Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Those of us that have chosen a career in construction all realize that it takes a certain kind of person with a special toughness to be successful in our industry. It’s not for everybody and most would not make it on a construction site for even a single day. It’s dangerous work filled with daily challenges that test our skills and knowledge of the trade. That’s what most of us like about working as a construction electrician or sound and communication installer. The part of our job that’s the hardest is the unemployment cycles, which are in large part dictated by the economy, and times are hard right now. Many have tapped their vacation fund to supplement unemployment benefits. Requests for hardship loans from members’ defined contribution pension fund, to prevent primary home foreclosures, have been received and approved at an alarming rate. In response, the Executive Board has authorized funds from the Benevolent Fund to assist the unemployed. The heartfelt notes and letters we receive thanking the Local for these small acts of kindness are very moving.

We are taught to plan for these rainy days but this time it’s different. This time the burden is heavier, the pain is deeper, the outlook cloudy and uncertain. What is certain is the need to correct the lax federal regulations that allowed this fiscal meltdown in the first place. When the Wall Street white-collar crooks rob and pillage society in the name of the free-market it erodes the confidence of our great nation. Working men and women cannot afford to standby and let corporate greed and corruption go unchallenged. This is especially true for the construction industry because we rely on a healthy and stable banking industry to supply the capital needed to finance construction projects that put us to work. A perfect example of this is the WesternGeo Power Unit 1 power plant at the geysers that is delayed for lack of funding. We have a signed Project Labor Agreement for this work that will eventually provide much needed jobs for all the building trades affiliates.

The construction industry has always played a major role in leading our country out of recession. It’s the lack of capital for construction projects that’s missing from this recovery. In fact, the Treasury Department reported that new lending plummeted in January at the nine largest banks that received taxpayer bailouts by 35% when compared to December. The time to act is now. We must convince Congress to reform the banking industry because no corporation should ever be allowed to become “too big to fail” for they must have the real expectation that they could lose their job for poor performance.

More importantly, the banks must get back to their core business of safeguarding savings and lending money. They should be prevented from acting like investment brokers, merger and acquisition firms, arbitrage firms or hedge funds. There is legislation moving through Congress but it is under attack by an army of Wall Street lobbyists who are fighting for the status quo. The AFL-CIO and the National Building Trades Council are working hard to gain meaningful reform. I’ll keep you informed on possible actions that we can take to assist in the effort.

The “Great Recession” that we are living through has been very difficult and has tested the patience and pocketbooks of most building trades workers. Reports of local unions across the nation tell the same story of thirty to fifty percent unemployment and many others underemployed working only a few days per week. Here at home we continue to fight hard for each and every employment opportunity. So far this year we have successfully won seventy-six percent ($1,385,000) of the public works projects bid in our jurisdiction compared to the non-union share of twenty-four percent ($435,000). These percentages are consistent with prior years and reflect the ongoing efforts of the Local to level the playing field for our contractors through compliance with state prevailing wage laws.

The Local continues to take a proactive approach within our construction market establishing relationships with developers, politicians and awarding agencies. These decision makers appreciate the value, skill and knowledge Continued on Page 2
IBEW workers bring to their projects and our willingness to work along side them for project approval at every level of the public process. This methodology has paid big dividends with current job opportunities for our local construction workforce at the Humboldt Bay Power Plant, College of Marin, and many smaller projects where we have given our contractors a level playing field on which to successfully bid.

In the future, we can anticipate jobs from signed agreements on: the Sonoma Mountain Village project in Rohnert Park, a long-term maintenance contract with PG&E at the Humboldt Bay Generating Station and the WesternGeo Power Geothermal Power Plant Unit 1 out of Healdsburg. We are currently in various stages of discussions or negotiations with developers on the Railroad Square SMART project, several wind turbine farms and solar array installations just to mention a few. We are doing everything possible to optimize the employment opportunities for you.

Everything in my heart, soul, mind and body tells me that organized labor is the key to long-term prosperity for America and especially for working families. Don’t lose hope; believe in the collective strength of labor and participate in your Local Union.

Together, we will weather the storm and with hard work and God’s grace we will be prepared for better days ahead. Work smart, work safe and may God bless you all.

### CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES

Brian Peterson passed on 12/30/09 Age 53 - Initiated 1978
Richard Clarey passed on 01/19/10 Age 78 - Initiated 1957
Father of Brothers Dave & Mitch Clarey. Grandfather of Trevor Clarey
Jerry Horn passed on 01/20/10 Age 65 - Initiated 1971
Daniel Parker, passed on 03/22/10 Age 57 - Initiated 1999
Dale Cooper passed on 3/26/10 Age 30 - Initiated 2001 Son of Brother Tom Cooper

### JOHN LLOYD—MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE

We are still working hard to be a major player in the renewable energy market with the strategic partnership with JA Solar. On December 11, 2009 we presented a PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) to the Sonoma County Office of Education. On the 14th I received an email from the board and found that 14 schools are interested in this program at this point and hoping for more to follow. This program will see PV installed on schools in Sonoma County at no cost to the schools. These systems will all be installed by IBEW electricians and apprentices. I recently met with a new financing company in Sonoma and was impressed with their program. They are currently offering residential PPA’s and leasing of solar systems. I am teaching “Photovoltaic’s Design and Installation” from the Train the Trainer courses I recently took from Solar Energy International in Colorado. This course is very good and will train our electricians to properly calculate and install photovoltaic systems. We have one class graduated & another class that started January 30th. Remember, if you do not attend all classes you will have to start over or arrange with me for makeup. Some people start and don’t complete the courses and this is unacceptable unless you are working.

A new class starts April 6th and will be held two evenings a week for 8 weeks. This is a must if you plan to work in this exciting field. Contractors installing PV will be able to call from the list of people who have successfully completed these courses. There are 48 continuing education credits for this class.

I also have some companies to SALT so get hold of me and let’s get cracking here. Some companies getting Public Works projects are going to need help and we need to be on top of these. If I get enough interest I will hold a SALT class very soon. I want the best of the best to SALT as this will set the stage for organizing and working compliance on some of these companies. We have had great success with compliance on Cimino and A-1 Lighting and Electric so let’s work hard at the salting and make this a winning choice.

### INSIDE WAGE ALLOCATION

We will be voting on the $2.00 per hour wage allocation for the Inside Construction Agreement at the next General Meeting which will be held:

- Thursday, April 8, 2010
- 6:00 pm
- 2525 Cleveland Ave
- Santa Rosa, CA

The meetings will be available on streaming live video at the union hall in Eureka. The wage allocation will take effect on June 1, 2010.
We have had the good fortune to put quite a few brothers and one sister to work at our Humboldt Power Plant. We now have over 50 members working presently at the plant. We've also had a few other calls come in besides the plant, so please call the job line.

Also note, if you are an Inside Journeyman Wireman and out of work you can take a Residential call at the Residential rate. So if you are interested you can also sign this book and take a call.

Phone banks are installed!! Thanks Trevor, Jeff and Anthony! Now we can gear up and get our labor friendly candidates elected. So please, if you have time, like Anthony Erigero giving 3 days to get this phone bank installed, we could use you here at the local union hall to get on the phones.

Excerpt from S&C Agreement: Article VI Section 6:01:

It is the Employer’s responsibility to ensure the safety of its employees and their compliance with safety rules and standards.
Greetings from the North

I am very happy to report that members interested in participating in the Local’s business conducted at the monthly meetings in Santa Rosa while working in the Northern Counties can now attend via live webcasting here in Eureka. The Eureka Unit will now be meeting the second Thursday of the month, 6:00pm at the Labor Temple. There has been a longstanding disconnect for the members living and working up here for no other reason than the large geographic jurisdiction of Local 551. This new connectivity addresses that and I would expect increased member participation to result in a better union.

I also am encouraged by recent examples of the members attention to the terms and conditions within the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Most day to day conflicts can be resolved, if not avoided entirely, by the members in the field by simply knowing and honoring the Agreement. Remember that those terms and conditions are the result of years of good-faith-bargaining with our signatory contractors, and they expect and deserve the best trained and most productive workforce in return. That partnership and mutual respect is the UNION DIFFERENCE. As always, work smart and work safe.

STEVE STOBEL—JATC TRAINING DIRECTOR

I would like to acknowledge our 2010 graduating students from the Redwood Empire JATC. Each of these individuals has worked very hard the last three and five years to achieve this goal. These new Journeymen and Installers have set a standard that Apprentices in the years to come should aspire to meet or beat. It has been a pleasure to work with each of you as students, and as electricians or installers. I want to thank Tom Ritch and Gary Giuliani for their dedication to our Program. Congratulations REJATC Class of 2010

5A Standing Tom Ritch, Mike Calvert, Omero Gonzalez, Matt Etimos, Tim Purugganan, Dan Howes, Hannah Dolan, Mike Descagnia, Ben Cole, Micah Ashley, Soren Anderson, Dan Grace, Gary Giuliani.
Kneeling Steve Stobel and Mike Bauer

5B Tom Ritch, Ryan Nettro, Adam Tarlton, Luis Ortega, Mike Stone, Mike Robertson, Steve Stobel, Kyle Buckhorn, Matt Tuttle, Nate Weiner, Kris Whitney, Erick Johnson, Nick Gronroos and Gary Giuliani. (Not pictured Kevin Messier)

5A Soren Andersen, Mike Bauer, Mike Calvert, Ben Cole, Mike Descagnia, Hannah Dolan, Matt Etimos, Omero Gonzalez, Dan Grace, Dan Howes, and Tim Purugganan.
5B Micah Ashley, Kyle Buckhorn, Nick Gronroos, Erick Johnson, Kevin Messier, Ryan Nettro, Luis Ortega, Mike Robertson, Mike Stone, Adam Tarlton, Matt Tuttle, Nate Weiner, and Kris Whitney.