

# LOCAL 197 NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 1

November 2007

## UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

November 9<sup>th</sup> – Poker Night – 6:45 p.m

November 11<sup>th</sup> - Veterans Day This holiday falls on a Sunday this year and is celebrated on that day. (There is no holiday on Friday or Monday.)

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Tues. 10 a.m. Retiree breakfast at CJ's. Don will send out postcard reminders.

November 21<sup>st</sup> – LU 197 Hockey Night  
\$10 a ticket – 7 pm game - call the hall.

November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thanksgiving



November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday, after Thanksgiving

This is a holiday on the inside agreements, residential agreements, Prairie Sign Agreement, and the SCIT Agreement.

November 28<sup>th</sup> – Regular Union Meeting

December 7<sup>th</sup> – Local's Christmas Party  
Invitation is in this newsletter.

December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas



If you have questions about the holidays, call the hall.

## WORK OUTLOOK – Lance Reece

Book I = 3 JW's , 1 RW, 0 SCIT Techs

There are no inside apprentices or residential trainees off at this time. There is 1 SCIT trainee off.

Recent new members include: inside apprentices - Nick Tolbert, Matt Allen, Robert Bourne and Zack Prochnow and residential trainee, Dusty Epperson.

Effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a rate increase for the inside McLean County Agreement; and effective December 1, 2007, there is an increase on the NECA inside agreement. Also, the contribution rate on the Decatur pension increases \$.25 per hour. Rate sheets are available at the hall.

Our local has much to be thankful for this year. We've had adequate work, our finances are continuing to improve, we got the leases signed, we have had the opportunity to start some apprentices, and our work outlook is good.

I would like to thank all of the members who participated in the Labor Day Parade. The turnout was exceptional both for the parade and the picnic afterwards.

A special "Thank You" to Steve Rousey and Beth Sylvester for organizing the picnic and to Zeke Paire, "Clint" and Ann Miller for being the "Chief Cooks and Bottlewashers." Your assistance was greatly appreciated!

(continued on page 2)

(Work Outlook – continued from page 1)

### Monthly Membership Dues

In the past, we have talked about cell phone use, treating your fellow Brothers and Sisters with respect, staying within the “Black & White” of the Agreement, and making the effort to become an active member of the Local.

Now I need to add another request. It is our responsibility, and our obligation, to train our Apprentices as well as we possibly can. I would ask each of you to take the time and effort to share your knowledge and experience with these aspiring Journeymen. Teach them, mentor them, and encourage them. If they do something wrong, correct them, but don’t berate them. In times long gone, most of us had the luxury of having an experienced Journeyman around to fall back on if we were questionable about some facet of work. Unfortunately, the Apprentices of this era, will have to hit the ground running when they “Top Out.” The Apprentices now do not have the five years after their Apprenticeship to fine tune their knowledge. They are going to have to step up immediately and carry the load. When that happens, we should want the self satisfaction of knowing that we had a major part in their success and the reward will be a thriving Local for years to come.

The Fall Board of Trustees meeting for the Health and Welfare and Pension Funds was held the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup>. I am pleased to announce that several benefit enhancements were made. (A partial list is found elsewhere in this newsletter.) Both of the funds are in good shape and improving as time goes on and man hours increase. Please be alert to correspondence from the fund office as detailed information should be on the way.

As always, if you need anything from the “Hall”, please do not hesitate to call. We will make every effort to help you.

Fraternally,  
Lance Reece

There are still 41 members who are in arrears (owing for October through December dues.) Please check your receipts. You may mail in your check for \$80.10 and a receipt will be mailed back to you.

#### JANUARY 1, 2008 – DUES INCREASE

There will be a \$1.00 increase for the IBEW Pension contributions making the new monthly amount \$27.70. Since we pay dues quarterly the rates are as follows:

Jan. – Mar. = \$83.10  
Jan. – June = \$166.20  
Jan – Sept. = \$249.30  
Jan. – Dec. = \$332.40

#### HEALTH & WELFARE IMPROVEMENTS

At the fall Trustees Meeting, many improvements and benefit increases were approved. A letter from the fund should be mailed to members in the near future. Some of the benefits include:

- Weekly Disability Income** – increased
- Lifetime Maximum** – increased to \$2 million
- Prescription Drug Deductible** – reduced from \$100 to \$50
- Dental Benefit** – increased from \$1200 to \$1500
- Vision Benefit** – increased from \$250 to \$300

Most of these increased benefits will be affective January 1, 2008. Other benefits were also approved so be sure to read the letter from the fund.

#### NECA-IBEW Pension Statements

Due to a change in computer systems at the Decatur fund office, the pension statements will not be mailed to members until late in November or possibly not until December.



**Local 197 Christmas Party  
Friday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Party starts at 7 p.m.**

**Local will furnish hors d'oeuvres  
and drinks,  
door prizes and entertainment**

**Please RSVP with the Local  
so we can plan food and refreshments.**

There are 38 members who will receive service pins this year. You may want to check with the office if you are one of these members.



Local's website is updated on a regular basis by Rich.

[www.ibew197.org](http://www.ibew197.org)

You can choose to receive future newsletters online on the website.

**ERTS REMINDER** – If you work out of our Local's jurisdiction, make sure that you are on ERTS so that your benefits will go back to Decatur.

## BNJATC NEWS

We have several new trainees in our programs.

Commercial Apprentices: Ryan Black, Trace Brim, Daryl Erschen, Jeremy Johnson, Cory Leake, Joshua Stanek, Rod Taylor, Brock Werner, Mike Wyatt.

Teledata Trainees: Robert Black, Ryan Brown, John Grizzle and Tony Williams.

If you see these trainees, introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

### UPCOMING APPRENTICE TRAININGS

#### **First Aid/CPR/AED**

Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 am

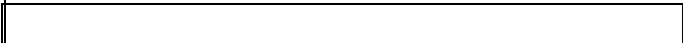
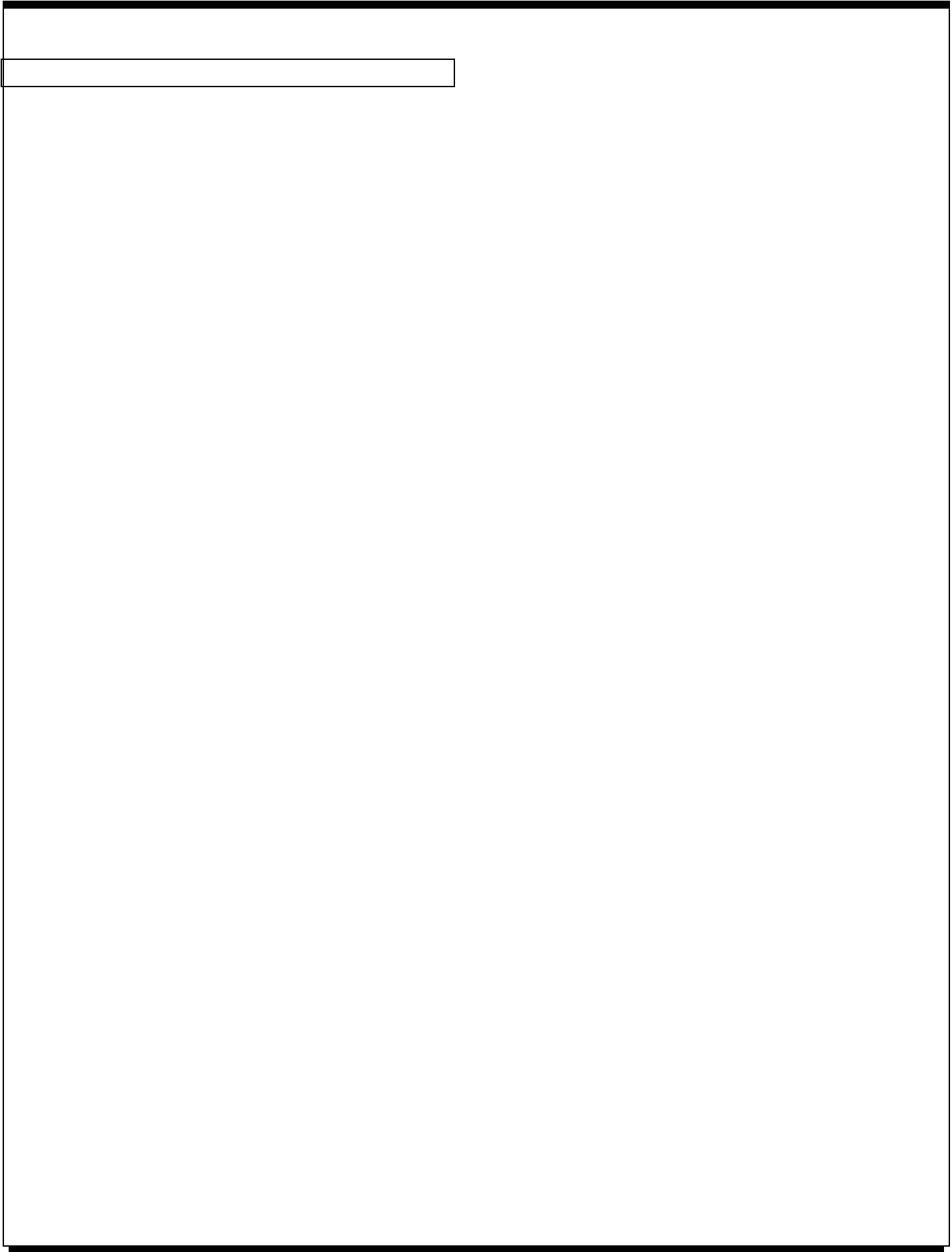
All 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> year apprentices and upgrades

Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 am

All NEW apprentices

**10 Hour OSHA will be in February for all new apprentices. Any journeymen that would like to attend this class should contact the BNJATC office.**

The BNJATC wishes to thank journeyman Zeke Paire for helping the 1<sup>st</sup> year apprentice class with rope tying and Don Armstrong for helping at the Career Expo.





## MORE WAYS TO CUSTOMIZE THIS TEMPLATE

### FOOTERS

To change the text at the very bottom of each page of your newsletter, click Headers and Footers on the View menu. Use the Header and Footer toolbar to open the footer, and replace the sample text with your own text.

### INSERT SYMBOL

It is a good idea to place a small symbol at the end of each article to let the reader know that the article is finished and will not continue onto another page. Position your cursor at the end of the article, click Symbol on the Insert menu, choose the symbol you want, and then click Insert.

### BORDERS

You can use page borders and text box borders to change the appearance of your newsletter. Borders on text boxes help keep different articles separate, and can set off sidebar articles from the rest of the page. To change a text box border, select it, double click its edge and choose the Colors and Lines tab in the Format Auto Shape dialog box.

Return Address  
Street Number and Name  
City, State 98765-4321

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Inserting and Editing Pictures

*Type your sub-heading here*

You can replace the pictures in this template with your company's art. Select the picture you want to replace, point to Picture in the Insert menu, and click From File. Choose a new picture and then click Insert. Select the Link to File box if you don't want to embed the art in the newsletter. This is a good idea if you need to minimize your file size; embedding a picture adds significantly to the size of the file.

To edit a picture, click on it to activate the Picture toolbar. You can use this toolbar to adjust brightness and contrast,

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*Choose a new picture, and click the Link to File box if you don't want to save the art with the newsletter.*

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change line properties and crop the image. For more detailed editing, double-click on the graphic to activate the drawing layer. ■

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