

ENGINEERS NEWS

LOCAL 234



HEALTH & WELFARE FUND

Members are encouraged to call Health & Welfare 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.

Anytime you work outside the state of Iowa, make sure to complete a reciprocity form with that home local to ensure your health and welfare funds are transferred back to your home local.

(515) 207-3875 EXTENSION 5600 OR 5601

CONTACT HEALTH AND WELFARE ANYTIME YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS;
DROP OR ADD A DEPENDENT; GET MARRIED OR DIVORCED.

FRONT COVER

de·re·cho

“a line of intense, widespread, and fast-moving windstorms and sometimes thunderstorms that moves across a great distance and is characterized by damaging winds”

The August 2020 Midwest derecho, was a severe weather event which took place from August 10-11, 2020 across the Midwestern United States. The event caused notably-widespread high winds, some extreme, and spawned a tornado outbreak of low-class tornadoes. In addition, certain areas reported torrential rain and large hail.

Top Left: Brother Matt Fiala piling brush at a dump site after the derecho for Bowker in Cedar Rapids

Bottom Left: Brother Brody Kerans doing cleanup after the derecho for Tristate Crane in Cedar Rapids

Right: Brother Dustin Choplick assisting in the removal of damaged trees after the derecho for Coonrod in Cedar Rapids

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.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



JASON COPPLE
BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Wow, what a year it has been! 2020 has been one like none of us have ever seen. I would have never guessed when I was writing my spring newsletter that we would be forced to cancel the March General Membership meeting and spring monthly meetings around the state.

Since the spring newsletter we have gotten everything straightened out with the insurance company and have started construction on our new classroom, shop, and office building at the training site. We are hoping to at least get to use part of our building this fall, but have kept the office trailer that was used as a classroom last year for a protection against worst case scenario. We haven't upgraded any equipment for the first time in 7 years because it's important to concentrate on getting up and running 100%.

Our Health & Welfare Fund remains strong even with the cost of medical services and prescription drugs increasing on what seems like a daily basis. Remember to take ad-

vantage of our Doctor on Demand program and to always ask if generic prescriptions are acceptable for you. Cost saving measures made by everyone is important because we are a 100% self-funded Health & Welfare Program and every dollar we spend directly effects our Fund, our contribution rates, and Retiree self-pay rates. We have one of the best Health & Welfare plans that I have seen and we all need to work to keep it that way.

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, racial issues, and the political atmosphere we have been dealing with this year it seems that our country is more divided than ever. No matter what side of an issue you fall on, please remember that people can have a difference of opinion and still remain friends or at least friendly. We as Members need to concentrate on getting the job done, watching out for our brothers and sisters, and going home safe at the end of the day.

The workload has been good so far this season even with the COVID-19 Pandemic and the fact that it's a presidential election year. It is my hope that we can finish the year strong and healthy. As of now, we are planning on having the fall General Membership meeting on September 26th and we will notify all Members if circumstances dictate different. Hope to see you all on the 26th.



Northwest setting the last beam on one of the buildings at the Facebook project in Altoona

JURISDICTION WIDE



NICK NORTON
EXECUTIVE BOARD
DISTRICT II AND
ASSISTANT BUSINESS
MANAGER

The 2020 season has brought with it some obstacles unlike we have seen before but we are getting through them. Construction on our heavy highway, building, and distribution sides have all seen a steady workload with several ongoing projects. The wind and heavy industrial work around the state has been tapering off with several projects finishing up.

Heavy Highway and Old AGC contracts will be open for negotiations again this year. Opening letters have been sent out to all contractors signed to these agreements and proposals will be taken from Members at our upcoming District Membership Meetings around the state.

On our stationary side we have 11 open contracts this year with 10 of them requiring a recertification vote. After the groups recertify through PERB showing that they continue to want Local 234 to be their bargaining

representative, we will be setting up meetings with the Members employed in these units and taking proposals for contract negotiations.

We have also been out meeting with non-Union contractors about the benefits of becoming Union shops. We have gotten a few contracts signed and will be sitting down with a few more in the near future.

The recent wind storm has left several of our 234 Brothers and Sisters with damage to their homes and a few have even had their homes destroyed. We have been helping the Members that fit the criteria apply for assistance through the Operating Engineers National Charity Fund. If you personally have been affected, or know any 234 Member with substantial damage to their homes due to this or any other disaster, please have them contact myself, their local agent or the main office.



Brother Dave Mulder removing site entrances at the Clear Lake wind site for Mortenson



Brother Seth White assisting in a tree removal for Tristate Crane in Waterloo



Brother John Lauber and Brother Austin Stewart assembling a Cat 374 for Elder in Ankeny



MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership Meeting:
September 26, 2020 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

Where do we start? I guess with the same thing that everyone is saying: What a year 2020 has been!

On the stationary side of things, we are getting ready for recertification votes in October. Of the stationary units that I oversee, we have the City of Chariton and Woodward. We have also started negotiating with Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino. In June, we settled

the Global Spectrum agreement, it's a one-year extension with no language changes and a 2.75% increase for the Building Attendants.

With fall approaching very quickly, we are seeing a few powerhouse shutdowns on the horizon. MidAmerica is going to start one in September at the Greater DSM plant. Alliant also has an outing starting in September sometime. This outing was scheduled for the end of March but canceled because of COVID-19.

On the Construction side, work has been very odd this summer. We have been a lot dryer than in the last few years. That has caused our contractors to burn through work fast. Amazon was a job for our Members this spring. The Facebook project did shut down for a while

due to COVID-19 but they are starting another phase. We have had a lot of Members working at the Microsoft project in West DSM. They have been working on two phases. Weitz is one general contractor and Turner is the other general. These two buildings have been very good for our Mechanical contractors. The Federal Court house is coming along nicely in downtown Des Moines. Neumann is working at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames, we also had Elder and Northwest Steel Erectors work on this project as well. Steel Erectors are a little slow right now but hopefully will be picking up in late September. We have had a few housing developments this season, but not as much as in the past. Our warehouse developments are also down this summer. The DOT work is a little slower as well.

Pipeline work has been very slow with only small maintenance work this season with non-union companies picking up the bigger jobs in our jurisdiction. Distribution work is a little slower this summer too.

I remind Members to vote November 3 for candidates that are going to help us, the working people, the Unions. Also, please remember to get on the out-of-work list when you're laid off. I also encourage everyone to sign up for all classes at the Training Site. You have credentials in your pocket, and having more skills on more pieces of equipment gets you to work faster.



Brother Bryan Christiansen operates a Grove rt crane for Williams Brothers at the new waste water treatment plant for the City of Indianola



Brother William Little working for Helitech at the new waste water treatment plant for the City of Indianola

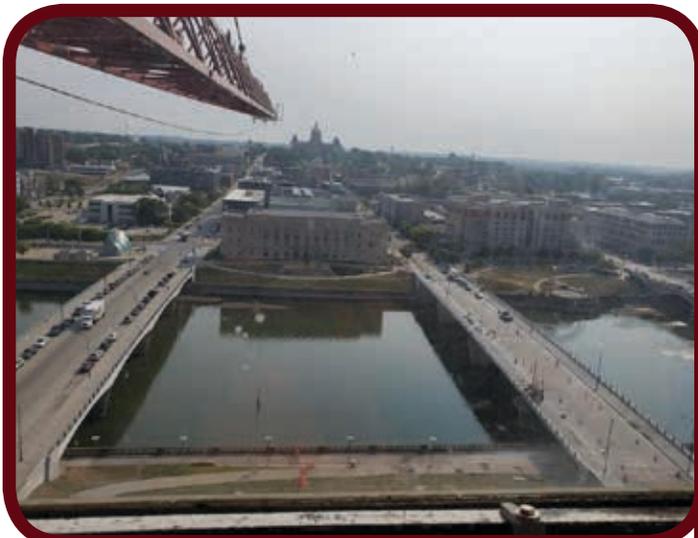
Brother Ryan Hauck operates a forklift for NW Steel at the Jack Trice stadium in Ames



Brother Seth Akers operates a Merlo Roto Forklift for Neumann at the Jack Trice stadium in Ames



Brother Ryan Gile operates an excavator for Sandstone setting a new Man hole for Polk County's new Sheriffs Office just south of their current location.



Brother Scott Lewiston operates a Tower crane for US Crane on the Federal Courthouse in downtown Des Moines

DISTRICT II



BRIAN VASKE
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

Work in District II has been busy but has started to slow down just within the last month. The main reason for this slowdown is due to projects being put on hold. Building contractors are saying that projects that were to be let for bidding have not been because developers are unable to secure loans as funding banks are not lending money due to COVID-19. Whether this is fact or not, is not known.

Windfarm work continues in Victor in the erection phase. At the Clear Lake and Kossuth County Windfarms, contractors are doing clean up and reclaim work. Mortenson will be doing 45 turbines near Emmetsburg starting in September.

The derecho on August 10th was a big news item in Iowa, and as many of you know there was a lot of wide-spread damage. There were many counties that were declared as Federal disaster areas – and one of the worst hit was Linn

County. It will take months to clean up, and a lot longer before a lot of towns will be back to normal. There are a lot of houses and buildings that will be condemned and will need to be torn down. Local crane barns are working a tremendous amount of hours removing trees from buildings and houses. Contractors are also doing clean up from loading trees and working at dumpsites. Members that have substantial damage to their home may be eligible for a donation from the Operating Engineers National Charity Fund. Please contact me or the Des Moines office for more information.

As we all know, the elections will be held on November 3, 2020. Please do your research and vote for labor friendly candidates.

Winter training season will be here before we know it. Check your current certification cards so you don't let anything lapse and consider adding some new credentials. Don't forget to register for classes timely. Also, if you get laid off, remember to check in at least once every 30 days to remain on the out of work list. If you are unfamiliar with the out-of-work list rules, please ask your agent or the Des Moines office.



Brother Kevin Heath operates a Kobelco excavator for Herling Construction doing demolition of windmills near Clear Lake



Brother Mitch Hefel and Brother Mike Roloff operating a mini excavator for Q3 in Monticello Iowa on a gas distribution project



Brother Colin Wickman operates a tractor and scraper for Dave Schmitt construction on a building site project in Cedar Rapids



Brother Mike Kessler operates a Caterpillar excavator for Kraemer North America in rural Johnson county at a bridge demolition project



Brother Chris Nickol operates a Caterpillar 320 excavator for Tschiggfrie in rural Johnson county on a bridge project

DISTRICT III



SPENCER YOCKEY
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

It has been an interesting year, I'm sure everyone can agree. Covid-19 has changed the way we do business. Not being advisable to do face to face meetings for negotiations and contract breakdowns has created new challenges.

Klinger is steady but looks to be picking up soon. DM Steel's work load has been steady as well. Barnhart's smaller crane work has been up and down

but the big cranes have been busy. White Construction has topped out the new erection project in Odebolt, all that's left is clean up and load out. White has also finished the blade replacement project on the new erection site from last year near Marcus. The Mortenson Repower work that was scheduled to start this fall has pushed back to spring and they are also bidding on multiple new erection sites for next year. White Constitution is also bidding on new erection sites for next year.

JF Brennan's work dredging Lake Manawa continues with completion being in late September or so. Ames Construction's work is ongoing on the 14-million-yard fly ash pond closure project near Council Bluffs. They have set up a conveyor system that is 5 1/2 miles long, which is projected to bring 1500 tons an hour to the fill. NPL is currently working on a gas pipeline project in Council Bluffs and Q3 will be installing the distribution lines to follow.



Local 234 Members working for JF Brennan at the Lake Minnowa project



Brother Jeff Failla working for Ames Construction on a 5 1/2 mile conveyor project in Council Bluffs





Brother Dane Carlisle working for White Construction doing clean up after the blade replacement project in Marcus



Brothers Jason Rodenburg and Brother Pat Colwell working for JF Brennan at the Lake Manawa dredge project



Brother Tyler Schmidt working for White Construction on a clean up project near Odebolt

Brother Dean Ball and Brother Ed Tompkins at the clean up and haul out project for White Construction near Odebolt



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

Steven Depauw	January 31, 2020	12 year Member
Rodney Johnson	April 6, 2020	28 year Member
David Cox	May 25, 2020	26 year Member
Wayne Rich	June 29, 2020	42 year Member
Donald Wurdinger	June 30, 2020	46 year Member
Dennis Berry	July 17, 2020	46 year Member
Ronnie Hill	July 21, 2020	44 year Member



Brother Nate Hamilton working for Rex Concrete in Indianola at the Racoon Valley JATC site (Lineman apprenticeship site)



Brother Todd Juhl and crew working for McAninch at the new Des Moines University in West Des Moines

ORGANIZING

This year has definitely been an interesting year for organizing. But, the good news is that we have had some success even in these trying times. We have been successful at signing eight companies to Agreements with Local 234. It is good for the Members of Local 234 for our market share to grow.

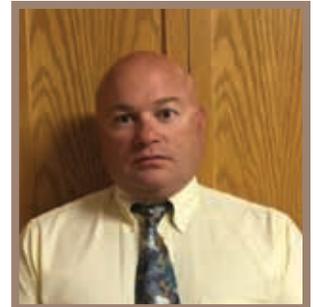
One of the biggest challenges we've faced is a majority of the offices of construction companies are closed to the public, people afraid to meet and talk in person due to COVID-19. We have had a lot request for us to just send information for them to review, rather than meeting face to face.

We had a career fair planned for April 4th that we were forced to postpone until an undetermined date. When we are able to finally hold the career fair, it will be a great organizing tool with a chance for potential new Members to not only hear what we have to say, but also visit with our signatory contractors about employment with their companies.

There are several new companies that have started business this year and we continue to reach out to

them as we find them. We have signed Agreements with a few and I have a long list of those that have agreed to visit with us this winter after they get through their first season. We will continue to keep communications open with them to show and explain what the benefits are to them and their Operators of becoming signatory.

We are always looking for organizing leads. If you know of a new company, or an "in" with a company, please give me a call. If we all work towards the goal of growing the Union market share, the better the employment opportunities are and our bargaining power increases.



TREVOR BINDEL
ORGANIZER



Brother Jeff Metheny and Brother Josh Rogers working for the Underground Company at Westport Platt 2 in West Des Moines



Brother Ryan Loomis operates an RT crane for Northwest at the West Des Moines Mid America Rec. Plex

OFFICE & FINANCE



TRACY PETERSEN
TREASURER & OFFICE
MANAGER

In a “normal year” I usually dread winter coming because that translates into a slow-down in work for the Local’s Members. This year though, I’m kind of looking forward to winter because with it comes a new year – and I’m confident in saying that everyone is ready to hit the reset button.

With the usual winter lay-offs coming, I want to remind all

Hoisting & Portable Members to check-in on the out-of-work list at least once every 30 days. This applies to everyone! Even if you will be called back to your last employer, you still need to update your name on the out of work list. This will protect your rights to draw unemployment and not do mandatory work searches. It will also protect your right to make a Health & Welfare self-pay if you fell short on hours to carry your insurance eligibility. If you need options on how to check-in for the out of work list, please call the Des Moines office and we will explain all options to you.

The Local has been receiving a lot of employment verifications for Members. I want to stress that the Local cannot verify employment for Members. You must have your lender contact the contractor that you are cur-

rently working for in order to verify wages, etc. The Local can, however, send a letter for you to verify your Membership. A lot of times lenders will be concerned over a Member that has several W-2’s in one year and our letter can explain to them how a Union works and why you may have multiple employers in a short time span.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Local’s Des Moines office and our Health & Welfare Fund office have been closed to visitors, vendors and Members since the end of March during regular business hours (Membership meetings resumed in June). We also have a couple of people working remotely. We do have a small staff that works closely with each other. It would be quite a hiccup if we had one employee that was not able to work for an extended period of time due to the virus, but if it was spread to more than one office employee the hiccup would grow exponentially. The means and methods for the daily work may have changed a bit, but all work has been and will continue to be done, and be on time.

The Central Pension Fund actually completely closed their office for approximately 6 weeks in March and April and then went to having employees work remotely. Once their workload was back on track, it has not adversely affected their capabilities for processing applications or anything else that our Members have needed and has even seemed to speed up some things.

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

Frank Farlow	11-1-19	Bruce Deraad	4-1-20
Roy Worrall	12-1-19	Gregory McMurren	4-1-20
Dennis Green	1-1-20	Pete Kmezich	5-1-20
Rodney Kubik	1-1-20	Troy Tucker	5-1-20
Gerald Van Horn	1-1-20	Gary Fox	6-1-20
Dana Fechtling	2-1-20	Timothy Carson	7-1-20
Matthew Howe	2-1-20		

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

Work has begun on the new office/shop building for the Apprenticeship and Training site!!! One year ago, on August 20, 2019, a tornado hit the training center. Everything was in shambles and it took a long time to clean up the site. As we look back, a lot has been accomplished: the demo is done, the winter building is completed and all equipment has been cleaned and repaired. We were still able to hold all of our classes for Members and Apprentices at the site this past training season. A trailer was brought in to hold most of the classes, which was not the most ideal, but the training staff and Members pitched in and we made it work.

The past few months at the training center have been busy trying to get the new building finalized so reconstruction can start. The building pad and site work have been completed by the training center. Neumann Brothers was awarded the contract on the new building. They are currently on site and have already started working. The overhead crane and steel for the new building has arrived and is on site as well.

October 25th 2020 (Sunday) is when the **NCCCO test** will be held at the Union Hall. We will have a study day on Saturday October 24th, both days start at **8:00**

am. Please give Lori a call at 641-942-7112 if you would like to sign up for the test. There will be a deadline to return your forms, so please pay close attention to the paperwork in your packet that will be sent to you after you register.

Last training season posed unique challenges due to the tornado. This training season will have its own set of unique challenges due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. While there is no way to predict whether the pandemic will be over by training season, or what safety protocols will need to be put in place. We hope to have more information on the pandemic and the effects it may have on our training season before the training schedule is printed, but will keep all those registered for classes updated if changes need to be made last minute. We plan to have the Training Schedule in the Member's hands by the Thanksgiving holiday. We look forward to seeing you this training season.



RYAN HOLLINRAKE
APPRENTICESHIP
COORDINATOR



Brother Kevin Allsup setting footings for the new office/shop building at the Local 234 Training site

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Operating Engineers

92 Counties—State of Iowa

Jason Cople—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

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

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- User Name = your register number
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all lower case, no spaces