

GUEST EDITOR

*Guest Commentary: Edward D. Morrow, President
Sprinkmann Insulation, Inc.*

It is hard to believe that it has been over 27 years that I have been involved in this industry. Growing up in a small town in Central Illinois, the only job I ever thought I wanted was in the foundry at Caterpillar. My Mom was a union steward at the Mapleton plant, and my Dad was in the Machinists Union at Broderick & Bascom. They both worked very hard and were able to provide a good living for our family. So after graduating high school, I started putting in applications at any factory or foundry that would take them in the hopes of following in their footsteps. As many of us remember, however, the early 80's were not an easy time to find work. Caterpillar was in the middle of layoffs and other companies were moving their operations out of state. I was fortunate enough to meet up with Mr. Gess Kremers whom offered me a job working in the warehouse of an insulation company. Until this time, I had no idea that the construction industry, let alone the insulation industry, even existed.

I told you that story to better illustrate this one. Recently, we held our annual Safety Dinner and Awards Program for all of our employees at the shop. Among those in attendance were twenty one second generation and three third generation Insulators. I am extremely proud to be involved in an industry that gives the children, and in some cases, the children's children, the opportunity to follow in their parent's footsteps. Not to mention the fact that their parents want them to follow in their footsteps. And why not, the wage and benefits package is one of the best around, allowing anyone that is willing to give a good days work, a good days pay.

I feel very fortunate to be actively involved in the insulation industry today. The key word in that sentence is "actively". If you are in this trade, be it as a member of Local 17 or a member of the Illinois Regional Insulation Contractors, **get involved**. The more that people become involved, the better off for the industry. The continuing education programs offered by Local 17 and the safety training programs that are available are invaluable tools to have in our belts to help compete against the non-union companies.

All of the members of Local 17 and the Illinois Regional Insulation Contractors are very lucky to have some of the most intelligent individuals I have ever met. These individuals are willing to give of their time and knowledge to serve on the committees, funds and boards that it takes to keep this local strong. The next time that you see one of these people, take the time to give them your input and thank them for their willingness to get involved.

With the strong leadership provided by Local 17 and its relationship with the Illinois Regional Insulation Contractors, I look forward to many more years to come. Remember, we are in this together.

FABRICATION

The end of the year is quickly approaching and like everyone else, we start going over our year-end records. It has been a very busy year, and one thing noticed was the slowdown on requests for fabrication stickers. We want to take this opportunity to remind our members that any cut and rolled metal should have serial numbered fabrication stickers attached. The same applies to metal gores and end caps. If you are applying these products, check for these union labels. If you are fabricating these products, please apply the proper stickers. Any contractor fabricating these items may request these stickers from Local 17.

LOCAL TALENT

The members who have been attending the union meetings have noticed that the numbers of displays have been increasing. The displays are miniature models of jobsites. Not any jobsites - but jobsites that involve installing insulation. They are very well done to the point of - if a picture was taken of them and shown to anyone – they would think they were looking at a real jobsite. Local 17 member, *Maurice Perteete*, is the artist. He is a very talented model maker and creates these with details that include the lock and chains on ladders to the grounding clamps on the pin welders.

One of the stories he tells is that he once showed a picture of one of these models to a general contractor on the jobsite. The contractor said it didn't look real enough. The reason he said was that any pipecoverer he ever dealt with had garbage & scraps all over the place. Maurice thought about that and on his next creation, he added a scrap box with garbage that any contractor would approve of. Getting an opportunity to see these is another great reason for attending our local union meetings.

DECEASED MEMBERS

These members have served Local 17 well. Our Local will remember them for eternity.

Rene Alonzo	R# 73052	09-16-07
Floyd Roberts	R# 32292	10-16-07
Warren Wians	R# 23277	10-29-07
Michael Amaro	R# 46125	11-09-07
Phillip Morrin	R# 28881	11-27-07
Charles Giacabazi	R# 32233	12-10-07

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

There was a cruel trick played on Local 17's Downstate Christmas Party in Washington, IL. The weathermen were not very cooperative. They called for dire conditions of an ice storm that just never really materialized. It kept the crowd to a small number. Those who did attend were treated to "Rollo the Clown" and a special visit by Santa.

In Chicago, Santa brought great weather and we had a super turnout at our Union Hall. The decorations were the best ever and received compliments from Santa, the helpers and all the parents.

Special thanks to Local 17's Christmas Family Elves: The *Autenrieths, Crinions, Byrnes, Fosters, McGuckins, Shines, Mangins, Anthonys, Smiths, Keanes, O'Neils, Pfeifers and Morris Families* helped make Christmas special for our members. Our special gratitude goes to *Jim Berschinski*, who time after time never lets us down. His tireless knees still manage to support hundreds of our children every year and bring smiles to their little faces. We used to think that *JB* was a very good actor. We have come to realize he is not acting at all. That is really his honest to goodness personality shining through.

RETIREEES

Local 17 would like to honor these recent retirees. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Raymond Hart, Jr.	R# 40734	10-01-07
James P. Thomas	R# 42108	10-01-07

ORGANIZING/MARKETING COMMITTEE

This committee is comprised of the following members: *Robert McGuckin, Tim Keane, Tim Pinner, Butch Blackwell, Angel Rodriguez, Ray Curran, Kevin Crosse, Bryon Rutledge, Dennis Rutledge, Rick White, Robbie Adkins, and Kelly Reliford*. The O/M Committee is comprised of 2 committees split between Chicago and Peoria. They do a great job.

Our members should start noticing more of their efforts in the coming months. If you listen to WBBM, you will hear advertisements sponsored by Local 17. We will also be advertising to the Chicago Bears radio audience next year. This committee has submitted our first radio spot for next year. They will work on numerous radio-advertising spots that will focus on what Local 17 can do for energy and the environment.

This group finished the first phase of our billboard advertising. Our second phase should be on display now. One is by O'Hare Airport, the second is off I-80 in Joliet, and the third is by Dixie Hwy. on I- 294.

Bob McGuckin and Al Rexroat were interviewed on a radio talk show on Wednesday, December 19, 2007. The program aired at 6:00 AM on the WJOB 1230 AM dial. This Radio Show is on every Wednesday at this time and is a union talk and call-in show. Bob and Al talked about our industry and took calls from the listening audience. They sounded very professional and we are sure they will both be asked back for future shows. We were able to spread the word about the radio show and their appearance by email. This is another reason it is so important to have everyone's email address.

Our hats off to this very innovative committee!

ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADES

Before we know it, the parades will sneak up on us again. The time has come to construct a float that shows off our members' handiwork and talents. All of our elected officers will coordinate an effort to construct a new float. Building "modular" has become very popular. This would enable us to have as many as 4 different groups building a portion of the float at 4 different locations across our territory. All the parts would come together to make one solid unit. We could feature piping with metal and plastic jacketing, ductwork, small vessels, and other endless possibilities.

This would all be done in conjunction with getting our message of "*energy conservation*" on banners and signs. Our tee-shirts for the parades will reflect the same message.

BITS AND PIECES

The best way to stay current with the union and insure that you receive all correspondence whether it is by postal mail or email, is to call us with any address, phone, or email changes you may have. **There are 3 separate entities of the union. The first is the union office at (773) 247-8184. The second is the Health, Welfare and Pension Office at (773) 254-1900. The third applies if you are an apprentice. Apprentices must notify the JATC at (773) 247-1007** with any of their changes. It is important that you contact both the Union and Health, Welfare and Pension with your changes.

We are entering our contract negotiations sometime in January. If you have any suggestions for us, feel free to notify any of your full time officers.

Do you have a creative side? We are looking for a new bumper sticker design. If you have any ideas, email Bob McGuckin at mcguckin17@comcast.net.

Editors,

B. Glynn, J. Crinion, D. Byrne, M. Foster, Donna