

The Connector



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

October 2020

From the Business Manager:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



With our Local 498 elections behind us, I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for entrusting the leadership of our great Local to me for another term. I am humbled by this and assure you I will work hard to continue to move the Local forward. Thank you to all the officers that take the time to participate in making this Local what it is. The officers are always working to get things done. Having great officers and members makes me a better Business Manager. It is a team effort with everyone working toward making Local 498 the best local out there. Over the last three years, we have had some great successes like turning the Americold project totaling 80,000 man-hours for our Local (the largest turned job in the country), a successful jurisdictional fight for sheeting the Riverside Energy Plant, and strengthening the apprentice program that is noticed by the contractors. We will continue to push for more successes and show the skills of Local 498 members. If anyone ever has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask. My door will always be open.

Remember General Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm, I sure would like to see more faces here.

I want to address the IMPACT Drug program. With the IL law allowing recreational use of marijuana and the IMPACT testing for it as an illegal substance, it has presented some challenges. First, let me say to all check your emails regularly (if we have yours on file). We send you your renewal this way. You have 2-3 weeks to get it done, so please try and take care of it timely. We have had some calls because their annual expired, and Dee resends them a new one and they let those expire also. If we must start putting them in as Randoms, you will only have 7-days to complete or it is considered a positive, then I guess that is the direction we will have to go. Two weeks is plenty of time to complete the test with 2 Saturdays, which I feel is generous. If you test positive for marijuana, you must contact the number provided within 7-days for them to help you with this since it is a legal substance (with restrictions) in IL. If you do not know what to do, contact me right away so I can help. If you delay, you will likely have to go through the process as if you were using an illegal substance and be off work until you are cleared. If you are working in WI where it is not a legal substance, you may get yourself in a jamb there. It has not been tested in Local 498 Wisconsin territory. I am unsure how it will play out because there are a lot of variables. I will help you navigate it, but I need to know early, so I can get questions answered.

I am having a hard time filling calls with everyone that are working out of town. I am getting it done, but we have been short. Currently, there are 42 people on the out of work list 20 are working out of town. I may have to start calling the apprentices back if need be. I am trying not to, especially if they are on long calls, but if I do, I will start with ones working for nonlocal contractors. We will also be starting the application process for the apprentice program. It is a relatively lengthy process driven by the DOL and our Standards (usually a 2-3 month process).

We will be looking to modifying to the application, testing, and hiring process so that we are a bit more flexible in bringing people into the program as needed. Also, if you share with people you know the application process will be starting, let them know to look for it on Facebook and our website at www.iwlocal498.org as to when we will be taking applications. We do not want to have Dee fielding calls all day long because it will happen some people cannot help themselves but call multiple times a week, every week.

Regarding the coronavirus, if you feel you should test get tested, it is free. You should especially get tested if you have been around someone that has tested positive. In my opinion, if you are getting tested because you feel you should and not due to exposure, I would not be sharing that unless you do test positive.

The Golf Outing was a success. We raised \$9000 to go towards the Blais – Northwest IL Building Trades Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all who participated considering what 2020 has been. This year it will be offering a \$1000 scholarship to a Building Trades members child for their first year of college. Applications for your kids to apply start Dec 1, 2020, through Feb 1, 2020. You can apply online at www.cfnl.org, they offer over 90 different scholarships. Your child can apply for more than just this one. Your college-bound children should look at this. Iron Workers have had 3 members children receive the scholarship out of the 4-years it has been available since Bob's passing.

I do not have much new in the way of work. Work has picked up with mostly small stuff, but it has been keeping the ones that want to work working. 2021 is slated to be a pretty good year unless something goofy happens that throws it out of whack. Chrysler's work may happen sooner rather than later due to scheduling changes on which plants get worked on first. The bulk of Nelson Power Plant Work will be in spring of 2021, Hard Rock will be spring, Beloit Casino is still not scheduled to start until after the election., and the Mill structural should start relatively soon. If you have the ability or desire to get on the Shine project as a welder, you should get current on your weld certs. More and more contractors and jobs are requiring it and the Shine project is no different. It just gives you more opportunities for work. I would much rather have a local member working than a boomer come in if possible. If you do not have the required skills and I do not have anyone that does, then a boomer will be doing the work. Anyone can come in and practice Monday through Thursday until 9 pm. It is available, you just have to want it and take the time.

Again, if you have any questions, job issues, or something you do not understand, call me or stop down. I will do whatever I can to help you figure it out.

In solidarity,

Mark



From the Organizer/Recording Secy.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

First of all, I would like to thank the membership for entrusting me as Recording Secretary for another three years. On the organizing side of things B&C Enterprises is still slowly moving along at Johnson Tractor in Rochelle. Also, a member called about Complete Fence installing handrail at PNC bank. This is the nonunion side of Northern Illinois Fence. On the Dollar General in Capron the concrete was good but the structure will be bad. It will be done by Accurate Steel from Missouri. D5 Ironworks were in Marengo off and on doing some retrofitting on an old building downtown. They don't come into our local very often. Precision Building Solution is still in Walworth at Dalco Metals finishing up the roof. They have also started the other addition at Kunes in Woodstock. Only two guys were working on the addition for a couple of days. When they are there for more than one day at a time I will be picketing. We also organized another one of Precision Building Solutions employees. Remember if you see something why you are out don't hesitate to give me a call at 815-721-3058 and I will check it out.

In Solidarity,
Keith Gahl



Apprenticeship Coordinator

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank everyone for their support and confidence in me to be the president of our local. It is a great honor to fill that position and my door is always open and my phone is always on if there are any questions or problems I can help with.

Upcoming weld test dates:

Nov. 7th

Dec. 19th

Let Dean, Dee or myself know and we'll put you on the testing list.

Weld certs are becoming a big demand and with the projected work coming up we need to make sure we can fill the calls for welders with Local 498 hands. If you want to come in and practice you can do so Monday-Thursday evenings, or if you have a rain day come on in and practice. As I type this there are 4 guys practicing because they got rained out.

In Solidarity,
Paul Kauffman

Local 498 Calendar

Nov 3rd – Election Day
Nov 7th – Weld Test
Nov 11th – Veterans Day
Nov 17th – Regular Membership Meeting
Nov 26th & 27th Closed for Thanksgiving

Dec. 15th – Regular Membership Meeting
Dec 19th – Weld Test
Dec 25 – Merry Christmas

RECENTLY PASSED

Jay R Parker 04/17/1963 – 10/06/2020 (Jay was not a participant in the Death Benefit Program)

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.

