

Local 498 has some great news to announce!

Ben Scroggins has been asked to become the new District Council Organizer for Chicago and Vicinity. Vince DiDinato was the current District Council Organizer and has moved up to Business Representative for the International, this opened up an opportunity for someone to fill Vince's vacancy. Ben applied for the position, was offered the position, and has accepted. He will be taking on his new role January 2nd, 2020. Ben will still be around and will train his replacement so wish him well in his next phase. He will also be in many other locals in our council as well as any special assignments the International will ask of him.

This is an exciting opportunity for Ben, congratulate him, he has done a great job for this Local and we should all be proud. He has worked hard for the membership here and has been a real bulldog to the non-union that come here and has created numerous man hours as well as turning some contractors. The translates to dollars in members pockets. I am sure he will continue that fight at the next level. I have the utmost confidence in his success in his new role as District Council Organizer for Chicago and Vicinity.

Ben will be resigning his position as President, Local 498 Pension Trustee, and JATC Trustee at the end of December as required by the International. Paul as Vice President will take over as President and will be filling the vacancies of Vice President, Pension Trustee, and JATC Trustee. I will be filling the Local 498 Organizer position, and whomever it is will have some big shoes to fill. The job requires a certain personality type and is nothing like working in the field. The immediate satisfaction of building something and see it go through the process to completion is what we see every day in our trade, this is nothing like that and it can be discouraging but the wins are special.

Thanks, Ben, for being a great Organizer for our Local. The teamwork we have in here will be hard to replicate. I will miss our brain storming sessions on how to move forward on the various non-union issues we have tackled, and we have had some strange ones. The Local works so well when the office is working together for the same results.

Congratulations!



From The Business Manager

Dear Members:

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone, I hope this latest Connector finds you all doing well. Work has slowed down a bit this last month. Short stuff has been going out pretty consistently. I know everyone is waiting on the Shine Project in Janesville. There has been some scheduling and permitting snafus but by the time you read this they should be worked out. It will start slow, with couple possibly Thanksgiving week and maybe a couple more the following. It will ramp up, but they may hover at the smaller crew for a bit. The base has multiple elevations and areas that won't allow them to load up with workers. Sounds like the Amazon project in Beloit will be Harris Davis for rods and Area for structural. It is about 1.3M square feet and they have a short time frame to erect. Next year I43 and I90 will be doing a fly over at that junction. The only thing getting done this winter on it will be a few piers being done. They do not want to redirect traffic for the winter. The Mill bids are due around December some time for their addition and furnace. The Rockford Casino is down state awaiting approval from the gaming board, once that has happened, I am sure Ringland will be ready to go. The Beloit Casino is stalled at the federal level at the Bureau of Indian Affairs from what I have been told.

It has been almost 3 weeks since our new Office Manager Deidre (Dee) Conerly started, and she is doing great! She came from IBEW Local 196 (Lineman) and has familiarity with labor organizations and the trades and worked in a small office like ours. We operate differently from the electricians but similar, so the leap isn't too great. The Office Manager job is not just a "answer phone, push some buttons, and take some dues" kind of job as many people like to think, there are a lot of moving parts to operating a labor organization. Come in and introduce yourself to Dee and if you come in while Eva is still here, thank her too for everything she has done for your union. She could have ridden off into the sunset and never looked back but when we need help, she was right there and willing. She is an awesome dedicated woman and Local 498 was fortunate to have had her. Eva will be heading back into her overdue but well-deserved retirement. She has told Dee she is only a phone call away.

October 9th was our health screening and we had a fair amount. I would like to see more participation if possible, plus when you and your spouse do the screening the fund will put \$100 each on your HRA card. That is a great benefit. Also, for all the active members if you go to the Tristate Welfare Website www.tristatewelfarefund.com under tab Healthy Foundations, Benefits and Tools for adults, Take the health risk assessment, you and your spouse can get another \$100 to your HRA card. You should all take advantage of the benefits that pays you back. Also, please let me know if you are having issues you can't get resolved. Try not to let them get to the point of collections or pulling you or your spouse pulling your hair out. I will do what I can to help you get it resolved.

This **Decembers Meeting**, we will be having Beer and Sandwiches. I hope to see you all here food will be here at 5pm.

Remember, make sure you are current on dues and have signed the out of work list within the past 30 days for eligibility of work.

In Solidarity,
Mark Richeson



From the President/Organizer:

Dear Members,

Work is picking up a little out there for us, so the same goes for some of the nonunion. Overall the majority of our work has been good, but there are the smaller projects that continue to pop up causing problems. I do my best to track them down and stay on top of the situation. From that, there were some successes in Organizing this last month. We were able to get guys on the Aldi's in Rockford, Flying J main building in Rochelle, and the canopy at the Flying J in Rochelle. I am currently in the middle of working on two projects that are still to be determined.

This next month on December 12th and 19th, I will be teaching a COMET class for the apprenticeship. This is a part of their apprenticeship curriculum that relates to organizing. Journeymen are always welcome to attend. Just let me or Paul know if you plan on attending so we can accommodate for the class size. This would be a good chance for any members to see what goes on in our local organizing efforts, where we are at with current progress, and how we plan to move forward in the future.

Thank you as always to those of you who call in and let me know of projects you see going on in the area. This has been a team effort the whole way. Keep up the good work.

In Solidarity,
Ben Scroggins

From the Apprentice Coordinator:

To all Apprentices and JIW's:

We have a weld test coming up on December 21st.

There is only three weeks left of this semester ending the week of December 6th, and we will start the late winter/spring semester on the week of January 6th.

We will be walking in the Stroll on State parade this year, so I hope to see everyone there.

One last thing, all apprentices need to come down to the hall after being laid off to sign the list. If you are not working, you need to answer the phone when Mark calls so jobs can be filled. **ANSWER YOUR PHONE.** If we have to, we will change the policy back to where any apprentice who is not working will be expected to come to the hall every morning.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

In Solidarity.
Paul Kauffman

Local 498 Calendar

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.