

THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

OCTOBER 2006

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

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Sisters and Brothers:

Your delegates attended the 37th Convention of the IBEW in Cleveland, Ohio September 11-15. It was indeed an exercise in the democratic process, as we voted from the convention floor on many items of business—some passed and some failed. We passed a resolution to only use American or Canadian flags manufactured in the respective countries. We agreed to support the Boy Scout and Girl Scout program in both countries. We agreed to create a fund to support high-speed broadband for all. We did not agree to change the constitution to eliminate the roman numerals. We agreed to support the Davis Bacon Act. We supported diversity, minimum wage legislation, March of Dimes, IBEW Hour Power, National Health Insurance Act, National Safety Council, an increase in the NEBF contribution rate, support of the "Success in the Workplace" DVD series, Nuclear energy, political check off, opposing "Right to Work" legislation, and a prohibition against sexual harassment. We amended and then passed a resolution supporting 'legal' immigrants. We supported Variety Club, and continued organizing, but did not pass the request to pay Canadian pensions in US dollars. We voted on the Law Committees proposals—did not pass the change to delegate expense payments from \$1000 plus mileage to \$2000—it stays at \$1000. We voted that the delegates would continue to elect our delegates to affiliates conventions, not have them appointed. We voted to increase the per capita and the pension payout (see letter on page 5). We voted to clarify that when a member fails to pay an assessment, the Local may file a lawsuit to collect. The delegates also upheld all of the decisions of the International Executive Committee on the appeals filed by members. The Convention book is available in the Union office.

Our Local was very important to this Convention and we are very proud of the work our members did during the week. Mark Zurawiec, Terry Schilling and Spencer Thomas were hired to videotape all of the events for a record of the proceedings. They were everywhere! This is a photo taken of them covering the deliberations on the convention floor. Thanks to Mark, Terry and Spencer for making us look good!



Watch for your copy of the new Constitution. It will be mailed to you as soon as we receive it.

In Solidarity

Madeleine Monaco

NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, November 1st AT 7PM

AT THE UNION OFFICE

Come in and discuss the business of your Local Union
You'll receive a report on the Illinois State Conference,
and our business during the past month.

SPECIAL NOTE TO "A" MEMBERS—SEE PAGE 5

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD



INFO CHANNEL October 2006

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
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Chicago, IL 60631
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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR 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. The Board will review all requests and contact you to schedule the issue at a future meeting. They meet on the 3rd Monday of each month.



**REMEMBER TO NOTIFY
YOUR UNION OF ANY
CHANGE OF ADDRESS,
PHONE OR EMAIL**

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY, ST, ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

I.B.E.W 1220 CONTRACTS

WLS RADIO
190 N STATE ST
CHICAGO, IL 60601

WCEV RADIO *
5356 W BELMONT
CHICAGO, IL 60641

WCIU TV *
26 N HALSTED ST
CHICAGO, IL 60661

WBBM TV /RADIO
630 N MCCLURG CT
CHICAGO, IL 60611

WTVO-TV
NORTH MERIDIAN RD
ROCKFORD, IL 61105

WGN RADIO
435 N MICHIGAN
CHICAGO, IL 60611

WGN TV
2501 W BRADLEY PL
CHICAGO, IL 60618

WYCC TV
7500 S PULASKI RD
CHICAGO, IL 60652

WMVP RADIO
190 N STATE ST
CHICAGO, IL 60601

WTTW TV
5400 N ST LOUIS AVE
CHICAGO, IL 60625

**FOX SPORTS – FOOTBALL
HOCKEY, BASEBALL, NASCAR
NATIONAL AGREEMENT**

AESTHETIC ABSTRACTIONS
P.O. BOX 802
CHICAGO, IL 60616

AUDIO VISUAL ONE
4625 N 25TH AVE
SCHILLER PARK, IL 60176

CAMERA ORIGINALS
125 WINDSOR DR #107
OAKBROOK, IL 60523

DIGITAL BLUE, INC.
22 WEST 344 HILCREST TR.
MEDINAH, IL 60157

EVENT ENGINEERING
2334 W NORTH AVE
CHICAGO, IL 60647

MEDIA PROCESS GROUP
1327 W WASHINGTON ST #103
CHICAGO, IL 60607

MIRROR IMAGE VIDEO
28 WOODLAND TRAIL
PORTAGE, IN 46368

O.S.A. PRODUCTIONS
537 N EDGEWOOD AVE
WOODDALE, IL 60191

PRODUCT PRODUCTIONS
1806 W GRAND AVE
CHICAGO, IL 60622

PROGRAM PRODUCTIONS
870 OAK CREEK DR
LOMBARD, IL 60148

SHORELINE PRODUCTION
28 ASPEN RD BOX 1233
OGDEN DUNES, IN 46368

THEATRICAL LIGHTING CONNECTION
411 HEATHROW COURT
BURR RIDGE, IL 60521

THREE PHASE MEDIA
1658 N MILWAUKEE # 144
CHICAGO, IL 60647

VISIONS UNLIMITED
2065 E EXCHANGE
CRETE, IL 60417

COPIES OF ANY IBEW 1220 AGREEMENT MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST AT THE UNION OFFICE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to all the stewards who attend the monthly meetings or who send along reports via email. Your input allows the other members present a chance to see what takes place in the various shops. It also gives all of us an insight into the management decisions and reactions in the various shops and allows us to point out the right and wrong way to handle things. I hate to keep harping on this particular item but each month for the last several months a member has been called into a management meeting and given discipline. In each of those meetings, the member failed to ask for representation. I urge you to request a union representative any time you meet with management where you think that discipline will be a result. This can be any union member but we prefer you take a steward. The steward's role is to ask for particular documentation, take notes, protect your rights and make a report to the Business Manager. As trivial as this sounds, it can mean the difference between dismissal and warning. The steward will provide a second person who will see things in a different and less emotional light. Your rights to this representation are guaranteed in the federal mandate Weingarten Rights. If you don't have a Weingarten card all you need to know are the words...

If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I request that my Union Representative or union officer be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any question. (This is my right under a Supreme Court Decision called Weingarten).

Members have frequently forgotten to claim this right in the past and the results rarely went as the employee had hoped. If you think you are the only one involved in a dispute with the company, be aware that your problem is likely to become a shop problem at negotiations. For this reason alone, I must request that all union members follow their contracts as closely as possible everyday. Know what your contract says in terms of jurisdiction, penalties and payments especially those that effect your day to day operation. I must reiterate that abuse of such contract guidelines as pertain to lunches (particularly those taken at the end of the day), sick time, penalties for missed or late meal periods and shift start and end have resulted in more losses in this local. At the time shops saw these losses as small but those problems have grown to proportions that our members could not have conceived of at the time of the first violation. When you fight for yourself or your shop, you are fighting for all of us.

To carry this fight further, I would like remind all Local 1220 members that November elections are coming up soon. Make sure that you are registered in your local precinct so you are able to vote in this election. Around the country, many senate races are being decided. Here in Illinois there are a variety of hotly contested races including the famous Rod Blagojevich vs. Judy Barr Topinka. Please be sure to vote and make your voice heard.

There is an organization known as COPE, the Committee on Political Education. It is a member of the National AFL CIO and helps us know the facts concerning items of interest to union members and working families. Although we as a local are forbidden from sending union funds to Cope, I would like to encourage members to send a donation to this worthy cause. Local 1220 is one of the few locals in Chicago that does not have some kind of COPE drive each year or participate in fundraising with their members.

See you all next month, Wednesday, November 1, at 7:00PM.

Fraternally,

Al Skierkiewicz

Notes from the last Union meeting—Business Manager's report

I have appointed a new steward – LEONARD MURPHY - Leonard has several years experience as a staff rep.

We are still missing our organizing trophy and a negotiating file—\$100.00 reward for information leading to its return.

We have lots of Emmy nominations for our members in Chicago and will note the winners when they are announced.

At WGN the new Broadcast Operations Center will be put in old Tape room and Deko will be in – used in HD only. Our people will be trained to operate and maintain it. New wireless Nextel phones will have GPS tracking in them. Our members will be allowed to use them 24/7 and turn off the GPS function when off shift.

Multiple grievances pending at WBBM. One denied and meeting scheduled with mgmt to follow up. Others – no response as yet.

Video production contracts are out for a ratification vote. Considerable improvements and raises will go into effect on 1-1-07, if they are ratified on this vote. Special thanks to Chuck Mason for his work with these contracts.

Our 37th IBEW Convention was held in Cleveland Sept 11-15. President Ed Hill was re-elected; Vice President Joseph Lohman was re-elected and various constitutional amendments were passed—see page 1 for details. An increase in per capita of \$1.00 on 1-1-07, \$1.00 on 1-1-09 and \$1.00 on 1-1-11 was passed. These additional funds will help to support a new and far reaching organizing program with staff hired by the IO and supporting Locals through the 1st contract.

Members Rich Well and Rich Davies are recovering from health problems and surgery. Members Andy Fontana and Kim Nicole are back to work.

NEW MEMBERS

TOM KEEN –WTVO
DAVID SEATON – WTVO
WILLIE WATKINS – WCIU
SCOTT PLACKO – WBBM

CESAR LOPEZ—WTVO
BILL KINCZEWSKI – WTVO
JAMES MCINTYRE –WBBM
DONALD RAMER –PRGRM

FIRST READINGS

JULIA COHN – WGN NEWS
PATRICK HARTNEY – WBBM

MICHAEL E SMITH – FOX
BRIAN DELANY – CBS

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL

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

ALVARO ROMERO – PROMOTED TO MANAGEMENT WGN
GILBERT MUNOZ- LEFT BROADCASTING for COMPUTERS
MATTHEW WAGNER – LEFT WGN – UNEMPLOYED
GERALD MCCLAIN – MOVED TO GEORGIA – TEACHING
MICHAEL KAUFMAN – LEFT BROADCASTING – IN SALES

TRAVEL CARDS ACCEPTED

PHILLIP LINK—FROM LU 715 WORKS FOR FOX SPORTS

SICKNESS AND HEALTH

ANDY FONTANA (Freelance) & KIM NICOLE (Freelance) are both back to work.
RICH DAVIES (WTTW) is recovering from complications of diabetes, and RICH WELL (WTTW) is recovering from recent knee surgery. Everyone get well soon!

FAREWELL BROTHER

PAUL KUBIK, 91, died in September. Paul worked as an engineer for many years at WGN-TV. Our sympathies to Paul's family, friends, and coworkers.

IBEW BABIES BORN!!!

Monique and ALONZO MARTINEZ (Freelance and Executive Board member) have a brand new daughter born Sept 12. Saioa Capri joins her two older brothers, ages 3 and 1 1/2. Congratulations to the busy Mom and Dad!

Dana and Bill Kissinger added a 6lb. 15 oz. boy, who they named Brennan Walter, to their family. He joins Cayleigh, his 2 1/2 year old sister, in giving their parents big smiles.

LU176 BABY CRIES OUT FOR SUPPORT

A benefit for Jacob Moreno will be held on Nov. 8, 2006 at LU 176, 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Jacob was born six weeks premature and asphyxiated. He is the son of Mike Moreno and Kim Udsen Moreno, the daughter of 176 BM, Dave. The family is strapped with mounting medical bills and stress. They need the support of Brothers and Sisters. Please call 176 President Bill Koehler at 815-729-1240 or 815-791-9641 for ticket and donation information. Bill is asking for raffle items as well to help the family during these extremely difficult times.

ALL WHO WORK FOR CBS

You have been given another copy of the CBS Business Conduct Statement (your Union sent you one several months ago to review) and been asked to read and sign it. This policy applies to all employees of CBS—including freelance and per diem. Please be sure that you do comply and that you do report your other employment to the company.

VOTE VALUES ON NOVEMBER 7

The Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL) has listed candidates that deserve Labor support in October's "Federation News". It is extremely important that voters know what Judges support union values so we are listing them along with other CFL endorsements. A complete list is available at the CFL Web site www.ilafli-cio.org/cope.htm.

Appellate Court: Michael Murphy (1st Dist.) D
Joy Cunningham (1st Dist.) D

Circuit Court: Aurelia Pucinski (countywide) D
Mike Howlett (countywide) D
Mike McHale (countywide) D
James Murphy (countywide) D
Pam Veal (countywide) D
Pat O'Brian (countywide) D

Subcircuit Court: Orville Hambright (1st Subcircuit) D
Mike Stuttley (2nd Subcircuit) D
Thomas Murphy (3rd Subcircuit) D
Diane Shelley (5th Subcircuit) D
James McGing (10th Subcircuit) D
Mary Roberts (11th Subcircuit) D
Mary Rochford (12th Subcircuit) D
Grace Dickler (12th Subcircuit) D
Steve Goebel (12th Subcircuit) R
Jill Marisie (13th Subcircuit) R
Don Brennan (15th Subcircuit) D

Cook County Treasurer : Maria Pappas D

Cook County Clerk:: David Orr D

Cook County Assessor: James Houlihan D

Cook County Sheriff: Tom Dart D

Metropolitan Water reclamation: Terrence O'Brian D
Debra Shore D

Cook County Board of Review: Brenda Houlihan (1st. Dist.) D

Cook County Commissioner: Visit www.chicagolabor.org

JENN'S TAKE

For the record: I work in the union office and also spend part of my time in the field representing 1220 at the various downtown venues. Technology is changing rapidly and I'm working towards securing our jurisdiction. You may see me scoping out the McPier areas – I welcome comments or suggestions. I've learned a lot in just a few visits. Thank you to all for your help.

I also help prepare grievances and arbitration cases. Here are a couple of thoughts.

- Check your personnel records once a year, especially if there have been any incidents.
- Make sure that the office has whatever e-mail address that you check regularly for non-immediate concerns.
- Display your union card when working, if you want our jurisdiction protected. Your card must be shown upon request – that's how everyone knows you are a member in good standing; or not a member at all.

This election is very important to working Americans. You can find a list of all the places in Chicago, Cook County, and Illinois where you can **vote early**. Go to <http://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx>. I have a host of knowledge regarding the elections in both IL and WI, if you have any questions, please call or e-mail me at jenn@ibew1220.org.

The best email address for contacting the union office is info@ibew1220.org. it will go to all of our desks.

Keep in touch!

Jennifer Kastigar

LETTERS FROM WASHINGTON-IBEW HEADQUARTERS

September 20, 2006

TO: ALL FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The delegates of the 37th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Cleveland, Ohio during the week of September 11 through 15, 2006, approved amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution. Accordingly, effective January 1, 2007, there will be a per capita increase of one dollar (\$1.00) for all members, and there will be an increase of seventy cents (\$.70) for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contributions, which applies to "A" members only. Accordingly, the following rates will apply to the I.O. portion of all monthly dues payments covering January 2007, and thereafter:

	A Members	BA Members	Fee payers
Per Capita:	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Pension Fund:	<u>\$12.00</u>	NA	NA
Total:	\$23.00	\$11.00	\$11.00

In accordance with Article IX of the IBEW Constitution, \$11.00 per month from each member shall go into the general Fund, and the additional amount paid by our "A" members of \$12.00 per month shall go into the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund.

Please notify all of the members in your local union concerning these increases. In addition, you may also need to notify the employers to increase payroll deductions. Local unions submitting electronic per capita reports must make arrangements to update their software and/or use the most current version of the ICS-Windows or Labor Power software package to ensure that the new dues rates have been implemented. It will not be necessary to amend the local union bylaws with respect to this dues increase, because this action was approved at the IBEW International Convention.

The monthly per capita and PBF payments to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is a duty that is required of each individual member. Moreover, each Financial Secretary is responsible for collecting and forwarding all per capita and PBF payments to the International Office in a timely manner.

With best wishes, we are
Fraternally yours,

Edwin D. Hill
Edwin D. Hill
International President

Jon F. Walters
Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-
Treasurer

September 20, 2006

TO: All Financial Secretaries of IBEW Local Unions with "A" Membership

At the 37th International Convention, the delegates approved several changes to the IBEW Constitution. Included amongst those changes were revisions to Article XI. Of immediate concern to IBEW members who are considering retirement is a change in the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) pension payment rate.

Effective January 1, 2007, the rate used to calculate pension payments has been established at \$4.50 per month for each full year of continuous "A" membership. This change eliminates the \$3.50 rate which has been used on all time prior to 1998, and increases PBF payments for all years earned prior to 1998 to the same \$4.50 rate used after 1997. Please remember these payment rates continue to be subject to the applicable reduction for early retirement, Optional Spousal Benefit and all other provisions of Article XI. Inasmuch as there was no provision for retroactive PBF benefit increase at the 37th International Convention, it is recommended that you contact members considering retirement during the months of September, October, November and December of 2006, asking them if they wish to postpone retirement until January 2007 to receive the improved PBF pension benefit change. Members with pension effective dates prior to January 2007 will continue to be calculated using the old benefit rate.

Fraternally yours,

Edwin D. Hill
Edwin D. Hill
International President

Jon F. Walters
Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-
Treasurer



WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???

INFO@IBEW1220.ORG

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1ST AT 7:00 PM
BE SURE TO BRING YOUR UNION CARD

SPECIAL NOTE TO "A" MEMBERS—SEE PAGE 5

PHONE (773) 714-1220

FAX (773) 693-0009

www.ibew1220.org

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