

# The Connector



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

July 2019

## From the Business Manager:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone is doing well and dealing with the heat. It is crazy we went from rain nonstop to heat with not much in between. First thing I will touch on is IRAP, again. I will enclose a comment sheet with the newsletter. There will have been a couple emails about this already plus our website has information to get details on what the letters need to say. Again, I am hoping you take this seriously and you and your significant other will take 10 minutes to write something down and either drop it off or email it to the office. This will most certainly affect us severely if it is implemented.

Next item is our parking lot. It will be getting removed and replaced. Apparently, the City of Rockford made some changes on what needs to be done to get a permit. I jumped through the hoops and finally have a permit in our window and am now waiting for Civil to come and start work. That should be happening in the next week or so.

The work while it has been kind of slow the list has been moving and jobs are coming in. It is like this in the neighboring locals as well. I know everyone is waiting on the Shine Project in Janesville and the Casinos in our territory. The Shine project has started some dirt moving but has stalled and they are working on some design changes. I do believe it will be all good with 2000 tons of rebar and 100 tons of structural steel. The steel contractor I spoke to told me Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> for his start. I have a meeting with him sometime in the next week.

The Rockford Casino had its first proposal announcement last Tuesday and Jim Allen CEO of Hard Rock was there with Rick Nielsen, Dan Fisher (owner of the property at Clock Tower), and Brent Johnson of Ringland Johnson. The way this works is we have one license and groups compete for it with their best proposal through a RFP to the city. This one was the first, so we will see if more come. There have been 3 other locations discussed besides the Clock Tower property that I am aware of. This was an invitation only event and the Building Trades were one of the invited groups. The amount of times organized labor was mentioned during this whole casino bill process, at this event and others, was amazing. They are fully aware of what our local building trades did to get this bill passed. It will be worked on under a PLA. I have not heard of any details on the other sites and their time is limited. The RFP's have an end date of Aug 16<sup>th</sup> I believe so we will know the location for sure. The city will vote on the winning proposal in September.

The Beloit Casino is scheduled to start in October, and yes, they are racing to get revenue generating first. I like the competition because it is good for us and may get our members working sooner.

The I43 and I90 interchange will be happening starting this winter with a few piers. TNT was awarded the 3M lbs. of Rebar and MKE (formerly Choice) has the 8.2M lbs. of structural steel.

Invites for the Pin Party on Friday September 13 should be out by the time you read this or shortly after. We have quite a few to give out this time around so it may be a full house. I look forward to seeing you all here.

Labor Day is early this year so mark your calendar for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. Line up is at 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 7<sup>th</sup> St. as usual starting at 8:30 am. We will have candy again for your bolt bags to toss to the kids as we walk so you may want to get there early. We will have a parade this year which I believe everyone will find exciting and I hope to have some contractor trucks in the parade as well. Foremen, let me know if you are interested in bringing your company truck. Should be a good time. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

I know it has been a little slow this year, late spring early summer but hang in there. It looks as though we may have more work than we have people for in the near future if it all goes at the same time.

In Solidarity,  
Mark Richeson

**From the President/Organizer:**

Dear Members,

From the President/Organizer:

Thank you to all that have been calling in about work they see in the area. I try and keep on top of everything that I see and hear about from you guys. It is a team effort. Some of the projects that I have been monitoring and working on have since wrapped up. I have two projects on the horizon to kick off that I will be dealing with directly. To just have two at this time of year is a rare and good thing, but I prefer none. As work picks up, there will be more things happening so keep your eyes open as will I. Stay strong and work safe.

In Solidarity,  
Ben Scroggins

**From the Apprentice Coordinator:**

To all apprentices:

The fall semester is just around the corner. With that said, we will be having a MANDATORY orientation night on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. You will find out everything you need to know about the scheduling for the semester.

We are experiencing a shortage of certified welders for dispatch. With the upcoming projects we need to have anyone that has let their certs go come in and recert so we can fill the calls. If we don't, they'll find someone who will!

In Solidarity,  
Paul Kauffman

*The parade shirts are available. They can be picked up after August 1<sup>st</sup> at the hall. They are free to members and their family members. This year's shirt has a nostalgic theme with the iron workers on the beam graphic.*



*Since we have 2 casinos in our future, we also have long sleeve T-shirts with a flaming deck of cards graphic for sale. These shirts are available in safety green and black at a cost \$20.00.*



### **Tri-States Health and Welfare Tips and Info:**

For those that use their Benefit Card for large medical expenses, the current rule is: All bills paid over \$500 dollars require a copy of the bill sent to substantiate the expense. If they don't receive it they will send you up to 2 letters requesting it. They **DO NOT** shut your card down. They will however send you a 1099 at the end of the year and the IRS will require you to pay taxes on that as income, due to the money on your Benefit Card being pre-taxed.

There is an app coming out to make it easier for you to do this (take a picture and send it from your phone) or you can send a copy in via mail or email. Another option if you do not want to be required to do this, is to keep your payments under the \$500 trigger and pay the bill in chunks. You will not receive the requests for verification of a medical expense over the \$500 threshold.

We will soon be scheduling for health screenings which will held on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. You will be receiving information from Tri-States as to the scheduling information and the process.

### **Local 498 Calendar**

**August 20<sup>th</sup> – Regular Member Meeting**

**September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Labor Day Parade & Picnic**

**September 13<sup>th</sup> – Pin Party**

**September 17<sup>th</sup> – Regular Member Meeting**

**October 15<sup>th</sup> – Regular Member Meeting**

**October 19<sup>th</sup> – Health Screenings**

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 Peterson – 815/234-8163.