

# The Connector



Iron Workers Local 498 - 5640 Sockness Dr., Rockford, IL 61109 - 815/873-9180 January 2019

## From the Business Manager:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Well 2018 is in the books and it was another great year for Local 498. We had a lot of good things happen in this local over the past year. We had a \$750M Power Plant project that started in 2017 and is still going. We did have some problems at the Power Plant project as well. AECOM was trying desperately to take the sheeting away from Cullen and give it to a Sheet Metal outfit which prompted a jurisdictional dispute. This would have resulted in several million dollars in wages and benefits lost. We ultimately prevailed and maintained the work. We showed them and will continuously show them that if they leave us to do the work, we will get it done quickly and efficiently. It appears from my conversations with the contractors that this year will be pretty good as well but a little slow at the start, which some of you that are off have seen. Hang in there.

We turned one of the biggest jobs in the country with the Americold rack job in Rochelle that was utilizing both documented and undocumented workers at slave wages in cash, with no overtime being paid, or taxes being deducted, and we exposed them. Thank you, Isai for having the courage to come in to our hall because you wanted to be a UNION iron worker and thank you to the members that were working with him to encourage him. We filled the job with our guys plus some of the original workers we organized. We are working on well over 50,000 manhours with \$5 million dollars in wages and benefits so far and likely not to be complete until February or March. This was such a big deal the International was involved and they have recognized what Local 498 is capable of and this became a nationwide campaign in various locations around the country. We even received a Visionary Leadership Award from Arise Chicago a group that helps people who are taken advantage of get the support the need to turn the tables on those types of employers.

The Annual Drug Screening Program has changed once again on our end which means it has slightly changed for you. We must use a new system to generate your annual and you will be given 2 weeks to get your annual done. It will come through your email if we have that information, through the company you are working for, or you can pick it up at the hall. It must be done in that window of time.

After December's meeting there will be an updated By-Law submitted to the international. It is regarding the amount per death in the Death Benefit Program. Brother Dayton proposed the change from \$30 per death to JIW Rate which passed overwhelmingly. It will take effect on deaths after December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. There was a discussion encouraging all to enroll and what means to help your union brothers and sisters in their time of need. The check comes quickly, and it is one less thing your loved ones have to worry about during their time of grieving. In the interest of trying to make sure this benefit continues well into the future, we will open the enrollment to all active members. If you are an active working member and a member longer than 10 years there will be a penalty for nonparticipation of \$1000 that will be deducted on the tail end, so there is no up-front cost to the member. At current JIW rate the benefit almost \$7500 (w/o taxes taken), with more members participating that number will go up. I encourage all that are not part of the program to join. The Brothers that came long before us thought it was a good thing to help their brother's (and sister's now) family in their time of need. Remember, we are all standing on what others have built long before us for the benefit of the membership overall. Contact the hall to if you have questions and want to sign up. You will need to fill out the beneficiary form when you sign up with one prepaid death because the checks for the benefits our written prior to all the money from the participants coming in.

The Web Site for paying dues online is up and running. I know some have noticed and are using it. We are still working out minor tweaks to get it working exactly how we like it to. So far it has been good. If we have any issues as it is used, we will fix them along the way, most will be minor issues primarily on the book keeping end of it for the office.

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 9 am will be a Pension Education Seminar here at the hall. Representatives from Local 498 Defined Benefit Plan, Mid-America, and John Hancock will be here to explain how the pension works and answer questions for the apprentices who are new to these programs and any who are interested in attending that want a better understanding of their benefits. Feel free to bring your spouses as well. We will be doing one later in the year geared more to the ones who are getting close to retiring and would like to know their estimates and options with our Health Plan prior to retiring. We are in the process of changing Third Party Administrators from Zenith American to Group Administrators (GA) so once they are up and running, we will schedule a Preretirement Seminar.

I will let Ben discuss the organizing side of things, but he has been doing a great job. I have some different ideas moving forward to try and expand our reach in the area. We will see if we can make some things happen. We are in a time that unions need to think outside the box and be creative to try and expand our footprint. Nationwide, generation Z (mid-20s to mid-30s) are the biggest proponents of union labor and we need them moving forward for the long-term viability of union labor.

As you may have already heard, Paul Kauffman will be taking over as full time Apprentice Coordinator. We would like to welcome him onboard. With his work experience and teaching experience I am very confident he will bring our training program to the next level, while being firm and fair with the apprentices.

The last thing I want to address is how proud I am of the members and the work they do and how humbling it is to be your Business Manager. You don't hear it enough, I would put our members up against any local and we out perform in quality, quantity, as well as our disposition toward the contractors we work for. I hear it regularly how much the contractors enjoy working in our local with our members because they get it done with little drama, they are true professionals in their craft. This is what is needed in today's union working world and you all deliver it hands down and it is noticed by the industry and the International. I was told by a high-level International official as well as other International officials that we are doing everything right and it is noticed. I was told to keep moving your local progressively forward. In the end it is you guys and gals doing the work and making a lasting impression on the contractors. This local wouldn't survive without dedicated members like you. Thank you for what you do day after day.

In Solidarity,  
Mark

### **From the President/Organizer:**

Dear Members,

2018 was a great year for organizing for Local 498. We started organizing more Non-Union Ironworkers. We had some success as well as failures, but about 75% of the ones we took in have proven to be a valuable asset to our membership. I took part in organizing 40 Non-Union workers. Some were in joint efforts with other locals like Joliet. All were in part of a larger picture to help gain market share in our areas as well as take away numbers working against us. I appreciate everyone welcoming in the new guys and helping them adjust to our ways. We found some amazing talent along the way, and I hope to find more out there.

We also turned several jobs this last year. Americold in Rochelle proved to be the largest by far giving us recognition at an International level. Other jobs include Aluminum Products in Genoa, Bulk Storage in Brodhead, and a Construction Options building in Elkhorn just to name a few. Turning these jobs along with others helped to bring in wages and benefits for our members as well as working capital to help our local grow. Most jobs that were turned were due in part to many of our members giving me the heads up on work going on in the early stages. Thank you to everyone that calls in and helps the fight to keep our work.

On the Apprenticeship side, I closed out the year moving away from the Coordinator position to focus full time on organizing. Paul Kauffman will fill the role of Apprenticeship Coordinator, and we are certain he will do a fine job. Local 498 has a strong reputation of putting out hard working individuals. Let's keep that bar raised high, and move forward with even more success.

Looking forward to this next year, I will continue to turn jobs from non-union, bring in the good talent that needs representation and a better living, as well as look to gain market share that has gone untouched. I am looking at organizing local fabrication shops. I have had many employees in these shops reach out to either join the Ironworkers or reach out for representation due to poor wages and work conditions. Organizing shops like these will only help to strengthen the density of the union in our area. I appreciate all of your support in these efforts so far. I look forward to what we can all do in the near future.

In Solidarity  
Ben

From the Apprentice Coordinator:  
Dear Members,

As most of you have heard I have taken over the roll as Apprentice Coordinator, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to serve our local in this position.

Going forward if anybody needs to get ahold of me my number is 815-985-1594. Ben Scroggins will be focusing on his Organizer duties, so anything apprenticeship related should be directed to me.

Paul Kauffman,  
Apprentice Coordinator

From the Office Manager:

Since the last newsletter we were notified that Adolph (Jackson) Thibert had passed away on December 29<sup>th</sup>. He was a member of the Death Benefit program and his contribution rate will be \$39.39.

As you have read the Death Benefit has increased to JIW hourly rate (currently \$39.39). We have included new beneficiary forms with this newsletter. Please complete and return the forms at your earliest convenience. If you are a new participant, please note the \$39.39 prepay is necessary to start the program. Since the JIW hourly rate will change each year for those who made multiple pre-pays so as not to be in arrears we would request that you refrain from it for record keeping purposes.

Regarding information on tax deductions, with the change in the tax law, the ability to deduct work deductions is limited and potentially not allowable. As we learn more we will let you know.

### ***Local 498 Calendar***

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Pension Education Seminar 9:00 a.m.**

**February 19<sup>th</sup> – Regular Member Meeting**

**March 19<sup>th</sup> – Regular Member Meeting**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> – Regular Member Meeting**

**May 21<sup>st</sup> – Regular Member Meeting**

**June 18<sup>th</sup> – Regular Member Meeting**

**July 16<sup>th</sup> – 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.

# Iron Workers Local 498 Beneficiary Information

## Iron Workers Local 498 Death Benefit Program

<b>Member Information:</b>	
<b>Member Name</b>	
<b>Address: Street</b>	
<b>Address: City/State/Zip</b>	
<b>Member Social Security (Last 4 numbers)</b>	
<b>Member Date of Birth</b>	

<b>Beneficiary Information:</b>	
<b>Beneficiary Name</b>	
<b>Address: Street</b>	
<b>Address: City/State/Zip</b>	
<b>Beneficiary Social Security Number <i>Required for payout IRS Requirement</i></b>	
<b>Beneficiary Contact: Phone Number (required)</b>	
<b>Email Info. If available</b>	



As of 12/19/18 – The death benefit contribution is required to be 1 hour of JIW payrate. Be aware that each time a raise is received the contribution to the death benefit increases accordingly. Contributions are to be paid immediately upon notification of the death but no later than 30 days.

It is a wonderful program that has helped the families of deceased ironworkers of Local 498 since 1969.

We thank you for your support.

<b>Member Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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# International Death Benefit Beneficiary Information

## Death Benefit paid by the International

<b>Member Information:</b>	
Member Name	
Address: Street	
Address: City/State/Zip	
Member Social Security <i>(Last 4 numbers)</i>	
Member Date of Birth	

<b>Beneficiary Information:</b>	
Beneficiary Name	
Address: Street	
Address: City/State/Zip	
Beneficiary Social Security Number <i>Required for payout IRS Requirement</i>	
Beneficiary Contact: <i>Phone Number (required)</i>	
<i>Email Info. If available</i>	



The International Death Benefit is funded through a portion of your monthly dues paid to the International. Upon the death of a member the notification is made to the International and they remit a check to the Local for disbursement to the family.

**Member Signature:**

**Date:**