

# THE CONNECTOR



Iron Workers Local 498 - 5640 Sockness Dr., Rockford, IL 61109 – 815/873-9180      October 2023

## From the Business Manager

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



It has been a bit since the last Connector and many things have taken place since.

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for entrusting in me the pleasure of being your Business Manager for another 3 years, I couldn't ask for a better group of people to represent. From the beginning as a Pension Trustee, I have tried to do right by the members in all that I do. I am always trying to improve my approach on how I operate and will continue that way. I must also thank the Paul, Keith, and Dee, they are a great group to have in here. We are all working to improve Local 498 for the current and future members to give them a path to success so the future leaders will sprout from that. I truly appreciate this opportunity you have given me once again.

It has been a busy summer since our last Newsletter. We have settled our contract with a solid 3-year deal (\$4.00, \$3.15, and \$3.00). I believe everyone was pretty happy with that. We had our first Retiree Breakfast (May 20) which had about 40 retirees here for a buffet breakfast. Maybe we can get that number up for next year. It was great to see the "Lifetimers" come in and talk about the jobs they worked together on. I hope next year you force me have to order more food. It was a good time.

We had a pretty successful Golf Outing on July 30 with 81 golfers and raised about \$11,000 split between 2 charities, the Blais/Building Trades Scholarship Fund, and the Nik's Homerun Charity for Kids with terminal illnesses. Mark your calendars for next year June 8, 2024, we are going to try Timber Pointe in Belvidere. This will be a Saturday afternoon golf outing with lunch before the 1:30pm start for 18 holes, we are still fine tuning the details, keep that on your radar.

The Labor Day Parade and Party was a pretty good success. We will continue to have the Picnic and Pin Party at our hall going forward. We planned for 150 people for food here and we had leftovers. It was a warm one this year and we had the tables and chair set up in the Meeting Room for the air Conditioning, with some tables in the shop and some outside with tents. There was Bags and a bouncy House for the kids. Jaden (Dee's) daughter did face painting and Jason, Dee's husband provided and prepared the food for the picnic. It was great. If you are in the area of the Rusty Nail stop in for some killer wings.

Apprentices that are not working I should see down here for dispatch at the least once a week. The best way to get a job is to be here. I don't expect you to be here every day, however, if you aren't here, it is likely someone will take a job you could have had if you were. FYI there have been jobs come through and I know you received the message but still do not show. That is money you are not making and benefits (not just pension but health insurance) not being paid on your behalf and hours toward the apprentice program. I know I wanted to get through the program as soon as possible so I didn't have to answer to the coordinator.

I have told you guys, work all the hours you can while your young, so you have options when you're older. When you do come in here for dispatch, if there are calls for the day, make sure have your boots on and ready to go to work. If I dispatch you at 6:15 and it is an hour away you are already late when you get there and THEN you put on your boots, that is a bad practice to have. Just be ready if work is on the docket for the morning. Also, Paul and I can't stress enough, if you hurt yourself let the boss know! Even if it is minor and there really is nothing other than a Band-Aid needed. Deciding to go to the ER after returning home, along with being far more expensive, and then telling the boss the next day or 2 days later will not help your case and makes it difficult to solve. They don't know if you did it at home and then not their responsibility. Communication is key in this industry on many levels, keep that in mind. I said this before and it bears repeating. When given a task do it with some urgency! You are bid out at over \$100 dollars an hour and slow walking to do your work and having no second gear when needed will get you a check and if I have to replace you, you WILL be in front of the JATC explaining yourself!

On the work side of things, we have been busy up until recently where we have slowed a bit. We should pick back up in a few weeks. There will be a fair amount of rod work coming with WWT's in both zones and numerous bridges. Short stuff is going out fairly consistently. Walmart distribution (1.1M Sq. Ft.) in Belvidere should be starting around December at this point sounds like 2600 ton of rebar unless something changes between now and then. I believe the work will be there. Regarding Stelantis (Chrysler), we will no more once the UAW has settled the contract. I believe, the prospects are good for work there.

The International also has rolled out an Electronic Stewards report. We will start implementing this in the future. It seems pretty functional and not too complicated. Once set up (per job) it does a lot of auto populating. We would like detail on the tasks of work, and you can even upload pictures. This will help in maintaining our scope of work and protect it through jurisdictional disputes (not that we have many here) but they can be used in other less strong union areas. I will likely set up a button on the web site so the stewards can access it from there once we get a few under our belt.

In Solidarity,

Mark

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With our Local 498 nominations for our October election behind us and President Paul Kauffman calling for me to record a unanimous white ballot for the election into the minutes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Ironworkers Local 498 for entrusting me as your local 498 Recording Secretary and Pension Trustee. It has been my honor serving the members of our local and look forward to what the future holds for our great local.

Work has been pretty good for most of the year and should continue for the remainder of the year. There is always a non-union presence around our local at all times. However, most of the time it is small jobs like Starbucks and Chipotle's and the like. We will usually get a piece of the job meaning we might get the reinforcing and not the structural or the other way around, and they are usually out of town contractors, so it is hard to get ahead of them. There are also our regular local non-union that have been around for a long time and will probably be around as long as people let them take advantage of them. I have organized a handful of people lately and would like to thank the members that have shown them what it means to be a union Ironworker and a member of Ironworkers Local 498.

I'm sure everyone has heard about the Coleman Yard's project in downtown Rockford. This is a Four-hundred- and twenty-million-dollar project that also will fall under prevailing wage. With our friends on the city council, it was voted to have a Project Labor Agreement attached to this job but was re-voted on at the next meeting with Mayor McNamara breaking the tie not in our favor. After that vote we have been bannerering Rockford City Hall before city council meetings on Monday nights and have been attending city council meeting in rotation with other trades. We want this project to be done with local labor and local contractors, not contractors from Wisconsin that will try to steal from workers and not pay prevailing wage.

I appreciate all the calls I get on jobs happening around our local or just questions you might have. I don't always have the answer, but I will do my best to get it for you. As always don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. My number is 815-721-3058 for some of the new people that don't have my number yet.

In Solidarity,

Keith Gahl



### Brothers & Sisters

As I'm sure most of you are aware things have picked back up and we're busy! With that said we have been bringing in several new apprentices, so I ask that you remember that we all started somewhere and that these guys are green and you need to teach them. To all of the apprentices you need to be on time ready to work and act like a sponge and learn as much as you can. Leave the cell phones and excuses in your car!

The next scheduled weld test is Nov. 4th. If there is enough interest and need, we will schedule one before then. Give Dean Markee of myself a call if you're in need of testing and we can schedule something if needed. In the East Zone things have slowed a little on the structural side but there are still several reinforcing jobs on the books. If you're out there and see something, please give me a call so that I can make sure that everything is being covered. There are still a couple of contractors that like to sneak in without letting anyone know they are there. Things have gotten much better on that part but there is still room for improvements.

In Solidarity  
Paul Kauffman

### Local 498 Calendar

10/17/23 E-Board-Union Meeting  
11/04/23 Weld Test

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 Albine) in Rockford.

### **Death Announcements**

**Lois Anderson – 6/1/23 (BENEFIT COVERED NO PYMNT)**  
**Ralph (Gene) Denton - 7/2/23 (BENEFIT COVERED NO PYMNT)**  
**Mike Klein - 7/14/23 (BENEFIT COVERED NO PYMNT)**  
**Karl Kayzar - 9/6/23 (BENEFIT COVERED NO PYMNT)**

**Please call if you have any questions about payments.**