

# Retiree's Newsletter



October

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

## FROM THE PODIUM

As we get nearer to Election Day I find myself becoming irritable. For the most part I know who I would like to see elected, reelected, or thrown out with the bathwater. Another thing that bothers me as I try to write something I hope you, the member, find meaning-full, is that we can find common ground.

The fact that we have all belonged to a union, worked in a skilled trade, and are blessed to have a pension, does not mean we all see politics the same way.

I have had mail that disagrees with some positions I have taken, I respect that and I will tell you that I do not believe that one party is the answer. There are times I would like to see a spot for none of the above, but there isn't! What I do believe is that before we vote we carefully assess what we really expect from a candidate and after we vote we continue to actively make our positions heard. Casting a vote isn't the end of the process.

Now my opinion in the upcoming Election is that nationally, the Tea Party would be very happy to drive a stake thru the heart of organized labor, **that's us!** I cannot believe anyone of us wants that to happen. It would be the end of a member's ability to earn decent wages or expect a defined benefit pension, or probably health plans as good as ours. Organized labor has declined from 35% to less than 12%. All of the middle and lower class's purchasing power has been declining since the 1970's, and yet the conservatives still blame unions for everything that's wrong. **That is wrong!**

I have my opinions about the State of Illinois, and my state rep, my senator, and everyone on my mailing list knows my concerns. This is a bigger problem because of a control issue. The past year has shown how people that have represented us have gamed the system, and how those in positions of power have benefited. It also shows us why we cannot believe everything we are told. We had surpluses in the federal budget in the 1990's, both parties "spin" it in their favor. The truth is it was because of a dialogue and some "give & take". President Clinton signed NAFTA which had already been negotiated. We were attacked in 2001 and President Bush responded. I stood firmly with him initially. However he did not ask us to support the effort as Americans did in prior wars. The only people who gave were the men and women who served and their families! **Some of those several times and some with their lives!** There was no rationing or tax increases to pay for the effort, in fact taxes were decreased. By 2007 financial storm clouds were forming, and as we all know it became a disaster. If my memory serves me correctly President Bush did not veto anything in his first term and only twelve in his second.

Neither party can “spin” away the deficit, nor can they wave a wand and make it a “wonderful life”, that only happens in fairy tales. What we need to have happen is for all those elected to stop playing to the cameras and complaining about each other and begin to govern. That is what they were elected to do. It is time for them to \_\_\_\_ or get off the pot! That is the last time I will stoop that low!

This is my opinion, I do not believe that the 1% really cares nor do I believe the Congress or State Legislature really cares, but I hope you care enough to vote and then be concerned enough to stay engaged!

I thank those of you who write or e-mail. I consider it a privilege to serve you!

Rich Sipple

### Annual John Cummins Memorial Golf Outing

The weather was fine and so was the golfing, and so was the price \$45.00 a player.

There were 9 foursomes who participated this year. A continental breakfast was followed by 18 holes of golf with golf cart. Afterward lunch was served. This consisted of breaded steak mashed potatoes and corn on the cob. There also was a drink ticket included.

Goldberg Weisman and Cairo Law Firm, Local 134 and the Retirees club combined for the raffle prizes. No golf clubs this year but plenty of golf gloves, golf towels and golf balls allowed everyone to win a prize. The big prize winners were those who won the fifty dollar raffle. There were ten prizes and they were won by:

Bill Radloff

Paul LaPata

Dennis Rytlewski

Frank Costello

Abe Rodriguez

Rich Murphy

Jim Husa

Tom O’Neil

Rudy Eisser

Jack Jensen

A big thanks to Hugh O’Connell for running the outing and to Bob Welko for his help.

A special thanks to Abe Rodriguez, Rich Murphy, Bob Riley and Rick Kelly.

August 8<sup>th</sup> 2012 Speakers

Thomas Cusack and Glen Kato were our speakers. They represent the Cusack Insurance Agency. The agency has been in Oak Lawn for 40 years. Glen gave us information on the best direction for all types of insurance. He also explained the difference between an insurance agent and an insurance broker. An agent can sell only for the company they work for while a broker can deal with any and all companies. The subject of property insurance covered the basic policy but additional coverage such as flood insurance and earthquake insurance is also available. Health insurance to supplement Medicare is available but with many of us this is covered by EIT, there aren’t that many among us who need the supplement. They offer insurance to companies as well as individuals.

The auto insurance law states the insured must have \$20,000 coverage for injury and death and \$40,000 for more than one death. We were told that umbrella coverage covers the gaps in the policy. We want to thank Tom and Glen for taking time to speak to us.

For more information:

Cusack Insurance Agency  
LLC

Independent Agency

5700 W. 95<sup>th</sup> Street

Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Telephone 708 423 5600

Fax 708 423 5252

Website:

[www.cusackinsurance.com](http://www.cusackinsurance.com)

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 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **RECIPE EXCHANGE**

Since tomatoes are plentiful at this time of the year, I thought I would give you this recipe that was passed on to me by Laura Felde.

### **TOMATO SALAD**

4-6 medium tomatoes chopped

1-1 1/2 tablespoons Mayo

6 Saltine Crackers

Add Mayo to tomatoes and let stand for about 5 minutes. Break up crackers and sprinkle on top of tomatoes when ready to serve. Mix lightly. Add pepper to taste.

### **PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

Do you feel upset or unprepared for a trip to the doctor's office? Purchase a notebook dedicated to your medical needs. At each doctor's visit, write the date and take notes of all important comments from your doctor. Try to feel more in control with these questions answered.

1. What is the test for?
2. How many times have you had this procedure done?
3. When will I get my results?
4. Why do I need this treatment?
5. Are there any alternatives?
6. What are the possible complications?
7. Which hospital is best for my needs?
8. How do you spell the name of that drug you prescribed?
9. Are there any side effects?
10. Will this medicine interact with the Medicine I am already tak

Ask your doctor if there is pertinent written information you can take home.

Between doctor visits, jot down in your notebook, questions for your next visit or observations you have between visits.

### **September 29th**

10th Annual Local 134 IBEW 2012 Benefits

Fair Saturday Time: 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Local 134 Union Hall, 600 W.

Washington Blvd, Chicago Many exhibits.

The Retirees Club will have a table.

### **OCTOBER 3rd**

We are having an outing to the Morton Arboretum. After our open air tram ride on the Acorn Express we will have lunch in the Ginkgo Room. If you have not signed up yet, you may do so. Just complete the sign up sheet and send it to me before September 12th.

### **OCTOBER 10th**

Our Local #134 business agent Terry Allen is coming to this meeting to let us know what is going on within our union. We realize that you are retired, but we thought it would be good for you to meet him.

### **NOVEMBER 14th**

This meeting will be held at the Apprentice School at 115th and Ridgeland. Keep this date open and plan to attend. We have a turkey raffle at this meeting and the tickets are free. Maybe you could win a turkey and have Thanksgiving dinner at your house. You can also tour the school to find out how different the classrooms are, and what and how things are taught these days.

## Far right far wrong

Here's Mitt Romney's proposal for reducing the deficit, according to an interview he gave recently:

*"Planned Parenthood, we're going to get rid of that."*

That's right, **he said he'd get rid of Planned Parenthood** -- the more than 90-year-old organization that one in five American women has depended on for health care, and that for many women is their only option for cancer screenings, clinical breast exams, and critical preventive care. Apparently, we can't afford it.

Here's what he says we can afford: Protecting and expanding tax cuts for the wealthy, and "that includes the top 1 percent."

**Mitt Romney's actually willing to cut off women's access to health care to help fund tax benefits for millionaires and billionaires.**

If you had any doubts that these attacks are real, or think they're just a side effect from a nasty GOP primary season, consider this a reality check.

There's one thing you can do right now - - whether you're a man or woman -- to fight back against Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, and every Republican in Congress who repeatedly thinks a woman's health is their chip to barter:

**Stand with the Democrats as we stand for women.**

## CALANDAR

**Sept 29-10<sup>th</sup>** Annual Benefits Fair  
8:00 am till 2:00 pm  
**Oct 1**-E-board meeting 10:30 am  
**Oct 3**-A day at Morton Arboretum  
**Oct 10**-Regular meeting 1:00 pm  
**Nov 5**-E-board meeting 10:30 am  
**Nov14**-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm at the Apprenticeship School 115<sup>th</sup> and Ridgeland Alsip. Park on the far east end. Annual Thanksgiving Turkey raffle. Noon till 1:00 Meet & Greet  
**Nov29**- Drury Lane Play " Singing In The Rain" luncheon served 11:30 am  
**Dec 3**-E-board meeting 10:30 am  
**Dec12**-Holiday Party at the Irish American Heritage Center noon

## IN MEMORIAM

Luis Aguirre	Jack G Blackman
Philip S Cerbin	John Cooke
Charles F Cummings	
Carmen V DeSanto	
Paul R Doran	Frank D Guido
Lee G Hammond	John C Howaniec
Joseph T Kucera	Floyd Kutz
John E Larson	Stanley J Maiberger
Daniel L McCord	John McGlynn
John J McInerney	George Protosevich
John J Reynders	Angus Rodden
Michael Staley	James A Titsworth
Matthew S Waclawik	
Stanley C Wielgos Jr	

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)”.

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.

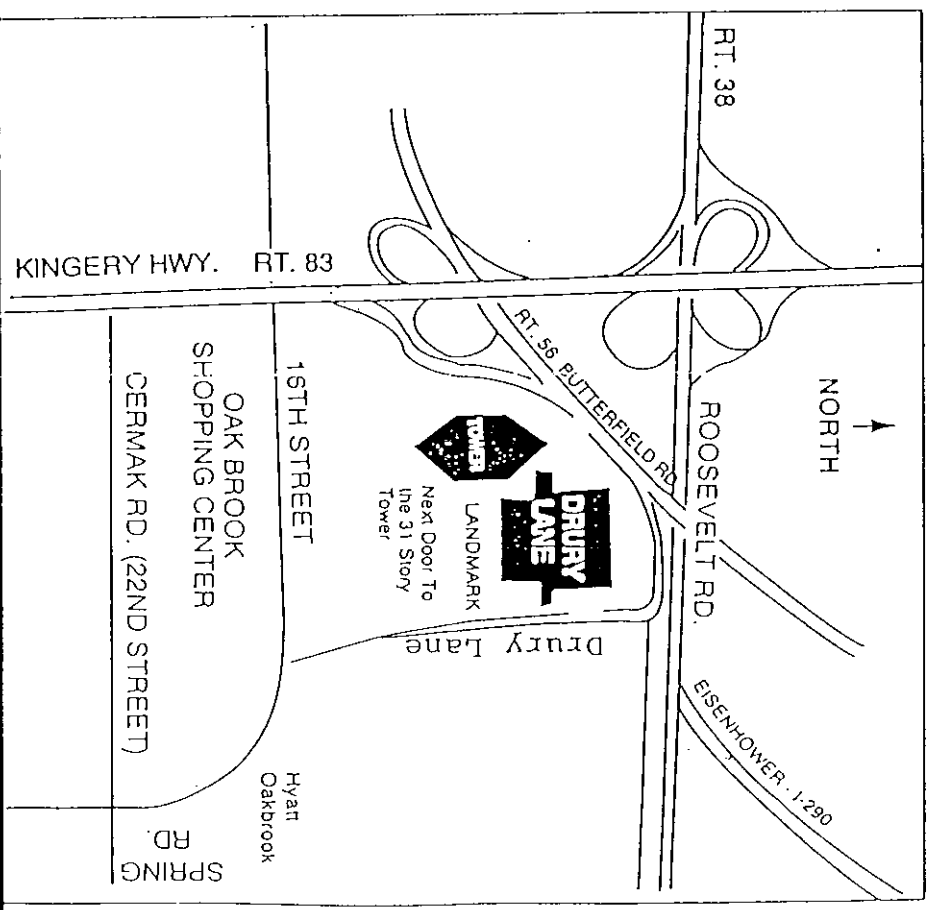
WHEN APPROACHING FROM THE NORTH OR SOUTH ON ROUTE 83: Exit at Roosevelt/Butterfield Road East (Roosevelt Road is Route 38). Follow the GREEN sign to DRURY LANE.

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 (TRIL-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