



LOCAL 317

NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2009



JOIN US FOR LABORFEST 2009 Monday, September 7th

JOIN US for the 2009 Milwaukee Area Labor Council LABORFEST and Parade on Monday, September 7th, 2009.

We'll meet at Zeidler Park on 3rd & Michigan, Downtown Milwaukee at 10 am (The walk to the Summerfest Grounds starts at 11 am.) There will be food and beverages, live music, games and activities for the kids. **Bring the entire family!!**

All participants will receive T-shirts as well as complimentary food and beverage tickets. Please call the Union office if you'd like to walk with our Local 317 group and let us know how many from your family will attend so that we have T-shirts for everyone. We still have Laborfest Raffle tickets available at the union office for a chance to win cash prizes, or the Grand Prize, a 2010 Harley Davidson Dyna FXDF Motorcycle!

CALENDAR

Installation of Local 317 Officers will take place at the September 8th, 2009 membership meeting at Classic Lanes in Oak Creek, WI. The elected officers will serve a three-year term.

Steward appointments will take place in October. Members need to submit their names to the union office in order to be considered for appointment. Current stewards need to contact the office as well. See postings in the work place for more details.

Balloting for appointment to the We Energies Bargaining Committee will also take place this fall. One operations department representative and one maintenance department representative will be appointed following balloting. Members in good standing employed by We Energies who are interested should submit their names to the union office. See postings in the work place for more details.

Steward training will be held following the appointment process. The dates and times will be communicated when they are set. All members are welcome to attend.

Lapel pins recognizing years of service as a member of the Operating Engineers will be given out at a meeting this fall. Members due to receive pins in 2009 will be contacted.

A membership event is being planned for fall. More information will be coming out in the near future.

Local 317 will host a Holiday Open House at the union office on December 18 beginning at noon. Food and refreshments will be served. We hope you can stop by for some Holiday cheer. Watch for postings in the work place.



Local 317 Elections

Local 317 recently completed elections for three-year terms beginning September 8, 2009. Ballots were counted on August 11 and the results, shown below, were announced at the membership meeting that evening. Thanks to the election committee made up of Gregg Kroes (Chair), Bob Martinez, Dave Danowski and Dan Janda, as well as Linda Barnes, for a great effort in running the election.

OFFICERS

Business Manager: Mark Maierle

President: Paul Zakszewski

Vice President: Robert Drenzek

Treasurer: Rick Barnes

Financial Secretary: Ken Zastrow

Recording Corresponding Secretary: Earl Matzinger

Guard/Conductor: Roger Rodriguez

Trustees: Jim Brady, William Holton, Greg Murphy

Auditors: Jim Kirchner, Paul Zakszewski, Steve Harwood

Executive Board Members

VAPP/PSB: Brian Zielke

SBMH: Tony Culver

PPPP: Jerry Clark

OCPD: Scott Brushaber

ERGS: Keith Landgrebe

STEAM: Vince Murphy

MCPP: John O'Brien

PWGS/CT'S: Paul Buser

AT LARGE: Michael Weber

Congratulations to the members who were elected and thanks to all candidates who ran for office. A special **THANKS** to the following officers who are not continuing in office:

Wayne Merkovich, John Jeffrey, Scott Klase, Ken Kania, Jackie Hintz, Al Gremminger and Chuck Austin.
Your dedicated service to the membership is greatly appreciated!

Local 317 PAC

Local 317 recently established the Local 317 Operating Engineers Worker's Political Fund. This is a State PAC that will be funded by voluntary contributions from members. Thanks to Brothers Bill Holton and Rick Barnes for their efforts in establishing the fund. Information on how you can participate will be coming soon.



MERGER

On July 14, the Executive Board and membership unanimously approved the merger of Local 305 IUOE into Local 317. The members of Local 305 will vote on the merger on September 30. Local 305 is also a stationary local of the Operating Engineers representing approximately 105 workers at the Murphy Oil refinery in Superior, WI. A number of meetings have been held between leaders of the two locals and we are all enthused about the benefits of the merger.

Do you know your Weingarten Rights???

In 1975, the Supreme Court issued a decision that established an important new right for workers: **An employee may be represented by the Union at an investigatory interview with his/her employer when the employee reasonably believes that the interview may lead to disciplinary action.**

To determine the applicability of Weingarten, consider the following three rules:

RULE 1: If an employee reasonably believes that an interview may lead to disciplinary action, the employee **must make a clear request** for union representation before or during the interview. The employee cannot be punished for making this request.

RULE 2: After the employee makes the request, the employer must choose from among three options. The Employer must either; grant the request and delay questioning until the union representative arrives and has a chance to consult privately with the employee; deny the request and end the interview immediately; or give the employee a choice of having the interview without representation or ending the interview.

RULE 3: If the employer denies the request for union representation, and continues to ask questions, it commits an unfair labor practice and the employee has a right to refuse to answer. The employer may not discipline the employee for such a refusal.

The following information is valuable for union members:

If you are called into a meeting with a management representative and you have reason to believe that disciplinary action against you may result, you have the right to have a steward present during this meeting. Read the statement below to the management representative and contact your steward immediately.

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I request that my union representative, officer or steward be present at this meeting. Without representation, I choose not to participate in the meeting."

Do you know who your union stewards or representatives are? Call the union office for any questions you might have. This information can be found on our website at www.317.org



MOVING??: Please remember to notify the Union Office with your new address and phone number!!

FACILITY OPERATING-3/LOW PRESSURE BOILER CLASSES ARE STARTING SEPTEMBER 22
If you know anyone who might be interested, please call Linda at the Local 317 Union office or check our website for more information.
(www.317.org)



IN MEMORIAM

As we all know, the jobs performed by Local 317 members are often dangerous. On Friday, June 19, William "Bill" Kaiserling, a 30 year member of Local 317, came to work in the middle of the night to address flooding in the downtown Milwaukee Steam System. In the course of his work, Brother Kaiserling suffered significant burns. Bill's work partner, Brother Cal Burnside, did a great job of getting Bill to safety and finding immediate treatment for him. Bill was hospitalized in critical condition and unfortunately passed away on July 6, 2009.

In addition to being a highly skilled Steam System Mechanic, Bill was also a wonderful, generous man. In honoring Bill's memory, many people have mentioned that Bill was a friendly person who would give anyone the shirt off his back. He was active in his community and a very important part of his church where he served on the church council and volunteered much of his time. Bill was a true family man who is survived by his wife Jean and three adult children.

Bill's co-workers and the Local 317 membership mourn the loss of our Brother. We are proud to have claimed Bill as one of our members and we will remember his good nature and his strong work ethic. We know that Bill's spirit will guide us to work diligently and safely, and we will strive to honor Bill's memory by watching out for our Brothers and Sisters on the job.

IUOE Local 317
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Monthly Membership Meetings
Held every 2nd Tuesday of the month
Mark Maierle, Business Manager

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Pfister Hotel
Veolia (MMSD)
Usingers Sausage
War Memorial
We Energies

The Newsletter can now be found in the Member Info tab on our website at www.317.org If there is something you'd like to see on our site, please give us a call or email us: office@317.org