

Retiree's Newsletter

Members of Local Union 134. I.B.E.W.

September 2020

The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 12:00 pm meet & greet; the meeting starts at 1:00 pm. March, June, September and December at our new union hall located at: 2227 S Dr. Martin Luther King Drive. All other months the club will meet at the IBEW-NECA Technical Inst located at: 6201 West 115th Street, Alsip, IL

The purpose of this organization shall be to carry out the spirit of our brotherhood. To aid and assist each other as necessary, to promote the social, economic, health and welfare of its members and their families.

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Printed by Kevin Gibbons, James Jennings & Hector Rivera

**Mail all correspondence to: Retiree's Club,
2722 S. Martin King Drive, Chicago, IL 60616-2908**

From the Podium

Old Glory

Years ago during the first Desert Storm conflict, I started flying the American flag from the front of my brick bungalow in honor of our fighting men and women. It has flown continuously since. At that time I was the only home who flew the Flag in my North Park neighborhood. The only other flags being flown on the front of houses were the seasonal and holiday flags. Over the years a handful of American flags popped up, but not in droves. I am happy to say with the onslaught of local and national rioting, looting, and related public Flag desecrations, many more American flags now decorate the fronts of our neighborhood homes.

Our neighborhood and area with its two green campused universities, river branches and their trails, as well as parks is very amenable to taking long walks. During my walks I am always on the lookout for commercial, governmental, and educational facilities to fly the Flag. I was pleasantly surprised, when notified, how accommodating the institutions were in flying the Flag where it was previously missing, this includes a CTA bus facility and a MWRD pumping station. When I walk down Foster Avenue from 3400 W to 2600 W, there are six Flags

flying on various institutions, both public and private...it makes me proud! So if you see a lonely flagpole without a Flag, ask the owner if they would fly our Flag.

Gangbox lawyer

Happy Labor Day. However, the bad news as just released in the media, Labor's percentage of the U.S. workforce for both public sector and private sector is 10.3% and still declining. Again, what is to be done, our retiree pensions and healthcare depend upon an upcoming vigorous union movement.

In the local press during the Labor Day weekend, local politicians and some union activists were gleeful over the proposed renovation of the Pullman area and its connection to the past historical Labor history conflicts and struggles, that it might inspire the present. Again, not to be a pessimist (I am Irish), I looked upon this event like putting up monuments and gravestones to a past and forgotten Labor history, that is the reality of the present. At what per cent of the workforce do we become totally irrelevant politically, economically, and socially? Instead of putting our money and efforts into monuments and odes to the past, let us put all our treasure and boots on the ground into organizing. Again, do not mourn, organize!

When I was a young lad in the 1960's in my teens, we used to get some down and out fellow of age to buy us beer and we would go down to the lakefront at Bryn Mawr Ave. to carouse at the “Rocks” breakwater. I would watch at night the long ships on the horizon hauling raw iron ore from Duluth and the Iron Range down to the South Works for processing and manufacturing. Little did we know that we were at our peak.

What I saw happen was combination of events and betrayals. Our automobile, steel, appliances, textile, apparel, shoe and many other manufacturing industries were undercut by cheaper foreign companies with the help of their subsidizing governments and our former governmental leaders who became lobbyist and trade representatives for these foreign entities. Both sides of our political aisle jumped into this sell us out to make their pound of flesh. The former Speaker of the House represented Japan as Detroit was slaughtered in the 1970's and beyond. I should not be shocked, in the century before, Britain was the top manufacturing country and when we surpassed them, we bought off all, the top British politicians to lobby for our industries.

What I am saying, we cannot depend upon politicians from either side of the aisle to save us We are in a

long struggle Just as the Irish after 800 hundred years of domination, Sinn Fein lead the way to freedom “ourselves alone.” As an example of our feckless politicians who claim to be our friends and who take our treasure and our troops to stay in power, I remind you of when we actually had a real opportunity to pass “card check” legislation nationally a few years ago. We had the Presidency and both houses of Congress Yet “our friends” who gladly take our treasure and troops could not muster the political will and force to pass the legislation though they had 60 votes to spar. I will not say “what friend” was in charge of spearheading this failed legislation, but his family and son have done well while we and our communities have been decimated. Keep the faith.

In Brotherhood,

James Jennings

IN MEMORIAM

August 2020

Adrian Bernardi
Richard W Coath
David T Huening
Debra Q Hikes
Fred A Jacobsen
Walter F Jastrzemski Jr
Kenneth F Jones
William J Malone
Jose Marin
Richard J Marren
Gerald E Moody
Thomas M Mueller
Charles J Nozicka
William Olenick
Nathan Pasholk
Frank J Petrich
Harold W Pierz
Irvin W Plahm
Richard L Ray
Edward C Shanahan
James S Sundry
Michael A Tan
Derrick L Watson
Robert A Wisniewski
William S Woods

Attention Club Members:

Regular monthly membership meetings canceled until further notice.

*New Membership Roster will be printed October 2020
Review your last roster to verify your information is
up-to-date, if not please correct for our new roster
Optional Use this update to pre-pay 2021 dues. \$20.00*

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone number: Home _____

Cell _____

Email address: _____

Fill out and return no later than September 30, 2020!

Please mail to: Bernard Martin
8706 N. Olcott Ave
Niles, IL 60714