

Retiree's Newsletter



JANUARY

2016

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 March, June, September and December at the Apprentice School 115th and Ridgeland Alsip 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 Bernie Martin

FROM THE PODIUM

BARBARA NEWELL in her book, *Chicago and the Labor Movement*, writes about the uniqueness of the Chicago and Illinois labor movement. Some of America's greatest labor leaders, like John L. Lewis, Sidney Hillman, John Mitchell, Mother Jones and Eugene V. Debs, got their starts in Illinois, and this state has always provided leadership to the national labor movement. Before 1900 one out of every four organized workers in the United States lived in Illinois, and few if any states have contributed more to the history of American labor than Illinois. For a variety of reasons, dozens of national unions from clothing workers to meat cutters, from miners to bookbinders, from restaurant workers to teachers were founded in Illinois. Perhaps it was because the Welsh miners, the Jewish clothing workers and the German carpenters brought with them from the Old Country a strong labor tradition. Perhaps it was because of the situation on the East Coast, where boat loads of new immigrants arriving daily were willing to work for the lowest wages. The older immigrants who migrated westward to Illinois, who had lost their jobs in the East, may simply have decided that it was time to take a stand, and unions were the only way they could fight for their collective rights.

The sad point of this is that there are those right now who want to change the great history of this City and State forgetting all those who fought and died for Organized Labor.

Mario Coletta

CALENDAR

Dec 11-Holiday Party at the Irish American Heritage Center noon
Dec 14-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am
Dec 25- Merry Christmas
Jan 1- Happy New Year!
Jan 13-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm at the Apprentice School 115th & Ridgeland. Meet and Greet 12 noon
Jan 25-E-Board meeting 10:30 am
Feb 10-Regular Meeting 1:00 pm at the Apprentice School 115th & Ridgeland. Meet and Greet 12 noon
Feb 29-E-Board Meeting 10:30 am
Mar 9- Luncheon and Election of Officers and Board Members Boyle Auditorium 600 W Washington

IN MEMORIAM

Bruno J Abramavicius
*Jack N Amaro Clide W Amerlan
Daniel A Bricker William J Clark
Richard C Buechele Patrick J Ciei
Harry H Chilingirian Daniel R Frye
Robert Cowan Jr James W Hankins
Joseph E Hayden James W Hofbauer
Peter Iapichino William E Jackson
David L Jones Seyong Kim
Fred C Klaus Marvin Kuznitsky
Richard J Lukow Robert T McHugh
Walter A Muller Andrew P Pieri Jr
Burkhardt H Raming John Stanko
James P Rudolph Thomas J Sandvall
Robert D Shirey Charles M Trout
Raymond J Topolski
Robert H Wallace
Rudolph F Wiatr Jr
Stanley P Wollek III

DUES RENEWAL NOTICE

Please look at your Retired Members of Local 134 membership card, if it does not say 2016 or 2017 your dues are due. You can pay your 2016 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 are my 2016 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 to Bernard Martin, 8706 N. Olcott Ave Niles, IL. 60714

If you have a second address where you spend time for several months, please let us know that address and the weeks or months on a separate sheet of paper so that we can send the Newsletter to that place when you are there.

NOTE: Widows of deceased members of the Retires Members of Local 134 IBEW club are associate members of the club and DO NOT PAY DUES.

November 11 2015 Speaker

Normally I do not have a problem listening to a speaker and taking decent notes; at least so that I can write a reasonably clear article on what was said. I can't say that this month.

The speaker at our meeting had been a football referee from 1962 thru 1995; he described his career begin-ing with "the little guys", high school, and finally college level. To make it even more special he is a 58 year Local #134 member, Tom Quinn.

Tom began by explaining the origin of "football" in England in 1800's. He then went on to tell us of the first game between Rutgers & Princeton in 1869. In 1905 President Teddy Roosevelt had a meeting telling the teams they had to develop rules of play or he would stop the game out of concern of safety.

This is where I start to wander in my notes. Tom weaves his knowledge with antidotes and history of the game that captivates anyone who has played football or is a fan. His stories are both humorous as well as fact filled.

He explained the compensation for NFL ref's as well as colligate, explaining also that these "part time" jobs. I won't go into that because I don't want to misstate something, but it is probably harder to become one of the 115 professional refs' than to become an NFL player.

Tom became a replay official and he explained how much is actually over seen by them, also that all through the game there is communication between the field ref's and the booth on missed calls or such. He also described the cameras on a game and the replay feeds etc.

Tom took questions from the audience and stayed afterwards to talk with us, I also know he signed at least 1 autograph. I could have listened for hours and I am sure he could have kept my attention. Thanks.

On another note, since we began meeting at the school we've seen an uptick in attendance. We now meet 8 times a year at the school and attendance for November's meeting was 45, come on out let's try for 60.

Rich Sipple

EXCHANGE RECIPE

STOVETOP GOULASH

1 # ground beef
1 pkg (16 oz) mixed vegetables, thawed
2 10 ¾ oz cans condensed tomato soup
1 c water
1 small onion, chopped
2 tsps Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp garlic salt
1 tsp chili powder
½ tsp dried oregano
½ tsp paprika
1/8 tsp ground cinnamon
1/8 tsp pepper

Cook beef in a large skillet over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Add thawed mixed vegetables, soup, water, onion, Worcestershire sauce and seasonings and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 10 minutes or until slightly thickened. Serve over mashed potatoes, noodles or rice.

I have not tried it as yet but will real soon because it sounds good to me. I remember having goulash years ago and I liked it so I am hoping for the same results.

A little boy was overheard praying:
"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy,
don't worry about it. I'm having a real good
time like I am."

JANUARY 13th

As of today, I do not have a speaker for this meeting. I am working on it and I am sure I will be able to get one. So let it be a surprise and come any way.

FEBRUARY 10th

I have asked the American Lung Association for a speaker for this meeting. They said they would get back to me with a name to contact.

MARCH 9th

Jean Ryan from the Electrical Insurance Trustees is coming to this meeting to talk about the explanation of benefits. I was asked if I knew someone who would do this for us and since it is a luncheon meeting, I thought this would be the best time to have her speak. Remember to send in your reservation sheet to Bernie Martin when it comes in the newsletter.

I would like to wish all of you a

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Gerry White

CANTIGNY PARK

October 21, was a beautiful fall day. The sun was shining and the temperature was very comfortable. My friend and I got to the park early so we could walk around and enjoy the beautiful gardens at the park. We met the other people from the Retirees' Club for lunch at the LeJardin Restaurant. From there we all walked over to the McCormick Museum.

We started with a short movie and then took a guided tour of the home as it was when the McCormick Family lived there. This amazing home was built with a fireplace in every room. We saw all the treasures the family collected over the years they lived there. I found the architectural views of each room breath taking.

The 500 acre Cantigny Park started in 1896, when Joseph Medill built his mansion off Winfield Rd, in Wheaton, Illinois. It was first called the Red Oak Farm, named for the 300 year old oak trees that are still on the estate. When Joseph's daughter Katherine Medill McCormick married in 1898, she was given the home. Katherine's youngest son Robert R. McCormick had a love for journalism just like his grandfather Joseph Medill.

Robert was the editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune for 44 years. In 1915, Robert R. McCormick became a citizen soldier serving in the Illinois National Guard as a Colonel in the First Infantry Division during the World War I. Robert took full ownership of the estate in 1919. Robert's first wife renamed the estate Cantigny Farm in honor of Robert's service in Cantigny, France. Cantigny, France is the place of the first American victory during World War I.

Robert R. McCormick left this estate to all of us as Cantigny Park. I visited the park in 1979, when there was only one building. The First Division Museum existed with one Army tank and a couple of cannons in front. In 1979, my son, as all youngsters do, enjoyed climbing all over the tanks which are still there today. That building is now the welcome center, with a theater, large gift shop and a restaurant overlooking the gardens. The First Division Museum now has its own building honoring soldiers from World War I to Desert Storm. The First Division's story is a compelling example of service by Americans in all the armed forces.

Sue Klezgha

Taxes in Illinois aren't that bad
by Elizabeth Austin, Innovation Illinois
VP for Policy
in The Southern Illinoisian 10/25/15

Which state has the highest taxes in the Midwest? Not Illinois, that's for sure.

A recent article from the Illinois Policy Institute claimed otherwise, citing "recent research." But that research was actually based on tax collections from Fiscal Year 2013, when the Illinois state income tax rate was 5 percent. Today – in Fiscal Year 2016, more than two years later – the state income tax rate has dropped to 3.75 percent. So if you look at tax collections in the first six months of this year, under the new rate, Illinois' state taxes collections come out to \$1,597 per person – more than \$60 lower than Wisconsin's \$1,661. That's just a fact.

But beyond that basic inaccuracy, that letter simply ignored some fundamental facts about state taxes – the first being that comparing state tax burdens is like trying to compare apples and mashed potatoes.

Take Indiana. Their income tax rate is a flat 3.3 percent — which looks pretty good next to Illinois, right? But in Indiana, almost every county imposes its own income tax – which can range up to almost 3 percent, for a total income tax rate of 6.3 percent. That's a whopping 68 percent higher than Illinois.

And while it's true that people in Illinois pay more in income taxes, per person, than people in Missouri, there's a very good reason for that: We make more money. The average per capita income in Illinois is \$29,666 – above the

national average, and substantially higher than the Missouri per capita income of \$25,649. So if you want to move to Missouri and pay less, remember that's because you're likely to make less.

Then there's the huge issue of comparing Illinois' regressive flat income tax rate with our neighboring states' progressive rates. In Wisconsin, people in the highest income bracket pay a top rate of 7.65 percent. Iowans pay almost 9 percent on taxable income over \$68,000. And people in Minnesota pay a hefty 9.85 percent on taxable income of \$154,951 and above.

Here's the real point – when you start cherry-picking statistics on state tax rates, you can prove just about anything you want. The real task is figuring out the best, fairest way for a state government to raise the revenues necessary to pay for the services that its people demand. And you can't develop smart, effective tax policy based on a misleading, simplistic and out-of-date chart.

But if you could, I'd choose one from the Tax Foundation (that same place that Illinois Policy Institute cited) that ranked the combined state and local tax burden in every state. Illinois comes in at number 13 – compared with Wisconsin, which had the fifth-highest tax burden in the nation.

ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON MARCH 9, 2016

AT NOON

BOYLE AUDITORIUM 600 W WASHINGTON BLVD

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