

THE INFO CHANNEL

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 1220

NOVEMBER 2008

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Sisters and Brothers:

WE HAVE ELECTED A NEW PRESIDENT! Thanks to all who worked to elect a friend of working people, we have a chance to revitalize the Union movement and the American middle class.

Please continue to honor the terms and conditions of your collective bargaining agreement. Without each member's diligence in reporting violations, we have little chance of maintaining the provisions of the contract. Your Local Union needs to hear from you. We have published this request in the recent past, but will remind you again. The staff at the office is standing by to hear from you. You must not accept alterations of the terms of your agreement. You may not agree to work for less, or give up any benefit. You can only preserve the terms by making sure that our employers live up to them in every way.

For the members who work for our Video Production Contractors: In addition to the full time staff at the office who work on these contracts, there is a part time employee solely charged with monitoring and policing compliance of these agreements. If, at any time, you are not paid correctly under the agreement, or are not provided with all of the benefits in your contract, email the office at info@ibew1220.org and address your report to Diane. Your report will remain anonymous, as it always has, and we will take action. If you wish to report by phone, please do so at any time. We have voice mail 24/7.

There have been several incidents recently where members of the public reported being witness to alleged offenses by our members. None of these recent events has resulted in discipline, but a reminder to all members can not hurt. You are often the only visible evidence of your employers business. When you work in the field, you are that company's advertisement—that employer's public relations department—that employer's image. Your public image on the street for news or on the field for sports; in a hotel room for a trade show or business meeting; on the convention floor at McCormick or Navy Pier—all of these reflect on your employer and your Union. Please remember that our public image is at risk at all times. None of us can avoid the stress of this work, but if you conduct yourself as though your own family were watching and listening you will be an example of the best in broadcasting and video production and an asset to your employer and your Union.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EMMY WINNERS! See the list on page 4. We know that our Union ranks are populated with some of the finest talent in broadcasting and production in the world, but having the members of our broadcast industry recognize and reward these people is real validation of that fact.

In Solidarity,

Madeleine Monaco,
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

NEXT MEETING DATE THURSDAY, December 4, 7:00 PM

At the Union office
8605 W Bryn Mawr Ave #309, Chicago

You are the Union!

Join in conducting the business of your Local. Your input is valuable.



INFO CHANNEL NOVEMBER 2008

This Newsletter is published monthly by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 1220, Radio and Television Broadcast Engineers, of Chicago, Illinois.

Anything you might expect to read in a business letter or see in a telegram that pertains to this Local and your part in it will be communicated to you through this channel of information. Consider this your dues invoice, your by-laws update, your meeting notice, and your call to participate.

Any article submitted for publication should be sent by mail, Fax or email to:

Jim Sterne, Editor Info Channel
Radio + TV Broadcast Engineers
8605 W Bryn Mawr Suite 309
Chicago, IL 60631
FAX 773-693-0009
EMAIL jim@ibew1220.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Any member wishing to bring an issue of concern to the attention of the Executive Board of this Local Union may submit a request in writing to the Board at any time, stating the reason for the request.



**REMEMBER TO NOTIFY
YOUR UNION OF ANY
CHANGE OF ADDRESS,
PHONE OR EMAIL**

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY, ST, ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

COPIES OF ANY IBEW 1220 AGREEMENT MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST AT THE UNION OFFICE
Our contractors are listed on the web site—www.ibew1220.org

YOU UNION NEWS

PER CAPITA INCREASES 1-1-09

The per capita payment to the International Office goes up by \$1.00 as of the first of next year. Please make a note of that. BA (non-pension) members will pay \$12.00 per month, making the minimum dues before applying earnings to the formula, \$43.50/month (\$115.50 per quarter).

SHIRTS AVAILABLE:

IBEW 1220 SHIRTS—Henley style, in either white or navy, are available at the Union office for \$20.00.

NEW SIZES ARE IN

Contact the office to order—we take credit cards—call 773-714-1220 or email info@ibew1220.org.

MEETING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Members can view meeting agenda, bills and copies of the correspondence 30 minutes prior to the meeting by appointment.

Union Meeting dates have been set for 2009 as follows:
Jan 5, Feb 3, Mar 11, Apr 2, May 4, Jun 2, Jul 1, Aug 6,
Sep 1, Oct 13, Nov 4 and Dec 3, 2009.

Executive Board Meeting dates are set for:
Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18, Jun 15, Jul 20, Aug
17, Sep 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 14, 2009

UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Union Plus Scholarship application can now be accessed online at:

www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/up.cfm

This scholarship is also available to child dependents of IBEW members.

FIRST READINGS:

MICHELE SWICKARD—WTTW ALEX LYONS—WCIU
JOHN HIRSCHBERG—PROGRAM PRODUCTIONS

NEW MEMBERS APPROVED:

WILLIE WHITE IV—WCIU MARK ZERANG—WGN AM

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

MIKE PENNELLA (WBBM—RET) on the loss of his wife
Phyllis on November 3rd.

GET WELL WISHES TO:

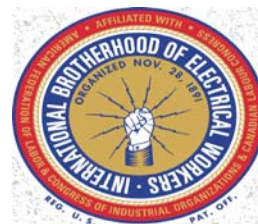
KIM BREITENBACH—WTTW with two new knees!!!
BOB KASTIGAR—WGN—recovering from a bicycle accident

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL GRANTED TO:

The following have met the requirements for this status
CHRIS FAULKNER—now out of unit at WCIU—Directing
DAVE STERLING—now in management at WCIU
DANIEL WOLANDE—full time student no broadcast work

AGENCY FEE PAYERS PLAN FOR 2009

Please see the Electrical Worker newspaper October issue for details on the 2009 agency fee payers plan. The deadline is the end of November 2008.



IRS and States Team Up on Payroll Taxes

Target Is Employers That Don't Pay Share for Workers

The Internal Revenue Service is joining with more than two dozen states in an intensified effort to crack down on employment-tax violations. Among the key issues is whether a worker should be classified as an employee or an "independent contractor" -- a difference with significant tax implications for both businesses and workers.

The IRS recently signed information-sharing agreements with state labor or work-force agencies in 29 states, including California, New York, Michigan and Ohio. Combining resources will help the IRS and the states "reduce fraudulent filings, uncover employment tax avoidance schemes and ensure proper worker classification," said Kathy Petronchak, head of the IRS's small business/self-employed division.

Employers generally must withhold income taxes, withhold and pay Social Security and Medicare taxes, and pay unemployment tax on wages paid to an employee. But they generally don't have to withhold or pay taxes on payments to independent contractors, the IRS says. If an employer incorrectly classifies an employee as an independent contractor, it can be held liable for employment taxes for that worker, plus a penalty, the IRS warns.

Figuring out the difference between an employee and an independent contractor can be very tricky. The IRS provides this rule of thumb: Anyone who performs a service for you is your employee "if you can control what will be done and how it will be done." That's the case "even when you give the employee freedom of action," the IRS says. "What matters is that you have the right to control the details of how the services are performed."

The complexity of worker classification "has long caused headaches for many businesses," says Elizabeth Milito, a lawyer for the legal foundation for the National Federation of Independent Business. She says Congress should be focusing on developing a "clearer and simpler" definition of an independent contractor. But despite some lawmakers' proposals to overhaul the law, Congress hasn't acted.

The IRS-state initiative goes well beyond worker-classification issues. It aims to detect businesses attempting to avoid employment-tax obligations "by operating in the underground economy and making cash payments to workers and not reporting those payments to the IRS and to the states," says Robert Affleck, deputy director, tax branch, of the California Employment Development Department.

That could be an important factor in narrowing the nation's "tax gap," or taxes that are owed each year but not paid. IRS officials have estimated the overall tax gap at about \$290 billion.

State officials say they have high hopes for the new initiative. California's Employment Development Department said the "memorandum of understanding" with the IRS "provides, for the first time a centralized and uniform mechanism" for the two agencies to swap employment-tax data.

Michigan has "already begun to forge a much closer working relationship" with the IRS, which has "significantly increased the sharing of tax and audit information between the IRS and our unemployment insurance program," says Keith W. Cooley, director of Michigan's department of labor and economic growth.

The states that have joined so far are: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

As federal and state agencies share more information, "businesses are going to be held to a higher standard, and that's going to have an impact" on both employers and workers, says Scott Mezistrano, senior manager of government relations at the American Payroll Association in Washington.

1220 EFP/ENG Package Requests

The Union receives requests for EFP/ENG packages from contractors on occasion. We would like to compile a list of those members who have camera packages that would be available for EFP/ENG.

Send an email to jim@ibew1220.org with a list of what you have... no rental prices please, you can negotiate that part.

Your Union wants to do what we can to increase your opportunity to work.



LOCAL 1220 EMMY WINNERS

For NIU Shootings story—Nathan Delack, Morris Jones, Bond Li, Allen Maniscalco, Dino Pillizzi, Kyle Porter, John Truitt, Paul Wheeler, Carolyn Broquet, Carlos Monge, Deborah Segal and Gary Wright. WBBM

For The Greening of Chicago story—Terry Bates and Mary Bohentin WGN

For Eye On Chicago: Lookingglass Hepaestus—Chris Cangilla WBBM

For Cubs Forever: Celebrating 60 Years of WGN TV and the Cubs—Terry bates and Jim Tianis WGN

For Super 2 Investigators Promo—Robert Thompson and Freddie Breitberg WBBM

For directing—Christopher Faulkner WWME

For videography—Mike D'Angelo WGN

For editing—Vicky Thomas WGN

For editing WGN at 60 —Nancy Burns WGN

For individual excellence off camera Chicago Marathon 2007—Dan Stella, Tom Pawelko, Mike Aiello, Kathryn Swanson, ob Kent, Terry Schilling, Joe Amigle, Greg Pavis, Joe Pausback, Eli Clarke, Mike Clay, Dave Cella, Kevin Flagg, Bond Li, Mike Klingele, Bill Kieri, Stan Kidd, Chuck Ayers, Ken Lyles, Brian Smolik, Andrew Fontana, Gerard Evans, Al Ortiz, Andrea Randall, Richard Lanza, Bob Minor and Dave Koltis WBBM

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters:

I am sure I don't have to tell you the results of the recent election but I would like to add a few comments about the President elect. Mister Obama has a history of being friendly to labor and in particular has made promises to the "middle class" to eliminate some of the laws and tax code that unfairly treats a vast number of people in this country. I can only hope he is man of his word. Only time will tell. Towards the end of the campaign, I was impressed by the performance of both candidates. Even though I was pulling for Obama, I was surprised at the integrity of the concession speech by Mr. McCain. We now must all pull together to get through the hard times ahead.

I have to comment on the news coverage of the local election and the Obama celebration. The coverage was great and showcased the new facility at WBBM and all of our members working in the field. There was a lot of B Roll on the news, with our members in the background, setting up in Grant Park. Congratulations to all who worked the events of the last few weeks. Now is the time to take a little rest and be happy for the great jobs you performed.

Labor has been suffering from a variety of laws and policies enacted by the administration over the past eight years. Some of those policies have affected this local in no small way. Small locals like ours are under a monetary burden to comply with these demands. The LM-2 for example requires extra work from the firm that performs our audit. The form itself must be filed electronically after being electronically signed by the person who prepared it and two officers of the local. Those electronic signatures must be CIA certified by the company who issues them. To give you some idea of the work (and cost) involved, the report is a minimum of 30 pages in a locked PDF file which both Ed Glab and myself sign. The report will not be accepted in a written form and must be uploaded to the DOL website each spring.

The November local meeting included a report from John Trautschold on the extreme effort put forth by members working at the new facility for WBBM. I can't wait to get down there and see the results of your work for myself.

Brother Bob Kastigar from WGN, had a dreadful biking accident recently and as of this writing is recovering in the hospital. We have heard that he can receive cards and email, but visitation will come later. Kim Breitenbach, WTTW, is at home recovering from knee surgery and reports that therapy is progressing with good results. Tim Snell, WTTW, is still at home recovering from surgery and has told us that he intends to return to work soon.

I hope that everyone will enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving and the up coming holiday season. See you in December.

Fraternally,

Alan J. Skierkiewicz,
President

Scholarships



Good grades can reap great rewards.

Students of working families are eligible for various union-sponsored scholarships. Members can look into these programs and apply for wonderful opportunities that make continuing education more affordable.

Do the Homework

Take a moment to find the scholarships that target your needs. Here are four great sources:

- [Union Plus Scholarship Congratulations to the 2008 Union Plus Scholarship Winners](#)
 - For more than 10 years, the Union Plus Scholarship program has supported working families pursuing post-secondary education. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.
 -
 - The 2009 scholarship application is available for download.
 - Download [the PDF form here](#).
 - Download [this PDF to type your answers in the PDF \(large file size/longer download time\) here](#). ***Please note:** If you are using the [free Acrobat reader](#), you must print the form after you fill it out because you will not be able to save your information.
 - **Deadline:** All applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2009.
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- - [Union Leaders of the Future Scholarship](#) Embracing its mission to enhance the value of union membership and support a stronger labor movement, Union Privilege has developed a scholarship program to help more women and people of color become union leaders.
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- - [Union Plus National Labor College Scholarship](#) Union Privilege is the leading contributor to this labor scholarship. We're proud to announce the [winners of the 2007 National Labor College scholarships](#).
-
- - [Nationwide Scholarship Search](#)
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Union Plus Benefits for IBEW Members



Discounted services & free benefits from the AFL-CIO's Union Privilege.

Because you are a member or retiree of IBEW, you and your family are **automatically** eligible for Union Plus benefits.

If you are not a member of IBEW, [log out here](#).

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH US BY EMAIL???

INFO@IBEW1220.ORG

THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH AT 7:00 PM
AT THE UNION OFFICE
8605 W BRYN MAWR AVE #309 CHICAGO

PHONE (773) 714-1220

FAX (773) 693-0009

www.ibew1220.org

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