

The Connector



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

March 2021

From the Business Manager:



Dear Brothers & Sisters:

This year we are allocating the raise at the April 20th General Meeting at 6 pm. I hope to see you there. We will be having the Taco Truck here in the parking lot from 4:30 to 6:30

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and in good spirits now that Spring has arrived. The beginning of this year has been slow, and February was very cold for a period of time. The contractors say they are bidding a fair amount for the year. If you are wanting to work in neighboring locals there is work in 393 and 444, you can either give them a shout or let me know and I can reach out to the BA's. Work should be picking up here as we go along as well. Boldt will be doing a bit of work at Nelson Power Plant starting in April with the main construction happening in September. The Rockford Casino and the plans are down state with the IL Gaming Commission. The Beloit Casino has been approved by the Governor and is looking like a September start. The bridges on I90 and 43 are just starting to take some guys. Harvard WWT will be doing a significant project this year. Library and mixed-use development downtown Rockford are slated to start this fall. Ingersoll will be putting an addition on to build a large telescope. The latest Chrysler rumor is a line for an electric car possibly at the end of the year. I am hopeful we will get the Mill furnace install which is supposed to start at the end of May.

While it is slow, that is the best time to come in and get your certs current if you have let them lapse. There are more and more contractors requiring you to be current on your weld certs to go out. Take advantage of the time off to come in and practice and recertify, it only gives you more opportunities to work. Great job to all the apprentices that where in welding block training and got certified. Block training is working, and our number of certified welders are going up because of it. Thank you to the Paul, all the Instructors and the Dean the CWI for doing what needs to be done to ensure a successful Training Program, keep up the great work.

In the last newsletter I reminded everyone of the HRA card use and keeping the bill payment under \$500 to avoid getting a 1099 at the end of the year if you did not submit your receipt to Tri-State. Well, I am happy to report that those requirements are over, I was successful at getting the trustees of the plan on board with removing the requirement of submitting the receipts for the HRA payments over \$500 and there will be no more 1099's for use on the HRA Card. So, going forward if you have a bill that needs to be paid and you are using the HRA Card pay whatever you need to pay. You will no longer have to submit the receipt and you will not have to worry about dealing with the 1099 at the end of the year.

I am hopeful we now have Kujo on board with how things are supposed to operate in Local 498, but if you see them around shoot me a text or phone call. Also, we are still not settled on our Aldridge Electric contractual (CBA) grievance and award with Aldridge having electricians (outside linesman Local 196) install security fence. I definitely got someone's attention and it has since been pushed up to the International level and the Plan (The National Building Trades) for arbitration on their (Aldridge's) claim.

against us (if you can believe that). I am not sure what the outcome will be, but I will keep you posted. If you see Aldridge Electric in our area, please let me know.

Another reminder, The Local 498 Golf Outing mailers should be coming out soon. The date is set for June 13th 8am registration 9am shot gun start. Get your foursomes together and register. The deadline will be June 1 for registering. It should be a good time.

In Solidarity,

Mark



From the Organizer/Recording Secy.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Work has starting to pick up a bit, hopefully this trend continues. With covid -19 restrictions being loosened up projects that were put on hold will start to move forward again. From all indications this looks like it will be a good year.

Now on to the non-union contractors doing work in our local. I thought one of our local contractors would be able to get the second building at Johnson Tractor but in the end, it still went to B&C Enterprises. B&C Enterprises is also still In Woodstock at American Ad Bag. Up in Beloit Caliber construction did a small PEMB off of Prairie Avenue. Down in Orangeville work on the Dollar General has started. Lately we have been able to at least get the reinforcing on those projects, but it looks like this one will be all bad for us. There is also a PEMB being put up by B and R Grain Handling down between Lena and Stockton.

Last week I attended a week-long training class called Organizing 1. The training was how the International wants to change the way we organize and using best practices to gain more members and market share.

I do appreciate the calls and texts I have been receiving on jobs around our local. Don't hesitate to give me a call or a text if you see something going on around our local at 815-721-3058.

In Solidarity,
Keith Gahl

Apprenticeship Coordinator

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this finds everyone healthy and ready for Spring.

The Apprenticeship is chugging along nicely this semester. So far Covid hasn't been an issue this semester like it was last semester, and I'm hoping, like I'm sure everyone else is, that there will be some-what of a return to normal as summer gets here.

I've had a request from the U.S. Department of Labor to do EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) Training here at the local. I have already had the Apprentices, Everyone in the office, and a few of the instructors go through the training, but the DOL wants the Journeymen to go through it as well. If you could do me a favor and click (or go to) the link below, watch the 5 minute video and send me a text saying that you have watched the video I would greatly appreciate it.

Here's the link.

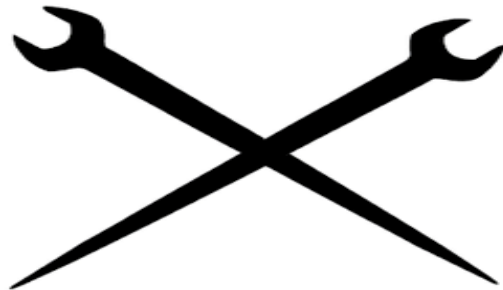
http://maherdemo.com/OA-SEA/oa_harassment_knowledge/index.html

Next weld test date is:

April 10th.

If you would like to test let Dean Markee or Myself know and we'll put you on the list.

In Solidarity,
Paul Kauffman



Local 498 Calendar

April 20th – Regular Membership Meeting

April 10th – Weld Test

May 18th – Regular Membership 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.