

ENGINEERS NEWS

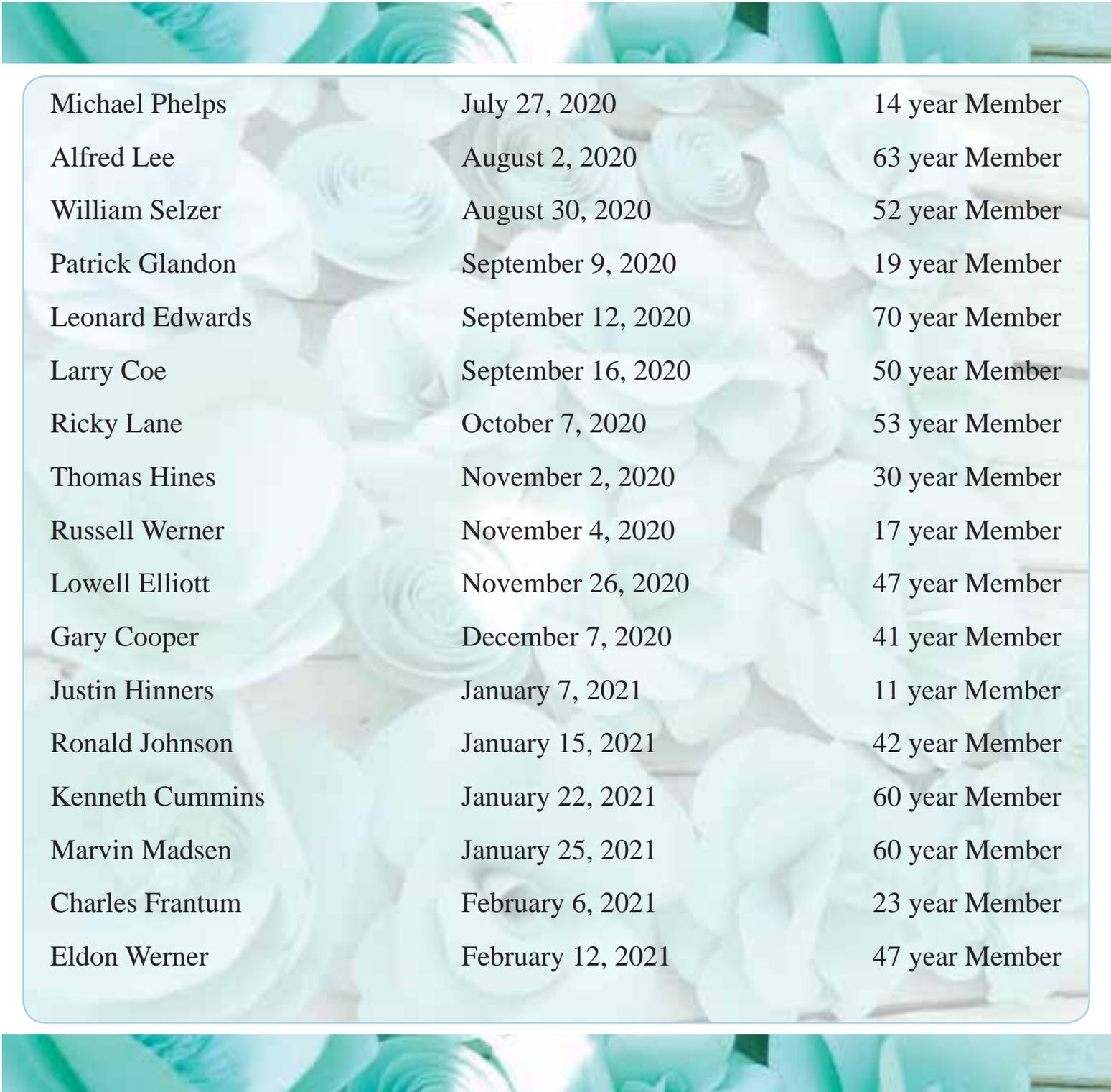
LOCAL 234



VOLUME 55, NUMBER 1

MARCH 2021

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



Michael Phelps	July 27, 2020	14 year Member
Alfred Lee	August 2, 2020	63 year Member
William Selzer	August 30, 2020	52 year Member
Patrick Glandon	September 9, 2020	19 year Member
Leonard Edwards	September 12, 2020	70 year Member
Larry Coe	September 16, 2020	50 year Member
Ricky Lane	October 7, 2020	53 year Member
Thomas Hines	November 2, 2020	30 year Member
Russell Werner	November 4, 2020	17 year Member
Lowell Elliott	November 26, 2020	47 year Member
Gary Cooper	December 7, 2020	41 year Member
Justin Hinners	January 7, 2021	11 year Member
Ronald Johnson	January 15, 2021	42 year Member
Kenneth Cummins	January 22, 2021	60 year Member
Marvin Madsen	January 25, 2021	60 year Member
Charles Frantum	February 6, 2021	23 year Member
Eldon Werner	February 12, 2021	47 year Member

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



JASON COPPLE
BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

2020 was a very interesting year, to say the least, and not in the most enjoyable way. The pandemic, elections and racial tensions have made for a year that I don't believe any of us have ever seen. Let's all hope 2021 brings changes and better times for all.

Since our fall newsletter, we have made major strides on our new buildings at the Training Site. When we get moved

in, we will have more classroom, office and shop space. We were in need of more room before the tornado hit, and were actually trying to figure out how to add-on. Although the tornado was a major inconvenience, I think we will be better off when everything is said and done. With all of the changes at the Site, our Apprenticeship & Training Fund remains strong. It is my goal to see us get back to upgrading equipment this fall or spring of 2022.

Our Health & Welfare Fund has weathered the pandemic well so far, and remains healthy. With the cost of healthcare continually rising, it is very important that we take advantage of the economical options, if appropriate. Doctor on Demand and generic prescriptions are two cost sav-

ing measures that can be easily utilized whenever possible and appropriate. Over the past few years we have seen the number of medical services go down, but the cost go up. We are a 100% self-funded plan and every dollar that is spent for medical, dental and vision services come directly out of our Fund. Our Health & Welfare Fund is obviously there to be used, but hopefully never abused.

The agents have been seeing a lot more projects that are requiring OSHA, First Aid & CPR, and rigging certifications to even be allowed on the project. These are not necessarily contractor requirements but the project owners' requirements. Get as many certifications and as much training as possible. The more you have the easier it is for you to receive a successful dispatch call for work.

We saw a very cold end to February, which has pushed back a few jobs, but at this point, the weather forecast seems to be looking promising. Make sure you are on the out of work list and that your Qualifications Register is up to date so you can get back to work ASAP. If you don't know what a Qualifications Register is, please contact your agent, or the main office. That probably means the Local doesn't have a current one on file for you, and that could mean you're missing out on jobs! Don't forget – General Membership is on March 27th at 11:00 a.m., at the Des Moines Union Hall.

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.

JURISDICTION WIDE



NICK NORTON
EXECUTIVE BOARD
DISTRICT II AND
ASSISTANT BUSINESS
MANAGER

With the spring construction season right around the corner, we are starting to see our signatory contractors get awarded some projects around the state.

Our Heavy Highway and Utility contractors have picked up several projects around the state, as well as having several to finish from last season. Our Crane Service contractors are steady

with work continuing to pick up as the weather improves. Wind work is looking to be a little slower this season with two new construction projects on the books and several smaller maintenance jobs that have either already started or will be coming up this season.

On the Stationary side all of our public groups that were required to recertify recently did vote to continue having LU234 represent them. We have, for the most part, finished up their negotiations, with the new pay



Brothers Tim Carson, Dustin Choplick and Brandon Spicer rerailed a loaded tanker near ADM in Cedar Rapids for Coonrod



Brothers Steve Hefel and Steve Biermann demoing a car dealership to make way for a new bank in Dubuque for Tschiggfrie

rates and conditions becoming effective July 1, 2021.

Our District 1 and District 3 Building Agreements have been opened and we will be starting negotiations on them. Our Energy & Heavy Industrial Agreement is also open for wages only. With construction projects around the state getting ready to kick off soon, I urge Members to utilize our training facilities to hone your skills and keep certifications up to date. It's important to stay on the out of work list so when contractors call, we are ready to send Operators to work.



Brothers Nate Lucas and Brennan Rawson operate a 75 ton and a 60 ton crane to take down the Marion High School's damaged pressbox

MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership Meeting:
March 27, 2021 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

Well here we are again, the start of a new construction season and nearing the end of the typical negotiations season for the Stationary side. Several of the Stationary groups have been settled. For the City of Chariton Agreement, we were able to keep all current language and received a 3.5% increase each year of a five-year agreement. In the City of Des Moines Agreement, we were able to add back some major

language changes that the City took away last contract negotiations, and a 2.5% increase each year for the next five years. These additions would not have happened if not for Labor friendly Council Members and City employees calling their elected Council Members. This is one of the reasons why it's so important to have Labor friendly City Council Members elected to City Councils across our jurisdiction. Lastly, we sat down with the City of Woodward, once again we were dealing with an educated City Mayor and his team Members, and we were able to get important language back in the agreement that we lost with the last Mayor, as well as a 3% increase each year for the next five years.

On to the Construction side of our work. There are new phases that will be starting at the existing Facebook and Microsoft projects. We have two Pipeline jobs going

on right now, NPL started a project for Black Hills Energy on January 4, 2021. This job is about 1200' of 16" & 10" in Council Bluffs. Minnesota Limited picked up some integrity digs for Pembina. There are 23 digs total in 234's and 150's Jurisdiction. They started this work on February 12, 2021 in Illinois. This project will consist of three crews and a total of 6 Operators. For Distribution work we had Q-3, KS Energy, as well as Contracting and Material (Meade) working through the winter.

Local 234 just pre-jobbed a windmill blade replacement project with RMS. They will be looking for approximately 21 Operators. They have seven sites plus a lay down yard. This project is expected to take two months total. We also have seen our Building contractors put a few more Operators on this year already. Dirt contractors are slow currently because of the weather, but this is expected in Iowa in early spring.

Work that could happen during the first part of the season is the fly ash reclamation for Alliant Energy at the Ottumwa Powerhouse, and possibly a project in Marshalltown at the gas Powerhouse. We also should see more work going on at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames this spring. We should also see a few large sewer projects around central Iowa. Work is starting to look better every week as we get closer to spring good. Have a safe season and please remember to keep on the out of work list if you're not working.



City of Des Moines Members attending the contract ratification meeting: L to R: Chad Hedlund, Carl Priest, Scott Heston, Robert Chapman and Gennaro Cataldo



Brother Kalob Westercamp operates a rubber tire back hoe 590 for Contracting & Material



Brother Michael Garcia with the new service truck that he will be operating for Baker Electric



Brother Shane Herr prepping for a basement dig for Elder



Brother Kyle Judge and Brother Chris Shilhanek at the new Metro Waste Authority building in Grimes

DISTRICT II



BRIAN VASKE
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

Work in District II has been on the slower side this winter due to weather and projects being canceled or put on hold due to Covid-19. However, local contractors in the District II area actually have a good amount of work to start the season. There is everything on the books from street reconstruction, utilities work to building work and gas distribution. It also looks that there will be more projects to be bid

the Emmetsburg job when the weather warms up. There has been mention of some other potential wind projects but as of now, that is just rumors. The University of Iowa Hospital was planning on doing a large project in North Liberty but the State of Iowa Health Facilities Council denied the project. The University can reapply for the project later in 2021.

There has been a lot of talk about the Soo Line Transmission project in northeast Iowa. The latest the Local heard was that the project should start in early 2022. Remember to check in once every 30 days to stay on the out of work list.

Local 234 has been in negotiations with public groups and the contracts should all be settled in the near future.

in the summer of 2021.

As of now, Windfarm work currently appears it will be slower in 2021. Mortenson will have clean up to finish at



Chickasaw County roads Members at a contract ratification meeting



Brother Members JJ Hefel, Tony Jasper and Trevor Gotto working at the new pet food factory for Portzen Construction in Dubuque



Brother Derek Emerson working at the Phoenix Crane shop



Brother Keith Woods operates a John Deere 85 g excavator for B.G. Brecke digging up a sewer line in Cedar Rapids

DISTRICT III



SPENCER YOCKEY
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

Despite the winter weather being decent up until February, the Building contractors have been a little slower than last winter. However, spring is looking up for our workload. DM Steel has picked up a school project and Davis Erection will be starting one soon. Klinger will be bidding on the new 50-million-dollar Law Enforcement Center in

Sioux City in March, and my hope is they will be successful. Klinger also has a few smaller projects starting this spring. Work for Barnhart Crane has been steady weather permitting. They have been manning up this winter for more wind turbine maintenance along with the day trade work for this season. Barnhart and Patriot Crane are both currently working on the demo of Unit 2 at the powerhouse near Salix. Ames Construction will soon be starting on the second of three seasons on the fly ash pond closure in Council Bluffs. Ames also picked

up the DOT work for the I29-480 interchange in Council Bluffs.

Work in Council Bluffs looks to be very busy this season with Mortenson soon starting more work at the Google facility. As of now the Local has not had a pre-job for wind turbine work. We will hopefully know more soon, however contractors have been asking for wage/fringe rates – so it looks positive for this season.

Stationary contract negotiations are currently underway for the Public Sector groups which include City's, County Roads, Schools, Colleges and Hospitals. Contract Negotiations also have been ongoing for the Local REC groups Cornbelt Power and Calhoun County.

Keep yourself on the out of work list as the work will be starting soon. Also utilize the Training Site for needed certifications. OSHA 10 is going to be required on more of these projects moving forward. Hope to see you at the General Membership Meeting on March 27th at the Des Moines Hall.



Calhoun County Local 234 Members: L to R: Ben Wiederin, Doug LeMonds, Steward Chad Krukow, Jared Kuhlers and Reid Galloway

Cornbelt Power Local 234 Members at the opening proposal meeting



Brother Ian Schmidt, truck driver/rigger, Brother Matt Rasco operates a 75 ton assist crane, Brother Pat Radke operates a 900 ton liebherr and Brother Tyler Palmer, mechanic, for Barnhart Crane wind turbine maintenance near Fort Dodge



Brother Members doing wind turbine maintenance near Primghar for Wilkerson Crane: L to R: Sean Richardson, Frank Thompson, Ken Hughes and Nate Corbin

Sioux City Schools negotiation committee: L to R: Steward Jarrod Solomon, Steve Hammer and Jim Navrkal



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.**



Brother Braxton Thompson operates a rt crane for ACE Construction at the Clive public safety facility



Brother Casey O'Dell operates a T700 setting material for the roofers at the Days Inn on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines

ORGANIZING

2020 has come and gone with many struggles for all of us. Although a lot of Members still had a busy and good year, I am certain everyone faced new challenges.

The Local had a career fair canceled, as well as meetings and training canceled or postponed for various reasons but mostly due to Covid-19. A lot of jobs were pushed back, and new policies put in place. We also saw several jobs temporarily shut down due to someone being sick on a job site. This is a new situation for all of us, and we are all learning together as to what is appropriate to keep all workers safe while getting the work done.

We did have three informational pickets in 2020. On two of these pickets, we did have the 15' tall rat along, which always catches a lot of attention, as well as signs and Local 234 banners. We will continue to monitor sites and there will be more pickets to come.

We continue to deal with organizing opportunities as they arise, but also continue to dig for them as well. Things seem to be loosening up a little. I have been working through my list and we are making some head-

way in scheduling meetings and sitting down with potential new to the Union contractors, explaining what Local 234 has to offer. We will continue to talk to Operators that work for non-union contractors to either get them in the fold, or help them organize the contractor they're working for -- it all translates to a larger Union market share. I would like to hear from anyone that may have a lead to an organizing opportunity, and would appreciate any possible leads.

We are still on-hold as far as the career fairs go. I guess like with everything else, time will tell when it is safe and appropriate.



TREVOR BINDEL
ORGANIZER



Brother Joel Macken operates a 160 ton Kobelco setting Precast for Northwest Steel Erection at a warehouse in Grimes.

OFFICE & FINANCE



TRACY PETERSEN
TREASURER & OFFICE
MANAGER

The Local had a good year financially in 2020. Although it wasn't as strong as the several years before it, it was definitely nothing to be disappointed with. The independent auditors are currently working on the annual audit of the Local's books. A complete synopsis of the Local's finances will be given at the General Membership meeting on March 27th.

The Central Pension Fund's Annual Funding statement will be made available in just a couple of months from now. As of February 1, 2019, the most recent full plan year available, the CPF had a Funded Percentage of 97.5%. With the accrual rate increase from 1.25% to 1.75% for contributions made on or after April 1, 2020, it was projected that the Plan's Funded Percentage will decrease by 1%. It will be interesting to see what the Funded Percentage actually did, but regardless I assure you that the Board of Trustees of the CPF keep a close eye on all aspects of the health of the Plan. The goal has always been to maximize benefits while keeping

unnecessary risks to a minimum. I believe this should be a great comfort to all Participants, whether active or retired.

Local 234 is hoping to get back to being able to have a little fun as soon as possible. When holding things like the Family Picnic or the Retiree's Picnic is safe again, all Members will be notified.

Just a couple of things I want to remind you of –

PLEASE.....

- 1) keep your address and phone number current with the Union.
- 2) keep your Qualifications Register up to date.
- 3) keep your name current on the out of work list when you are laid-off
- 4) if you don't understand something, please call the office, or your agent or ask a question at a meeting

Each Member is another set of eyes and ears for the Union. If you hear or see something that is not in the best interest of the Local, please contact the Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES



Edward Dick	12-1-19	Donald Vaske	9-1-20
Dennis Brockhaus	1-1-20	Martin White	9-1-20
William Donohoe	4-1-20	Charles R. Smith	11-1-20
Cindy Green	7-1-20	Steven Hoffman	12-1-20
Mark Huddleson	7-1-20	Michael Johnson	12-1-20
Steven Nielsen	7-1-20	John Chop	1-1-21
Tim Selby	8-1-20	George Storm	1-1-21
Bart Bollie	9-1-20	Kelly Wenck	1-1-21
Michael Stoy	9-1-20		

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

This has definitely been an interesting training season due to the Covid-19 pandemic and safety guidelines issued by the State of Iowa. The training site implemented additional safety protocols to protect Members and staff which have worked well. The training staff has done a remarkable job to ensure everyone followed those guidelines which help ensure the Members received the training they needed for this next season. I truly appreciate the patience and understanding from the Members this year that attended training at the site.

Construction of the new training center building is progressing. If things continue on schedule, we should be able to move in to the new building around middle to late march. Although the rebuilding process has taken longer than anyone of us would like, the new training facility will be one that can meet the Members training requirements for many years to come.

The International Training Fund has provided additional equipment this year. We received a John Deere dozer and excavator for Members to use. Along with those machines, they provided two equipment simulators.

The International Training site continues to offer training courses for Members as well. Their list of training courses are listed on www.iuoe.org

NCCCO has implemented a new way for Members to register for the written CCO test that the training fund offers twice a year. Members will still need to contact the training site before a test so they can get the correct written test registration information. If you have any questions or need assistance registering please contact us.

The 2021 construction season is quickly approaching so I would like to remind everyone to double check the expiration dates on your certifications so you are ready for work and opportunities. I hope everyone stays safe and has a busy 2021 construction season.



RYAN HOLLINRAKE
APPRENTICESHIP
COORDINATOR



Apprentice Tyler Sylvester operating a crane at the Local 234 Training site

Published by Local 234 of the
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

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit NO. 2029

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