Retiree's Newsletter

MARCH 2013

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 Blaszynski and Bernie Martin

FROM THE PODIUM

As The Retirees Club begins its 25th year we are grateful for all who have given so much to this organization. We honored our first President Irv Blaszynski at the Christmas Party. Irv started this club and is still a very active member. We will also be celebrating the anniversary at our June luncheon along with our 50,55,60,65 & 70 year members, so please join us for the festivities.

As with any organization today we are in search of the future leaders of the club. As a group we have over 500 members on the mailing list, at a luncheon meeting we will have 100 including spouses, and at a normal meeting we have 30 to 40 including spouses. We have attempted a variety of ways to entice you to come to meetings, raffles, gift cards, trips, speakers and plays. I have tried a different tactic by explaining the enjoyment that reconnecting with people from the past can have, as well as recognizing that there are different opinions amongst us.

I also know that there are drawbacks such as parking, etc., but the trains and public transportation are still a great way to get to a meeting and we try to end early enough for early departures. If you have suggestions or criticisms please talk to me. My cell is 312-914-4428 or send an e-mail to rsipple@sbcglobal.net. I want to hear from you, this is your club and I do not want to see us close the doors. Too many have contributed a lot of time, energy and ideas and believe me, we do have fun.

The Quip of the Day: When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied “I’m not sure”. “Look in your underwear, Grandpa”, he advised “mine says I’m 4 to 6”.

Fraternally,
Rich Sipple

CALENDAR

Feb 13-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm
Nominations for the three odd year E-Board members.
Mar 4-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am
Mar 13-Dollar Luncheon & Regular Meeting noon, Election Meeting.
Apr 1-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am
Apr 10-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm
May 6-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am
May 8-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm
May 13-Branson Blast
Jun 3-E-Board Meeting
Jun 12-50,55,60 year Celebration Luncheon noon, Honor our Brothers
DUES RENEWAL NOTICE

Please look at your Retired Members of Local 134 membership card, if it does not say 2013 or 2014 your dues are due. You can pay your 2013 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 2013 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.
ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON MARCH 13, 2013

AT NOON

THERE IS A ONE DOLLAR CHARGE FOR EACH MEMBER OR GUEST

MEMBER ________________________________

GUEST ________________________________

Make checks payable to Retired Members of Local Union # 134, IBEW

Mail to Bernard Martin,
8706 N. Olcott
Niles, IL 60714
Speaker January 9th 2013

Our speaker was Mariana Spyropoulos Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. She was appointed to the job in 2009 to fill a vacancy. She was elected in 2010.

In 1880 it was common to put waste water into the Chicago River. This caused sickness and had to be remedied. The river was reversed. Today there are seven filtration plants that manage storm water. They intersect in the deep tunnel. The tunnel can handle 22 billion gallons of water and green technology is being added.

A big concern is the Asian carp problem. Their moving north because of flooding and taking over areas according to the army Corp of Engineers. They’re using electrical charges to stem the take over of the carp and plan on increasing the voltage.

Another hazard we must be aware of is the pharmaceuticals being flushed in to the system. There getting into our water supply. To prevent this crush the medicine mix with cat litter and water in a sealable container and put it in the garbage, or turn it into Hazardous waste drop off locations. Unwanted pharma is not that difficult to dispose of in Chicago. There are several locations in the Chicago land area were they can be dropped off. Take left-over medicine to the nearest pharmacy, local clinic or police station.

Drug Disposal Locations

Arlington Heights Sr. Center
1801 W. Central Road
347.253.5532

Mount Prospect Public Works
1700 W. Central Road
847.870.5640

Barrington Public Safety Building Niles Senior Center
400 N. Northwest Highway 999 Civic Center Drive
347.304.330 847.588.8442

Buffalo Grove Village Hall Northbrook-Dundee Pharmacy
50 Raupp Boulevard 2750 Dundee Road, Suite 9
347.459.2530 847.480.1000

Chicago-Kosirog Rexall Drugs Oak Lawn - Barcus Pharmacy
1000 N. Western Ave. 4709 W. 102nd Street
773-486-3998 708.425.2400

Chicago Heights Palatine Village Hall
30 E. 15th St., Suite 204 200 E. Wood Street
708.754.6878 847.359.5090

Elk Grove Village Complex Park Ridge City Hall
901 Wellington 505 Butler Place
347.357.4202 847.318.5291

Evanston Civic Center Chicago Police Departments
2100 Ridge Avenue Area 1 - 5101 S. Wentworth
347.866.2948 Area 2 - 727 E. 111th St.

Glencoe Village Hall Area 3 - 2452 W. Belmont Ave.
575 Village Court Area 4 - 3151 W. Harrison St.
347.835.4112 Area 5 - 5555 W. Grand Ave.

Hoffman Estates Prospect Heights - City Hall
Department of Health 8 N. Elmhurst Road
1900 Hassel Road 847.398.6070
347.882.9100

Household Recycling Facility Wheeling Fire Station 24
1150 N. North Branch Street 255 W. Dundee Road
312.744.7672 847.459.2600

Inspectional Services Annex Wilmette Health Dept
1215 Waukegan Road 1200 Wilmette Avenue
347.904.4340 847.853.7507

Kenilworth Police Department Wilmette – Del Lago Pharmacy
419 Richmond Road 1515 Sheridan Rd. –
347.251.2141 847.256.3950

Lincolnwood Village Hall Winnetka Fire Department
5900 N. Lincoln Avenue 428 Green Bay Rd.
347.675.0888

Morton Grove Civic Center
5140 Dempster Street
DEEP TUNNEL TOUR

MARCH 6, 2013

WHERE: MAINSTREAM PUMPING STATION
6100 RIVER ROAD
HODGKINS, IL

TIME: ARRIVE AT 10:15 AM
TOUR STARTS AT 10:30 AM

DRESS: STURDY SHOES AND CASUAL CLOTHES LIKE JEANS

THERE ARE NO STAIRS, NOT A LOT OF WALKING AND WE WILL
BE GOING DOWN IN A CLOSED ELEVATOR. THERE IS ALSO A
MOVIE ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNNEL.

(CUT AND RETURN BOTTOM PORTION)

NAME/NAMES____________________________________________________

WAIVER ENCLOSED________________________________________________

ID ENCLOSED_____________________________________________________

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN US FOR LUNCH __________

DO YOU NEED DIRECTIONS TO THE TOUR LOCATION OR THE RESTAURANT______________

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNUP SHEET BY FEBRUARY 21ST. CALL ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. GERRY
WHITE 847-635-5659.
New Members 2012

Edward Bacher
Edward F Boyle
Ardell W Brown
John P Jack Bruno
Richard T Connolly
Maurice Deering
Jon DeMaine
Douglas D Dobes
Harry Dohman
Thomas Fee
Ronald J Fitzgerald
Kevin Gibbons
Frank H Gibbons
Ronald C Gibson
William Good
Michael Griffin
Terry Harmon
Russell E Hengels
Peter W Hermes
James L Johler
Joseph Kowalcze
Michael Learnahan
Charles Lunon
James Martin
Elijan Mavey
John McCarthy
Gerald Miller
Edward Mullarkey
Robert M Najewski
Jim North
Patrick O’Hara
Matteo Pesce
Thomas W Rossler
William Schulewitz
Peter J Stuber
Jim Turk
Donald P Wall
James M Walsh
Steven Watson

The Local 134 Retirees Club wants to welcome and recognize all the new members who joined us in 2012. We encourage you to come to the meetings meet your fellow brothers and members and if possible to join those members who are most active in the club. 2013 is our 25th year. We’ll be celebrating the anniversary in June. Hope to see you there.
WINTER ACTIVITIES

The winds blow and the snow falls and we feel as though all we want to do for the next few months is hunker down under a nice woolen blanket. It is important to stay active even if one can’t get outside during the cold weather. Here are some simple movements that can be done right at home a few times each day:
1. While sitting in your chair, slowly flap your arms to move your muscles gently.
2. Get up and walk through every room of your house three or four times.
3. Walk up and down a flight of stairs at home.
4. Lie on the bed or couch and lift your leg, bending the knee toward your chest.
5. Wiggle your fingers and your toes.
If you are able to do more strenuous movements using exercise equipment that’s great. But even these little things will help until spring beckons us outdoors once more.

MARCH 6th
Last month when Mariyana Spyropoulos spoke at our monthly meeting she mentioned that we could take a tour of the deep tunnel. I have arranged for that tour at 10:30 AM on Wednesday March 6th. It is at the MAINSTREAM PUMPING STATION, 6100 RIVER ROAD, HODGKINS, IL 60525. If you want to go on this tour you must complete the waiver form attached to this newsletter. You must also provide a legible copy of your driver’s license, state ID or passport for a security check. I must send on the paperwork so I will need for you to send me the waiver and ID before February 21st. We are planning on going to the Barnelli’s Location in Portillo’s Hot Dogs located at 5532 S. Harlem Avenue, Summit IL. If you want to go to lunch please indicate it on the sign up sheet attached to this newsletter.

MARCH 13th
We will be having lunch at this meeting. It is only $1.00 so be sure to sign up and for another $1.00 you can bring your spouse or friend to escort you for another $1.00. Sign up sheet to be sent to Bernie Martin is attached. We will also have as our guest speaker Linda Czechowski. Linda is from H&R Block, Inc. and she will be informing us of the tax changes and other information we need to help us to prepare our income tax returns. Be sure to bring your questions to ask her. At this meeting we elect three E-Board members. We are always looking for members willing to do a little more.

APRIL 10th
Our guest speaker is Michael Barrett. I think he will be discussing trust, wills, and other important topics that we all should be thinking about.

MAY 8th
We will have a speaker from CUB – the Citizens Utility Board. If you bring your utility bills with you to this meeting you can find out if you are overpaying for your utilities or if you should change your providers.

MAY 13th
We are going on the Branson Blast trip. We still have room if you care to join us. We are going with Mayflower Tours and they have free home or local pick up and return.
I have contacted our favorite neighborhood tour guide to help plan a tour for the first week in June. I am hoping we can offer a tour by the next newsletter.
This has been a busy month because we like to do outings in the nicer weather.
If you want to go or do something, please let me know. I am always ready to try to make everyone happy. I am looking forward to our Deep Tunnel tour March 6th and I hope you can make it.
Budget Showdown in Washington

What it Means for Seniors

- No immediate cuts in key programs for retirees for January and February, 2013
- Some in Washington still want to cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid
- Older Americans Act programs facing possible cuts on March 1, 2013

On New Year’s Day, Congress approved the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2013. This narrowly averted large income tax increases on most Americans and temporarily suspended sweeping, across-the-board cuts to domestic and defense programs. Specifically, the law:

- **Suspends the sequester (automatic cuts)** for 2 months while broader deficit reduction talks continue. Though the sequester would not cut Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid benefits, it would cut many Older Americans Act services that seniors’ depend upon for their independence, health and well-being, such as meal programs, rides to medical appointments and assistance with home heating costs.

- **Prevents massive cut in Medicare doctors’ reimbursements.** The law halts for one year the 27% reductions in physician reimbursements, ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries will have access to providers.

- **Extends Assistance to Low-income and Therapy Cap Exception.** The Qualified Individual (QI) program – which pays Medicare Part B premiums for individuals with incomes between 120% and 135% of the federal poverty level and resources below $6,940 for an individual and $10,410 for a couple – is extended through December 31, 2013. Also, it extends exception process for outpatient therapy caps, allowing beneficiaries to obtain needed therapy services.

- **Returns Social Security Payroll Contributions to 6.2%.** The rate of American workers’ payroll contributions to Social Security has been 4.2% for the past two years. As of January 1, it’s back to 6.2%, on the first $113,700 in wages. While this means smaller paychecks (average loss of about $40 from each bi-weekly paycheck), the expiration of the payroll tax holiday means that Social Security will return to being fully funded by workers’ and employers’ contributions – as it has been since the program started.

Retirees and workers must remain vigilant against long-standing threats to seniors’ health care and economic security. Our economic problems are not caused by Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid benefits.

- Social Security has not added one dime to the deficit.
- We oppose benefit cuts to Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid.
- Let’s talk about closing loopholes for Wall Street and the richest 2% of Americans.