

ENGINEERS NEWS

LOCAL 234

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 2
SEPTEMBER 2021

If you build it...



...they will come!

HEY.....You.

Yea.....You.

Are you jeopardizing your right to make a self-pay for your Health & Welfare insurance?

Are you jeopardizing your unemployment benefits?

You could be if you don't know the out-of-work list rules.

Do you know the rules? Even if you think you do, please read them again!

- 1) You must have your name on the out-of-work list if you are laid off.....EVEN IF you believe you will be returning to work for your previous employer.
- 2) You must check in at least once every 30-days to remain on the list. Your name will be dropped on the 31st day.
- 3) In order to put your name on the out-of-work list you can:
 - Call the Des Moines office – 515-265-1657
 - Email the Des Moines office – office@Local234.com
 - Check-in at the Des Moines office in person
 - Call your Business Rep
 - Log-on to the website (Local234.com) and check-in through the 'Members Only' section
 - Mark 'yes' for the out-of-work list on the sign-in sheet at a Union meeting
- 4) You must be on the out-of-work list in order to make a self-pay for Health & Welfare.
- 5) You must be on the out-of-work list for unemployment benefits. If the unemployment office does an audit on you, and you are not on the list, the office will not lie. This may lead to you having to pay back your unemployment benefits.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



JASON COPPLE
BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

A slow start to this spring has turned into a busy summer, with a strong looking fall ahead. We have seen a slow-down in wind turbine work this season because the tax credit wasn't signed until late last fall and power companies were not ordering new turbines or turbine parts until it was signed. When the tax credits were finally signed, everything was on backorder from the 2020 Covid shutdown. We are starting to

see some new projects being talked about for next year but the supply chain may still play a factor in those projects as well.

We are unfortunately still dealing with issues with the new Local 234 office in Des Moines. Neumann and their subcontractors started a three-week project around the 1st of June to fix issues with water leaks around windows, and its not finished yet. The latest promise is that the project will be buttoned up by the General Membership meeting. Last year we had to move out of the building into job trailers in the parking lot because issues with the floor. If I had to find a bright spot with the current work, I'd say that being able to continue to work in our building this time around is it.

We moved into our new building at the Training Site this spring. The rebuild has been a long process but well worth it in the end. We now have more classroom area, more shop area, a bigger winter building, and the facility is just all-round better suited for today's training. Make sure and watch for the training newsletter around Thanksgiving and sign up for any classes that you may need. Our training facility is really something to be proud of, so please take advantage of what it has to offer.

With the Covid issue still front and center around the country, please be respectful when talking to other people about it. No matter what you believe to be the truth about Covid and the masks and the shutdowns – we have lost Members and some Members have lost family Members to Covid. We can all have our opinions and beliefs, without a fight or argument about it. Make sure you stay updated on the out of work list if you're not working. Please call the agent that put you to work when you get laid off. The agent that put you to work needs to know when you're done because there may be a traveler on the same job that needs to go home first.

The fall 2021 General Membership meeting will be held on September 25th at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Des Moines Hall and we will be having lunch/beverages after. I hope to see a lot of Members there.

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.

Front Cover: Brother Joe Lawler operates a Terex Crane and Brother Jim Rowan rigs loads for A-1 Crane in Dyersville, Iowa at the Field of Dreams. The Chicago White Sox and the New York Yankees played a regular season game in Dyersville, Iowa, at the site of the beloved 1989 baseball movie, Field of Dreams, on Thursday, August 12, 2021. "MLB at Field of Dreams" marked the first Major League game ever held at the fan-favorite movie location as well as in the State of Iowa.



JURISDICTION WIDE



NICK NORTON
EXECUTIVE BOARD
DISTRICT II AND
ASSISTANT BUSINESS
MANAGER

Our Members have been enjoying a heavier workload since mid summer, after a little bit of a slow start to the 2021 season. Our grading, utility and building contractors have had steady work so far this season, and our crane services are seeing an increased workload in the last couple of months. We have a few ongoing wind projects and have recently started a large repower job that will continue through the winter and into the latter part of next season. Local

234 has also been receiving calls from contractors asking for wage/fringe rates for several projects set to start next season.

We have had promising meetings with non-union contractors and employees about signing Agreements with Local 234. We will be following up with them in the coming weeks and months as we work to expand Local 234's market share and create more opportunities for our Members.

On our stationary side, 12 opening letters were sent in August with nine of them requiring a recertification vote. By recertifying through PERB, the



Brothers Brandon Spicer and Dustin Choplick erect Coonrod's newly purchased GMK 7550

groups are stating they want Local 234 to continue to be their bargaining representative. Once they do recertify, the agents will set up meetings to gather proposals for another round of contract negotiations.

With a good outlook for upcoming work, and contractors and their customers requiring more and more training certificates, I urge Members to utilize our training site to keep their skills sharp and keep certifications up to date.



Brothers Mike Bower operating a motor grader for Mortenson on the Pomeroy repower job



Brothers Brandon Zinser, Brad Bulanda and Michael Whitters demoing the Transamerica building in Cedar Rapids for Zinser Wrecking

UPCOMING PIPELINE CLASSES

October & November 2021

Please sign up for classes by visiting www.local234.com where you will find a quick link to the International's website for review of the training schedule and to register.



Maniotowoc MLC 650 loaded on Fagiolio transport on Mortenson's repower project near Palmer

MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership Meeting:
September 25, 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: 2nd Tuesday
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

It's hard to believe that the year is more than half over and it's time for the fall newsletter. It has been a very strange season. The weather has been nice to us as far as work goes for the most part. Work on various data center's have been good for our Operators again this season and should be good the rest of the year. Work in the West Des Moines area is very busy with Des Moines University building a new campus,

the Mid American sports complex just about wrapped up and the Microsoft project starting their next phase just west of the very first phase. There has been a lot of work going on around the Jordan Creek Mall also. We have also seen a lot of jobs going on in the Altoona area this season partially due to a boom in Commercial warehouses. Other work in the Altoona area was the erection starting at Facebook on their next phase, Marzetti Frozen Pasta had a good size remodel job and Terrace Hills Golf Course had a lot of work done this season also. Amazon has started remodeling another warehouse in Ankeny for their distribution center.

Ryan Central is working on the Fly Ash Pond at the powerhouse in Chillicothe. This project will last late into 2022. Alliant is still planning a project in Marshall-

town for later this season. There has been only one new sewer plant project start this season, which is in Nevada. The Indianola sewer plant project, which began last year, will go into 2022; and the Perry sewer plant project is planned for next year.

Pipeline work has been a little slower than in recent years. We had NPL start and finish up two projects this year, and DAPL had work on their compressor station in Cambridge. We may be asking for help from Members regarding a carbon capture pipeline that is proposed to cross Iowa. Writing letters and attending county meetings to show support for the project will be vital in getting this project from the proposed status to the go status.

We have some stationary groups that will be going through recertification voting in October. We will get the bargaining cycle started after these units recertify.

Please call to get on the out of work list if you are or get laid off. Also, please take some of your down time to do some certification classes and upgrade training. The class schedule will be mailed late this fall, be sure to get signed up for the classes you want to take ASAP.



Brandenburg Industrial demoing stacks at Cargill in Des Moines

Elder working on the Douglas street project in NE Des Moines between East 42nd and East 56th



Six Crane Service purchased a new Demag AC220-5 this Spring



Brothers Kalob Westercamp and Chad Shoemaker at the VA demo job in Knoxville for Veit

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

Richard Greenough	September 13, 2020	23 year Member
Merle Marshall	September 19, 2020	50 year Member
Richard Sykora	December 22, 2020	14 year Member
Edward Bohr	December 24, 2020	42 year Member
Ronald Johnson	January 15, 2021	42 year Member
Lavern Tinkey	March 11, 2021	51 year Member
Mike Walton	March 18, 2021	31 year Member
Richard Honomichl	April 9, 2021	57 year Member
Jack Willett	April 10, 2021	37 year Member
Wayne Tauke	May 19, 2021	44 year Member
Bobby Hazen	May 21, 2021	40 year Member
Dean Johnson	June 1, 2021	52 year Member
Eric Lysinger	June 11, 2021	22 year Member
Benjamin Huber	June 14, 2021	42 year Member
Jerry Bonefas	June 24, 2021	20 year Member
Chris Hefel	July 28, 2021	42 year Member
Randolph Page	August 1, 2021	46 year Member
Dan Morton	August 14, 2021	48 year Member

DISTRICT II



BRIAN VASKE
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

Work in the District 2 area has been busy with site prep, street reconstruction, utilities and demo projects. Building work is on the slower side primarily because some have been pushed back due to supply issues. I was told by one contractor that it's 6 to 9 month wait to get structural steel. Contractors are also saying they are starting to see delays on pipe for water main and sewer projects. Crane barns in the area

have been steady most of the year and are starting to get busy with plant work to be done before winter. White Construction is doing wind farm work in Audubon. They are close to having the foundation work done, and the turbine parts will soon start arriving on site. The target is

to be topped out around the end of November.

Contractors have been calling for wage rates for projects that will potentially start next year and they are saying there will be a lot of work in the area in 2022. The public sector stationary unit recertification elections are in October. Soon after the recertifications happen, we will begin taking proposals, followed by negotiations. We will also be negotiating with the Dubuque Racing Association (Q Casino) and the University of Dubuque.

Training season will be here before we know it so check your certifications. Upgrading training is always a good idea to hone your skills – it will only make you more employable. When you are laid off, please remember to stay on the out of work list. By doing this, it makes you eligible to make self pays for insurance and will not affect your unemployment.



Brother Kyle Jones operates a Liebherr LR 1300 setting storage modules and Brother Chase Schaller, oiler, for Sarens at the Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant in Palo



Brother Lee Muldoon operates a Grove GMK 6300L 350 ton for Barnhart at the Iowa Reality Building in Cedar Rapids



Brothers Ben Brecht and Nick Klein work for B.G. Brecke on a sub drain project in Marion

Brother Jamie Gaherty operates a Volvo loader for River City Stone at a quarry in rural Dubuque County



Brother Lee Muldoon operates a Grove GMK 6300L 350 ton for Barnhart at the Iowa City at the University of Iowa Hospital



DISTRICT III



SPENCER YOCKEY
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

It's turned out to be a good work season for Local 234 Members. At this time, contractors are ramped up for the fall rush and still requesting Operators. Klinger is currently working on the Sabre Industries expansion along with the river front project as well as some smaller jobs. DM Steel has a new school project and is steady in the area. Barnhart Crane remains busy with multiple shutdowns

project in Sac County along with the dirt on another repower project which is on three separate sites in the state. Fagiolio was on site to assist with the crane moves on Mortenson's repower project which sped up the tear downs and reduced crane walks.

Wilkerson Crane is down to one crew in Iowa due to parts availability issues. Q-3 remains to be busy in the District #3 area and has been hiring more Operators. Brandenburg Industrial is working on a demo project at the powerhouse in Council Bluffs. Veit has begun a landfill expansion in Cherokee County. Bluroc is working on access roads for a transmission line project near Audubon.

The Stationary contracts were opened in August for contract negotiations. Recertification elections for the stationary groups will be starting soon. Hope to see you at the General Membership Meeting [on September 25th](#) at the Des Moines Hall.

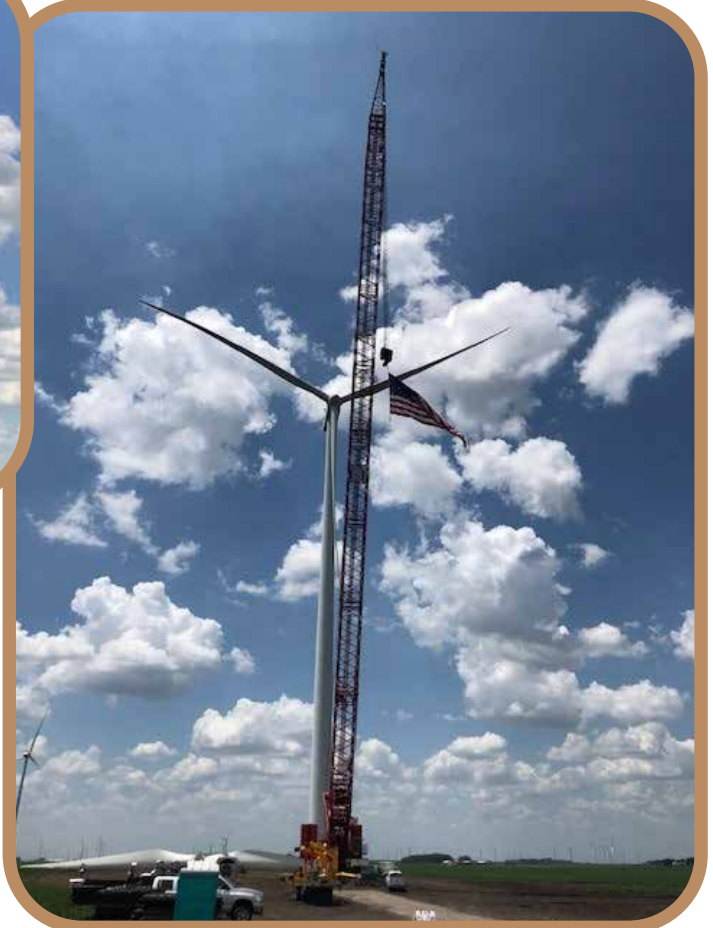
and curb service along with wind turbine maintenance.

Ames Construction is currently working on two 3-year projects, one at the I-29/I-480 interchange in Council Bluffs and the other is the fly ash pond closure at the powerhouse. Mortenson has finished the repower project near Palmer and is transitioning to the new erection



Local 234 Members working at the Fly Ash Pond closure for Ames Construction

Brothers Dave Dale, Mike Petry, Levi Dolch and Joe Hudspeth standing on the Manitowoc MLC 690 at the Mortenson repower project in Palmer.



Brothers Brandon Nelsen, Rod Rogers and Mike Petry at the Mortenson repower project in Palmer



Union Steward Jason French at the Mortenson repower project in Palmer



Brother Doug Friend at the new erection project for Mortenson in Sac County

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 local to ensure your health and welfare funds are transferred back to your 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 Dan Pulver and Apprentice Josh Newby at the Thirty Seven Fifty on Grand Condos project for Neumann



Brothers Kyle Wahlert, Brice Mitchell and Jeremiah Brown at the Indianola Waste Water Treatment Plant for Williams Brothers

ORGANIZING

2021 has been another busy season with a good amount of work all across the state. The Local continues to make contact with non-union contractors that we haven't spoken with before, as well as looping back around to some that we have talked with in the past. Our goals include getting the word out about the benefits of becoming signatory with Local 234 for companies and their Operators.

Our Local, along with five other surrounding Locals, and the International have joined forces for a large campaign on a company that is from 234's jurisdiction and has grown enough to push into other Local's jurisdictions. There have been several in-person meetings and conference calls to form strategies. We will continue to work together to try to organize this very large company.

We have also met again with an underground utility company interested in becoming a signatory contractor. They came with several questions, and appeared excited about the information provided to them. This could potentially be in the neighborhood of 50 new Members. We met with this company a year ago and again in August of this year. That is one thing I've quickly learned about my job as an Organizer – what I work on now

may not pan-out right now, but there's a chance it can later. Perseverance is important.

Another company we have met with recently is a company that primarily does grading. The owner of this company scheduled a meeting where we sat down with employees to explain the benefits of being an IUOE Local 234 Member. From the feedback we received there is interest from the employees. This could potentially bring in 20 new Members.

Local 234 also continues to visit with and strip Operators from non-union companies that have made it clear they are not interested in becoming a Union company. If any of you know someone that is a good Operator or has good potential with some experience, please let the Local know a name and contact information and we will reach out to them, line-up an evaluation at the Training Site, and get them going in a good career direction.



TREVOR BINDEL
ORGANIZER



Apprentice Lane Bindel fills in on the 165 ton lattice boom crawler for Northwest



McAninch crews at the new Microsoft project on Booneville Road in West Des Moines

OFFICE & FINANCE



TRACY PETERSEN
TREASURER & OFFICE
MANAGER

A widely known fact is that unemployment benefits won't make anyone rich. However, most will agree they do help smooth out lay-off periods. It's important that you don't forget that you must be on the out of work list if you are drawing unemployment benefits. The Iowa Workforce Development, as well as other states' unemployment offices, randomly perform audits on individuals that are claiming benefits. They will

contact the Local if you have not ed in your claim that you are a Union Member, and take advantage of not having to do work searches. The questions they ask are consistent: 1) is this person a Member in good standing? 2) is this person on the out-of-work list? 3) when did this person place themselves on the out-of-work list? 4) what are your Union's reporting requirements.

This office cannot and will not lie to the unemployment offices for anyone for a very important and simple reason.....to protect the Membership's right as a whole to not have to perform the typically required two work searches a week. There are multiple ways to make sure

your name is on the out-of-work list. If you have questions, please refer to the inside cover of his Newsletter. If your questions are not answered there – please contact our office and all of your questions will be answered.

For Members that are buying a house, doing a refi, buying a car or any other reason that you will need a verification of employment, please remember that the Local cannot verify anything other than your Membership information. The office is receiving more and more verification of employment forms. With lenders sending them here first, it is actually slowing down approvals. To add to the confusion, it seems that many lenders do not understand how Unions work, which is truly sad. The simple things like overtime pay, the weekend, safety protocols weren't just a gift from employers. Union's and most importantly, Union Members, fought long and hard for what is now mostly just taken for granted.

The Local will be holding pension meetings this winter. All Members that are active participants in the Central Pension Fund will be mailed notices. These meetings are good for everyone, not just those that are close to retirement. These meetings are helpful on many levels including hearing the answers to questions that other Members ask. It's also important to note that Members may bring their significant other with them.

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES



Terry Beavers	8-1-20	Robert Snyder	2-1-21
Lester Kane	11-1-20	Jim Wetzel	3-1-21
Robert Diers	12-1-20	Richard Evans, Jr.	4-1-21
Brian Buchholz	1-1-21	Dennis Heitkamp	4-1-21
Paul Chatman	1-1-21	Kurtis Kurschinski	6-1-21
Kenneth Leslein	1-1-21	Jerome Kutsch	6-1-21
Dennis Wieser	1-1-21		

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

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 128 apprentices working. We are anticipating and gearing up for large numbers for classroom certifications and machine training again this winter training season.

Construction of the new Training Site building is completed. We are all moved in and definitely enjoying the new facility. While the double-wide classroom trailers served us well the past two years, it was a welcome sight to see them leave. The new building is a very nice facility, I have no doubt it will meet the Members' needs for many years to come.

With building reconstruction completed, the Training Fund was again able to update equipment this year. A new CAT D5 dozer with the Trimble earthworks GPS for Member training was purchased. The International Training Fund will be providing additional equipment this training season. This fall we look forward to receiving a John Deere dozer and excavator for Members to use.

I know it may not seem like it but training season will be here before you know it. We are already working on the class schedule and newsletter. The training newsletter should arrive to Members around Thanksgiving. Please look it over and get signed up early for classes. Members have the option to sign up for courses online under the 'Members only' section of www.loacl234.com, by mail, or by calling the training center. Our telephone number is 641-942-7112.

You need to keep your credentials up to date, and add the ones you don't have to make yourself more employable. Please take the opportunities afforded to you as Members, I look forward to seeing you all this training season.



RYAN HOLLINRAKE
APPRENTICESHIP
COORDINATOR



New Cat D5 dozer purchased by the training fund



Apprentice Zane Hatfield operates a dozer and checks grade for Elder Corporation

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

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Financial Secretary—515-265-1657

Nick Norton—Assistant Business
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Portable & Hoisting:

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Des Moines—515-265-1657

District II—

Brian Vaske, Business
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Cedar Rapids—319-396-2050
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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