Union Meeting

Tuesday, March 8th, 2016

beginning at 6:00PM

The Union meeting is open to ALL members and classifications. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. At the conclusion of the business meeting, sandwiches and beverages are available.

Mark your calendars now to attend the May 10th meeting. Nominations for the Local Union Elections will be held that night along with allocation discussion of the June 1, 2016 wage increase for the Inside Agreement. A formal announcement for nominations will be sent at a later date.

Primary Election

Tuesday, March 15th
6:00am—7:00pm

Early voting is underway now and may be done at your County Clerk’s Office during normal business hours. Additional weekend hours may be available. Simply call the Clerk’s Office to verify.

This is the Primary Election. You may vote on referendums with a non-partisan ballot. Otherwise, voters will be required to declare a party to receive a nomination ballot. Not all candidates have to run in the primary.

The Decatur Trades and Labor Assembly, which represents more than 13,000 union members and retirees in Macon County, has announced their endorsements for the coming election cycle.

The following is their list of endorsed candidates:

- Macon County State’s Attorney—Jay Scott
- Macon County Circuit Clerk—Lois Durbin
- Macon County Recorder—Mary Eaton
- Macon County Auditor—Carol Reed
- Macon County Coroner—Michael Day
- Macon County Board
  - District 1—Rachel Joy
  - District 2—Bill Oliver, Helena Buckner
  - District 3—Bryan Smith, Tim Dudley
  - District 4—Patricia Dawson
  - District 5—Jeffrey Doyle
  - District 7—Marty Watkins

- 6th District Circuit Judge—Tom Little

- United States Senate—Tammy Duckworth
- Illinois Comptroller—Susana Mendoza
- 98th State Representative—Sue Scherer
- 101st State Representative—Christine Law

2016 Holidays

The Union Office, Training Center and Credit Union Office will be closed in observance of the following holidays.

- 5/30 Memorial Day
- 7/4 Independence Day
- 9/5 Labor Day
- 11/24 Thanksgiving Day
- 11/25 Observed Veteran’s Day
- 12/26 Observed Christmas Day
As of this printing we have 126 members on Book I out-of-work register and 8 inside apprentices off. Book 2 has 74 traveling brothers and sisters registered as looking for work.

The January manpower calls were very light with 4 apprentices referred; 2 going to Laibe Electric and 2 to Alltech Electric. Bodine Communications took 1 telecom apprentice.

February manpower calls consisted of 2 long calls to Laibe Electric.

We anticipate the work picture to start picking up in late March or early April.

Bad news continues at Eastern Illinois University with more layoffs planned. The budget stalemate at the State level continues to deprive community colleges and state universities of their needed funding for operations. Please contact your representatives to encourage funding.

Kincaid Power House has a spring outage planned for mid-April lasting 3 to 4 weeks. Very little electrical work is planned and what is planned can be done by in-house electricians.

The new $26 million Taylorville Water Treatment Plant continues to get closer to bidding. The Taylorville City Council recently approved a $33 million debt authorization ordinance which allows them to move forward with a loan agreement and bidding advertisements following a 30-day public comment period. Construction could start as early as October of this year.

A $31 million Millikin University Student Center project recently bid. We are waiting on the bid results.

A pre-job has been scheduled for early April for the Clinton Power Station outage. Details will be made available at that time.

First Tech/Busey Bank recently announced a $3.3 million renovation and expansion at their location on the south side of Decatur’s Central Park. This project should be done union. We are awaiting the announcement of which contractor will be awarded the project.

For those members looking for work, it appears there will several opportunities in the coming days/weeks for work in the following jurisdictions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Evansville, IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Rock Island, IL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>176</td>
<td>Joliet, IL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>347</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>649</td>
<td>Alton, IL</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1701</td>
<td>Owensboro, KY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>153</td>
<td>South Bend, IN</td>
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<tr>
<td>305</td>
<td>Fort Wayne, IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>369</td>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>816</td>
<td>Paducah, KY</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Remember you need to have a paid-up dues receipt with you at all times when traveling to sign books or work. The further in advance you are paid, the better it is for you. Also, when working and staying away from your primary residence, we can mail the receipt to you if you provide a note with the mailing address with your payment. Some locals, such as Local 176 (Joliet), require a “good guy” letter from the union office when signing their books. Give us a call here at the office before you take that road trip and we can have your letter(s) ready.

A tip of the ol’ hat to you,

Ron Cummings
Assistant Business Manager/Dispatcher
Hello brothers and sisters. Unfortunately work has slowed and there hasn’t been a lot of good news to report over the last couple of months. Hopefully as we move into Spring things will begin to break loose and we can get more people to work.

Cronus Update:

There are a lot of rumors out there about the future of the Cronus project. I recently was able to meet with the Director of Construction and the Construction Manager for Cronus Chemicals in hopes of getting some accurate information on the project. They have assured me that the project is still moving forward and will start this year.

Here is what I know about the status of the project according to the Cronus Representatives I met with:

» All EPA Permits have been secured.
» All land agreements are in place.
» The water agreement is in place with Urbana Sanitary District. Construction on the water pipeline is scheduled to start simultaneously with the start of construction at the plant site.
» Funding was secured at the end of January.
» KBR has signed on as the General Contractor. All sub-contractors will be hired by them, not Cronus. They have indicated that they will likely use two electrical contractors.
» The substation closest to the site has enough power for the construction of the plant; a new substation will be built to run the plant; the substation work is not likely to start until the project is underway.
» It looks like the road construction around the plant will be ongoing while the project is underway.
» They indicated that the project is likely to start this summer. There will be two or three months of site work before any duct banks will be started and electrical manpower starts to ramp up.
» Manpower for electricians is expected to peak at 400, probably across two shifts.

Here is what I don’t know:

• I don’t have a definite start date.
• I do not know who the electrical contractors are going to be.

Hopefully there will be some more information forthcoming over the next couple of months. Again, this information is what was given to me by Cronus Representatives. I know it is disappointing that the project hasn’t started yet, but it does continue to move forward and has not been scrapped or put on hold.

I wish there was something positive to report about the state budget, but unfortunately there has been no change in the ongoing budget battle. Governor Rauner continues to hold universities, state services, and social programs hostage in his efforts to lower wages and strip collective bargaining rights away from workers. Rauner is hiding language in nearly every bill or proposal that is linked to eliminating prevailing wage or limiting the right of workers to collectively bargain. Thankfully the Democrats in the State Legislature continue to stand solid with organized labor. However, they do not have enough votes to override the vetoes of the Governor because of one Democrat, Rep. Dunkin, that is siding with Rauner and being funded by him. This is why elections matter and it is important to vote for labor-friendly candidates.

By action of the Executive Board at the February 2016 meeting, IBEW Local 146 will have their own RENEW Committee. RENEW stands for Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers. RENEW is an IBEW-wide initiative dedicated to creating opportunities for members 35 years and younger and helping them develop the skills necessary to become active in the local union and play a role in shaping its future. If you would be interested in joining, contact Justin Martin at 619-6097 or Kaleb Swarts at 620-9897.

As we roll into the Spring, it also becomes time for another round of conferences and meetings. The Spring travel season starts with the IBEW State Conference in March in Springfield. This will be followed by the Annual Construction Conference in Washington, DC in mid-April and the Spring Health & Welfare and Pension Trustees meetings in late April. The 6th District Progress meeting has been scheduled for early May.

I will keep you updated on the results of each conference as they become available.

In Brotherhood,

Josh Sapp
Instrumentation/EPRI Part A Certification Exam — Planning and scheduling for the EPRI Part A Instrumentation Certification Exam is underway for late April of 2016. To take the exam, completion of the Instrumentation course is required. Please consider taking the exam if your certification is about to expire, has expired, or if you did not pass the exam from a previous attempt.

Please call the Training Center at 217-875-3041 if you want to take the exam.

Graduation — The membership is invited to attend the 2016 Graduation Banquet on Saturday, May 14, 2016 to honor 13 Apprentice Inside Wireman Graduates and 4 Apprentice Telecommunications Installer Technician Graduates for their accomplishment of successfully completing Apprenticeship Training. We will be honoring: Justin Baker, Ben Davis, Ryan Kneller, Brandon McCormick, Justin Moma, Justin Probst, Andrew Rempe, Sam Richardson, Heath Righter, Austin Schultz, Marc Stuart, Clayton Walter, Brandon Weiss, Alex Galvan, Nathan Hilligoss, Bryan Newhouse, and Derek Rodman. The banquet will be held at the Mt. Zion Convention Center in Ballroom A. The evening will begin with Cocktails and Hors D’oeuvres served from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm with dinner and commencement following. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Hawthorn Suites for $92.00 per night with shuttle service available all evening. Please reserve a room by April 14 under the block name Midstate Electrical Training Center. Tickets for the banquet can be purchased from the Training Center for $35.00 each starting April 1 and are available until May 6. Everyone is encouraged to save the date and plan to attend the banquet. Our graduating Apprentices have worked hard and accomplished much. The banquet is a great opportunity for all of us to celebrate with them as they step forward as Journeymen in our Union Electrical Construction Industry.

Indentured/Employed/Unemployed Apprentices — At the time of this report, the number of indentured Apprentice Inside Wiremen in training is 62: (14) 1st year, (13) 2nd year, (8) 3rd year, (14) 4th year, and (13) 5th year. The number of indentured Apprentice VDV Installer Technicians in training is 5: (1) 2nd year and (4) 3rd year. 8 Inside Apprentice Wiremen are unemployed.

Jason L. Drake – Training Director
I hope this newsletter finds everyone feeling great and excited for the warmer days to come!

I would like to thank all those individuals who sacrificed their time to come out and be a part of our IBEW Local 146 commercial. It was very refreshing to see the number of journeyman, apprentices, contractors and instructors that stepped up and turned out to help make this commercial great. This commercial is going to help showcase the values and principles we, as the IBEW, possess and bring to the job every single day. These attributes not only come from our second to none training but also our involvement and commitment to our communities. We should be receiving the finished product around the beginning of March.

In the next several days/weeks we are going to be looking for volunteers to help out with electrical work at the Habitat for Humanity project in Decatur. No tentative dates have been set yet, but if you are available or would like to help in some fashion please let us know by calling the Union Office or me at 217-619-6097.

Recently Organizers from Illinois and across the 6th District were asked to participate in an organizing blitz in Columbus, IN for a manufacturing plant named Faurecia. This company currently manufactures parts for the automotive industry. Since this plant is in “Right to Work” Indiana, there is no union security clause in the collective bargaining agreement. Union security clauses are very important since they require employees to become members of the local union after their probationary period in order to benefit from the union bargaining on the employee’s behalf. Without a union security clause, only 350 of the potential 870 employees of this plant were members of the IBEW. Because of the lack of solidarity within the plant and less than half of the work force being union members, the card carrying employees at the factory knew it was going to be hard to negotiate a favorable contract. At the conclusion of our three day window, the IBEW had already signed up 42 new members and those numbers were still looking to climb over the next few weeks. The local was very grateful for all the people who turned out to help with the organizing blitz. The membership increase is very important from a solidarity stance as the Local expects the plant to go after the workers overtime compensation once again in the upcoming contract negotiations. A big thanks to Brother Kurt Slayback and Brother Kyle Slayback for giving up their time and helping on this organizing endeavor.

With all of this being said, it is important we continue to stick together and fight Rauner’s turn around agenda! This is what he wants to do to us in Illinois, making us the next Wisconsin and Indiana. As the propaganda wars start on TV and radio, pay attention to the credits at the end of these commercials. A lot of these ads are sponsored by Rauner’s people called the Liberty Principles Fund. Please keep in mind when you hear these ads it is Rauner’s big business propaganda machine trying to drive a wedge between labor and everyone else. They want to divide us so collective bargaining will be a thing of the past and drive the middle class down. This is the most important time in our state’s history for the middle class to try to stay the middle class. If we lose the right to collective bargain within the state or even worse if a national right to work law would ever be put in place, we will all be sharecroppers in King Rauner’s court begging for our daily rations.

As always please continue to let us know of upcoming or rumored projects.

In Solidarity,

Justin M. Martin
The Importance of Maintaining Documents

While so much information is maintained electronically, there is an ever increasing need to maintain paper documents. A good filing system is very important, or at least a localized area in which important documents are stored. Vehicle titles, birth certificates, marriage licenses and divorce decrees should probably be stored in a fire-retardant box or bank safe deposit box.

Some documents that are important to this trade include:

1. **Check stubs.** You should maintain all check stubs at least until you have received the W-2 from that employer and you have verified the check stub total with the W-2. In the absence of an employer prepared W-2, you may create your own W-2 from your check stubs in order to file your income taxes. Checks stubs also provide proof of working dues/assessments paid by you. Check stubs are important when checking on health & welfare or pension payments. Errors in employer reporting can be easily corrected when you have the check stubs.

2. **Monthly Union Dues Receipt.** When itemizing deductions on your income taxes, monthly union dues and working assessments may be deducted as “other expenses”. The yellow dues receipts become proof of payment, along with your check stubs showing the working dues deduction. In the event of an IRS audit, *nothing beats the actual documents.*

3. **Travel Receipts/Mileage Log.** If you incur expenses not covered or reimbursed by your employer for travel for work or looking for work, they may be deductible on your income taxes. Hotel/motel or rent receipts should be maintained and kept with your taxes. A year long mileage log is very helpful. You should have received a 2016 Pocket Calendar in an earlier newsletter. Put it in your primary work vehicle and log your mileage. Descriptions of where you traveled and why are helpful later on. Tax returns in which these expenses are itemized are more likely to be audited by the IRS years down the road. Re-creating logs and receipts can be difficult and time consuming. *Simply keep the originals.* We have a small supply of the calendars on hand should you need another.

4. **Birth Certificate, Social Security card, Marriage license, Divorce Decree.** As mentioned above, all of these documents should be stored in a fire-retardant box or bank safe deposit box. You should be able to replace these documents by contacting the county in which the birth, marriage or divorce took place or the Social Security office, but not always. Storage for even the keeper of the documents can be a problem; floods, fires, mold, or simply lost among the millions of pages stored. If you don’t have copies, you should. All of these documents will be needed to file for pension benefits at retirement. Once you have your certified copies from the County Clerk’s office, check them for accuracy. Is your name spelled correctly and are all the dates correct. In the case of a divorce, make sure the document has been signed by a judge and that it is the complete document which includes the settlement agreement.

A little attention to these documents and proper storage now will save a lot of headache later.

When buying a car, van, SUV or truck, you want to know if it’s union-made. The United Auto Workers make it easy to find out with this one-click website!

http://uaw.org/uaw-made-car/

_ABC News_ reports on a house built with 100% American-made products — right down to the nails. The All American Home with David Muir is being featured at unionist.com
Union Meeting Announcements - December, January, February

**Proposition for Membership:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Ben Henderson (CE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cory Meyer (CW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zach Wrigley (CW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scott Darnell (CW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Terry Norman (BMS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zachary Lingafelter (BMS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>None</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Proposition for Membership:**

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<td>Terry Norman (BMS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>None</td>
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**Accidents/Illness/Births/Sympathies:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>Mike Fowler had surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>Norm Huff had surgery and is doing well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/9</td>
<td>Jim Daughtery Sr had a serious bicycle accident with extensive injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Rick Long has a new grandson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>Ben Davis family has a new baby girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John James undergoing shoulder therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>Levi Nadler family has a new baby boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>Bill Singleton’s daughter, Melody, passed away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luke Nohren’s parents passed away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>David Banning’s mother-in-law passed away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>Kent Reeser’s mother-in-law passed away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>Kevin Rhodes had surgery and hospitalized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>Jim Mandrell had surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>Susan Varvel has a new granddaughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>David Huff had surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>Shawn Whetsell had pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/6/16</td>
<td>Chris Propst’s mother passed away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>Doug Wall had surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>Phil Carter’s wife, Gary Carter’s mother, passed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Memoriam:**

Former member, Wendell Figgins passed away on December 22, 2015 at the age of 63.

Retired member, Stephen R. Buchanan passed away January 23, 2016 at the age of 67. He was a 45 year member of the IBEW.

**Door Prize 50/50 Credit Union**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Door Prize</th>
<th>50/50</th>
<th>Credit Union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Scott Darnell</td>
<td>no drawing</td>
<td>Marc Stuart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Jim Clark</td>
<td>Wayne Tipsword</td>
<td>Rolled over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Brett McVey</td>
<td>Steve Tilford</td>
<td>Rolled over</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The March Apprentice Credit Union drawing will be for $60. You must be present to win!

Local 146 has a total membership of 634. 57 members attended the December meeting, 44 members attended the January and February meetings.
The keys were found in the circle drive at the front door of the Union Hall. Call the Union Office to identify 217-877-4604

DO NOT PATRONIZE

Building Systems is or has been the general contractor on the following projects. Building Systems is not supportive of union electrical contractors.

Ashley Furniture—used an out-of-town non-union electrical contractor. This project included taxpayer supported tax incentives.
Krekels West on Oakland Street—Assistant Business Manager Ron Cummings spoke directly to the owner with no help.
New strip mall east side Route 51 in Forsyth which includes Sport Cuts and Penn Station Subs

On this date:


February 18th—One of the first American labor newspapers, The Man, is published in New York City. It cost 1 cent — 1834

Faced with 84-hour workweeks, 24 hour shifts and pay of 29¢ an hour, fire fighters form the International Association of Fire Fighters—1918

February 19th—The U.S. Supreme Court decides in favor of a sales clerk Leura Collins and her union, the Retail Clerks, in NLRB v J. Weingarten Inc.—the case establishing that workers have a right to request the presence of their union steward if they believe they are to be disciplined for a workplace infraction — 1975

February 20th—Rally for unemployed becomes major confrontation in Philadelphia, 18 arrested for demanding jobs — 1908

February 21st—A state law in California providing the 8-hour day for most workers, but it was not effectively enforced — 1868

March 1st — The Granite Cutters National Union begins what is to be a successful nationwide strike for the 8-hour day. Also won union recognition, wage increases, a grievance procedure and a minimum wage scale — 1900

After 5 years of labor by 21,000 workers, 112 of whom were killed on the job, the Hoover Dam (Boulder Dam) is completed and turned over to the government. — 1936

The federal minimum wage increases to $1.00 per hour — 1956

March 4th — In his inaugural address, President Thomas Jefferson declares: “Take not from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned.” — 1801