

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Eastern Illinois Chapter

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June
2020

Chapter Officers

Governor: Greg Outsen
President: Dave Ruder
Vice President: Keith Conrad
Treasurer: Paul Rolih
Exec Director: Scott Dworschak

Board of Directors

Larry Clennon
Shane Elliott
Gary St. Cin

June Meeting Dates

June 10th

JATC Meeting
JATC Office – 3:00 pm

June 11th

Board of Directors Meeting
NECA Office – 8:00 am

Upcoming Meeting Dates

July 8th

JATC Meeting
JATC Office – 3:00 pm

July 9th

Board of Directors Meeting
NECA Office – 8:00 am

August 12th

JATC Meeting
JATC Office – 3:00 pm

August 13th

Board of Directors Meeting
NECA Office – 8:00 am



Residential Agreement Reached – New Labor Rates Posted

Negotiations on the Residential CBA, ongoing since March, were concluded on Friday just prior to the contract's expiration. The three-year agreement calls for a complete hourly wage package increase of \$1.03/ \$1.10/ \$1.20 for both the Residential Agreement and the Letter of Understanding. This reflects a smaller increase than on the Inside Agreement, mainly because our share of this market has declined significantly since 2008. There were no language changes except a change to the LMCC and JATC contributions to reflect the three-cent shift agreed to in the Inside CBA. There is no overall contribution increase.

New wage sheets effective for the Inside, Residential, and VDV collective bargaining agreements have been mailed to area contractors and are also posted on the Chapter website. Complete updated Agreements will also be posted when signed copies are executed by both parties.

New Apprentice Class on Hold

There are currently multiple apprentices who have chosen not to work during the COVID-19 crisis. In accordance with the NECA/IBEW NDERA Agreement regarding the virus, they have that ability. However, the availability of apprentices for work has been restricted, and calls have gone unfilled. We are seeking a class size that addresses work needs, upcoming retirements, and fulfills ratio requirements in our bargaining agreements. At the May JATC Board meeting we were unable to reach an agreement with Local #176 on the size of the next apprentice class. Following the deadlock with the JATC Board, the Labor Management Committee (LMC) convened to discuss the situation. At this meeting, Labor representatives stated their position was no additional apprentices were currently needed. Management requested an additional 20 be selected. Unfortunately, no agreement was reached at the LMC meeting. This matter will now be referred to the Council on Industrial Relations for a resolution.

Solar Array Installation at JATC

Work has recently begun installing solar panels and a small array system at the JATC. The material was donated by the IBEW Local 134 Renewable Energy Fund and the set up will be used to train apprentices on work associated with solar installation.

Springfield Legislative Update

Due to the pandemic, the Illinois General Assembly chose to cancel most of the Spring’s legislative session. They did convene near the end of last month for an extremely limited session where citizen input was limited, and most introduced legislative bills were never discussed or voted on. They did manage to pass a budget; however, it exceeds expected revenues by nearly \$5 billion and is dependent on a hoped for but unrealistic, massive injection of Federal funds.

The General Assembly also passed legislation dealing with potential worker’s compensation claims arising from the COVID-19 crisis. The Governor’s office had attempted to pass detrimental language (stating construction companies were presumed responsible if their essential employees contracted the virus) through the administrative rules process while the General Assembly was inactive. Those efforts were thwarted by a combined effort by the business and insurance communities, this Chapter, and a successful lawsuit. Legislation was passed granting essential construction employees only a “rebuttable presumption”, which gives employers a fair chance to rebut those claims. Those engaged in direct contact with the public, such as first responders will still receive the protections they deserve, but a carve out was made for workers in other essential areas, such as the construction industry. Now an electrical contractor simply must show “some evidence” that the employee could have contracted COVID-19 elsewhere, and that the employer was engaged in best practices.

Summer Quarterly Meeting on Hold

This time of year, we usually hold our Summer Meeting at the Joliet Slammers Ballpark, however, their season is currently on hold due to the COVID-19 crisis. Restaurants have been allowed to re-open but are severely restricted on customer occupancy. We continue to look for an appropriate alternative venue. If things continue to re-open, we look forward to hosting an event later this Summer. Stay tuned!

M A N P O W E R R E P O R T

Based on Monthly Benefit Reports for the work month of April 2020

	<u>Inside</u>	<u>Res</u>	<u>VDV</u>	<u>Sign</u>
Local Contractors	38	4	8	3
Traveling Contractors	<u>96</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>0</u>
	134	9	36	3
Workers-Local	426	5	27	4
Workers-Travelers	<u>694</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>0</u>
	1,120	16	129	4
Hours-Local	59,965	964	2,890	599
Hours-Travelers	<u>93,012</u>	<u>1,450</u>	<u>6,052</u>	<u>0</u>
	152,977	2,414	8,942	599

Number of Workers registered for Work as of 06/03/20:

Book I.....149	Book II.....539	Apprentices.....19*
Residential Wiremen.... 3	Residential Trainees....0	
VDV Tech....13	VDV Trainees....0	

*Not all Available for work due to virus