

THE **SHORT** *Circuit*

**I.B.E.W.
Local #1974**

333-9832

March, 2000



President's Message

Since the announcement of the Omaha Works being spun-off from Lucent Technologies, I have been getting out the information we are given as soon as possible. Therefore, any information I could give you at the deadline for our union paper would have been old. Instead of giving you information you have already heard, as announced, we will be having a HOTLINE installed and ready to go very soon.

I would like to congratulate the first group of TRIMS to graduate and become Master Molding Technicians. The six graduates are: Steve Heuke, Tim Johnson, Rose Long, Ken Marvin, Charlie Morgan and Kristi Thompson. Congratulations on your accomplishment!

ETOP will be conducting an Electronics program sometime in May, 2000. This will again help our membership to further their education and careers. I believe there will be more information coming out soon.

Scholarships from the IBEW Eleventh District Scholarship Fund will be available for any Eleventh District member's son or daughter that will be attending Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. These scholarships range from \$300 to \$1200 per year, provided grades are maintained at a passing level. Applications for the 2000-2001 school year must be received by June 1, 2000. The college will make the selection and award the scholarship. A scholarship application may be obtained by writing to the following address and requesting an application form for the IBEW Eleventh District Scholarship:

Southwest Missouri State University
Office of Financial Aid
901 S. National
Springfield, MO 65804

*Fraternally,
Marlene Wilson
President/Business Manager, IBEW Local 1974*

No Retirees In January 2000

NEW MEMBERS

Johnny M. Langle • Terry L. Tighe

2601 Members • 1 Deceased • 2 Honorary Withdrawals

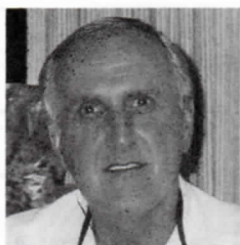
TO: ALL UNION MEMBERS:

The monthly membership meeting will be held **Thursday, March 16, 2000 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



I know there are a lot of questions regarding pensions for those who retire under the new company. The members' pensions are protected by the Federal government under ERISA, Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. It reads as follows: *"The purpose of this law is to protect the interests of participants and beneficiaries in employee pension and welfare benefit plans. The Act requires reporting and disclosure of plan and financial information to the U.S. Department of Labor as well as to plan participants and beneficiaries; it safeguards plan assets through establishment of fiduciary and funding standards; and it safeguards benefits through establishment of participation and vesting standards and by requiring plan termination insurance for certain pension plans. The Act applies to employee pension and welfare benefit plans, regardless of size, maintained by employers engaged in commerce or in an industry or activity affecting commerce or by employee organizations representing employees so engaged, except those plans specifically exempted."*

We will do our best to keep everyone informed of the latest developments. I will have the investment reports in the April issue of the Union Paper.

*Fraternally,
Sam Martin*

THE SHORT CIRCUIT

Omaha, Nebraska

March, 2000

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

President Marlene Wilson
Vice President Sam Martin
Recording Secretary Sparky Bruning
Financial Secretary Edie Riester
Treasurer Tom Pallas

Executive Board

Jim Filipiak, Chairman
Bernie Stopak, Rick Madej, Marlene Majeski, Jim Pabian

Newspaper Staff

Editor Deb Gulizia
Artwork Tim Cremeens

NON-MEMBER LIST

BY EDIE RIESTER

The following Lucent employees benefit from the same wages, benefits and working conditions as you, and are not paying their fair share toward negotiations and administering the contract.

Please ask them to join the Union and pay their fair share! If you need sign up cards, give me a page at 0706 and I'll bring one over to you. This month I'll be printing the M's and N's. Here's my list as promised:

George J. Macrander

Steve W. Mathis

Jerome McCreary

James A. McManigal

Nancy S. Mentzer

Linda A. Metzler

Peggy L. Modlin

James C. Nodskov

Next month will be the O's and P's. This gives you a whole month to page me if you want a sign up card. Give it some thought. I just counted we only have 103 people who don't pay their fair share.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Fire-Medical-SecurityX3222
Benefit RoomX4954
ETOPX3828
ERCX3523
Tuition Assistance1-800-785-6586
Legal Services1-800-821-6400
Pension1-888-736-7700
Blue Cross/Blue Shield
of Nebraska1-800-821-7422
Dental-Prudential
(Traditional)1-800-220-5470
Dental (DMO)1-800-220-5479
Vision-Metlife1-800-636-7231
Mental Health & Chemical
Dependency1-888-314-4017
Savings1-800-410-4015
Shares for Growth1-800-348-8288
Founders Grant1-800-818-8345
Stock Purchase1-888-587-8625

THE RECORD

Diane Wulf, AB-24, Member
Janice Rentschler, Retired Member

Todd Lewis, AD-32, Grandfather

Ray Thompson, AC-25, Sister

Dan Kirsch, A-13, Step Dad

Joyce Howard, AD7-F, Grandmother

Teri O'Daniel, AC-7, Mother-in-Law

Bob Russell, A-13, Mother

Vickie Ingram, ACC, Grandmother

Rudy Delgado, AD-3, Brother

Tony Delgado, AD-3, Brother

Scot Anderson, AB-41, Mother

Linda Donaldson, AB-69, Sister

Mary Pasewalk, AB-16, Mother

Paula Alvarez, AC-7, Father

John Bullock, A-17, Mother-in-Law

Clyde (Tony) Lime, A-11, Father-in-Law

Willie Morgan, AD-3, Father-in-Law

Jannie Nelson, ACA-9, Mother

Tracy Voegeli, A-11, Grandfather

Dave Steffen, A-13, Mother

Betsy Church, F-26, Mother

Barb McHughes, F-26, Father

Mary Black, AD-7, Mother-in-Law

Mike Black, A-13, Father

Sylvia Jones, AC-76, Grandmother

Bob Delgado, AD-3, Brother

Rome Delgado, AB-4, Brother

Maxine Lyons, F-26, Mother

Scott Wolf, AB-24, Mother

Lonnie Malone, A-13, Father-in-Law

Clifford Rentschler, AB-29, Wife

Weston Grunke, ABAA, Mother-in-Law

Dawn Reitmajer, F-22, Grandmother

Dave Halverson, AC-76, Mother

Gary Reynolds, AB-41, Brother

Safety Awareness Contest

by Deb Gulizia

The contest is well underway and there have been several happy winners. The Safety Committee has seen many of the questions posted by work positions throughout the plant. We're happy to see that everyone is interested in winning the prizes but also hope that this contest will help the awareness factor.

All of us here want to go home in the same condition as when we started our shift. This means we all need to constantly be aware of the many potential hazards we may come across during our time in the plant. For example, even a pair of scissors can be a dangerous tool. We learned how to use scissors early in life but now we are in such a hurry, we sometimes become careless. Believe it or not, scissors have been the cause of several accidents requiring sutures.

Keep those questions and answers handy and don't forget you **MUST** be wearing your required personal protective equipment. Perhaps **YOU** will be the next on the list.

HERE'S THE LIST OF LATEST WINNERS!!

WEEK 2

Brian Edwards
 Linda Kosmicki
 Clara LaTin
 Mark Anderson
 Dale Meisinger

WEEK 3

Berdeena Chase
 Vera Morris
 Paula McGinn
 Michael Rangel
 Belinda Murdock

WEEK 4

Maxine Lyons
 Cristal Harris
 John Armbrust
 Paula Alvarez
 Jason Redfern

Nebraska State AFL-CIO

is hosting a

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

(Pancakes, French Toast, Eggs,
 Sausage, Coffee & Orange Juice)

Sunday, April 30, 2000

8:00 a.m. Until Noon

NEBRASKA STATE AFL-CIO BUILDING
5418 South 27th Street
Omaha, Nebraska

Donation:

\$3.00 Per Person

\$10.00 Per Family

THE WINNERS

The winners of the 50-50 Drawing were:

At the 8:20 a.m. meeting - Matt Howie \$8.50.

At the 2:00 p.m. meeting - Everett Peterson - \$4.00.

At the 4:15 p.m. meeting - Linda Sellin - \$9.00.

All of the above winners donated their winnings back to the COPE Fund.

The winners of the \$50 Door Prize were:

At the 8:20 a.m. meeting - Mike Segobia.

At the 2:00 p.m. meeting - Steve Shrader.

At the 4:15 p.m. meeting - Michelle Schaffer.



ELECTION 2000 AT LU 1974



COPE NEWS

by Sheila Filipiak, COPE Director

It is March 2, 2000, and all delegates must have filed for the offices they intent to run for. Endorsements have been done through the Omaha Federation of Labor. They will be made official at the State COPE Convention the end of March. At this time I would like to remind everyone the importance of registering and voting. Anyone may request an absentee ballot by filling out the form in this newsletter. The law regarding absentee ballots has changed. You no longer need to give a reason for requesting one.

I have copies of the Statue that exempts Nebraska residents from capital gains tax on the sale of stock of a company you own, work for, or did work for. **This law does apply to Lucent stock purchased under the ESPP.** Ask your tax preparer about it. If you need a copy of the law, contact me. I'm on third shift and my page number is 2166.

Anyone wishing to purchase St. Patrick's Fun Night tickets can contact a Rep or a COPE Committee member. Committee members are: Linda Smith, Maxine Lyons, Ron Hug, John Gude, Jim Pabian, and myself, Sheila Filipiak. If you need someone to get tickets for you, you may call the hall. Our secretary, Margie, will let me know. It is going to be a lot of fun. Hope to see you there.

ETOP NEWS!! ETOP NEWS!!

by Sharon Buzzell

The Electronics Technology Certificate Program will tentatively begin Tuesday, May 23, 2000. This will be an Electronics Certificate program taught by Metropolitan Community College on site in the plant. It will be administered by ETOP. It will be custom designed to help employees prepare for careers in Electronics or Control System Technology within and outside of the Company.

The Information meeting is being planned for Tuesday, March 28, 2000. We will have speakers and information from ETOP National and Metropolitan Community College. **Watch for handbills and monitors for confirmation of dates and times.** The Asset test date is planned for Saturday, April 8, 2000. There will be a 2 hour Math review class held in ETOP on Thursday, April 6, 2000 for all 3 shifts. **Watch for flyers to sign up for this Math review class.** The Commitment meeting is being planned for Monday or Tuesday, April 24 or 25. At this time, employees will be given a registration form from ETOP and Metropolitan Community College. Employees who commit to this 18-month program will be selected by seniority and notified that they will start the program planned to begin May 23, 2000. **Watch for the advertising for this new Electronics Certificate program soon.**

ETOP here at Omaha will continue after the spin off and we become the new company. ETOP is part of collective bargaining and will remain a benefit to all Union represented employees through this contract and into the future.

Questions about the new Electronics Program or ETOP?? Call Sharon X3828.

Application for Absentee Voter's Ballot STATE-WIDE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

I am a registered voter and my home address is:

_____ in Douglas County.
(house number & street or rural route - zip code)

I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, that these statements are true, as I verily believe.

Name _____ PLEASE PRINT _____ Date of Birth _____ Phone # _____

Signature of Voter or person acting as Agent _____

Address where ballot should be mailed _____

THE PENALTY FOR ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO FIVE YEARS OR A FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000 OR BOTH

ABSENTEE VOTER DEADLINES

Request by Mail: 4 P.M. Friday, May 5, 2000
Request in Person: 5 P.M. Monday, May 8, 2000
Request by Agent: 7 P.M. Election Day, May 9, 2000

- * Ballots mailed-cut to voters will commence 35 days prior to Election Day.
- * Ballots must be returned by agent to the Election Office issuing them by 8 PM Election Day.
- * Ballots received by mail must be in the possession of the Election Office by 10 AM on Thursday, May 11, 2000.

A Sample Ballot will be published in the Omaha World Herald on May 5, 1999

The Election Commission will be open May 6th, from 8:00a.m. to 12 Noon for Absentee Voting (AT BELOW ADDRESS ONLY)

Return the completed application to:

Scott A. Lautenbaugh
Douglas County Election Commissioner
225 N 115 Street
Omaha, NE 68154

Reach us on the WEB: <http://www.444vote.net>.

PHONE: 444-4178

(322-3031)

FAX: 444-4181



ST. PATRICK'S FUN NIGHT IBEW Hall

13306 Stevens - Millard
March 17, 2000

Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner

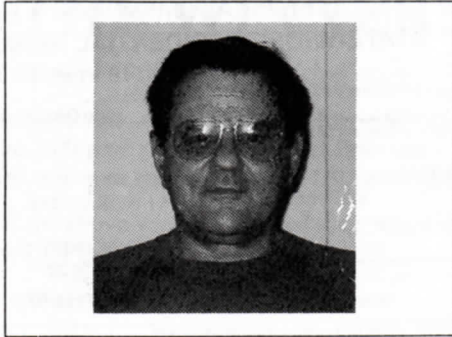
Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.

Snacks • Beer • Pop

Karokee & Dance

\$10.00 Advance • \$15.00 at Door

Notices - Reps and Supervisors



by Jim Filipiak
E-Board Officer & 50 Bldg. Coordinator

Article 5 of the General Agreement "Union-Management Relations", paragraph 3 *Notices to the Union* states: "The COMPANY shall notify the UNION REPRESENTATIVE designated by the UNION, in advance when practicable, of the following:

1. Names of employees hired, rehired, reinstated for Leaves of Absence or transferred into the bargaining unit (written notice)
2. Transfers involving changes of an employee's Occupational Job Classification
3. LAYOFFS such notice shall be a minimum of thirty (30) days
4. Leaves of Absence, resignations, or transfers out of bargaining unit (written notice)
5. Changes of shift assignments of individual employees
6. Changes in overtime schedules
7. Transfer from one overtime pool to another in Level II and Level III
8. Disciplinary Action (9) Employees loaned from one IBU to another or one overtime pool to another within the IBU for more than one (1) day.

This is the data the union needs to protect its membership. It is the supervisor's responsibility to get this information to the designated Rep. Number 7 talks about LII and LIII being transferred from one overtime pool to another. This usually means a change in job assignment. Most LIII job bids require one year LII experience on the job. Just think. If the paperwork was made out wrong (wrong date), that LII might miss out on that job. All these notifications have a dual responsibility, the Rep as well as the supervisor.

There is one notification that isn't mentioned. This is a verbal notification. A notification of **respect** for an employee. That is Death in the Family. I have had members tell me that they weren't acknowledged when they lost a family member. I am asking that all supervisors take a minute and show some respect to an employee when this happens. Tell a Rep on the floor or some member, or one step further, call the hall at 895-4080. This really means a lot to us and only takes a minute.

What's Happening



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

I would like to thank all of you that voted for me. We have finally had some Level II jobs posted.

It's time again to remind the supervisors that we need notifications on loans, movement from one overtime pool to another overtime pool, shift changes, upgrades, etc. We need this information to keep track of where the people are in the areas and the situations that occur.

With the elections and spin off, it's been a busy time. We should have more information later.



John Otte, AD-36
Son - Dillon John

Leni Zealand, AD-36
Two Granddaughters:
Alissa Jean Engelke,
Bali Lynn Zealand

Shawn Smith, AD7
Daughter - Shaina Rae

Linda Smith ABAF
Granddaughter - Shaina Rae

Theresa A. Sullivan, AD7
Son - Kody Leonard

Union Dues for 1999

BA Members - \$296.44

A Members - \$442.64

Know Your Rep

Steve O'Dell

Steve O'Dell has been a rep since 1977 and has served the Union as a former Chairman of the Movement of Personnel Committee and is the current Chairman of the Union Safety Committee. Steve takes his position on the Union/Management Safety Committee very seriously and is hoping to see a much safer workplace for all of us. It will take a lot of awareness and cooperation from both hourly and management, but feels it is an obtainable goal that MUST be achieved.

When Steve started at the Omaha Works back in 1969, he began on the Frame Line in Hi Bay where Sheet Metal is now. From there, he went to Merchandise in Hi Bay, 613 Merchandise, then was surplussed to Cable where he was shuffled in and out of twist, vaults, back to FDI Cabinets in the 30 Building, and finally back to twist. He is now a Level II Quality Monitor in Central Office Twist on second shift.

Less than four years ago, Steve took up golf and it seemed to take over his life. In the first two years, he bought 4 sets of golf clubs (like that's going to help!) and spent thousands of dollars. He has a four handicap and his goal for this coming season is to be a two handicap. Next year he is hoping to be golfing scratch. He reminded me that it's practice, practice and more practice. I believe that because every time I see Steve, he's swinging an imaginary golf club! In his mind, he's on the golf course (with his imaginary friends) close to 24 hours a day, and doesn't have to pay green fees. He used to drive his Corvette in the summer, but because his clubs won't fit inside, his former pride and joy now sits in the garage. When he's not golfing or working, Steve likes to bowl and play sand volleyball. He also does his own and others' car repairs.

He and his wife, Kathy, make Elkhorn their home and have four grown children and five grandchildren.

If you need a Chief Steward on 2nd Shift in the Cable Plant, give Steve a call on X3603 or page him X4666 #0673. Steve is on Schedule "A".

by Deb Gulizia

Election Results

President: 1. Marlene Wilson
2. Dan Buelt
3. James Boger

Financial Secretary: 1. Edie Riester
2. Jamie Salkeld

E-Board:

1. Filipiak, Jim
2. Pabian, Jim
3. Madej, Rick
4. Majeski, Marlene
5. Stopak, Bernie
6. Gulizia, Deb
7. Buelt, Joe
8. Petersen, Rod
9. Carlson, Connie
10. Aldrich, Barbara
11. Vinson, Valerie
12. Dargin, Dennis

NOSTALGIA TIME

by Don Wieczorek

It's finally here. The millennium we have been waiting for. Let the word roll across your lips...millennium. It rolls across your lips like the m, m, m, m's in mmm good.

A lot of us reading this paper never imagined in our wildest dreams that we'd see the clock and the calendar turn to 2 zero, zero, zero - 2000. Not in 20 or 30 and in some rare instances, 40 years ago did we even think we'd see this rare event.

All this seems rather bizarre considering the music from the 60's is still listened to and a popular show called the "70's Show" is watched religiously. It seems that we are moving forward in time but looking backwards to see if we missed something.

A lot of changes have affected the industrial complexion of the Omaha Works over these years. As long as I can remember, the cable shop worked 7 days a week. They always had enough business to work seven days a week (which included overtime) instead of the popular 7-day coverage. Today, the cable business is not as strong, but for some odd reason, they are on a 7-day coverage schedule to accommodate a phantom demand. 30 Building on the other hand had produced and made cabinets at a much slower pace but the business demands were not as strong. A lot of people built, tested, and shipped these old testing units and cross-bar forms and met those lower demands easily. Today, the demands for our cabinets from Broad Band to Flexant exceeds our ability to keep up with the business. The entire 30 Building is running a breakneck pace to keep up with the real customers from Cabinets, Bodines to Molding.

Over the years, Omaha has also shouldered the dreams of a lifetime of working for people from all over the country. When the Buffalo Works closed, Omaha opened its arms and said, "Work here". This was true of Baltimore, Chicago, Phoenix and even little Underwood, Iowa. What was nice about the folks from Buffalo migrating to Omaha is that of the 200 families who made Omaha home, is they all were union members. Every last one of them joined the union and over the years got involved with the union's affairs. That wasn't the case with most of the people from another city on the East Coast. Never has a bigger assortment of free riders and non-members come from one location. These people are an embarrassment to the labor movement, taking big union negotiated wages and putting them in their small pockets with no thought of paying union dues.

Omaha has seen a lot of changes, both positive and negative over the last half of the century, but one fact has remained true - once a freeloader, always a freeloader. The rest of us work and pick up their tab for union dues. They aren't heavy, they are just plain cheap and no friend to the union. Think about this the next time you buy a loaf of bread - FREELOADERS GET THEIR BREAD FOR FREE!

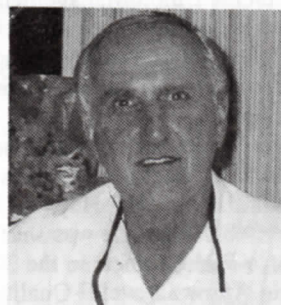


YOUR ELECTED OFFICERS OF I.B.E.W. LOCAL #1974

See Complete Election Results on Page 7



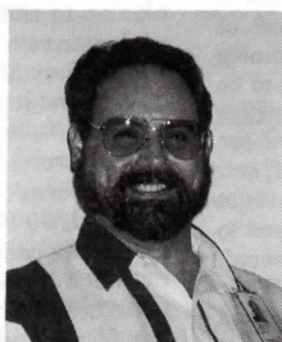
MARLENE WILSON
President



SAM MARTIN
Vice President



SPARKY BRUNING
Recording Secretary

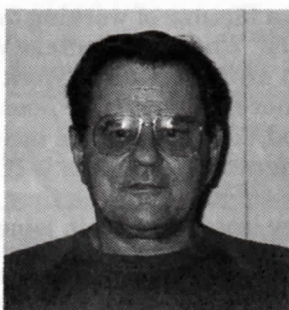


TOM PALLAS
Treasurer

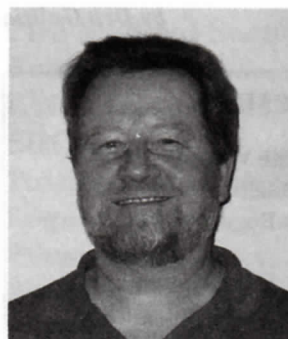


EDIE RIESTER
Financial Secretary

EXECUTIVE BOARD



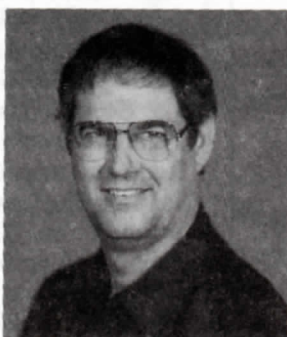
JIM FILIPIAK
E-Board



JIM PABIAN
E-Board



MARLENE MAJESKI
E-Board



RICK MADEJ
E-Board



BERNIE STOPAK
E-Board