

ENGINEERS NEWS LOCAL 234



VOLUME 58, NUMBER 1

MARCH 2024

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 and be a Member in good standing for unemployment benefits. If the unemployment office does an audit on you, and you are not on the list or not in good standing, the office will not lie. This may lead to you having to pay back your unemployment benefits.

**SAVE
THE DATE**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17th	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

RETIREE'S PICNIC JULY 17, 2024



Front Cover: Brother Casey O'Dell putting the Tower Crane together that he will operate for US Crane & Equipment at the Des Moines Airport on the new parking ramp

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



JASON COPPLE
BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

We finished 2023 strong, mostly due to the mild start to winter. A lot of contractors were able to finish up projects. Some contractors have started projects that were scheduled to begin in spring. Let's hope the nice weather we have seen the last month continues so that everyone can get back to work early this spring.

We saw some changes to the rules for unemployment compensation last year during the legislative session that hurt a lot of our Members. The maximum number of weeks a person can draw unemployment was cut from 26 weeks down to 16. That may work in the southern states, but in the Midwest, where winter can bring more than 16 weeks of freezing temperatures, it just does not work. When the law first passed, the Union and non-union contractors were actually working together to figure out how to get the construction industry exempt from the new laws, but with the Governor announcing that the rate the employers pay for unemployment will be going down, all of a sudden the contractors want to wait and see how that affects them. If that doesn't put it into perspective, I don't know what will. This year at the capitol, we are seeing another attack on the public employees that could make the Unions take the public employers to court if the employers don't turn employee lists into PERB for election purposes. Currently, those groups that don't turn in employee lists support Unions, and want their employees to be in a Union. I believe this possible new law will undoubtedly threaten Union and employer relationships.

Like you've heard me say in every newsletter, Health and Welfare expenses are continuing to go up, but our Fund continues to remain healthy. The prescription drug costs continue to be a huge expense and seem to be out of control. The Health and Welfare Board is still looking for a health program to replace

the yearly physicals that we lost when Health Dynamics went out of business. Like I said above, our Fund remains healthy, and a lot of that has to do with the use of generic prescription drugs as well as the Doctor-on-Demand program. Quite a few trades have had to take up to a dollar or more of their wages over the last year to keep their health plans financially healthy, and I don't ever want to be forced to tell the Local 234 Membership that we have to do that. The continued decisions by the Membership to put 10 or 15 cents towards our health plan every year should prevent that moving forward.

The Apprenticeship and Training Site continues to improve with new equipment and new classes offered for the Membership to train on and stay updated on certifications. Some of the remote training classes that the instructors have been doing are offered multiple times throughout the training season. I'm not saying that they won't continue to travel, but sometimes the timing of the travel presents problems. Our International Training Site in Crosby, Texas continues to offer classes that we do not, so if you don't see something on our schedule, please check the International Training Site. The International will pay for transportation, lodging, and meals for any classes offered.

The Local, along with the Apprenticeship and Training Site, have been working on updating our Membership management software for the last six months. Part of the software makes the out-of-work list live, which is a great benefit to the agents while dispatching Members to work. With that being said, it's very important to fill out a new qualifications register, and keep your certifications updated. This helps to ensure your name comes up when the agents are searching the system.

I hope to see a large attendance at the General Membership meeting at the Des Moines Hall on March 30th at 11:00 a.m., and please remember to stay updated on the out-of-work list if you are not working.

JURISDICTION WIDE



NICK NORTON
EXECUTIVE BOARD
DISTRICT II AND
ASSISTANT BUSINESS
MANAGER

The 2024 season is looking to be another busy one for the Members of Local 234. We have several ongoing projects that kept Members working through winter, and there are many more projects set to kick off this spring. Another good sign for the upcoming work season is that we have had several contractors reaching out to us for upcoming manpower needs.

I am hoping by the time you read this newsletter, we will have begun to negotiate our Districts 1 and 3 Building Agreements that will be ending their 3-year terms on April 30th. We have also been negotiating wages for our Energy Agreement under a wage opener. As we reach tentative agreements for each of these CBAs, Members will be voting whether to ratify, and also how to breakdown the increases to

wages/Health & Welfare/pension/etc. after ratification. If you wish to have a say in whether the open Building Agreements are ratified and/or where raises are allocated to, please make sure your dues are current and attend the pertinent District Membership meeting. The Energy Agreement will be voted at all District meetings.

We have also been negotiating several of our open Stationary Agreements around the state and are bringing them back to the Members of these groups for ratification.

Organizing is a cornerstone of the Labor movement, and we are constantly out talking to non-Members and non-union contractors in our Industry about the advantages of working Union. It is every Member's duty to promote Local 234, and it is our skilled Members that attract new contractors to sign an agreement with OUR Local. If you know of any people interested in a career in our Industry, please get them in touch with a Local agent to have them lined up with an evaluation at the Training Site.

If you travel out of Local 234's jurisdiction for work, you must clear in with the Local which has jurisdiction over where you will be working. Members not clearing in and getting caught working in other jurisdictions has been an ongoing issue. By clearing in, you stay in the good graces of our sister Locals. It also ensures your benefits can be transferred back to Local 234, which in turn keeps you eligible for insurance, and keeps your pension growing.

With the spring construction season seemingly getting an early start, make sure to stay updated on the out-of-work list so the agents know you are available for work. Also, it's important for your future to make sure to utilize the Training Site to keep your skills sharp and certifications up to date.

Brother Laine Henry operates a Cat 395 for Granite
Excavating in Waukee



Brother Kyle Nikkel operates a Grove Crane for U.S. Crane & Equipment at Grinnell College



Brother John Emerson and Brother Chad Emerson operate the cranes, while Brother Jesse Roscovious and Apprentice applicants Tate Seichter and Devin Myhr handle the rigging for Emerson Crane Service removing a locomotive for Iowa Northern Railroad



Manitowac Crane set up and ready to begin drilling auger cast piles on the SLN6 Google Project in Council Bluffs



Brother Jerry Copple operates a boom truck for Barnhart Crane & Rigging installing a new truck stop sign in Holstein

MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership Meeting:
March 30, 2024 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

Stationary Meetings:
Sioux City Schools: 3rd Tuesday of
Each Month September through May

All Others: As Scheduled

2024							May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
			1	2	3	4							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
26	27	28	29	30	31								

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
FAMILY FUN DAY
MAY 5, 2024

MORE DETAILS TO COME...

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

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.

QUALIFICATIONS REGISTER



Date: _____

Name: _____ Local No: _____

Address: _____ Social Security #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Last Employer: _____ Phone Number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please read: the following information will be used for referrals for work. Mark only the Certifications/Licenses that you have obtained and Equipment that you can operate proficiently enough for referral purposes. Do NOT misrepresent yourself! It is your responsibility to keep the office up to date on the following information:

Certifications/Licenses	Expiration	Equipment/Classes	Years of Experience
<input type="checkbox"/> CDL	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Tack Drill	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> CDL w/ Hazmat	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Distributor Truck	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> CDL w/ Tanker	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Milling Machine	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Pump - Certified	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Paver	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Crane - Certified	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Roller Breakdown	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Articulating Boom	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Roller Finish	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Cab	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Screed	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lattice Boom	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bending Machine	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Overhead	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Boring Machine	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Swing Cab	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Box Blade	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tower	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Broom	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid/CPR	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Caisson Rig	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Flagger – Traffic Control	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cat & Scraper	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Forklift - Certified	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Clam	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rotary Forklift	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Coating Machine	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Rotary Forklift	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Belt Truck	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> HAZWOPER	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Breaker	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> HazMat	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete CMI Subgrader	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> OSHA 10 Hour	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Crusher	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> OSHA 30 Hour	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Finish Machine	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> MSHA	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Grout Pump	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Badge	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Milling Machine	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Rigger	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Paver	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Signal Person	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Plant	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> TWIC	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Pump	_____

<input type="checkbox"/> Deck Hand	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Off Road Hauler	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Directional Drill	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavement Breaker	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Ditching Machine	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pile Driver	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dozer - Finish	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pipe Layer	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dozer - Rough	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pipeline Oiler	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dragline	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Powder Man	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Endloader - Rubber	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Push Cat	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Endloader – Track - Finish	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Roller Sheepsfoot	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Endloader – Track - Rough	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Rotary Mixer/Road Reclaimer	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineer on Dredge	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Boat	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm Tractor	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Screed	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Finish Machine	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sideboom - Track	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Group Greaser	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sideboom – Rubber Tire	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Haul Modular Trailer		<input type="checkbox"/> Skid Loader	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> self propelled	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Skidder	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> towed	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Switch Locomotive	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hoe Pack	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Trencher	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hoe – Rubber Tire	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Trench & Excavation Safety	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hoe - Track	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tugger	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hoe Vac	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibratory Post Driver	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydro Excavation/Vac Truck	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-flotation Equipment	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Intrusion Piling	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Truck	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Jet Pump	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Welder	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> John Henry	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Winch Truck	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Leverman	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Boat Operator	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> M Scope	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanic	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanic – Owns Rig	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Motor Grader – Finish	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Motor Grader - Rough	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Motor Scraper	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	_____

This statement must be completed and signed: I do not [] do [] want my address, phone number and/or social security number released to any person for any purpose other than for employment referrals.

Member's signature

LOCAL 234 SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Scholarship Committee has announced there will be three (3) Scholarships presented in 2024, each for \$2,500.00

For an application, please contact Local 234 at telephone number 515-265-1657

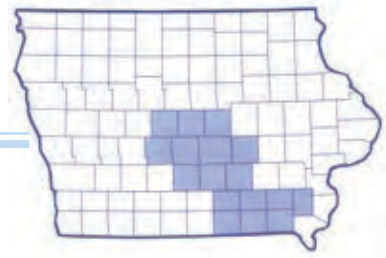
All application packets must be received on or before May 15, 2024.

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

Richard Crall	4-1-23	Jeff Brinkman	11-1-23
Earl Dick	7-1-23	Mark Hauser	11-1-23
Kendel Laughman	7-1-23	Terry Holtry	11-1-23
Mike Hastie	8-1-23	Doug Elliott	12-1-23
Dick Braun	9-1-23	Joseph Christophersen	1-1-24
Casey Brookshire	9-1-23	Steven Hefel	1-1-24
Tim Sieren	9-1-23	Tim Jensen	1-1-24
Tim Skay	9-1-23	John Pearson	1-1-24
Clark Perry	10-1-23	David E. Schuster	1-1-24
Kevin Lemon	10-1-23	Richard Stephen	1-1-24
Russell Snyder	10-1-23	Greg Hersh	3-1-24

Happy Retirement

DISTRICT I & II



CHAD CARTER
VICE PRESIDENT
&
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

It's hard to believe it is time for the typical work season to start kicking off soon, although there are possibilities for this work season to get an early start. This winter has been crazy with the above normal temperatures and us not having snow on the ground a majority of the time.

Of the Stationary units that I handle, we had only one with a wage opener this winter.

We also settled a one-year Agreement with the Des Moines Airport Authority Board.

I don't like to talk about politics, but there is another bill that might be coming out of the Iowa Senate that would have a direct effect on Unions. The bill is SB3158. This bill will require Unions to go to court if a public employer fails to send the employee list in to the State Labor Board – or the group will be decertified. This will cost the Union more money and resources. Please call your State Senator to let them know to stop the attacks on working families.

The Distribution work in Iowa has been slow this winter, which translates into less Members working this type of work than in past winters. I feel that this will change with all of the public projects that are out for bid right now. We also lost the Mid-American restoration and traffic blanket contract this

goaround. Q3 has had this contract for the last several years, but a IBEW Local 55 contractor got the contract. Q3 will move their Operators over to the services side, but it sucks that another craft is claiming this work.

The Pipeline work for this year is looking to be another year of maintenance work. Our contractors don't always get awarded this work unless the non-union contractor gets full, or they mess the job up, then our Union Contractors come in and fix it.

Overall, Building work looks to be very good again for 2024. There is work going on at the Des Moines Airport and we have Operators working at Mercy hospital parking ramp. We also are seeing a good number of commercial warehouses going up, along with a number of school additions.

We have a few Energy, Heavy, Chemical and Heavy Industrial projects going currently, and some more starting throughout March of this year. We have a few Operators working at Cargill in Eddyville. ADM is going to be starting an addition in Des Moines in March. We will see three powerhouse shutdowns starting in late March or early April. We have Mountain Crane doing the demo of four wind turbines also.

Dirt work is already starting to ramp up for the season. There are a few new sewer plant projects that are coming out for bid, or are out for bid now. We are also seeing a good amount of Interstate work out for bid.

There are actually over 150 public projects out for bid in just Polk and surrounding counties. These include State, City, School, DOT and any other that are not let by a private entity. With the all-round workload coming up, I think we have reason to be thankful.



Brother Jacob Dean operates a skidloader for Baker Group at PDM Metals



Brother Casey O'Dell operates a Tower Crane for US Crane & Equipment at the Des Moines Airport on the new parking ramp



Brother Adam Rich operates a Grove 80 ton for NW Steel Erection on an addition at Musco Lighting



Brother Scott Allsup operates a LTM 1160 at a four wind-mill demo project for Mountain Crane in Story County

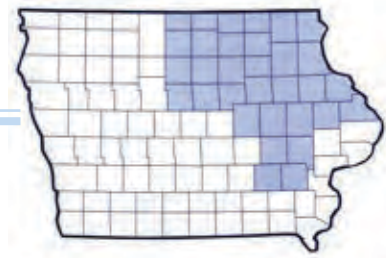


Brother Kyle McCarl operates a 110 Linkbelt for Barnhart at Iowa Ortho Medical Center in Grimes



Brother Nathan Wallerich operates a 65 ton Linkbelt for U.S. Crane & Equipment at Grinnell College

DISTRICT II



BRIAN VASKE
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

Work in District 2 for 2024 should be busy from all indications early in the work season. Local contractors have the majority of Operators back to work already, and most plan to add more to their workforce. Work at the Duane Arnold Solar Farm in Palo continues with Elder, Allied Fence and Cupertino Electric. The project should be complete by November

2024. There is a possibility that more phases of work will roll out, but at this time, no permits have been issued.

Work at the Lansing Mississippi River Bridge continues with Kraemer North America and Tschiggfrie Excavating working on site. Miron is working on five projects in the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids area. There is talk of an eight-building data center coming to Cedar Rapids. The developer is currently in discussions with the City of Cedar Rapids and the State of Iowa for financial incentives. Mountain Crane will be doing a windmill repower project in Franklin County.

Local 234 has settled the Chickasaw County Roads Agreement. Negotiations are continuing with the City

of Dubuque.

As a reminder, most job-sites are requiring First Aid/CPR and OSHA 10. Any sites with cranes are also requiring Signal and Rigging certifications. If you are in need of any of these certifications, please contact the Training Site to inquire about class schedules. Having these oftentimes-mandated certifications will ensure you won't miss out on job opportunities. Also, remember that any time you are laid-off you will need to put your name on the out-of-work list, and check in at least once every 30 days to keep your name on the list. Not putting your name on, or keeping your name updated, on the out-of-work list can cause issues with unemployment and will cause issues with Health & Welfare if you ever need to make a self-pay.

At the February Local 234 Executive Board meeting, the Board discussed the lack of attendance at the Waterloo quarterly meeting. Unfortunately, the last meeting that had enough Members in attendance to have a quorum was in March of 2019. Due to this, effective immediately, the Waterloo quarterly meetings are canceled. However, the Board made their decision very clear that the meetings will be reinstated if there is enough interest from the Membership in the future.



Brothers Josh Krier, Jamie Gaherty and Michael Trautsch working for River City Stone at a quarry in rural Dubuque County



Brother Dustin Helmrichs operates a 68 meter Sany concrete pump truck for Ace Material Placing



Brother Matt McGuire operates a fork lift for Cupertino Electric at the Duane Arnold Solar farm near Palo in Linn County

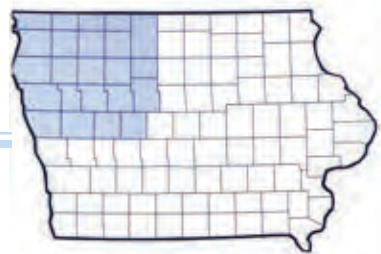


Brother Shawn Ernst operates a tower crane for Northwest Steel at a parking ramp near Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City



Dubuque Area Labor Management award recipients from L to R: Brother Seth White - Tri State Crane; Brother Paul “PJ” Fecht - Portzen Construction; and Brother Joe Lawler - A-1 Crane Rental. Also in attendance Brother Nathan Lucas, Crane manager at A-1 Crane rental.

DISTRICT III



SPENCER YOCKEY
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

The Building contractors remain busy in District 3, with W.A. Klinger and DM Steel continuing their work on the Royal Canin Expansion. Klinger is also working on an addition to the Marriott Convention Center, along with several other smaller projects. DM Steel is currently working on a school addition, an expansion to the Gerkin Windows facility, as

well as a hospital addition in Spencer. contractors, remain busy with wind turbine maintenance, curbside service, and shutdowns. Patriot Crane will be on site for the shutdown at the power house near Sioux City, along with Hayes Mechanical and Brandsafway. National Minerals Corp has been hiring and their work continues at both the Council Bluffs and Sioux City power houses.

We are currently in Stationary negotiations with multiple Public Sector groups, as well as negotiations with the rural electric cooperatives in the area. Most of the negotiations have gone well so far. It also looks like we'll have another busy season on the Hoisting & Portable side.

as well as a hospital addition in Spencer.

Barnhart Crane, along with all the other crane rental



Local 234 Brother Members working for National Mineral Corporation in Council Bluffs from L to R: Ken Marsh, Kirk Mc Sorley, Chris Riggins, Cory Schlup, Matt Farrell and Jacob Gibson



Brother Joey Richters operating for Barnhart Crane and Brother Daniel McLain operates for DM Steel at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City



Crawford County Landfill Members from L to R:
Brother Jeff Schwager, Brother Travis Fink and
Local 234 Applicant Trish Blunk



Brother Mike Britton operates a 200 ton Kobelco crane
for DM Steel at the hospital addition in Spencer



Brother Joe Christophersen operates a Grove 550
ton AT for Barnhart Crane & Rigging at a railroad
bridge project in southern Iowa

Brother Christophersen retired as of December 31,
2023 with over 15 years as a Local 234 Member

Brother John Van Beek operates a rubber tire loader for
National Mineral Corporation at the Salix powerhouse
Brother Van Beek will be retiring at the end of March
2024 with over 13 years as a Local 234 Member



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

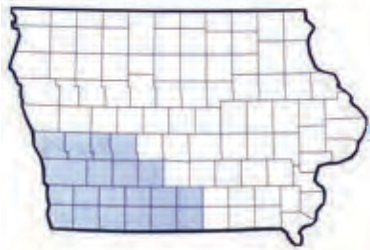
Bruce Payne	August 25, 2023	17 year Member
David T. Fondell	September 24, 2023	64 year Member
Gary Mains	September 25, 2023	56 year Member
Travis Hill	October 14, 2023	7 year Member
Stephen Howard	October 30, 2023	53 year Member
Roger Hamersley	November 14, 2023	33 year Member
Donavon Harrison	November 19, 2023	56 year Member
Wallace Scovel	December 7, 2023	59 year Member
Jasper Hanna	December 8, 2023	55 year Member
Robert Current	January 9, 2024	55 year Member
Jerry Addy	January 11, 2024	47 year Member
David McCoy	January 13, 2024	33 year Member
Mark Carper	February 4, 2024	9 year Member
Allan Lindemoen	February 7, 2024	71 year Member
Tom Bosanco	February 15, 2024	48 year Member



Apprentice Brodie Saville operates a PD10 Pile Driver for Azco at the Solar Farm in Creston



Brother Cirilo Suarez operates a Kobelco Crawler for Topping Out and Brother Mike Petry operates a 1250 Liebherr with 135 main and 145 luffler for Patriot Crane



DISTRICT I & III

Work continues on the SLN 4 Building Project Labor Agreement (PLA) in Council Bluffs. There were several

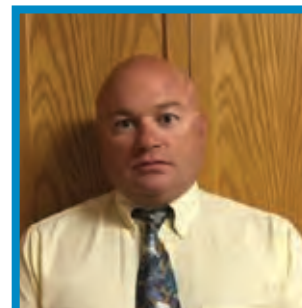
Operators that worked steady throughout the winter months for J.E. Dunn, Barnhart, Patriot, Topping Out d/b/a Davis Erection, Berkel and Global Earthworks. SLN 5 did not have a PLA in place, so only companies signed to a Local 234 Agreement are performing work on Building 5. Local 234, after 2 ½ months of “Shame on J.E. Dunn” bannering, attained a PLA for Building 6 and J.E. Dunn has agreed to talk with the Local about upcoming projects in our jurisdiction, which is a step in the right direction for our Members.

Members have also worked on the IPL Creston Solar Project throughout the winter. On this project, which is a 50-mw solar farm, the underground work should be completed around the beginning of April, and the full project will be completed mid-summer. Rachel will be performing the finish grading.

On the Stationary side of things, we have been working on negotiating open contracts and wage openers.

We are still working to get Iowa Wester Community College’s Agreement settled and have meetings scheduled. The Members employed at SGS have ratified their Agreement and we have a tentative Agreement for the City of Chariton, pending the City Council’s approval.

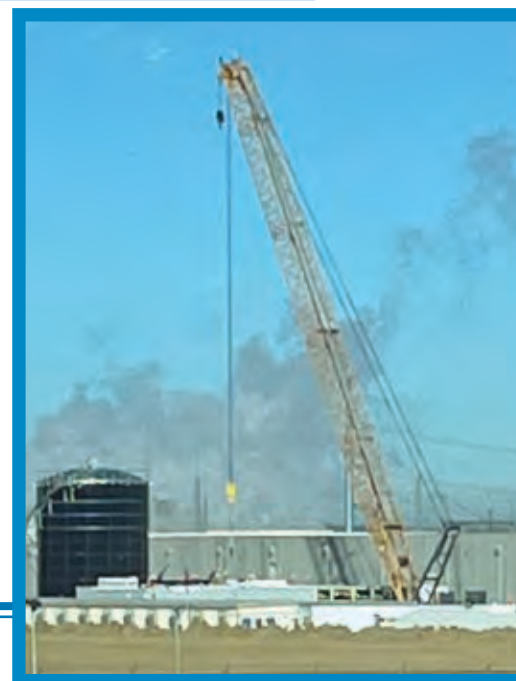
It is vital that all Members fill out a qualification register and keep it updated when you gain a new certification or new skill. This gives the agents better information when putting you to work, and may also provide you with more working opportunities. It is a requirement on a lot of projects to have at least OSHA 10, forklift certification, and to have attended trenching and excavation safety classes. Lastly, when you get laid off, please call the agent that put you to work so your name can be added back to the out of work list.



TREVOR BINDEL
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE /
ORGANIZER



Brother Members Cody Will, Garrett Davis, Tyler Dolch and John Fleenor working for Atlas Crane doing wind maintenance near Creston



Brother Gary Doyle operates a 1300 Liebherr for J.E. Dunn at the SLN4 Google project in Council Bluffs

OFFICE & FINANCE



TRACY PETERSEN
TREASURER & OFFICE
MANAGER

Our International Union has seen a slight uptick in the number of Members, and Local 234's Membership numbers have leveled off after losing some due to the Chapter 20 raid by Iowa Legislators seven or so years ago. With that info – I'd like to provide some other good news: 71% of Americans support Unions (highest level in close to

60 years), 88% of Americans under age 30 support Unions (our future is looking bright), 18% - that's how much more Union workers make in wages than their non-Union counterparts, 90% + Union workers have access to employer-provided health care, while only 68% of the non-Union workers have the same access according to the DOL.

The transition into the new Membership Management system the Local started in October of last year has turned out to be a good thing, on several levels. It is allowing more precise information for dispatching, and it will lead to a more powerful way of storing all

information pertaining to Members on an individual basis. Although it was our hopes to be able to have the Membership Portal up and running by now, I truly believe it will be worth waiting for. Be on the look-out for information about it at Union Meetings, in the next Newsletter, and on the website.

Because of the change over to this new system, all Portable & Hoisting Members are being asked to complete a Qualifications Register – even if you have done so in the past. It is vital that everyone keep these up-to-date! If you don't want to complete the one that is in this newsletter, please go online to www.local234.com and complete it electronically. If it wasn't important, you wouldn't be asked to take the time to do it.

There have not been any changes to the Central Pension Fund. The Fund, as of the last Annual Funding Notice, was 107.3% funded, and is the 2nd largest multi-employer defined benefit pension fund in the United States. The CPF will soon be mailing out semi-yearly Participant's Statements, and shortly after that all participants will be sent the latest Annual Funding Notice. I'm sure everyone is hoping for continued growth.

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 home Local.

(515) 207-3875 EXTENSION 5600

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

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

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

This winter we have seen an increase in Members attending the OSHA 10, OSHA 30 and First Aid/CPR courses. I believe it's primarily because more contractors and the owners they are working for are requiring those certifications. I would like to stress the importance of keeping your certifications up-to-date. Now is the time to look over your certification and make sure you are ready for work.

The Apprenticeship Program continues to have good numbers. From all indications, it looks like there will be a strong workload for the coming season to keep them busy. In April, there will be several large high school career fairs around Iowa and the Program will be actively participating in order to recruit new Apprentices. With college student loan debt becoming a larger issue, we are starting to see more interest in what the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Programs have to offer.

Over the past year, CCO has been implementing a

lot of changes, one of which has required written tests to be done on computers. Members for the most part seem to have adapted well to these requirements. The Training Program will offer a study day followed by a CCO written test the next day in October 2024. There is also the option for Members to test individually directly through CCO, if needed.

One thing to remember as the scheduled training courses are winding down for this training season is that the site is open year-round for Members. It is your Site and Program to use. Contact us and schedule any hands-on training that you need or want on an individual basis. The time you spend training on new machines is an investment in yourself. It will translate into expanding your opportunities every season going forward.



RYAN HOLLINRAKE
APPRENTICESHIP
COORDINATOR



Apprentice crane and dirt training at the International located in Crosby, Texas

Dirt training at Local 234 Apprenticeship and Training Site

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Operating Engineers

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Members only section:

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