

THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

NOVEMBER 2007

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A Letter from your Executive Board Chair:

The Executive Board of your Local Union has been re-examining and discussing the position taken on the imposing of administrative service fees for those who do not pay their dues on time. We have discussed the problems at length and we have reviewed the laws and practices that surround this issue. All of our members are (or should be) aware of the Constitution Art XVIII, Section 1 on page 59 which states 'LUs shall collect dues from members either monthly or quarterly in advance'; and Art XXI, Section 1 'No members is entitled to notice of the monthly or quarterly dues of his LU nor of arrearages, but must take notice when payments are due'.

In spite of this provision, this LU DOES publish reminders in the month prior to the date quarterly dues are due, and it does send letters/notices to members when they owe any additional amounts.

The elected representatives who serve as your Executive Board found the policy that is in place now to be a sound and fair financial practice that any business would use if confronted by delinquent payers. A Union must operate in a fair and equitable manner and treat all of its members in the same way. We do not want, nor do we budget, for the late fees that we collect. They were set by the Board as a deterrent to late payment of required dues. Any member who pays their dues on time won't have to address this issue!

Take a look at your credit card bill, please, and notice the fee charged when you do not pay them on time. It is in most cases a flat fee plus a percentage of the amount owed. All utility bills assess a fee for late payment.

When you joined the Union you were advised of the requirement to pay dues. When you attended orientation, you learned that the Union office administers the rules set by the Union, and does not set nor alter those rules arbitrarily. The staff of our Local Union are charged with the duty to collect the dues assessed by the International and the Local. They have an obligation to administer the rules fairly. They cannot waive the fees set by the members of this Local Union. They are following the guidelines set for them by the members of the Union. The staff is ordered to apply any payments to the oldest amount on each account. This has been researched and found to be a legal and proper way to process payments. The staff is obligated to apply the fee voted upon for those who have not met their dues obligation. Any complaints or comments should be directed to the Executive Board of your Local Union, not to the staff. It is not appropriate to direct your anger at those hired to serve you, and certainly not appropriate to use foul language when someone is simply doing their job.

There are a variety of ways to help alleviate the problem – consider the following:

- 1) *Sign up for dues checkoff and have dues deducted from your pay check.*
- 2) *Contact the Union office to be put on automatic Credit Card payment*
- 3) *Pay at least one month of the new Quarter by the due date if the full amount cannot be paid*
- 4) *Mark your calendar to note that the same due date occurs each quarter – Jan 1, Apr 1, July 1 and Oct 1*
- 5) *Read your newsletter – it will tell you when to send your dues.*

Fraternally Yours,
Paul Rodriguez, Chairman,
IBEW 1220 Executive Board

NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, December 6, AT 7PM

AT THE UNION OFFICE

Come in and join us for a Holiday meal and recognition for our long time members who have 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and more years of seniority in our Local Union.



INFO CHANNEL NOVEMBER 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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Radio + TV Broadcast Engineers
8605 W Bryn Mawr Suite 309
Chicago, IL 60631
FAX 773-693-0009
EMAIL jim@ibew1220.org

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month has been an extremely busy one for many members in this local. WBBM continues with starting the construction at the new location across from Daley Plaza while several other shops continue to negotiate new agreements with their employers. I know that many members who are not at the table, feel frustrated by the process since there is no clear advancements to report. Let me assure you that this is a normal part of the process. As negotiators and employers discuss items from both sides, some items are discussed that have nothing to do with the contract. This is the one time when labor and management have an opportunity to discuss things that have bothered the shop during the past contract period. This discussion leads to a better understanding of the issues on both sides and eventually leads to an agreement that both sides can live with. Madeleine has made that statement clear to our employers during these times. To negotiate a contract that neither side (particularly the employer) is willing to abide by is a waste of time. Please be sure to look at the big picture when evaluating the final package. If the team is recommending the package they present to you for vote, it is because they believe it is the best package at this time. Federal mediators have been brought in for some of the contracts to assist in bringing both sides closer to agreement. Mediators bring skills that draw the sides closer together and can be very helpful when needed. They do not take sides but are in place to help achieve a contract.

I know I don't need to remind you that the holidays are quickly approaching. There is an ever greater need this year to assist when and where you can. As mortgage defaults are at an all time high, more families are finding themselves in need of help. Please volunteer your help when asked and keep the needy in mind when organizations ask for donations of food, time, or money this Holiday season.

The local has received several notices of changes in the law or policies that affect local unions in particular. Many of these laws and policies have been instituted by the current administration. One such change in policy relates to organizing and is outlined in Secretary Walters column "A Shameful Decision" in the November *The Electrical Worker*. Brother Walters points out that this decision by a Bush dominated NLRB has "set aside 40 years of legal precedent" in the recognition of a union for collective bargaining. Other changes have been forced on the NLRB and some even come under the nondescript Homeland Security influence. Recent changes in accounting have caused undue stress on local unions as these small organizations are required to file ever more expensive and lengthy government forms such as the dreaded LM 2. The LM 2 for this local amounts to well over thirty pages and requires an electronic filing with CIA type security for the two electronic signatures of the president and treasurer. This form must be prepared by our auditors and is not acceptable in a hard copy form. Other changes involve book-keeping additions, NLRB operations in the field, and local union auditing and operations. In the opinion of this officer and several other, some of the changes are flirting with being unconstitutional but the administration supports these under various special presidential rights granted under the War Act. If you find these changes as onerous as I do, please plan on making your voice heard during the elections in 2008. If you have moved recently or if you have not voted before, please make a pledge to register to vote before the end of the year.

I hope you have a quiet and enjoyable Thanksgiving with your family and remember that the next meeting is Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 PM.

Fraternally Yours,

Al Skierkiewicz

YOU UNION NEWS

FIRST READINGS

CELESTE BELL—WGN NEWSWRITER
JESUS PALACIOS—CAMERA ORIGINALS
RAY RADELIA—PROGRAM PRODUCTIONS
TOMMY STOIC—PROGRAM PRODUCTIONS
LOUIS DEROSA—EVENT ENGINEERING

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL

The following members have met the requirements to receive this status:

DANIEL PALMER—LEFT WCIU out of broadcasting

PER CAPITA CHANGES FOR 2008:

Effective 1-1-08 there will be an increase of \$1.00 per month for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund contribution. Only a few of our members are participating in the PBF, but if any of you has any questions, please feel free to email us at info@ibew1220.org, or call.

OPEN HOUSE PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR:

Next year, in place of our regular May meeting, we will be hosting an Open House at the Union Hall. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 3rd, from 3-7 pm, with the official Union meeting to take place at 4:00 pm.

AGENCY FEE PAYERS PLAN FOR 2008

Please see the Electrical Worker newspaper October issue for details on the 2008 agency fee payers plan.

MEETING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Members can view meeting agenda, bills and correspondence 30 minutes prior to the meeting by appointment.

IBEW BABY



Scott Placko and his wife welcomed new baby daughter Addison Andrea in July. Congratulations to the family!

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

JAVIER VARGAS and his family on the loss of his mother, Carmen in October.

KUDO'S RECEIVED:

This past month we heard some wonderful compliments on our IBEW utility crew for the Chicago Marathon. WBBM made a special point of praising the efforts of this crew: Andy Fontana, Al Ortiz, Gerard Evans, Andrea Randall, Rich Lanza, Charles Pullen and Tyra Cornell. Thanks for making 1220 look good, along with Channel 2!

BE THANKFUL:

On Thanksgiving Day, let's be grateful for our blessings and generous to those who have less than we do. We wish you and Happy Thanksgiving -

In Solidarity,

Madeleine Monaco
Business Manager

SHIRTS AVAILABLE:

IBEW 1220 SHIRTS—Henley style, in either white or navy, are available at the Union office for \$20.00. Contact the office to order—we take credit cards—call 773-714-1220 or email info@ibew1220.org.



IBEW PRESIDENT HILL IN CHICAGO

President Hill taped his presentation to the Construction Organizing group here in Chicago—using sports metaphors to make his point. 1220 Contractor Product Productions did the local work and member Caren Cosby was the prompter operator.



1220 Member Caren Cosby & IBEW President Ed Hill at Soldier Field

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???

INFO@IBEW1220.ORG

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 7:00 PM
DINNER WILL BE SERVED

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IS THE ONLY AUTHORITY FOR WAIVING OF LATE FEES.
OFFICE STAFF HAS A MANDATE TO COLLECT THE FEE AND
MEMBERS MUST PETITION THE BOARD FOR A WAIVER AFTER THE FACT.

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