

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

Retiree's Newsletter

January



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

As we enter the Christmas and holiday season, we need to reflect on how fortunate we are and in reality how we need to rely on others from time to time as they also need us.

As you all may know this newsletter is put together about a month before you read it. So today I was reading about a high school football team getting ready to play a big game, not necessarily big news except they are from Washington, Illinois! A week ago I did not know there was a Washington, Illinois, did you?

We all like to feel self reliant, self made and in some cases better than others, but I will bet we can all remember someone who gave us a helping hand during our lives. Hopefully none of us have to endure a tornado, typhoon, hurricane or earthquake to realize that life is sweet. My wife is probably wondering where her *crabby* husband went.

Hopefully this next year will find you and your families healthy, happy and surrounded with the safe harbor that a strong family and community brings, and remember that this local and this club is part of your community.

For my part I really hope Washington High School finishes the year undefeated. **GO TEAM!**

Make a new year's resolution to be less demanding of those near to us; more compassionate to those around us and more caring of those less fortunate.

Have a Happy New Year!!!!!!

Rich Sipple
President

CALENDAR

Dec 11-Holiday Party at the Irish American Heritage Center noon

Dec 25-Merry Christmas

Jan 1-Happy New Year

Jan 6-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am

Jan 8-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm

Feb 3-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am

Feb 12-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm Nominations of Officers & Board members

Mar 3-E-Board Meeting 10:30

Mar 12 Luncheon Meeting noon Nominations & Election of Officers and Board members

DUES RENEWAL NOTICE

Please look at your Retired Members of Local 134 membership card, if it does not say 2014 or 2015 your dues are due. You can pay your 2014 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 2014 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.

HERE'S THE SCOOP

A Happy Holiday to all we miss coming in to all the Retiree's doings. I do not drive any more and it's a long drive for Betty to come downtown. On November 8th Betty and I will be married 66 years. I am 89 now and Betty will be 87. We still try to go and do as much as we can. I am a Charter Member of the Retirees Club. I remember with fond memories the years I was in office and was able to participate in all the functions. My health is not the best- I have trouble talking and my eye sight is not good. But life goes on- thank God for Medicare!

Al Masser

IN MEMORIAM

Mark A Arunno	Walter Bay
Howard W Bieze	John L Crockett
Andrew V Czarniecki	Anthony DeMatteo
Charles P Fogarty	Joseph Frisone
Robert D Gilfoy	Walter T Hayes
Kenneth O Jahnke	Daniel Johnson
Arthur K Laushot	Mathew G Lazaric
Thomas W Leith	Candelario F Lopez
Anthony S Luciano	*Paul L Magruder
Francis T Meakim	Donald D Nordstrom
Raymond Phipps	*Raymond Pietryga
George J Pillion Jr	Norbert J Randich
John P Schneider	Mathew S Smith
Rolf G Socher	Frank Stankiewicz
Ronald R Wiedeman	Robert C Wolke

Our condolences go out to the families of Paul L Magruder and Ramond Pietryga .

SINGLE PAYER?

Did you notice? Did you see what happened when everyone was complaining about a website? Single-payer got started in America.

Vermont is using authority granted under the Affordable Care Act to start a single-payer system. Most Americans still don't know what the phrase "single-payer" even means. It had little support in Congress in 2009 and Senate "Democrats" like Nelson and Lieberman even killed the public option. But, ACA had this sweet little provision that allowed states to set up a single-payer system and now people will see it in action. You know what that means.

As Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) opines, "The quickest route toward a national health care program will be when individual states go forward and demonstrate that universal and non-profit health care works, and that it is the cost-effective and moral thing to do." Oh I know this is hard to swallow. Obama is third-way! He's dismantling the safety net! A corporatist! He killed the public option! Whatever else he is, Obama is a President who acts in a thoughtful, deliberate way that the chicken little headlines of the day often miss. As many predicted, ACA is already leading to the kind of transformative progressive change Obama promised. The progressive movement will be responsible for showing the nation how well single-payer works after the Vermont system goes into effect. When public and non-profit insurance becomes the national norm, we'll know where it began.

RECIPE EXCHANGE

PEAR, CASHEW, CRANBERRY SALAD

Romaine lettuce (I used spring mix)

1 cup cashews

½ cup dried cranberries

1 pear diced (you could use apple)

1 cup shredded Swiss cheese

DRESSING

2/3 cup olive oil

1/3 cup sugar

1/3 cup lemon juice

½ tsp. salt

1 tsp. prepared mustard

1-3 tsp. poppy seeds

2 tsp. finely chopped red onion

Mix dressing in a shaker or salad decanter.

I put the salad on individual salad plates, then

I sprinkled the cheese on top. You can also

mix the salad and put in a salad bowl then

sprinkle the cheese on top. I did not use all of

the dressing either. I think that would

saturate the salad. Use as desired.

APPLE PANCAKES

I have been wanted to try this recipe for years and finally got around to it.

Preheat oven 425 degrees and bake for 20-25 minutes.

BATTER MIXTURE;

3 eggs

¼ tsp. salt

¾ cup milk

¾ cup flour

1-1/2 tsp. sugar

APPLE MIXTURE

6 tsp. butter

3/8 cup sugar

2 apples, peeled/sliced/cored

lemon juice

1 tbs. cinnamon

Beat eggs, add flour, salt, and sugar until smooth, stir in milk. Melt butter in 9" skillet, remove handle, sprinkle apples with lemon juice, and add sugar and cinnamon, sauté until glazed and golden (caramelized), spoon batter over apples.

You could use a pie dish after you sauté apples if you don't have a cast iron skillet or can't remove the handle.

It was good. I am glad I never discarded the recipe.

JANUARY 8th

Our speaker will be Michael Barrett.

FEBRUARY 12th

We will have a speaker from the American Red Cross. It will be interesting to hear what the American Red Cross does in the time of disasters like we have been experiencing lately.

MARCH 12th

Ron Wittingham will be coming to speak on investments in general. Maybe, why the market fluctuates as much as it does.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

How Republicans Rig the Game

Through gerrymandering, voter suppression and legislative tricks, the GOP has managed to hold on to power while more and more Americans reject their candidates and their ideas

By Tim Dickinson
Rolling Stone Magazine
November 11, 2013 10:35 AM ET
(This article is scheduled for publication in the November 21st issue of the magazine.)

As the nation recovers from the Republican shutdown of government, the question Americans should be asking is not "Why did the GOP do that to us?" but "Why were they even relevant in the first place?" So dramatically have the demographic and electoral tides in this country turned against the Republican Party that, in a representative democracy worthy of the designation, the Grand Old Party should be watching from the sidelines and licking its wounds. Not only did Barack Obama win a second term in an electoral landslide in 2012, but he is also just the fourth president in a century to have won two elections with more than 50 percent of the popular vote. What's more, the party controls 55 seats in the Senate, and Democratic candidates for the House received well over a million more votes than their Republican counterparts in the election last year. And yet, John Boehner still wields the gavel in the House and Republican resistance remains a defining force in the Senate, frustrating Obama's ambitious agenda.

How is this possible? National Republicans have waged an unrelenting campaign to exploit every weakness and anachronism in our electoral system. Through a combination of hyperpartisan redistricting of the House,

unprecedented obstructionism in the Senate and racist voter suppression in the states, today's GOP has locked in political power that it could never have secured on a level playing field.

Despite the fact that Republican Congressional candidates received nearly 1.4 million fewer votes than Democratic candidates last November, the Republicans lost only eight seats from their historic 2010 romp, allowing them to preserve a fat 33-seat edge in the House. Unscrupulous Republican gerrymandering following the 2010 census made the difference, according to a statistical analysis conducted by the Princeton Election Consortium. Under historically typical redistricting, House Republicans would now likely be clinging to a reedy five-seat majority. "There's the normal tug of war of American politics," says Sam Wang, founder of the consortium. "Trying to protect one congressman here, or unseat another one there." The Princeton model was built, he says, to detect "whether something got pulled off-kilter on top of that."...

... The bad news is that the Republican death grip on our political process could get even worse. The midterm electorate tends to be older and whiter than in presidential years; no one should be shocked to see the GOP expand its advantage in the House in 2014, or even make a run at the Senate. The good news is that the future is more powerful than Republican dirty tricks. The GOP may have postponed its day of reckoning at the hands of a younger, browner, queerer electorate – "They're holding back the tides," says Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics – but sooner or later, they're going to get swamped.

November 13th 2013 Speaker

Our annual trip to Alsip and the apprentice school as always a nice change and the turnout was a good one. Our speaker was John Prendergast and Maurice King John explained how with the installation of solar panels there is a need for welding to allow full movement of the panel. The school has three new welding classes. The new labs cost \$300,000 and are state of the art. There are 11 new welding labs and a sophisticated exhaust system that comes on when welding and shuts off when not. They have been in service for two months. There are day classes for journeyman not working and night classes for those who are. The welders themselves are much smaller and weigh only 30 or 40 pounds. The dampers and controls on the exhaust system are low voltage. There is an outside filtration unit to recirculate air.

In the lighting classroom lab in order to get as much of the work as possible they teach replacement of all types of the new complex lighting systems. The hope is to get more of the work in the buildings downtown that the building engineers are doing. There are eleven stations in the classroom. The classes are taught during the week and Saturdays. There are A and B cards in the classes. The course is 14 weeks at 3 hours per class. The classes consist of security as priority, control of lighting and surveillance cameras. These systems are in many of the downtown buildings and are taught in the Buildings Automation Lab.

Maurice King explained what it takes to be an apprentice. Background checks, drug screening including hair follicle testing, physical agility tests are necessary to

become an apprentice. The apprentices in school do physical training every day. They do jumping jacks and pushups; climb a scaffold up and down. Then walk a quarter mile with an inch and a half rigid conduit on their shoulder. There are 75 apprentices in 1st year, 50 in 2nd year, 20 in 3rd, and two classes of C cards totaling 40 men.

The International insisted Local #134 start a market expansion program even though we have a 76% of the work in the city and 50% in the suburbs. The program consists of pre apprentices who are hired as trainees and paid 30% of scale. Their job is to clean up and manual labor. They cannot work overtime, they're not allowed on a prevailing wage job. Of the 59 who recently signed up for the program 54 made it. There are 120 working for our contractors. To be considered for this program one needs a recommendation from a contractor. There can be no more than 6 per shop. They work for one year as a trainee. Of the last 200 hundred applicants, 100 were used and 100 are on hold.

Lastly John spoke of the next apprentice registration in January 2014 and again mentioned drug and agility testing and background checks. Then there was a reminder of journeyman day school for those who have been out of work. The Retirees Club wants to thank John and Maurice for their time and thanks to Dr. John Donahue for allowing us an opportunity to see and hear of those who follow in our footsteps.

Annual Turkey Raffle Winners:

Don Mahoney	Phil Murphy
Joice Merkle	Ruth Geric
Vito Albertotanza	Rich Connolly
Burt Van Wetering	Joan Menton
Bill Good	Jim Fliris

ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON MARCH 12, 2014

AT NOON

THERE IS A ONE DOLLAR CHARGE FOR EACH

MEMBER OR GUEST

MEMBER _____

GUEST _____

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