

THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

SEPTEMBER 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN.....1

YOU-NION NEWS.....3

MEETING NOTICE.....4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As many of you who have read my columns over the years are aware, safety is one of my highest concerns. A few recent incidents have reminded me that safety is a 24/7 problem for everyone in our business. As is often the case, our employers in the heat of battle (news stories in particular), will ask for us to perform outside of our normal operations. It is at these times when we should be even more aware of the safety issues that arise in the rush to get a shot or cover a story. Some of our contracts specifically have language regarding safety procedures that need to be followed to keep our members and the people they work with safe. The recent incidents appear to have gone well beyond what is both safe and specifically outlined in the contract. It is easy for us to point to the obvious problems such as raising a mast in the dark, hanging out at some great height to get a beauty shot or running backwards with a camera to your eye. But I am speaking to some of the things that really happen each day. Driving an unsafe vehicle is a good example. Failing to check the tires, brakes and steering can injure you and any passengers. Driving without required rest, and extra long distances should be issues of the past. Even our smaller agreements speak to these problems. Letting a non-member do the driving who is both untrained and not a bargaining unit member crosses jurisdictional lines as well as safety and puts members and non-members at risk. I have seen camera people stand on saw horses, the tops of ladders, climb street lamps and stand on the top of cars to get a shot. I have seen members go into dangerous neighborhoods and refuse the advice of security personnel. None of these are acceptable practices. Just as no one would enter a transmitter without lockouts and grounding bars, or work on live electrical wiring, our camera operators and truck personnel should not violate established safety procedures and practices. A shot that is here today and gone tomorrow is not worth injury or death. Think before you act, know the safety procedures and contract provisions and follow them. The rules you break today will affect others tomorrow. Get the story, don't become a story.

We have received some nice thank you notes from long time members who have received service pins or have some news. We love to hear from our retired members and read these notes at our regular union meetings. A recent note from Carl Anderson (WGN Retired) says he keeps in contact with retirees a few days a week via ham radio while filling his other days with golf. He recently spoke with Woody Crane former member and WGN Chief Engineer who is in assisted living in Kansas City. Both are doing fine. To all our retirees who read the newsletter, I hope you are doing well and having fun in your retirement.

On Labor Day, a new statue was unveiled at the corner of Pulaski and Foster Avenue on the city's north side. This statue is of Samuel Gompers, a pioneer in the labor movement and first president of the American Federation of Labor. The unveiling was attended by Ald. Margaret Laurino, 39th, Dennis Gannon, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and Michael Carrigan, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO, who presided at the Labor Day Ceremony. Ald. Laurino was quoted as saying "It is a fitting tribute that we unveil this statue of Samuel Gompers on Labor Day, because on this day, we not only honor the brothers and sisters who keep the spirit of Samuel Gompers alive, we salute all those who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for everyone." You are the very people Ald Laurino was speaking about, keep the spirit of Samuel Gompers alive and follow your contracts. By doing so you help to improve the lives of those who will follow you.

Fraternally Yours,

Alan Skjerkjiewicz, President

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, October 2, 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 SEPTEMBER 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:

Jim Sterne, Editor Info Channel
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

UNION PLUS DISCOUNT AVAILABLE ON AT&T MOBILITY PHONE SERVICE

Union members can receive a special 10% discount on wireless service from AT&T (formerly Cingular), the only wireless company that can, and does, proclaim that it is "Proud to Be Union." The 10% discount is available off the regular monthly rate for any AT&T individual or family plan.

Limited time offer: Through October 31, 2007, union members can also receive a **\$50 in-store savings on new phones** or accessories. Note: The \$50 savings and 10% discount are not available on the iPhone. Take advantage of your AT&T 10% discount today:

[Find an AT&T store location near you here.](#) Note: The union discount is **ONLY available at AT&T stores, NOT available through the phone, at any authorized AT&T dealer or kiosk** to qualified union members. (If you call any AT&T customer service phone number, they cannot apply the discount.) Bring one of the following acceptable forms of union identification to the store: a union membership card OR a Union Plus Credit Card OR proof of payment of union dues.

Go to www.unionplus.org/att-wireless to print your discount coupon.

PRINT COUPON NOW

(You can [download a free copy of the Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to view the PDF here.)

If you have trouble with the coupon download, notify the AT&T store that the **Union Plus AT&T Wireless Discount FAN number is: 00113662.**

Note to current AT&T (formerly Cingular) customers: you will need to renew your contract to be eligible for the discount. However, if you've signed up for the 5% Union Plus discount previously, you will *automatically* receive the 10% discount.

All program plans for new and existing customers require a new two-year contract. This offer cannot be combined with any other discounts. The 10% union discount is not available for extra lines on family plans or on iPhone plans.

Take advantage of the offer made by this Union friendly company.

YOU'NION NEWS

FIRST READINGS

James (Rusty) Bath – Aesthetic Abstractions
Michael Thomas – WTTW
Gerardette Hearne – WGN TV
Kevin Browne – WKCC/WYCC
Alexander Jerri – WYCC

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL

John McInerny – leaving WBBM for mgmt at Big Ten
Karen Roncelli – now Director for Nashville Predators

IBEW BABY BOY:

KELLY DUEWEL (WGN TV) gave birth to baby boy Tyler on 8-17. 9 pounds 6 ounces, 21 inches tall—Baby Tyler was welcomed by his brother Riley, who wanted to know why he wouldn't open his eyes. Congratulations to the family!



OUR SYMPATHY TO:

DEBORAH SEGAL (WBBM) and her family on the loss of her father. We know he will be missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:



EUGENE SAVITT (WBBM Retired) on his nuptials. Gene has been enjoying retirement in Arizona and now has a new bride to share his life.

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.

WORK AVAILABLE AT IBEW IN DC:

A full time position is available in Washington at our International Office for a Final Cut Pro editor. Send your resume to the Broadcast Department or Human Resources.

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.

SUPPORT YOUR UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN:

August 13, 2007

To: All IBEW Local Unions in the United States

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The rising cost of housing, healthcare, utilities and education, coupled with changes in the economy, have left many hardworking individuals struggling to support themselves and their families. In fact, one in three Americans use a credit card to cover basic needs such as rent, utilities and food. Not since 1928 has the income gap in the United States been as large as it is today.

As our nation's individuals and families struggle to make ends meet, it is more critical than ever that we do what we can to help the needy in our community. As more and more of our neighbors become less than one paycheck away from homelessness, it is our opportunity now to make a difference in the lives of people right here at home. By contributing to the annual United Way Campaign, we are helping to fund the vital services necessary to help people get on, and stay on, their feet. Whether it is through financial security, early childhood education, or general health and well being, our contributions go a long way to support the programs that advance the common good for all of us.

On behalf of the IBEW, we proudly endorse and urge you to support the 2007 United Way Campaign. By contributing, as generously as you can, you are investing in your community, in your neighbors and in your country's future.

With best wishes, we are
Fraternally yours,

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-
Treasurer

RETIREES—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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???

INFO@IBEW1220.ORG

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2 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.

PHONE (773) 714-1220

FAX (773) 693-0009

www.ibew1220.org

THE INFO CHANNEL
RADIO + TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS
I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1220
8605 WEST BRYN MAWR #309
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631