



The 146 LETTER



IBEW Local #146

3390 N. Woodford St.

Decatur, IL 62526

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John Taylor, Recruiter

January 2009

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Union Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th, 2009
starting at 6:00 p.m.

Due to scheduling conflicts Business Manager Dunn and Assistant Business Manager Etchason will not be in attendance at this month's meeting. Assistant Business Manager/Recruiter John Taylor will be making their reports.

This is a great opportunity to get the facts, not rumors! It is also an excellent time to meet members you may not have worked with.

MONTHLY DUES INCREASE

All monthly dues payments covering January 2009 and beyond increase by \$1.00 per month.

Please remember, we do NOT accept debit or credit cards. Cash, check, money order, credit union deduction or employer deduction are all acceptable ways to make a payment. A check for the payment of dues may be sent via US Mail. Any check received through the mail is generally processed the same day it is received and the receipt is mailed to you.

While we have several convenient ways in which to pay your union dues, it is still ultimately your responsibility to see to it that your dues are current and paid at the correct rate. Should you have any questions on your status, do not hesitate to contact the Union office.

TRAINING NEWS. . .

By Steve Wrigley, Director

With the down turn of work in the area we currently have 8 apprentices not working— (4) 1st Years, (3) 2nd Years, (1) 3rd Year and all 3 pre-apprentices. We have one 1st Year working in Local 193 (Springfield).

A "Significant Change" to the 2008 National Electrical Code class is being organized at this time. If you would be interested in setting in please call the JATC office 217-875-3041 to register. This is a fast class that will be completed in 2 evenings set for Wednesday, January 21 and Thursday, January 22 from 5:30 to 9:30 pm each evening. This class would be a benefit to *all* journeymen.

We would like to have a 10/30 Hour OSHA class if there is enough interest. Please call to have your name added to the list.

Classes are easier to take in the winter months so please consider signing up for a class. Just let us know what you are interested in!

Classes are progressing satisfactorily including the start of the second half welding classes starting Saturday, January 17th and continuing through March 7th, 2009. All apprentices are in the process of re-certifying for CPR/First Aid and all should be completed by the end of January.

This year's Apprentice Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 17th, 2008. We would like to thank Local #146 for their contributions to the event and thanks to all who helped in the planning, set-up and clean-up.

Macon County Electronics Recycling

BLH Computers (2350 E. Logan St., Decatur), in cooperation with Macon County Solid Waste Management Department, has established an electronics recycling program for consumers and businesses to conveniently recycle unwanted computers, televisions and equipment from any manufacturer without adding to landfills.

All electronic equipment can be dropped at BLH Computers to be recycled through a process designed to maximize product re-use and material recovery. Absolutely none of the components will be sent overseas and confidentiality will be a top priority. Personal information will in no way be compromised.

The program is free to all Macon County residents and businesses. BLH Computers Inc. may be contacted at:

2350 E. Logan Street
Decatur, IL 62523

www.blhcomputers.com
424-4040 or 800-416-5292

Report on Family Christmas Party

The 2008 IBEW Local #146 Family Christmas Party was held on Sunday, December 14th from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Mt. Zion High School gymnasium. Members, staff and families of this local made this fine event possible. *A very special thank you* goes out to the Christmas Party Committee for giving the local a priceless Christmas gift. . . their time and talents. Members of the Committee include:

Apprentices: Mr. & Mrs. Luke Nohren, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Kersey, Bill Fitzpatrick and Ed Lozano

JW: Lynn Richards, Mike Shew & family, Josh & Mary Sapp, Jim Mandrell & daughter, Donna Edwards & family, Susan Varvel & Kevin, Earl Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Keylan Lippert, Jamie Chitwood, Jason Drake & Rachelle.

Thank you to Shad, Candy, Pat, Kara and Kris for help, support and fund distributions for expenses.

Thank you to the Local for approving funds for the party.

Thank you to Soy City Electric, Springfield Electric, Kirby Risk, S. J. Smith, NECA, Cavanagh & O'Hara, Nadler Electrical Contracting, Mike Mandrell State Farm and Cromwell Radio Group for donations.

Thank you to Gary Bradley, Principal of Mt. Zion High School, for making sure Santa was present.

311 people attended with 142 children receiving a \$25 gift card from Santa, 26 spouses received a \$20 or \$25 gift card, 56 members received gifts ranging from \$10 to \$500.

Congratulations to the big winners:
Kevin Kersey—\$500 CASH
Jim McKee Sr— \$350 CASH
Brett Kunzman—\$250 CASH
Patrick Turner—\$250 Circuit City card

John Koehler—\$250 Best Buy card
Jay Dunn—\$250 Kroger card

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the food, gifts, decorations and festivities.

In Brotherhood,

Jason Drake, Chairman
Christmas Committee

THE ASSISTANT'S REPORT

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and the New Year finds you well.

Work in our area continues to be very slow. Current out of work numbers are as follows:

Book I— 71 Book II— 180
Apprentices—9

Local contractors indicate work is still slow for them with limited projects available for bidding. I do expect a call for work on the new stack at Coffeen Power Station in the next several weeks. Fuellgraph Chimney & Tower has this project and we should be meeting for a pre-job soon.

December was a busy month for meetings and events. Following is a summary of those events:

- Decatur Building & Construction Trades Council
- Lincoln Land Building & Trades
- Decatur Housing Authority
- Decatur YMCA
- Exelon Western IL Powerhouse Area Committee
- Assisted A.B.M. Taylor with presenting a participation agreement to EIU
- Union and E-Board meetings
- Presented union's case against delinquent death assessment participants at Trial Board
- Attended Local 146 Family Christmas Party
- Coffeen Power Station job progress meeting and site visit
- JATC Christmas party

I have been appointed to the City of Decatur Electrical Commission and will begin attending those meetings.

Negotiations for a modified Sign Shop Agreement will be starting this month. The bargaining unit has met to prioritize items for negotiation.

With the recent downturn in work I have been assisting members with fax and email resigns. Please remember if you need assistance give us a call or stop by, we will be more than glad to help. At this time work through out the state continues to be slow. If I have any tips on work I will be sure to get them on the job line (1800WORK146) and on the website www.ibew146.com, so continue to check those for the latest information.

We continue to be optimistic that President Obama's administration will enact a stimulus package that could include the FutureGen project in Mattoon. We will continue to watch for details.

To our knowledge there has not been any change in the status with Secure Energy other than knowing the gasifiers have been constructed and are being shipped. All news accounts of this project are positive.

The General Assembly passed SB1987 that will allow Taylorville Energy Center to move forward and the bill awaits the governor's signature. My understanding is this legislation enables the project to enter into a one year study with the results to be reported to the legislature for further action. I will continue to monitor the project and any activity in Springfield.

In Brotherhood,

Shad Etchason

From the South . . .

By John Taylor,
Assistant Business Manager/Recruiter
Job site visits:

•EIU Electric Shop

for a meeting with EIU Labor Relations representatives concerning the Public Employer Participation Agreement. Asst. B.M. Etchason and myself are working towards getting this agreement in place before the end of this school year when the summer projects begin and EIU hires Local 146 electricians on temporary status.

•Green Mill Restaurant & Motel in Arthur

dirt work has started. Working on establishing who the general contractor and subs are on the project. Very little information has been forth coming. We will continue to track this project.

•Coffeen Power Station

where I attended a job site meeting with Bus. Mgr. Dunn and Asst. B.M. Etchason. The visit included a tour of the ongoing scrubber project, a meeting with Sachs Electric supervision and visits with our members onsite.

•Decatur Park District Maintenance Bldg.

in the former Tallman Cadillac building where non-signatory contractor, Mid-West Electric of Mt. Zion, is performing work. Local 146 will be filing a prevailing wage complaint in the near future on the project.

•Mid-West Electric Office/Shop

where I met with Bill Eades, owner. This meeting was part of our ongoing efforts to bring Mid-West Electric under the IBEW banner.

•Christian County Animal Control

Facility was awarded to our signatory contractor, Star Electric of Taylorville,

•Coles County Airport

visited our contractor, JH Moore regarding their portion of this entire project.

•Mattoon/Charleston Medical Clinic is being done by Commercial Electric

•Effingham McDonald's

will be a demo and build new building. I have been working with the owner in an effort to encourage the use of union contractors. Many of our contractors have contacted the owner and requested to be able to bid the project. I would also like our members in the area to call the owner; Mr. Blake Lenders of Altamont at 342-4876 to express your concerns about the project and the use of a signatory contractor.

Recently filed a prevailing wage complaint against Sun Air Systems on a solar project at Lovington Schools. The Illinois Department of Labor was able to collect back pay and a fine for similar work at Neoga Schools. IDOL also settled and collected \$800 in back pay in a case against the Stew-Stras School District and the installation of a digital sign.

Continue ongoing conversations with the owner/developer of the Old Sheraton Inn on South Rt. 45 in Mattoon. The site is to be remodeled including an addition. Early contacts have been positive. I will follow this project closely.

I attended last month's union meeting and executive board meeting giving a report at each.

I would like to express my gratitude for our membership and many electrical contractors who are always willing to share vital information with this office. It takes a combined effort to successfully

combat the non-signatory sector. Only by being a united front can Local 146 be the leader in electrical construction work.

It is *so wonderful!!!* to be over the past kidney stone episode and back up to speed. If I can answer any questions or be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Union Plus Scholarship Program

Open to members of AFL-CIO affiliated unions and their dependents. The application may be accessed online at

www.unionplus.org

The application is a 6 page document and requires verification of affiliation from one of your local union officials. Deadline for filing applications is 1/31/2009.

Local 146 members have been recipients of past awards.

The Corner Office

By: Jay A. Dunn,
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary



As we have come to the close of one year and the start of another, it has become a custom to look back at the previous year and assess what changes need to be made for the coming year. According to statistics, one thing most of us do not do enough of is *save money*. Not just a few pennies here or there by using coupons or store brand products, they are talking about real savings for rainy day funds, retirement, etc. Did you save anything in 2008 on a regular basis? Do you participate in the 401(K) Plan? While being members of a collective bargaining

unit, we have excellent retirement benefits going for us. However, how about covering the cost of your health care during retirement. Retirees in the NECA-IBEW Welfare Trust Fund currently pay:

Age 55 - 62	\$792/month
Age 62 - 65	\$594/month
Age 65+	\$514.80/month

and these rates will increase June 1, 2009 to:

Age 55 - 62	\$808/month
Age 62 - 65	\$606/month
Age 65+	\$525.20/month

and again on June 1, 2010 to:

Age 55 - 62	\$824/month
Age 62-65	\$618/month
Age 65+	\$535.60/month

Why not have money in a 401(K) that can be rolled into an annuity to cover this monthly expense. Advisors are saying now is an excellent time to get into some markets while the prices are low. Many of us have taken a hit on the "value" of our investments but isn't 60% - 70% value of an investment better than no investment at all.

The 401(K) Trustees recently held their annual meeting where it was reported that the Lincoln Financial Group Asset Management charge for all accounts will be reduced from .72% to .42% effective January 1, 2009 and the annual participant fee of \$30 will remain. Participants will also see their portion of the annual audit expense of \$7200 charged to their accounts in the 4th Quarter 2008. Expenses incurred by the Plan are divided equally among participants regardless of balance. Therefore, the more participants, the smaller each portion is. The annual premium for the Fiduciary Liability Insurance (\$3066) will be charged during 1st Quarter 2009.

The IRS has set the following limits for deferral into the 401(K) fund for 2009:

Maximum contribution \$16,500
 Age 50+ Catch-up limit \$ 5,500
 Highly compensated individuals are defined as those earning over \$105,000 in 2008 and would be limited on 2009 contributions to an amount equal to the plan average.

Stop by the Union Office for a 401(K) enrollment packet.

Meetings attended:
 DBCTC, Civic Center Board, Union meeting, E-Board, Coffeen Power House, Sign Shop Bargaining Unit, Chamber Group, Tony Romano

Correct Address/Phone Number?

Every month this office receives mail returned for incorrect addresses. The Postal Service has begun charging us first class rates for these returned letters.

According to the IBEW Local #146 Bylaws, Article XIV, Section 5 "Each member shall keep the Financial Secretary informed of their correct address. . ." Please keep the office informed of a current address and phone number at all times.

BUY GREEN COOP

Buy Green Coop is a not-for-profit organization in Decatur formed for the purpose of providing its members access to earth friendly products that may not be readily available locally.

Membership fees are \$20/household per year. Products available include: paper products, cleaning products and biodegradable plates, cups, & coffee. Products will be available to order and pick up on a monthly basis. Further details about ordering, etc will be made available upon receipt of your membership. Contact: Rita Schwake at

swakrita@aol.com or Carol Cox at decaturox@hotmail.com

Copies of the registration and order form can be obtained at the Union Office.

Union Meeting Announcements

December 2008 Union Meeting
Accidents/Sickness/Deaths/Births
 Bill Singleton's brother passed 11/12
 Joe Koehler's wife had surgery 12/1
 John Taylor was in an auto accident 12/5
 Tom Kelly's father passed 11/29

In Memoriam

Let us take a moment to remember the members lost during 2008. We once again offer our condolences to the families and friends of these brothers.

5/11/08	Paul Daley	90
6/20/08	Lawrence Peel	94
7/23/08	Dave Wolfe	47
8/6/08	Dave Sherer	64
9/25/08	Gerald Hyland	76
10/13/08	Larry Allen	69
11/6/08	Mike Hamm	55

Alva Stafford passed away on December 1, 2008. Brother Stafford was 87 years old and a 46 year member of the IBEW.

Paul Berroyer passed away on December 22, 2008. Brother Berroyer was 92 years old and a 66 year member of the IBEW.

The average age was 74.89 with an average IBEW membership of 45.89 years. The IBEW was strengthened by their contributions. May God bless them all.

Credit Union NEWS

Effective Monday, December 15th, 2008 the Credit Union will be open one more day per week—Mondays.

This makes hours of operation
 NOON to 5:00 pm

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Friday

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