

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

# Retiree's Newsletter



JULY

2012

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](http://www.Local134chicago.com) Written & Edited by Bob Smedberg and Mario Coletta  
Mailed by Irv Blaszyński and Bernie Martin

## FROM THE PODIUM

There are several words that I believe to be important in our society; these are **polite**, **politics** and **responsibility**. The first two follow each other in the dictionary; it is too bad that the people who engage in the business of politics have such a hard time being polite.

The definitions are as follows;

**Polite**-polished, well bred as persons or their manners, behavior, speech, etc;

**Politics**- the practice or profession of conducting political affairs;

**Responsibility**- the state or fact of being responsible; Answerable or accountable;

Day to day in listening or talking with others, this includes e-mails; I find that an awful lot of people are really angry and polarized in politics. It is also strange how Barak Obama has not made anyone happy, he is vilified by both left and right. It reminds me of *the Chicago council wars*. I understand that the economy is still very poor and unemployment is very high, especially in construction, but I have not heard anything from the Republican candidates that address those issues without accusing organized labor, that's us, of being one of the problems.

We have been losing ground in the ability to purchase and save since the 1970's and that includes six Republican administrations and four Democratic including President Obama. I will remind everyone that President Clinton left us in relatively good shape with a Republican Congress. My position is not that there is not room for concern, but more to the point that

Congress has buried the principles of **responsibility** and the profession of politics, as well as being **polite**.

We have gotten into this position over the past twelve years, not just the past three. Everything still points to the fact we are the nation that everyone wants to emulate. Even today we have the biggest GDP, the biggest companies, the best schools, and the freedoms that the rest of the world desire.

Let us stop selling this country short! I cannot think of a better place to call home than **the USA!**

Rich Sipple

## CALENDAR

**Jun 13**-50,55,60,65,70, year Celebration Luncheon 11:30 am  
Honor our Brothers  
**Jul 2**-E-board meeting 10:30 am  
**Jul 4**-Independence Day  
**Jul 11**-Regular meeting 1:00 pm  
**Jul 26**-Drury Lane Play "The 39 Steps" Lunch served at 11:30 am  
**Aug 6**-E-board meeting 10:30 am  
**Aug 16**- A Day at the Races  
**Aug 8**-Regular meeting 1:00 pm  
**Sept 5**-Attend a White Sox game  
**Sept 10**-E-board meeting 10:30 am  
**Sept 12**-Luncheon & Regular meeting noon

Drury Lane Dinner Theatre Presents

**“THE 39 STEPS”**  
DIRECTED BY DAVID NEW

Our next play will be held on Thursday July 26th 2012 and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Show to follow at the Drury Lane Playhouse in Oak Brook Terrace. We were given just 50 tickets. Your ticket order must be in Bob Mersch’s hands by July 1st, 2012 with your check for \$42.00 per person. Make checks payable to: Retired Members of Local #134, IBEW. Bob Mersch will have your tickets at Drury Lane at the Matradee’s podium. Tickets will not be mailed to you.

The Meal:

**First Course:** Seasonal Fruit Plate

**Entrees:**

Roast Pork \_\_\_\_\_

Or

Baked Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

All- Entrees include Chef’s Selection of garden vegetables, potato, fresh baked bread, desert and choice of beverage.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Send your order to:  
Bob Mersch  
5223 W. Madison Street  
Skokie, IL 60077

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have an intriguing, thrilling, riotous and unmissable comedy. The show hurtles a notorious fugitive and a spellbound blonde from a London music hall north by northwest to Scotland’s most remote highlands.

Will they save Britain from a den of devious spies? A cast of 4 plays over 150 characters in this fast-paced tale of ordinary men on an extraordinarily entertaining adventure.

The 39 Steps contains every single legendary scene from the award-winning movie—including the chase on the Flying Scotsman, the escape on the Forth Bridge, the first theatrical bi-plane crash ever staged and the sensational death-defying finale in the London Palladium.

**RETIRED MEMBERS OF LOCAL # 134 LUNCHEON**

**SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 2012 AT THE HALL**

**OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED DOLLAR LUNCHEON  
WILL BE HELD AT NOON ON THAT DAY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Please print names

Mail this reservation form and your dollar per person to:

Bernie Martin  
8706 N Olcott  
Niles, IL 60714

## May 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Speaker

Ken Stewart from the Social Security Administration was our speaker. Medicare fraud was his main topic. A Senior Medicare Patrol is used to avoid fraud. Medicare Part A covers hospitalization, nurses and hospice care. Part B covers doctor bills, ambulances and equipment. Part C has no benefits under Parts A&B. This plan is the advantage plan that you buy from an insurance company. This was put into law by those who want to privatize Medicare and can be expensive compared to Medicare Part A&B

Medicare B pays 80% of covered expenses. Part C the Medicare advantage plans sold by insurance companies claim to offer more. Solicitors may call to sell you this plan or to sell other services. You cannot be enrolled in these plans without your express permission. You cannot be signed up over the phone, unless you called them. Qui tam Actions can be taken by private citizens to end abuses and fraud in Medicare. These actions are lawsuits aimed at those who commit fraud to Medicare recipients.

Medicare fraud amounts to millions of dollars. These come from doctor or provider charges where no services were provided. Medicare claims are so overwhelming in number, that they aren't always scrutinized. Personal information must be protected. Errors must be avoided and beware of phonies who want your Social Security number or Medicare number.

There are code numbers for all services that Medicare reimburses. This is another area where errors or fraud can occur. Senior Medicare patrol provides a personal healthcare journal at website: [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) you can create your own account to avoid fraud, abuse or

errors of services and record them in this journal.

In closing Ken Stewart offered this advice, if you're planning a trip out of the country you are not covered by Medicare. A temporary health policy just for the trip is a good idea.

If you have questions about a claim on your Summary Notice or Explanation of Benefits, you can call the Illinois Senior Medicare Patrol program at (800)699-9043 they are also available on their website: [www.illinoissmp.org](http://www.illinoissmp.org)

## Also for your information

### **The Affordable Care Act Has Saved Seniors \$3.4 Billion on Prescriptions**

A new report out by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) says that the 2010 Affordable Care Act has helped seniors and people with disabilities with Medicare save a total of \$3.4 billion on prescription drugs from the enactment of the law through March of 2012 [<http://go.cms.gov/IuOPJf>]. According to CMS, in the first three months of 2012 alone, more than 220,000 people saved an average of \$837 on the prescription drugs they purchased after they hit the prescription drug donut hole, for a total of \$184.5 million in savings. The federal agency noted that in 2010 and 2011, more than 5.1 million people with Medicare saved over \$3.2 billion on prescription drugs. This is yet another reminder that President Obama's health law is good for seniors. But too many seniors do not know this – we must redouble our efforts to educate our friends and neighbors,

**ARLINGTON PARK RACETRACK**

**AUGUST 16, 2012**

**We are going to the races on Thursday August 16th. If you are interested and want to go with us, please complete the bottom portion of this flyer and return by July 26th.**

**Your fee of \$25.00 includes a BOX SEAT, A RACING GUIDE AND AN ARLINGTON COMBO LUNCH.** The Arlington Combo Lunch is a choice one sandwich, orzo salad, kettle chips, cookie and soft drink. These are the choices of sandwiches:

1. NO. CAROLINA PULLED PORK Slow-smoked pulled pork tossed with sauce.
2. SMOKED TURKEY with cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion and sweet mustard sauce
- or 3. 2LT FLATBREAD SANDWICHES with grilled zucchini, vine ripe tomatoes, pepper jack cheese and sun dried tomato aioli

**THE PARK OPENS AT 12 NOON.**

**ARLINGTON COMBO LUNCH IS FROM 12:30 UNTIL 2:30**

**POST TIME 1:00 PM**

**I WILL GET THE TICKETS TO YOU BEFORE THE 14TH**

**THE PARKING IS FREE OR IF YOU WANT YOU CAN TAKE THE METRO TO THE PARK BECAUSE THERE IS A TRAIN STOP RIGHT AT THE PARK. THERE IS A FEE IF YOU WANT TO USE THE VALET PARKING.**

**YOU MAY ASK NON-MEMBERS OF THE RETIREES' CLUB TO THIS EVENT.**

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(cut and return bottom portion)

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**# OF TICKETS** \_\_\_\_\_ **AT \$25.00 EACH**

Send your check for \$25.00 per person made payable to the Retirees Club of Local 134, IBEW, to Gerry White., 237 W. Millers Rd., DesPlaines, IL 60016, before July 26th. If you have any further questions, please call me at 847-635-5659.

## RECIPE EXCHANGE

This is the time of the year when rhubarb is growing in your yard or is available at the grocery stores. So I am writing about two recipes that I have tried.

### EASY RHUBARB JAM

5 cups chopped fresh rhubarb

4 cups white sugar

1 (20 oz) can crushed pineapple drained

1 (6oz) package strawberry gelatin

In a large saucepan combine the rhubarb, sugar and pineapple. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat.

Boil for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat, and stir in strawberry flavored gelatin. You can spoon in sterile jars and seal or you can spoon into small plastic containers and keep in the refrigerator.

Nice gift. I still have some from last fall in our refrigerator.

### RHUBARB MUFFINS

1 ¼ cup brown sugar

½ cup oil

1 egg

½ cup milk (plus 1 tsp. vinegar)

2 tsp. baking soda

½ tsp. salt

2 ½ cups flour

2 tsp. vanilla

1 ½ cup rhubarb (cut up in small slices)

#### TOPPING MIXTURE

½ tsp. cinnamon

½ cup sugar

1 tbsp. butter or margarine

Mix first 3 ingredients; add mixed dry ingredients alternately with milk. Add vanilla and rhubarb, and stir by hand. Fill muffin tins ¾ full. Top with topping mixture and bake 20-25 minutes at 350 degrees.

### JULY 11th

Our speaker for this meeting will be Ron Whittingham from Megent, Inc. He will talk about the reorganization within his company and include general information about retirement accounts. Be sure to have questions for him at that meeting.

### JULY 26th

We are going to Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook to see 39 STEPS. See the enclosed sheet to sign up for the Lunch and Play. It is always a nice meal and entertaining play.

### AUGUST 8th

I have asked Edward McElroy's office to help me to obtain a speaker, so as of today I do not have a name or topic to tell you. They have gotten some very interesting speakers for us, so I know we will not be disappointed.

### AUGUST 16th

On this Thursday we are going to the races at Arlington Park Racetrack. The menu for the lunch is a little different, but the same idea. I have attached a sign up sheet to be filled out and returned to me by July 26th. The cost is \$25.00 per person.

### SEPTEMBER 5th

I have the chance to get 20 tickets to a White Sox vs the Minnesota Twins afternoon game for \$20.00 each. The seats are in the Lower Box section. We had a nice time last year and the tickets are half price so we thought you would like to go again. It is an afternoon game starting at 1:10pm. You can bring any of your friends or relatives to the game. Call me if you would like me to save a ticket for you. My phone number is 847-635-5659. Maybe we could get a car pool together if you don't want to take public transportation.

If you are arriving by bus:

\*Give this map to your driver to aid in directions.

\*BUS DRIVERS... You may pull under the canopy to unload and load but

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE WHILE UNDER THE CANOPY.

If you are arriving by car:

\*Please copy this map and distribute to your guests.

\*Free parking is available surrounding Drury Lane and Hilton Suites.

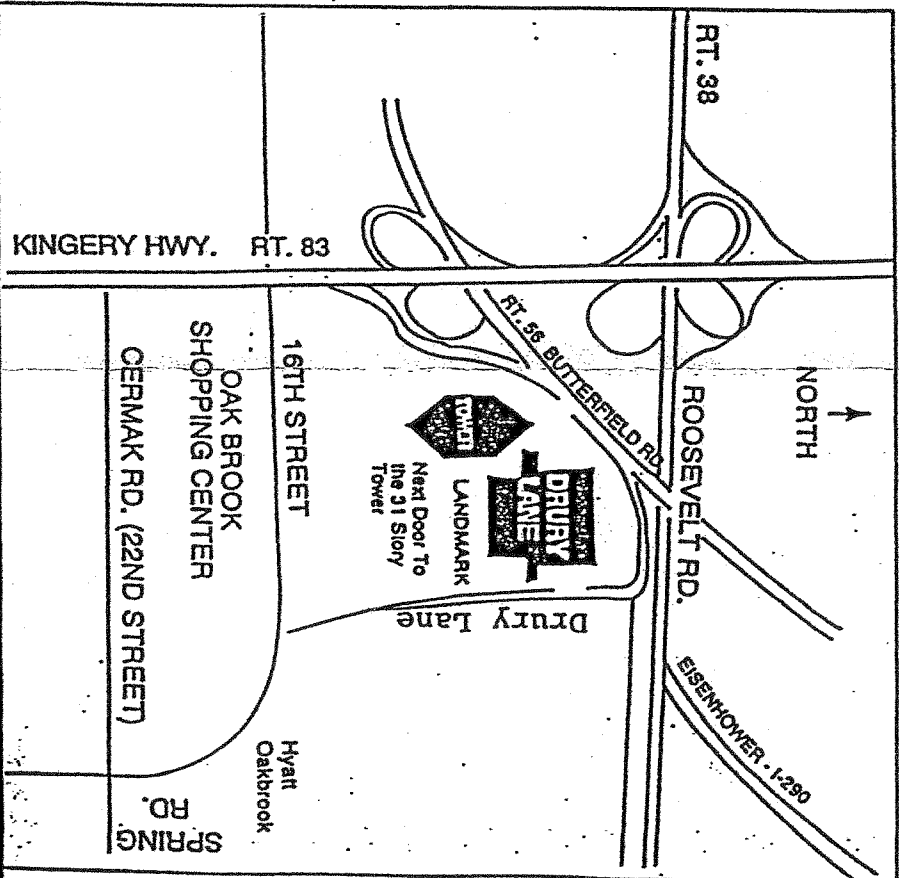
WHEN APPROACHING FROM THE NORTH OR SOUTH ON ROUTE 83: Exit at Roosevelt/Butterfield Road East (Roosevelt Road is Route 38). Follow the GREEN sign to DRURY LANE.

WHEN APPROACHING FROM THE EAST OR WEST ON ROOSEVELT ROAD: Exit Route 83 (Kingery Hwy.) South to Roosevelt Road (Route 38) East and follow GREEN sign to DRURY LANE.

WHEN APPROACHING FROM DOWNTOWN CHICAGO: Take the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) West to the East-West Tollway (I-88), Aurora exit. Immediately after paying the \$.40 toll at the Cermak Road/22nd Street tollbooth, exit Right and proceed North on Spring Road to DRURY LANE.

WHEN APPROACHING FROM THE WEST ON I-88: Exit at Midwest Road, turn Right, proceed North to Butterfield Road (Route 56). Turn right onto Butterfield Road, exit Roosevelt Road (Route 38) East to DRURY LANE.

WHEN APPROACHING FROM I-294 (TRI-STATE): to I-88 (East-West Tollway) West, to Aurora exit. Immediately after paying \$.40 toll at Cermak Road/22nd Street tollbooth, exit Right and proceed North on Spring Road to DRURY LANE.



I-88

Cermak Exit

## History Repeats

When the Soviet Union collapsed, a big part of the reason why was that they had been spending massive amounts of money on an arms race with the United States. To afford more bombers and fighter jets and nuclear missiles, the Soviets had to cut social programs, health care, education, even food subsidies.

The result was a total economic collapse leading to major governmental reforms - - but not before thousands of innocent Russians were forced to wait in bread lines and suffer years of unemployment and hardship. It should be a lesson to the world that President Eisenhower was right when he said "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

But if Paul Ryan and Republicans have their way, the U.S. budget would follow the exact same priorities as the Soviet Union - slashing investment in social programs and employment, so we can buy more and more weapons we don't need.

In over a decade of fighting to end Pentagon spending, we've never seen an opportunity like this year. President Obama has put big cuts to the Pentagon budget on the table for serious consideration. And because Congress' so-called Super Committee failed to come up with a better plan to cut the budget last year, Congress is actually obligated to cut spending on war and weapons in a HUGE way.

But Ryan and the House Republicans seem to have missed the memo. They're proposing a big increase in military spending at the same time they want to cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and more. It's a recipe for disaster just like it was for the Soviets.

If efforts can be doubled to spark a national conversation on Pentagon spending, there's a great chance to influence them and stop the Republican plan to bankrupt the economy with out-of-control weapons spending.

Interesting speech from the  
Sacha BaronCohen "Borat" Comedy  
"The Dictator"

Why are you guys, so anti-dictators???Imagine if America was a Dictatorship... You could let one percent of the people, have all the nations wealth. You could help your rich friends get richer, by cutting their taxes...

and bailing them out when they gamble and lose.

You could ignore the needs of the poor, for health care and education.

Your media would appear FREE... but would secretly be controlled by one person and his family.

You could wire-tap phones.

You could torture foreign prisoners.

You could have rigged elections.

You could lie about why you go to war.

You could fill your prisons, with one particular racial group...

and no one would complain.

You could use the media, to scare the people, into supporting politics, that are against their interests.

I know this is hard for you Americans to imagine...

but please try.



## Retirees 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Survey

We currently have the following suggestions for our upcoming anniversary. We would like to have you select an option **or** your own ideas and return this form to us at the end of the meeting. The suggestions are in the order we received them. **Please mark an idea!**

Paddy O'Fegan's, a restaurant at Halsted & Lake St. . Lunch from a select menu  
wine

or beer with lunch, cash bar. The O'Fegan family has roots with Local 134. We would have to something for parking.

Giuseppe's (Nicks La Cantina) 1062 Lee St. Des Plaines. Buffet style lunch with  
wine or beer with lunch, cash bar. Ample parking across the street.

Arlington Height's Race Track, everything to be determined. Remember we already  
do a day at the races.

The Irish American Heritage Center with Bussean doing the catering. Similar buffet  
lunch with addition of carved roast. Wine or beer with lunch and cash bar. Bussean  
is the caterer we use at the hall.

Expansion of our June Honoree Luncheon, the menu would be the same as above,  
however we may not be able to serve wine and beer.

We also would like to know if you wish to do this and want suggestions as to when and  
what you might consider a reasonable cost. **Please circle answer below!**

Yes I would attend \_\_\_\_\_ No I would not attend \_\_\_\_\_

Dates:                      March 2013 \_\_\_\_\_ April 2013 \_\_\_\_\_ June 2013

Reasonable Cost;    \$5 to \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 to \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 to \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Suggestions ? Please give a contact name and number. Thank You!**

Send replies to the Retirees Club 600 W Washington Blvd 60661 or email Rich Sipple

**rsipple@sbcglobal.net**