

MARCH 2015  
VOLUME 49, NUMBER 1

# Local 234



# Engineers News

# ABOUT FRONT COVER



Brothers Joe Christophersen and Sheldon Christophersen operate a 250 Link-Belt for Barnhart while putting a new hand rail on a water tower.

WE  
ARE  
ONE

## Layoff Rules for All Layoffs, Including Seasonal

Referral Register Affects Unemployment Compensation and Insurance Self-Pay Rights.

If you are laid off, even if it is a seasonal layoff, you must check in with Local 234 by phone, mail or in person at least once every 30 days in order to remain on the Referral Register.

Iowa Workforce Development does random audits of unemployment claims. If you have not put yourself on the Referral Register, your claim will be denied by their office and you will NOT be eligible for unemployment compensation.

Additionally, the rules for eligibility to make self-pays for insurance through the Local 234 Health & Welfare Fund require you to be available for work. You are not considered as available for work unless you have placed yourself on the Referral Register.

PLEASE...Don't jeopardize your unemployment compensation! Don't jeopardize your health insurance!

# BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Last season turned out to be one of the best we've had in a long time. Total hours worked were up and we have had more people work through the winter this year than I can remember in years past. If the weather would warm up just a little we could move right into the 2015 season.

I've talked to a few of our building and dirt contractors around the state and they are looking at busy seasons already. With the energy work around the state, and D.O.T. work we should have another great year. Its looking like the pipeline project and clean line project have both pushed their start dates to 2016, which may be good news for Local 234 as far as filling the seats with as many Local Members as possible.

During last years elections we lost some seats that surprised everyone and we lost some that we kind of expected early on. The voter turnout was the lowest we've seen in a long time and it shows. Even though a lot of candidates that are Labor friendly got their butts kicked in the elections in November, thankfully the gas tax passd this year. I know that an increase in the gas tax will effect all of us, but hopefully it will help some of our contractors pick up work and we can also get some more of our roads fixed.

The Health & Welfare Fund continues to do very well with current assets totaling \$34 million. The Board has done a good job of making the changes needed to stay in line with the Affordable Care Act without cutting benefits to the Members. We continue to watch for new ways to save our Fund money and keep our Members covered at current levels.

As most of you are probably aware, we have had some changes at our training site since last fall. As you've

heard me say in the past - we need to be able to train to be the best. And that's exactly what we are working toward. We have bought equipment, made the site more accessible to the Members, and have hired some new people to move forward. I would like to be able to say our site is one of the best in the country and I think we are moving in that direction.



**Jason Copple**  
**Business Manager**  
**Financial Secretary**

The stationary contracts that have been negotiated around the state this winter have seemed to be going a little better than in the last few years. The increases seem to be up a little and getting them seems to be a little easier also. It goes to show that when the economy improves it doesn't just effect our hoisting and portable side, it affects our stationary side just as much.

We tried something different last year and had Christmas parties around the state that allowed us to include the families of Members. The turn out was great and everyone I heard from really enjoyed themselves. I'm planning on continuing those parties and would like to do a picnic at the training site this spring for families as well. Unions are suppose to be a family and what a better way to be a Union family than to get our families involved with the Union?

Hopefully by General Membership time the weather will have straightened out and a lot of you will be back to work. However, if your off on March 28th please try and make it to the General Membership meeting. It's a great way to stay informed on Union business.

**Is your address, email address and phone number current with your Union?**

**If not, drop us a note or  
call us at  
515-265-1657**

**General Membership Meeting Notice**  
**Saturday, March 28, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m.**  
**4880 Hubbell Avenue**  
**Des Moines, IA**

# DISTRICT I



**Chad Carter**  
**Vice President &**  
**Business**  
**Representative**

It has been a very long winter/lay-off season, although we have had a few jobs that have continued.

I thank all the Members that showed up at the Dakota Access Pipeline informational meetings around the state back in December. We will be calling on all Members for their support in the future for this project. As I write this today, Dakota Access has filed a petition for a pipeline permit with the Iowa Utilities Board.

The next step will be a Public meeting, which will be presented similar to a case in a court of law. At this hearing all parties will be allowed to give evidence/testimony for, or against, the project. This hearing will be very important for us to attend. All of Local 234 offices and agents have “I Support the Dakota Access Pipeline” letters available. These letters are being given to the Iowa Utilities Board to show support. If you would like to help the Local show support, please call and get one today. This project will be 343 miles of 30” pipe and will be done under a Project Agreement. All but 30 miles will be in 234’s jurisdiction. We will continue to keep everyone informed of the status of this project.

The Iowa Utilities Board has also received a petition for an electric transmission line called the Rock Island Clean Line Project. This project would be a high-voltage direct current transmission line across Iowa. It would run through 15 counties in Local 234 jurisdiction’s, from the northwest corner of Iowa to Illinois. This project would be completed under a Project Labor Agreement with Kiewit Power. We also have support letters for this project available. The cool part of this project is that it will also create more windmill jobs.

Pipeline work this season is starting out with Precision Pipeline working on 13 miles of 20” pipe in Marshalltown. They are racking pipe now and Minnesota Lim-

ited is doing a little maintenance and integrity work for Kinder Morgan. SCG has some station work for Northern Natural Gas this year and Michel’s picked up the blanket work for Northern Natural this year.

Distribution work is looking really busy this season. Q3 picked up all of MidAmerica’s work in Local 234’s area and also Black Hill Energy’s work on the west side of the state. Intercon will be starting off the season very busy with the work for Alliant Energy. Infrasource still has Central Iowa work for Black Hills Energy.

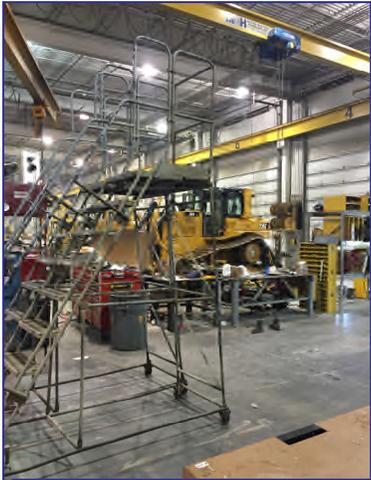
Dirt contractors will be starting the season off good. They all have work from last season to finish, as well as the new work they picked up over the winter.

Building work is looking good. We have a handful of new jobs coming up in downtown Des Moines this season. Polk County is still looking at building a motel close to the Convention Center in downtown Des Moines. The City of Des Moines is looking at possibly approving new hotels, a grocery store and a parking garage.

Energy work is coming along. Ames has been working on the Lake Red Rock Hydro Dam project. Case Foundation just finished the secant piling on the down stream side of the dam. They will be back for more work around August of this year. Bencor is working on the deep diaphragm wall on the lake side of the dam and should be done around May. Schnabel has moved in to do the tie-back walls for the excavation of the powerhouse and should be done in late April to mid May.

The Marshalltown powerhouse is also moving forward. The piling is finished and Boldt has started on the foundation and should start erecting steel around an April/May timeframe. We also have one Operator working on pipe fabrication with AZCO.

With the upcoming work season looking as good as it does, we will be in need of experienced Operators in all aspects of the Trade. If you know any non-union Operators, please help your Union out and refer them to us, or us to them. This is our chance to improve our market share.



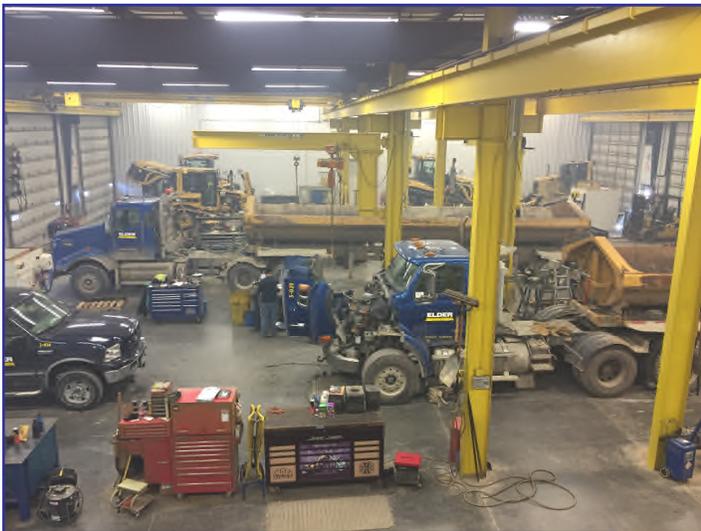
Overview of McAninch's shop.



Case Foundation finishing up the secant piling on the Lake Red Rock Hydro Dam project.



Brothers Darin York and Marty Deitrick setting precast roof joists for U.S. Crane & Equipment at the Johnston School project.



Overview of Elder's shop.



Some of Corell's equipment being serviced before spring start up.

# DISTRICT II



**Nick Norton**  
**Executive Board**  
**District II &**  
**Business**  
**Representative**

It looks like we're going to have a pretty good start out of the gate this season. We still have several ongoing building and utility projects continuing on and around the University of Iowa campus. The Children's Hospital, Hancher Auditorium and the West Campus Residence Hall structures are approaching completion so we will be seeing some of the tower cranes coming down, but Miron just picked up the \$80 million dorm project so we will have two more going up.

Cedar Rapids is seeing an increase in the amount of utility, site and housing developments coming out for bid

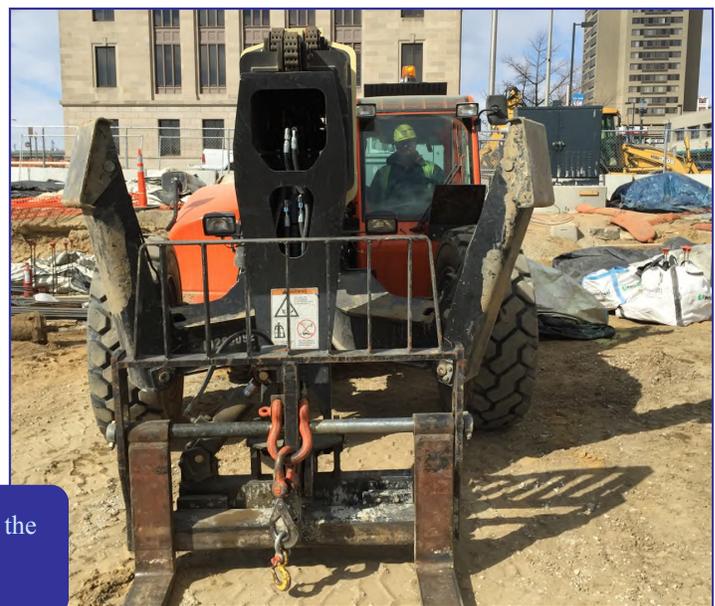
this spring. Ryan is just coming out of the ground with the new CRST Building in downtown Cedar Rapids. SM Hentges has been awarded the next phase of the Indian Creek job and Brandenburg is working on the demo at one of Alliant's power stations.

The civil portion of the wind farms will be kicking off again in April at the O'Brien, Madison and Grundy wind sites. We also have a small project going on at the Lansing power station that will be taking on a 2<sup>nd</sup> shift for the shutdown in April.

With the amount of work we have coming up this season, I urge all Members to take advantage of our training site to keep their certifications current and to hone your skills. And please remember to keep your name updated on the out of work list so everyone can get back to work as quickly as possible.



Brother John Emerson operates the new Grove 9000E loading rock crusher for Bland Recycling in Waterloo.



Brother Jason Otto operates a fork truck for Ryan at the CRST Building in downtown Cedar Rapids.



Brother Larry Buck demolishing the old University of Iowa water treatment building for Veit to make room for the new \$80,000,000 dorm going up on the University of Iowa campus in Iowa City.

## CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

RANDOLPH PAGE

DANNY O'CONNOR

STEPHEN UELZE

MILO SCHULER

DENNIS VANNOY

RONALD SCHROMEN

MICHAEL WOLF

RONALD HACKET

GEORGE DAUMA

DICK LAHEY

# DISTRICT III



**Spencer Yockey**  
**Business**  
**Representative**

The workload has been pretty good this winter in District 3. Klinger has slowed down but they are bidding on a lot of upcoming work in the area and at the CF Industries expansion. DM Steel workload is real good. They have started setting precast and iron at CF Industries in February with two hospital additions and the Echo building, plus several small projects. Barnhart Crane and Rigging is having a typical winter, trying to work around the weather, but they are

looking to be very busy soon and will be hiring more Operators. Crane Sales and Service workload is steady and they may also be hiring more Operators.

Deep South is onsite at the CF Industries expansion setting the 200,000+ lb vessels. The heavy transport portion of the project will pick up as barges will bring more vessels and equipment soon. The CBFS project south of Council Bluffs is ongoing. Davis Erection started the next set of buildings in February. Berkel also begun the piling on the next phase in February. Marley Cooling Towers' work continues. Sachs Civil will be starting on more large duct banks in mid March along with the electrical gear installation which has been steady on the project. Minger is currently working on the last phase of the sewer relocate in down town Sioux City.

MMC is currently working on the mechanical portion. Rodriguez Mechanical has recently started on the water and sewer for the next phase. Patriot Crane has been on site for the majority of the project providing support for the electricians and countless rigging projects. Barnhart Crane has been in and out setting the generators and fuel tanks on the project.

Mortenson is scheduled to be back near Primghar for the erection of 218 turbines in late March or early April. No official word yet on additions to other wind farms in Iowa but I hope to know more by the General Membership meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>. We are looking at another busy year with Ames Construction picking a \$76 million DOT project near Council Bluffs. 2016 looks good for The Dakota Access Pipeline, as well as the Rock Island Clean Line and the possible additional wind turbines.

Stationary negotiations are continuing. We have reached an Agreement with Calhoun REC and the City of Emmetsburg. Negotiations with the City of Atlantic are ongoing. The three schools contracts are slow due to budget concerns with the state officials and the uncertainty of insurance costs.



The CBFS project south of Council Bluffs.



Brother Jason "Jake" Tranmer operates an excavator for Minger Construction at the sewer relocation project in downtown Sioux City.



Brother Dick Braun in Klinger's yard with a 40 ton Grove truck crane.



City of Cherokee Members from left to right: Brothers Todd Miller, Todd Larsen and Luke Klaschen.

Brother Mike Britton setting the iron and precast on the new office building at CF Industries for DM Steel south of Sioux City.



Brothers Joe Christophersen and Sheldon Christophersen operate a 250 Link-Belt for Barnhart while putting a new hand rail on a water tower.

## I Support the Dakota Access Pipeline

To the Members of the Iowa Utilities Board:

I write today in support of the Dakota Access Pipeline – a project that’s poised to bring considerable benefit to our state and to our nation.

After decades of dependence on foreign oil, the American oil boom has made finally made our country’s goal energy independence achievable. But in order to realize our nation’s energy potential, we must ensure that our infrastructure keeps pace with the demands of increased production. For that reason, constructing this pipeline is vital to our nation’s economic future, and to our pursuit of energy security.

Closer to home, the project is important to me personally, because of the benefits it will provide to the construction industry. This project will be built with local workers, creating thousands of jobs here in Iowa, all while driving direct capital investment of more than \$1 billion.

Beyond the direct benefit to the thousands of Iowans that will be employed by this project, the decision to use local labor workers is also important from a safety standpoint, and should be recognized by the IUB. Committing to skilled trade construction ensures that the work is done the right way. The skilled trades responsible for pipeline construction take pride in having the most advanced training. We demand, and deliver, a safe workplace. We are committed to operating with minimal disruption or impact to landowners. And most importantly, we want this project done right, because we live here too.

I urge you to complete a fair and timely review of this proposal.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE  
LETTERS OF SUPPORT MAILED  
TO YOU, PLEASE  
CONTACT THE LOCAL  
AT 515-265-1657.

PLEASE STOP BY ANY LOCAL 234  
OFFICE OR CONTACT ANY OF  
THE BUSINESS AGENTS TO FILL  
OUT THE LETTERS OF SUPPORT  
FOR THE PROPOSED PIPELINES.

Honorable Chair and Board Members  
Iowa Utilities Board  
1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

### Please Approve the Rock Island Clean Line Transmission Line Project

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

I am writing to support the Rock Island Clean Line, which is critical infrastructure for our state, region, and nation. The Rock Island Clean Line is a 500-mile transmission line that will strengthen our regional electric grid and provide our region and nation with competitively priced clean energy. This project, and the more than 3,500 megawatts of new wind farms it will enable, will create thousands of jobs for Iowans benefiting Iowa families and communities.

The United States and Northwest Iowa have some of the best wind resources in the world, and our nation needs new and cost-effective clean energy resources. Unfortunately, the transmission infrastructure does not currently exist to connect these resources to communities and cities across our region that have a strong demand for renewable energy.

New wind projects that could provide energy for millions of homes can't move forward due to a lack of sufficient power lines. Clean Line Energy is developing one solution, the Rock Island Clean Line, to address that problem. Spanning Iowa and Illinois, the project will collect and deliver enough energy from new wind projects in northwest Iowa and the surrounding region to meet the annual needs of 1.4 million homes.

Furthermore, in addition to providing needed energy, the estimated economic activity from this project includes about \$7 billion of direct investment in wind farms, \$2 billion of transmission line investment, and major job creation in construction and related manufacturing across Iowa. I support this project and the regulatory approvals required for the project to move forward.

Sincerely: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Name:

Street:

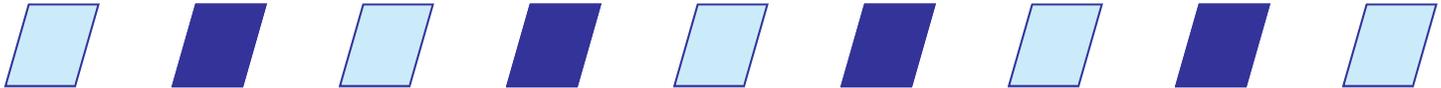
City, State, ZIP:

Email Address:

Phone:

**Sincerest Sympathies go to the families of the Brother Members of Local 234 for the loss of their loved ones.**

Joseph Hennessey	August 29, 2014	18 year Member
James Doyle	October 10, 2014	21 year Member
Keith Hoff	October 29, 2014	30 year Member
Ed Dillman	November 14, 2014	50 year Member
John Conlon	December 6, 2014	9 year Member
Michael Hughes	December 13, 2014	37 year Member
Harvey Hansen	December 20, 2014	58 year Member
Clarence Avenarius	January 13, 2015	51 year Member
Donald Steinfadt	January 16, 2015	46 year Member
John Langschwager	February 9, 2015	10 year Member
Richard Smithart	February 18, 2015	46 year Member



Local 234 Operators working for Ames Construction at the Lake Red Rock Hydro Dam project. This picture was taken after their morning safety meeting.



After being laid off from Babcock & Wilcox Construction at the Ottumwa powerhouse, I went to work as a certified rigger for Emerson Crane Rental, who is based out of Waterloo. They recently purchased a new 90 ton Grove truck crane with a GMK upper. We were working at a quarry north of La Porte City, demolishing a 40 year old rock crusher, so they can install a new unit to get ready for the added road work the new gas tax will bring to there area. Hopefully this will also bring a lot of work our way.

I'm currently working for Ace Construction, who is based out of Grimes, Iowa, at Kemin Industries in Des Moines setting 50 foot precast concrete panels with a 275 ton Terex crawler.

The International has set up a new section on their web site for our Business Managers to advertise for help needed around the country. If you're looking to travel, please contact our Business Manager or your agent and they will get you the information you need.

Also I would like to remind the membership that I'm not an employee of the hall, I'm a rank and file member. If you have an on the job issue please follow proper protocol and first contact your steward, if there is one. If not, contact your agent or the Business Manager to resolve these issues. If at any time you don't have their phone numbers or other contact information regarding the hall, I'd be happy to assist you with that information. If you have any other general questions feel free to contact me any time at 319-533-7024.

## MEETING SCHEDULE



### General Membership Meeting:

March 28, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.  
4880 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines

### District Meetings:

(All Meetings Begin at 7:30 p.m.)

**District I:** Des Moines

4th Thursday of Each Month

**District II:** Cedar Rapids

3rd Thursday of Each Month

**District III:** Sioux City

2nd Thursday of Each Month

### Area Meetings:

(All Meetings Begin at 7:30 p.m.)

**Council Bluffs Area:** 1st Wednesday  
March, June, September, December

**Dubuque Area:** 3rd Wednesday  
March, June, September, December

**Waterloo Area:** 2nd Thursday  
March, June, September, December

### Stationary Meetings:

**Sioux City Schools:** 3rd Tuesday of  
Each Month September through May

**All Others:** As Scheduled

# STATIONARY

This year the Stationary side of Local 234 has been the busiest it has ever been. The 25 open contracts for both the Private and Public Sectors stretched from one side of the state to the other. Some of the groups that are represented in these contracts include: secondary roads, casinos, landfills, courthouses, hospitals, cities, rural electric cooperatives, conservation, airports, and entertainment venues.

All opening letters were sent out in early August and negotiations began soon after. As of this writing, there are several contracts left to bargain and it looks as though we will still be at the table come May, with the agreed upon timeline extensions.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement settlements have varied from group to group. The one consistent issue has been changes that continue to be made to the employee's health care benefits. Very few groups have opted to keep their fully paid or nearly fully paid plans.

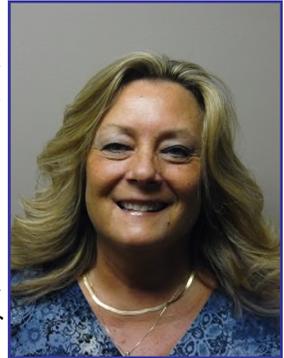
The media hype revolving around the employee's need to pay at least a portion of their insurance, has definitely added to the pressure by management. In most instances, management is also having to pay for their own portion of their insurance as well. The Affordable Health Care Act has most assuredly been the biggest "elephant in the room" at the negotiation sessions.

The groups who have chosen to make these changes to their benefit plans have typically been given a higher wage percentage to offset the increases. While those who continue to stave off the changes, have typically received a lower wage percentage, and know that the issue will be at the table in an even bigger force the next time. Regardless of what proposals are brought to the bargaining table, it always seems to come down to the two main issues of wages and insurance.

The average wage increase for the settled Public Sector contracts so far has been about 2.4%. The average wage increase for the settled Private Sector contracts thus far has been 3%. The majority of the settled contracts have opted for a 3 year duration.

I would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all of the bargaining committees as well as all of the stewards! You are doing a fantastic job out there for all of the Members and continue to be a great asset of Local 234!

"The only effective answer to organized greed is organized labor." ---Thomas Donahue



**Cheryl Arnold  
Recording  
Corresponding  
Secretary &  
Stationary  
Representative**

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*BE STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND ALONE,  
BE YOURSELF ENOUGH TO STAND APART,  
BUT BE WISE ENOUGH TO STAND TOGETHER WHEN THE TIME COMES!*

*- MARK AMEND*

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# OFFICE & FINANCE



**Tracy Petersen  
Treasurer & Office  
Manager**

The Local's income for 2014 was nothing short of amazing. Although I don't have the final figures available yet, I can tell you the increase in assets is going to be around the \$400,000 range. Now that's a great year!! Details will be reported at the General Membership meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, which will be after the yearly independent audit which will be performed by LWBJ, LLC.

Most of the repairs and updates that were planned for the Des Moines office last year were completed. All in all, about \$90,000 was spent on the roof, windows, septic system, parking lot and a few other miscellaneous things. There's a little more work and updating that needs to be done in 2015 – now that the roof and the windows aren't leaking, replacing flooring will be on the top of the list. We will also be removing the overhead garage door and putting new skin on the entire back of the building.

The Central Pension Fund recently announced that the Benefit Accrual Rate will be increasing from 1% to 1.25%, for all hours worked on and after

April 1, 2015. I've had a couple of people say negative things about the increase only being .25%. I agree, a full percent, or even a half percent, would have been more attractive to all participants, but if you think about it – it is a 25% increase over what it was. It's the duty of the Board of Trustees of the Central Pension Fund to keep the Fund healthy. I would hope to think that all participants want to see the Trustees act in a very cautious and responsible manner so we can all have a secure pension benefit when we choose to retire. The Local has been told that the Board of Trustees will continue to adjust the Benefit Accrual Rate as prudent.

Recently there have been several questions being asked about benefits for surviving spouses available through the Central Pension Fund. Although nothing has changed for a long time in regards to benefits, it seems there are rumors being created that are giving false information. Because of this, Business Manager Copple has decided to have informational meetings across the State regarding the CPF. We haven't held this type of meeting since 2005, so it will be good to have everyone reminded of the rules, as well as for Members and spouses to be able to ask any questions they may have. An announcement with dates and times will be sent to all Members that participate within the Central Pension Fund.



## FAMILY PICNIC DAY!!

We are planning a day to play!

Bring your family to meet your Union family,  
and plan on having loads of fun!

**ALL MEMBERS & FAMILIES WELCOME!!**  
Details will be mailed in April.

\*\*\*Please note: Retirees Picnic will still be held in July

# APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

First, I would like to introduce myself to the Members. I am Ryan Hollinrake, the new Apprenticeship and Training Coordinator. I'm a proud graduate of the Apprenticeship program, 15 year Member of Local 234 and a second generation Operator. Over the years I have worked in many aspects of the Trade and I am looking forward to helping build on the successes of the past. I truly believe the Membership of Local 234 has a Program, facilities, and a staff to be very proud of.

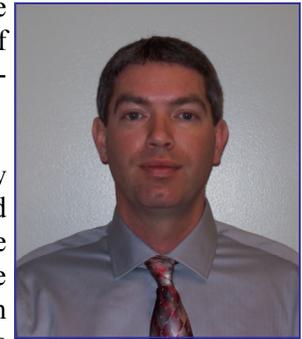
Because I started as the new Coordinator not long before the beginning of training season, it has been a steep learning curve to say the least. The staff deserves a big thank you for helping me get up to speed. Brother Mark Romano and Brother Jesse Page came on staff for the training season and have been a huge help to the Instructors and myself.

This training season has been extremely busy with the largest number of Apprentices the Program has ever had. There has also been Journeypersons that have been taking the time to up-grade their skills and certifications. From all indications, it looks like there will be a large work load for the upcoming season, so now is the time to

brush up on old skills and acquire new ones to help make yourself more employable for the upcoming season.

The CCO course using the new Link-Belt crawler is complete and we have been testing on it since January. Brandenburg Drainage has donated the use of a John Deere sideboom for our Members to gain some experience during this training season. Also, the International Training Fund is loaning us a mini-hoe and loader for 3 months which should arrive in March. I encourage the Membership to utilize this equipment. The more we make use of it, the more likely we are to be able to get equipment in the future for training. As always, just call ahead to make sure no one else scheduled the equipment for the time you would like.

I look forward to meeting you all as you come for training at the Site and as I'm visiting Apprentices on the jobsites.



**Ryan Hollinrake**  
Apprenticeship  
Coordinator



The Link-Belt 138 at the Apprenticeship and Training site.



Brother Mark Caper operates the Grove 530 at the Apprenticeship and Training site.



Brother Jordan Kopp operates the John Deere 850 sideboom at the Apprenticeship and Training site.

Published by Local 234 of the  
International Union of  
Operating Engineers

92 Counties—State of Iowa

Jason Cople—Business  
Manager—Financial Secretary

Portable & Hoisting:

District I—

Chad Carter, Business  
Representative—Ames, Des  
Moines, Ft. Dodge, Mason  
City, Ottumwa

Des Moines—515-265-1657

District II—

Nick Norton, Business  
Representative—Cedar Rapids,  
Iowa City, Dubuque,  
Waterloo

Cedar Rapids—319-396-2050  
Dubuque—563-583-2521

District III—

Spencer Yockey, Business  
Representative—Sioux City,  
Council Bluffs

Sioux City—712-255-1374

Stationary—

Cheryl Arnold, Stationary  
Representative—Jurisdiction wide

Des Moines—515-265-1657

Main Office—

Tracy Petersen—Office Manager  
Des Moines—515-265-1657

Apprenticeship & Training

Ryan Hollinrake—Coordinator  
Indianola—641-942-7112

Health & Welfare

Jessica Wardyn—Office Manager  
Des Moines—515-265-0371

International Union of Operating Engineers

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Des Moines, IA 50317

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