

Guest Commentary

By: Michael Foster, Business Agent

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Brother and Sister Members and Distinguished Readers, I would like to thank Business Manager, Brian Glynn and all other Pipeline Editors for affording me the opportunity to share my thoughts with the members of Local 17. I would also like to acknowledge my partner, Dominick Byrne, who has continually provided guidance and support throughout my early career. In regard to our Financial Secretary, John Crinion, our Marketing Representative, Bob McGuckin and our other Officers, they are to be commended for their hard work and dedication to this Great Local. With that being said, it is my intent to provide some insight into “A Day in the Life of a Local 17 Business Agent.

What are my responsibilities? Some of my daily activities include, but are not limited to the following: Monday: North Side Safety Committee, Tuesday: Northwest Indiana Building Trades or Chicago and Cook County Building Trades, Wednesday: Central Safety Committee (Downtown and Surrounding Area), Thursday: Lake County Illinois Building Trades, and Friday: South Side Safety Committee. As should be evident, this is a massive geographical area. To provide the members a little insight as to how these committees operate; they are comprised of various business representatives of the Chicago and Cook County Building Trades. A typical day with committee may go as follows: A morning meeting and the identification of three to four jobs targeted as a result of a safety concern, suspected non-union activity, or a possible jurisdictional dispute. After the meeting, the job site visit with the General Contractor. This is where concerns are addressed and subcontractors are identified, usually followed by an on-site inspection. Needless to say, it is a tremendous show of force to see all these Agents converging on a job site. Information is gathered and corrective action is taken as needed. Particularly valuable is the identification of the mechanical sub-contractors. If a member is not on site I call, (and call again if needed) the mechanical contractor and politely ask him to identify the Local 17 Contractor he will be using for that particular site. That information is always followed up with a conversation with our own Owners, Estimators or Project Managers for confirmation.

As for the Building Trades Councils, they are responsible for Pre-Job Conferences. These meetings are a valuable tool in determining manpower requirements, scope of work, work schedule and duration, and sub-contracting requirements; all very useful information and valuable weapons in the arsenal. Another weapon in the arsenal is visibility. I firmly believe it is in everyone's (Members, Contractors and especially the other mechanical trades) best interests to see our Agents "in the field". It gives everyone "food for thought" and also works as a system of checks and balances. As important as all this is, one thing is for certain: The members are top priority and will always take precedent! This concept is not lost on my fellow committee members, for they too have a responsibility to their own members. Make no mistake about this: I might not win every battle, but I will certainly fight every battle and the opposition will surely take note. It is impossible to be everywhere at any time. That is why I implore all members to play an integral role in our efforts to protect our industry.

In summary, it is with great pride, dedication and commitment to serve as your Business Agent. I enjoy the challenges of my new position and look forward to seeing you on various jobsites. With good work ethics and professionalism we can and must strive to maintain and control our market share. **KEEP YOUR UNION STRONG! GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU!**

ST. PATRICKS PARADES

The South Side and Downtown parades were fun, but cold for all of our members and their families who attended. The salamander costumes and our brightly colored tee shirts were crowd favorites. The new 'Go Green with Local 17' float, that showcases our workmanship, received plenty of TV time. Pictures of the float and participants can be found on our website, www.local17insulators.com.

Thanks to all who helped with the construction of the float. The names are too numerous to list in this newsletter. Log on to our website to see the list of members who put in countless hours of work making the float something to make us all feel proud. Special thanks goes to **Jack and Amy Shine** for making the annual "after party" at St. John Fisher another big success.

It was nice to undertake such an endeavor and have help from all across our territory. Our downstate members were able to contribute by donating their time to build and construct one of the modular units. We heard from member, **Bob Gibson**, who said it afforded him and others a chance to work with some of the new apprentices that they would never have had the opportunity to work with. He was impressed by their skills and work ethics. We're quite sure the apprentices had an opportunity to learn a few tricks and stories from some of the journeymen that helped with the project.

It is always said that the "*quality remains long after the quantity has been forgotten*". It's true in this instance because we have a float that will last and show off our quality craftsmanship for many years to come.

LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

To My Fellow Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Barry Peckenpaugh and I was in a serious car accident in the beginning of November. Those of you who didn't know about this have since found out through the "insulation grapevine"

We always hear about the bad things that go on in the world, but I would like to take this opportunity to talk about some of the good things that can come from a bad situation.

I was laid up in the hospital for two weeks with too many injuries to list; it's just easier to say that I was "broken" from head to toe on my left side. I had many visitors while I was in the hospital, and want all of you to know that it meant a great deal to me. I also want to acknowledge all the prayers and best wishes to heal quickly. I can't say enough about all the gifts and contributions. It was a relief to know that while I was lying, broken, in bed, I did not have to worry about how I was going to pay my bills. The amount of stress it took off my shoulders is too much to describe.

With all that's going on in the world, it is nice to know that when a member hits hard times, (or a truck...) his fellow Brothers and Sisters are there to help him stand on his own two feet, or, in my case, foot.

I am on my way to recovery, and am grateful to you all for helping me get there.

Thank You and Best Wishes!

Sincerely,
Your Union Brother
Barry D. Peckenpaugh

DECEASED MEMBERS

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

Patrick J. Greaney	R# 23171	01-02-08
Michael F. Maloney	R# 32265	01-14-08
Rudolph Sejbl	R# 23258	03-10-08

BITS AND PIECES

It is very important to keep your union updated with any home address, home phone, cell phone or email address changes. Please keep in mind that there are three (3) separate entities that track your information. You should call with any changes:

Health & Welfare (773) 254 – 1900
Union Office (773) 247 – 8184
Joint Apprenticeship (773) 247 – 1007

By having your email address on file we can keep you informed of any current events and Fraternal Notices. Our emails have been very well received - especially by the retirees. Become part of this email group and stay informed of your union's activities.

Please mark your calendars for the latest **Local 17 Upgrade class, being held on Saturday, June 14th**. This class will have teachers available to help with anyone needing refreshers on metal layouts. The emphasis will be on the actual application of metal over insulated pipe. There is expected to be a great deal of scheduled work in the refineries for many months to come. Local 17 must be prepared to meet the challenges of not only manning the jobs - but manning the work with properly trained insulators. Class will start at 8:00 AM and continue for as long as necessary. Feel free to show up at any time on this Saturday and stay as long as you need to brush up on your metal skills. We encourage all journeymen **AND** apprentices to participate. We do anticipate many apprentices to take advantage of this opportunity as well as many of our commercial insulators who want to keep up with their knowledge and practice. We also have an **OSHA 10 class on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 7:00 A.M.** Call Sue in the Apprentice Office to sign up.

There are going to be some very important decisions to make over the next few months. The best way to participate in these is by attending the union meetings. Grab a co-worker and come see what is going on in your union.

RETIREES

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

Dennis Crosse	R# 37160	01-01-08
Randall More	R# 40764	01-01-08
James Rubens	R# 37275	01-01-08
Daniel Alonzo	R# 39813	03-01-08

We also want to remind our retirees of the upcoming Retiree Luncheon on Monday, April 7, 2008.

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