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**Trail Blazer** ⚡628th Edition⚡  
OCTOBER 2009

# IBEW LOCAL UNION 520 ANNUAL PICNIC



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009**

12:00 NOON TO 4:00 P.M.  
FOOD SERVICE FROM 12:30-2:30 P.M.



**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 520**  
P. O. Box 18508  
Austin, Texas 78760-8508

**YOUR  
LOCAL UNION  
OFFICE**

**BUSINESSMANAGER'S  
REPORT**

Brothers & Sisters,

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED ....If you are like me, watching the health care debate has been extremely frustrating. The opposition to true reform has done a great job of mobilizing people in spite of the facts. The good news is that they seem to have lost steam and serious debate is now taking place. That means it is time to ramp up our activities to let our elected officials know that there are more people out there that demand reform than those that are shouting just to hear themselves.

We will be getting daily activity reports from the AFL-CIO from now until a bill passes. We need to keep the pressure up. Phone calls, e-mails, letters and appearances by our members is the best way to make our voices heard.

**Support Health Care Reform**  
*Write Congress Today*

An original, handwritten letter is one of the best ways to communicate with your members of Congress. You can use the sample messages below as a guide. Some additional hints: \*Include your own thoughts and/or a personal story. \*Be brief and to the point. \*Include your name and home address, and \*please be polite.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Health care reform is urgent. We need action now. Costs are soaring, but we receive less care. Please support health care reform that controls costs, stops insurance company abuses, includes a strong public health insurance plan option and does not raise costs for working families.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I urge you to support working families, not insurance companies, in your health care reform votes. We must hold insurance companies accountable, and that means including the choice of a public health insurance plan option. A public health insurance option is essential to genuine health care reform.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

A public health insurance plan option is the best way to lower health care costs—it will ensure real competition, keep private insurance companies honest and guarantee that everybody can get health coverage.

The Senate Finance Committee is expected to vote on a bill next Tuesday, marking the end of the committee process and setting up floor debates in the coming weeks. With the long hot summer of discontent ended, momentum continues to build, and we're proud to say that the labor movement in the U.S. and Texas has participated in letting lawmakers know that we voted for meaningful reform in 2008 and expect to see it happen.

Thank you for helping us with this very important legislation that will benefit everyone.

**Pay your dues and change your  
address online: [www.IBEW520.org](http://www.IBEW520.org)**

**ATTENTION RETIRING MEMBERS** The Local Union Office has just received a request from the NEBF Office for retiring members: Participant work history records are not maintained in the NEBF system prior to 1965. If you worked in the Electrical Industry prior to 1965 or you are claiming Past Service Credits, NEBF will forward your completed social security authorization form to the Social Security Administration to get employment information for any missing years. By verifying your work history early, they will be able to process your application more timely when you are ready to retire. Please see Ann Pannell at the Local Union Office for the processing of your pension application, or if you have any questions regarding your retirement. She may be contacted at 512/326-3650.

**Upcoming Holidays – Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2009. Thanksgiving Day, and the Friday following it, Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, 2009.** Holidays shall be paid for at the rate of double time

*In Brotherhood and Solidarity,*



David M. Adamson  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

## OUR MEMBERS CONTINUING EDUCATION

There are no Continuing Education Classes scheduled at this time. If you have any questions concerning Journeyman and CW/CE classes please contact Donna at 389-3024. JATC Office hours are Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Please see the calendar of scheduled Foreman Training Classes for 2009-2010 on page 4.

### VACATION FUND

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION** - Local Union 520 continues to enroll members into Velocity Credit Union. Please remember **IT IS NOT AN OPTION** to leave your vacation fund at the LU Office or transfer it to Velocity. ALL ACCOUNTS MUST BE TRANSFERRED. A service charge will be assessed to your Vacation Account in the near future, if it is not transferred to the credit union. Please see Nancy Voigt at the Local Union Office to enroll. A Drivers' License or other form of photo ID is required. No deposit is required at the time of sign-up. That transaction will occur when the monthly Vacation deduction is deposited.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

**Local Union Picnic** The Annual Local Union 520 Picnic this year will be held on **Sunday, October 25, 2009**, at the Salt Lick, from 11:30 – 4:00 p.m. A special mailer was previously sent, explaining all the details. We hope to see you there.

**Drug Testing** – If you are on the Out of Work Book and seeking employment, please make sure your Drug Free Card is up to date. Currently Local 520 is no longer doing the rapid drug tests. It takes up to three (3) days to get drug testing results back, so if your card has expired, please be sure you have renewed your status, and have a current Drug Free Card in your pocket when seeking employment.

### DEATHS

Brother Edward A. Herrera passed away on 9/24/09 unexpectedly at the age of 32. Services were previously held. Death Benefit #320 is due & payable.

Idabelle Sellers, Mother of Mike Sellers and Grandmother of Curtis Sellers passed away on 9/23/09. Services were previously held.

### General Notices

**Retired Members** – The Retired Members meetings for October and November will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, and Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. The meetings will be held at Casa Garcia Mexican Food Restaurant, located at 1901 West William Cannon Dr. and

Manchaca Road. Telephone # 441-9504. Everyone is welcome.

**Out-of-Work Book** – You must re-sign the out-of-work book every 30 days or your name will be removed in accordance with Article III, Section 12(b) of the current Inside Agreement.

**Roll Call** – Meeting hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 4818 E. Ben White Blvd., Austin, TX. Sign in begins at 6:30 a.m. and roll call starts promptly at 7:00 a.m. **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN THE DAY BOOK.**

**Local Union Meeting** – OCTOBER 13, 2009, at LU 520 meeting hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 4818 E. Ben White Blvd., Austin, TX.

### Local Union Dues:

**Dues** payments can be accepted for the exact amount only. Any check that is under or overpaid will be returned. Don't forget you can pay your dues online.

- "A" Member dues are **\$26.25**
- "BA" Member dues are \$14.00.
- **Death Benefits** are \$7.50 and are due upon the death of a member.
- **Teledata "A"** Member dues are \$29.00.

**Attendance Drawing** – The Pill Jar was not won at the September 8, 2009 Meeting and will be worth \$800.00 at the October 13, 2009 Local Union Meeting.

**Trail Blazer Prize** - Congratulations to Member No. A-D721306 who will receive this month's Trail Blazer Prize of \$26.25, upon presentation of this edition of the Trail Blazer to the Business Manager at the October 13, 2009 Union meeting.

### CONTACT NUMBERS:

**Local Union Office MAIN LINE – 512/326-9540**

PLEASE take note of the new MAIN LINE #

The Local Union Office has a new telephone system. You may call the MAIN LINE shown above to reach the Operator and direct your call by pressing the extension desired.

**Job Call Line – 512/326-9545 after 4:00 p.m.**

**Local Union/Referral Fax – 512/326-9596**

**Business Manager's Office - 512/326-3650**

**Bus. Mgr Fax 512/326-8668**

**LU 520 Website [www.ibew520.org](http://www.ibew520.org)**

**Velocity Credit Union – 512-469-7000**







**Website [www.medco.com](http://www.medco.com) – Effective 5/1/08**

**Health - ERISA Administrators, 1-866-434-2200**

**Vision Service Plan (VSP) 1-800-877-7195**

**H&W – Hour Bank Info – 1-866-434-2200**

# 2009-2010 Foreman Training Calendar

		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
<i>All Classes are from 5:00-7:00 PM</i>		<b>September</b>							<b>October</b>						
				1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
Role of the Foreman		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Project Start-Up		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Labor Relations		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Scheduling Manpower		27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Safety															
Understanding the Estimate		<b>November</b>							<b>December</b>						
											1	2	3	4	5
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31		
		29	30												
		<b>January</b>							<b>February</b>						
							1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28						

*Every piece of progressive social legislation passed by Congress in the 20th century bears a union label.*

*-- George Meany*

