

THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

OCTOBER 2007

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A FABLE OF DIS-UNITY

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" The mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning. "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night, a sound was heard throughout the house -- like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient.

But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them. The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember -- when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk.

You have heard that an injury to one is an injury to all—and you have heard that in unity there is strength. Maybe having a smile with your lesson and hoping that YOU wont be the chicken, or the pig or the cow will drive home the message.

Take the time to stand by your Union Brothers and Sisters when they need your strength. Make the effort to let your employer know that you are proud to be Union.

In Solidarity,

Madeleine Monaco
Business Manager

NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, November 7, AT 7PM

AT THE UNION OFFICE

Come in and discuss the business of your Local Union
We need to plan for the long range goals of the Local.
Your input would be welcome.



INFO CHANNEL OCTOBER 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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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

I was looking through my files recently and came across a book prepared for the Centennial of the IBEW. I remember being fascinated by the hardships and dangers of the early electrical workers and the eventual formation of the IBEW. Of the many dangers that existed, perhaps the most onerous was the requirement that line workers needed to work from the tops of ladders attached to horse drawn wagons. If the worker was at the top and among live wires, a spooked horse could easily drag the wagon (and the worker on it) into a live line. Consequently, one statistic that has remained with me is the average maximum age of an electrical worker in 1890 was 36 due to the early deaths associated with working on that live electrical wiring. The IBEW struggled through those early years under several officers including Grand President Henry Miller, who died on the job prior to the 1897 convention at age 38. He did not live to see this union grow and organize other electrical workers. Then Secretary, J.T. Kelly wrote of Henry Miller, "He was generous, unselfish and devoted himself to the task of organizing the electrical workers with an energy that brooked no failure..." (from the *History of the IBEW*, IBEW website) Then as now, organizing and working union are important precepts for the IBEW and it's members.

At a time when unions are shrinking and union work is moving off shore, our work in broadcasting is increasing. It is important that we look for new organizing opportunities and assist our staff in any way we can to help organize the unorganized. This local is currently investigating or actively organizing at several locations in our jurisdiction. You may ask yourself how you can help. The most important thing a union member can do is refuse to work non-union. By working non-union, a member gives employers the ability to continue to hire others non-union, and quite probably to pay them substandard wages and work them unfairly. Your non-union work undermines the status of this local, the contracts we strive to uphold and contractors we work with. What appears to be a benign practice has hurt this local and it's members over the years. It is time for us to learn from our founders. We are a Union, we work for our members and their families and those who are not yet members. See this non-union work offer as an opportunity to get a contract with Local 1220.

For those members whose shops are still negotiating, hang in there. Remember that these are trying and stressful times for your fellow members. Follow your contracts every day, it makes it much easier for your negotiators at the table. Don't start or repeat rumors, they only serve to divide the shop and may even come from management. Make sure your stewards are informed of any questionable event and be aware that your Weingarten Rights are still in effect. If you are invited to a meeting in which discipline could be the result, you have the right to have a steward with you. Take advantage of this federally protected right and demand a steward.

I received word recently about the death of a former member and friend, Jim Lindberg of WTTW. Jim and I had known each other for many years, both starting for WTTW in the early 1970's. In my mind, Jim had a great attitude and was willing to take on new responsibilities during his tenure. He always seemed to have a smile and made those around him feel better, even on the worst of days. I envied Jim when he retired and it was obvious he enjoyed his retirement immensely. I can only hope to be as happy in my retirement. Goodbye, Jim, it was great knowing you.

Fraternally Yours,

Al Skierkiewicz

YOU UNION NEWS

FIRST READINGS

KATIE CLAUDNIC—WTTW FLOOR CREW PD
ANDREW GRAVES—WGN PD
JAMES FERRELL—WTTW PD
THOMAS BAGBY—WGN PD

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL

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

JANICE DEVINE
ANNE MARIE SAVIANO
JAMES GEDWELLAS

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of STANLEY MATISIAK (WBBM Ret); the family and friends of JIM LINDBERG (WTTW Ret), Carlos Tronshaw and his family on the loss of their mother, Deb Segal and her family on the loss of her father. Your brothes and sisters hold you in their thoughts and prayers.

WORK AVAILABLE AT WBBM:

WBBM-TV continues its work on the new building at 22 W. Washington. Technical construction of the all HD facility begins very soon. Local 1220 will have a critical role in the construction of the technical plant and extra help will be needed soon. If you are looking for per-diem construction work at the new facility send your resume to David Hewitt, Manager of Technical Operations at WBBM. His e-mail is dmhewitt@cbs.com or fax it to 312-202-3710. Please no calls. This work is covered under the CBS/IBEW contract.

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.

RETIREEES—ASSISTANCE REQUESTED:

The Chicago Public Schools have a mentoring program—and they have a need for experienced broadcasters. Please consider giving of your time and talents to help the next generation. Contact Earl Milloy by email at: EFMILLOY@CPS.K12.IL.US

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.

JENN'S TAKE

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,
Jurisdiction – Safety - Unity

Thank you all who are wearing the current credentials while working; it is the easiest way to inform others who we are and what we do. It is always helpful in the field or at the stations, as jurisdictional lines are being questioned.

WYCC is getting settled into their new station at 6500 S Union in Chicago. The entire crew should now be in place. They are enduring the usual hardships of trying to build a station while complying with managements ever-changing ideas. It will warrant more close monitoring by everyone.

Our brothers and sisters at WTVO in Rockford have requested a few new chairs to make their work space safer and more efficient. They simultaneously control three television stations on air. Management has said no. The chairs they have are unsafe and make their work inefficient at best. Stewards Kelly Engler and Dave Seaton are stumped, because they simply requested some unused chairs from a crowded conference room.

Being a Cubs fan, I'd like to send out congratulations to our WGN baseball technicians for another fine season. That includes our very talented members at both WGN TV and WGN RADIO. Next year, for sure!

We are working on organizing broadcast work in our jurisdiction. We have several targets in mind but need your help. Tell us who you work alongside in the workplace that want to be organized. We know that everyone would benefit from a collective bargaining agreement. Talk to your co-workers and friends and talk to me anytime about meeting with them. Cable television is killing us.

Program Productions is in need of qualified help as they procure more work. Encourage those qualified technicians you know to submit resumes and/or call. As this company has an agreement with NABET, please ask each time you are employed which agreement you will be working under.

Some of our video production contractors are not paying their employees on time, as required by the contract. In addition, some of them are not making the required payments to your individual Flex Plan account. The new agreement requires that a deposit be made at the same time as your paycheck is issued—every time. Please check your Flex Plan accounts now and call if you have any discrepancies. If we can get you all up to date, we can begin tracking ("anew") that your contributions are made in the timely manner agreed to.

We have some very skilled and committed workers out there in the field. Just a reminder that safety should come first, always. We don't like to hear, much less, read articles on reckless behavior.

Rule #1: Safety First. Always.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???

INFO@IBEW1220.ORG

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 7:00 PM

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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FAX (773) 693-0009

www.ibew1220.org

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8605 WEST BRYN MAWR #309
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631

A **special offer** for the members & families
of the IBEW 6th District.



In recognition of our relationship with IBEW 6th District, we invite you to take advantage of a very special offering.

October 1st, 2007 - May 16th, 2008

\$99* Sunday - Thursday

\$119* Friday & Saturday

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Promo Code: **IBEW**



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