



IBEW Local Union 551

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Santa Rosa, CA

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3rd & 4th Quarter 2006

From the Business Manager - Jack A. Buckhorn



The Sound & Communications Contract has been settled after Bob Tragni (332), Victor Uno (595) and John Sawtelle (332) presented a strong argument to the Council on Industrial Relations that

resulted in a \$6.00 per hour increase over 3 years. The increase effective December 1, 2006 is: \$1.00 per hour to wages, \$0.40 per hour pension, \$0.25 per hour health & welfare, \$0.05 LMCC and \$0.05 JATC. Management has agreed to contribute an additional \$0.10 for training (JATC) and \$0.05 to the health and welfare for a substance abuse program. An Installer is currently \$26.72 per hour.

The Bay to Borders Residential Agreement had a \$1.00 increase with \$0.50 to health & welfare and \$0.50 to wages. Effective December 1, 2006 a Residential Wireman in Sonoma & Marin Counties is \$26.04 per hour. Please check your pay stub to make sure you have received your increase.

The Trust Fund office is moving across the hall from the Local Union. Their address and phone numbers will remain the same. We will be moving the dispatch office downstairs to the vacated Trust Fund space. This change will be effective in January 2007.

The Redwood Empire Electrical Workers (REEW) health & welfare plan is doing well despite the larger than anticipated renewal increases to Kaiser, which went up 24%, as well as increases across the board to Health Net, the PPO and prescription drugs. The current REEW health & welfare rate plus the \$0.25 that has been negotiated to the plan June 1, 2007 should allow the plan to maintain the current level of coverage.

The Board of Trustees recently approved adding five

new Vanguard targeted retirement funds which will provide participants with differing target retirement years the ability to choose a simple, well-diversified, self-maintaining portfolio to meet distinct asset allocation targets. These funds achieve their objective by investing in a carefully selected portfolio of Vanguard mutual funds. The funds will be available sometime after the first of the year.

Need help with your REEW Individually Allocated Pension? Not sure if you're making good investment decisions? If so, you're not alone. I've heard from many members that it's challenging to choose investments for their retirement savings. To help you, we have hired the Vanguard Group to provide a personal evaluation to every participant. The evaluation will give you some important insights as to how you are investing in your REEW Individually Allocated Pension. In addition, we will be offering the Vanguard Managed Account Program, powered by Financial Engines. More information will be mailed out to you in the near future.

I want to thank those listed in this newsletter for volunteering on the numerous projects that we have taken on in the last few months and throughout the year. I especially would like to recognize Charlie O'Neil who has given many hours to Habitat for Humanity. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the union office.

Herman Marchbanks has officially retired from our Eureka office effective November 1, 2006. Thank you Herman for doing an excellent job for us in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. We honored Herman at our Old Timers Dinner in October. At the present time we do not have anyone working at the office in Eureka. Steve Stobel has been going up 3-4 times per month and attending the building trades meetings. All calls to Eureka are being forwarded to the Santa Rosa office.

In closing, I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy, Healthy New Year!

ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS!

General Meeting/2nd Thurs/6pm

Eureka Unit Meeting/2nd Tues/5pm

Member Assistance Program (MAP)

Please take advantage of the MAP benefit. This program provides member assistance care. You and your eligible dependents are eligible for 3 free counseling sessions for each "incident" or problem that you may need help with. *Just call PBH (PacifiCare Behavioral Health) for preauthorization prior to receiving any services.* The PBH toll-free number is 877-22-LABOR (877-225-2267). When calling, please mention you are a participant of the Redwood Empire Electrical Workers (REEW) Health & Welfare Plan. This program is available to inside construction members only.

SONOMA COUNTY FAIR BOOTH

A big thank you to the following who volunteered their time to work at the fair booth: Steve Benjamin, Mike Berkowitz, Bill Campbell, Janet Campbell, Dan Howes, Emily Hudson, Denio Mendoza, Joe Scott, Denise Soza and Steve Stobel.

STEVEN BENJAMIN - IBEW CONVENTION DELEGATE

I attended the IBEW 37th International Convention which was held in Cleveland, Ohio from September 11th through September-15th. We were able to take in some local sightseeing attractions such as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Lake Erie, Cleveland Browns Stadium and our own IBEW Exposition at the convention center. The headliner entertainment for our convention was John Fogerty who played over 2 hours and still sounded great at the age of 60!



551's delegates (left to right), Steve Benjamin, Business Manager Jack Buckhorn and President Bruce Piper

people. Our convention was advertised on billboards, buses, and through the media and I was told we were a

The city of Cleveland has lost over 200,000 good paying largely union jobs since 2001 and it was evident with the vacant storefronts, buildings and the absence of

real boost to their economy

The convention got under way bright and early on Monday morning with all of the usual pomp and circumstance. We had the national anthem's of the U.S. and Canada along with the bagpipes of the Sword & Light Pipe and Drum Band made up entirely of IBEW Local 3 members from New York City. They are truly amazing and got us off to an emotional start.

At the convention President Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Walters were unanimously re-elected. There was overwhelming support for a per capita dues increase of \$3.00 over the next 5 years to support an aggressive organizing program spanning North America. I feel this is a small price to pay for the benefits and protections that we all get by being in a union. We voted on several Constitutional Amendments and heard several guest speakers.

As it stands there were 2221 delegates representing 734 locals. There were 185 locals without delegates at the convention.

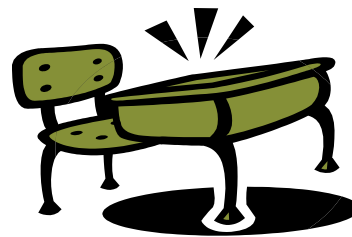
In conclusion it was an honor for me to serve as our rank and file delegate.

COMET CLASS

The International Office has requested that all members of the IBEW attend a COMET (Construction Organizing Membership Education Training) Class. When you get your letter please make every effort to attend. Thank you to the following members who have completed the COMET class since July 1, 2006 (last newsletter):

Matthew Bozo
Gary Disharoon
James French
Daniel Grace
Timothy Henry
Matthew Larsen
Joshua Leo

James Quinn
Julio Soto
Kenneth Stinson
Haille Paul
Onesimo Montes-Rico
Ryan Merkel



DENISE SOZA—BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

I have been hired on as a new business representative and I am very excited to be here to serve Local 551. So, we managed to get through the November 7th elections! Thank you to all the members who got out the vote. I'd like to extend a special thank you to our active members that helped in many hours of phone banking. They are: Jennifer Greenwood, Brad Ingram and Tangi Tunoa. Extra special thanks goes to Clint Cochran and Joe Scott, our active retirees, and to Ray Nichols our shared organizer. I had a great time volunteering with all of you!

I would also like to thank the following members for volunteering as Worksite Delegates: Jim McQuaid, working on the Ellis Creek project and Ray Sciacca, working on the Ukiah Water Treatment Plant. These brothers have committed to making 551 a better and stronger union. If you are interested in becoming a Worksite Delegate please don't hesitate to call!

I have been working with Steve Stobel and Ray Nichols. They are both a wealth of information on organizing strategies. I am learning a great deal from them both, and hope to be fine tuned here in the near future. Currently, I am introducing myself to all of our building inspectors in Marin and Sonoma. I have been informing them of the law requiring State Certification for electricians. I have had a positive response and they are happy to help.

Be proud to be union! Come to your local meetings, they are the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6pm. Come check out what you're missing! If you have any ideas you would like to see for this union, speak up. We want to hear from you. This union does get down to business, but we should have a little fun too. Local 551 and Local 180 will be having a paintball challenge in the spring. Any one interested in a day of fun please sign up at the office or at the general meetings. Plan to play in spring. Work Safe, and see you soon.

STEVE STOBEL - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Work has remained steady through late Summer and into early Fall. A majority of the Contractors are requesting members that are currently State Certified, as of January 1, 2007 Local 551 will not dispatch any wireman that does not have their certification. If you have not taken, and passed, the test there is a test site open in Santa Rosa.

Thank you to our members that donated their time on Saturdays, and some evenings, on the Montgomery High School Football Field Lights: Larry Albini, Mike Berkowitz, Craig Foley, Tim Henry, Jeff Kostka, Charlie O'Neil, Mike Proctor,

and Patrick Wheeler. Your contribution was greatly appreciated by all.

Also, thanks to the following for volunteering a Saturday to help wire a house for Habitat for Humanity in Southwest Santa Rosa. Jeff Kostka, Kris Hansen, Charlie O'Neil, Patrick Wheeler, Jeff Kluse and his wife JoAnn and Steve Stobel.

Congratulations on your retirement, Herman. It has been a pleasure to work with you. Thanks for all the support you've given to the IBEW for 41 years. Good Luck and Happy Fishing!

HERMAN MARCHBANKS - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

The projected work outlook in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties looks good for the next three years. We have two jobs that have just been completed, Home Depot in Crescent City, EZ Electric and Safeway in Fortuna, Northern Electric.

Humboldt State University Physical Education Project, is starting to man up. Kneaper Electric has stayed busy. None of their men have been in to sign

the books, so it looks like they are all working. All in all, things are looking good in Humboldt/Del Norte Counties. The P G & E power plant is still scheduled to begin January 2008.

On a final note, October 31st was my last day as I am retiring. I would like to say that it has been an honor working for Local 551 and I wish all of you the very best.

\$\$ INTERNATIONAL DUES INCREASE \$\$

International dues will **increase on January 1, 2007**. "A" member dues will increase from \$23.30 to **\$25.00** per month and "BA" member dues will increase from \$12.00 to **\$13.00** per month. If you have already paid your dues in advance, you will be charged the increase next time you make a payment. Please make every effort to pay the correct amount.

MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD LIGHTS

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

To the following members for donating two Saturdays of their time pulling feeders and doing the control work on the Montgomery High School Football field lights.

Larry Albini
Mike Berkowitz
Craig Foley
Tim Henry
Jeff Kostka
Charlie O'Neil
Michael Proctor
Steve Stobel
Patrick Wheeler



A big thank you also to the following Lunardi Electric crew for donating their time to assemble the poles: Ray Lunardi, Steve Balich, Mike Carpenter, Sean Corcoran, Dave Daveiro, Matt Etimos, Mike Franceschi and Dion Noonan. THANK YOU !!!

SERVICE PINS FOR 50+ YEARS IN THE IBEW

Congratulations to the following members with 50 years in the IBEW: Ernest Brymer, Charles Davis, Gaston Demers, James Elliott, Austin Gregg, Efton Holben, Ray Kastens, John Martens Jr., Gordon Miller, Herbert Miller, Paul Schieberl, Norman Siler and James "Dick" Sullivan Jr., 55 years in the IBEW: Elmo Bianchi-Rossi, Frank Hansen, Otis Harmon Jr., James Poppe and Elmer Ueland, 60 years in the IBEW: Dante Panfiglio and 65 years in the IBEW: Neil D. Parker.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, HERMAN



Left to right: Jack Buckhorn (Business Manager), Steven Benjamin (past Business Manager), Herman Marchbanks (retiring Bus. Rep) and Bruce Piper (President) at Old Timers Dinner celebrating Herman's retirement from the Eureka office.