

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

Retiree's Newsletter

DECEMBER



2014

Newsletter, of the Retired Members of Local union number 134, I.B.E.W. - Send all correspondence to Retiree's Club, 600 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60661-2490 - The Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month except December at Boyle Temple, 600 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL - The purpose of this organization shall be to carry out the spirit of brotherhood, to aid and assist each other, and to further education, economic health and welfare of its members and their families and electrical apprentices. www.Local134chicago.com Written & Edited by Mario Coletta Mailed by Irv Blaszyński and Bernie Martin

FROM THE PODIUM THE RULES DO WORK

A Silicon Valley company that digitizes images said recently that an "administrative error" led to it paying eight workers flown in from Bangalore, India just \$1.21 an hour to work 120-hours per week installing computers in the company's headquarters.

Electronics For Imaging paid the workers \$40,000 in back wages and overtime and a \$3,500 fine after the U.S. Department of Labor investigated the payroll violation based on an anonymous tip, that a department official made public. "These folks were not only not getting time-and-a-half when working extremely long hours, they weren't making the basic minimum wage," Michael Eastwood, assistant district director for the Labor Department's San Francisco division said.

In a statement, the company said it didn't realize it was illegal to pay workers temporarily in the United States the same wages they earn in their home countries. The \$1.21 was equivalent to what the employees made in Indian rupees. "We unintentionally overlooked laws that require even foreign employees to be paid based on local U.S. standards," the company said in a statement.

Eastwood said the company also failed to keep documentation of the hours worked by the Indian employees. Though the workers were only owed \$20,000 in back pay and overtime, regulators doubled that amount to \$40,000 in the settlement to compensate for damages.. The company blamed an "administrative error" and said it took steps to ensure it would not occur again.

Mario Coletta

CALENDAR

Nov 12-Regular Meeting Local #134
Apprentice School 115th &
Ridgeland Alsip IL 1:00 pm
Free Turkey Raffle
Nov 20-Drury Lane Play "Camelot"
Luncheon served at 11:30 am
Nov 27-Thanksgiving Day
Dec 1-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am
Dec 10-Holiday Party at the Irish
American Heritage Center noon
Dec 25-Merry Christmas
Jan 1-Happy New Year
Jan 5- E- Board Meeting 10:30 am
Jan 14- Regular Meeting 1:00 pm

IN MEMORIAM

Member Greg Weghorst's wife Mary passed . She worked for IBT & ATT Local 165 for over 20 years. Our condolences to you Greg.

Anton Schnauer's wife Karin passed. Our condolences to you Anton.

Our Treasurer and long time E-Board member Bernie Martin's wife is ill. We wish her the best.

DUES RENEWAL NOTICE

Please look at your Retired Members of Local 134 membership card, if it does not say 2015 or 2016 your dues are due. You can pay your 2015 dues by filling in the form below and sending it with a check for \$20.00 made payable to the Retired Members of Local 134, To the treasurer Bernard Martin at 8706 N. Olcott Ave. Niles, IL. 60714.

Here is my 2015 dues of \$20.00

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Cell Phone(_____) _____

E-Mail _____

Please include all information so that we can double check our records for the next mailing.

Make checks payable to the order of Retired Members of Local 134 IBEW and mail the check with this form filled in to Bernard Martin at 8706 N. Olcott Ave. Niles IL. 60714.

If you have a second address where you spend time for several month please let us know that address and the weeks or months you will be there on another sheet of paper, so that we can send the newsletter to that place when you are there.

NOTE! Widows of deceased members of the Retired Members of Local 134 IBEW club are Associate Members of the club and DO NOT PAY DUES.

“TAPS” – DAY IS DONE

“TAPS” is a haunting 24 notes on the bugle that all of us who have been in the military know. We know at the end of the day, the Flag is lowered and “day is done”. However it’s more poignant meaning is at a funeral for a fallen comrade.

At our October meeting we were honored to have Tom Day founder of a group of volunteers “**BUGLES ACROSS AMERICA**”. In 2000, Congress passed a bill that guaranteed all veterans would receive a flag ceremony at their funeral with the playing of Taps. If a bugler was unavailable a CD could be used.

Tom, a former Marine found that unacceptable and contacted the Secretary of The Army with a plan. Tom Day founded this organization out of his home and now has 6000 volunteer buglers thru out the nation and overseas. His motto is “don’t steal a vet’s dignity”.

Tom explained that Taps was a result of Civil War General Butterfield’s request of his Bugler Oliver Wilcox Norton to make an arrangement from Napoleon Bonaparte’s Tattoo; he used the last 24 notes. That is Taps.

Bugles Across America has 6000 members of which 1000 are women; they do 40% of the military funerals. They have conducted over 200,000 funerals in the United States and overseas. They have sounded Taps at Normandy and Belgium, at Patton’s grave.

Tom Day has sounded Taps for the funerals of Paul Somerstorfer’s father and father-in-law. Paul was extremely grateful for this service.

This is provided free of charge to veteran’s families. The organization can be contacted at www.buglesacrossamerica.org. From there click on “Request a bugler” or “find a Bugler” links. Although service is free they rely on donations to operate, you can also find that on the website, along with much more information.

Rich Sipple