

LOCAL 197 NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 1

July 2006

July Union Meeting

Wednesday, July 19th at 6 p.m.

At the June meeting, the members voted to move the July meeting to the third Wednesday due to a conflict in meeting schedules. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. Contract ideas will be discussed for both of the inside agreements.

EXECUTIVE BOARD VACANCY

We will have a vacancy on the Executive Board starting in August. Please submit a letter if you are interested in this position. The term will be through July 2008.

Please make sure you read Lance's article on last page of this newsletter.

WORK OUTLOOK

Currently, there are 35 journeymen wiremen on Book I. All the commercial apprentices are working. There are 2 residential wiremen on Book II and all trainees are working. There are 2 teledata installers on the book and no trainees.

If you are on Book I, you should sign the out-of-work book in Peoria. They have put some summer help people to work. Peoria has a call in system and a fax resign. Call the hall for more info.

(Employed members - If you are working overtime, encourage your employer to call the hall and get manpower. Some of our people have been on the book for months and are running out of benefits.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Retirees Meeting – July 19th

Newly formed retirees group will be meeting on Wednesday, July 19th at 10 a.m. at the hall.

Golf Outing – July 29th

If you are planning to play, you need to get your team on the list and send in the money. \$60 per player. If you would like to help with this event, call the hall to volunteer.

Horseshoe Night – August 3rd at 5:30 p.m. (see flyer on this event pg. 4. of newsletter)

T-Shirts for Sale at the hall– 2 types available
\$10 each

LOCAL WEBSITE –

Please visit our Website at www.ibew197.org and sign up to receive this newsletter electronically. You will always have the ability to look at back issues, check out events, and contact the Local 24/7 using this site. There are also various links to other areas of interest for members.

We have about 30 members who have taken advantage of the Website to receive their newsletters. Call or email Rich on this.

IBEWHOURPOWER.COM – This is a new promotional website for you to check out.

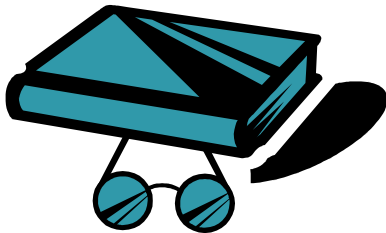
RETIREE NEWS

Local retiree, Charlie Watson, passed away on Saturday, May 27 in Florida.

Retired member, Bob Curran, was seriously injured in a car accident over Memorial Weekend. He is recovering in the McLean County Nursing Home.

Retired contractor, Robert Meade, passed away on June 23rd. Bob was 75 years old and was living at the Heritage Manor Nursing Home at the time of his death.

BNJATC NEWS



BOOK PICKUP – WED. AUG. 23RD.

From 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Book Pick up will be at the main entrance to the training center and union hall.

If you are an apprentice and have not received a letter telling you the cost of your books for next year, call the BNJATC office. You must pay for books at the pickup. (Cash or check only)

Any books left past this date will incur a \$5 per day late charge.

(Continued next column)

Book costs for 2006-07 school year:

1st yr. commercial = \$423.00
Includes Code Book fee

3rd yr. commercial = \$229 - \$327
Range of fees is due to upgrades. Refer to your letter from the BNJATC for your amount.

4th yr. commercial = \$318

3rd yr. residential = \$341 - \$427

****REQUIRED ALL SCHOOL MEETING – Monday, August 28th at 5:00 p.m. in the training center workshop. Mark your calendars!**

Apprentice classes will begin on Thursday, September 7th. All classes are from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

BNJATC office number is 829-9819.

BUSINESS MANAGER COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to express my concern about the state of the Local. In a very short period of time, I have had to contend with several situations which were brought on by our members trying to rewrite our agreement.

Brothers and Sisters, when our members go outside of the black and white of the Agreement, even if at the time it seems harmless, you are turning your backs on all of the hard work and sacrifice the previous generations of Brothers and Sisters had to endure so we could have the conditions we enjoy today. Add to that the fact, if something goes wrong, I have no platform to support you! So I ask you to please **“Stay within the Black and White”** of the Agreement. It will, in the long run, be to your advantage.

Another matter which has come to my attention, concerns a Foreman from one job working on another job. Pursuant to our Local By-Laws, Article V, Sec. 13, and NECA & McCECA Agreements, Article III, Section 3.10, it states that no Foreman on one job shall at the same time perform work on another job. If you let this happen, you are wronging your Brothers and Sisters who are on the Books who are possibly out of Health and Welfare hours, unemployment benefits, or are being hounded by creditors. If you aware of any Foreman working violation, please let me know.

The last item I would like to address is **cell phones**. Cell phones are not on the tool list! We have had complaints from some contractors about the personal use of cell phones on the job and the safety concern it sometimes creates. If you are in an energized panel and at the same time talking on a cell phone, you may not be paying the proper attention to the task at hand. This could result in dire consequences! Also, you are not responsible to supply a method of communication for your employer. That is the responsibility of the contractor. If he wants to be in contact with you, he can supply you with a company radio, cell phone, or any other device he chooses at his expense. Even though it seems to be “easier” with the cell phone to get the work done, the members of the Local have pulled wire, ran jobs, and got the project done without the cell phone for years. There is no clause in the Agreement which permits you to be reimbursed for the use of your cell phone! It’s not in the **“Black and White.”** Basically, it comes down to the fact that if the cell phone is not supplied by the contractor, it shouldn’t be on your side during working hours. Put them in your lunch box, truck or leave them at home.

If you are unsure what the Agreement, By-laws, or Constitution requires, please do not hesitate to call the hall. If you need a copy of any of the documents, let us know and we will arrange to get you a copy.

With your help, we can keep this Local in the **“Black and White”**.

Fraternally yours,
Lance M. Reece

HORSESHOE NIGHT

August 3, 2006



(Members only event)

\$10 event fee

Blind draw for teams

Prize money for top 3 teams

Bring your own food & beverage

Sign up sheet at the hall