

THE "CURRENT" WORD

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2

MAY 2015

INDIANA RANKS LAST IN THE NATION

IN VOTER TURNOUT IN THE 2014 ELECTION

We should be ashamed that we allowed Republicans to walk away with super majorities in both the House and Senate. They wasted no time implementing their radical republican agenda! In the first 100 days of the new General Assembly, they proposed or passed legislation that 1) stripped elected Public Education Secretary Glenda Ritz of Chairmanship, 2) passed and corrected Religious Freedom Restoration Act making discrimination legal, and 3) repealed the Common Construction Wage, opening the doors for low-paying out-of-state contractors to steal our work. Their actions have brought so much embarrassment to the State of Indiana that they are spending \$2 million in damage control. The negative image these laws have brought to our state is reversible, but only if we get to the polls in droves and elect sensible, responsible representatives. Had everyone who voted Democrat for Glenda Ritz also voted for John Gregg and other local Democrats, none of the above legislation would have passed. John Gregg has denounced the extreme social issues Governor Pence keeps pushing and announced that he is running for governor. Former Senator Tim Skinner, defeated last year in the Republican onslaught, has announced that he will run against Alan Morrison for the District 42 House seat.



WE NEED TO
FIX THIS
MESS
BEFORE
UNIONS
BECOME
EXTINCT!

RAUNER ANTI-WORKER AGENDA STRUGGLING ON LOCAL LEVEL (IL AFL-CIO)

The Rauner anti-worker resolution continues to fail to gain a foothold on the local government level in the face of labor and community protests.

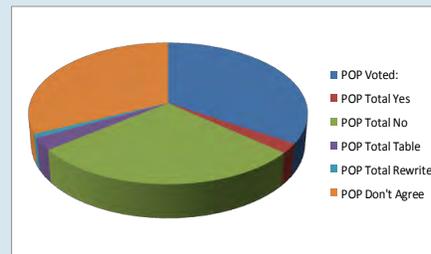
This past week highlights included the Cook County Board passing a pro-worker resolution, failure of the Rauner resolution in Jefferson County due to lack of second to the motion and Westville (Vermilion County) actually rescinding the resolution after passage last month.

"We need to keep up the great work being done on the local level with labor councils, building trade councils, local unions and community groups," Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan said. "We don't get much notice on these agendas, but we need to keep the heat on."

The Rauner anti-worker resolution states that local governments support his plans to create "right to work" zones, allow local governments to opt out of paying prevailing wage, advocate cutting workers' compensation and unemployment insurance, and allow for local governments to dictate the subjects of collective bargaining.

If enacted by local referendum or ordinance, much of the components in Rauner's resolution have been ruled as illegal by court decisions or state Attorney General opinions.

Some local governments are attempting to pass modified versions of the agenda, that still contain anti-worker language, such as seeking reforms to Workers' Compensation, pensions and Unemployment Insurance.



Rauner Right To Work Zone Tallies

POP VOTED:	3,730,435
POP Total Yes	242,608
POP Total No	3,082,203
POP Total Table	306,908
POP Total Rewrite	98,716
POP Don't Agree	3,487,827

SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS



Laugh all the way to the bank AFTER you retire.
But first, attend an educational meeting!

- ◆ TUESDAY, JUNE 16—UNION HALL— 7:00 PM
- ◆ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17—FOUNTAIN SQUARE, ROOM 240 BLOOMINGTON—6:00 P.M. EST

INDIANA IBEW STATEWIDE GOLF OUTING

I.B.E.W. Local Union #16 is hosting the 2015 Statewide Golf Outing at the Cambridge Golf Course in Evansville on July 18th. Start practicing and be on the lookout for registration info.



TERRE HAUTE REX NITE OUT

The Local is sponsoring the Terre Haute Rex game on Saturday, August 1st at 7:00 p.m. at Bob Warn Field. 75 Tickets Available—There also 4 tickets available to all of the home games beginning May 27th!
First Come—First Served For All Games!

STEWARD TRAINING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD
5:00 P.M.—UNION HALL

International Office Representatives will be conducting steward training on Wednesday, June 3rd at the union hall.
 Be sure to sign up to learn all facets of being a good steward and extension of the hall.

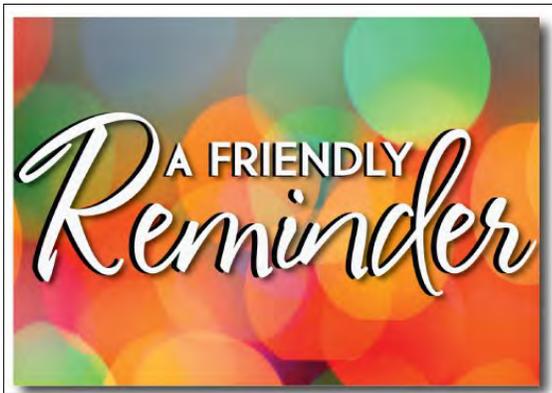
What is a Steward?

Union stewards are a key to building our union's strength.



2015 AWARDS BANQUET & DINNER/DANCE

Saturday, June 27th—I.S.U. Hulman Center
You should have received your invitation by now.
DID YOU RSVP?



2015 FAMILY PICNIC AT BOGEY'S IN TERRE HAUTE

Saturday, July 18th from
12:00 Noon—4:00 P.M.
Food Served 12:00—1:30
Bingo Starts At 1:30

RETIREE CLUB MEETINGS

11:30 A.M. EST

- JUNE 3—36 SALOON
- JULY 1—UNION HALL—COOKOUT
- AUGUST 5—CACKLEBERRIES
- SEPTEMBER 2
- UNION HALL—FISH FRY
- OCTOBER 7—PAT'S CAFÉ
- NOVEMBER 4—VALLEY GRILL
- DECEMBER 2—OLIVE GARDEN
(BRING A GUEST)

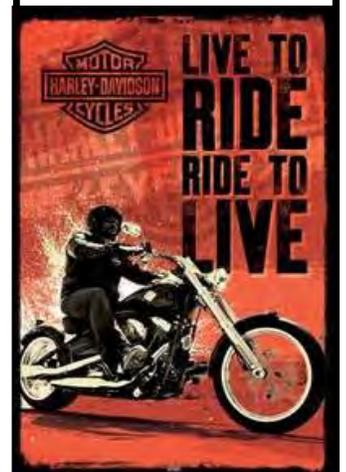


Don't Miss



**DON'T FORGET THE
ANNUAL MEMBERS'
ONLY COOKOUT ON
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 15TH AT THE
UNION HALL
12:00 NOON—5:00
We're Having Steak,
Shrimp, Ribs & More**

FUN RIDE TO
FRENCH LICK
SATURDAY,
JUNE 20TH.
MEET AT THE
UNION HALL
AT 9:00 A.M.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT, PAUL A. RUPSKA



The calls are starting to come in and it will be another great year to go watch our own Rex play some baseball. The Rex Night is Saturday, August 1st. The first pitch will be at 7:05 pm EST, and we have 75 tickets for the Rex Deck (first come first serve). We will have Rick's Smokehouse cater the food again this year. Work is looking good right now. NRK is moving along well on the new Meijer store on Highway 46 (hope to be able to shop there soon), Crown Electric is finishing the Paris High School, and Complete Electric is going good on the old Deming Center job. Later on this summer, I hope our local 725 softball team can make another run at the title game in the Illinois State Softball tournament. Hope to see all of you at the Member's Only Cookout, the Family Picnic, and the Dinner/Dance.

ORGANIZER'S REPORT— TOM SZYMANSKI



We are not alone. After Republican Governor Mike Pence signed into law the repeal of our state Prevailing Wage law, known as the Common Construction Wage, following a super majority of Republicans in both the IN House and Senate passing the repeal, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin and even Illinois are facing the same battles as recently as a few days ago. We do not necessarily support political parties, but we do support the individuals who support working families.

Is it any coincidence since Republican Governor Mitch Daniels took office in 2006 and Republicans took control of all three branches that state workers were also stripped of their right to have collective bargaining, Unemployment Insurance and Workers' Compensation benefits have been significantly reduced, enforcement of labor laws are being underfunded, OSHA safety standards enforcement lax, there has been zero movement on increasing the minimum wage, and the federal rights under the NLRB of private companies and unions to negotiate contract language to prevent Right-to-Work "for less" was made illegal? Plus, we have the attacks on public education and the teachers' unions, sending taxpayer's money to private for profit companies through charter schools and vouchers and eliminating their collective bargaining rights. The list goes on and on and Illinois is on the target list next as Republican Governor Rauner is on the offensive to copy Indiana.

It is a fact that a super-majority of the people who vote against our paychecks, vote against our living wage, vote against our livelihoods, and vote against unions, are Republicans. They all have voting records at the Statehouse that can be easily verified. They are guided and told how to vote by BIG Money ever since the Supreme Court's Citizens United case. The Chamber of Commerce, ALEC, Americans for Prosperity, Koch Brothers, and many other SuperPacs and unregulated campaign war chests now dictate how the laws are written. The only way we can compete is at the ballot box with Your votes, Our votes!

Things have changed significantly in the past ten years between political parties at the state and federal levels, and it truly has become the fight between the haves and the have-nots. It is not just IBEW 725 members that need to stick together, not just union construction unions, but all working people need to be united in their actions and their votes if we are ever going to change the direction we are headed in now!

The new apprentices went through a week long Boot Camp sponsored by the JATC. As part of the week long training, I had the opportunity to teach IBEW structure, labor history, and COMET class. Joe and I also did a Code of Excellence and COMET class for the fifth year class. Congratulations to all new Journeymen who will be topping out at the end of the month! Ryan Hughes and Shawn Stewart did a great job organizing the week's events, and thanks to Dane Strahle, Paul Rupska and Eric Biernbaum for assisting with teaching classes.

The IO continues to work with and monitor every local's organizing activities through daily on-line reporting in the OARS system and monthly meetings with our State Organizing Coordinator. We continue to do job site visits, worker education, and customer outreach to promote the best that the IBEW has to offer. As retirements are increasing substantially and a worker shortage is forecasted for all trades, we need to replenish our ranks and grow to become an even better and stronger local union!

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT—JOSEPH D. KERR

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Once again we have made it through a long Indiana winter and now look forward to all the nice weather that spring and summer bring. Along with the good weather, we expect the work opportunities to get a little better also. Our annual summer events are approaching quickly and I encourage you to take the time to attend as many events as you can. The Family Picnic, Members' Only Cookout, and the Dinner Dance and Awards Banquet dates are listed in this newsletter.

It hasn't been a good year for organized labor in the Indiana Legislature as many of you are aware. We cannot stress enough how important your vote is and how voting for those that support organized labor will help all of us maintain our working conditions and wages. So when the next election cycle rolls around and you hear all the propaganda, I ask you to look past that, look at the candidate, and ask does he support organized labor?, and just how much do you enjoy your union benefits and wage?, because they may just depend on how you cast your vote.

The Trustees of the Decatur Health and Welfare met for their spring meeting recently and you will be receiving a mailing from Decatur on the upcoming changes. Those changes will be: Of the \$1.80 going into unfunded pension contributions, 40 cents of that will now be credited leaving only \$1.40 to continue as unfunded and that number has come down from \$2.20 to \$1.40 in the last year. The pension plan is looking good and continues to be a strong fund. The second thing is a Health and Welfare contribution increase of 25 cents on January 1 of 2016 following the scheduled 25 cent increase June 1 of 2015. This is due largely in part to the rising cost of health care. It is the duty of all 38 of the trustees (19 from labor and 19 from employers) to make sure the Health and Welfare fund is there for years to come for all of our members, and it still remains one of the lowest cost health care plans out there compared to other locals.

I am still working on the steward's newsletter and hope to have that going very soon. Also, I plan on working out of the Bloomington office on the first Thursday of every month starting in June. This, of course, could be affected by my schedule but that is the goal. I will be on jobsites, attending Building Trades meetings, and then be in the office until 5 pm on those days. We are still conducting the Code of Excellence training, and I encourage everyone to try and attend one of those classes. In closing I would like to add, if you hear something that doesn't sound right or you have a question, please feel free to call me or Paul or Dane to get the truth about the situation.

Congratulations to the graduating apprenticeship class of 2015!!

"The labor movement means just this:

It is the last noble protest of the American People against the Power of Incorporated Wealth."

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT—DANE STRAHLE

Greetings To All Our Members,

Well here we go heading into another spring and summer work season. There is a lot of work on the agenda for IU, ISU, VU, and most of the surrounding K-12 schools. As most of you know, we lost the Common Construction Wage (CCW) because it was voted out by Indiana's Republican "Super Majority" Congress. This wage Law protected Hoosier jobs and helped keep our local and state economies solid. The CCW was not strictly a union wage protection law, it helped protect local non-union wages as well from out-of-state contractors that now can come into our state and way under bid our local contractors because there is no prevailing wage. Then they will take their paychecks back home with them across state lines, and Indiana's economy will soon start to suffer as do most of the southern states that have done away with CCW and have Right To Work Laws in place. They are the poorest states and have the worst education record in all of the United States!! This work covers all schools and public projects that involve our Indiana tax dollars. We are not sure how soon we will start to see the effect of this sad and horrible act committed by this present Indiana State Congress. We only know that it will happen, and the huge gap between the rich and poor will become even bigger and the entire state will suffer. We do not have to look the other way or take this atrocity lying down. All we have to do is look to the polls at voting time. We do have an option and we had better take advantage of it, or we will be just another poor state looking to the Federal Government for assistance. Please vote and tell your family, friends, and neighbors to vote. This next election will be one of, if not the most, important election we will face in our lifetime and possibly our children's lifetime.

FEATURED MEMBERS OF THE QUARTER

Each quarter, the Local features an article about one member who has stood out among us all and deserves recognition. We are asking all members to contact us and let us know which one of your brothers or sisters deserves a "hard hats off" salute. Your nominee may have done something on-the-job, for his family or community, or just performed a kind act such as helping a brother in need. We see that happen often and we want everybody to hear about it! Please be sure to submit the name of the member you would like to see featured in our quarterly newsletter. Let's make sure everyone knows about the members who make this Local so great!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015 GRADUATING APPRENTICES

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| BRYAN BUMPUS | JUSTIN HEDDEN |
| MICHAEL CLARK | MATTHEW OWEN |
| STEVEN DOWELL | MATTHEW ROBINSON |
| DALLAS GRAHAM | DONALD SIMS |
| CHRISTOPHER GRANT | CLARK YOUNG |
| BRIAN HAWKINS | DANNY SMITH |



SEE YOU AT THE GRADUATION BANQUET
ON FRIDAY, MAY 29TH AT STABLES!!!



BLOOMINGTON SATELLITE OFFICE
Fountain Square Mall
101 West Kirkwood Avenue, Suite 005A

Business Manager Joe Kerr will be available to meet with members living or working in or near Bloomington on the first Thursday of every month as his schedule allows. Call first to confirm that a representative is available on the first Thursday of every month!

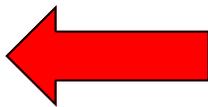
IBEW 601 SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

CALL PAUL RUPSKA AT THE HALL
TO SIGN UP FOR A WEEKEND OF
SOFTBALL FUN AT IBEW #601
SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
AUGUST 8TH & 9TH



BAIRD
 Behning
 Beumer
 Braun
 Brown, T
 Burton
 Carbaugh
 Cherry
 Clere
 Cook
 Cox
 Culver
 Davisson
 DeVon
 Eberhart
 Frizzell
 Frye
 Gutwein
 Hamm
 Harman
HEATON
 Huston
 Judy
 Kirchhofer
 Lehe
 Lehman
 Leonard
 Lucas
 Mahan
MAYFIELD
 McMillin
 McNamara
 Miller
 Morris
MORRISON
 Negele
 Ober
 Price
 Rhoads
 Richardson
 Schaibley
 Smaltz
 Smith, M
 Speedy
 Steuerwald
 Sullivan
 Thompson
 Torr
 Truitt
UBELHOR
 VanNatter
 Wesco
 Zent
 Ziemke
SPEAKER BOSMA

**REPEAL OF
 COMMON
 CONSTRUCTION
 WAGE PASSES
 BOTH HOUSE
 AND SENATE.
 MEMORIZE THE
 NAMES OF
 THOSE WHO
 VOTED FOR THE
 REPEAL AND
 LET'S TAKE
 THEIR WORK
 AWAY.**



**INDIANA
 HOUSE REP'S WHO
 VOTED TO REPEAL
 COMMON
 CONSTRUCTION
 WAGE**



**INDIANA
 SENATORS
 WHO VOTED
 TO REPEAL
 COMMON
 CONSTRUCTION
 WAGE**

Alting
 Banks, A.
BASSLER
BRAY
 Brown
 Buck
 Eckerty
 Glick
 Grooms
 Head
 Hershman
 Holdman
 Houchin
 Kenley
 Kruse
 Leising
 Long
 Merritt
 Miller, Pat
 Miller, Pete
 Mishler
 Perfect
 Raatz
 Schneider
 Smith
 Walker
 Yoder
 27 YAY—22 NO



IBEW Local Union #725
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Remembers Those Who Gave All



**In Memory Of Our Union Brothers
 Who Left Us This Past Year...**

William Brandom	Ed Hill
Norm Gregory	Harold Hoopengartner
Jim Guy	George Korenski
Jim Hartman	Ed McCain
	Ted Prose

Tribune Star Memorial Day Advertisement

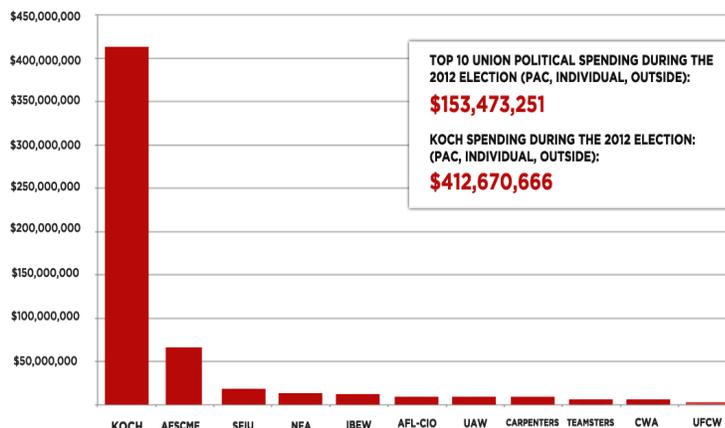


**YARD SIGNS
 ARE AVAILABLE!**



Help Support Our Political Issues!
 For a \$10.00 donation to our PAC Fund for each
 yard sign, you will help spread the word and
 promote our Union!
 Stop by the hall to get yours today!

POLITICAL SPENDING DURING THE 2012 ELECTION



**HAVE A GREAT
 MEMORIAL DAY
 WEEKEND!**



I.B.E.W. Local Union #725
5675 East Hulman Drive
Terre Haute, IN 47803

**IBEW LOCAL
UNION #725**

CONTACT US ANYTIME:

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unionhall@ibew725.org

We're Also On The Web:

www.ibew725.org

Log On To Our Website For The Latest Job Information. Or, Follow Us On:



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

THEN LOOK INSIDE FOR INFO ON:

STEWARD TRAINING—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD
SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION EDUCATION MEETINGS—
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16TH & 17TH
2ND ANNUAL FUN RIDE—SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH
2015 DINNER/DANCE—SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH
ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC—SATURDAY, JULY 18TH
TERRE HAUTE REX NITE OUT—AUGUST 1ST
MEMBERS' ONLY COOKOUT—SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH
LABOR DAY PARADES—MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH