL 8, AT 7:00PM
AT THE UNION OFFICE
8605 W. BRYN MAWR AVE #309 CHICAGO**

PHONE (773) 714-1220

FAX (773) 693-0009

INFO CHANNEL

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