You are advised of the nominations and elections for Officers of Local 234 will be as per the Constitution of the International Union of Operating Engineers; as well as the By-Laws of Local 234.

Nominations will be held at District Meetings only as listed below:
District I—June 23rd, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. 4880 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines
District II—June 16th, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. 1112–29th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids
District III—June 9th, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. 418 Pavonia, Sioux City

Nominations will be for the following offices for a 3-year term beginning September 2016:
President, Vice President, Recording-Corresponding Secretary, Business Manager-Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Guard, Conductor, 3 Trustees, 3 Auditors, 3 Executive Board Members at Large (1 to be elected from each District).

The election will be conducted by mail referendum in the month of August by your Election Committee and the Certified Public Accountant. The term of Office shall commence September 1, 2016. Officers will be ceremoniously installed at your bi-yearly General Membership Meeting in September 2016.
In the last newsletter that went out last fall, I said that 2014 was one the best years that Local 234 has seen and 2015 was looking to be even better. Well, 2015 did turn out to be a better year than 2014 with Members working longer than most have before.

All of our local contractors finished the season out real strong. We even had some call and ask how to pay Members through the Christmas and New Year’s holiday season because they had never had Members working that late into the season.

As I sit here and write, we still do not have a decision from the Iowa Utility Board (IUB) on the permit for the pipeline. It has been a long process intervening in the permit process, but we have had someone at all of the opposition meetings straightening out the lies that have been told about pipelines and their safety. We all have our fingers crossed and are hoping for the right decision, the decision that will put our Members to work. Looking at the total scope of work, it looks as if the upcoming season will be very busy. We have actually had local contractors worried about manning equipment for the work they have already secured. There seems to be a generous amount of work to keep everyone hard at it. Work is going to include building and dirt projects, two more windfarms in Northern Iowa as well as the on-going powerhouse projects with more starting this fall. There will also be some pipeline work, and depending on the IUB’s decision – there may be a lot of pipeline work.

The Health & Welfare Fund has been running with our new third party administrator for around 8 months now. The Members, Board of Trustees and Local 234’s office have had some headaches with the transition but most problems have smoothed out. We found some major deficiencies in the way our previous third party administrator had been doing things and charging Members for their self-pays. Our Fund continues to be healthy with around $32 million in reserves which calculates to 23-24 months. The Health & Welfare Board has recently made some changes to the eligibility rules and are reviewing some more that will help secure our Fund’s health into the future, and I believe be more fair to the Members. When the changes are all ironed out, we will be sending them out to all Members.

The Apprenticeship/Training Program has had a very busy year with more Apprentices than ever before. We’ve also had more Journeypersons attending classes this year for update training than ever before. The Apprenticeship and Training Staff has traveled around the state to hold classes as well. We have also really stepped up the diversity of classes that are offered. The Apprenticeship/Training Fund is healthy financially sitting just above the $3 million mark in total assets. We have purchased a new dozer, skid loader, and medium sized hoe, so some of our assets have switched from cash to equipment but we need to train on the newer equipment that we see out on jobsites.

The stationary negotiations have been going fairly well this season with some contracts being settled for this season with some ongoing. The mood during negotiations with the different groups seems to be a little more upbeat than it has been in the past few years and the raises for Members seem to be improving since the 2008 - 2011 downturn that we all remember and would like to forget.

Anyone that has attended Membership meetings around the state lately has heard me talk about the presidential race this year. I really wish at some point in the near future there would be someone worth really supporting, someone that would be looking out for the working class. Some of you may have gotten mailings from the International asking you to support Hilary Clinton for President, and I understand your concerns. Just remember although the Democrats haven’t done that much to help Labor Unions, they have not tried to destroy us either. I know there are tons of social issues that concern us all. But if we don’t help...continued on page 7
The start of the 2016 season is turning out to be a good one for Local 234. We have several ongoing projects in Iowa that have pushed through the winter and that will continue into the spring. The spring also promises to bring several new projects in every corner of our industry. This winter has been a busy one with contract negotiations for several of our county groups around the state. We have taken proposals for our upcoming negotiations for the District 2 Building Agreement and Energy Agreements that expire this spring. We will be voting on tentative settlements as they are reached. I believe Union meetings are always important, but when it comes to contract time, your chance to vote on the contracts you work under brings the Union idealisms full circle. With the work outlook being a busy one, and the needs of Union contractor’s manpower increasing, we have been out talking to non-Union Operators about Membership in Local 234. We also have had several meetings with non-Union contractors on the benefits of becoming a Union-shop. On that note, I would like to thank the Members of Local 234 that have been meeting with and talking to non-Members about the benefits the individual and industry stand to gain from Union Membership. It takes all of us to make this Local strong. With another busy season upon us, I urge everyone to keep their skills updated, as well as keeping your names updated on the out of work list as soon as you get laid off.
Brother Mark Simons operates a Link Belt LS 338 for Kraemer North America on the Mississippi bridge project.

Brother Jaime Howard operates a Manitowac 16,000 for Tri State at ADM in Cedar Rapids.

Brother Al Polfer operates a 245 John Deere excavator for the Bee Branch project in Dubuque for Tschiggfrie.

“The home is the most effective place to preach the gospel of Unionism”

— Charles E. James
It has been a fairly busy winter for the Local. We ended the season with the Iowa Utility Board evidentiary hearings on the Dakota Access Pipeline. The hearings started around November 16 and ended December 7. The Board then set a date for the briefing schedule. The initial briefs needed to be in by Jan 19th and the deadline for reply briefs was Feb 2nd. On Feb 2-4 the Utility Board started deliberation hearings, and had another on Feb 19th. They have set aside March 9th and 10th also. At the Feb 19th meeting, the Board made the comment that they hope to reach a decision at the hearing on the 9th or 10th. It has been a long up hill road. Local 234 will have three spreads of work in our Jurisdiction. Precision Pipeline will have two spreads and Michels will have one. We do not have any other information on Subcontractors at this point. We are hoping that work will start around the middle of April. As I write this, we are fighting a group that call themselves People’s Forum on the Bakken Pipeline. They have brought an activist from Portland, Oregon in to lead the community workshops. The workshops started Feb 28th in Boone County and at this time they are expected to run up to March 9th. This group is trying to get City/County Board of Supervisors to stop the DAPL. We have come too far to let up on the fight for our Members now, so I will be attending as many of these Community workshops as possible with as many Members as possible.

Work around Central Iowa looks great. We have a few dirt contractors asking for new help already. They all seem to have a good amount of left over work from last season to finish. We also have had a few contractors start some new project already. Corell started the Kum-N-Go Corporate office in downtown Des Moines. American Demo started the demolition on the new Des Moines motel next to Hy-Vee Hall. Frana started the Consensus building. They have Ramsey Excavating as well as Northland Concrete and Masonry both working on this project. The new downtown Hy-Vee store that will have apartments above it has also started. All of our building contractors are busy as well. We have had Kiewit call and ask about our manpower for an Industrial project in Polk County -- they would not give any other information, except that the project will start around July or August.

Our energy work looks like it will stay steady this season. We will be needing experienced Operators this season. Lastly, distribution work looks very good for the season. We will need experienced drillers and hoe Operators. In closing, please have a safe season. Thank you all for helping with all the DAPL meetings that have been held around the state.
**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!

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**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.

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

If not, drop us a note or call us at 515-265-4657

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Business Manager’s Report continued...

elect the politicians that won't try to strip us of the protection we need, like Davis-Bacon, we may end up in a lot worse condition than even imaginable. We all depend on our Union to help us secure a good wage, health insurance, and retirement benefits - so please vote for the people that are not looking to destroy us.

The Local tried something new last spring with a picnic at the Training Site for Members and their families. It was a success! And we are in the planning stages for another one this spring. I hope to see everyone back this year that attended last spring as well as a lot of new faces to the picnic. The social functions that we have been holding, such as the picnic and the Christmas parties, give everyone a chance to interact with each other on a different level than what we are used to, and it's a chance to get our families involved. It is my hope to see more Members, spouses and kids get involved with the fun and for the social side of the Local grow every year.

A couple more thoughts: Remember to keep yourself updated on the out of work list, and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the General Membership Meeting on March 26th.
The workload in District II this winter has been good. A lot of Local 234 Members have worked a good portion of, or all of, the winter season. In the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area, Miron continues to work on the Madison Street Dorm for the University of Iowa. Blackhawk Foundation is working on two projects in downtown Iowa City and Calacci is working on multiple projects around the Iowa City area and in Marshalltown on the powerhouse project.

In Cedar Rapids, Ryan is still at the CRST Building. SM Hentges continues work on a sewer project with EJM Pipe Services and Rice Lake doing the boring for SM Hentges. Minger is doing a sewer job in downtown Cedar Rapids and Dave Schmitt Construction has picked up some good sized projects in the Cedar Rapids area. The crane barns in the area have been steady this winter and are looking to add Operators this season.

In the Dubuque area, Portzen and Tschiggfrie continue to work on the Bee Branch project. Miller Trucking and Excavating is continuing work on the utilities expansion project south of Dubuque. McDermott is working at the colleges in Dubuque and a warehouse project in the industrial park. Kramer North America is starting the Sabula/Savanna Bridge project over the Mississippi River. This will be at least a two-year job, which is great for Local 234 Members who are working on the project.

Michels’ work on the HZ windfarm project is ongoing and should be completed in the spring of 2016. Minnowa Construction will be working on bridges in the area this season and it appears there will be work starting this fall at the Lansing Powerhouse.

There are a lot of good sized projects coming to bid in the area. It is obvious the workload in District II is looking good for the season.
Sincerest Sympathies go to the families of the Brother Members of Local 234 for the loss of their loved ones.

George Peterson  August 6, 2015  61 year Member
Loren Bragg  August 7, 2015  45 year Member
Eugene Carlson  September 3, 2015  66 year Member
Eugene Hedemark  September 4, 2015  47 year Member
David Brooner  September 11, 2015  51 year Member
Donald Harmon  September 22, 2015  62 year Member
Edwin Wilson  September 25, 2015  53 year Member
Milford Martinson  October 20, 2015  56 year Member
Dennis Gross  October 25, 2015  11 year Member
Travis Jackson  November 14, 2015  3 month Member
Wayne Duffy  December 15, 2015  33 year Member
Dorrance Sheely  January 13, 2016  62 year Member
Maynard Kleinsorge  January 18, 2016  53 year Member
Arlen O’Tool  January 19, 2016  24 year Member
Duane Matteson  January 31, 2016  52 year Member
Patrick Hollinrake  February 6, 2016  17 year Member
Craig Clark  February 8, 2016  47 year Member
Lloyd Hinrichsen  February 9, 2016  56 year Member
Harvey Ritz  February 9, 2016  60 year Member

Retired Brother Bill Sweeney (Left), his wife Patricia and Business Representative Brian Vaske, attend the Dubuque Area Labor Hall of Fame Awards ceremony to honor Bill as he is inducted.
Work in the area has been seasonal this winter. It’s looking like we will have an early spring which will be good, maybe it will allow the contractors to get a jump on the upcoming work.

Klinger has a decent amount of work starting this spring including an addition to the Consumer Supply warehouse. They will also be doing the footings on the pork processing plant, with Davis Erection setting the precast. DM Steel has been steady with multiple projects including the CF Industries expansion. Barnhart Crane has been working around the weather but their work typically picks up in the spring. Crane Sales and Service has been busy and hired more Operators recently. Case Foundation is currently working on the Floyd River bridge in Sioux City. Ames Construction will be starting back up on the Highway 92 and the railroad projects in Council Bluffs this spring. Ames will also be starting on the Highway 20 expansion between Correctionville and Holstein. The 12 mile, $62-million-dollar project should begin in early April.

JF Brennan will be dredging Lake Manawa in Council Bluffs starting this spring. Mortenson will begin work on the wind farm additions in Ida and O’Brien counties soon. Remember to keep yourself on the out of work list, it’s going to be a very busy year.

Stationary contract negotiations continue. Two of the county roads groups that I bargains for have been completed. The school groups are on hold waiting to see what the state proposes for funding this year. Hope to see you at the General Membership meeting on March 26th at 1:00 pm at the Des Moines Hall.
Sioux City Schools Members donating time at the Goodwill Shoe and Mitten Party. L to R: Brothers Jeff Barrett, Dan Murphy, Brad Fahrendholz, Jarrod Solomon and Steve Pettersson. Great Job...Way to get involved!

Brother Joe Gray operates an excavator for Ames Construction while demoing a bridge on the Highway 92 project.

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

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<td>Richard Thornburg</td>
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FAMILY HOLIDAY PARTIES
The Stationary negotiations are continuing throughout the state. The average wage increase settlement that has been received thus far has been around 2.7%. The insurance benefit packages and employee premiums continue to be at the forefront of most of the bargaining sessions, brought to the table by the employer. The prescription drug costs seem to be spiraling out of control and in turn, the employees are being asked to pay more for their prescriptions. Health Care itself is a huge issue that is not going away any time soon. It always manages to be the “elephant in the room” from the first proposal to the contract ratification vote.

Some of the negotiation sessions this year have proved to be very difficult. There have been many questions brought up by the bargaining committees as to what actually constitutes “Good Faith” and “Bad Faith” bargaining. The concept itself sounds easy enough to understand, but it is not. The legal definition of good faith bargaining refers to the duty of the parties to meet and negotiate at reasonable times with willingness to reach an agreement on matters within the scope of representation, however, neither party is required to make a concession or agree to any proposal.

Under Section 8(a)(5) of the NLRA (National Labor Relations Act), the employer must negotiate with the Union in good faith. The only statutory requirement regarding Collective Bargaining is for the two parties to bargain in good faith with the intent on reaching an agreement. It does NOT mean that the employer has to agree to the Union’s proposals, nor does it mean that the Union has to agree to the employer’s proposals. Hard bargaining (taking a strong stance on an issue) does not violate the laws, but surface bargaining (just meeting and going through the motions of negotiating with no intent of a settlement), would be “bad faith” bargaining and is in violation of the laws. Some other examples that might prompt the Union to file a ULP (Unfair Labor Practice) charge might include the refusal to meet, purposeful delay of the meetings, or failure to give their chief negotiator the authority to make a final agreement. The final decision of bad faith vs good faith bargaining ultimately lies with the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board). Local 234 has had no instances of bad faith bargaining, and has received voluntary settlements on every Collective Bargaining Agreement so far this year.

I’d like to take this time to shout out a “THANK YOU” to all of the Stationary Stewards as well as the Bargaining Committees that have been working very diligently and passionately during the negotiations, and on their own time, to represent their fellow Members at the table with dignity and pride! You are very much appreciated by the Members as well as by the IUOE Local 234!

“Someday, there will come the brotherhood of men. Someday, industrial wartime, as well as warfare between nations, will be seen to be ridiculous and a waste of life and money. Someday, men will work together in a grand cooperation scheme. But until that day, the trade Union must stand as they only safeguard of the working man; the only instrument by which he can maintain himself and his family”

— Clarence Darrow

Cheryl Arnold
Recording Corresponding Secretary & Stationary Representative

Ames PowerPlant Stewards
L to R: Brothers Paul Burja, Mike Zieger, Galen Gillespie (Chief Steward), Jon Jensen
And the broken record continues to repeat! I am happy to report, once again, the Local is doing well financially. The independent auditors have performed the yearly audit and we finished the year strong. Specifics will be provided, and questions answered, at the General Membership meeting on March 26th.

The Local did purchase a new file server in the fall of 2015. We were fortunate enough to find a vendor that is extremely well versed in the types of systems we were in need of, not just a “one size fits all” type of system. Our new server has allowed us to move to a real-time out of work list. What this specifically means for Members is that every agent that is working on dispatching will see their name as available to work immediately after the Member registers for the out of work list, rather than when the next list was printed. This understandably allow for the opportunity for Members to return to work quicker.

There were Central Pension Fund information meetings held around the State in late February, early March. As a whole, the meetings were a success. We will be continuing to hold these meetings once each year and urge all Members that participate in the CPF to attend and bring their spouse and/or their family members. I believe the more Members understand their benefits, the more value they will see in their Union Membership.

A family picnic is being planned again. The target date is Saturday, May 14th. All Members will be sent a notice when the exact date and particulars are worked out. It will be held at the Apprenticeship & Training site with a picnic lunch being provided and a bounce house or two available for the little ones. There will also be equipment set up for you and your family members to operate……and don’t forget your fishing pole – we’ll see who has the skills to pull a big one from the pond!

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

**General Membership Meeting:**
March 26, 2016 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

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**Tracy Petersen**
Treasurer & Office Manager
Training season is still going strong so things are busy to say the least. Anyone that has attended a class this year has definitely noticed increased class sizes. It’s wonderful to see Members keeping their certifications current and obtaining new certifications or skills for this next season.

With all the talk about the Dakota Access Pipeline, we put on Pipeline Training classes in December. The weather could have cooperated more than it did but it is Iowa so you just make the best of the weather you get. The Members that attended thought it was very beneficial. I thank retired Brothers Dale Foster and Donavon Harrison for helping instruct the class and field activities. The equipment Precision and Brandenburg Drainage donated is still onsite for anyone still interested in pipeline training.

Also, thank you to anyone that helped on the Dakota Access Pipeline Rallies, Board of Supervisors meeting, IUB meetings, etc. Your support was tremendous. I encourage any Member and their families that were unable to attend the Members Picnic at the Training Site last year to try and make it this year. Everyone whether young or just young at heart seemed to have had a wonderful time last year.

Over the course of this past year, we added several pieces of equipment - John Deere 85G excavator, 289D Cat skidloader, and a D6N GPS Cat dozer. We already have a 12M Blade and Ziegler donated the use of a 12M Blade simulator for training season. I would love to see Members take advantage of this simulator while we have it available.

Members at the Capital in support of the Dakota Access 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