

ENGINEERS NEWS

LOCAL 234

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 2
SEPTEMBER 2018



HEALTH & WELFARE FUND

Members that participate in Local 234's Health and Welfare Fund are encouraged to call the Fund anytime to verify reported hours for insurance eligibility to avoid a lapse in coverage.

If you are thinking about retirement you may be entitled to continue your health coverage after retirement. Contact Health & Welfare for an estimated cost of your monthly insurance self-payment. Please contact the Union Hall regarding starting your pension benefits, or contact the CPF directly.

Vision insurance is available for all Members as a reimbursement plan. You may go to your preferred provider and obtain an itemized receipt stating the patients name, a brief description and the amount paid. This receipt may be mailed to 4880 Hubbell Ave., Suite 1, Des Moines IA 50317; faxed to 515-266-0994; or a photo of the receipt may be emailed to staff@iuoe234fringe.org. Members and their spouse are eligible for \$400 every 24 months and dependent children are eligible for \$150 every 12 months. The eligibility period goes by date of service, i.e. if you spend all \$ on today's date, you would not be eligible again until today's date either 12 months or 24 months from today.

Cover Photos



Local 234's Des Moines office building and the start of construction on our new building! Please visit our website www.local234.com for updated progress photos!



Brother Ivan Saltzman did the site work and building pad in a Cat 953 track hoe on the new Des Moines Union building (Elder Corporation). Brother Tony Northway dug footings (Neumann Builders) and Brother Nathan McKinney did site utilities and backfill (Kelly Cortum, Inc.)



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

We have had a very busy work season. Other than 2016 when we saw the pipeline that went through the state, this has been the busiest season the Local has seen in a long time and every indication is showing that it should last well into late fall. Other than a few areas of the state, the weather has even cooperated with us for the most part.

Our Health & Welfare Fund continues to be healthy. Prescription drugs remain the biggest expense of the Fund. If your care giver believes that generic drug option is acceptable for you, please strongly consider this option – it is one way for each of us to help in keeping our Fund healthy.

The Training Site expanded the fleet of iron with the purchase of a new 336F Caterpillar excavator this year. There is a wish list of other pieces of equipment and we will continue to add to the lineup as finances allow. Make sure and watch for the Training Newsletter late this fall and get signed up for any classes you may need.

The new Des Moines Union Hall is moving forward, slowly it seems. We started out looking at remodeling and adding to the existing building and after looking at costs and all the issues we were running into with permits and because of the poor condition of the existing building, the decision was made by the Members at the General Membership to build a new building instead. During this process that has been going on for the last 18 months, the only thing I've learned for sure is, if you're going to build in the Des Moines metro area do it in the suburbs. Some of the requirements that the City has put upon us are ridiculous. The scheduled move-in date as of now is early January and the parking lot and demo of existing building will be done as soon as weather allows in the spring. An open house will be scheduled soon after.

With all that I'm about to say, I want to make it very clear that I personally do not 100% support the Demo-

cratic Party's ideas and what they stand for, but my political views as Business Manager of Local 234 have to come in line with protecting the Local and its Members. I'm asking everyone to vote for the candidates that are not trying to dismantle the Union careers that we have chosen.

On the Federal political front we still haven't seen the full effect of the federal tax cuts and probably won't until the upcoming tax season. What we do know is a lot of the deductions that we have taken advantage of as construction workers over the years are gone. No more deducting travel expenses, mileage, or Union dues. Oh, and remember any per diem or subsistence that you may get is also taxed. It could be a drastically different tax season for some.

The Federal government has started offering buyouts to National Labor Relations Board employees in an attempt to downsize that department. We have used the National Labor Relations Board in the past to protect our Members from wrong doing by employers. The department is already understaffed and anything we have done with them takes a considerable amount of time and it will only get worse if the downsizing occurs. There is still talk on the Federal level to do away with the 40-hour week and overtime. As I said in last spring's Newsletter, if this isn't proof that our new President and his millionaire followers are coming after the middle class and the working person in general, I'm not sure what is. Sure, unemployment levels are some of the lowest we've seen in awhile but needing three low paying jobs to survive is not good!

On the local level, the political agenda of the Republican party has not changed. The attacks on IPERS, although quiet lately, are still coming and if we do not get some Democrats elected this fall to block some of the Republican bills, public employees across the state will take another huge hit with their retirement plan that they have been paying into their entire career. With the Union Public Sector jobs gone and nobody paying into IPERS, it's bound to go broke. If you want to see it in black and white for yourself, Google the 2018 Iowa Republican Platform. On the forth page under commerce,

...continued on page 5

JURISDICTION WIDE

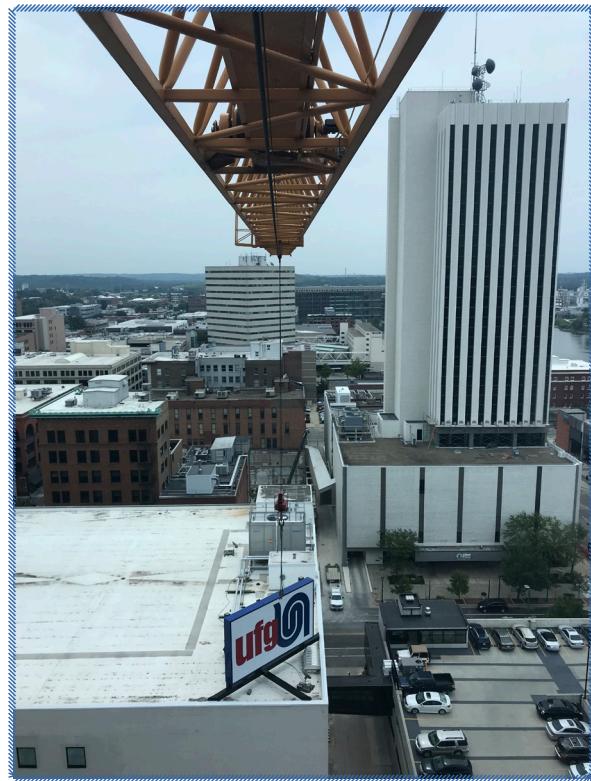


NICK NORTON
EXECUTIVE BOARD
DISTRICT II AND
ASSISTANT BUSINESS
MANAGER

Most of the state had a slow start to the season with the late snow and high amounts of rain, but it has shaped up to be another good season for the Hoisting & Portable side of Local 234. Our Heavy Highway, Utility, Building and Crane service contractors have been steadily taking on more Local 234 Members because of the increased work load.

We also have several out of state contractors working on other projects. Mortenson and White have 7 wind projects going around the state with more set to begin this fall.

With all the work we are taking on more Apprentices and new Members so I urge our seasoned Members to help the new Members learn how to perform our work

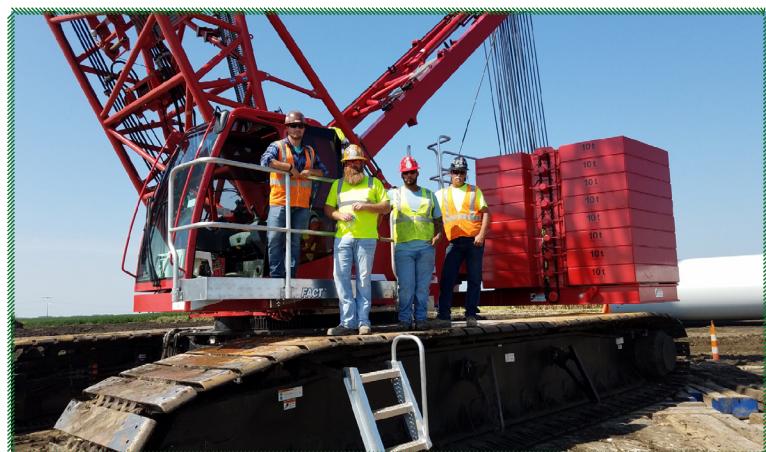


Brother Shawn Wilson operates a Liebherr 220 tower crane for Tri-State on the new UFG building in Cedar Rapids

safely and efficiently.

On the Stationary side of the Local we will be starting to negotiate several of our public agreements around the state. As all of you should be aware the new Chapter 20 laws that are in effect and are making negotiations for contracts for hundreds of our Brothers and Sisters in the public sector extremely lop-sided in the employers' favor. This November we need to stand up and vote for candidates that will stand up for working people's rights. If the current administration in Iowa is allowed to stay in office, it will only get worse for Local 234 Members and their families.

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



Brother Members Levi Dolch, Steward Mike Overhake, Jr., Keith Moten, and applicant John Zant working for White Construction at Upland Prairie wind farm in Everly

**It is essential that there should be organization of labor.
Capital organizes and therefore labor MUST ORGANIZE!**

- Theodore Roosevelt

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED...

number 3. "We call for legislation that would eliminate all public sector unions." The Hoisting & Portable Members of Local 234 should truly pay attention to the attack on public sector Unions, because if they get this done, the construction industry will be next.

Work should remain strong into the fall and we have already started to talk about some work for next spring.

Remember if you do get laid off, call the hall and get on the out of work list right away. If this fall is anything like last year we could still be looking for Operators into October and November. I hope to see everyone at the General Membership meeting on September 29th in Des Moines.

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.

MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership Meeting:
September 29, 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

DISTRICT I



CHAD CARTER
VICE PRESIDENT
&
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

What a season it has been. Even with the rain that has played havoc with hours that some of our Members have been able to work, we still have had an increase in hours this season as a whole.

The dirt work has been very good for our Members with a lot of housing developments, commercial developments and some DOT work just to men-

tion a few of the strong workloads. We may also see some work get started on the Apple project in Waukee this fall. It would only be a substation that sits in the middle of the site.

The energy work is holding steady in the jurisdiction that I cover. In addition to projects that have been ongoing over the last year, there is a wind farm going in Montezuma. This project consists of 68 GE towers. The work started around the end of May 2018, with an estimated completion date of May 2019. Pipeline work this year has been very steady with a lot of maintenance

work being done for Northern Natural Gas Company. Work looks very strong until freeze up.

The recertification process has begun for some of the Stationary groups. Contracts I oversee that are currently open are City of Ames Blue Collar, City of Ames Power Plant, City of Adel and PCM Schools. With the changes to the Chapter 20 laws it has been tough trying to negotiate fair contracts. Please make sure to vote for labor worker friendly candidates in the November election. These laws may not affect you directly at this point, but if these laws go unanswered, the attacks on Unions will get worse.



Elder working on the new overpass in West Des Moines



Brother Rodger Hansen working for Corell at Hubbell and Euclid in Des Moines. This will be Brother Hansen's final job prior to retirement and beginning to enjoy his Central Pension Fund benefits! He has been a dedicated Member for 40 years. Congratulations!



Brother Rick Comstock and Brother Matthew Vondra (employed by Kelly Cortum, Inc.) work on tearing out asphalt for a new sewer line in Des Moines



Brother Darin Glenney preparing to set back up a 160 ton Tadano at the English wind farm project in Montezuma while working for White Construction

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

Raymond Waag	March 27, 2018	19 year Member
Francis Fye	March 30, 2018	67 year Member
Donald Donohoe	May 7, 2018	48 year Member
Dwight Minor	May 7, 2018	51 year Member
Lloyd Dostal	May 11, 2018	52 year Member
Jerry Jackson	June 19, 2018	14 year Member
Tim Hippen	June 20, 2018	14 year Member
William Kunz	July 17, 2018	50 year Member
Darrell Greiman	July 19, 2018	51 year Member
Curt Hauser	August 7, 2018	10 year Member

DISTRICT II



BRIAN VASKE
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

Work in the District II area has been good despite all of the wet weather. Contractors have been busy with all types of projects from utilities, site prep, wind farms and street reconstruction projects.

Building projects have been on the slower side this year partly because of the University of Iowa has stopped doing any work due to budget issues.

The wind farm work in the area has been good this year with White Construction doing a wind farm in St. Ansgar, Iowa. Mortenson did a repower project in Charles City. They are finishing up some warranty issues there, then that project will be done. They are also doing a wind farm in Ivester in Grundy County. Both of these projects are scheduled to be done late 2018 or early 2019.

Tri State Crane is doing work at the Lennox Plant in Marshalltown due to the tornados earlier this summer. A-1 Crane is doing a lot of cell phone tower replacements in eastern Iowa. Duane Arnold Nuke Plant in Palo is possibly having a shut down this fall, but with the plant possibly being closed in 2020, they have really scaled back the shut down to only doing the bare minimum of projects.

Dirt and utilities contractors in the area are busy with lots of street reconstruction projects and site grading. Bowker is working on a project at the Cedar Rapids water plant and Tschiggfrie and McDermott are working



Brother Members Andy Fensterman, Matt White and Jeremy Hillers (Doniver Inc.) and Brother Clifford Waller (River City Stone) working at a quarry in rural Delaware County

on multiple projects in the area.

We will be meeting with Stationary groups in the near future to discuss the upcoming recertification vote. With the mid-term elections coming up in November, I would suggest Members do their research and vote for labor friendly candidates who will vote for things that help the people of the middle class. With fall coming, it would be good for Members to keep in mind that training season will be here soon, so check your cards and certifications and sign up for training.



Brother Members Gerald Pierce and Chauncey Scott Tucker working at the Alliant power house for Ryan Central in Cedar Rapids



Brother Brandt Wieser operates a Terex crane for Calacci in Iowa City at a water cooling tower project

ORGANIZING

I have been a Member of IUOE Local 234 for 23 years and could not be prouder of my decision to join this Union. I started my career with the Operators in 1995 working with Corell Contractor and The Underground Company. During that time, I did dirt and sewer work. In 2002, I went to the City of West Des Moines, one of our signatory Stationary municipalities. I worked there 16 years, with the last 6 years serving as the Union Steward. In my time as Steward I had to deal with many internal issues and also the Chapter 20 mess that the Republican-lead Iowa Legislature created to take away rights of Union Public employees.

As your Organizer you will see me out on job sites, visiting with the non-union contractors and also their employees explaining how they can benefit by deciding to become a Union Operating Engineer. I will be on the

lookout for job sites to visit but if you see something that you believe I may not know about, please feel free to call the Des Moines office, or my cell (see phone numbers on back page) and I will definitely make a visit.



TREVOR BINDEL
ORGANIZER

Brothers Frank Vaughn III, Frank Vaughn II, Justin Vaughn and Nathaniel Fender working for Mortenson at Beaver Creek Wind Farm in Dana



CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

William Chedester 1-1-18

Fred Sirdoreus 1-1-18

Ralph Stratton 1-1-18

David Aubrey 2-1-18

Robert L. Carson 2-1-18

Richard Fenstermacher 3-1-18

Gary Tranmer 3-1-18

David Barsetti 5-1-18

Kim O'Rourke 5-1-18

David Acker 6-1-18

Darwin Buckley 6-1-18

George Jensen 6-1-18

Michael Carnes 8-1-18

Kevin Hansen 8-1-18

DISTRICT III



SPENCER YOCKEY
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

It's been a busy season when the weather cooperated, although we've had some setbacks due to getting hammered with rain on several projects.

Klinger has been busy with multiple projects in the area. DM Steel is holding steady and Kiewit is nearing completion on an office building

and parking ramp in Council Bluffs. Barnhart Crane continues to be busy and has manned up, during the summer months. Patriot Crane has also been hiring and remains busy.

The Google project in Council Bluffs continues with Sachs Civil, MMC, Rodriguez Mechanical, Berkell and Davis Erection on site. Barnhart Crane and Patriot have been in and out on the project as well. Ames is scheduled to finish up their portion of the Highway 20 project by October. The Mortenson wind turbine work is still picking up with two new erection projects that started recently along with a re-power site. Rock Solid, Subsurface and Foundation Services along with Sun



Brother Gabe Barclay operates a 40 ton Terex for Day & Zimmerman at the Port Neal shut down in Sioux City

Concrete have been busy on these projects as well. Q3 and Infrasource are very busy this year with work all over the state.

The public employee contracts have been opened so negotiations are coming up along with the recertification elections. Meetings for proposals have been scheduled for several Units.

Local 234 has been meeting with labor-friendly candidates for the upcoming elections. We have been expressing our concerns and needs as working people. The need to remember what happened to all working Iowans in 2017-2018 is great. Electing labor-friendly candidates is a must. If you are not able to vote due to working on the road, you can vote by absentee ballot. Labor needs all the help we can get during this election cycle with the Republicans trying to get rid of all public employee unions.



Brother Roger Bolsinger operates an excavator for Q3 Contracting in Council Bluffs



Sioux City Schools Brother Members from L to R: Jay Barto, Danny Erickson, Ron Hummel and Jarrod Solomon

Brother Andy Dick operates a Manitowoc 650 for Mortenson at the Beaver Creek 2 wind farm in Dana



Brother Randy Page operates a 90 ton Grove for Mortenson at the Arbor Hills wind farm in Stuart



Sister Janet Bartholomew operates a fork lift for Mortenson at the Arbor Hills wind farm in Stuart



Brother Dave Dale and Brother Ryan Rogers operate a Manitowoc 1800 for Mortenson at the Beaver Creek 2 wind farm in Dana



Brother Members from L to R: Chris Lanphear, Bart Fitzpatrick and John Foster working for Q3 in Council Bluffs

LABOR DAY 2018





OFFICE & FINANCE



TRACY PETERSEN
TREASURER & OFFICE
MANAGER

The Local is continuing to see increased work hours reported on the Hoisting & Portable side. This translates to our Members working good hours and seeing a good amount of contributions into their benefits which translates into good income for your Local.

As Business Manager Copple mentioned in his article, the

new Des Moines office building is coming along – slowly. But when it is done, I personally believe “the face” of Local 234 will be one that we can all be proud. The meeting room will grow in size considerably, which will only allow for more comfortable and functional meetings. The office space will make a lot more sense for our daily business and the Board Room will be big enough for Trustee meetings and negotiations.

The General Convention was held in May 2018. This is the International’s convention that all IUOE Locals send delegates to, and where the delegates vote on changes to the International Constitution amongst other things. There were some interesting speakers at this convention, but my personal favorite was Joseph Shelton, the Legal Counsel of the Central Pension Fund. We learned that the CPF is doing very well financially with over \$18.16 billion in assets. They are now the 2nd

largest multi-employer defined benefit pension fund in the United States, and have enjoyed an investment return of 18.6%. To sweeten the good news, there are no current employer withdrawal liabilities. Mr. Shelton said that the CPF receives the question very frequently as to when the accrual rate will be increasing and he says he gives the same answer every time – “As soon as financially responsible.” He said the next question that is usually asked is, if investments are performing so well, why can’t benefits increase? His response is – “Long term liabilities cannot be based on short-term investments.” Although I’m sure everyone would like to see an increase in the accrual rate, I bet everyone would like to make sure our pension fund stays very healthy so everyone will receive benefits for their lifetime after retirement.

Fall/Winter Family Fun Days are coming again! District #2 will be the end of October, District #3 will be in mid-November and District #1 will be the beginning of December. Flyers will be mailed to Members in early October. Unfortunately, the decision had to be made to cancel the Family Picnic that was to be held at the Apprenticeship/Training Site in May. There were high chances of rain in the forecast for that entire weekend, so the decision was made on Friday morning. This allowed us time to cancel the catering and the bounce houses without having to pay anything, and also allowed time to call Members regarding the cancellation.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 @ 11:00 A.M. 4880 HUBBELL AVENUE DES MOINES, IA

***MANY TOPICS WILL BE COVERED, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE VOTES
REGARDING BY-LAW CHANGES.

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

I am excited to say that the Apprentice and Training Fund has yet again added another new piece of equipment. The program completed the purchase of a new Caterpillar 336F excavator. It has all the latest technology and will be a valuable tool for many years.

With the strong workload this season the Apprenticeship Program continues to have large numbers of Apprentices not only starting the program but completing it as well. There are currently 118 apprentices working. We are anticipating and gearing up for large numbers for classroom certifications and machine training again this winter training season.

A new Advanced Crane and Rigging class is being added. It will cover critical lift planning along with operations and execution of tandem crane lifts. Look for more details on the course in the winter training newsletter.

The winter training schedule will be available around Thanksgiving again this year. Members will be mailed

or emailed newsletters along with it being posted on www.local234.com. Last year, we added the option for Members to sign up for courses online under the Members only section which seemed to work really well. Registering online is just one more option, you are still able to sign-up by mail or by calling the training center.

RYAN HOLLINRAKE
APPRENTICESHIP
COORDINATOR



Apprentice Nolan Truitt operating a 20 ton overhead crane for Boldt at the Red Rock hydro dam project



The new 336F excavator operating at the Apprenticeship & Training Site

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International Union of
Operating Engineers

92 Counties—State of Iowa

Jason Copple—Business Manager—
Financial Secretary—515-265-1657

Nick Norton—Assistant Business
Manager—515-265-1657

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—

Trevor Bindel, Organizer —
Jurisdiction wide—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—515-207-3875

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Des Moines, Iowa 50317

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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
-