

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

Retiree's Newsletter



JUNE

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 Written & Edited by Bob Smedberg and Mario Coletta
Mailed by Irv Blaszyński and Bernie Martin

FROM THE PODIUM

Well here in the Land of Lincoln spring has sprung. Our boys of summer have taken the field with the usual optimism, and visions of a cross town World Series dances in our heads or maybe the new Bears will win the Super bowl! It is so much easier to contemplate these highly unlikely events than to solve our real problems.

We can read daily about the dire straits our state's finances are in, as well as our county and local taxes increasing. Meanwhile, our politicians are more concerned with maintaining their own positions than actually solve problems.

I am not advocating that our public workers, teachers, police, fire, or municipal should lose *defined benefit pensions* or access to health plans, but I do question **who** is eligible to participate in these benefits. I am unable to fathom how **part time board members or paid lobbyists** can accrue these benefits.

I am also appalled that administrators get their salaries jacked up only to increase pensions they receive and then go on to other highly paid positions within the State. This happens constantly, sometimes into custom made positions in the same town. There are also the *automatic* colas that are received whether or not there has been any inflation, as we know from the lack of social security increases for two years.

I understand that these benefits have been negotiated and that the State has failed to meet its obligations. I also realize that most do not

participate in social security and they "pay" into the plans themselves, just as **we paid** into social security, we also paid into our own pensions thru a negotiated contract.

Both parties are complicit in this problem so don't blame one side or the other. They have all failed to meet the basic fiduciary responsibility to the participants as well as us, the employer. Unless we demand a change in our politician's approach **all** of us will suffer.

Rich Sipple

Just a Thought:

We hang petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office. *Aesop*

CALENDAR

May 28-Memorial Day Remember
Jun 4-E-board meeting 10:30 am
Jun 5-Neighborhood Tour 9:45 am
Jun 13-50,55,60,65,70, year
Celebration Luncheon 11:30am
Honor our Brothers
Jul 2-E-board meeting 10:30 am
Jul 4-Independence Day
Jul 11-Regular meeting 1:00 pm
Aug 6-E-board meeting 10:30 am
Aug 8-Regular meeting 1:00 pm
Sept 10-E-board meeting 10:30 am
Sept 12-Luncheon & Regular
meeting noon

RETIRED MEMBERS OF LOCAL 134, IBEW

I WANT TO HONOR THE FIFTY, FIFTY-FIVE
SIXTY, SIXTY-FIVE AND SEVENTY YEAR
MEMBERS AT THEIR NOON LUNCHEON ON
JUNE 13TH, 2012

HERE IS MY DOLLAR FOR EACH PERSON

NAME: _____

GUEST: _____

SEND THIS FORM BEFORE JUNE 1ST TO:

BERNARD MARTIN
8706 N. OLCOTT
NILES, IL 60714

Make checks payable to: Retired Members of Local 134, IBEW

The widows of our deceased members only, are the Club's guests and need not send the dollar, but are asked to please send in this form with your name, so we know how many people are attending.

April 11th 2012 Speaker

Our speaker was Commissioner Frank Avila of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Being one of the biggest the District is visited by people from all over the world to see how it cleans up the water. Residue collected after cleansing is given to farmers for fertilizer. It is ranked as Class A Bio-solid.

He spoke of the deep tunnel and how it prevents flooding. It's 109 miles long and serves the city of Chicago and 24 local communities. One inch of rainfall can amount to 50 billion gallons of water. When the locks are opened during bad rains the waste water overflow is sent to the lake. The closing of the beaches was blamed on this action, but it was determined That E. Coli responsible for the beach closures came from sea gulls. Their eggs are painted with a chemical to lower sea gull population.

He warned that new born infants are contracting adult diseases because of soaps and other personal care products that contain chemicals banned all over the world but not here. The compound he found to be of emergency concern was triclosans. Pesticides and herbicides also are affecting our children. Our water is some of the best but prescription drugs should be turned in for proper disposal and not flushed down the drain.

Frank was an interesting and entertaining speaker. He was elected to this position in November of 2002 and is the only engineer on the nine member board and brings a blend of experience and expertise to the board. We want to thank the District and Frank for speaking to us today.

IN MEMORIAM APRIL

John R Biksacky	*Robert E Byrnes
Fred C Cade	Patrick J Colgan
Robert M Cooney	Robert R Dizillo
Lawrence Drabant	Philip M Fishback
Wayne H Featherstone	Charles F Fritz
Thomas M Guerra	Henry A Hagen
Donald Hardesty	L C Harris
Robert A Hart	Arthur N Jeschke
Clyde Jones	Frank A Kotarba
Patrick E Lindgren	Duwayne A Malarz
James A Mannion	Carol Michaelson
Warren E Miller	Martin D Moore
*Raymond I Purcell Jr	Mark T Singer
Roger M Slowinski	Vernon H Whitman
George E Yara	

IN MEMORIAM MAY

James W Anderson	John M Bradbrook
Ivan E Bush	Edward Cachel
Kevin M Coyle	Bernard Day
Robert Dorman	Donald R Edwards
John Elliot	*James Enright
John L Erhart	Terrance Gannon
Thomas Gorski	Chester Gurnicz
David L Hall	Donald G Hopper
John W Kane	Joanne L Kurtz
Frank J Kuzel	Albert C Lattig
Earl A Lewis	Richard J Luby
William F Lusinski	Jeffery R Lyczak
Walter C Madrak	Robert McMullen
Otto B Melby	Thomas E Newquist
Nick A Nickolas	Michael Orzoff
Nick T Perkovich	William R Richards Jr
Robert W Smith	Charles Sorejian
Curtis E Turner	Robert Vernier
Cheryl A Vorlicky	Ronald E West
Dean Williams	Bruce W Wiltshire
Greg J Zimmerman	

It has come to our attention of the passing of Mrs Lorraine Ventrelli. We want to send our condolences to her family.

RECIPE EXCHANGE

I am not a salmon lover but Al enjoys it every so often. I found these recipes and now I cook salmon for both of us.

GRILLED SALMON WITH TARRAGON

Take 2 salmon pieces about 5 ounces each, and sprinkle dried tarragon on both sides of the fish, pressing or rubbing gently to make sure it sticks. Lightly coat each piece with about 1 tablespoon of light mayonnaise, being careful not to remove the tarragon.

Oil your grill if using a charcoal grill. electric grill, or baking dish. Allow 10 minutes of cooking time for charcoal grill and 5 minutes for electric grill. I bake mine in a preheated 400 degree oven for 10-15 minutes. Salmon should be firm yet moist. If you overcook it will become dry and tough.

You can use tarragon sauce to spoon over, if you like. **Tarragon sauce is:**

2 tbsp. plain low-fat yogurt

2 tbsp. light mayonnaise

1 ½ tsp. dried tarragon

½ tsp. Dijon mustard.

Mix well and refrigerate until ready to serve.

SALMON WITH DIJON SAUCE

4 – 6oz salmon fillets

½ cup Dijon mustard

3 tbsp. olive oil

3 tbsp. lemon juice

1 tsp minced garlic

Season salmon with salt and pepper and place into greased baking dish. Mix remaining

ingredients reserving ½ cup sauce. Spread remaining sauce over salmon and bake in preheated oven at 400degrees for 10 – 15 minutes. Serve with reserved mustard sauce.

JUNE 5TH

We are going on our **CHICAGO**

NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR. I would like to thank all of you who signed up before the dead line. We will meet at the Union Hall located at 600 W. Washington Blvd., at 9:45AM. Hopefully, the bus will pick us up at 10:00AM and we will return about 2:00PM. It is a great way for us to see or revisit different areas in the city. If you have any questions on how to get to the Union Hall or about the outing, please call me at 847-635-5659 or you can call my cell at 847-612-4581.

JUNE 13TH

This meeting is a luncheon meeting and we will be honoring our 50, 55, 60, 65and 70 year members.

Mary Anne Riehl is our entertainment and she will sing during the luncheon. It is a nice way to celebrate with our honored guests.

JULY 11TH

We have asked Ron Whittingham from Megent, Inc. to come and speak to us about his company, retirement accounts and any thing that you might want to ask him about. It might be good to write down some questions, that you might want to ask him about.

Retiree's Executive Board

President

Richard Sipple 312-914-4428

Vice President

Louis Rodriguez 773-761-4295

Recording Secretary

Don Mahoney 708-361-3695

Treasurer

Bernie Martin 847-965-8270

Executive Board

Vito Alberotanza 630-833-7224

Irvin Blaszyński 847-967-8232

Tom Bohn 773-881-1810

Mario Coletta 773-736-1480

Hugh O'Connell 630-257-0640

Bob Mersch 847-677-7826

Bob Smedberg 847-428-5881

Remembering Memorial Day

A message from Mike Rummery of the American Legion Electric Post 769. He said that the annual service will be at Mt Emblem on Memorial Day, Monday May 28th at approximately 9am. at section J of the cemetery. The entrance is at Grand Ave and Countyline Road, Elmhurst, Il. Coffee and rolls will be served.

An American Oligarchy Defined

At a time when the middle class is collapsing and poverty is increasing and the wealthiest people are doing phenomenally well, many Americans are wondering whether this country is moving toward an oligarchic form of government where a handful of very wealthy people control the economic and political life of the nation. At a time when the richest 400 Americans own more wealth than the bottom 150 million people, it was not surprising to learn from a recent study that between 2009 and 2010, 93 percent of all new income went to the top 1 percent of U.S. taxpayers. Additionally, it is extremely disturbing that because of the absurd Citizens United Supreme Court decision, many of these billionaires are now using their money to strengthen their political hold on the country. "This is not what democracy looks like. This is what oligarchy and plutocracy look like.

NO BAILOUT NEEDED

On Monday April 23rd 2012 the Social Security Trustees released their annual report on the financial status of Social Security. The report, issued every year, projects Social Security's income and outgo for the next 75 years. Once again, this year shows that Social Security has a large and growing surplus.

Last year's report projected that at the end of 2011, Social Security would have a surplus of about \$2.7 trillion, which it now has. This year's report predicts the surplus will remain at about \$2.7 trillion at the end of 2012.

The 2012 report projects that Social Security can payout benefits in full through 2033. After that, Social Security can payout three-fourths of the benefits earned.

All that is needed to keep Social Security strong is a simple adjustment - have everyone pay their fair share. Today, people earning \$50,000 per year contribute 6.2% to Social Security. People making \$500,000 per year only pay about 1%. If the Social Security tax cap were raised or eliminated Social Security would remain strong for years to come.

The Social Security Trustees Report shows that our Social Security system works just as intended, even in difficult economic times. Unlike the banks, which nearly brought the economy to ruin, Social Security didn't need a bailout.

Retirees 25th 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