



SPECIAL UNION MEETING MAY 3, 2022 6:00 PM VOTE ON ALLOCATION OF WAGES

From the Business Manager:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this letter finds you in a good place. I know the work picture has been slow for a while this winter which is unfortunate. Fortunately, our neighbors to the north, south, and east have kept some members busy. Half of the out of work list was working elsewhere, which has been great for those that are willing to travel outside the local. Little by little the work is coming in and all the contractors are telling me that it should be a good year. Some decent projects are coming. As I write this, there are 43 on the out of work list and 21 are working out of the local. Also, if you are laid off let me know and if you are not receiving the texts for work, I need to know that too so we can get it turned on and I can make sure you are on the out of work list. My cell number is below for those that don't have it (likely the new members from 393). My goal is to make sure you at least have the information of coming work to make the decision to try and go out to work.

Specifically, to the new members that have come over from 393, I have only had 6 on my out of work list. If the rest of you are working steady that is great! If you get laid off let me know and I will get you on the out of work list and if you haven't set up the text service, we will get that rolling for you as well. The text service is also available for retirees to get any info from the Local between published newsletters.

Specifically, to the 393 Lifetime Members that have transferred to Local 498, the main question we have received is about your promised Death Benefit from Local 393. I have been told the International will be earmarking the dollar amount to cover your death benefits. Local 498 will have an account set aside to cover the ones here in Local 498 and Local 444 will do something similar for those that went there. The Lifetime and honorary Members were split equally between our 2 locals. Your Death Benefit will be covered by your respective local you were placed. We have sent out a new beneficiary forms to make sure we have updated information on your beneficiary choices for both the local Death Benefit as well as the International one. Please fill them out and send them back or if you did not receive them and need new ones, please let us know and we will get them to you. We want to make sure your family is covered when the inevitable happens.

You all should be receiving a flyer for our Local 498 Golf Outing we have for Charity. The date is June 26, 2022, 8:00 am check in and 9:00 am shot gun start. The deadline to register will be June 10th. We hope to see you there.

I have been asked about the next pin party. This year we will be doing the pin presentations in conjunction with our Labor Day Picnic at our hall as the year has been filling up. We are due to have a pin presentation so those that have had 20+ years of service are recognized and thanked for their past work. This seemed to be the best solution for this year, especially after the years of COVID and the changes that have happened to our local and 393. We will send out in the summer a list of all those that will receive pins and their years. Those that can't make it, we will send them to them.

Though it is early, I wanted to remind everyone to about the Annual Health Screening for active members put on every year in October. You will get a letter notifying you of the date and that you should register. Keep that in the back of your mind. It is a good thing to stay on top of plus it puts money on your HRA account. The letter will likely come out in the summer.

I also wanted to let you know.

Allocation for the raise of \$2.50 our final year of the contract. May 3rd at 6pm at our Hall. This \$2.50 will cover both regular and Eastern Zone of our Local.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

In Solidarity,

Mark Richeson
815-494-6181



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm sure everyone is aware that work is still slow. There are a few nonunion jobs around the local. One that has been going on for quite some time now is the LKQ addition in Janesville, being done by Keller Construction. It sure seems like it is taking a long time to build this addition. Although we did not have a piece of that job, Keller did use us for the Spray Tek project in Beloit. There are also a couple of Quik Trip gas stations going up in our area. One is in Beloit and the other is in Darien. We will have members doing the canopies on them. Harvard Crane has a couple of small PEMB. One is in Union at the Railway museum which always go nonunion, and the other is in Huntley. Also, you might be seeing some signage work on a few Casey's around the area. The company is S. Clark Construction out of Kentucky. This summer seems like it is going to busy from talking with some of our contractors that are bidding the work.

I know I have been bringing the topic of the Workers' Rights Amendment to the Illinois Constitution a lot, but this amendment is important for all of us. This amendment will be on the ballot in November for the citizens of Illinois to decide if it will become part of our constitution. If you don't already know it will only pass if 60% of the people vote yes. This Amendment is a once in a generation chance to protect workers rights. We all know that "Right to Work" means **right to work for less**. If the Amendment passes it will be the first of its kind in the nation. There are four key provisions to the amendment.

- Allow collective bargaining negotiations
- Make organizing and collective bargaining a fundamental right
- Prohibit lawmakers from interfering with ,negating or diminishing union power
- Ban so called “Right to Work’ laws

This Amendment should be important to all of us as it strengthens “**Workers’ Rights.**” In the next few months, you will be seeing this effort grow. I hope you will take the time to educate family and friends about how important this Workers’ Rights Amendment is to not only Union members but workers in general. As of 2021 there are 27 states with “Right to Work” laws and studies have shown that those states lag behind collectively bargained as much as 3% in the areas of wages, health benefits, and safety.

As always, don’t hesitate to give me a call or text at 815-721-3058 if you see something happening around our local. We have a pretty good share of the work around our area, and it will take all of us to keep it that way.

In solidarity,

Keith Gahl



Apprenticeship Coordinator

Hello Brothers and Sisters.

I want to remind everyone to keep up on their weld certs. Remember any certification you have will make you more employable. We’ve seen a few that got rejected because of the dates in the continuity log book. If you are filling your log book out and want me to look at it before you send it in just take a picture of it and send it to me and I’ll look it over. If they reject it for any reason the International will send you an email stating so and why, and it will be up to you to correct it in a timely matter and resubmit it.

We’ve got a few new apprentices, and will probably be bringing in more as need this year and I want to make sure that all Journeyman know to give me a call if your having an issue with an apprentice so I can come out and address the problem. If I don’t have any knowledge of issues then I don’t have anything to go by as far as correcting the issues. We have a good reputation here in 498 with our Journeymen and apprentices and I want to keep it that way. The next weld test is May 14th.

If you would like to be put on the sign-up sheet for the weld test just let Dean Markee or myself know.

If you need to do some practicing for the weld test, we have welding classes on Monday and Wednesday nights or feel free to come in during the day if you are not working.

In Solidarity,

Paul Kauffman

Local 498 Calendar

May 3rd – Special Allocation Meeting

May 17– Regular Membership Meeting

Upcoming Tests/Training dates:

Weld Test May 14th

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.

Death Announcements

None – Be well and take care brothers & sisters