

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

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

## FROM THE PODIUM

As **The Retirees Club** begins its 25<sup>th</sup> year we are grateful for all who have given so much to this organization. We honored our first President **Irv Blaszyński** 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](mailto: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

**Feb13**-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm  
Nominations for the three odd year E-Board members.  
**Mar 4**-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am  
**Mar13**-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 9<sup>th</sup> 2013

Our speaker was Mariyana 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 400 N. Northwest Highway 347.304.330	Niles Senior Center 999 Civic Center Drive 847.588.8442
Buffalo Grove Village Hall 50 Raupp Boulevard 347.459.2530	Northbrook-Dundee Pharmacy 2750 Dundee Road., Suite 9 847.480.1000
Chicago-Kosirog Rexall Drugs 1000 N. Western Ave. 773-486-3998	Oak Lawn – Barcus Pharmacy 4709 W. 102rd Street 708.425.2400
Chicago Heights 30 E. 15 <sup>th</sup> St., Suite 204 708.754.6878	Palatine Village Hall 200 E. Wood Street 847.359.9090
Elk Grove Village Complex 301 Wellington 347.357.4202	Park Ridge City Hall 505 Butler Place 847.318.5291
Evanston Civic Center 2100 Ridge Avenue 347.866.2948	<u>Chicago Police Departments</u> Area 1 - 5101 S. Wentworth Area 2 - 727 E. 111th St. Area 3 - 2452 W. Belmont Ave. Area 4 - 3151 W. Harrison St. Area 5 - 5555 W. Grand Ave.
Glencoe Village Hall 575 Village Court 347.835.4112	Prospect Heights - City Hall 8 N. Elmhurst Road 847.398.6070
Hoffman Estates Department of Health 1900 Hassel Road 347.882.9100	Rolling Meadows–Public Works 3900 Berdnick Street 847.870.2884
Household Recycling Facility 1150 N. North Branch Street Chicago, IL 60642 312.744.7672	Skokie Village Hall 5127 Oakton Street 847.933.8252
Inspectional Services Annex 1215 Waukegan Road 347.904.4340	Wheeling Fire Station 24 255 W. Dundee Road 847.459.2600
Kenilworth Police Department 419 Richmond Road 347.251.2141	Wilmette Health Dept 1200 Wilmette Avenue 847.853.7507
Lincolnwood Village Hall 5900 N. Lincoln Avenue 347.675.0888	Wilmette – Del Lago Pharmacy 1515 Sheridan Rd. – 847.256.3950
Morton Grove Civic Center 5140 Dempster Street 347.470.5223	Winnetka Fire Department 428 Green Bay Rd. -

**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  
MOIVE ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNNEL.**

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(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 Jöhler

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 25<sup>th</sup> 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're 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.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of St. Louis, Inc.

Permit Application

For Sewer and Storm

Contract Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant Location

\_\_\_\_\_  Industrial WWT \_\_\_\_\_  Transfer WWT \_\_\_\_\_  Local WWT \_\_\_\_\_  Other WWT \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  South Side WWT \_\_\_\_\_  Solidary WWT \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge that I am the owner of the property described above and that I am applying for a permit to install and maintain the sewer and storm lines described above. I realize that this work is dangerous in nature and I shall stay with the work from the start to the end and away from any nearby equipment involved in the working of the pumping station and plant. I realize that I must wear my cap, eye and safety shoe, and that no shorts, sandals, or high heels will be allowed. I realize that I must submit a copy of my state driver's license or state ID at the time of applying for a permit and bring the original ID to the work field. I realize that I will be subject to search. I realize that no firearms, knives, equipment, explosives, firearms, cell phones, tools, pocket knives, bags, knives, weapons, tools, drinks and food will be allowed on the job.

In consideration of being allowed to maintain this utility, the system, my work, and my activities, maintenance and design, I hereby RELEASE, WAIVER AND DISCLAIMER my District, its Commissioners, officers, agents, and employees from any liability for personal injury or death of myself or through to my personal property, which may occur due to my presence on the job, or District facilities. I agree to be solely responsible for and to defend, indemnify, keep and save harmless the District, its Commissioners, officers, agents, and employees against all injuries, losses, damages, from suits, liabilities, judgments, costs, and expenses which may hereafter accrue directly or indirectly against the District, its Commissioners, officers, agents, and employees, in consequence of the granting of this permission, of which any in any wise result therefrom.

Plant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Owner or Control of the work (signature of a minor): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: employment or school: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

What type of worker: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home or Personal Work)

Will a responsible person be present? If so, is it who is engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

Let your contractor call you periodically.



## **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.**