Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I’m happy to report that work in our jurisdiction is very good for this time of year and the future employment prospects are even stronger. Thanks to the efforts of many trade union activists from all of the different building trades affiliates, the organized construction industry has secured three large projects under Project Labor Agreements (PLA) that are creating work opportunities for all construction workers to share in the current economic prosperity. Those projects are the Graton Resort and Casino, the Geysers Cooling Towers and the Marin General Hospital. We have not always been so fortunate.

At the time I took office the good ol’ boy anti-union forces in the North Bay had total control of the local politics. They were relentless in their efforts to defend and advance non-union low road contractors and their out of town paid political consultants. As a result of our hard work, we have experienced a good degree of success and it’s paying dividends for all of us right now but our fight is never over. Nobody likes to lose and the anti-union crowd has not thrown in the towel. In fact they are fundraising and preparing to do battle with us once again on our next two efforts to promote PLAs. We’ll be ramping up our efforts with the SRJC later this year and with the City of Santa Rosa in just a few weeks where we have a PLA study session planned on May 10, 2016 at 3:00 PM. Please contact the hall and let us know that you are ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with other trades union activists by attending this important study session and joining the team that will push the ball down the field and get it across the goal line for the win.

We will continue to win support for working families because our cause is a just and righteous fight for middle class jobs. That’s why I’m asking all of you to double down for your union by checking out the endorsements page of our website and volunteering your time to help us elect friends who share our values. We need volunteers to phone bank, prescient walk or attend public meetings and show the elected officials that we are united in solidarity for policies that support working families.

Look for some changes to the local union hall in the near future. We have been planning a major retrofit of our building for sometime now. We are seeking to complete a high performance retrofit of our facility targeting Net-Zero Energy while demonstrating the capabilities of our IBEW members and our NECA contractors utilizing a new program called ECAP. The upstairs meeting space will be used to demonstrate future standards and work capabilities, accelerate new sales for our contractors, act as an educational facility, and create an attractive and exciting technology showcase. The overall project goals are to: 1) Upgrade the facility to achieve Net-Zero Energy; 2) Provide high quality working conditions for all tenants; 3) Utilize the building as a demonstration facility to which our contractors can bring potential clients to showcase the high performance design and construction capabilities of the IBEW/NECA team; 4) Become a centerpiece of the Santa Rosa community, showcasing the sustainable vision of the region and exhibiting the high performance building prowess of IBEW/NECA.

To achieve the stated goals, the building will receive full envelope, mechanical and lighting upgrades. We will also include micro-grid technology to effectively integrate on-site renewables with storage and distribution in meeting Net-Zero Energy Certifications. Energy efficiency improvements will be showcased through dashboard displays that can be utilized to educate the Santa Rosa community and our contractors’ clients.

Work smart, work safe and may God bless you all.

From the Business Manager - Jack A. Buckhorn

“We have really turned the tides on the low road contractors and their out of town paid political consultants.”

ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS!

General Meeting/2nd Thurs./6pm

2525 Cleveland Ave. Ste. B  Santa Rosa, CA  95403  phone 707-542-3505  fax 707-542-9134

Email: ibew551@ibewlocal551.org  www.ibewlocal551.org

1st Quarter 2016
OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

The nominations for officers of Local Union 551 will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016 beginning at 6:00 pm in the local union meeting hall located at 2525 Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa, CA. Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination. No member may be a candidate for more than one office. No apprentice shall be eligible to hold office in the local union. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate.

The following officers shall be elected in accordance with Article XVI of the IBEW Constitution and Article III of the Local 551 Bylaws:

- President/IC Delegate
- Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Business Manager/Financial Secretary/IC Delegate
- IC Delegate (highest number of votes)
- IC Alternate Delegates (next highest number of votes)
- Executive Board (4)
- Examining Board (5)

Additionally, nominations will be held for three delegates to the International Convention (IC). The President and the Business Manager shall be candidates for the delegate positions contingent with their offices as stated in Article VIII, Section 3, of the Local Union Bylaws. This leaves one delegate position open to nominations for the at-large election. No member nominated for offices of Business Manager or President may be nominated for the at-large delegate position since the position of delegate is considered as an office in the Local Union for the purpose of the election.

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two years of continuous good standing in Local Union 551. Good standing means that the member is current in the payment of dues and has been for the two years preceding the nominations.

Nominations of officers shall be made under “New Business” at the general meeting on May 12, 2016.

Nominations May 12, 2016
Election June 8, 2016
Run off Election June 29, 2016
Swearing in of Officers July 14, 2016

Complete information on nominations, elections, duties, and qualifications are found in the Local Union Bylaws and the IBEW International Constitution.

DENISE SOZA - DISPATCHER

Brothers and Sisters,

It’s election time, a time that should matter to all workers. Believe it or not only 38.5% of Americans voted in 2014. Presently we are 75% registered to vote. We are shooting for a 100% registered and voting in our local and Presidential races. Let’s also tell our friends and family members to register and vote. Vote by Mail Ballots will be dropped May 9th. The last day to register to vote is May 23rd. Election day is June 7th.

There are now 25 states with Right to Work laws. These laws weaken unions, lowers wages, and increases the poverty rate. I believe if more Americans voted we wouldn’t be seeing this anti-worker law sweeping our nation. We can, and do elect candidates that stand against laws like these. Please vote to keep our union strong, we don’t want California to become a “Work for Less” state.

We have a catchy IBEWVOTES button on our website, ibewlocal551.org take a look and see what it has to offer. You can register to vote and also look to see who our endorsed candidates are. To date we have endorsed Noreen Evans , Mike McGuire, Bill Dodd, Jim Wood and Mark Levine. There will be much more including a Presidential endorsement. We will also need help in getting incumbents and candidates elected by phone banking and precinct walking. Please call the hall to sign up!

On a dispatch note, we anticipate many calls to be rolling in as we head into spring and summer. The Graton Resort have started calling in for 2 a week and possibly more, with peak manpower head into spring and summer. The Geysers will be putting in more calls in the Spring. Marin General are projected to put in calls in the Spring.

Just a reminder keep your drug free status active to take the next drug free call. Ninety percent of calls being dispatched are drug free. The Geysers and Marin General are drug free calls. If you are unsure of your status call the hall and we can check that for you.

Excerpt from Sound and Communications Agreement: Article 3 Section 3.07 (d) Employees shall not use their personal vehicle to transport employer tools or material. Work safe out there brothers and sisters!

WAGE ALLOCATION

We will be allocating the Inside Construction wage increase of $2.00 per hour at the next General Membership meeting. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016 - 6:00 pm at the Local Union hall - 2525 Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa in the upstairs meeting room. There will be a discussion and then a vote.

The current rate for a IJW is: $47.40 per hour on the check, plus $11.00 per hour health & welfare $4.25 per hour pension $1.10 per hour apprentice training 3% of gross pay NEBF Pension $0.31 labor/mgmt.

The deductions are 5% for working dues and 10% for your vacation account. (This information is also on the website)

NEBF (3%) of gross is a pension based on years worked and vesting.

Pension ($4.25) is your Vanguard account

International Pension is based on years of service (your $37 per month dues) Please contact the Trust Fund office if you have any questions regarding these pensions as there are variations for each pension.
MEMBER ASSISTANCE

Questions come up from time to time that lead to very spirited conversations. Why do we organize? Why is every local mandated to have a full time organizer? Why are we asked to go and talk to non-union electricians and non-union contractors? Our IBEW Constitution objectives include: “Organize all workers in the entire electrical industry into local unions and by legal and proper means to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependents, in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship”.

John McEntagart - Business Representative

Sometimes life can be a scramble. Your member assistance Program (MAP) offers confidential assistance and support for a wide range of issues, including legal issues, parenting skills, depression/anxiety, substance abuse, grief and loss, financial planning, job stress etc. All active eligible members of the Inside, Sound & Communications and Residential Health Plan and their families are eligible for this benefit.

Inside Members call PacifiCare Behavioral Health (PBH) for pre-authorization prior to receiving any services. THE PBH toll free number is 877-225-2267. When calling mention that you are a member of the Redwood Empire Electrical Workers Health & Welfare Plan. Residential and Sound & Communication Members call the same number 877-225-2267. They will ask for your social security number.

John McEntagart (father of Brother Scott Gothard). Dow was initiated in April 1953, and passed on March 9, 2016. Dow was a very active member of the Local. He served as President and Training Director for many years. This picture is Dow enjoying himself at an Old Timers Dinner!
VALUE ON DISPLAY EVERYDAY

Jack Buckhorn Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee “Democrat of the Year”

Denise Soza & Jack Buckhorn

Julian Osterloh, Nick Paglia, Gary Giuliani, Jack Buckhorn, Eamonn O’Halloran, Denise Soza & John House

The Geysers Geothermal Power Plant - MCT Services, LLC - Unit 18

Oxford Suites - Napa Electric

Buck Center Solar Project - Cupertino Electric

Graton Casino & Resort - Morse Electric

“The Men At Work” - Cupertino Electric - Buck Center Solar Project