

Retired Members of Local Union #134, I.B.E.W.

Retiree's Newsletter

July 2020

The purpose of this organization shall be to carry out the spirit of our brotherhood. To aid and assist each other as necessary and to promote the social, economic, health and welfare of its members and their families.

Mail all correspondence to Retiree's Club, 2722 S. Dr. Martin Luther Dr., Chicago, IL. 60616-2908.

Email: www.Local134chicago.com

Covid-19

Due to the Covid`19 Pandemic the printing and mailing of our monthly newsletter has been halted until further notice.

From the Podium

In a prior column, I mentioned that the current union membership in the USA is 10.3% of the total workforce as of 2019. My fellow officer Bernie Martin reminded me that the private industry sector percentage was lower, that is 6.6% and dropping yearly. I knew that but it seemed too depressing to mention at the time. On the brighter side, the public sector union percentage is slightly increasing. In light of facts and figures that can be discouraging, I will repeat the encouraging admonition of Eugene Debs in 1894 when union membership was pretty bleak:

THE POWER OF LABOR

Ten thousand times has the labor movement stumbled and fallen and bruised itself, and risen again: been seized by the throat and choked into insensibility; enjoined by courts, assaulted by thugs, charged by the militia, shot down by regulars, “traded by the press” (emphasis mine), frowned upon by public opinion, “deceived by politicians” (emphasis mine), repudiated by renegades, preyed upon by grafters, infested by spies, deserted by cowards, betrayed by traitors, bled by leeches and sold

out by leaders, but notwithstanding all this, and all these, it is today the most vital and potential power this planet has ever known, and its historic mission of emancipating the workers of the world from the thralldom of the ages is as certain of realization as the setting of the sun.

That goal being established, we must follow the words of Joe Hill whose last testament before he was executed and murdered by a firing squad, “don’t mourn, organize.”

Gangbox lawyer

One for the ditch. It is no wonder our youth are failing at “reading, riding, and rithmetic.” Recently our local mayor raised the drawbriges on the Chicago river surrounding Downtown to contain the rioters, looters, and assorted spoiled miscreants from expanding their path of pillaging. Not one media person as far as I know paid homage to our late Local #134 Business Manager “Umbrella” Mike Boyle who raised the 38 of 55 of the same bridges in January of 1937 in response to a labor dispute between the local municipality and #134. Additionally, 450 of 800 city electricians were yanked off the job including 300 (Local #134) bridge tenders,

94,558 municipal street lights were shut down and all traffic signals in the Loop. Power to the police telephone communication network was also shutdown. Office workers in the Loop were stuck from exiting the area for 2 hours and 40 minutes. A call from Mike Boyle ended the brief but effective work action. By the way, local 134 was the only union to grow its ranks during the Depression. The recent opening of the bridges would have been a great opportunity to teach our youth and the general public their local labor history but our media is more interested in endless meaningless gruel to keep the public a bunch of amadons.

Lastly, how about one article on the disaster at taking place for months at the State Unemployment system where workers who have lost their livelihood cannot access the system in spite of making hundreds of attempts. Since the media refuses or neglects to do its job, why aren't the unions publicly jumping up and down demanding immediate corrective action to help these vulnerable workers, many I am sure are union.

Just saying.... What would Mike do?

In Brotherhood,

Jim Jennings

IN MEMORIAM

Paul Annunziata	*James A Ashby
Edwin J Bochucinski	David R Christ
Robert D Crowley	Martin A Dolan
Thomas J Filichia	Jack G Funk
Palamon Gonzales	Philip G Hanahan
Alan Harris	Eugene K Jakubowski
Robert N Johnson	Marvin R Kaplan
*William R Keating	*Charles R Long
Tyrone Luster	Robert R Mattison III
Andrew Matysac	*Ralph Meifert
John R Mix	Anthony C Mullen
*Roderick F Nagy	Richard L Olson
Francisco Ramirez Jr	Edward E Rook
Joseph J Roti	Arturo Soto
Jacqueline Teague	Peter Trippey
Kenneth R Turkowski	*James M Walsh

Our condolences to the families of Retiree's Club Members:

James A Ashby

William R Keating

Charles R Long

Ralph Meifert

Roderick F Nagy

James M Walsh

July 8 2020 Speaker

Our first attempt of a regular Retiree's Club Meeting in three months showed one officer and four E Board members absent. Only a handful of members attended. We now meet at the apprentice school and were welcomed by the new Director Gene Kemp. Our speaker was outgoing Director John Donahue who is now Executive Director, Powering Chicago. As the Executive Director of Powering Chicago, John brings nearly 40 years of experience in the field to his work to promote the union electrical industry in the Chicago region. As the Executive Director, John is also responsible for raising awareness of the value of skilled electrical workers and encouraging communication and cooperation between labor and management, which comprise Powering Chicago's membership. Under John's leadership, the organization underwent a rebranding campaign in 2018 to enhance its ability to promote better construction, better careers and better communities. Prior to becoming the leader of Powering Chicago, John

served as the Director of the IBEW/NECA Technical Institute in Alsip, IL. Funded by Powering Chicago's members, the Technical Institute is a state-of-the-art 120,000-square-foot facility in which electrical apprentices gain the skills needed to advance the union electrical industry to ever-higher standards and performance. During 26 years at the helm of the Technical Institute, John was responsible for the education and training of thousands of apprentices and journey workers in the Chicago area. John began his career as an IBEW Local 134 electrical apprentice and worked as a journeyman electrician in the field before leading the Technical Institute. He holds a bachelor's degree from St. Xavier University, a Juris Doctor degree from The John Marshall Law School, and a doctorate in education from Roosevelt University. Areas of expertise: Electrical industry, Construction industry, Apprenticeship, Skilled labor shortage, Powering Chicago's business and philanthropic initiatives. We thank John for spending time with us.

Mario Coletta

Attention Club Members:

- Regular monthly membership meetings canceled until further notice.
 - Drury Lane has suspended all plays until next year
 - 45,50,55 and 60 Annual Honoree Luncheon has been canceled for 2020. Re-scheduling for next year.
 - Please review your records and verify you are current with your club dues. Like many organizations during this pandemic many people are falling behind in their membership fees, mortgages, rents and church offerings.
 - **Later this year we will be printing our 2020 - 2021 Roster Book.** Many members have failed to review their information in the roster book. *Please review your 2018-2019 roster and send any changes to Bernard Martin via email or mail the dues renewal notice.*
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Dues Renewal Notice 2020

You can pay your 2020 club membership dues by filling in the form below and send it to Bernard Martin along with a check for \$20.00, made payable to the Retiree Club Local 134.

Note: Widows of deceased members of our club are considered associate members and DO NOT PAY DUES.

Please Print

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Please fill in all current information so we can update our records.

Mail to: Bernard Martin

8706 N. Olcott Ave

Niles, IL 60714

If you have a second address where you spend time for several months please notify us of that address and duration of your stay. We will gladly re-route your newsletter.