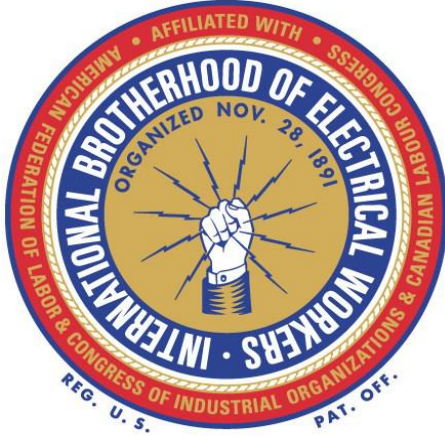


TAILGATING

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2018 LOCAL 204 STEWARDS' SCHOOL

This year's Stewards' School will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018, at the Kirkwood Hotel & Convention Center at 8:00 AM. Registration is at 7:30 AM.

IBEW LOCAL 204

A hospitality suite will be open to participants at 5:00 PM on Friday evening March 16th at the Kirkwood Hotel, where beverages and appetizers will be served.

The Stewards' School is OPEN TO ALL IBEW Local 204 Stewards and other members, if space is available.

Local 204 will pay mileage OR provide a hotel room (Friday night) if you live between 20 and 120 miles from Cedar Rapids. For those who live MORE than 120 miles from Cedar Rapids, Local 204 will provide a hotel room (Friday night) AND pay mileage. You must pre-register with the Local 204 office, since there are a limited number of spaces available.

Participants **MUST** make reservations to the Local 204 office at (800) 397-IBEW OR (319) 366-3434, **by February 23rd for members that will need a room, and by March 9th for all others.**

If anyone has any questions, please contact the Local 204 office.

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February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7 Union Meeting Mason City 6:30 PM	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Union Meeting Ottumwa 6:30 PM	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21 Union Meeting Dubuque 6:30 PM	22 Executive Board	23	24
25	26	27	28 Union Meeting DAEC 3:00 PM			

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Union Meeting Ames 6:30 PM	8	9	10
11 Start of Daylight Savings Time	12	13	14 Union Meeting Atlantic 6:30 PM	15	16 Executive Board	17 St. Patrick's Day Steward's School
18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21 Union Meeting Manchester 6:30 PM	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Union Meeting Grinnell 6:30 PM	29	30 Good Friday	31

Messages From The Executive Board

New Executive Board Member Corey Birkel

I would like to start by introducing myself to my IBEW Local 204 Brothers & Sisters. I'm Corey Birkel, a Line Mechanic in Dubuque, off of the IPC contract with Alliant Energy. I have been with Alliant Energy and a Union Brother for just shy of 12 years.

I'm very involved in my community. I have been a volunteer Fireman since I completed my 4-year tour in The Marines, which ended the fall of 1998. I have been with the Farley Fire Department and a member of the Farley American Legion for 16 years. I'm very involved in coaching my three daughter's softball teams.

The Executive Board appointed me to fill the At Large opening left by the retirement of Tim Boyle. I will do my best to represent all Local 204 members.

My start getting involved in the Union, came when older stewards retired or decided to step aside. At first no one else wanted to step forward, then I thought this would be a good way to start being more involved with my Union Brothers & Sisters.

The main reason I wanted to be involved with the Executive Board was to insure the strength of the Union for now and for years to come. I think we all see how our companies want to do more with less employees.

Keep doing your Best and BE The Best!

Corey Birkel
Executive Board Member
At Large

Season's Greetings!

I hope everyone has had a safe and happy holiday season spending time with your friends and family. As one year closes and another begins, it feels like 2017 has flown by at an incredible pace.

Alliant Energy's decision to assist with storm restoration in Florida was an incredible experience. I appreciate the opportunity I was given to work alongside a great team in extreme conditions that included high heat and humidity. All team members looked out for one another's safety in these hazardous conditions by discussing dangerous situations and ensuring every member stayed hydrated.

As in years past, we once again have many dedicated members retiring with 20, 30, and 40 years of service. We are all thankful for their commitment and recognize that their experience and knowledge will be difficult to replace. I would like to personally thank Tim Boyle and Mike Welsh for the countless hours they have given of themselves to our Local Union. These two individuals really helped with committees, negotiations, and were always willing to step up for employees in need of assistance.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Alliant Energy has recently been talking about projects being pushed back to later dates or cancelled all together. Our employees may be required to travel to other locations in order to help with life extensions, pipe replacements, or regulatory work. Whether you serve on the line or gas side does not matter, they are both physically demanding.

As a member of Local 204, it would be great to get contractors off all of our properties. Doing more in house work keeps all of us working, whether in dig or vac jobs. In some areas we have members desiring to give our work to others, however, we are able to do the work better and cheaper by working together. Technology is already hitting our workforce. AMI metering, will reduce over one hundred jobs in the future. We will not always be able to keep up with the changes or see them evolving in the years to come, so we must work together to create a stable future for everyone.

Stay Safe and Have a Great Year,
Doug Kott
Area #1
Executive Board

Thank You for Your Service



Tim Boyle receives a retirement clock for his years of service on the Executive Board from Business Manager Dave George.
Thank You Tim ! Enjoy Retirement!



Mike Welsh receives a retirement clock for his years of service on the Executive Board from Business Manager Dave George.
Thank You Mike! Enjoy Retirement!

2017 International Gas Rodeo

At the end of August I got the honor of joining five, two-man teams from Iowa and two, two-man teams from Wisconsin at the International Gas Rodeo. The event was held in Golden, Colorado. The gas rodeo teams started preparing for this competition four months in advance, practicing once a month to hone our skills. We set up each event at the training center so that we could simulate what we were going to see when we arrived in Colorado.

Upon arrival in Golden we were briefed on the next day's events and how each team was going to be seeded. That night we had a meet and greet where we got to talk to many different companies about their standards and procedures, and how their companies were looking at the future of the gas industry.

The next morning we headed to the fairgrounds where we were given our numbers, schedules, and instructed on how the day's events were going to proceed. Each team had four events. The events included, the meter set build, running a service, six inch pipe cut, and the pig dig. Each one of the competitions was not only physically demanding, but mentally. Not only did each task need to be completed in as little time as possible, but you also had to do it with little to no mistakes. Every mistake meant a penalty, which was added to your total time. Overall, the teams from Alliant Energy competed well. Each team had events that could have gone better, but in the end, it was a great learning experience. It was also a good excuse to get together with guys from around the country to talk gas work and have some fun.

The top ten teams out of fifty that had the lowest combined scores, automatically made it to the next day for the main event. The other forty teams got one last attempt to get into the main event through a 'mystery event'. No one knew what it was, nor could we have prepared for it! Alliant Energy's Wisconsin team did very well and was able to get into the top ten, automatically making it to the next day. The rest of us had to try to work into the main event via the mystery event. The event included picking up buckets with a mini-excavator then filling the buckets with water, and then lifting them into the air, attempting to fill a tube with a float in it. This task was easier said than done. We had a couple teams get very close to having a winning time, but in the end didn't quite make it. The Wisconsin team that got an automatic bid in, did very well in the final event and placed 3rd overall!

This gas rodeo was an amazing experience for me; I got to have a little fun doing what I love. We had the opportunity to talk to a lot of great people and I made some great bonds with the guys from Alliant. I would like to be the first to sincerely thank Alliant Energy for providing us this opportunity. It's not cheap to send seven teams, two managers, and a Health and Wellness Coach to Golden, Colorado. I'd also like to give a big thank you to Local 204. They have been very supportive of our teams, not only this year, but in past years as well. They have not only provided shirts, but also helped in anyway they could to keep our teams going to this event!

In closing I'd like to recognize all the guys that went and give them a big thank you for allowing me into this group.

From Iowa; Nick Vanderwilt, Kyle Pike, Ryan Shore, Russell Harder, Jon Demmin, Todd Murphy, Jamie Zang, Levi Wagener, Anthony Waldron, and Aaron Mathson.

Managers; without these people we would have been lost, Mike Dillie, Theresa Johnson, and Jason Nevins, Health and Wellness.

From Wisconsin; Josh Jaskolski, Steve Scheffel, Travis Casper, and Hunter Destree.

I'm sure I missed some people and I apologize ahead of time if I did, but we couldn't have done this without our support team, and everybody that was behind the scenes getting us out there! Thank you again, Local 204 and Alliant Energy for your support!

In solidarity,

Anthony Waldron

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Jay Wical, Gas Mechanic with Alliant Energy in Iowa Falls, IA, receives his 25-year watch from Assistant Business Manager Matt Fischer.



Wayne Dewey, Combination Mechanic with Alliant Energy in Iowa Falls, IA, receives his 25-year watch from Assistant Business Manager Matt Fischer.