



# BULLETIN 040

## *Payment of Unemployment Dues (U-Stamps)*

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December 18, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The I.A.M.&A.W. Constitution, in Article G, provides for unemployed members who suffer a total or proportionate loss of earnings, due to separation from employment, layoff, or furlough, or sickness or disability, to maintain their good standing by paying a U-Stamp of \$2.00 per month, \$1.00 of which is remitted to the Grand Lodge.

In a memo to all I.A.M.&A.W. Leadership from the International President, Robert Martinez, Jr., the Grand Lodge waived the requirement for members to pay unemployment dues to obtain a U-Stamp for the period April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020. This agreement has now lapsed. Accordingly, Official Circular No 826 states that these members are ineligible for automatic dues payment, therefore, it is the **member's own responsibility to pay their unemployment dues.**

The Executive Board realizes that this \$2.00 per month fee is burdensome for all members who remain on layoff status, due to the pandemic. We explored various avenues which would enable the local lodge to pay the U-Stamps on behalf of laid off/furloughed members but were ultimately unsuccessful, as it contravenes the Constitution. (Exceptions may apply, only for sick or disabled members, per OC 870.)

Members who wish to maintain their IAM membership, must arrange to make payments for the months they are unemployed. Failure to do so for two (2) consecutive months will result in losing their status as a member in 'good standing.' Members must be in good standing in order to ensure continuous IAM longevity for Pin service award purposes and to continue to participate in Local Lodge affairs, per OC 865 Section B, Paragraph 1. This includes retaining eligibility to attend monthly meetings and voting privileges (i.e., possible Vice President election and the upcoming Grand Lodge Convention Delegates election.) Also, if a member whose membership has lapsed seeks to renew their membership, s/he must pay a reinstatement fee to the local lodge. Under Article 4, Section 1 & 2 of LL1681 Bylaws, this fee is the same as the initiation fee, which is equal to two (2) months minimum dues in line with the applicant's classification in relation to the classification dues structure. In a letter from the District Lodge 140, dated December 3, 2020, the minimum monthly dues for 2021 is \$55.15.



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Members can pay their unemployment dues by cheque, payable to **I.A.M.&A.W. LL1681** at the mailing address listed below. Please include either your company employee number or union card number on the memo line. Cheques must be received no later than January 10, 2021. Please consider paying in three (3) or six (6) month intervals (\$6.00 or \$12.00 respectively) commencing in December 2020. A receipt for dues received will be issued to members at year-end, as Unemployment Dues are tax deductible. If a member is recalled or returns to work after illness recovery or leave cancellation, any unemployment dues paid in advance will be refunded to the member without delay. Please advise the Local Lodge of a change of your address and/or telephone number, while on layoff or leave.

Members who require additional information are welcome to contact the Local Lodge Secretary-Treasurer by email at: [kwilliams@iamaw1681.ca](mailto:kwilliams@iamaw1681.ca) at their convenience.

These are extremely challenging times for everyone, but when this pandemic ends, we will emerge stronger than ever! In the meantime, please be kind to each other, be safe and stay well.

In Solidarity.

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