

# LOCAL 197 NEWS

Volume 7 Issue 1

July 2005

## July Union Meeting

At the July Union Meeting new officers were sworn in as follows:

Lance M. Reece – Bus. Mgr./F. S.  
Richard L. Veitengruber – President  
Bernie Uszcienski – Vice-President  
G. Frank Kuhns – Recording Secretary  
Terri Spencer – Treasurer

The new Executive Board members are:

Dave Ashenbremer	Keith Ashenbremer
Brian Graves	Larry Mathis
Ken McLean	Mark Schweitzer
Bill Swindle	

The local will be implementing some changes soon. The hall will be open the first Saturday of each month starting in September from 8 am until noon for payment of dues and general conversation only. Anyone interested in the Organizer's position, should send a letter to the hall indicating their interest by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, the local has started working on a Web site, and we will keep you posted as to the progress.

The work outlook is a little better than we expected. Hopefully, the book could start moving late August or early September depending on how quickly things fall into place.

If you have a cell phone number and want to use it as a contact for us to reach you in case of a work opportunity, make sure you put it on your card when you resign or call the number in to the hall.

The SCIT Agreement has been ratified and is on its way to the International for approval.

We have started the negotiation process for the McLean County inside agreement. The current agreement expires November 30, 2005.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Champaign Softball Tournament August 13 & 14<sup>th</sup>

The annual softball tournament is next weekend. Steve Rousey is managing the Local's team. If you need more information, call Steve (530-8029) or the hall.

This team has been winning their Friday night games (2<sup>nd</sup> in league) and would appreciate your support.

### RED CROSS BLOODDRIVE

The building trades summer blooddrive will be Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Laborers' Hall.

Please call the hall to set up an appointment.  
We always need donors!

August 21<sup>st</sup> – McLean County Democratic Dinner. This is on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at the Chateau. Lisa Madigan to be the guest speaker. We will have a limited number of tickets so call if you are interested in attending.

UPCOMING EVENTS (continued on pg 2)

## UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

### Labor Day Activities Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>

Parade starts at 10 am downtown and will end at Miller Park. The theme for the parade is "A Legacy Worth Fighting For".

After the parade, the local will host a "Local Family" cookout providing hot dogs, brats, chips and beverages. Please bring a dish to share. Please let the hall know if you plan to attend so that we can get a count for food.

Hopefully, we will be able to have the horseshoe tournament, volleyball or any other lawn games you wish. We will need some help with the picnic and activities, so call and volunteer to help.

### Local Press Secretary

Mike Raikes has kindly accepted the job of Press Secretary for the local. If you are doing any type of charity work, involvement in drives, etc. let Mike know so he can follow up with you. As he said, he's tired of the Laborers pictures in the paper all the time! Let's give them a run for their money!

### **Light the Night Walk September 17<sup>th</sup>**

We have teamed up with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to raise money for their annual "Light the Night Walk". The walk will take place at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17 at Miller Park.

We are inviting everyone to join in the walk, raise money for a good cause, and build camaraderie within the local. This is a great way for us to give back to the community.

If you would like to join in the walk, call the hall or contact Mike Raikes for more information. If you are unable to walk, please donate an extra couple of dollars. We need your help.

## BNJATC NEWS

Congratulations to Randy Payne who topped out of his commercial apprenticeship in July.

### 2005 New Apprentices

#### COMMERCIAL

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

Brian Boertlien  
Aaron Rickenberg

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

John Alltop  
Tim Kubiak  
Kevin Revels

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Ned Karr  
Robert Sipes

#### RESIDENTIAL

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Brian Burns  
Erik Gallick

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Book Pick up from 3:30 to 5:00 pm in the workshop. If you need amounts, call the JATC office.

**Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** – All School Meeting/5 pm Meet your teachers and the new Business Agent, Lance Reece.

**Thursday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>** – All Classes begin/5:30 to 8:30 pm First Night of School.

The JATC office is working on JW classes for the fall. Call the office with suggestions and check the Web page for information.

[www.bnjatc.org](http://www.bnjatc.org)

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Other Useful Websites for IBEW Members

**H & W Website – [www.neca-ibew.org](http://www.neca-ibew.org)  
Spectera (vision benefits) = [www.spectera.com](http://www.spectera.com)  
IBEW website- [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org)**

DECATUR FUND OFFICE UPDATES WEBSITE - In an effort to make more information available to participants of the Decatur funds, many improvements have been implemented to their web site. Links have been added as follows:

PPO providers, Blue Cross/Blue Shield (medical), Guardian (dental), Spectera (vision) and Medco (pharmacy)

You may also order your prescriptions online instead of using the mail in system.

The participant will be able to log in to the benefits section and have access to claim information, general information, reported hours and pension estimates.

To register, click on the **Benefits Login** tab at the top of [www.neca-ibew.org](http://www.neca-ibew.org)

On the registration page, you will need your BC/BS membership number (9 digit number). If you do not have this, you may use your social security number until you receive your I.D. number. The temporary password is IBEW.

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Then hit “Submit”. You will be asked to enter and confirm a new password before you can access the site.

Under IPAA security, each family member needs to login separately to view their personal information. If you have tried 3 times to login and were unsuccessful, you will need to contact the Fund to have your password reset and try the process again. You can do this by emailing [info@neca-ibew.org](mailto:info@neca-ibew.org).

*The fund will be sending out information to all members regarding these changes.*

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**Golf Outing update** – last Saturday the Local hosted 98 golfers at our annual event. One of the Peoria teams took 1<sup>st</sup> place. Special thanks to Jack Roberts who chairs this event each year and to Ronda Batty and Gary Eichelberger who also helped at the event.