

Retiree's Newsletter



November

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 Mario Coletta
Mailed by Irv Blaszyński and Bernie Martin

FROM THE PODIUM

I am sitting preparing my monthly words of wisdom. Please don't verify that statement with my wife. We are 6 weeks from the election and the radio news just did a piece about Congress recessing until after that. Both sides stating that the reason nothing was accomplished was due to the other side! Spin cycle is on other things besides the washer.

My spin is this. We could really use a strong third party but we don't, so our job is much harder. I believe that President Obama deserves to be re-elected, he has had some people do nothing but insist that he should be limited to one term from November of 2008, and that was before he took office. Have mistakes been made? Sure, but that is life! I think that a Mitt Romney alternative would be a disaster for labor.

I am an avid reader of current events and I believe that my choices give me a balanced point of view. I firmly think that we are in a very precarious position and that points out that Congress is more concerned with maintaining extreme positions than solving problems. The president is only one person and we could complain that he should be able to push agendas or that he didn't push the right one. President Obama is the right man for the job!

Mitt Romney believes that middle class incomes are 200k to 250k and that anyone on a government program, food stamps or unemployment wants to be there! How many of our members have relied on these pro-grams? Our members have been out of work or under worked during the past 10 years. EIT hours have been almost by half from

their high. Also I believe that our real purchasing power is less than 1972. So much for middle class.

Now as I said in last month's piece, I believe that our contractors are the job creators that everyone talks about. I also believe that they are facing an extremely tough market, and if right to work laws rear their heads we, the retirees, will face a very different life. That's a cliff I do not want to go over!

I urge everyone to VOTE on November 6th, and once you have done that, engage everyone about your concerns, mail, phone e-mail or in person. Make sure your voice is heard.

My real push is that we should have a 3rd party. We don't, so most of us are in between. Demand problem solving not obstruction! This includes both parties, they are both self serving.

Rich Sipple

CALENDAR

- Oct 10**-Regular meeting 1:00 pm
- Nov 5**-E-board meeting 10:30 am
- Nov 14**-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm at the Apprenticeship School 115th and Ridgeland Alsip. Park on the far east end. Annual Thanksgiving Turkey raffle. Noon till 1:00 Meet & Greet
- Nov 29**- Drury Lane Play " Singing In The Rain" luncheon served 11:30 am
- Dec 3**-E-board meeting 10:30 am
- Dec 12**-Holiday Party at the Irish American Heritage Center noon

Drury Lane Dinner Theatre Presents

“Singin’ In The Rain”

DIRECTED BY Bill Jenkins

Our next play will be held on Thursday November 29th 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 November 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: Soup of the Day

Entrees:

Traditional Roast Turkey _____

Sliced Breast Herb Stuffing Cranberries Turkey Gravy

Or

Tilapia _____

Lemon Beurre Chives

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

You remember the plot. You love the characters. You Know “the song.” It’s no less than the stage adaptation of one of the most celebrated and beloved films of all time.

1920’s Hollywood is the setting for this zany, light-hearted romantic comedy about the early days of sound film, when many a movie studio found itself scrambling to transition from silent pictures to sound. Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are the toast of Hollywood. However, Lina has been cursed with a terrible, grating voice. Thus, problems occur when she and Don star in their first talking movie. Secretly, Don and the studio executives arrange to have a beautiful, up-and-coming actress, Kathy mime for Lina. Luckily, the movie is a hit. However, Lina is furious.

Singin; In The Rain has such Memorable hit songs such as the title song “Singin in the rain”, Make “Em Laugh,” You Were Meant for Me,” and “Fit as a Fiddle (And Ready for Love)”.

THE RETIRED MEMBERS OF LOCAL UNION #134 IBEW INVITE YOU TO OUR
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
AT THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER
4626 NORTH KNOX AVE.
WILSON AND KNOX, CHICAGO
AT NOON, DECEMBER 12, 2012

FOR CORNED BEEF DINNER _____

OR ROAST CHICKEN DINNER _____

BOTH MEALS WITH BOILED POTATOES, CABBAGE AND BEER

PIE FOR DESERT WITH COFFEE OR TEA

THERE WILL BE A CASH BAR

NAME _____

GUEST _____

The cost for members and their wives is \$29.00 per person
Widows of our deceased members are free. Widows are asked to send in their
reservation. Mail this reservation form to: Richard Sipple

901 Pheasant Walk
Schaumburg IL 60193

Make checks payable to the order of Retired Members of Local Union #134 IBEW
Please allow enough time to mail your payment. We must know the total number of
guests by December 5th.

September 12th 2012 Speakers

Linda Cardone and Melissa Conforti from the Electrical Insurance Trustees gave us an explanation of the coordination of our benefits between Blue Cross and Medicare. Flyers were passed out showing how a typical bill will be covered. The plan will calculate its payment as if there was no Medicare coverage. It will apply the deductible, copayments and other plan limits as if we were an active participant. An active participant would be responsible to pay the 10% patient share plus the deductible. However because we have Medicare we are only responsible for 5% not the 10%. The 10% is applied to our \$3000 out of pocket costs. The September 29th Benefits fair would be the best place to talk with EIT about this and to answer any other questions. We want to thank Linda and Melissa for interrupting their busy schedule at EIT to speak at our meeting. The main EIT Contact Phone Number: 312-782-5442 the Fax Number: 312-782-7240 the EIT Web-Site: www.fundoffice.org

We also had Thomas Jaconetty and Teresa Chandler from the Cook County Assessors Office. It was explained that the County wants to set a fair value on the homes being taxed. There is an assessment then an equalizer then the tax rates. The assessment findings will be compared to between 9 and 12 properties listed. There has been a large turndown of about 35% in home values since 2008. Foreclosures, vacancies, what's selling and what's leasing all have an effect on values. Assessment value of homes have lowered 10 to 30%.

Appeals are encouraged. As of late there have been 165,000 appeals. Cook County has the largest appeal process in the United States. Teresa Chandler talked about the 1.8 million parcels in Cook County. She told us about the homeowner's exemptions the senior exemptions the senior freeze exemption and the long time exemptions. Each has stipulations either of age, income or years at the address. Forms must be filled out every year and some forms have to be asked for by phone from the Assessors Office.

The main Assessors Office is located at 118 Clark Street Chicago IL 60602, but there are local offices in the county. Phone 312 603 3155 Fax 312 603 3925 Web address is www.cookcountyassessor.com

From the Treasurer Now that fall is here and the year is coming to the end, it is time to pay our 2013 Retired Members Club dues. The dues are the same as last year \$20.00. You can pay your 2013 dues by filling in the form that is in this newsletter and making out a check for \$20.00 made payable to the Retired Members of Local 134 IBEW. Send it to the treasurer Bernie Martin at 8706 N. Olcott Ave. Niles IL. 60714.

On learning of her passing we want to extend our condolences to the family of Margaret Pierz.

DUES RENEWAL NOTICE

Please look at your Retired Members of Local 134 membership card, if it does not say 2013 or 2014 your dues is 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 mouths 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.

RECIPE EXCHANGE

Robert Daniels gave me a recipe and I would like to share with you the story behind the recipe. PEG BLAKE, who is a Legislative Assistant to Senator Ed Maloney and Representative Bill Cunningham, gave this recipe to the Green Hills Public Library. They published it in their Fall 2012 LIBRARY LINK. Peg's husband who worked at the Chicago Water Filtration Plant, was given a piece of Sweet Potato Pie to take home to sample by a man named Frasier Robinson, aka Robby. It became the Blake Family's favorite dessert at the Thanksgiving Day Table.

SOUL SWEET POTATO PIE

2 cups mashed sweet potatoes

½ cup melted butter

1 ½ cups sugar

1 cup milk

1 tsp. nutmeg

½ tsp. salt

5 eggs beaten

2 tsps. cinnamon

1 tsp. grated orange rind

Boil potatoes in plain water. Remove "Strings". Mix all ingredients in bowl, beat well. Divide the contents into two deep pie shells. Bake in 350 degree oven until firm, at least one hour. Oh, one more thing, Robby (now deceased) was the father of our First Lady, Michelle Obama.

NOVEMBER 14th

Our monthly meeting will be held at the apprentice school, located at 115th and Ridgeland. We will have a turkey raffle. This could be your Thanksgiving Day dinner.

NOVEMBER 29th

We are going to Drury Lane Oakbrook for lunch and the play SINGING IN THE RAIN. You can sign up with the attached reservation sheet and send to Bob Mersch.

DECEMBER 12th

This Wednesday will be our Annual Holiday Party. It will be held at the Irish American Heritage Center. The meal is cooked by Harrington's and is always delicious. You can make your reservation by sending in the fill out sheet attached to this newsletter.

APRIL 15th

I have planned at Mayflower trip to Branson, MO. Some of the members have asked me if we could plan a trip like this. Please let me know if you are interested. In reading the ELECTRICAL WORKER I read where other Retiree's Clubs make trips and I thought we could try to do it. The club sponsored a trip many years ago before we were members. A good time was had by all. There is a flyer enclosed with this newsletter for your information. REMEMBER TO LET ME KNOW IF YOU WANT TO GO ASAP.
Gerry White 847-635-5659/

Local 134 IBEW



BRANSON BLAST

4 DAYS • 6 MEALS

Twelve Irish Tenors - Twelve of Ireland's greatest voices on one stage for an unforgettable performance.

Clay Cooper's Country Music Dinner Show - A delicious dinner followed by a fun-filled show featuring country music veteran showman Clay Cooper.

#1 Hits of the 60's - Travel back to the days of the British Invasion, Motown, and California Surfer with music, dance, and a very special tribute to our Vietnam War Veterans.

Brady Lunch with Greg Brady - Star of television, best selling author and Broadway performer Barry Williams not only entertains, but will touch your heart.

The Haygoods - One of the most talented families to ever hit the stage with tight harmonies and playing over 20 musical instruments.

**FOR RESERVATIONS
OR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Gerry White
847-635-5659**

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Free home or local pick up and return
- 6 Meals (2 dinners, 1 lunch and 3 breakfasts)
- See Five Great Branson Shows including:
 - **Twelve Irish Tenors**
 - **Clay Cooper's Country Music Dinner Show**
 - **#1 Hits of the 60's**
 - **Brady Lunch with Greg Brady**
 - **The Haygoods**
- \$20 in Mayflower Money

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Comfort Inn Thousand Hills or
Best Western Music Capital Inn, Branson, MO

DEPARTURE DATE

April 15, 2013

PER PERSON RATES

Twin \$879
 Single add \$189
 Triple deduct \$6

**SAVE \$50
PER PERSON**
Call for details

Cancellation Fee Waiver (CFW) - \$60 per person

On a Mayflower Motorcoach tour, the cost of the tour is refundable less the deposit amount when cancellations are made more than 30 days prior to departure. If you purchase the optional Cancellation Fee Waiver (CFW), you will be refunded all payments, less the \$60 for the CFW. While on tour, if a passenger must leave early due to a personal illness, illness or death of a member of the immediate family or a traveling companion, the purchase of the Cancellation Fee Waiver guarantees full refund for any unused services. Should you choose not to purchase our Cancellation Fee Waiver, the following per person cancellation charges will be assessed:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 31 days or more | Deposit Amount |
| 30 to 7 days prior | \$200 per person |
| 6 to 1 day prior | \$250 per person |
| Day of departure | 100% of the tour cost |
| Early departure from tour | 100% of the tour cost |
| No refund on unused portions of the tour | |

Exclusions: Mayflower Tours reserves the right to alter its Refund and Cancellation Policy when a substantial amount of cancellation or postponement of travel is attributable to conditions resulting from an act of God, natural or man-made disaster, fire, government action, civil disorder, war, hostilities between nations, or unavailability of transportation through no fault of Mayflower Tours.



MAYFLOWER TOURS

THE GREEN THING

While in the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized to her and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment." She was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana.

In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water.

We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service.

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smartass young person.

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.

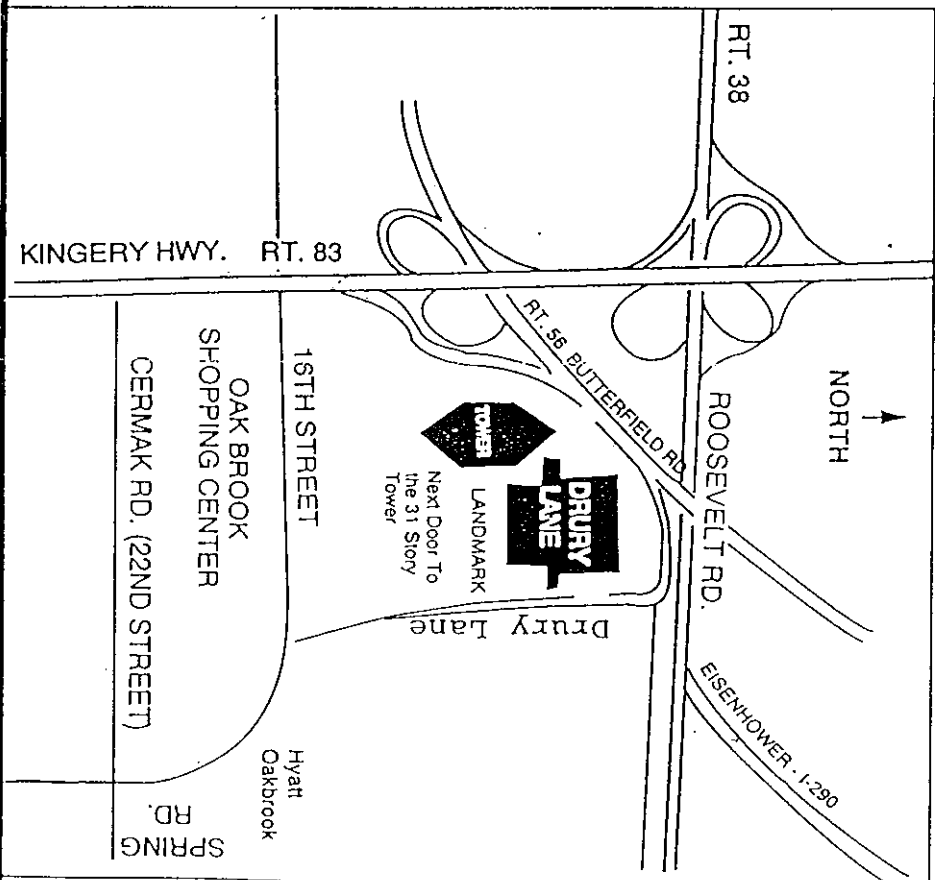
WHEN APPROACHING FROM THE NORTH OR SOUTH ON ROUTE 83: Exit at Roosevelt/Butterfield Road East (Roosevelt Road is Route 38). Follow the GREEN sign to DRURY LANE.

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