

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

Retiree's Newsletter

DECEMBER



2016

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 March, June, September and December at the Apprentice School 115th and Ridgeland Alsip 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 Bernie Martin

FROM THE PODIUM

SENIOR ISSUES

Now that the election of 2016 is over and a new Congress will convene in January, it's time we hold them accountable. Seniors are a very large voting bloc. We are larger than many so called special interest groups that politicians pander to every election cycle. Our current Congress has been a complete disaster. We as seniors, hell we as citizens, cannot let this new Congress fail our nation as disgracefully as the last.

There are countless issues that are of great importance to every senior: Social Security, Medicare, COLA (cost of living allowance). I could go on to name a host of other issues, but these three will do for starters.

Social Security: Every election, while asking for my vote, politicians cry gloom and doom about the demise of the system going broke. "Elect me and I promise I will fix it." Well, that just doesn't seem to happen. Maybe I will be accused of being naïve to suggest that the \$106,800 current FICA tax cap be doubled or maybe eliminated altogether. This in itself would ensure solvency of the system for decades to come. The raise in the cap would minimally affect the average wage earner, if at all.

Medicare: Whoever the idiot was that thought it was a good idea to ban the government from negotiating drug prices for Medicare should be made to parade through the country wearing a sign stating "I am an idiot."

COLA: Low/ or no COLA adjustment, that is the question? The past few years, the COLA increase has been low or non-existent. A better system needs to be devised so seniors that depend on these increases (to live with dignity) can go on doing so.

I stated earlier that I might be considered naïve, and maybe I am, but when was the last time you spoke, wrote, e-mailed, or called your senator or congressman? If you don't know your representative, the Internet is a useful tool. Find your rep by zip. Please don't forget our senators; we wouldn't want them to feel neglected.

www.house.gov/representatives/find
Jim Fliris

DUES RENEWAL NOTICE

Please look at your Retired Members of Local 134 membership card, if it does not say 2017 or 2018 your dues are due. You can pay your 2017 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 2017 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.

THE RETIRED MEMBERS OF LOCAL UNION #134 IBEW INVITE YOU TO OUR
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
AT THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER
4626 NORTH KNOX AVE.
WILSON AND KNOX, CHICAGO
AT NOON, DECEMBER 14, 2016

FOR CORNED BEEF DINNER _____

OR ROAST CHICKEN DINNER _____

BOTH MEALS WITH BOILED POTATOES, CABBAGE AND BEER

PIE FOR DESERT WITH COFFEE OR TEA

THERE WILL BE A CASH BAR

NAME _____

GUEST _____

The cost for members and their wives is \$35.00 per person
Widows of our deceased members are free. Widows are asked to send in their
reservation. Mail this reservation form to: Richard Sipple
901 Pheasant Walk
Schaumburg IL 60193

Make checks payable to the order of Retired Members of Local Union #134 IBEW
Please allow enough time to mail your payment. We must know the total number of
guests by December 7th.

RECIPE EXCHANGE

I have not tried this yet because I just got it in my email, but the picture made me want to give it to you.

Coq au Vin (chicken in red wine)

6-5 oz. Boneless skinless chicken breasts

1-1/2 cup fat free chicken broth

3/4 cup red wine

4 oz sliced mushrooms

8 pearl onions or 1 cup chopped green onions

1/2 tsp. Bacon bits or artificial bacon bits

1 tsp. Dried thyme

2 tps. Cornstarch

2 tbsps. Cold water

salt and pepper to taste

OPTION

Add 1 pound potatoes cut into chunks.

This makes a complete meal. But can be served with noodles or rice.

CROCKPOT METHOD: Place chicken, chicken broth, wine, mushrooms, bacon bits, thyme (and potatoes if desired) in a crockpot on low for 4-8 hours. About 15 minutes before serving, turn crockpot on high and mix together the cornstarch, water and salt and pepper to thicken the sauce and add to the pot.

NOVEMBER 9TH

Regular Meeting Apprentice School
115th and Ridgeland Alsip IL 1:00 pm.

Our speaker this month is from the Citizens Utility Board. Come join us for our annual free turkey raffle.

NOVEMBER 17TH

This is the day we are going to the Drury Lane for lunch and the play to see **CRAZY FOR YOU**. I know Wally Felde had to turn some people down, and we are sorry but we were limited on how many tickets we could sell. Remember

if you see something you want to go to sign up early and you will be sure to get the tickets you want.

DECEMBER 14TH

The annual HOLIDAY PARTY for our Retirees' Club will be held at the Irish American Heritage Center this day. If you have not sent in your reservation sheet you may want to do it today. Remember to bring your spouse or friends. The meal is served family style and you can eat and drink as much beer as you want. This is a wonderful way to start out the Holiday season.

At our last meeting we had some discussion about our funds from Pension Plan 5. I have asked Ron Wittingham from Megent, to come to our meeting in March. I wanted the wives to be there because I feel they should know about your financial situation especially if they are the beneficiary of this account. I can't stress that enough. Make sure you have designated someone or your children to inherit your IRA account. Also, remember if you think your financial person should know everything about investing, you are wrong. They would not be still working, they would be millionaires.

I am open for suggestions on speakers for the upcoming meetings. Just give me a name or organization and if you can a phone number and I will try to get in touch with them.

I am great at multi-tasking—I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.

Gerry White 847-635-5659

OCTOBER 12TH 2016 SPEAKER

A representative from Horwitz Horwitz & Associates Law Office Zibi Bednarz Associate Attorney was our speaker. He arrived at this job after becoming an interpreter for a workman's compensation law office. He wanted to do more. After law school and passing the Bar Exam he went to work for Horwitz Horwitz & Associates.

He explained that workman's comp is a private insurance every business must have. They have a legal responsibility to acquire this protection for all those who work for him. It's a no fault system that all employees are entitled to have. The three main benefits are 1. Medical bills are paid at 100%. 2. Benefits for lost time are paid at two thirds of pre tax earnings. 3. Permanency award in a lump sum based on the seriousness of the injury. If the individual can't work this award is based on the economic injury. Most of the injured need a lawyer.

There are three things that must be done after a workplace accident.

1. Notify your boss of the injury.
2. Notify your own doctor.
3. Call a lawyer for advice. Legal consultations are free. When settled the lawyer's fees are 20 % of the settlement amount when in dispute. Workman's comp insurance means the business can't be sued. If there was another business other than your own at fault, a negligence lawsuit can take place. This legal fee is 33% of the settlement. These settlements received by the injured are not taxed. He advised anyone who gets hurt on the job and can't get a doctors appointment to immediately go to the emergency room.

As far back as 100 years ago this benefit was fought for. The history

shows that organized labor was at the forefront in this struggle for injury benefits. The unions must keep fighting for these benefits. In 2011 workman's comp reform took place. The results were a 20 % cut in benefits to the injured and an increase in premiums for business. Right now we have an Illinois Governor who wants to remove many more of the benefits of workman's compensation.

Zibi Bednarz can be reached at 25 East Washington Suite 900 Chicago, IL 60602 and 1403 Essington Road Suite 200 Joliet, IL 60435

Phone: 312 372 8822

email: zibi@horwitzlaw.com

Michael Fedanzo Local 134 Retiree's Club member and Horwitz Horwitz & Associates public relations representative can be reached for any other law issue at the same addresses as above. Phone: 312 485 3100

email: mfedanzo@aol.com

The Retiree's Club also wants to thank Mike Fandanzo not only for the great speaker he brought but also for the gifts that he and the law firm donated to our Golf Outing.

CALENDAR

Nov 9-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm at the Apprentice School 115th and Ridgeland Alsip IL Meet and Greet 12:00 noon. Annual Free Turkey Raffle.

Nov 17-Drury Lane Play **Crazy for You** Luncheon served 11:30 am

Nov 28-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am

Dec 12-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am

Dec 14-Holiday Party at the Irish American Heritage Center noon.

Dec 25- Merry Christmas

Jan 1-Happy New Year!

Jan 11- Regular Meeting 1:00 at the Apprentice School 115th and Ridgeland Alsip IL Meet and Greet 12:00 noon.

TRUMPING TRUMP

While Hillary Clinton has released decades of tax returns, Donald Trump has yet to release a single year's worth of tax returns. While Hillary Clinton will require the top 1% to pay \$78,000 more a year in taxes, Donald Trump wants to cut their taxes by \$275,000 a year.

While Hillary Clinton will raise \$400 billion from wealthy, profitable corporations, Donald

Trump will cut corporate taxes by \$2.4 trillion.

And while Hillary Clinton's tax plan will raise \$1.4 trillion to invest in education, healthcare, infrastructure and clean energy,

Donald Trump's tax plan will add \$9.5 trillion to the federal debt. The bottom line is that Hillary's tax plan trumps Trump's – in a major way. Unfortunately, not enough people know about this. And it matters. Poll after poll shows that making the rich and corporations pay their fair share of taxes is a huge winner with voters.

Annual John Cummins Golf Outing September 21st 2016 Prize Winners.

\$50 Lee Czajkowski Jack Armstrong
Bob McDonald Harry Dohman

\$30 Terry Kuh Frank Castello
Bill Suffield Kevin Gibbons
Charlie Kipp Sr

\$25 Francis Jackson Terry Reitz
Mike Hickey Bob McDonald
(Longest Drive)

Golf Bag John McCarthy (Donated by
Howwitz Horwitz Law Office)

We also want to thank Goldberg
Weisman Cairo Law Firm for the gifts
they donate to our Golf Outing annually.

Another great Golf Outing
because of Kevin Gibbons with help
from Jim Fliris. Thanks guys!

IN MEMORIAM

Alvin Arrigoni Richard Cotton Jr
Leonard Depasquale Michael B Devaney
Raymond F Doyle Joyce Duffy
Willie D Fenton John F Fischl
Frederick E Ford George Giannopoulos
Ronald J Huntsha Mark E Jankovec
Harry R Mistro Julius Moore
*Kenneth W Mueller Clyde a Rudd
Fred M Schuster Michael R Solan
Raymond R Todd Donald J Wantroba

Our condolences to the family of
Club Member Kenneth W Mueller.

