THE LOCAL REVIEW

October 2026

Issue 46

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **10/3:** Illini Tailgate 12PM Memorial Studium Lot 31
- **10/5:** John Boos Committee Meeting 4PM Effingham Event Center
- **10/14:** Cub Club 5PM - Champaign
- **10/19:** Member Meeting 6PM Champaign
- **10/28:** Southern Committee Meeting 6:30PM Muddy Saloon, Wheeler

RECENT NEWS

Health Plan Update: 2027 WEX Card Changes

Good news for members with a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)! The Health Plan Trustees heard your concerns about having to wait several months for unused HRA funds to carry over into the new year. Starting in 2027, you will no longer have to wait until April for those funds to become available.

Communications regarding the details of this change will be sent out to members early this month.

IMPORTANT INFO

Southern District Scholarships - Apply by October 30

The Southern District of the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Scholarship Program is accepting applications through October 30, 2026. Scholarships are awarded in $1,000 increments. Full eligibility requirements and the application are available on our website.

Automatic Card Payments Now Available

Members can now sign up for automatic monthly dues payments through our website. Once enrolled, your dues will be automatically charged each month - one less payment to remember!



Mental Health Matters

September brought attention to suicide prevention in the construction industry, but the conversation about mental health shouldn't stop when the month ends. October 5–11 is Mental Illness Awareness Week, another reminder that mental health can affect anyone. For more information and resources on Mental Illness Awareness, visit nami.org.

FOR MEMBERS: Counseling, support and resources are avaliable through the Member Assistance Program. Visit www.guidanceresources.com and use web ID: CIC.



Design & Layout: Brittany Lindsey

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

10/3: Welding- Basic
10/3: Scaffold Refresher
10/10: Silica Awareness & Ergonomics
10/10 - 10/17: ICRA-Best Practices In Health Care Construction
10/17: Ergonomics
10/17: Welding- Basic
10/18: ICRA-Best Practices in Health Care Refresher
10/24: Ceiling Systems - Exposed Grid

All classes are held at:
MACTC-Pekin Campus
904 Brenkman Drive
Pekin, IL 61554

Visit mactc.org to enroll.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Carrying on the Labor Day Tradition
Local 243 was proud to participate in the Champaign and Danville Labor Day parades again this year. Members and their families came out to represent Local 243, celebrate the trades and enjoy a great Labor Day together. Labor Day is an opportunity to recognize the generations of working men and women who fought for better wages, safer working conditions and a stronger voice on the job. We're always glad to see Local 243 members and their families come together to continue that tradition.
Thank you to everyone who joined us for the parades and helped make this year another great turnout!







Putting Our Skills to Work in the Community
Local 243 members recently volunteered their time and skills to help the CU Schools Foundation at Fowler Farm. Members worked on three chicken coops and surrounding fencing, completing repairs and maintenance to help keep the area in good shape for continued use. Community projects give our members an opportunity to put the skills of the trade to work in a different way while supporting organizations right here in our area. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and helped get the work done!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

WHO SHOULD WE SPOTLIGHT NEXT?
Know a Local 243 member who deserves some recognition? Want to share your own story? Or are you a contractor partner interested in being featured? Submit a Member Spotlight, Contractor Spotlight, or nominate a fellow member through the Spotlight page on our website.

→ SHARE YOUR STORY OR NOMINATE A MEMBER. Visit Carpenters243.com/spotlight.