

The Connector



Iron Workers Local 498 - 5640 Sockness Dr., Rockford, IL 61109 - 815/873-9180

December 2018

From the Business Manager:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

First off, I would like to say Merry Christmas to everyone, I hope everyone has been having a great year and I wish you and your family a healthy and safe holiday this season. I hope to see you on December 14th for our Christmas Party from 4 to 8pm.

This year has been a pretty good year work wise. The list has been virtually empty for most of the year. It has just started growing with some out of work members lately, but it is that time of the year. Work still looks to be pretty good for next year. There may be a small shut down at Chrysler but still nothing confirmed. Word on the Beloit Casino is that it should start around the end of the year next year.

We should be able to pay dues online by the first of the year. It is up right now but there a couple hiccups which we are working out. We will be implementing a new dues benefit, if you pay for a years' worth of dues you will get a free Local 498 Pull Over. We will order your size and color you request.

The IMPACT Drug Program has changed again. Our location at Any Lab Test Now is still the place to go. It is just a new form and set up on our end, but you will see it come in as Form Fox. We will email you the form or you can pick them up at the hall. It is required you are current.

Just a reminder, you should all have received a Benny Card for health expenses, it is a red VISA card that says Benny Card on it. Currently .67 cents per hour is put on that card on your behave. If you do not have your card you can contact me or the Fund Office to request a replacement. I have attached a sheet of contact information for the Health Insurance coverage. I hope this helps.

As always you are more than welcome to give me a call for any clarification you need. I will do whatever I can to help you.

I hope you have a Happy Holiday Season this year and hope to see you on the 14th for the Christmas Party and the 18th for the Union Meeting.

We would also like to introduce you to Kathy Ahrens who will be our new Office Manager. She officially started on November 26th.

In Solidarity,

Mark

From the President/Organizer:

Dear Members,

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It has been a great year for all of us as far as work goes. Next year has a lot of potential lining up as well. Winter is here, so be careful out there. Watch out for icy patches and keep warm. Stay safe and watch out for each other.

I talk with union and nonunion contractors and workers all the time. Everyone complements us on how the work force of 498 stands out above any other area. You guys deserve all the praise. It definitely helps us to sell using union Ironworkers when we have the reputation that we do when it comes to working iron. Keep up the good work!

In Solidarity,

Ben

From the Office Manager:

Mark is enclosing a letter detailing Health and Welfare information which will help to give you current contact information for your insurance needs, please save for future reference.

Also, some contractors in Wisconsin require "worker authorization forms" be completed and on file in their payroll offices. Please contact the hall to be sure you have one on file. The form is with the reciprocity forms found on the website. For some contractors this can cause issues with your pay if not on file.

Local 498 Calendar

December 14th – Christmas Party – 4-8 p.m.

December 18th – Regular Member Meeting

December 25th – Christmas

January 1st – New Year's Day

January 15th – Regular Member Meeting

February 19th – Regular Member Meeting

March 19th – Regular Member Meeting

Reminder, the Executive Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month. The retirees' meeting is the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Alpine View Restaurant (Charles St. and Alpine) in Rockford. Contact Ralph Pedersen – 815/234-8163.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Bridge, Structural, Ornamental, and Reinforcing Iron Workers



Mark Richeson
Business Manager
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

LOCAL UNION 498

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Benjamin Scroggins
President/Organizer



Keith Gahl
Recording Secretary

Tri-State Welfare Fund
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Mokena, IL

T: 630-960-3322 or Toll Free 866-463-9418
F: 630-967-3080
Web: www.tristatewelfarefund.com
Email: tristate@abpa-tpa.com

Call Tri-State for:

Health and Welfare Plan Benefits, Eligibility, Dental Claims, Non-Blue Cross Claims.

If you are looking for providers:

- **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois Providers** 800-571-1043 or www.bcbsil.com
- **Prescriptions:** Express Scripts 866-312-9068 or www.express-scripts.com/index.html
- **Vision:** VSP is coverage provider 800-428-4833 or www.vsp.com with zip code will give closest provider.
- **Dental** is provided by Tri-State you or your dentist can contact Tri-State for coverage 866-463-9418.
- All forms are available at the hall or at their website www.tristatewelfarefund.com or you can link to Tri-State through our web site www.iwlocal498.org

There are three (3) cards you should have if you are eligible: the BCBS Card, an Express Script Card, and a **RED BENNY CARD**. The Benny card looks like a credit card. It is red with a VISA logo in the bottom corner and has Benny Card written on it. It can be used for any medical cost, prescription, vision, dental, copays, and self pays. The money that is put on per the contract is .67 cents per hour. That is your money to use for medical expenses with no expiration. There is **NO** Dental Card because that is handled by Tri-State directly.

I hope this helps, and you can call me directly as well.

Thanks,

Mark