

THE CONNECTOR



Iron Workers Local 498 - 5640 Sockness Dr., Rockford, IL 61109 – 815/873-9180 Aug/Sept 2022

From the Business Manager

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I know it has been a while for a newsletter. We try and get them out regularly but as you know time sometimes gets away from us. I wanted to thank everyone that texted or called me when I had my heart issue, it was much appreciated.

As you all know work has picked up significantly as people are getting laid off, they are going back out. That is a great thing. The contractors appear to be busy and will likely be busy for a bit. There are projects on the horizon, everything from rods to PEMB to structural. The transition with the new zone is moving along. The contractors have been pretty good, but I am still learning some of the ones that worked in 393's territory, but never came out as far as Rockford. We will get there though. I appreciate the guys calling when they see contractors working it helps keep track of everything, we can't be everywhere. As I write this there is 21 on the out of work list and 10 or so are working out of town. We have been bringing in some new members. We will likely bring some more in as we have 4 years to train them and in 4 years, we will be losing some to retirement and some will be getting older and choosier about what type of work they will do (which I have always said is your right as a **JIW**). We do need to be prepared to always have a ready work force to fill calls. I will remind everyone again, if you are off, make sure I know and if you will be off a few days I may be able you use you to fill some short calls in between.

We have received the death benefit money for the 393 Lifetime and Honorary members, so your death benefit is covered at \$5400. We send out Email notification of members passing and whether they are 498 or former 393 members. Local 498 has changed and updated our local death benefit so all is included in the plan, and it will live on for a \$5000 benefit. All Lifetime and Honorary Members receive a death benefit from the International as well. I will try and explain how it works for everyone and if you need any clarification please call.

- The 393 Lifetime and Honorary a Death Benefit is covered, paid for, and in Local 498s Death Benefit Account. So, if a Lifetime or Honorary of 393 that is now a member of Local 498 passes, please let us know. Their beneficiary is entitled to a death benefit from the local.
- Members of 498 (excluding former 393 members) that were part of the Death Benefit Program that are Lifetime, Honorary, and retired (but no longer carry their book) and have maintained their participation in the program will pay \$25.00 per death of a 498 Member that passes. This pays \$5000 to the designated beneficiary.
- All active members that are paying dues, which has been increased June 2022 to cover the death benefit now qualify for the \$5000 benefit to your chosen beneficiary.

I hope this helps clarify the Death Benefit Program. If you still have questions do not hesitate to call and ask. Also, now would be a good time to update your beneficiary cards if you have had any major life changes that may have affected your chosen beneficiary.

Reminder, Oct 8th is our annual health screening here at the hall. You should be getting reminders soon in the mail from Lifeline Screening. When you receive that you can call and save your time slot for you and your spouse. They recommend you fast for the blood work. It is only available for member and spouse that are not covered by Medicare. This will also put \$100 on your Benny card as well. I highly recommend everyone taking advantage of this.

The Golf outing was a success I believe when the final tally is done, we will have raised almost \$10,000 for charity it will be split between Blais Memorial Scholarship and Nikolas Ritschel Foundation. Thanks to all that participated and help make it a success.

This Labor Day we will be participating in the Labor Day Parade, but we will be coming back to the Hall for the picnic, raffle, kids face painting, a bouncy house for the kids and handing out of pins for members years of service. They will be handed out for 20 years or more at 5-year increments. The last pin party we had was in 2019, so we will be getting everyone caught up from 2020 forward. Everyone who will be receiving a pin will be notified. If you cannot make the picnic, we will mail your pin to you. We sure would like to know if you will be attending and how many, we want to make sure we have plenty of food. I hope to see you here.

In Solidarity,

Mark

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I don't know about you, but this year seems to have gone by fast. August is here already, and work is good. I have missed a few meetings this year and for that I apologize. The International is really stepping up its organizing efforts and to stay current on training I took there organizing 2 class earlier this year. Recently I attended 38th annual instructor training in Ann Arbor Michigan. While there I took the train the trainer History class and the Comet class. I was required to take the Comet class and I thought the History class would go along with that with our Unions push to Organize. You will be seeing adds in the Ironworker magazine and on Facebook and other social media looking for more organizers at the International level. The only way we are going to grow is if we gain market share. We must Organize! It's not an easy task but it is one that must be done. I know around our local and our District council we have a Pretty good market share, but it could be better.

As you know work is really good in Local 498. There are a few jobs that are bad. Two are up in Delavan and one in Sharon. In Janesville we picketed a job for two days and a union contractor was brought in to finish their work. There will be one in South Beloit but they had a little delay with a block firewall falling down between the existing building and the new addition. There were also a couple of Dollar General that were built, we had the concrete on one of them. Out to the east in the new territory it's going to take some time to get a good handle on the work. I think a lot of the issue is contractors from the city not clearing in. It will take some time to get things going in the right direction.

I know I bring the "Workers' Rights Amendment" up a lot, but it is something that should be important to all of us. With our way of making a living being torn down by big corporations and political pressure. We will always have to fight to make our lives better and the lives of others. The amendment will continue to strengthen our voice.

- The Amendment will solidify our right to unionize and collectively bargain by preserving it in the state constitution
- Collective bargaining strengthens the economy, helps families get ahead, and lessons racial and socioeconomic inequality
- A majority of Illinoisans support the right for people to unionize

We need to get involved and get this in our constitution, so Illinois does not become a "Right to Work" state like the ones around us. It will not be easy, but I am asking all of you to talk with family and friends to get this amendment passed.

As always don't hesitate to call or text me at 815-721-3058 if you see work going on in our local and are not sure about it. It will take all of us to do our part to make this a better local.

In Solidarity,

Keith Gahl

Apprenticeship Coordinator

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank Jesse Madden and Wade Hoffman for putting in the time and effort to prepare for the District Council Apprentice Competition that was held at Local 444 back at the end of June. They both did great against a stacked field!



The fall semester is fast approaching with a mandatory meeting for all Apprentices on August 15th at 6:00 P.M. If there are any Journeymen that would like to get their welding certs updated, Ariel Lift Cert, or any other certification I can help you with let me know so we can get something scheduled.

Upcoming schedule:

Aug. 15th First night of fall semester

Sept. 24th Weld Test

Nov. 5th Weld Test

There will be an OSHA 30 this fall but we don't have the dates nailed down just yet. As soon as I know the dates, I will pass that info along.

As I'm sure most of you have heard we have a handful of new Apprentices and all I'm asking is that you look out for them and teach them how to be a good Ironworker. Just remember we were all there at one point.

In Solidarity,

Paul Kauffman

Local 498 Calendar

Aug. – No Union Meeting
Sept 5th – LABOR DAY PICNIC
Sept . 20th – Regular Membership Meeting
Oct. 8th – Health Screening

Upcoming Tests/Training dates:

First Night of Fall Semester - Aug. 15

Weld Test Sept 24th

Weld Test Nov. 5th

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

**Homer Lewis 5/20/2022 (Death Benefit Participant)
Louie Rowe 6/30/2022 (Was Not a Participant)**



SAVE THE DATE!

LIFELINE SCREENING

Tri State Iron Workers Local 498 will be hosting a **FREE** Life Line Screening event for our employees & spouses!

WHY?

Because awareness and early detection of disease is powerful. Identification of chronic diseases in their early stages enables prompt treatment that can slow or prevent disease development and costly health results. Our purpose is to make you aware of unrecognized and potential health problems and encourage follow-up care with your personal

WHEN: Saturday Oct.8th

**WHERE: 5640 Sockness Dr.
Rockford, IL 61109**

**More details and registration
information coming soon!**

QUESTIONS:

Deidre Conerly

Phone: +1 (815) 873-9180

Email:

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498.org**

**Saturday
October 8th**