

IBEW LOCAL 34 CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 3-16-2020

Dear IBEW Local 34 Family,

The IBEW has a long history of protecting our workers on the job. Today we find ourselves needing to protect each member and their families on and off the job. Yesterday, the Governor of Illinois J.B. Pritzker has declared a state of emergency in response to the Corona Virus, also known as COVID-19. All public schools in Illinois are closing through at least March 30th to limit large gatherings and possible exposure. All IBEW and Building Trades conventions and events throughout the state and the Nation have been cancelled. This will and is already creating a disruption in our industry. Friday March 13th, Local 34 had a job shutdown and layoffs due to extreme caution of a customer. The JATC committee has also closed apprenticeship classes through March 30th along with the cancelation of our Code Update class by the NJATC which was scheduled for April 25th.

As a response, Local 34 is asking all members and travelers to limit access to all three Local offices. **Dues payments should be made online through the Local 34 website or by calling the Hall @ 309-673-3691. If you should be laid off you will be able to sign the book by sending a copy of your dues and severance slips to contactus@ibew34.org or by picture message to Assistant Business Manager Tim Sprout @ 309-253-3460. Galesburg and Quincy members can do the same as above or you contact Reps. Jeremy Shultz @ 309-645-0543 and Steve Marold @ 309-645-4903. This referral policy is in effect until further notice.** If you must come to any one of the three offices, please call ahead so that we can stagger times of visitors. All Local 34 events for the month of March are cancelled. This includes the Galesburg and Quincy unit meetings. Please watch our Local 34 website and Facebook page for continuing updates. You will also receive updates through mass communication so please read all emails and texts received from the Hall.

Please try and limit your public exposure during off work hours as another precaution so that we do not bring this virus to a jobsite and consequently to our homes. These are uncharted waters, and while we may not have the answers to every question, we wanted to communicate to you what we are currently doing. There is a lot of uncertainty, and that is understandable. You can rest assured we are vigorously advocating for our members and have been told by the employers the minute they have information to share, it will be communicated.

It is important to support each other during this time. Your Business Manager, Local Union staff, International Office, are here to assist in any way we can. We also are here to answer questions. So please feel free to reach out if you need things answered.

In Solidarity,

Paul Flynn and Local 34 staff

