

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The local is going through some incredible changes as the economic outlook starts to pick up. Although the forecast for business looks promising, employers in some areas continue to take a hard line stand with their employees. Union members have a particularly difficult time when conditions such as these arise. We are constantly fighting to police contracts and keep jurisdiction, on all fronts. A clear indicator of these trying times is the number of groups that approach unions asking for representation. These employees see that they are in need of collective bargaining and the benefits it can bring in dealing with their employer. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has charged each of its local unions to seek out organizing opportunities and develop them into a larger union base. Several employees have approached this local with just those desires. Welcome to WLS-AM production staffers who recently voted unanimously to have Local 1220 represent them. Many thanks to WLS Steward Ed Glab and Business Representative Jim Sterne, for their effort in bringing this new group into the shop at WLS. Many thanks to those employees who banded together for this effort. I am looking forward to meeting some of you soon.

I had the pleasure of meeting Susan Gruszka at the May meeting. I hope some of you had the chance to talk with Sue. Thanks for attending the meeting, Sue, hope to see you again, real soon. As an Illinois Official Court Reporters, Sue is investigating the workings of the local and what she may be able to do to help out in the future. Sue reported that another bill is working its way through the state legislature regarding the court reporters. HB5445 has already come before the state house where it received a 117-0 vote. This important bill is meant to coerce the Illinois Supreme Court to accept Local 1220 as the exclusive representative for the court reporters of Illinois and recognize their ability to collective bargain.

As dutiful union members, many of our ranks ask what they might do to help. A union's first line of defense in union shops are its stewards. If you wonder what you might do to help your brothers and sisters, acting as a steward would be a big help. Stewards are responsible for insuring that the contract provisions are followed and that the rights of workers within the shop are protected. Stewards work with the business manager to insure that contract language is followed, employees are being treated fairly and justly in disciplinary cases and insure that working conditions are not compromised. Local 1220 stewards are trained to recognize problems, including harassment, and how to best deal with these problems to the benefit of all. When problem solving goes beyond this stage, grievances must be filed and the steward works with the business manager to insure they are filed in a timely manner and then that they are defended. If you are interested, let your current steward or the business manager know.

My sincere condolences go out to the family, co-workers and friends of Bob Richard (WBBM-TV) who passed away at the beginning of the month. To those members who are recuperating at home, please get better soon, we miss you.

I have been informed that the "Info Channel" will be going all electronic in the upcoming months. The mail version will be replaced by this new technology. As always, this newsletter is our official notification to you of changes in the local, i.e. By-law changes, dues, elections, etc. More information on this change will be forth coming.

As always, watch for announcements of local job action as we attempt to gain fair contracts at various employers in our jurisdiction. Your help is needed.

See you all next month, Tuesday, June 1, at 7:00 PM.

Fraternally,

