

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Eastern Illinois Chapter

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July
2021

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

July 14th

JATC Meeting
JATC Office – 3:00 pm

July 15th

Board of Directors Meeting
NECA Office – 8:00 am

Upcoming Meeting Dates

August 11th

JATC Meeting
JATC Office – 3:00 pm

August 12th

Board of Directors Meeting
NECA Office – 8:00 am



Work Calls Going Unfilled

While we are pleased that work in our area is strong, it has come to our attention that some work calls placed in the IBEW #176 area are going slowly or partially unfilled. Currently, there are over 60 local JWs on Book 1 and we have 200 travelers on Book 2. We are working with Local 176 officials to see what we can do to alleviate this working shortage within the scope of our collective bargaining agreement.

General Assembly Stalls on Passing New Energy Bill

A sweeping legislative bill to address current and future energy needs reduce the role of coal and natural gas and promote alternative energy sources failed to pass during the Illinois General Assembly's spring session. Crucial to our industry was the continued subsidies for several nuclear power stations, and support for additional natural gas generators under construction. We are also concerned about any language that would affect solar and wind farms. Together with our Labor partners, our Labor Management Cooperation Committee helped to retain a lobbyist to represent our interests in Springfield as the bill was crafted and debated.

Negotiators from Exelon and the Governor's staff were able to reach a compromise on continued subsidies for several nuclear stations to keep them open and operating for at least five more years. As the final bill moved for passage it collapsed as provisions mandating specific closing dates for coal and natural gas generating stations faced fierce opposition from labor, industry, and local supporters. Specifically, the bill demanded all coal plants close by 2035 and gas plants by 2045, with a reduction on their use beginning immediately while increasing funding for renewable energy sources. Based on this, the owners of the Morris Gas Plant under construction signaled their intention to halt construction immediately. Further, environmentalists demanded that Illinois go from 9% renewable energy to 100% renewable by 2050, placing thousands of jobs at risk.

A bill of this scope and complexity would be formidable to pass during most legislative sessions. Adding the impact of the Commonwealth Edison bribery scheme has only increased the difficulty as legislators do not want to appear as supporting the needs of ComEd over Illinois energy consumers. Negotiations are continuing and when an agreement is reached expect the Illinois General Assembly to vote on the final package sometime this summer.

Independence Day Holiday

The Fourth of July falls on a Sunday so Monday, July 5th will be the official Holiday. According to our labor agreements with IBEW 176, all work performed on this date will be subject to double rates of pay. Keep in mind that under the Local VDV Agreement and NVDV, this date is a paid holiday requiring 8 hours of pay at the regular rate.

Local Student Interns Available

Students To Apprenticeships program has 21 area high school seniors available to work in your office or shop this summer. These students have been recommended by their teachers and have been interviewed by four area union Training Directors. They have completed OSHA 10 training and are CPR/First Aid/ AED qualified. They are interested in the trades and would be available to work for 6-8 weeks to get a brief introduction to the electrical trade. If you are interested contact the program's administrator Neil Kauffman at 815-263-1828.

Summer Quarterly Meeting Well Attended

A good crowd of Chapter members, and their families attended our Summer Quarterly Meeting at the Joliet Slammers Field on a beautiful summer evening this past Tuesday. Unfortunately, the Slammers failed to do their part, losing to the Evansville Otters 3-2.

MANPOWER REPORT

Based on Monthly Benefit Reports for the work month of May 2021

	<u>Inside</u>	<u>Res</u>	<u>VDV</u>	<u>Sign</u>
Local Contractors	37	5	7	3
Traveling Contractors	<u>114</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>0</u>
	151	9	35	3
Workers-Local	574	6	52	6
Workers-Travelers	<u>792</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>
	1,366	19	152	6
Hours-Local	96,487	849	4,894	1,064
Hours-Travelers	<u>107,723</u>	<u>1,746</u>	<u>3,551</u>	<u>0</u>
	204,210	2,595	8,445	1,064

Number of Workers registered for Work as of: 06/30/2021:

Book I.....67	Book II.....200	Apprentices.....0
Residential Wiremen.... 0	Residential Trainees....0	
VDV Tech....1	VDV Trainees....0	