



# The 146 LETTER



IBEW Local #146

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March 2009

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## Union Meeting

**Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 starting at 6:00 p.m.** Get the facts, not the rumors! Attend your Union meeting. Reports are given by all business reps making this a perfect time to ask questions.

In 2008, union members represented 12.4 percent of employed workers, up from 12.1 percent a year earlier, according to a report from Bureau of Labor Statistics. Until last year, union membership had generally been in a slow and steady decline since the 1950s. Last year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the rate of union membership rose 0.1 percent, but economists said the increase was small enough that it was not statistically significant. This year's increase is statistically significant. The number of workers belonging to a union rose 428,000 to 16.1 million, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Meanwhile, the total employment figure has dropped from 129.8 million to 129.4 million. "Part of what I think is happening is that the economy is shrinking but union jobs are not being shed because they have union contracts," said Jim Walker, an economists with the Bureau of Labor Statistics who worked on the new figures.

Taken from *The Washington Post*; Peter Whoriskey, Staff Writer, January 28, 2009

## TRAINING NEWS. . .

By Steve Wrigley, Director

Work continues to be slow for our apprentices. We have 6 inside apprentices not working; 3 First Years, 2 Second Years and 1 Third Year. Local 649 (Alton) has graciously offered employment to 1 First Year and 1 Second Year. We have 2 Tele-Data apprentices off and no pre-apprentices working.

A "Significant Change" to the 2008 National Electrical Code class was recently presented in Mattoon with Matt Frederick as the instructor.

John Koehler will be presenting an OSHA 10 Hour class on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and then continuing on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> for those interested in the OSHA 30 Hour. *Be reminded that anyone referred to Sachs Electric at the Coffeen Power Station must have the OSHA 10 card.*

The JATC conducted random drug testing on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> with no issues.

Aptitude testing for the current group of applicants will take place on March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will be at a later date for those applicants with sufficient scores.

The JAT Committee and our Fourth Year instructor have agreed to assist Local 538 (Danville) with continuing training for 2 of their 4<sup>th</sup> Year apprentices who may be able to work in Local 649.

This office participated in the Boy Scout Merit badge seminar at the Caterpillar Tractor Company on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. A special thank you goes out to Tim Gosnell and Dave Ward (both former scouts) for spending the whole day with me. Fourteen scouts received a merit badge in "Electricity".

Applications are coming in for the training directors position as I will be leaving the office on December 31, 2009.

## Correct Address and Phone Number?

Every month this office receives mail returned for incorrect addresses or temporary holds. The Postal Service now charges 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. If you know you are going to be away and have taken the time to notify the post office, please notify this office. We can enter your temporary address so you continue to receive newsletters and all correspondence from this office.

We cannot keep you informed if we cannot reach you.

# The Assistant's Report

By: Josh Sapp

Hello everyone. I would like to thank Business Manager Dunn for the opportunity to serve and represent Local 146 and its members. For those of you who are not familiar with me, I encourage you to stop by the office or give me a call (855-6738) so we can become acquainted. I have an open door policy and would appreciate input from every member. We face many challenges, and it will take all of us working together to ensure the continued success of our union.

Pat and Candy also deserve thanks for helping me learn the day-to-day operations of the office. They truly keep the office running, and everyone should appreciate their effort. I have spent a lot of time with Shad and John learning the system and the ins and outs of everyday problems. The workload can be a bit overwhelming at times, and they deserve credit for the time and effort put into the job. Hopefully, my addition will lighten their load and keep things running smoothly.

I spent the last week of January at Organizer's Boot Camp in Madison, Wisconsin. This is a very good workshop put on by the University of Wisconsin and the International. The main focus of the camp was top down organizing. I have started a database of all the non-union contractors in our local. This database will give us a way to track our contacts with the contractors and evaluate how the organizing effort is going. Hopefully, I will be able to post our face book page sometime this month. This will give us a chance to let the community know about the positive activities we are

involved in, with little or no cost. In addition to face book, I will be looking at other ways to use the internet to promote ourselves.

Over the past month I have been busy filling manpower calls, talking with our members and several travelers and communicating with contractors from inside and outside our jurisdiction. I have had discussions with ADM personnel and business representatives of other local unions who work with ADM about the proposed cut in contractor costs. No action has been taken by ADM to date.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members who took a layoff rather than furlough in order to man the work at Coffeen Power Station. Sachs management has conveyed their thanks for the quality manpower they are receiving. I also urge you to honor the Red Light/Green Light lists, remember to pay your dues and death assessments on time, and I hope to see you at the March union meeting. Meetings attended during February:  
State Organizer's Meeting-2/4  
Regular Union meeting-2/10  
EFCA Press Conference-2/17  
Labor Union Financial Reporting Seminar-2/18  
Executive Board meeting-2/24  
Illinois State Conference Legislative meeting-2/25  
Progress meeting and job site visit at Coffeen Power Station -2/26

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## Credit Union

Hours of operation  
NOON to 5:00 pm

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Friday

Phone: 217-877-6521  
Fax: 217-877-5037

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## THE ASSISTANT'S REPORT

By: Shad Etchason

### Work Outlook:

Book I 54  
Book II 480

Sach's Electric has added manpower on the Coffeen Power Station Scrubber Project throughout February. Fuellgraf Chimney & Tower continues to work 2 shifts of 6-8's on the new stack.

Applied Control Technologies has a small project at Kincaid Power Station and have hired 3 JW and 3 apprentices for 3 to 4 weeks of work.

Local contractors and other work in the jurisdiction continues to be slow at this time. However, we have a short list of some upcoming work:

Clinton Power Station-security modification

Clinton Power Station-RAT transformer

Lake Land College

Mattoon Train Depot

Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital

Other activities and duties for February included:

Participated in negotiations with FE Moran concerning the Residential Telecommunications MOU. A settlement agreement was reached. We should be taking in a few new members from this at the May meeting.

Sign Shop negotiations resulted in an agreement reached at Interim CIR before everyone had to go to Washington, DC

Bodine Motor Shop Wage Progression meeting

Employee Free Choice Act Press Conference

IL Prevailing Wage Council meeting

Decatur Housing Authority  
meeting

IL AFL-CIO LMRDA seminar  
IBEW Illinois State Conference  
Legislative Conference

Meeting with Craig Coil from  
the Economic Development  
Corporation of Decatur and Macon  
County

Decatur Building and  
Construction Trades Council

Decatur Trades and Labor  
Assembly

Coffeen Power Station Job  
Progress meeting

Working with Josh Sapp

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## SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Meeting for the  
shareholders of IBEW Local  
#146 Credit Union will be  
Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Any Credit Union member  
with at least \$5.00 on deposit as  
of December 31, 2008 is eligible  
to attend. Additional details will  
be made available at a later date.

The general order of business  
consists of the election of  
directors for the year and reports  
of operation from the previous  
year. Members are encouraged  
to attend and participate in the  
process. There is usually time  
for general conversation and  
input from those present.

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## From the South . . .

During the past month, I  
represented Local 146 by:

Attending the last union  
meeting and executive board  
meeting giving a report at each.

Participated in public forum  
regarding the future EIU new power  
generating plant. EIU President  
Perry conducted the meeting and  
took comments from those present.  
I spoke on record on behalf of  
IBEW Local 146 in favor of the  
project. In speaking with President  
Perry after the meeting, he spoke  
highly of EIU electricians and  
complimented on the excellent work  
by Bodine electricians in their  
efforts on the recently completed  
fine arts project.

We are working with our law  
firm concerning fringe benefit  
payments into the respective fund  
offices for temporary employees.  
EIU is slow to comply. They have  
been paying the benefits on the  
checks and it is our desire that our  
members who work as temporary  
employees at EIU have continuity  
for their fringe benefits.

Continue to participate in the  
multi-local negotiations of the  
F.E. Moran residential  
telecommunications settlement after  
many hours at the bargaining table.  
Completion is nearing and will  
bring 15 new members into the  
IBEW. Local 146 will initiate 7 of  
these individuals. I recently  
participated in 2 evening meetings  
hosted by Local 601 (Champaign)  
with the individuals of this new  
bargaining unit. These meetings  
were a new member orientation.

Assistant Business Manager  
Josh Sapp and myself attended the  
ongoing in progress meeting at  
Coffeen Power Station. Had a short  
meeting with Sachs Electric where  
we discussed mutual concerns. We  
also had the opportunity to walk  
around the project with our Union  
Steward, Wayne Tipsword. We met

and talked with many of our  
electricians on site. Union Steward  
Tipsword has a difficult job to do,  
juggling complaints from our people  
and dealing with management. It is  
in the best interest of IBEW Local  
146 when our wiremen and  
apprentices work together to  
promote this project.

Attended 2 hour Effingham Area  
Building and Trades meeting.

Still monitoring the following  
projects:

Old Sheraton Inn–Mattoon

McDonald's–Effingham

CVS Pharmacy–Mattoon

Green Mill Restaurant and  
Motel–Arcola

Midas Auto Center–Mattoon

Sarah Bush Lincoln  
Hospital–new \$8 million project in  
near future

Amtrak Train Depot–Mattoon

Farmer's Meat Processing  
Plant–Mattoon has resurfaced to bid  
again

Looks good with Commercial  
Electric and Best Electric (Local 601  
contractor) being low on electrical  
bid for Buffalo Wild Wings in  
Effingham with Nave and Bodine  
Electric being close in the hunt.

I continue to talk and meet with  
people interested in the IBEW  
including a meeting with Floyd  
Barlow of Barlow Lock and  
Security, a non-signatory contractor  
out of Effingham. I am trying to  
persuade Mr. Barlow to become  
signatory under our Voice-Data-  
Communications Agreement. This  
will not be accomplished  
immediately but I will continue to  
encourage Mr. Barlow to consider  
our benefits.

In closing, spring is on the way  
and our overall work picture looks

excellent; TENASKA project in Taylorville is still moving ahead, Secure Energy synthetic gas project at Caterpillar is hoping for a second quarter start and the Oakland, Illinois mine and bio-fuel project is still on the drawing board.

I recently had the duty of delivering death benefit checks and Bibles to family members of our deceased members. This duty, while not one looked forward to, is an honor to perform. It causes me to pause and think of these men in a positive light; being humbled and pleased to have shared experiences with these brothers.

Respectfully submitted,

*John W. Taylor*

Assistant Business Manager/Recruiter

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**Michael E. Shampine  
Memorial Scholarship**

The 2009 scholarship will be in  
the amount of  
\$500.00

Established by his union family to honor the memory of Michael E. Shampine, this fund is designed to provide a scholarship to an affiliated union member, or an immediate family member, who plans to enroll in continuing education.

The scholarship will assist with enrollment in a degree program, qualified trades apprenticeship, or vocational school. The ideal recipient will be recognized as having a desire to succeed by demonstrating strengths in leadership, community and political awareness.

All applications shall be due on April 15, 2009. The applicant will be required to come in person for an interview on April 18, 2009 and will be required to write a short

(one page) handwritten essay at the time of the interview. The essay topic will be around the following subject: "How does the labor movement affect the community in which I live?"

Recipient will be determined based on application, interview and essay. Financial needs and high school grades are not considered.

For a complete application packet, contact the Union Office.

***The Corner Office***

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



I would like to apologize for missing the February Union meeting as I was attending a meet and greet labor reception for Governor Quinn in Springfield that evening. I did have a short time to talk to the Governor regarding the need for a Capital Plan and funding for FutureGen. Additionally, I was able to hand off some correspondence concerning the funding of the URMAR program for the Decatur Building and Construction Trades Council.

I have met with the many City Council and mayoral candidates to determine their stance on labor issues. We have several current Council members who now seem to be supporting a Lowest Responsible Bidder Ordinance and could have the language in place before the municipal elections in April. This ordinance simply requires successful contract bidders to be affiliated with a registered apprenticeship program insuring taxpayers only trained and qualified individuals are performing work on municipal projects.

This office continued to meet and negotiate with the Sign and Graphics contractors and we were

able to come to an agreement during the Interim CIR meeting. The terms were a 1 year agreement with a 55¢/hour wage increase, pension increase of 6¢/hour and the contractors will pick up the 10¢/hour health & welfare increase due June 1, 2009. I want to thank Tim Lillpop and Shaun Brophy for their service on the negotiating committee.

This office continues to make contacts with legislators both at the State and Federal level in an attempt to secure funding for several projects in the area.

It also appears East Lake Development has managed to secure their investors as we have been notified work has started on the Wabash Crossing Phase III. A pre-job with CORE Construction has been scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> to bring the crafts up to date on what is planned for this phase.

An Industry Meeting has been scheduled between the Contractors' Association and this Local. It is hoped we can openly discuss items of concern to each side.

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***Union Meeting Announcements***

February 2009 Union Meeting

***Accidents/Sickness/Deaths/Births***

Al & Phil Green's mother passed 1/10  
Larry Dagg had shoulder surgery 1/16  
John & Joe Koehler's uncle passed 1/20  
Matt Wood has a new baby boy 1/23  
Jerry Chance's wife broke her leg 2/2  
Jim Slade hospitalized 2/2  
Mel Steele hospitalized 2/5

***Proposition for Membership***

Brien Ferguson-DIE

***In Memoriam***

Brother Robert Daut passed away on February 8, 2009. Brother Daut was

53 years old and a 9 year member of the IBEW.

Brother Richard Burge passed away on February 9, 2009. Brother Burge was 75 years old and a 49 year member of the IBEW.

We offer our condolences to the families and friends of these lost brothers. Each of us are richer for having known them.

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