

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

Retiree's

Newsletter



MAY

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 Blaszyński and Bernie Martin

FROM THE PODIUM

As usual we had a very nice turnout at our March luncheon, all of the usual members as well as several new members and visitors. Please remember that our June luncheon is going to Honor our 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, year members as well as a celebration of our own **25th anniversary!** At our March meeting it was brought up that a portion of our International Pension should have a taxable deduction for our contribution to it over the years. The member who brought it up was very well versed on it; however our speaker from H&R Block was unsure of an answer because she was not aware of that plan. I contacted Cathy Finke and we placed a conference call with the I/O. We were told that when we receive our retirement card from the I/O we also have a letter explaining the amount of money we had paid in, I asked for a copy of mine as I could not remember this. I also called Megant and was told that if we had deducted our total union dues over the years this would not be deductible again. However I will state this info from all was couched with each individual should seek the advice of an IRS professional. On March 20th I received my letter and it did state that over my career I had paid over \$5300.00 and told me that the info was needed to properly submit for tax purposes. It also advised me as to my beneficiaries. This letter also had my retiree's card at the bottom. So this answers part of the situation as well as advice not to **"toss"** anything half read! I also thank Bob Hengels for bringing this subject; we can all benefit from others experience.

I also need to thank Vito Alberotanza, Jim Fliris, and Hugh O'Connell for their continued service to our Executive Board. We are in need of a Sgt at Arms and also we will be having a big election at next March's meeting. Please give this some consideration. Our club is in need of fresh thoughts and leadership.

My e-mail is rsipple@sbcglobal.net, and my cell phone is 312-914-4428.

Thought for the day;

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

And please remember, a truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Rich Sipple

IN MEMORIAM MARCH

Lee Andrews Sally A Brandon
Francis B Carey Richard J Carroll
William P Connolly Bob Edwards
Dennis W Dancho *John E Garner
 Alfred F DiBernardino
William J Hennelly John A Krohn
Arnold L Johnson *Eugene J Libera
James L Lowder Ronald W Masel
Karl O Niedermeyer Henry V Pavin
George S Pekelnicky Edgar J Rusch
James J Rattigan Ronald J Rumps
Casey S Shoop Howard V Smith
Harry R Terlecki Michael J Welz
Harold Vanprooyen Roy Volck
 Charles A Wright III
 Paul S Zubowicz

Our Condolences to the families of
John E Garner and Eugene L Libera

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 12TH, 2013

WE ARE ALSO CELEBRATING THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETIREES CLUB

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.

March 13th 2013 Speaker

Linda Czechowski from H&R Block was our speaker. She's spoken at previous meetings and is always welcome. She talked about the tax changes from the "Fiscal Cliff" starting in 2001 to 2010. Most of the 2010 tax law was extended for 2011, 2012 and now 2013. What changes made were just to the upper income earners. It's taken a while but the IRS has little by little accepted more and more of the changes. She warned that ID theft has become an issue delaying refunds.

At age 70 ½ There is a required minimum distribution tax from deferred IRAs 401Ks and in our case the annuity. The amount is determined by those who manage the investment. This distribution is added to regular income to figure the adjusted gross. Roth IRAs are not taxed and not included in the distribution. Another way to avoid paying taxes on the distribution is to donate it to a 501 C3 charity.

Living in Illinois is a positive for those on pension and Social Security; these are not taxed by the state. For those who itemize on their federal taxes it is a good idea to deduct the state tax from the sales tax table. The items that are deductible on our federal income tax are few. Medical mileage is deductible at 24 cents a mile. To be able to deduct medical expenses it must be over 7 ½ % of gross income. For miscellaneous deductions expenses must be over 2%. There is an energy saving credit in 2012 and 2013. They include insulation, hot water heater, furnace, exterior doors and windows. The lifetime limit is \$500., but if you took these credits in the previous five years there's probably nothing left.

A question was asked about our IBEW pension and how it is taxed. The IRS 939 Bulletin explains this if contributions were made before 1986. She explained though Trust Funds are a good idea, they can be adjusted so heirs have more freedom to use the inheritance. A person can gift up to \$14,000 per year and not pay a tax. In 2013 Medicare can charge for income on investments. \$200,000 investment income for singles, \$250,000 for married filing jointly. She also informed us that returns must be kept for at least three years, and some returns maybe longer. Thank you Linda.

CALENDAR

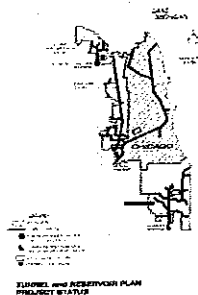
Apr 10-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm
May 6-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am
May 8-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm
May 13-Branson Blast
Jun 3-E-Board Meeting
Jun 12-50,55,60 year Celebration Luncheon noon, Honor our Brothers Also we're celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Retirees Club
Jul 1 -E-Board Meeting 10:30 am
Jul 10- Regular Meeting 1:00 pm
Jul 25-Drury Lane Play "Boeing Boeing" Luncheon served at 11:30 am
Aug 5- E-Board Meeting 10:30 am
Aug 14- Regular Meeting 1:00 pm

March 6, 2013

Twenty-Five members met at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) where Hank Marks, Chief Operating Engineer II, presented a short film outlining their county-wide storm water and waste water management plan. The film explained some of their responsibilities such as

- * Protecting the water quality of Lake Michigan;
- * Collection of wastewater;
- * Treatment of approximately 530 billion gallons of collected wastewater;
- * Maintenance and operation of the District's vast collection/treatment facilities;
- * Removal, processing, beneficial reuse and environmentally safe utilization of bio solids;
- * Minimize local area flooding and pollution through monitoring and active control of the water levels in 76 miles of rivers and canals, as well as the area's 32 retention reservoirs;
- * Improvements in the quality of water.

He answered many questions and then showed these facilities on a large map. The boundaries of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District include more than five million residents of Cook County. These people, plus the thousands of industries within the District, generate 1.4 billion gallons of wastewater each day.



The District is divided into 7 service areas. Each sends its waste water to a different treatment plant through the sewer systems. These 7 plants range in capacity from 1.2 billion gallons per day the Stickney Plant (the world's largest), to 2.3 million gallons per day at the Lemont Plant.

The group then had the opportunity to view a model of the Tunnel Boring Machine which was used to create the miles and miles of Deep Tunnel. This machine was used to bore tunnels up to 32 feet in diameter.

After viewing one of the control rooms at the facility, the members donned hard hats and were brought down 300 feet below ground for further explanations of the process. At which time, Hank again answered the many questions members had regarding the process and outcome of the facility.

When the tour ended the group met at Portillo's/Barnelli's on Harlem Avenue and enjoyed a delicious lunch of their choosing.

Marge O'Keefe

Drury Lane Dinner Theatre Presents

“BOEING BOEING”
A Non- Stop Comedy

Our next play will be held on Thursday July 25th 2013 and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Show to follow 1:30 pm at the Drury Lane Playhouse in Oak Brook Terrace. Your ticket order must be in Bob Mersch's hands by July 1st, 2013 with your check for \$45.00 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:

Salmon Filet _____

Lemon Tarragon Sauce

Or

Chicken Breast Marsala _____

Mushroom Marsala Wine Sauce

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

Name _____

Guest _____

Send your order to:

Bob Mersch

5223 W. Madison Street

Skokie, IL 60077

BOEING, BOEING was revived in 2007 after an undeniably successful seven-year run in the West End. The Wall Street Journal hailed Boeing-Boeing as one of “the funniest plays to hit Broadway in ages” and the Daly Telegraph said it was “the funniest show on the London stage.” This charming revival focuses on Bernard, a jet setting architect living in Paris. He has been successfully juggling three flight attendant fiancés with the help of his reluctant housekeeper who keeps track of everyone's comings and goings. Mayhem follows soon after the arrival of an old college pal as flights are delayed, schedules change and chaos ensues.

The Laughs come fast and furious when Bernard finds himself struggling to keep up with his overwhelming amorous lies. Audiences will have to fasten their seat belts for a roaring ride that will take them up and away.

RECIPE EXCHANGE

Laura Felde gave me this recipe and I am so anxious to try it that I purchased all the ingredients already.

CHICKEN BREASTS WITH CAPER SAUCE

1 cup reduced sodium chicken broth
½ tsp. Sherry vinegar
4 cloves (medium) garlic cloves
1/8 tsp. peppercorn or 5 whole black
1 bay leaf
10 oz. uncooked boneless skinless chick breast
(2 halves)
¼ tsp. table salt
1/8 tsp. black pepper, freshly ground
1 tsp. olive oil
1 tsp. capers
1 tsp. regular butter, softened
1 tsp. all-purpose flour

Bring broth, garlic, sherry vinegar, peppercorns and bay leaf to a boil in a small saucepan. Reduce heat and simmer until the liquid is reduced to about ¾ cup (8 or 9 min). Discard the peppercorns and bay leaf and puree the rest in a blender.

Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper and heat in oil over medium heat until browned on both sides. About 10 min. total. Add the garlic mixture with capers and partially cover and cook, turning the chicken until heated through. About 2-3 minutes longer. Remove the chicken. Mix the butter and flour together to form a paste and stir into the sauce and blended until smooth. Put chicken back into the sauce and simmer until the sauce is thickened about 1 minute.

LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER

There was a little discussion last month about our 1099R form that we receive from the IBEW PENSION BENEFIT FUND. It is all taxable unless you never deducted union dues on your yearly 1040 Federal Tax Form. In other words if you took the deduction for union dues, you are not allowed to

reduce your distribution from this fund. You might have to prove that you did not take the deduction.

MAY 8th

Our scheduled speaker will be from the Citizens Utility Board. I have put my utility bills together to see if I am over paying. You are free to ask questions or bring your bills with you that day.

JUNE 12th

It is our annual luncheon honoring the members who have been in the union for 50, 55, 60 etc. years. It is also the 25th anniversary of the start of the Retirees' Club, so it is time to celebrate. Remember to send in your reservation form to Bernie Martin, a copy of which is attached to this newsletter.

JULY 10th

There are some speakers that we try to get to come every year. It has been a couple of years since Brian Milich from the Cook County Sheriff's Department, has come, but he is such a good speaker that I hope you can all attend. He talks about our personal safety and the safety of what goes on in and about our homes. Please try to make this meeting.

JULY 25th

Save the date. It is the next Drury Lane Lunch and Theatre outing. We will be seeing the new popular Broadway farce "BOEING-BOEING". You can read a little synopsis of the play on the reservation sheet which I hope you fill out and return to Bob Mersch, before July 1st. We have had a good turn out at these lunches so if you know that you want to go, send in the reservation form early.

SEPTEMBER 11th

I have contracted entertainment for that luncheon. It will be MUSICAL MEMORIES A LA MODE.

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.

