

ENGINEERS NEWS LOCAL 234



VOLUME 58, NUMBER 2
SEPTEMBER 2024

50+ YEAR LOCAL 234 MEMBERS



From Left to Right: Retired Brothers Larry Weber, Jeffrey Gezel, Wayne Smith, Rick Runyan, Jerry Sobotka, Mike Keegan, Don Downing and Business Manager Jason Copple



LOCAL 234 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Congratulations to Piper Dahl (daughter of Brother Jacob Dahl), Charlotte Donahue (daughter of Brother Mark Donahue) and Jersey Gray (daughter of Brother Joe Gray)!

These three are the first ever recipients of scholarships from the Local 234 Scholarship Fund. Checks for \$2500.00 were sent to each of their educational institutions for tuition and/or direct expenses for their education. Next year's scholarship information will be announced after the first of the year at all Union meetings and will also be in the March 2025 Newsletter.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



JASON COPPLE
BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

We have had plenty of work around the state this work season, but we've also had plenty of rain. It seems like we had rain at least every two or three days there for a while, and because of it, it took a lot longer for some projects to get going this year. Let's all hope we can stay dried out for the most part and have a good finish to the season.

We still haven't seen any changes to the unemployment cuts that happened in Iowa a couple of years ago. There was a group of Union and non-Union contractors that were working together to maybe put some pressure on Governor Kim Reynolds to exempt the construction industry from the changes, but then Reynolds announced she was looking at cutting the amount of unemployment that the contractors would have to pay in. Not surprisingly, the contractors that didn't like the unemployment changes went silent – assumingly because it was going to save them money.

Our Health and Welfare Fund remains in good condition but with the costs of healthcare constantly increasing, we are keeping a close eye on it. Our actuary is still saying that our plan is the best that he deals with, in terms of financial health, benefits and cost. With that said, one of our most important goals is to make sure and stay ahead of any financial issues, and continue to put adequate money towards contributions into the Fund, if needed, and even a little bit when not needed. We still need to take advantage of the Dr- On-Demand program and generic drugs whenever possible to help keep costs under control. Remember, even though your insurance cards say Blue Cross Blue Shield, we are still a 100%

self-funded plan. That means every dollar spent comes directly out of our Fund.

We had a great turnout for the Family Picnic this spring at the Training Site. We had the equipment ready for anyone to run it, and we had inflatables for the kids. The last two years we have had food trucks instead of the typical type of food for a large number of people. It seems everyone really likes the options available. We will have it again next spring – if you haven't been to a Family Picnic before, please join us, everyone seems to have a great time!

The Training Program continues to add new equipment and new classes for the Memberships' benefit. Having the necessary certifications and staying familiar and proficient on all types of equipment is a benefit to each Member, as well as our signatory contractors. Keep an eye out for the training schedule that usually comes out around Thanksgiving and get signed up for any classes you may need. 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 are interested in something that you don't see on our schedule, please check the International training site. The International will pay for transportation, lodging, and meals for any Member to attend the classes they offer. Local 234 pays into the International Training Fund, so our Members might as well take advantage of it.

I hope to see everyone at the General Membership meeting in Des Moines on Saturday, September 28th at 11:00 a.m. Lastly, remember to stay updated on the out-of-work list if you are not working.

Front Cover: Pictures from Local 234's Family Fun Day at the Apprenticeship and Training Site

Top Right Photo: Brother Jason Peterson, who works for the City of Ames, was the winner of the Local 234 cooler given away at the Family Fun Day

JURISDICTION WIDE



NICK NORTON
EXECUTIVE BOARD
DISTRICT II AND
ASSISTANT BUSINESS
MANAGER

The 2024 construction season got off to a slow start with Mother Nature not cooperating, but as I am writing this, we have several contractors reaching out to the agents with additional manpower needs. If this is any indication, it looks like a strong finish to the year.

Seven of Local 234's signatory public groups around the state have contracts that are open this year. Members

of these groups will be voting in October to recertify to keep Local 234 as their bargaining agent. As soon as the groups recertify, the agents will be taking proposals and

working on scheduling meetings to sit down with the employers to start bargaining. We also have four public groups whose contracts will be open for wages only.

To all the members that work under our Heavy Highway or our "Old AGC" contracts: we will be breaking down the previously negotiated increases that become effective December 1st during the October District meetings. If you want to have a say in where YOUR money is allocated, please attend the meeting in your District.

Local 234 Representatives are consistently attending public meetings, talking to non-Union contractors and non-Union workers to discuss the benefits of employing or becoming Union Labor. If anyone has any leads on companies or future members, please contact your Business Representative or Local 234's new Organizer, Chad Small. I urge all Members to get behind Chad as he begins his work to increase the Local's market share.

Our industry is constantly evolving. It is our responsibility as Members to keep advancing our skills and certifications to keep up with the needs of our workplace. The utilization of our Apprenticeship/Training Site is a great way to do so.



Brother John Emerson operates Emerson's new GMK 6400 and Brother Stacy Winkler operates the GRT 8100, as well as Brothers Chad Emerson, Isaac Moellers, Tanner Trenholm, and Jacob Salisbury on rigging at the wind turbine repairs near Blairsburg



Brother Brad Bulanda is operating a Caterpillar 374 excavator for Zinser at the H&W Building in Dubuque



Brother Mitchel Mundorf operates a Tadano GR-900 XL RT crane at the parking ramp skywalk project for Tri State Crane in Iowa City



Brother Brad Hill operates an American Friction Rig for Herberger Construction building a bridge in Union County near Creston

MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership Meeting:
 September 28, 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

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



Frank DeJoode	February 15, 2024	53 year Member
Larry Dobberthein	March 21, 2024	60 year Member
Don Logemann	April 22, 2024	37 year Member
Jason Malcom	May 4, 2024	23 year Member
Richard Polfer	May 9, 2024	50 year Member
David See	May 21, 2024	20 year Member
Wayne Nelson	May 22, 2024	58 year Member
Marvin Pulver	July 2, 2024	68 year Member
Larry Riggan	July 30, 2024	51 year Member



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!

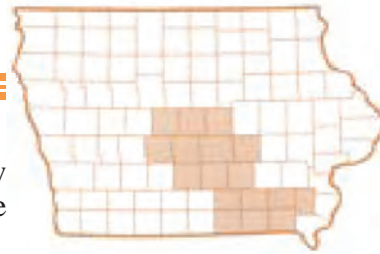
- 1) You must have your name on the out-of-work list if you are laid off.....EVEN IF you believe you will be returning to work for your previous employer.
- 2) You must check in at least once every 30-days to remain on the list. Your name will be dropped on the 31st day.
- 3) In order to put your name 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.

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.

DISTRICT I & II



CHAD CARTER
VICE PRESIDENT
&
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

What a wet season we have had! Pipeline work has been steady with maintenance and integrity work. The Local attended the public information meetings that the Iowa Utilities Commission scheduled from August 26th through September 20th. These meetings were held in the 23 counties where the additional ethanol plants were located that Summit Carbon Solutions picked up after Navigator abandoned their proposed project. Back in June, the Utilities Commission approved Summit Carbon Solutions' Iowa permit, with the requirement that the company also obtain permits in South Dakota, Minnesota, and North Dakota before construction can begin in Iowa. Distribution pipe-

line has been busy with new relocate work, but slow on the blank plastic work.

Building work was a little slow to start this season, but it looks like it's starting to pick up. We still have a few Operators working at the Des Moines International Airport. Northwest Steel Erection will be starting an addition at Kemin Industries in Des Moines.

Dirt work has also been steady – when it's not raining. Local 234 signatory contractors have been busy doing housing developments, interstate work, data center additions, and commercial projects. Union contractors have also picked up street projects around Des Moines. However, the big sewer work has been really slow this season.

On the Stationary side, several groups will be going through the recertification process in October.



Sister Callie Faulkner and Apprentice Debra Hirth spot for Apprentice Joey Snyder as he operates a CAT skidloader setting truck mats for Mountain Crane outside of Collins



Brother Randy Howard digging pipe for Elder at the Grandview Christian Elementary in Norwoodville



Brother Matt Vondra operates a CAT rubber tire loader and Brother Jimmy Price operates a skidloader loading out spoil piles for McAninch at the Waldinger solar farm project in Grinnell



Brother David McDonald operates a CAT 326 excavator for Charps on a little pipeline project outside of Newton for Nothern Natural Gas



Brother Ben Harris operates a D6 Dozer for Charps on a little pipeline project outside of Newton for Nothern Natural Gas

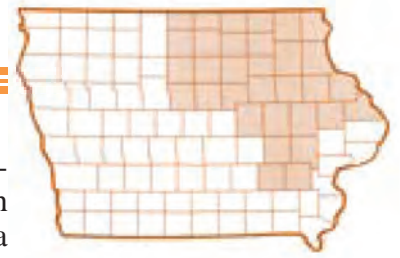


Robert L. Harding	3-1-23
Doyle Kinzenbaw	4-1-23
William Johnston	4-1-23
Donald Krivachek	4-1-23
Ronald Stoneburner, Jr.	4-1-23
Randy Herod	5-1-23
Randy Cornelison	7-1-23
Douglas Cornwell	7-1-23
Mathew Heckart	8-1-23
Pete Kmezich	12-1-23
Jason Bonner	1-1-24

Clint Geery	1-1-24
James McDonald	1-1-24
Stephen Olson	1-1-24
Michael Popp	1-1-24
Todd Moody	2-1-24
Richard Young	2-1-24
Curtis Decker	3-1-24
Scott Ourth	3-1-24
Clifford Waller	3-1-24
Tim Frederick	4-1-24
Rory Kelly	4-1-24

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

DISTRICT II



BRIAN VASKE
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

The workload in District 2 has been busy this construction season with some large projects ongoing. Mortenson is moving dirt on a big data center project in Cedar Rapids. They are also working on the Vienna Windfarm repower project near Tama. Work at the Palo Solar Farm in Linn County is starting to slow down, and at this time, there are no other phases currently scheduled to start. Mountain Crane has been

There will be public informational meetings which were approved by the Iowa Utilities Commission in Iowa, including the District 2 area, regarding the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline project. Local 234 staff will be attending each of these meetings.

As a reminder: with most jobsites requiring OSHA 10 and First Aid/CPR training, I urge you to take advantage of any down time you have during the winter season. Please use the Training Site to get these certifications and any others that you think you may need to keep yourself the most employable. Also, when/if you get laid off, please contact the agent who put you to work to be added back to the out-of-work list. This will also help them to know the status of Members, and keep track of the progress on the project.

The Local will also be having recertification elections with public stationary groups in the fall of 2024. After recertification, proposals will be taken and then negotiations will begin.

working on a wind farm repower project near Iowa Falls. That project should finish later this year.

Work at the Lansing bridge project has been a challenge this year. There was flooding, and between the drilling and the unstable ground under the water, the old bridge moved. It seems that things are back on track now, and the project is moving forward. Work will be starting later this fall at the Cedar Rapids Wastewater plant and will be a multi-year project.



Local 234 operators moving a MCL 650 crane at the Mortenson wind farm repower project in the Tama area



Brother Brennan Rawson, Apprentice Jaden Recker and Brother Zac Hoeger working for Tri-State Crane at the shop in Cedar Rapids

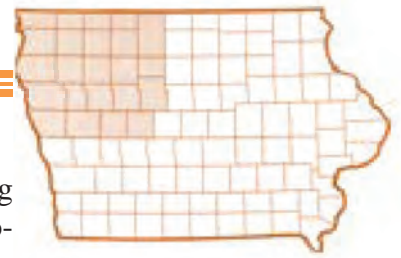


Brother Mitch Schueller and Brother Jeremy Langel working for Portzen Construction on a street project in McGregor



Brother Gary McDermott operates a Caterpillar 950 loader for Kraemer North America at the Lansing Mississippi River Bridge project

DISTRICT III



SPENCER YOCKEY
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE

Klinger and DM Steel are busy in the area working together on multiple projects including the Goodwill expansion, Marriott Convention Center, and Royal Canin. Barnhart Crane is busy with shutdowns, curb service, and turbine repair. Vic's Crane is also busy with shutdowns, and they picked up some work at Purina in Fort Dodge.

Construction is working on a railroad bridge demolition project over the Big Sioux River. There is still no word yet if they will get the railroad bridge rebuild project. NMC is busy at powerhouses in both Salix and Council Bluffs. Mortenson began work on a new wind farm near Emmetsburg recently. Next year looks to be even busier with turbine erection as well as pipeline work.

Negotiations with Corn Belt Power Co-Op were completed in August. A number of stationary contracts were opened in August, with recertification elections then negotiations to follow.

Wilkerson Crane is steady with wind turbine work. Ames



Corn Belt Power Cooperative Local 234 Members and Business Representative Spencer Yockey

Brother Craig Brockhaus, Brother Dean Curry and Brother Torrie Lindner... All mechanics for Barnhart Crane in Sioux City





Brother Nate Fender and Brother Chuck Lesline working for Mortenson at a wind turbine project near Emmetsburg



Brother Ken Richardson and Brother Dan Law working for Mortenson at a wind turbine project near Emmetsburg



Brother Members working for MMC in Council Bluffs from Left to Right: Kirk Mc Sorley, Cory Schlup, Jacob Gibson, Chris Riggins, Ken Marsh and Matt Farrell, Sr.



Brother Alexander Mullis working for Rock Solid near Emmetsbug

DISTRICT I & III



TREVOR BINDEL
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVE /
ORGANIZER

The Council Bluffs area remains busy with the Google/SLN project. Contractors performing work on that project include JE Dunn, Global Underground & Earthworks, Barnhart, Patriot Crane, Topping Out/Davis Erection, MMC, and now McAninch. The focus of work is on Buildings 5 and 6. In the Carter Lake area, Meyer Contracting is installing underground utility pipe and working on the concrete removal on H Ave.

The Creston/IPL solar farm outside of Creston, Iowa is nearing completion. AZCO Operators are loading out, cleaning up the job site, and mowing. Rachel Contracting will return to fill in a few temporary ponds, along with site clean-up and reclaiming the rest of the lay down yards. The Creston School solar site is also almost

complete, with the exception of transformer parts, which will be set as soon as they come in. Herberger Construction is also in the area replacing three Union County bridges.

We are coming up on the stationary agreement negotiations for the year. Within the units that I cover, we have the City of Corning, which will be engaging in full contract negotiations. I will also be negotiating with Iowa Western Community College, the City of Atlantic, and the City of Chariton on wages only.

Remember, if have not filled out a qualification register, or you have gained new skills or certifications since the last time you filled one out, be sure to complete a new one. This is the most effective way to inform the Business Representatives of your skills and certifications. Also, when/if you get laid off, please call the agent that put you to work to place your name on the out-of-work list.



Brother Matt Mann operating a 275 ton AT installing new clocks in the Madison County Courthouse in Winterset
(Not shown in the pic was Brother James Reese assisting)

ORGANIZER

I began working for Local 234 in May 2024 as an Organizer. Because this is my first newsletter, I thought I'd give you some of my background information. Prior to joining the Local 234 staff, I worked for over 20 years as an Operator, most recently for MMC Mechanical. I've been a Member of Local 234 since 2013.

Since starting the job as Organizer, I've been busy traveling across all Districts, visiting non-Union job sites, shops, and offices to share information about our great Local. The Business Representatives have been a great resource for me as I have begun learning this new role.

In June, I attended new Organizer training, and I recently returned from the first-ever International Organizing Conference, which brought together over 100 organizers from various Locals. Both events were held

at the International Training Site in Crosby, Texas and I feel as though I gained valuable insights from them. I've also been collaborating with another Union on organizing a company in the Sioux City area, which would be a fantastic win for Siouxland! I look forward to getting to know our current Membership and continuing to hone my skills as an Organizer while-working on growing our Membership.



CHAD SMALL
ORGANIZER



Brother Thad McVey and Apprentice Caden VanHemert working on a housing development in Winterset for Sandstone



Brother Jordan Buck operates a Liebherr LR 1300 Crawler Crane for JE Dunn at the Council Bluffs Data Center

UNION FUSION

All Members will have the capability to log into their Union records online effective October 1, 2024!

Log in at <https://iuoe234.unionfusion.net/>

You will have to verify your identity and then create a password.

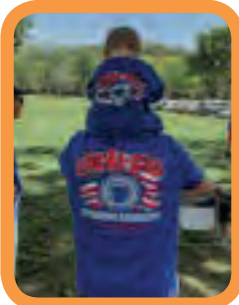
Some of the things you'll be able to see include: dues paid through date, certifications expiration dates, your address and phone number on file, and your qualifications list that you provided to the Local.

Please call the office with any questions.

We want to help you get to know the system!!



LABOR DAY 2024



OFFICE & FINANCE



TRACY PETERSEN
TREASURER & OFFICE
MANAGER

The Member Management System, or database, that the Local staff started using last October is proving to have been a good decision. Of course we've had some bumps along the way, but all in all, things are going well. The abilities to pull needed information out of the system has helped in several ways for the staff.

We will be ready to welcome all Members into the system on October 1. You will be able to access the system by going to <https://iuoe234.unionfusion.net/Auth/Register>. You will be asked to verify that you are who you say you are by putting in personal information.....this will include your Register

number, SSN and date of birth (your Register number is on your Union card). If your answers match what is in the system, you will be taken to a new screen. There you will have to add/verify your phone number and email address. You will be able to set your own password! It seemed that Members had troubles remembering passwords getting into the old system, so we made sure this time round you could create your own password. You can log in using your phone, tablet or computer. One key benefit is that Members will be able to pay their dues in Union Fusion.

Everyone that works on the construction side of the Local should have received the Annual Funding Notice from the Central Pension Fund in May. This Notice shows the Central Pension Fund is 107.7% funded. This means, the Fund has 100% of the assets to pay all of its liabilities and make all anticipated payments, plus another 7.7% on top of that.



*You wouldn't skydive without a parachute, right?
So why would you choose to work without a Union
by your side?*

— Unknown

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 or 5658

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

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

It has been a busy summer at the Training Site with Members coming in to upgrade skills, doing equipment evaluations for individuals that have contacted the Business Agents, new Apprentice training, and administering CCO practical exams, etc.

The Apprenticeship Program continues to have strong numbers this season. We have had the opportunity to add additional Apprentices in District 2 due to the wind turbine and solar projects providing additional work opportunities.

The Training Program continues to offer CCO written exams each spring and fall, which are computer-based. The next written CCO exam is October 13th, 2024. Contact the Training Site and we will assist you in getting signed up. CCO has added the option for Members to test on an individual basis throughout the year as well. This new option has offered a very convenient and flexible way for Members to test.

A big thank you to everyone that volunteered during the Family Picnic in May. It was a wonderful event for the

Members along with their families, and your help was very much appreciated.

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 the training book. The winter training schedule book should arrive to Members around Thanksgiving. Members will receive it the same way they receive their quarterly newsletter, either by mail or email. It will also be posted on the Local 234 website – www.Local234.com. Please look it over and get signed up early for the classes. Keeping your credentials up to date, and continually adding skills and certifications you don't currently have, will make you more employable.



RYAN HOLLINRAKE
APPRENTICESHIP
COORDINATOR

Apprentice Colton Lee Webb working on equipment for Elder Corporation



Apprentice Alan Hohensee working for Portzen on a street project in McGregor

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 & II—

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,
Ft. Dodge
Sioux City—712-255-1374

District I & III—

Trevor Bindel, Business
Representative / Organizer —
Council Bluffs / Jurisdiction
Wide
Des Moines—515-265-1657

Main Office—

Tracy Petersen—Office Manager
Caleb Peterson - Assistant Office
Manager
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Apprenticeship & Training

Ryan Hollinrake—Coordinator
Indianola—641-942-7112

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