

LOCAL 197 NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 1

April 2009

LAST HARD COPY NEWSLETTER!

This will be the last hard copy newsletter mailed to members. Most members have access to computers so in an effort to save costs and preparation/ mailing time, a monthly newsletter will be available on line but not mailed to member's homes. We still need many of you to respond to the Local's website (ibew197.org) with your email addresses so you are assured of receiving your newsletter.

There will be some copies of the newsletter available each month to pick up at the union office. Retirees who would like to continue to receive a hard copy, please contact the hall.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S MINUTE

At the April Union Meeting, there will be a discussion about some changes which could possibly be made to the Referral Procedure. I would encourage all to attend this meeting and voice their opinion! Understand though, that the responsibility of the Referral Procedure is the Business Manager's. Therefore, this will be an advisory session only and any vote taken will only be a "straw vote".

I do, however, guarantee you that I will listen to each and every one of the members; and if it is an advantage for the members, I will consider incorporating the change into the Referral.

We are only going to talk about two possible changes: Contractor Turn Down and a One Ding System.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and hearing what you have to say!

(continued)

BUSINESS MANAGER'S MINUTE –continued

It appears that this will be a great summer/fall. I know we are all anxious for it to start and I thank the members for their patience.

Please help us to control our Local work. Call the office if you see any contractors that you are not familiar with or have questions about. All out-of-town union contractors are required to check in. We want to know where they are working and how many people they have in our jurisdiction. If they are not union, we need to know where they are working also.

As always, my door is open to help with any of your issues or listen to your concerns so do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Fraternally,
Lance

LOCAL MAINTENANCE NEEDS

We have the following maintenance needs at the hall. The fence around the dumpster needs repair. If you have experience repairing fence and are willing to help with this project, please call the hall.

We also need dirt to fill in around down spouts and various places. If you have access to fill dirt, please call the hall. We also need mulch for the flower beds. Give us a call if you have access and can help with this project.

Thanks to Tom Peasley who recently donated his time doing some maintenance work at the hall.

MEDCO - \$0 Co-Payments

Between April 1st and June 30, 2009, the co-payments for generics drugs will be waived. By now you should have received a brochure from MEDCO with this information. In some cases you can receive refills for up to 1 year with no co-pay. MEDCO can be reached online anytime at medco.com or by calling the toll-free number 1-800-837-0959 shown on your prescription ID card.

Customer Service 1-888-327-9791.

Prescription forms can be mailed or faxed to MEDCO.

INCREASE IN HEALTH & WELFARE

Effective June 1, 2009, there will be a 10¢ increase per hour in the contribution rate. The rate will change from \$5.15 to \$5.25 per hour. For most of our agreements, this dime will be deducted from the member's hourly wage rate. We are preparing the Addendums to the agreements, and we will have the new wage rates sheets as soon as we get them approved.

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

Tues., April 21, Retirees Meeting at the hall 10 am

Wed., April 22, Residential Meeting 5 pm.

Wed., April 22, Union Meeting 6 pm.

Mon., May 25th - Memorial Day – This is an unpaid holiday on most agreements

Mon., June 15th – Peoria Chiefs \$22 ticket includes “all you can eat buffet” Sign up at the hall. Local has 40 tickets.

Sat., July 25th – Local's Golf Outing

CONGRATULATIONS TO RETIREES

60 YEARS – Delmar Beitz
Robert Curran

55 YEARS - Lowell (Tony) Burton
Newton Mikesell

50 YEARS - Michael Kraft
Richard Wey

The above retirees will receive special commemorative certificates and years of service pins from the International. They will be presented at the Retirees' Meeting in April or at the Union Meeting.

Recent retirees include:

Andrew Michael Harris
Greg Zimmerman

REMINDERS – The hall is open the 1st Saturday of each month from 8 am to 12 noon.

Check your dues receipts. Everyone should be paid through June 2009.

Check the Local's website. www.ibew197.org. We have started posting businesses in town which have chosen not to use IBEW contractors for their projects.

Members who are laid off can apply for benefits directly on the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.ides.state.il.us.

KEEP THE LOCAL INFORMED ABOUT ADDRESS CHANGES AND CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS.

CHANGES THAT AFFECT YOUR BENEFITS MUST BE REPORTED ALSO. (Marriages, Divorces, Births, Deaths etc.) We keep beneficiary change cards at the hall.

ERTS REMINDER – If you are working out of our jurisdiction, make sure that you are on ERTS so that your benefits will go back to our home funds.

BNJATC NEWS

NEW JOURNEYMEN WIREMEN

Congratulations to the following members who have completed the requirements of the commercial apprenticeship program to become JW's.

John Alltop - effective 4/22/09
Brandon Baker – effective 4/22/09
Chris Carlson – effective 4/22/09
Travis Dulany – effective 4/22/09
Will Hancock – effective 5/4/09
Steven Johnson – effective 5/4/09
Tim Kubiak – effective 4/22/09
Sam Nichols – effective 4/22/09
Kevin Revels – effective 4/22/09
Craig Riddle – effective 4/22/09
Brian Simmons – effective 4/22/09

Congratulations also to the following residential trainees who have become residential wiremen:

Clint Johnson – effective 4/2/09
Luke Brown – effective 4/30/09

Congratulations to all apprenticeship classes on a job well done on the competition boards this year. Top prize went to the 5th year commercial class. Second place was won by the 3rd year residential class. We wish to thank retirees, Norm Phillips and Dan Uhlir and contractor, John Weber for taking time out of their schedules to judge the competition this year.

On behalf of the BNJATC, I would like to thank all of the instructors and substitutes who have worked so hard this past school year. Your hard work and dedication to the apprenticeship program is greatly appreciated. Also, thanks to the wives and families for giving up time and allowing these instructors to be a part of training the future of our local.

I am looking forward to working with all of you again this fall. Have a great summer.

Construction Career Days is just around the corner. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Renee at the BNJATC office.

UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

A Workshop Instructor is needed for the 2009-2010 school year. Workshops would be 2-3 nights per week and are scheduled from September through April. Anyone interested in this position, should submit a letter to the BNJATC. You may call Jana or Renee for more information on this. 829-9819.

Reneé & Jana

Welcome Spring!

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,

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

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

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
98765

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

