

February, 1999



President's Message

Everyone should have had \$500 applied to their LTSSP on February 1, 1999 (telephone reimbursement). This is the 2nd of 3 contributions agreed to in the 1998 bargaining. Another \$500 (2nd part of signing bonus) will be applied to your LTSSP on August 1, 1999. Taxes on these special contributions are deferred until withdrawn from the Savings Plan.

The clock is running on the two performance awards that were bargained in '98, the Lucent Performance Award and

the Business Unit Performance Award. They run through the fiscal year, October 1, through September 30. Payouts should be by the end of the year. The terms and conditions of the Business Unit Award has yet to be determined. (The deadline for this has been extended until February 26th.)

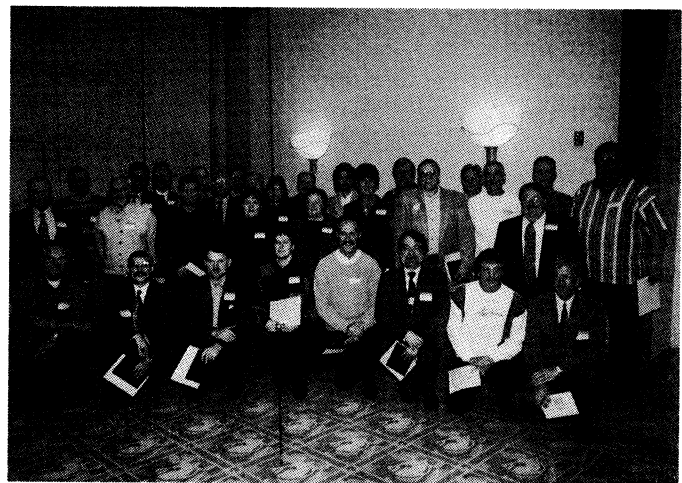
Lucent Award: \$250 minimum, \$500 target, no maximum.

Business Unit Award: \$250 minimum, \$500 target, \$750 maximum.

Steve Lynn, EM-3 Council President, asked all the local presidents not to sign the contracts until some differences in the national language is resolved.

We have been meeting with Labor Relations to work out some of the parking lot problems. They are going to try something different probably by the end of March. The reason for the delay is to get past the snow removal season. The change will be: You may park in your own shift plus the previous shift. If this works, and we choose to continue it, there will always be one shift open for snow removal. **Don't change from parking in your own shift, until you are notified.**

Congratulations to the following graduates:



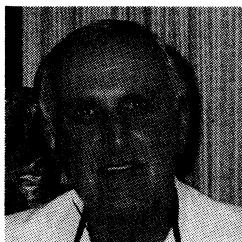
Tim Aken, Charles Boger, Jeanett Bogue, Donovan Burruss, Roger Carstens, Steve D'Agata, Dan Dehning, Trudy Dekeuster, Bob Delgado, Tim Demont, Susan Douglass, Mike Elvers, Joe Fiala, Ray Herek, Maurice Jensen, Walt Johnson, Larry Kriegler, Harvey Kunz, Dan Lindblad, Don McGrath, Paul Morton, David Newcomer, Linda Nutting, Steve O'Dell, Al Pickering, Jim Rhode, Cindy Schaecher, John Schenkelberg, Mark Sobania, Dick Suverkubbe, Craig Williams.

President's Message continued on page 3

TO: ALL UNION MEMBERS:

The monthly membership meeting will be held **Thursday, February 18, 1999 in the Small Meeting Room, 13306 Stevens Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Phone: 895-4080 - FAX 895-1828.**

Third Shift meeting: 8:20 a.m., Second Shift Meeting: 2:00 p.m., Day Shift Meeting: 4:15 p.m.



Views from the Vice President's Office

By Sam Martin

A question asked of me recently - What is OSHA VPP?

It is a Voluntary Protection Program that OSHA set up to recognize and encourage positive models of successful programs. Labor, management and OSHA have a cooperative relationship to have effective safety programs and reduce work injuries.

We are one of four companies in Nebraska that have attained STAR status, and the second of seven Lucent facilities. OSHA initially verified that our safety and health program met the VPP Star criteria (granted April 26, 1994 & re-certified August, 1997). OSHA does a confirmation audit every three years for STAR sites. We have to have active employee involvement (Safety sub committees), injury rates below industry average and comprehensive paper records. We have a union management safety committee that has had increased focus and is working cohesively as a team. We have reduced our rate of injuries and our 3-year average is below the industry average by 40%.

I hope everybody enjoyed our guest speakers SST Communications, the theatre group that was here on safety in the month of January.

Congratulations to our COPE Committee Chairperson Sheila Filipiak for having the honor in being asked to speak up at Senator Kerrey's press conference (December 13, 1998) in which he announced he would not run for the Presidency in the year 2000. Her husband Jim gave her no speaking tips.

If you have received an upgrade in the last year and are in the 401K Savings Plan, check your company-matched contribution with Fidelity. Just because your payroll deduction shows an increase, it does not mean Fidelity knows it.

The following are the 1998 returns for our Lucent Savings Plans:

BT (Bankers Trust)Fund	+21.91%
Emp. Shares Fund	+171.67%
Fidelity Eq.-Inc. Fund.....	+12.52%
Fidelity Freedom Inc. Fund	+11.10%
Fidelity Freedom 2000 Fund	+15.26%
Fidelity Freedom 2010 Fund	+19.31%
Fidelity Freedom 2020 Fund	+21.67%
Fidelity Freedom 2030 Fund	+22.12%
Fidelity Magellan Fund	+33.63%
Fidelity Ret. Money Market Fund	+5.36%
Lucent Capital Preservation Fund	+6.83%
Lucent Stock Fund	+170.40%
Merrill Lynch Corp. Bond Fund, Inc.	(-.299%)
AT&T Stock Fund.....	+24.46%
NCR Stock Fund.....	+47.36%

Urgent! If you have received a letter from Benefits that states, your past or present injury is no longer solely company connected, I advise you to notify the Union rep in your area to explain your options. You only have 60 days to appeal if you disagree with the Company.

Questions have been asked concerning the 10-year Certain Annuity Pension. It is available to all employees who are eligible for a service pension regardless of their marital status. Payments under this option are guaranteed for at least 10 years. With this option, your pension will be reduced by 5% for life when your pension begins. If you die before all guaranteed payments are made, your designated beneficiary or estate will receive the remaining guaranteed payments. Payments to your designated beneficiary or estate will stop after the last guaranteed payment is made. If you live beyond the 10-year Certain Period, payment of the reduced pension will continue as long as you live. Payments will stop upon your death. If your designated beneficiary dies before you, but after your pension begins, you will continue to receive the reduced benefit for life. If you are married, you must have a notarized consent from your lawful spouse to elect this annuity.

**Fraternally,
Sam**

THE SHORT CIRCUIT

Omaha, Nebraska

February, 1999

Official Publication of Local Union 1974
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers AFL-CIO,
Omaha, Nebraska

PresidentMarlene Wilson
Vice PresidentSam Martin
Recording SecretarySparky Bruning
Financial SecretaryEdie Riester
Treasurer Tom Pallas

Executive Board

Jim Filipiak, Chairman

Tim Gillham, Rick Madej, Marlene Majeski, Jim Pabian

Newspaper Staff

EditorDeb Gulizia
ArtworkTim Cremeens

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

In 1989, the union proposed to the company to start training our own people to be journeyman toolmakers and machinists. ETOP took over and a two year program started. After it began, we were successful in getting the program registered with the Department of Labor. This is the first class to graduate in any program of its kind in the entire Lucent System. I would like to thank Bill Eads, 11th District Vice President, and Steve Lynn, EM-3 President for attending the celebration.

Even though our work schedules are down this quarter, there is no truth to the rumors...No buy-out...No layoffs...No end to 7 day coverage.

Fraternally,

Marlene Wilson

President/Business Manager IBEW #1974

BENEFIT UPDATE

by Edie Riester

Effective January 1, 1999, health care coverage for same-sex domestic partners and their eligible children will be available under the following options:

- Medical, Dental and Vision
- Medical only, or
- Dental only

To elect coverage, you must complete a Notarized Affidavit as proof of partnership. Before electing this coverage, keep in mind that there are tax implications to be considered. Also note that not all HMO and DMO networks provide domestic partner coverage.

Same-sex domestic partners are also eligible for benefits under the Group Legal Services Plan. Domestic partners do not need to be enrolled for health care coverage to obtain legal services.

For more information or to elect domestic partner coverage call BDEC, 1-800-368-0426.

SAFETY FIRST

BY DEB GULIZIA

Several truckers and cart drivers have expressed their concern in the last few months about a dangerous aisle. They were all afraid someone would be seriously injured or killed there. After showing various people, all agreed it was very dangerous. Because of the discussions and agreement, the wait for improvement began. After weeks of hearing nothing, and believing in their cause, a call was made to Mike Parizek and Bill Meyers. They in turn sent John Tyrcha and Larry Poffenbarger to look at the situation. It took them less than 5 minutes to see the problem and come up with an improvement for that aisle. A week later, work began and we know that the risk in that area has been reduced. More improvement will be made at a later date. On behalf of those who use that aisle and myself, I would like to thank Mike Parizek, Bill Meyers, John Trycha and Larry Poffenbarger for their help and quick response.

There was an accident in the 80 type area a couple of weeks ago that could have been avoided. Now, there will be process and safety changes made. We don't want to wait for accidents before changes are made. The first person you should inform is the supervisor in the area, next you might want to see the engineer. If you feel strongly about a safety problem in your area, and feel like you keep running into dead ends, get in touch with a safety sub-committee member, your union rep or a union safety committee member listed below.

30 Building

Gerry Pote, pager 0672, 1st shift

Deb Gulizia, pager 0984, 1st shift

50 Building

Steve O'Dell, pager 0673, 2nd shift

Bernie Stopak, pager 0472, 1st shift

Sam Martin 895-4080

Terry Pollard, pager 0676, 3rd shift

60 Building

Rick Palmer, pager 0543, 1st shift

New Members in November 1998

John W. Asher	Lewis W. Martin, Jr.
Lisa R. Conrad	William L. Rodgers
Denny L. Clemens	Roscoe I. Secret
Dolores M. Hernandez	Floyd E. Swanson
Daniel J. Kunkle	Sheryl J. White
Dan A. Lukowski	

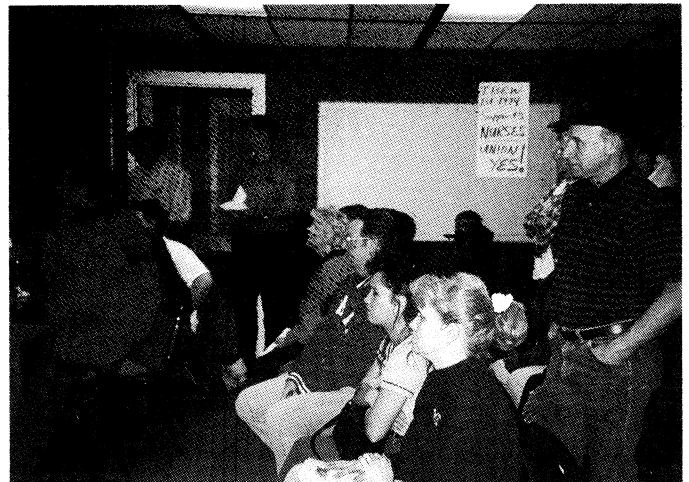
2799 Members

5 Terminated – 4 Retired – 1 Quit –
1 Transferred

Retirees in November 1998

John D. Butcher
Robert G. Engel
Frank P. Possinger
Norman D. Rohloff

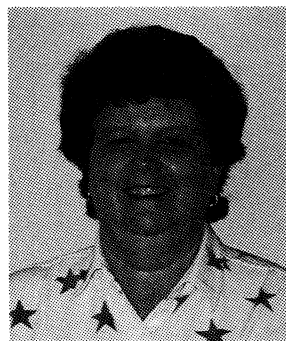
Interested Members at the Union Meeting



Important Phone Numbers

Atlanta Payroll	800-761-1555
ATS	800-662-6629
Car Leasing.....	800-227-5327
Car Rental Discounts-Avis, National Hertz	
Fire-Medical-Security	X3222
Matching Gift	800-424-6030
Medical	X3333/3334
Mortgage Plan	
Norwest	800-233-5540
Pioneer/Weoma Office.....	X3617
Reimbursement Accounts	
Health Care Child/Elder Care.....	800-628-1678
Tuition Assistance.....	800-785-6586
Wiz Buyers Value Club.....	800-777-7253
IBEW Locals:	
Local 1614	895-7120
Local 1974	895-4080
Medical Benefit Room	X4954
Insurance:	
Health & Insurance Eligibility	
BDEC.....	800-368-0426
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NE	
Helpline.....	800-821-7422
MEDCO-Prescriptions	800-336-5934
Dental Prudential	
Traditional	800-220-5470
DMO	800-220-5479
Vision-Metlife	800-636-7231
Mental Health & Chemical Dependency:	
MBC (Merit Behavioral Care)	888-314-4017
Long Term Care Insurance:	
Metlife	800-984-8651
Life/Accidental Loss:	
Metlife	800-201-4612
Employee Resource Center:	
Larry Cherry.....	X3523
Marie Pope.....	X3607
ETOP:	
Sharon Buzzell	X3828
Anniece Farrell.....	X3894
Computer Instructor	X3186/X3745
Enhanced Skills:	
Janet Dean.....	X3177
Education Counselor:	
Mary Liska.....	X3330
EEO	X3060
Benefits	X3598
Payroll	X3481
Personnel.....	X3051
Workers Comp.....	X3616
EAP Counselor: Bill Ivans	X3416
Savings Plan	X888-365-8777
IBEW Savings Plan	800-223-7608
ESOP	800-858-3767
ESPP	888-587-8625
Shares for Growth	800-348-8288
Legal Services-Hyatt	800-821-6400
Pensions.....	888-736-7700
United Healthcare PPO.....	800-577-8567
Principal Healthcare of NE-HMO	800-288-3343
United Healthcare of the Midlands-HMO.....	455-5700
Work/Family Directions.....	800-635-0606

What's Happening?



By Marlene Majeski
E-Board Officer & 30 Bldg. Coordinator

It's hard to believe that we are almost through the month of February in the new year.

I would like to congratulate the graduates of the trades class. I also want to remind them that when a trades job is posted to turn in a resume along with a bid sheet as this is the only thing that will disqualify their bid. If the resume is not attached, they will not be considered for the job.

Several of the stewards had a meeting with Seiter about his wanting more production. I say that bringing back incentive will take care of the problem. Just my opinion.

There is some excessing of Level II's out of the fabrication area. Most of these members will be placed in the 80 type cabinet area.

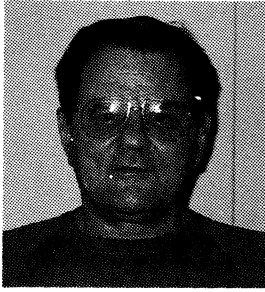
If you have ordered Union T-shirts and have not received them, let your union rep know so we can get these to you.

We have received a Bodine Machine from the Atlanta Works. Our members and the management in Rick Baune's area set the machine up and had it running in record time. I have also been told that a number of improvements on the machine has already been suggested. Congratulations to all of you in this area.

The Union Hall has new carpeting. If you are out and about or coming to the union meeting, stop upstairs and check it out.

I saw several new faces at the January union meeting. Thanks for coming and I hope to see more of you this month.

Be Informed
Attend
YOUR
Union Meeting!



Signing Bonus Follow-Up

By Jim Filipiak

E-Board Officer &

50 Building Coordinator

In October 1998, I reported to the membership that I hadn't received my \$1,000 signing bonus. January 1999, I still hadn't received it. In October, I called Merrill Lynch (1-800-410-4015). They told me they would put the \$1,000 in my account.

The \$1,000 signing bonus was part of the national agreement. Every active employee as of August 1, 1998, was to receive the \$1,000. It should have been put into your Long Term Savings Account. If you were not currently enrolled in the savings plan, the Company would open an account for you and deposit the money. Check your savings account statements. Don't take it for granted that because you made a profit, your \$1,000 was deposited. Look under contributions. It will show up as "Special Company Contribution \$1,000". If it isn't there, call them. I am taking the long way with this. I took my problem and gave it to Labor Relations. If I find out anything, I'll report back to the membership. Remember, we get another \$500 in February. Maybe we'll find out Merrill Lynch can't handle Lucent Employees. Their errors are causing a lot of inconvenience and maybe costing \$\$.

Some people have been asking about Car Rental Discounts. I hope the following information is helpful.

Rental Car Rates for Personal Use

Lucent employees and retirees are eligible to use the Lucent contracted rental rates for their personal use. However, please note that these rates were negotiated for weekday business travel and you may be able to locate cheaper weekend/vacation rates in certain vacation areas. When making personal reservations you may contact the rental companies directly and notify yourself as a Lucent employee. The information you need is as follows:

Avis - 1-800-331-1212-AWD#B650000

Hertz - 1-800-654-3131-CDP#285420

National - 1-800-227-7368-RECAP #5655000

Insurance Information for Personal Use

•For Personal rentals, the contracted rate with Avis includes Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) and Theft Protection.

•For Personal rentals, the rate with Hertz DOES NOT include any insurance.

•For Personal rentals, the rates with National includes CWD and TP.

•For personal rentals, liability insurance should be covered under your personal car insurance. Please check your personal car insurance policy or check with your insurance agent. If your personal car liability insurance does not cover rental cars, you should consider purchasing the liability insurance from the rental car suppliers.

If you have questions regarding personal rentals, please call the 800 numbers for Avis, Hertz, or National. Do not contact the Corporate Travel Group.

If you are interested in other discounts available, stop in the ERC room and visit with Larry Cherry. He is working hard to update his list and add to it. If you have knowledge of a business that would be interested in giving Lucent employees a discount, let Larry know. A good rule of thumb is: before you buy, ask if they give a discount to Lucent employees. If you need to call the ERC room, the phone number is X3523 or X3607.

February 8, 1999 - 7:35 a.m. Bob McKulsky notified me that my \$1,000 signing bonus was to be put into my account. He also gave me some advice to tell the membership: they are to call the 1-800-410-4015 and get the name of the person they talked to. Then call again and recheck. If it isn't deposited in their account, come and see him or give it to your officers or rep.

UNION DUES

Union Dues for 1998

BA - \$285.76

A - \$428.16

Message from the Political Side

by Sheila Filipiak, COPE Director

On Friday evening, December 11, I was at my desk doing some paperwork when the phone rang. I didn't want to answer it, thinking it was probably someone wanting to issue me another credit card or sell me something. But I answered it anyway. It was Senator Kerrey's office. I was being invited to a conference on international trade. My first thought was, why me? When I asked why my name came up, they said they wanted a labor representative there. They were attempting to get people from all walks of life represented. After some conversation back and forth, I agreed to attend the conference. It was to be held at the Kiewit Conference Center at 12:30 on Saturday, December 12th.

Saturday morning arrived and I decided to put up my Christmas tree. I got the tree up and the garland and lights on when I decided to take a break and read the morning paper. I had considered not attending the conference because I wanted to finish the tree. But there on the front page of the paper was an article about the International Trade Conference to be held in Omaha. It said it was an invitation only event. Now my interest is peaked. I was very proud to have received the only labor invitation other than Gordy McDonald, President of the State AFL-CIO. So, rather than backing out on the commitment I had made, I attended the conference.

When I arrived at the Center, I was met by Ann Urban, a member of Senator Kerrey's Washington Staff. I was told I had a reserved seat (that's a first). The importance of my participation in this event was beginning to weigh rather heavy on me. All of a sudden, I had a fear of embarrassing myself and being an embarrassment to our union. Well, it was too late to

back out. The conference was underway. The first panelist to speak was Robert Reich, Professor, Brandeis University and former Secretary of Labor. I had just gotten comfortable and was intently listening, when I heard my name. It was Senator Kerrey, asking how I felt NAFTA was affecting the working people of this country. He had introduced me as an employee of Lucent Technologies. With Lucent looking as well as it does in the market, I couldn't very well whine and complain. However, my response was directed to many other companies that have moved to other countries and left their employees without a job. Also we need to improve the markets for our Nebraska beef. The packing plants used to pay a decent wage. Now they pay less than a livable wage. Many of our employees come from Mexico and are not in this country legally. They exploit these people by paying them low wages and providing them miserable working conditions.

There were three panels set up for the conference. The first one addressed how trade impacts the lives of average American families. The second panel spoke on our moral obligations, and the third panel discussed whether or not our current trade policy is growing or shrinking the middle class. Each panel was allotted 55 minutes with a 5 minute break between panels. The conference was very educational. There was total agreement that we need global trade. The question is – what should the rules be. Trade affects everyone, and we need to be involved in whatever trade policy is established.

I was also very impressed by Nebraskan Warren Buffett and his compassion for displaced workers. For example, he expressed the need to protect the worker not the job. We need to always ask, "and then what?"

COPE Committee Sends Thanks

The COPE Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in the second shift volleyball tournament. The proceeds from the tournament were donated to COPE. Also a big thanks to Deb Gulizia and her crew for another successful tournament. If anyone enjoys watching volleyball competition, there are some very talented players and teams participating in these leagues and tournaments. Thanks too, to E-Board officers Tim Gillham and Jim Filipiak for recommending that the second shift volleyball league help out the COPE Committee.

Retirees in December 1998

Joann C. Bolinger
Peggy P. Carnes
Patricia A. Cormaci
James R. Geiger
Grace V. Romero
Charles G. Singleton
John R. Young

New Members in December

Rustin E. Black
Brian L. Powers

2791 Members
2 Terminated - 6 Quit - 7 Retired
2 Transferred - 2 Deceased

THE WINNERS

The winners of the \$50 Door Prize for December were:

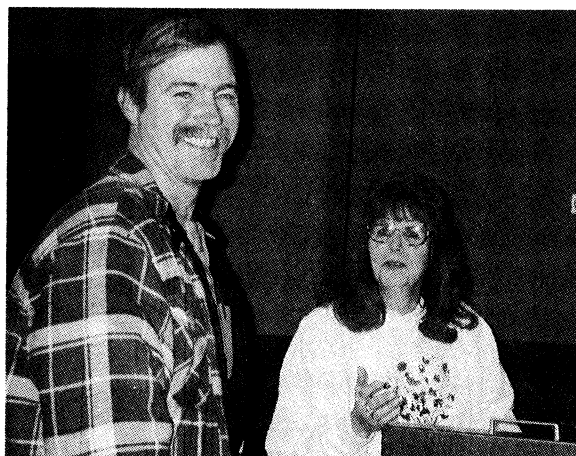
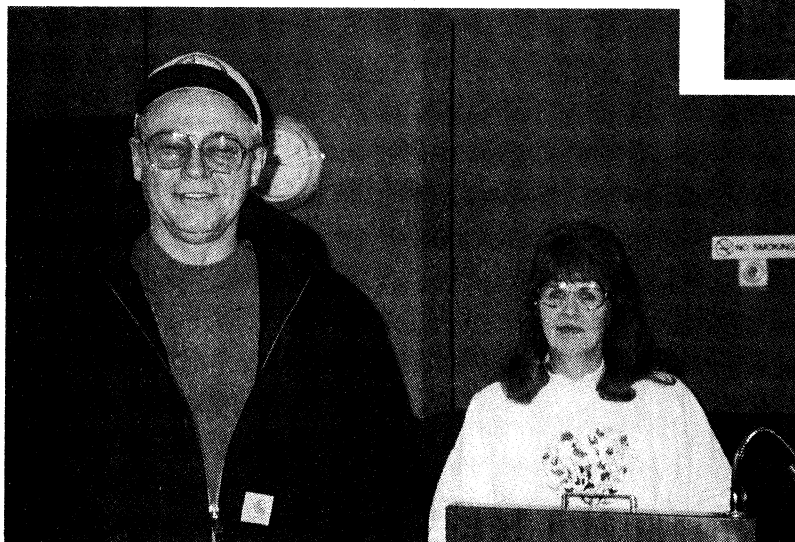
At the 8:20 p.m. meeting.....Don Miller
 At the 2:00 p.m. meetingCheryl Brown
 At the 4:15 p.m. meeting.....Robin Wallace

The winners of the 50-50 drawing were:

At the 8:20 p.m. meetingJohn Shimkus - \$11.50
 At the 2:00 p.m. meetingMarty Gillham - \$8.00
 At the 4:15 p.m. meeting Marlene Majeski - \$13.50
 All of the above winners donated their winnings back to the COPE Fund.

The winners of the \$50 Door Prize for January were:

At the 8:20 p.m. meeting.....Arnie Ott
 At the 2:00 p.m. meetingGary Rezek
 At the 4:15 p.m. meeting.....Tim Connor



NEW REP

Art Huerta, a 50 Building trucker in the Twist/Insulate area on 2nd shift has been appointed as a new rep. He can be reached at X3603.

Thanks for giving up your FREE time to help our members. (Nobody told you about that, did they?)

Trade Winds

by Rick Madej

This year is starting off fairly well as far as trades is concerned. The Apprenticeship Committee is happy to announce that we have six new journeymen. They are: CST's Jay Ackland, Charles Essex, David Mach, Chris Schuster, and FMS's Swede Jourgensen and Larry Schlautman. Congratulations to all and we hope to see more in the future. The trades committees have also been talking with Steamfitters Local 464 and IBEW Local 22 in hopes of partnering with them in setting up new apprenticeship programs and possibly getting additional training for our journeymen in the future. The training facilities at the steamfitters local are awesome.

The money crunch has cut down the number of outside contractors and we are hoping to take advantage of it. While we continue to argue over the definition of 'new construction', there are a lot of smaller jobs that have traditionally gone to the outside contractors that our trades can do. Hopefully, we will get the opportunity.

A change has been made to the Facility Maintenance Specialists apprenticeship program. To stay within the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Labor, the program was changed from a two year to a three year apprenticeship. While this change may cause some hardship, it is definitely not out of line with the other apprenticeship programs that we have. We worked hard to get these programs approved by the D.O.L. and we don't want to lose their affiliation with any of them.

One last thing, **WHENEVER** you bid a trades job, you **MUST** attach a resume.

KNOW YOUR REP

BY DEB GULIZIA



JAMIE SALKELD

Jamie Salkeld has been a rep for over 2 years now and was recently appointed to the Movement of Personnel Committee.

Since being hired in July 1994, he has worked in Braiders, Loose Wire, Patch Cords, Central Office Connecting Blocks and now back to the 50 Building in Plenum/Mini Strand area.

He has two children a 5 year old and a 2 year old. The Nemaha River is a favorite spot for camping and fishing. When they're home during the summer, the backyard pool gets a lot of use.

Wrestling is a favorite sport of Jamie's. He went to state as a high school wrestler. While still in high school, he began coaching kids and is proud of two of his early students, his stepbrother and cousin are heading to state.

Everybody probably knows Jamie best by his tatoos. You can always spot him from behind by the Jesters on his calves. I guess he has a few more tatoos but you'll have to ask to see those.

Jamie can be found in the 50 Building in the Plenum/Mini Strand area on day shift. (Could be wearing silver.) His phone number is X3586 and his pager number is 1237.

THE RECORD

AL SANCHEZ, AC-76, MEMBER
 Robert L. Baker, F-26, Mother-in-Law
 Victor Sedlacek, AB-6, Mother
 Jon Bullock, A-17, Mother
 Charles Vesely, AB-4, Grandmother
 Carolyn Hoagland, AD-32, Father
 Julie Springer, AD-7, Mother-in-Law
 Sharon R. Mohanna, AD7-C, Grandmother
 Tim Gillham, F-26, Father
 Brian Edwards, A-13, Mother
 Cliff Rentscher, AB-27, Mother-in-Law
 Marty Gillham, F-26, Father-in-Law
 Jeff Hamilton, A-13, Grandmother
 Ajdrna Boger, AB-28, Sister
 Tom Glesinger, AG-15, Mother-in-Law
 Lori Dowling, AB-6, Grandfather
 GENE MCKENNA, F-22, MEMBER
 Rhonda O'Connor, ABAA, Grandfather
 Ron Rice, ACC-9, Mother
 JERRY CORNETT, RETIREE
 Roger Rodaway, ABA, Mother
 Wilson Dunlap, AB-4, Mother
 Lawrence Garnett, AD-7, Grandfather
 Linda Leehy, AC-4, Mother
 Terrie Nelsen, AB6-A, Mother
 Mary Novak, AG-14, Father
 Joe Kessler, A-11, Father
 Georgiana Schlotfeld, AB-6, Mother
 Elizabeth Novak, AB-6, Father
 Duane Hamilton, A-13, Mother
 Janice Rentschler, ACC-8, Mother
 Robert Sanchez, AD-3, Father
 Kathy Lathrop, F-26, Grandfather
 Terri Oscar, ABAA, Father
 Tim Gillham, AB-42, Grandfather
 Ernie Holguin, AD-3, Mother
 Spark Bruning, AC-76, Brother
 Jim Kalal, AD-7, Grandfather
 Alice Woods, AC-4, Brother
 Stephen J. Schmitz, A-13, Grandmother
 Sara Richey, AC-27, Father
 Pat Anderson, F-22, Sister
 Casey Barrett, AD-7, Mother-in-Law

Vacations

by Rick Madej

Vacation days are undoubtedly one of the most important and cherished items of our bargained contract. Aside from the five days that the company designates in the annual Christmas shutdown period, they are ours to use freely to our hearts content. ALMOST. The one stipulation that the company reserves the right to is the 10% rule. They will let you use your vacation whenever you want as long as you don't leave them short handed and the product still flows out the door. To alleviate any problems, we use one of the most important union standards we enjoy to schedule vacations, SENIORITY. Yes, like it or not, the person who has worked here the longest gets first choice on scheduling their vacation days. Along with this right though, comes a huge responsibility and that is being considerate of your coworkers. A senior person who schedules every Friday or Monday off and then cancels out at the last minute probably denied someone else of a long weekend off that they were hoping for, especially if you work in a small overtime pool. We all realize that things come up at the last minute that may make us change our plans and cancel a planned vacation day here or there, but these things shouldn't happen more than once or twice a year. So schedule your vacation when you want, if something comes up, cancel as soon as possible and always try to be considerate of others. We are all in this together. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parade Update

by Rick Madej

While we are still months away from our first parade, I've been told that it's never too early to start recruiting new participants to join us for some fun and union exposure. Over the last few years we have been steadily growing in numbers and we are confident that this year will be the best yet. These parades are an opportunity for us as a union to celebrate with communities and show them, especially the children, that our union is made up of hard working people fighting for a common cause, and not the greedy corrupt bullies that some politicians make us out to be.

Once again, this year's first parade will be the Cinco de Mayo Parade in South Omaha. It is a short parade that starts at South High School and moves down Twenty-Fourth Street for about eight or ten blocks. It is one of the friendliest parades that you will ever be involved in. It is celebrated in the first week of May so mark your calendars and plan on attending. We will have several more reminders before then, so you cannot use the excuse that you didn't know about it. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Frank Velasquez (50 Bldg. C.O. Insulate, 3rd shift), Ron Hodges (50 Bldg. Lg. Cable Jacketing, 2nd shift) or myself (all Bldg. 1st.)

Members of Local 1614 are also encouraged to join us along with their honorary parade coordinators Wayne Masek and Tammy Bisaillon. We hope to see you there.

Gift Certificate Winners

Day Shift Meeting

Rita Kahnk (Drawer)
 Rick Palmer
 Diane Gustafson
 Joe Acevedo
 Donette Cone
 Gerald Pote
 LaRene Walker
 Dude Vosler
 Steve Reandeau
 Robin Wallace
 Sandy Barnes
 Sam Davis
 Les Rue
 Virginia Hyslop
 Tom Reister
 Cindy Anderson
 Steve Hilscher
 Dave Bettger
 Carla Dixon
 Larry Cherry
 Sharon Buzzell
 Christina Perez
 Ramiro Delgado
 Ray Sempek
 John Gude
 Jerry Peterson
 Ron Kunkle
 LaVonne Randall
 Elmer Petersen
 Jim Chambers
 Lynn Niemeyer
 Diane Hall
 Scott Palma
 Vern Klauman
 Diana Robonson
 Bob Belik
 Brenda Klingforth
 Jesse Welker
 Theresa Johnson
 Lyle Kahnk
 Jim Rush
 Tim Connor
 Rod Petersen
 J. Perez
 Ernie Belik
 Michelle Clark
 Robert Volkmer
 Doug Johnson

Second Shift Meeting

Bob Keller (Drawer)
 Everett Petersen
 Cheryl Brown
 Barb Brown
 Kenny Baxter
 Ron Dye
 (Donated to elderly couple
 Mr. & Mrs. Feighner)
 Mel Domina
 Rich Griffin
 John Asher
 Pam Brown
 Jane Bohline
 Lona Baxter
 Joe Olenik
 Deb Gulizia
 Vi Winnicki
 Ed Betzer
 Dale Holling
 Chuck Stanley
 Betsy Church
 Dominic Zappia
 Barry Frum
 Gary Rezek
 Jessie Knutson
 Steve O'Dell
 Joyce Stark
 Connie Carlson
 Michael H. Roehr
 Richard Nightser
 Mitchell Rodenburg
 Duane Dolezal
 Otis Knutson
 Patty Hale
 Marty Gillham

Third Shift Meeting

Lela Stewart (Drawer)
 Rich Bingham
 Rick Will, Jr.
 Chris Incontro
 Donna Johnson
 Don Miller
 Bill Husk
 Kathleen Whitaker
 Patrick McNeeley
 Mike Keller

Third Shift Meeting Continued

Gary Wallace
 Matt Howie
 Terry Randall
 Bob Bloodsworth
 Marv Abramson
 Jerry Maas
 Frank Velasquez
 Don Jackson
 Ron Hodges
 Sheila Filipiak
 Linda Smith
 John Mulligen
 Kelli Hrdy
 Keely Smith
 John Shimkus
 Lenny Rubek
 Kelly Jackson
 Terry Pollard
 Norm Pope
 Tom Haase

*Respectfully Submitted,
 Sparky Bruning
 Recording Secretary
 Local Union 1974 IBEW*

Let This Coming Year Be Better

Dear Readers:

If some lines in today's column sound vaguely familiar, you have a good memory they appeared in this space last year. Not much about New Year's Day has changed, so thank you for allowing me to loaf a little.

Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time.

Call up a forgotten friend. Drop an old grudge, and replace it with some pleasant memories. Share a funny story with someone whose spirits are dragging. A good laugh can be very good medicine.

Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep. Pay a debt. Give a soft answer. Free yourself of envy and malice. Encourage some youth to do his or her best. Share your experience, and offer support. Young people need role models.

Make a genuine effort to stay in closer touch with family and good friends. Resolve to stop magnifying small problems and shooting from the lip. Words that you have to eat can be hard to digest.

Find the time to be kind and thoughtful. All of us have the same allotment: 24 hours a day. Give a compliment. It might give someone a badly needed lift.

Think things through. Forgive an injustice. Listen more. Be kind.

Apologize when you realize you are wrong. An apology never diminishes a person. It elevates him. Don't blow your own horn. If you've done something praiseworthy, someone will notice eventually.

Try to understand a point of view that is different from your own. Few things are 100 percent one way or another. Examine the demands you make on others.

Lighten up. When you feel like blowing your top, ask yourself, "Will it matter a week from today?" Laugh the loudest when the joke is on you.

The sure way to have a friend is to be one. We are all connected by our humanity, and we need each other. Avoid malcontents and pessimists. They drag you down and contribute nothing.

Don't discourage a beginner from trying something risky. Nothing ventured means nothing gained. Be optimistic. The can-do spirit is the fuel that makes things go.

Go to war against animosity and complacency.

Express your gratitude. Give credit when it's due – and even when it isn't. It will make you look good.

Read something uplifting. Deep-six the trash. You wouldn't eat garbage – why put it in your head? Don't abandon your old-fashioned principles. They never go out of style. When courage is needed, ask yourself, "If not me, who? If not now, when?"

Take better care of yourself. Remember, you're all you've got. Pass up the second helping. You really don't need it. Vow to eat more sensibly. You'll feel better and look better, too.

Don't put up with secondhand smoke. Nobody has the right to pollute your air or give you cancer. If someone says, "This is a free country," remind him or her that the country may be free, but no person is free if he has a habit he can't control.

Return those books you borrowed. Reschedule that missed dental appointment. Clean out your closet. Take those photos out of the drawer and put them in an album. If you see litter on the sidewalk, pick it up instead of walking over it.

Give yourself a reality check. Phoniness is transparent, and is tiresome. Take pleasure in the beauty and the wonders of nature. A flower is God's miracle.

Walk tall, and smile more. You'll look 10 years younger. Don't be afraid to say "I Love You." Say it again. They are the sweetest words in the world. IF you have love in your life, it can be the best year ever.

*—Reprint from Ann Landers,
Omaha World-Herald, January 1, 1999*

