

TAILGATING

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Sgt. Todd Egli

Sheriff Brian Garner

Linn County Sergeant Receives His 3rd Life Saving Commendation Award

On Thursday, October 10, 2019, at approximately 5:38 PM, Linn County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division Sergeant Todd Egli performed a traffic stop with a vehicle on County Home Road near Springville Road for a speeding violation. After approaching the vehicle and making contact with the occupants, he quickly realized that a 67-year-old male passenger was experiencing a critical medical incident and requested an ambulance be dispatched to the scene. The passenger was found to be unconscious with a non-detectable pulse and was breathing shallowly. His eyes were fixed open and his skin was pale and clammy.

Sgt. Egli went to his patrol vehicle to retrieve his medical bag and returned to the patient to render aid. With help from the driver, they removed the patient from the vehicle and laid him down on the shoulder of the road. Sgt. Egli reassessed the patient and attached his automated external defibrillator (AED). The AED gave a "no shock" prompt and advised to "start CPR". Shortly thereafter, the patient slowly began to regain consciousness.

Medical personnel, including Rescue 57, arrived on-scene shortly thereafter and took over patient care. During the patient's transport to the hospital in the ambulance, it was noted that his blood pressure was dangerously low and he was given IV fluid and medication to correct this. By the time the patient arrived at the hospital, he was conscious and alert. The patient ended up being diagnosed with an aortic tear, had lost a significant amount of blood, and was in a critical stage of shock. He was taken to the operating room for corrective surgery and ultimately made a full recovery from this medical emergency.

Due to the patient's blood loss and upright-seated position in the vehicle, his brain was not receiving adequate blood flow, causing his unresponsiveness. It is the belief of the medical providers that had Sgt. Egli not removed the patient from the vehicle and laid him down, his brain would have gone too long without the necessary oxygenated blood supply and he likely would not have survived this event.

Because of his actions in this incident, Linn County Sheriff Brian Gardner awarded Sergeant Todd Egli with the Life Saving commendation award for the act of saving a life on October 10, 2019. This was the third such award that has been presented to Sgt. Egli during his 18-year career with the Linn County Sheriff's Office.

Article courtesy of The Honorary Gold Star Newsletter

Officer Changes

With the recent retirement of Vice President, Randy Drummer, we are pleased to welcome Jeff Chapman as the new Vice President of Local 204. Jeff is a Maintenance Mechanic at Prairie Creek on the IES contract and has been a member of Local 204 for 11 years.

Adam Splinter was brought into the office as an Assistant Business Manager to replace Brian Scott. Adam comes off the Black Hills Energy contract as a Corrosion/Leak Technician and was an E-Board member from Area 5. Adam has been a member of Local 204 for 12 years.

With the vacated Area 5 seat on E-Board, we are pleased to announce that Corey Birkel has accepted to serve as your Area 5 representative. Corey is a Line Mechanic with Alliant Energy on the IPC contract. Corey is no stranger to the E-Board, bringing experience from a previous term as an At-Large representative. Corey has been a member of Local 204 for 15 years.

Thanks to Randy and Brian for all of their service to Local 204!

Conferences

To no surprise, COVID-19 has drastically changed the way a lot of things are done. One of them has been Conferences and Meetings.

We are looking forward to the membership being able to start attending conferences again, hopefully in the near future. The University of Iowa Labor Center is going to host their Labor Short Course via Zoom April 12-16, 2021. The E-Board has approved this conference for the membership. There is a limited amount of participants that we can send, so please call the Hall at (319)-366-3434 if you are interested. Local 204 will cover lost straight time wages for attending, Local 204 will not cover lost wages if attendance is not maintained throughout the conference.

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are as happy as I am to put 2020 in the rearview mirror as it has been a trying year for everyone. Covid-19 and an election this year has covered the headlines everyday on all social media outlets.

The Union has been challenged through this all with Union meetings being cancelled & still trying to keep us all informed. Some big challenges were to negotiate contracts and schedule to meet with companies moving forward. 204 large group was a long process to get a package for the members to vote on. I was opposed to the package and how it impacted my classification on lost income on job site reporting. The membership voted to approve it and I had to accept. I'm trying to stay positive as I look back at all the changes in contracts in my 33 plus years in this company and negotiations, some were good and some were bad. We can all agree things could always be better on all of the contracts we represent.

The positives have been the slowly rising wages over my years, vacation has been getting better for our younger employees to get vacation sooner. The bereavement leave is still one of the best with more definitions, and our sick leave bank is probably the most positive thing hoping you never have to use all of it, only to offset your retirement.

A friend of mine sent me this saying not too long ago "Staying positive does not mean you have to be happy all of the time, it means that even on hard days you know that there are better days coming".

Covid-19 this year has changed all of our lives at work and in our personal lives tremendously. We are considered essential workers and exposed to the public on a daily basis. We try to social distance the best we can, but it is a challenge to us all. People get spread out reporting to different locations, while others still reported to their headquarters.

For some of us it has been hard to keep positive when you are at work and there are people who are working from home that you cannot always get the answers or support you need. The phone calls have not always gotten answered, receipts have been lost, and emailing back and forth has not been an efficient use of our time while we are just wanting answers in a timely manner.

It was amazing when Derecho hit & how it impacted the utility companies. All hands were in the same building helping each other and Covid-19 was not a concern.

With the start of New Year 2021, hopefully we can all get back to some normalcy and people can start interacting together again. I keep reminding everyone to stay focused on safety and look out for each other. The main goal is to be able to spend your time with your family & loved ones.

I hope everyone has a safe and Happy New Year and let's all stay positive, enjoy life, and try to respect each other.

In Solidarity,

Doug Kott
Executive Board
Area 1

ULCS Members and the NEAP Issues

If you are a member on the ULCS contract you are well aware that there have been some issues with your NEAP contributions. These issues have been ongoing since the spring, but we are hopeful they have been corrected. Tina Hayes, from ULCS, got involved to help find out what was the cause of the delays with contributions and with some months showing up as no contributions. Tina was able to get in contact with someone at NEAP and we believed to have had the problem figured out and on the way to being resolved. I had gotten involved and notified the IBEW of the issues we were having. Shortly later I received a phone call from the Director of NEAP, Larry Bradley. Mr. Bradley explained to me that the initial issues were due to ULCS moving to sending the money electronically and not sending over the reports to verify how much goes to each person. They believed they got that corrected, but it took time to retroactively allocate those funds. Part of that process also included correcting the earnings. Then we had another issue mid-summer. The money for July and August did not get posted until September, so NEAP had to go back and recalculate those earnings as well. The time frame from March to August was rocky to say the least. NEAP had employees passing blame on COVID which was not the case. Needless to say certain NEAP employees that were responsible do not work there anymore. Mr. Bradley took full responsibility and gave me his word that those funds will be properly allocated and each person will be made whole on their earnings as well. Keep in mind that the statements lag one month and this is normal. Please pay close attention to your 4th quarter statement which you should receive in February at the latest. Check the amounts and let us know if there are still any issues. We were told everything would be resolved by that statement. Thank you to those who brought this to our attention and for being patient as we worked through it.

Black Hills Energy Contract Ratification

Ballots were counted on 1/6/21 by 3 members from another Local 204 contract. There was a Judge and two Tellers. Local 204 is very happy with the voter turnout for this contract.

We are pleased to announce that the contract passed with a resounding 94% yes vote. With this yes vote, all negotiated changes to the Bargaining Agreement, will go into effect on February 1st, 2021.

Local 204 would like to thank the negotiating team consisting of: Karen VanDusseldorp, Jeff Fjelstul & Jim Hendricks for all of their hard work and involvement throughout the Negotiating process.

The local would also like thank everybody who took the time to ask questions and have their voice heard through the voting process. If there are any questions going forward, please do not hesitate to call us at the hall.

Local 204 and COVID-19 Update

February's unit meetings are cancelled. In addition, the office will be available by appointment only. We can be reached by the contact information below:

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