

The Connector



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

October 2019

From the Business Manager:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Fall everyone. I hope everyone is doing well. I know it has been a bit for a new Connector. If you didn't make the Labor Day Parade you missed a good one. Paul and some apprentices worked on a new float for the Parade at which we won 3rd (I call BS on that). We were clearly the winner with all the talk on the street as well as making all the news cycles and channels as well as the front page of the Rockford Register Star. Thanks to all the ones that rode the beam and made a great showing by dressing the part as well. Well done by all. I had 155 lunch tickets and only had 5 left over. It was a great turn out.

Work has been pretty good, and we have a chunk working in neighboring locals as well. The next larger project on the horizon is the Shine Project. I met with Findorff and Titan Reinforcing out of Ohio and it is looking like the end of October start. It will start out with a couple but should peak at 15-20 guys tying rebar. The rebar portion according to Titan should be 6-8 months (according to Baker the GC maybe as much as 12). Needless to say, a relatively long rod job approximately 2000 tons. The project will have some structural, precast, and PEMB's.

Another update is the Casino. I don't believe the city will submit multiple options down to the Illinois Game Board. It appears to me that the Hard Rock is the likely candidate to be sent down for approval. The Illinois Gaming Board will have 6-9 months to determine, but I am confident it will happen sooner than that. Ringland has always said if they are chosen, they would like to start before the end of the year. Also, on a positive note I recently got Ringland Johnson signed to a full CBA with us. It took some time, but it is thanks to you out in the field that have worked for them to see we are the best at what we do. We get things done in a timely fashion with little drama. So, thank you to all for your dedication to the greatest trade and showing daily your work ethic and skills that are second to none.

I must address the annual drug screens AGAIN. If you cannot get your annual drug test done within the time period given our only recourse will be to push it through as random which will REQUIRE it be done in a short period of time or it is considered a positive. That is not the direction I want to go but some of you are not giving me much of an option. Also, for future reference come January 1, 2020 when recreational marijuana becomes legal in Illinois (NOT WI), this DOES NOT mean it is not part of IMPACT's Drug Program. As it stands right now marijuana is still illegal at the federal level and will be treated that way until IMPACT changes what they are requiring of the drug program and as long as we cover 3 counties in the state of Wisconsin don't expect it to change. You are given plenty of time, be responsible and take care of business. Remember you can scan the barcode on your member card and notify the office that you haven't received the authorization (can't find it in your email) and one will be printed for you to keep you current.

Thank you all for that you do day in and day out in representing Local 498 in such a positive way.

In Solidarity,

Mark Richeson

Local 498 Calendar

October 15th – Regular Member Meeting

October 19th – Health Screenings

November 19th – Regular Member Meeting

November 28th – Thanksgiving

December 17th – Regular Member Meeting – Food prior to the meeting

December 25th – Merry Christmas

January 1st – Happy New Year!

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.

From the President/Organizer:

Dear Members,

As our work starts to pick up, so does the nonunion threat as well. We picketed RK Construction at the Tristar Project in Freeport for almost 3 weeks with a Rally to finish it out. There was a lot of community support while we were out there. Hearing the positive feedback let me know that others are in support of our efforts. I will continue to keep the pressure on those that need it.

Last week, I attended the International Organizing Summit in Virginia. At the Summit, I helped in 2 different presentations on tactics for organizing. The Summit is designed to help other organizers gain ground and market share across the United States and Canada. Some of the successes we have had in 498 are definitely heard across the International, and that is why I was asked to speak.

As always, I appreciate any calls coming in to give me a heads up about projects. There are a few out there I will be looking into as I continue to monitor our territory. Stay strong and work safe.

In Solidarity,
Ben Scroggins

From the Apprentice Coordinator:

To all Apprentices and JIW's:

Here are the upcoming Weld Test dates for the rest of this year.

Nov. 9th

Dec. 21st

We are having a bit of a shortage of certified welders so If you want to make yourself more employable come in and get your weld certs up to date. As a reminder the Wisconsin certs are only good for 4 years.

I would like to thank all of the apprentices who came and helped with John Penny's hand billing on Sept. 28th. John was very thankful for the help, and there is the possibility of him asking for help again in the future. With that said I hope the rest of the apprentices that didn't make it the first time will take a couple of hours out of their day to help. There are politicians out there that **DO NOT** like organized labor, and if you like the pay and benefits that you receive it is in your best interest to do what you can to ensure that politicians who **ARE** friendly to labor get in office.

Paul Kauffman

Death of a Members:

We are saddened to report that Ron Meier passed away on September 18, 2019 and Richard Colborn passed away on September 26, 2019. Both Ron and Burner were members of the death benefit. Both will be missed.

Due to the wage increase on June 1st the new contribution rate is \$40.25.

Pin Party Photos



20 Years

L-R – Alva Clayburg, Matt Keller, Pres. Ben Scroggins, Michael Babcock, Ray Risch, Bus. Mgr. Mark Richeson, Steve New, Craig Nenneman, Rec. Sec. Keith Gahl and Tim Powers



40 Years

L-R – Ben Scroggins, Keith Gahl, John Wieland, Neil Carlson, David Whitmore, Randy Engstrom, Alex Gall, Doug Diddens, Frank Gecan, Mark Richeson



25 Year

Keith Gahl, Ben Scroggins, Walt Seaworth, Mark Richeson



45 Year

L-R – Keith Gahl, Roger Long, Greg Hermeyer, Kurt Untersee, Terry Nass, Pat Williams, Jim May, Mark Richeson, Gary Anderson, Rob Fadness, Ronnie Bridges, Tom Kisting, Dale Millard and Ben Scroggins



30 Years

Keith Gahl, Ben Scroggins, Shane Johnson and Mark Richeson



50 Years

Keith Gahl, John Burden, Dick Nystrom, Jim Wright, Gerald Schwantes, Dean Considine, Eddy Espy, Ralph Pedersen, Ben Scroggins, Mark Richeson



