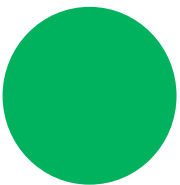
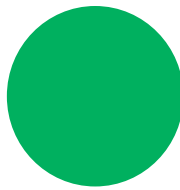
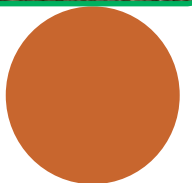


OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 234



September 2015
Volume 49, Number II



ABOUT FRONT COVER



.....
Michels Pipeline working on
TransCanada Station work in
Marshall County.
.....



.....
McAninch Sewer Crew working
on a new commercial job in
Clive.
.....



.....
Brother Maurice Kerns working
for Michels Pipeline in Marshall
County.
.....



.....
Dakota Access pipeyard in
Newton.
.....



.....
Corell widening the road at
156th Street in Urbandale.
.....

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

In the newsletter that went out last spring I said that 2014 was one of the best years that Local 234 has seen. Well 2015 is looking like it will be just as good, or possibly even better.

All of our local contractors have enough work to keep them busy through fall and then some. The weather hasn't cooperated very well this season for our Members. The weather pattern seems to be changing here recently so let's hope that helps everyone. The building and energy work was good last year and has been great this season. Mid American Energy is putting up 258 wind turbines and has gotten approval from the Iowa Utility Board for more for next year.

The Health and Welfare Fund has seen some changes in the last 6 months. We have a new third party administrator working for our Fund. Most of you have heard me talk about the cost savings of \$244,000 dollars over three years, but that's only a small part of the reasons for the switch. The other reasons are the contractors can report hours and pay fringe contributions on Members electronically. This is safer for the Members because personal information isn't going out through the mail numerous times each month. Members will also be able to access information online regarding the hours that have been reported on their behalf and the Local's staff will be able to check info on all hours being reported. There have been and probably will be some more headaches during the transition but it will all be worth it in the end. If anyone has problems or issues during the transition please call me.

The Apprenticeship/Training site has gone through a transformation in the last year or so. There are some new faces at the site and the instructors have spent the summer doing evaluations for new Members and attending a lot of training classes to better train our Membership. We are constantly looking at new ways to make our Members prepared for the ever changing requirements needed to go to work.

Stationary season is upon us again. One of our contracts was just settled and we also started sending proposal meeting notices out. Every year it seems the negotiating seasons become overlapped a little more. There are so many factors that play into the negotiating process

in the stationary field that sometimes not all the information needed to negotiate is available until the contracts were suppose to be finished for the year. This obviously creates challenges and sometimes mutual extensions to the bargaining season.

Next year is a Presidential election year. There are a lot of hats being thrown in the ring for the big spot. It will be an interesting and annoying next year and a half listening to all of them. Out of all the candidates that have announced so far, Scott Walker scares me the most. After what he did in Wisconsin, I don't see how any working man or woman could support him. I have read articles where he admits flat out that he lied to Labor and whomever else he had to in order to get what he wanted. I'm not sure at this point who I will be supporting but I do know a couple who I won't be supporting.

The Local tried something new this spring. We held a Family picnic at the Training Site, and a good time was had by all. We ate, the older kids and even some of the spouses ran different pieces of equipment which let them get a feel for what our H&P Members do on a daily basis, and there was a giant slide and bounce houses. It was a beautiful day, weather wise – the perfect day to just hang out. I struggled last year to pick the best time to hold the picnic so as many Members as possible could have the chance to attend and then ended up not having it at all. This year I just picked a day and went with it. Hopefully anyone that couldn't make it this year will be able to attend next year. With the Family picnic and the Holiday parties around the state I hope to bring the Membership together, Members and families, because that's what a Union should be.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the General Membership meeting on September 26th. I don't get the opportunity to get out on the jobsites like I used to when I was an agent, so I truly look forward to General Membership meetings.



Jason Copple
Business Manager
Financial Secretary

DISTRICT I



Chad Carter
Vice President &
Business
Representative

It has been a wet but busy work season. Most of the contractors have had plenty of work, although the abundance of rain is trying to kill the work hours. It has been hard for our Members to get more than ten days in without a rain out.

In central Iowa, the work load has been up all around. Our dirt contractors are busy

working on both commercial and residential work, with some DOT work mixed in there. The Facebook project continues with Phase Three, and Microsoft is starting another phase as well. Building contractors are busy as well. There has been a big spike in commercial warehouses going up all around the Des Moines area. Building contractors have also picked up work on commercial buildings and hotels/motels. Energy work has



Brother Jeff Lile operating a tower crane in Des Moines for U.S. Crane & Equipment at Principal Financial Group.

stayed steady with the hydro-dam at Lake Red Rock and the power house in Marshalltown both continuing.

Distribution pipeline work is very busy and mainline pipeline work has been good this season also. Precision Pipeline had 12 miles of 20" in Marshall County and they have picked up the Dakota Access pipeline in Iowa next year if the Utility Board approves the permit. There will be hearings regarding this project November 12th through December 5th, probably in Boone County. We will be keeping everyone informed about these meetings. Precision Pipeline generously donated some left over pipe to the training site which will be used in training. We are now working on trying to get them to donate some equipment as well. Other pipeline work around the state has been done with Michels, Q3, SCG, TJ Mercer and Contracting Material.

I look for the work this fall to be busy as well. There will be a lot of work happening in downtown Des Moines. My hope is that this busy season will continue into the winter and next year, keeping as many of our Members working at all times possible.



Brother Maurice Kerns working for Michels Pipeline in Marshall County.

HEALTH & WELFARE

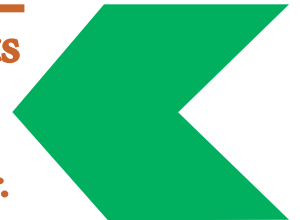
IMPORTANT!!!

You must complete a Vital Information Form and return it to the Local 234 Health & Welfare Fund along with the required supporting documents to keep your Health Insurance active. If you have not received the form in the mail, please contact the Health & Welfare Fund at (toll free) 844-568-6335 ext 5600.

Why? The Board of Trustees of the Operating Engineers Local 234 Health & Welfare Fund is responsible for making sure the Plan is compliant with Federal and State regulations and that Plan rules are being followed. Because family circumstances change over the years, it is necessary to ensure that all persons that are currently covered by the Local 234 Health & Welfare Fund are eligible to be covered as per the Plan documents. By doing so, it will help keep the hourly contribution and self-pay rates as low as possible - which translates into money in your pocket.

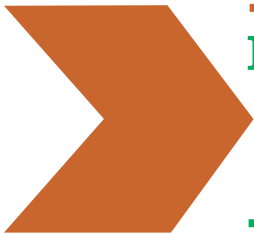
Assessments

The annual assessments of Defense Fund (\$2 per year) and Good Standing Fund (\$1 per year) are due each year on July 1st, which pays your assessments through June 30th of the following year.



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, September 26, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m.
4880 Hubbell Avenue
Des Moines, IA



DISTRICT II



Brian Vaske
Business
Representative

The work load on the Eastern side of the state is very good. It looks like it will be a busy fall. Dubuque has seen an increased work load this season with Portzen Construction and Tschiggfrie Excavating doing work at the Bee Branch job.

Miller Trucking and Excavation, from Silvis, Illinois, is also doing a large pipe job from the Dubuque city limits to the Dubuque airport. There is also a large amount of work going on at the John Deere Dubuque Plant that Portzen and McDermott Excavating are working on.

Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area is busy with lots of utilities, street work and some smaller site developments. SM Hentges was awarded a pipe job on the south side that will be starting in mid-September. Brandenburg is working at the Alliant powerhouse demo through early winter. Miron is working on a new dorm at the University of Iowa with two tower cranes. Michel's is doing a small wind farm on the eastern side of the state with multiple locations. The civil side has been started and erection will be starting in late September, running through winter.

Training season is coming up so be sure to take advantage of the Training Site for skills updates and training classes. The CCO study day and testing is on October 24th and 25th. Please call the Apprenticeship and Training site for more information.

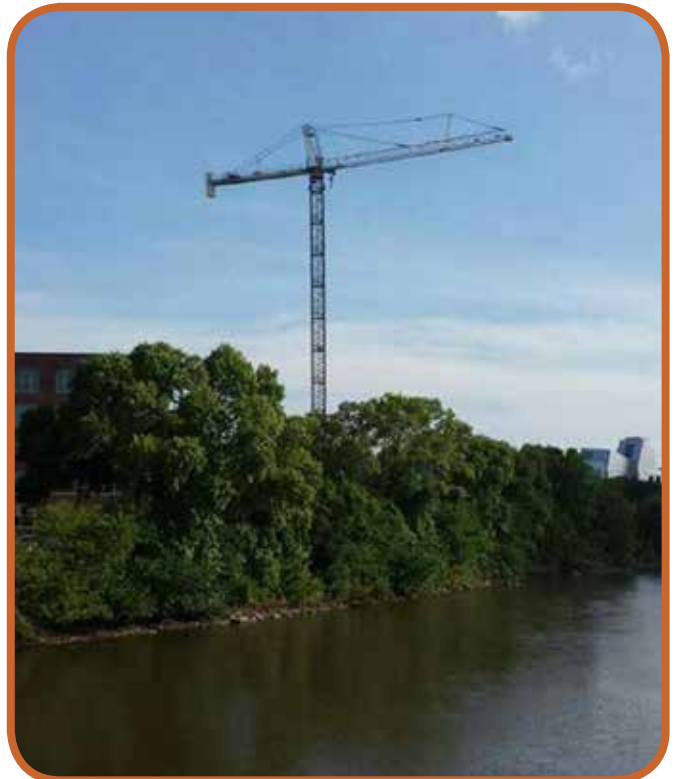
Brother Ben Bunn operates a Tower Crane in Iowa City for Miron at the University of Iowa dorm job.



Brothers of Local 234 come together at the 5th Annual Solidarity Ride in Cedar Rapids.

Front Row L to R: Brothers Dan Perrin, Andrew Smith, Russ Thier and Mark Simon.

Back Row L to R: Brothers Kurt Tracy, Dick Petersmith, Lee Muldoon, Brendon Petersmith, Kyle Jones and Jim Steinfadt.





Brothers Bob Polfer, Jim Nickol, Steve Hefel and Dave Schroeder work on a pipe job in Cedar Rapids for Tschiggfrie Excavating.

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



Richard Smithart	February 18, 2015	46 year Member
Tom Roling	March 10, 2015	11 year Member
Allan Fondell	March 12, 2015	27 year Member
Terrence McElmeel	March 15, 2015	33 year Member
Ray Wilson	March 31, 2015	55 year Member



Arthur Greene	April 30, 2015	58 year Member
Clyde Gullion	May 6, 2015	18 year Member
Gordon Reynolds	May 18, 2015	67 year Member
Scotty Johns	May 30, 2015	25 year Member



George Dauma	July 7, 2015	17 year Member
Mark Daramus	July 14, 2015	3 year Member
Larry Cummings	July 18, 2015	25 year Member
Eugene Miller	July 22, 2015	61 year Member
Robert Zagar	August 16, 2015	46 year Member
Van Michael	August 17, 2015	48 year Member

DISTRICT III



Spencer Yockey
Business
Representative

Contractors in the area have been busy this season despite a wet spring. DM Steel's work load is good and should continue with numerous building additions and new construction at the CF Industries expansion. Barnhart Crane continues to be steady in the area with shut downs, turbine maintenance and curbside service. Cranes Sales and Service is busy keeping the Barnhart fleet moving and other contractors as well.

Klinger has multiple building additions, remodels and work at the powerhouse. Minger has some clean up to finish on the sewer relocate and a new project starting in early September. Mortenson's work on the Highland wind farm is on schedule for completion of the 218 turbines around the second week of December. Deep South is still onsite at the CF expansion transporting and setting the vessels and equipment. Berkel's auger cast piling project in Council Bluffs continues.

Ames Construction is working on the I-29 highway 92 interchange, they are currently running two shifts to meet the deadline. Ames picked up more work including two bridge demolitions and rebuilds scheduled for this fall and continuing into 2016. The CBFS project is on hold due to design changes on the next set of buildings. Sachs Civil and Rodriguez Mechanical are still on site. CBFS may be ramping back up in late 2015. It should be a busy fall and winter. 2016 looks to be a busy year too with the proposed pipeline and DC transmission line.

Changing gears a little, opening letters went out in August for upcoming Stationary negotiations. I look for the negotiations on all of the Stationary groups that I handle to be interesting, it seems each year insurance is the hottest topic.

I'm hoping for decent weather this fall to help off set the wet spring. Hope to see you at the General Membership meeting on September 26th in Des Moines at 1:00.



Brothers Pat Morrow, Jeremiah Brown, Dan Law and Kerry Doty at the Ames Highway 92 - I29 project.



Brothers Earl Dick and Andy Dick operate a Manitowoc MLC 300 at the Highland Windfarm for Mortenson.



Brother Levi Dolch operates a Manitowac 16000 at the Highland Windfarm for Mortenson, Brother Tyler Dolch oiler.

Brother Todd Schoening operates an 8000 lb forklift for Klinger at Curly's Food Expansion.

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

David Fountain	1-1-15
Edward Welch	3-1-15
Mark Kahler	4-1-15
Earl Kalar	4-1-15
Paul Otto	4-1-15
Merle Lane	5-1-15
Dennis W. Smith	5-1-15
Michael Abernathy	7-1-15



JURISDICTION WIDE



Nick Norton
Executive Board
District II,
Organizer and
Assistant Business
Manager

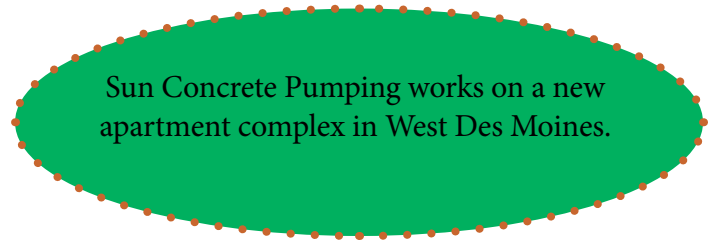
The work load this season has been strong, although Mother Nature just needs to give us a break from rain long enough to get some work done. Our Local dirt/utility/building contractors have a lot of work and are consistently taking on more Operators. We also have a lot of Members working for out-of-state contractors on pipeline, wind farms, power houses and heavy highway projects.



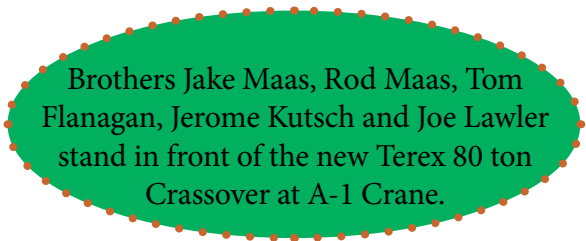
On the organizing front we have recently signed two new roofing contractors – Frank Millard and Wood Roofing. We also have been putting together a new equipment dealer and service agreements for a group with three locations in Iowa. Local 234 has also been very busy stripping Operators from our non-union competitors. We recently have gotten a Project Agreement with Barnhart Wind Division for the Adams County wind project.

In between manning projects and getting out talking to contractors, I have been helping our new Business Agent Brian Vaske get adjusted to his new job and getting him out and introducing him to 234 Members and our signatory contractors. We also started proposals for a few Stationary groups in the District #2 area.

With the current work load, I can't stress enough how important it is to utilize our Training Site to keep skills and certificates up to date. 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.



Sun Concrete Pumping works on a new apartment complex in West Des Moines.



Brothers Jake Maas, Rod Maas, Tom Flanagan, Jerome Kutsch and Joe Lawler stand in front of the new Terex 80 ton Crossover at A-1 Crane.





Brothers Dave Acker and Tony Menuey work on a new housing development in Cedar Falls for Dave Schmitt Construction.



Brother Russ Werner working for Ryan Companies on a new CRST building in downtown Cedar Rapids performing a 70 foot jump with a 160 Wolffkran.



The Underground Company placing pipe at a new development in Urbandale.



Premier Concrete, pumping concrete on a new condo development in Des Moines.

Meeting Schedule

General Membership Meeting:

September 26, 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

Family Holiday Parties



You typically work together, now its time to play!!

Saturday, November 21st – Cedar Rapids
Planet X



Saturday, December 5th – Ames
Perfect Games



Members and their immediate family WELCOME!!
Or if you have grandkids – leave the kids at home and bring the grandkids instead!

Look for more info in the mail in early November regarding times and location addresses.

STATIONARY

Let the negotiations begin! It seems like only yesterday that we were at the table, when in actuality it has been just less than 2 months ago. The time between the settling and opening of the contracts is getting closer together with each passing year. The letters have been sent out to all Stewards and Bargaining Committee Members asking them to begin gathering proposals for meetings. The letters have also been sent out to the employers to open the Collective Bargaining Agreements.

Every season there is confusion as to what topics can actually be brought to the bargaining table. The basic legal principles for all public sector bargaining in Iowa are set forth in the Public Employment Relations Act (PERA) and the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) administers those regulations.

A proposal may be a mandatory, permissive, or illegal subject of bargaining. Mandatory, meaning that the parties must bargain over them and these issues may be taken to Mediation and Arbitration by either party. These topics deal with wages, insurance and other terms and conditions of employment. Permissive or voluntary topics, mean that either side has the right to decide not to bargain over that subject. An example of this might

be tool or clothing allowance.

An illegal or non-negotiable subject, means that you cannot address the topic at all at the table. Retirement systems are specifically excluded from the negotiation process by PERA. Another example is that you cannot bargain over whether or not only Union Members can be included or excluded from benefits.

Regardless of these three subjects of bargaining, each party must be willing to meet at reasonable times and genuinely attempt to reach a mutual agreement. This duty to bargain in good faith needs to be upheld. It is not enough to just go through the motions of the bargaining process. Both sides are expected to show the respect, understanding, and the willingness to work together for the betterment of the whole. The Collective Bargaining Agreement defines the set of “rules” that work for both the employees and the employer.



Cheryl Arnold
Recording
Corresponding
Secretary & Stationary
Representative

Butler County Secondary Roads
Members at the Allison Shop.

L to R: Brothers Troy Ulrich, Jeff Lewis,
Jake Jacobs, Dave Schipper, Dan Bohlen,
Nick Koenen and Nick Bell



“Those who would destroy or further limit the right of organized labor—those who cripple collective bargaining or prevent organization of the unorganized—do a disservice to the cause of democracy.”

—President John F. Kennedy

OFFICE & FINANCE



Tracy Petersen
Treasurer & Office
Manager

When its news like this, it's good to be a broken record.....the Local is doing well financially. We were just over \$100,000 in the black for the first half of the year, and in all actuality the last half of the year is typically much healthier. All reports show the work continuing to be plentiful, so there's no reason to believe this year won't end up being a great year financially.

As previously reported, there has been a lot of needed maintenance done to the Des Moines Union hall over the last year and half. Because the roof has been fixed, and the windows have been replaced, the leaks have stopped! Now it is time for what is hoped to be the last of the costly maintenance for a while – new carpet. We are scheduling the install in phases in order to keep the office functional and it should be completed by General Membership time.

The file server for the Local is also going to need replaced soon. It doesn't seem like it's been that long since the Local purchased a new one, but the life span is only four to six years. This is something that we don't want to die on us before we are ready just because it would shut down the office for a minimum of a week, not good when there's daily business to conduct.

The meetings that were held this past spring regarding the Central Pension Fund will be repeated, possibly yearly. Business Manager Jason Copple believes it's important for everyone to understand their benefits and for the spouses to be included. There will be a notice mailed with the dates, times and places. It's intended for the next meetings to be held in January and February across the state. We will discuss things such as what to expect when you retire, what happens to your pension when you die, and how your benefit is calculated, among other things. Even if you have attended one of these meetings before, each meeting is always different just because of questions asked – so you are encouraged to attend even if you have before.

Central Pension Fund Informational Meetings

Meetings to help you understand your benefits will be held in January/February 2016. This is not just for those that are ready to retire – its for everyone that wants to understand this important benefit.

Exact dates and locations will be announced in a mailer to all Members who participate in the CPF.

Spouses are allowed and encouraged to attend!

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

We currently have over 95 apprentices in the Program! This is by far the largest number the Program has ever had. So it has been an interesting and busy year for myself and the staff, to say the least. It is terrific to see the Program growing and continuing to build on the successes of the past.

The National Pipeline Training Fund will be having classes around the country this year. We have applications if you are interested in these classes. We are disappointed not to be hosting the National Pipeline classes at our Training Site. If there proves to be interest from the Membership and with the help from some Members and contractors donating the use of equipment, we plan on hosting two pipeline classes in December for the duration of two weeks each. This will help Members brush-up on old pipeline skills, acquire new skills, and if a Member is new to pipeline work -- learn pipeline terminology. Please contact the training site if you are interested.

We have set the dates for the C.C.O. study and written tests. October 24th will be the study day with the written tests on October 25th. Anyone interested please contact the training site.

In May the All-Membership picnic was hosted at the Site. There were bounce houses, activities, and everyone that wanted also got a chance to operate equipment. We received a lot of wonderful feedback from the Membership and their families so I hope that event will happen again next year. The Retiree picnic in July was also a great event. It was a wonderful chance to thank

the Members for their years of service and help making the Local as strong as it is!

Winter training season will be coming up soon so take a look at what credentials you need to update and think about what new ones you might need for the future. OSHA cards are becoming more of a requirement to get on job-sites. Also, more sites are requiring crane operators to be certified in crane signaling and rigging as well.

Also, a big thank you to the Operators at the Adams County, Iowa wind farm project for working safe and correcting safety issues onsite, winning safety awards and prizes. Great Job!



Ryan Hollinrake
Apprenticeship
Coordinator



20 inch pipe being off loaded at the training site donated by Precision Pipeline.

Published by Local 234 of the
International Union of
Operating Engineers

92 Counties—State of Iowa

Jason Copple—Business Manager—
Financial Secretary

Portable & Hoisting:

District I—

Chad Carter, Business
Representative—Ames, Des
Moines, Mason City, Ottumwa
Des Moines—515-265-1657

District II—

Brian Vaske, 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, Ft. Dodge
Sioux City—712-255-1374

Organizing—

Nick Norton, Organizer & Business
Representative—Jurisdiction wide
Cedar Rapids—563-580-4032

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—Plan Associate
Des Moines—844-568-6335 ext.
5600

International Union of Operating Engineers
4880 Hubbell Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50317

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