

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

Retiree's Newsletter

May 2020

The purpose of this organization shall be to carry out the spirit of our brotherhood. To aid and assist each other as necessary and to promote the social, economic, health and welfare of its members and their families.

Mail all correspondence to Retiree's Club, 2722 S. Dr. Martin Luther Dr., Chicago, IL. 60616-2908.

Email: www.Local134chicago.com

Covid-19

Due to the Covid`19 Pandemic the printing and mailing of our monthly newsletter has been halted until further notice.

From the Podium

I would like to extend the Retire Club's heartfelt thanks to Business Manager Don Finn, fellow Representatives, his staff and contributing apprentices who answered the call of over 100 needy requesting Retirees by providing and delivering to them “care” packages of food and necessities as well as masks and gloves. Brothers in word and deed! As long as the Coronavirus restrictions in Illinois and Chicago remain in place, the Retiree meetings and events will remain on hold and the monthly newsletter will only be online. We are hoping to hold our Annual Honoree Luncheon honoring our 50,55,60 and 70 year retired members at the September, 2020 meeting/luncheon rather than June if restrictions are lifted.

As long as I have a “captured” internet audience, I will tell you a little bit about myself...bear with me. This will be the first and last you will hear about my personal life, the remaining monthly articles from the Podium will dwell on pertinent union, retirement and community issues.

My seniority date is 9-5-73. My brother and I were encouraged by the late Joseph Keenan, Sr. a close family friend, to sign up for the apprenticeship, and we subsequently became members of Residential Apprentice Training classes

16 and 18 respectively. From there for years I worked like many other journeymen-wiremen for many small and large shops on a variety of commercial, industrial and residential projects. High rises, condos, hospitals, factories, schools, printing presses, commercial spaces, all fell into the mix. Besides working as journey-wireman, I also served as a foreman and steward on a variety of projects. On the State of Illinois Thompson Center and the 900 N. Michigan Avenue project I was appointed by the Hall to be the general “bull” steward. Subsequently and briefly I served as a Business Representative and on the Board of the Apprentice School Trustees for the Local.

During the end of my time with the local, I finished a De Paul college degree I started as a youth and went on to Law School at De Paul, clerking at M.W.R.D. and Marv Gittler's union law firm. Now gone from the local on a withdrawal and with the encouragement of the late Mike Fitzgerald and late Dan Fegan I joined the Cook County States Attorney office working as a prosecutor in Bond Court, Appeals, Grand Jury, Traffic, Misdemeanors, and Felonies.

At the age of 62 (almost 8 years ago) I pulled the pin as a prosecutor, retired and shortly afterwards joined the Retiree

Club of Local 134 contributing what I can. Personally, it must be noted that I still have two offspring living at home, my special needs adopted daughter and my 'special needs' prodigal son. I have had children at home continually since I was twenty four years old with both late ex-wives going south. Don't cry for me Argentina, because of my predicament, I have to stay healthy and fit, and keep the gin joints at bay (as much as possible). That is my story and I am sticking to it

Gangbox Brehon

In this time of Coronavirus, my grave concern is for any of our Retirees that may be in a nursing home or extended care facility. The ensuing carnage that this virus is ravaging on our most fragile senior citizens is not only tragic it is criminal. After the first wave of the virus hit the West Coast nursing homes with horrendous results, the rest of the country had knowledge and time to prepare elder facilities for the coming onslaught. Either through intent or neglect, the authorities and media have failed our most needy senior citizens. They seemed to be more concerned with the health and safety of incarcerated convicts than law abiding fragile elderly patients and residents. I hope there is a Reckoning for this great injustice. If you know someone in one of these facilities try to

advocate for them the best you can. I know it may be difficult since you are not allowed to enter these facilities but try other means of communication. Their lives my depend upon you.

Finally, I have recently learned that marijuana, liquor, and abortion (all taxable) are more essential than church services and the Eucharist (nontaxable). That first and second amendment rights can be suspended upon the simple fiat of some local authorities, as an East coast politician claimed, “the Bill of Rights is above my pay level.” That citizens are asked to take photos of non-complying neighbors and turn them into the authorities. That drones manufactured by the Red Chinese Communists are provided to over forty of our law enforcement authorities to surveil our American population... And the banshees croon...

In closing and on a lighter note, may the good Lord inspire Governor Pritzker to decree that Irish caravansaries can once again dispense the essential sacrament of fresh Guinness to the “thirsty” supplicants...ah, my kingdom for a Guinness.

In Brotherhood, James Jennings

IN MEMORIAM

Theophilus Boykin

William J Akin Jr

Richard E Braun

Fred Bryant

Juan R Centeno

Daniel E Daszek

Eugene F Delury

Duane E Demsetz

Michael E Drelich

Leonard Gasior

Javan Gavin

Michael J Gier

Laura E Hyde

Lawrence J Janaszak

Thomas P Jennings

Jerry T Johnson

***Thomas S Kendrick**

John S Liszkiewicz

Eddie Maten Jr

Brue M Mathis

David H Ringbloom

Warren M Thurman II

Michael Ursini

Christopher J Wojcik

***Our condolences to the family of Retiree's Club Member Thomas S Kendrick.**

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This and future Newsletters will be emailed to our membership. Please keep your email current.

