

ENGINEERS NEWS

LOCAL 234



VOLUME 52, NUMBER 1
MARCH 2018



Cover photo and above photos: Ames Construction working on the Highway 20 project. All photos courtesy of Brother Travis Hanf.



Scholarship

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.LOCAL234.COM TO FIND OUT ELIGIBILITY AND RULES REGARDING:

**THE RICHARD JOHN GRIGLIONE II MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

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



JASON COPPLE
BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

It's 7° outside as I am writing this, and even though our season ran late last year, everyone I have talked to is ready to go back to work. The forecast for the next week is calling for highs in the 40's so let's hope it keeps climbing, and no heavy rains comes our way.

We had a slow start to the season last year but the Local, Health & Welfare, and the Apprenticeship/Training Site all had a great year. With the Membership agreeing to increase contributions into our Health & Welfare a little bit every year, it's anticipated that it will help keep our Fund healthy into the future. There are a lot of trades out there whose Health & Welfare Funds are still struggling. No matter how many meetings I go to, I never get tired of sharing with other Trades and other IUOE Locals that Local 234's Fund remains strong and continues to grow.

Our Training Site has started another busy training season and has seen a good group of Apprentices and Journeypersons at the site this year. When you're on the jobsites, please remember to help the Apprentices out if you're working with them, they are the future of Local 234. We have purchased a piece of new equipment for the training site each of the last few years and are discussing what the piece will be for 2018.

As much as I don't like to talk politics, my dislike for the way the middle class is being attacked is much greater. I also don't like the blame game, but when the voting comes down party lines, and the Republicans are the ones that are voting for legislation that hurts the middle class, and our Membership, I will play the blame game. But on the other hand, the Democrats can't seem to band together and work together. Local 234 has held the same position as far as politicians go that we talked about last year. Until a politician can explain what they are going to do to help our Members and their families, there will be no money handed out. And let me tell you the list that we have given money to is small.

On a national level, it's even worse. The new tax plan that was passed recently will give you an extra \$20 or \$30 dollars per week until it expires at the end of 2024. It's curious to me how the middle class' tax cut expires but the tax cuts for the rich never do. In our industry, some of the deductions we've all been able to use over the years are also gone. No more deducting travel expenses for working away from home, no more mileage, no food, and no lodging. No clothes deductions or tool deductions. I read an article last week that said the Federal Government is looking at adding a \$.25 increase in the federal gas tax. If that happens, how's your "tax cut" going to be helping you – it'll help you pay for your gas for the mileage you can no longer deduct.

I've had a lot of discussions lately with Members about politics and have been questioned on why I support Democrats, so i figured I'd take this time to let everyone know my views. I will touch on the three issues that get brought up to me the most.

1) I Support immigration as long as it's done legally. I do not think we need a wall built, we have laws and agencies that are already in place to deal with illegal immigration if the Government would fund them and let them do their job.

2) I do not believe in taking peoples guns away but I do believe our laws need to be stricter towards those that commit crimes with firearms and our background check system needs to be overhauled.

3) I do believe in the welfare system to help people down on their luck but also believe that everyone needs to be drug tested to receive it and there needs to be a plan in place to work towards getting people off of welfare. When you're on unemployment you are required to look for work, but not while you're on welfare.

Our politicians seem to have forgotten who they are supposed to be representing and it's all become about the mighty dollar, on both sides of the isle. Why are our politicians allowed to invest in the companies that they are responsible for making laws for and regulating?

...continued on Page 5

JURISDICTION WIDE



NICK NORTON
EXECUTIVE BOARD
DISTRICT II,
ORGANIZER AND
ASSISTANT BUSINESS
MANAGER

We are busy finishing up negotiating the last of our Stationary Agreements around the state. After the drastic changes to the Chapter 20 laws during the 2017 legislative session it has been an uphill battle trying to negotiate fair contracts for the Members of Local 234 that work for the public entities. We have had a few groups get their contracts completely gutted with some seeing

their insurance triple in cost. With the effects of these anti-worker laws we need to make sure to vote for labor worker friendly candidates in the primaries and in the November election.

With the 2018 construction season just around the corner we are starting to see a strong workload ahead. Our heavy highway and utility contractors have quite a bit of



Brother Brendan Spicer operates Coonrod's 240 ton setting concrete beams on a new apartment building in Iowa city



Brother Brett Lippert operates Tri State Crane's 400 ton Terex setting a sign for a new truck stop in Waterloo

work to finish from last season as well, with a lot of new work coming up for bid. Our crane services have a steady amount of work with some of them opening shops in new areas of the state to get into the new markets, which is a great thing to see.

The wind industry is going to have another busy year. M.A. Mortensen and White Construction both have a few projects set to start this spring and a couple more starting late summer or early fall. There are also several projects that have not been awarded for the season that Union Contractors will be bidding.

With the workload looking strong for the year, I urge every Member to take advantage of our training site to keep up certifications and sharpen skills. Also, please make sure to keep yourself updated on the out-of-work list.



Brother Charles Pitzen operates a Cat 345
for Rice Lake Boring in Cedar falls

Labor Never Quits. We Never Give Up
the Fight - No Matter How Tough the
Odds, No Matter How Long it Takes.

- George Meany -

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED...

I can't say that I agree or disagree with either side a 100%, but as far as what I do for a living, I vote Democratic. Trickle-down economics has never worked and never will. Instead of giving the extremely rich a tax cut when they are reporting record profits, maybe we should fund some of the agencies that are currently in place and enforce the laws we currently have. I have always said we need to take care of our elderly, our handicapped, and our veterans in this country and right now we aren't even doing that.

As far as work goes for the season, it looks to be another very good year. Our local contractors have been telling us that there is a lot of work on the books this year and

out-of-state contractors have been contacting us for wage rates and concerns about manpower so please remember to keep yourself updated on the out-of-work list.

At the meetings around the state, since the September General Membership meeting, when a motion passed to add onto and remodel the Des Moines Union hall, we have been talking about the progress of achieving that goal. At the March General Membership we will be discussing the details and unfortunately the problems we have been running into so I hope to see as many Members as possible at the General Membership meeting.

DISTRICT I



CHAD CARTER
VICE PRESIDENT
&
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

Our last construction season ended up being a very busy one. The fall rush was a long one and hit us around the middle of September and lasted until almost Christmas. Once Christmas came, work completely froze up because of the weather. This has been one of the worst winters for work I can remember. We have had a few projects working at times through the winter, just not a

lot of them. We will see a lot of carryover work start as soon as the weather starts to stay decent for more than a few weeks. We have also been seeing a lot of big jobs coming out for bid and while visiting with most of our contractors the last few weeks, the work is looking very good for the upcoming season. A few contractors are actually looking at doubling their crew sizes from last year – now that's good news!

Des Moines will see a few really good sized jobs. The City of Waukee will also see a shit load of work starting

this season. One project will be the Apple Data Center. That project may take ten years or longer for completion.

Distribution work is looking very busy for this season, although the Pipeline work is going to be on the slow side compared to the last couple of seasons. Energy work looks like it should stay steady with the two projects that have been going the last year or two (Lake Red Rock Hydro Dam and Chillicothe Power House).

I have also been busy negotiating a few Stationary Groups this winter. We have been successful at getting 3% increases for each year of multiyear agreements with little or no language changes. Unfortunately, we still have a few that are not going good at all.

Here goes my bitch for this newsletter. The politicians in Iowa are trying to make it harder to get unemployment benefits. The politicians in Washington D.C. are doing everything they can to kill Unions. We have lost almost all of the deductions that mean so much to us at tax time. So, when it comes to voting please vote for Union friendly candidates.



Brother Kyle Judge operates a 110 ton Terex Crawler Crane setting steel for NW Steel Erection at the intersection of Jordan Creek Parkway and Mills Civic Parkway in West Des Moines.



Brother Ed Ramsey working for Q3 on MidAmerican's Blanket Distribution Contract in Waukee



Brother Bryan Christiansen operates a Bobcat Skid Loader drilling tybacks for precast for Northwest Steel Erection at the 29th Street Project in Norwoodville.

NOTICE

Local 234 has received the Official Convention Call from the International Union which states that Local 234 is allowed 8 Delegates and 1 Alternate in attendance at the 39th General Convention. This Convention will be held in May, 2018 in Hollywood, Florida. Local 234's By-Laws state that the Business Manager (Jason Copple) and the President (Tim Mumma) shall automatically be Delegates by virtue of their offices.

At the December 2017 District Meetings the following were nominated to fill the remaining Delegate positions:

- Chad Carter
- Ryan Hollinrake
- Nick Norton
- Tracy Petersen
- James (JD) Romano
- Brian Vaske
- Spencer Yockey

Due to the fact that all nominees were found to be eligible to represent Local 234 as Delegates as per the Constitution, and there were no more nominees than Delegate/Alternate positions, an election was deemed not necessary. Recording-Corresponding Secretary Ryan Hollinrake cast one vote for each of the nominees. All of the above mentioned individuals have been duly elected and will serve as Delegates to the 39th General Convention representing Local 234 as Delegates, with the exception of Brian Vaske whom shall serve as Alternate.

DISTRICT II



BRIAN VASKE
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

Work in District II has been slower this winter than past winters due to a lot of the big projects in Iowa City being completed. However, the 2018 construction season looks to be good with contractors having a good amount of work to start the year. We have had several out-of-state contractors calling for wage rates as well.



Apprentice Taylor Michael and Brother Brandon Black working for B.G Brecke in Cedar Rapids replacing water service to a house

Portzen, Veit and Midwest Drilled Foundation are working on the Kinnick Stadium project in Iowa City. Due to the tight timeline of the project, they are working a lot of hours. Kraemer North America is working on 4 bridges in the area with the biggest one being the Sabula/Savanna Bridge over the Mississippi River. They will begin the demo of the old bridge in the near future. Mashuda and Hoffman will be back when the weather straightens out to finish dirt projects in the area.

We have been in negotiations with Public groups. Its become clear that some groups care about their employees and are not messing with their contracts. Unfortunately, we have other groups that are completely destroying their contracts, proving they don't care about their employees.

As many of you know the Local has endorsed Nate Boulton for Iowa Governor, please do your part by researching Nate's views and voting history as an Iowa Senator, and voting for him in the June primary.



Brother Members Brody Kerner, Ryan Long and Nate Lucas work at the Tri State Crane yard in Cedar Rapids loading counter weight and boom sections.



Brother John Picray operates a Link Belt 338 Crane for Kraemer North American on the Sabula/Savanna Bridge Project



Apprentice Matt Fiala operates a tug boat busting ice for Kraemer North American in the Mississippi River on the Sabula/Savanna bridge project



Brother Isaac Moellers operates a pump truck for Sun Concrete Pumping at the Kinnick Stadium project in Iowa City.

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

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.

DISTRICT III



SPENCER YOCKEY
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

It's been another busy fall and winter with Stationary negotiations, politics and quite a bit of construction work continuing late into 2017. This upcoming season's work load looks to be starting much earlier than this past year.

M.A. Mortenson has three wind turbine repower projects with the first starting in

June. Mortenson's new erection work will begin with Beaver Creek II near Dana then move north to the Emmetsburg area. More specific info will be available after the pre-jobs are held. White Construction has a new erection turbine project near Everly, Iowa starting this spring also.

Remember to call in every 30 days to keep yourself updated on the out-of-work list, as it's going to be a very busy season. On that note, if you have never filled out a Qualifications Register or updated it recently, it would be a good idea to get that done. It is much easier to dispatch Members when we know all of their qualifications.



Brother Rory McGinnis operates a 90 ton Grove RT for Mortenson's wind turbine repower project in Blairsburg

Klinger has had multiple projects going through the winter and DM Steel is currently working on several projects as well. Barnhart Crane is steady with wind turbine maintenance, shut downs and curb service. The CBFS project in Council Bluffs ramped up last fall and will be again this spring. Kiewit began work on the Rivers Edge project in November 2017, with work scheduled to go through mid-summer. Ames Construction will be back this spring to finish their portion of Highway 20.

Stationary negotiations continue and are very challenging due to the Chapter 20 changes. Which brings up politics -- wages are the only mandatory subject of bargaining and the legislature gave the employers more leverage in bargaining. We need to remember the anti-worker legislation that was passed last year during the upcoming elections. Research the candidates, participate and vote for candidates that support Iowa workers. Local 234 has endorsed Nate Boulton in his bid for governor and we have been involved in caucuses, meetings and will be at the County and State conventions to support Nate.



Brother Jordan Seals operates a 40 ton Manitex Boom Truck for Barnhart Crane at Gavin's Point Dam. Photo courtesy of Brother Daniel Broveak



City of Emmetsburg Brother Members from L to R: Luke Nelson, Jason Ezarski, Steward Jim Reding, David Lewis, Tim Sidles and Aaron Leuer



Brother Brian Droegmiller operates an excavator for Ames Construction at the Council Bluffs Powerhouse



Brother Jacob Chapman operates a skid loader for Kiewit at the Rivers Edge project in Council Bluffs



Brother Jason French operates a rubber tire loader for Ames Construction at the Council Bluffs Powerhouse



Brother Ben Mueller operates a 16000 Manitowoc and Brother Nate Wallerich is the oiler at the Mortenson Wind turbine repower project in Blairsburg

**SINCEREST SYMPATHIES GO TO THE FAMILIES OF THE BROTHER MEMBERS OF
LOCAL 234 FOR THE LOSS OF THEIR LOVED ONES.**

Marvin Roe	September 29, 2017	43 year Member
John Dobberthein	October 4, 2017	50 year Member
David Hart	October 10, 2017	48 year Member
Max Sharp	October 15, 2017	47 year Member
Joe Fatino	October 22, 2017	50 year Member
Richie Rogers	November 3, 2017	1 year Member
Don Geuder	December 1, 2017	53 year Member
David Downing	December 12, 2017	1 year Member
William Schumann	January 1, 2018	46 year Member
Samuel Kelly	January 5, 2018	41 year Member
David Zwanziger	January 12, 2018	14 year Member
Grover Mains	February 1, 2018	26 year Member

MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership Meeting:
March 24, 2018 at 11:00 a.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

OFFICE & FINANCE

Another good year is wrapped up and history. 2017 turned out to treat Local 234 well financially. The exact figures have not yet revealed themselves as the Independent Auditor has not completed the annual audit, but by the time we have the General Membership meeting on March 24th, we will be able to give you the details.

The Local received the new 2018/2019 Membership cards from the International around the 22nd of December. Kelly and Mary worked diligently on getting them stamped current and out to all Members by the middle of January. If for some reason you did not receive yours, please contact the Des Moines office so we can get a new one ordered for you.

It seems that about every 18 months to 2 years, I start hearing rumors about changes to the Central Pension Fund. I can officially confirm that as of this time, any changes you are hearing about are just that – rumors. When and if any changes happen, the CPF is obligated to notify each participant. And as in the past, if there are changes the Local will make sure to announce and discuss the changes in all Membership meetings. During this past winter, the Local did not hold any informational meetings regarding the CPF, but they will be back for the 2018/2019 winter. It's a great time to understand a little better about a very important benefit, and to also invite your spouse/significant other, children, or anyone else that you want to understand your benefits. Our office will announce these meetings in the next newslet-

ter and send notifications out when the dates, times and locations are secured.

We are branching out a little bit this year in talking with places such as Adventureland regarding obtaining some kind of discounts for Members and families. Although we have not gotten confirmation for what is possible, we will post information on the Members' Only section of the website. We would also like feedback from the Membership as to where you would like us to try to use our numbers for discounts. Feel free to email any ideas that you have to Office@Local234.com. We may not have the numbers in some places to do much, but we can at least try. Your Register Number (as listed on your Union card) is your User Name, and your password is the first initial of your first and your last name, no spaces, all lower case (example: John Doe = jdoe).

Also, be on the lookout for an announcement for the Family Picnic to be held at the Training Site. ALL Members are welcome, and we encourage you to bring your family. Everyone (even the kids) will be welcomed to get on the equipment and do their best to operate it. We will have fun things for the smaller kids to do as well – it's a fun day for everyone!!



TRACY PETERSEN
TREASURER & OFFICE
MANAGER

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018 @ 11:00 A.M.

4880 HUBBELL AVENUE

DES MOINES, IA

***MANY TOPICS WILL BE COVERED, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS REGARDING DES MOINES UNION HALL BUILDING AND THE PREVIOUS AUTHORIZATION FOR ADDITION/REMODEL

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES



Bill Knight	1-1-17
Michael Berhow	10-1-17
Gene Bagby	11-1-17
Paul Meggers	12-1-17
James Nickol	1-1-18

HEALTH & WELFARE FUND

CLIP-N-SAVE

WEBSITE: LOCAL234.COM

Members only section:

- User Name = your register number
- Password = first initial of first name and entire last name
all lower case, no spaces

UNION HALL: 515-265-1657

regarding dues, out-of-work, pension, etc.

HEALTH & WELFARE: 515-207-3875 ext. 5600 / 5601

regarding insurance benefits, hours reported, eligibility, claims, etc.

Anytime you work outside the jurisdiction of Local 234, make sure to complete a transfer/reciprocity form which can be obtained from the Local covering the jurisdiction in which you are working. After completion, this form must be provided to that jurisdictions Local office to advise them that your Health & Welfare contributions should be sent back to your home Local, Local 234 H&W. For information regarding transfer of pension contributions, please contact the Union Hall.

All Members should have received a new 2018 Edition of the Summary Plan Description (SPD) mailed to you on 12/1/2017. The new SPD is a great resource for any questions you may have.

All Members currently enrolled with Wellmark were mailed out a new ID card on 12/22/17. This new card contains the letter "W" in your identification number. If you did not receive a current card, please contact the Health and Welfare Office.

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

Well....I hate to jinx things by saying it, but the weather this training season has been better than expected. It has really helped with the field training for Apprentices and Journeypersons alike. Hopefully, the weather continues to cooperate not only to help field training here onsite, and so that Members can get back to work early this spring.

With the strong workload the past few seasons, there has been more demand for skilled Operators on almost every type of machine. That being said, there is an increasing demand for trackloader operators, blade operators and dozer operators with GPS experience. All those machines and GPS are available at the training site for Members to use. I encourage any Member interested in acquiring new skills to come train on those machines so you are ready when those opportunities come.

We had 5 pre-cast concrete panels donated this winter and have purchased rigging for them to expand on the crane training that we can provide. Members can

come train on standing pre-cast panels and do more two crane picks along with tailing. That training is now available if you contact us, but we will get a formal course set up in next year's training schedule.

The International Training site in Crosby, Texas has been completed. The National Pipeline training course has been rescheduled to that site, so unfortunately, we will not be hosting the Excavation for exiting live pipelines course this spring. The updated pipeline training schedule is posted on their website.

I look forward to seeing everyone that can attend the Family Picnic on May 20th.



RYAN HOLLINRAKE
APPRENTICESHIP
COORDINATOR



Apprentices doing field work at the Apprenticeship & Training Site

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

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Permit NO. 2029

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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
—563-580-4032

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—515-207-3875

Family Picnic

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Family Picnic! It will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at the Apprenticeship and Training Site. Be watching your mail around the first of May for your invite. We hope to see you all there!