Union Meeting

* Tuesday, March 10th, 2015
* beginning at 6:00PM

followed by fellowship, sandwiches and beverages. The Union meeting is open to ALL members and classifications. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate.

Union Meeting Announcements

January & February

12/1/14 Darin Hill broke his hand
12/13/14 Troy Dodson’s son fatally injured in automobile accident
12/14/14 Leon Turner’s step-father/Jay Dunn’s brother-in-law passed away
12/19/14 Roger Hardwick’s father passed away
12/19/14 Greg Sommer was injured
12/20/14 Greg Davis family had a new baby girl
12/22/14 Tyler Dagen broke his hand
12/29/14 Bob Brilley’s sister passed away
12/31/14 Susan Varvel’s mother passed away
1/10/15 Steve Holland’s wife was hospitalized
1/13/15 David Stinson’s mother passed away
1/14/15 Shawn Whetsell underwent stem-cell transplant
1/15/15 Joe & Jason Paradee’s grandfather passed away
2/3/15 Dan Shewmaker’s mother-in-law passed away
2/6/15 Bill Durbin had surgery
Jim Brummitt’s wife broke her leg after knee surgery

Have you signed up to participate in the 401(k)? Contributions are pre-tax and calculated as a percentage of your gross pay. Stop by the Union Office for an enrollment packet today!

Committee Volunteers Needed

President Krutsinger is also looking for individuals interested in serving on the following committees:
* 401(k) Committee
* Annual Golf Outing Committee
* Labor Day Committee
* Member Steak Fry Committee
* Christmas Party Committee

It is never too early to start planning these events.

Anyone interested in serving on these committees should contact the Union Office (217.877.4604)

A death assessment is due NOW.

This most recent assessment was mailed 2/13/15 and was printed on blue paper.
Thank you to all who have paid this assessment.

Upcoming Contract Negotiations

Inside effective for June 1, 2015
Bodine Motor Shop wage and insurance opener for June 1, 2015
State of Illinois CMS Agreement for July 1, 2015
Decatur Industrial Electric effective for September 1, 2015
Office Staff/Local 51 for November 1, 2015

Shad Etchason—217.433.9474 — shad@ibew146.com
Josh Sapp— 217.855.6738— josh@ibew146.com
Ron Cummings—217.521.7522—ron@ibew146.com
Union dues...what are they for?

With the talk of right-to-work zones by Governor Rauner, now may be a good time to discuss union dues. As we have discussed in previous newsletters, each Local 146 member must pay monthly dues. These amounts range from $33.50 per month to $35.75 per month depending on your classification. Of this amount, $17.00 is remitted to the International Office for administrative expenses. Next, $16.00 per month is remitted to the International Pension Benefit Fund in support of the $6,250 death benefit and your International Pension Benefit Fund. The remaining $0.50 to $2.75 is kept here at Local 146 to go towards the Local’s administrative expenses. However, that is not nearly enough to sustain the operation of Local 146. That is where the working assessments come in. Each member working under a Local 146 bargaining agreement pays a working assessment ranging from 2% to 3%, depending on the contract. Additionally, those working under the inside, residential and telecommunications agreements pay an additional 1% assessment in support of industry advancement programs.

The primary function of the Local is to represent the membership in contractual matters such as, negotiating with our signatory contractors and processing and maintaining these agreements. Other services include representation and assistance with issues such as health insurance and pensions.

Right-to-work legislation simply diminishes a union’s ability to represent the membership by allowing individuals to opt out of the union while still requiring the union to represent the individual in contractual/job site matters. Additionally, research has proven that right-to-work does not help states economically. The union worker’s median income in the United States in 2013 was $950/week while the average non-union worker earned $750/week. In 2013, 88% of union members participated in a pension plan compared to 49% in the non-union sector. How can earning $200/week less and relying only on social security in retirement be good for the local economy? Members of Local 146 have the benefit of health insurance which is funded completely or in part by the employer. Participants in the NECA-IBEW Welfare Trust Fund have the advantage of representation in the management of the health plan by having the business manager serve as a trustee to the fund.

Unions are more than just wages and benefits. Negotiations include working conditions, 8 hours of work, shift definitions and overtime provisions. Without the representation of the union, you would be at the mercy of your employer.

Unions . . . The folks who brought you the WEEKEND!

Work Report

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<td>Apprentices—</td>
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January manpower calls:
- Apprentices—2 to Commercial and 1 to Laibe
- Long calls—11 to CB & I and 6 to Laibe
- Short calls—2 to Commercial
- Foreman Call by Name—1 to CB & I
- Telecommunications—3 to PayneCrest

February calls to date:
- Apprentices—3 to Laibe, 1 to Alltech & 1 to Bodine
- Long calls—7 to CB & I and 2 to Laibe

- Work at Fayuo Glass (the former PPG Plant) is underway for Laibe Electric. They are currently working 5 / 10’s and are expecting more manpower calls in the coming weeks.
- The Enbridge Pump Station work is underway. The State Group anticipates putting in a manpower call in approximately 3 to 4 weeks.
- The Clinton Power Station outage is scheduled for April 27th. A pre-job has been scheduled for March 10th to give us more details on the scope and manpower needs.
- The LaSalle Power Station outage has just wrapped up and the Quad Cities outage is scheduled to start March 2nd followed by Braidwood’s outage starting March 30th.
- News outlets announced the federal government has scrapped the FutureGen 2.0 project which is bad news for Local #193.
- Cronus Fertilizers announced that it has executed an Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) contract for the Cronus Fertilizer plant in Tuscola. The EPC contract is valued at approximately $1.5 billion with construction expected to begin this summer. This announcement confirmed the project is running about 2 months behind original expectations moving the start date from April to late May or early June.

Anyone looking for work should sign books at the following locations:
- #538—Danville
- #601—Champaign
- #649—Alton
- #725—Terre Haute, IN
- #13—Burlington, IA
- #22—Omaha, NE
- #347—Des Moines, IA

Remember to do your re-signs between the 10th and 16th of the month.

In Brotherhood,

Ron Cummings, Assistant Business Manager

In Memoriam

- January 27, 2015 Brother James W. Birge passed away. Brother Birge was 73 years old and a 51 year member of the IBEW.
- Brother Robert L. Garecht passed away on February 12, 2015 at the age of 80. Brother Garecht was a 60 year member of the IBEW.
- February 17, 2015 Brother Starlin Snodgrass passed away at the age of 88. Brother Snodgrass was a 67 year member of the IBEW.

Our condolences go out to the families and friends of these fallen brothers.
As reported at the February Union Meeting, Governor Rauner has put unions in Illinois in his sight as the primary reason for the State’s financial position. He has identified several reasons which include low job creation, high workers compensation costs, high unemployment insurance tax, high property taxes, unfunded state pensions, project labor agreements and prevailing wage requirements which he claims leads to uncompetitive bidding.

His solution is to create Employee Empowerment Zones to combat what he describes as “Forced Unionization”. Governor Rauner also proposes the elimination of project labor agreements and prevailing wage rules. He further claims union dues cut State Workers take home pay reducing their economic impact in the state. The Governor believes Unions should not be able to contribute to political candidates. However, billionaires may spend as much of their personal funds as they see fit to buy an office. He and a few of his close friends have established a PAC fund with an opening deposit of $20 million to be used tooust democrats and labor friendly republicans that don’t conform to his wishes.

We have been told the Governor called a meeting of all republican legislators at which time he indicated he expected them to support his legislation and initiatives. His $20 million war chest can be used to replace them as well.

His message changed very little during his State of the State Address where he continued to attack the middle class advocating for Right-To-Work, restriction or elimination of prevailing wage, PLAs, workers compensation and unemployment insurance.

The next round of elections is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th. The municipal elections determine the individuals that will run your city, town, village, school board, park boards, etc. These office holders are responsible for administering budgets and awarding contracts. Local politics have a huge effect on our daily lives. You are once again encouraged to VOTE in your municipality.

The Decatur Trades and Labor Assembly has endorsed the following individuals in the City of Decatur election: Mayor—G.E. Livingston City Council — Bill Faber and David Horn Decatur Park Board Commissioner—Bob Brilley and Stacey Young Also for Decatur Public School District 61 School Board, please support Sherri Perkins, Brian Hodges and Dan Oakes.

We encourage your support of these candidates. Yard signs are available at the hall. Please stop by and pick one up. Show your family, friends and neighbors who you will be voting for and encourage their support as well.

In other business:
The new South-Central Illinois Regional Agreement became effective February 1st. This is a 2 year agreement established for use as a market recovery agreement. The agreement has a very specific scope of work, ratio and reporting requirements. This is a new document for all, including the 6th District so we are expecting a learning curve ahead.

As you recall, this agreement was mandated by a 2014 CIR settlement and was ultimately negotiated by the 6th District, IBEW office and the NECA Regional office. The agreement covers 11 downstate IBEW locals with the only difference being the allocation of the total wage package. All 11 business managers were instructed to sign the document or their jurisdiction could be restructured and given to another local union.

Negotiations will be starting soon for the Inside Agreement along with the wage and insurance opener for the Bodine Motor Shop Agreement. I encourage all individuals to attend the March union meeting to participate in the discussion regarding negotiations.

The Spring brings about the next round of mandated conferences for all business managers.

Illinois State Conference in Springfield—March 18-20 Annual IBEW Construction Conference in Washington, DC—April 16-18 NECA-IBEW Trustees Conference in Clearwater, FL—April 27 -May 1 As a result I will be unable to attend the April Executive Board meeting. I will be serving on the panel for CIR in Washington and will miss the May Union Meeting.—May 11-14

Remember to spring your clock forward on Sunday, March 8th.

In Unity,

Shad E. Etchason, Business Manager/Financial Secretary
The membership is invited to attend the 2015 Graduation Banquet on Saturday, May 16, 2015 to honor our 8 Apprentice Inside Wireman Graduates for their accomplishment of successfully completing Apprenticeship Training. We will be honoring: David Clauss, Cole Garriott, Markus Gillespie, Drew Higgason, Drew Karr, Joshua Retzer, Seth Richardson, and Robert Roberts.

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 has been reserved at the Hawthorn Suites for $89.00 per night with shuttle service available all evening. Please reserve a room by April 16 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 8.

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.

Executive Board opening

Executive Board Member Susan Varvel has tendered her resignation from the board effective March 1, 2015. Due to other commitments she felt she was unable to provide the representation on the board she was elected to do. Local 146 would like to thank Susan for her service on the board.

Sister Varvel’s resignation has left a vacancy on the 7 member board. The Executive Board will be accepting letters of interest until 5:00 p.m. March 24 from members willing to serve for the remainder of Susan’s term (through June 2016). The Board will review the letters at the regular Executive Board meeting on March 24th and proceed as determined by the responses. The letters should be mailed to or dropped off at IBEW Local #146, 3390 N. Woodford St., Decatur, IL 62526

Hall Rental Rate Increase

By Action of the Local 146 Executive Board
Effective March 1, 2015 the rental for the Auditorium will be

$200.00 per day

+ $100.00 security deposit

+ $1 million event liability policy required

Upon inspection following the event, the $100.00 security deposit may be partially or wholly withheld to cover additional cleaning or maintenance expenses as a result of the rental

Local 146 Death Benefit

In a recent newsletter, all individuals were provided with a blank beneficiary card for the Local Death Benefit Fund. Thank you to all who have returned this card. For those who have yet to do so, let us explain the necessity for an up-to-date card.

Our Death Benefit Fund is governed by the Local 146, IBEW Bylaws Article XII in which it states “Upon the death of a participating member, the named beneficiary shall be paid an amount equal to . . . .” Without a current “named beneficiary” we have no directions by which to issue payment of the benefit. Therefore, in addition to an up-to-date beneficiary, we are also asking that you provide at least one contingent beneficiary in the event your beneficiary is no longer with us. It is upon our legal counsel that without a properly executed beneficiary card, we are required to be provided with a copy of the participant’s will, power of attorney documentation or court appointed executor documents indicating how proceeds are to be distributed.

A completed beneficiary card provides for a smooth distribution of this benefit in accordance with your wishes. You are welcome to complete a new card any time and are encouraged to do so after a recent marriage, divorce or death in the family.