

The Connector



Iron Workers Local 498 - 5640 Sockness Dr., Rockford, IL 61109 – 815/873-9180 May 2020

From the Business Manager:



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Summer official started this Memorial Day weekend, and we are still under the “stay at home” recommendations from our Governor until May 29. Fortunately, the order is slowly starting to relax. I am hopeful this will improve the work picture going forward. Work has been slow with short calls. It has been fortunate for us that there has been the extra unemployment passed by Congress going forward to July 31, 2020, and it is possible it may be extended. Only time will tell on that though. There are always some of you coming down here to the hall to fill the calls which is great. I am hearing everyone seems to be satisfied with the contract the Negotiating Committee worked on. Vote for allocation went well, thank you trustees for making the time to come into the hall and count ballots. The feedback on the text service has been good as well, I am hearing everyone is happy about that change as well. I mentioned in an email to all that the International will be wanting us to do a virtual General Meeting in June, but if the rules after June 1st allow us, we will try and have a regular General Meeting with Social Distancing, we will have masks available, hand sanitizer as well as spaced chairs in meeting room.

As far as upcoming work, the Shine Project as you all know has been terribly slow and is continuing that way. Findorff will have work coming up there as well. Boldt will be having some work at Nelson coming up. The Mill is still holding due to the Coronavirus. There will be some bridge work coming up. The Casinos are both stalled a bit, the IL one down state with no meetings happening due to COVID-19 and the WI one stalled in the State Senate. Both look like they will eventually happen though. They both would like to start sooner rather than later if they can get through the process. The race for one to start one over the other is good for the trades. I did receive a call from Local 112 (Peoria) they are looking for us to help if interested.

I appreciate all of you letting me know when you see contractors in and around our area, it is extremely helpful in insuring we get the work covered. For those contractors that do not like to play by the rules, I may have to use alternate methods to get them to follow the rules of hiring our members. It should be pretty simple, if you have work in Local 498, call the Business Manager and let him know, and hire local 498 members to perform the work. We will get them tuned up and following the CBA. Keep the calls and texts coming in, it helps.

As business open back up and we can get back to normal I hope you are hanging in there during this slow period and it is short lived, and we can get back to work. Stay strong and stay healthy.

In Solidarity,

Mark

From the Organizer/Recording Secy.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you and your family and friends are healthy.

As you know things are slow right now partly due to COVID-19. I've started receiving calls from members and I do appreciate it. Our local covers a large area and sometimes it is hard to cover it all in a timely manner. Hopefully, work will pick up soon.

As far as jobs coming up there is a Dollar General going up in Durand usually these are notorious for going bad. So far though the concrete is good, but I don't know about the structure yet. I am staying hopeful that is all good. Also, Johnson Tractor down in Rochelle is building a new building out on Steward Rd. south of town. On this job the concrete is also good but unfortunately the building is bad at the moment. This building is fairly good size, and I would like it to go our way if possible. I have talked to the owner and Mark has also sent a letter to the owner, hopefully we can get something worked out, so it is beneficial for us.

Up in Wisconsin the fight continues. CCI has a rather good market in Beloit and they are growing. Rock county has good amount of work coming up in the future and I hope we can get our fair share. As always if you see something going on don't hesitate to give me a call 815-721-3058.

In Solidarity,
Keith Gahl

Apprenticeship Coordinator

Dear Brothers, and Sisters,

Brothers, and Sisters,

I hope this letter finds everybody healthy with all that is going on.

Apprentices:

We are tentatively looking to start classes back up on June 1st. We have all of the testing to get done on the chapters that you have completed on the LMS System. We will also have hands on that will need to be done so we can close out this semester.

Thank you, guys, for being patient and helpful while I've been getting this LMS System up and running. It's been a learning curve for all of us.

One thing that needs to be addressed is that when you are on the out of work list you need to answer the phone in the morning if Mark calls! If there is a continuation of the non-answering of the phone calls, we WILL go back to whereas an Apprentice you will be required to come to the hall for dispatch every morning. The calls still need to be filled!

In Solidarity,

Paul Kauffman



Local 498 Calendar

**June 14th Golf Outing postponed
until September 13th due to virus.
June 16th – Regular Member Meeting
Possibly a virtual 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 Peterson – 815/234-8163.

*We are saddened to announce that Brian David Koebler passed-away May 5, 2020.
Brian was **NOT** a participant of the “Death Benefit Program”*

