



IBEW Local Union 551

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Santa Rosa, CA

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1st Quarter 2007

From the Business Manager - Jack A. Buckhorn



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we prepare for the start of another busy construction season, I would like to touch on several important developments that will have far reaching impli-

cations for our local union. On June 1st we are scheduled to receive a \$2.75 wage increase that will take us through the final year of our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with NECA. Looking back and reflecting on the current CBA it seems clear that our contractors were not adversely affected by the wage and benefit increases, as they successfully competed for jobs and posted record man-hours.

The forecast for the next couple of years indicates continued growth with the real possibility of manpower shortages looming in the future. We have several large projects scheduled this year such as the Ellis Creek Waste Water Plant, Kaiser Hospital, Memorial Hospital, Sonoma State Green Music Center and the Humboldt State Physical Education Building. These projects along with many other public and private jobs should ensure a healthy employment picture and reinforce the need to strengthen our membership through organizing and apprenticeship. History shows that most organized workers benefit by placement into our apprenticeship program. This is the preferred method for growing our locals membership and has proven to be the best practice for developing our highly skilled and knowledge IBEW/NECA union workforce.

Negotiations will begin next month on a California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE) Project Labor Agreement (PLA) to replace the genera-

tor at the PG&E Humboldt Bay Power Plant in Eureka. Ten (10) Wartsila dual fuel engines will power this new state-of-the-art 163 MW natural gas reciprocating engine plant. The project is estimated to employ 90 electricians by October 2008 and is scheduled to begin construction in the 4th quarter of this year. CURE is one of the most effective organizations that the IBEW has ever been associated with having delivered over \$9 billion of PLA's for the construction of power plants and now ethanol plants. This is our first CURE project and it should generate 120,000 total construction hours for all the building trades affiliates.

I'm very happy to report that we have completed negotiations on a Community Benefit Agreement (Agreement) with the Del Norte Unified School District (District) that will establish a construction academy in Del Norte High School tied to our apprenticeship program. The Agreement guarantees that all new District construction projects, over the next five years, will use only contractors who agree to support the construction academy and employ IBEW journeymen and apprentices. A limited number of "core employees" from current Del Norte County employers are exempted from this requirement. The Agreement will be offered to all of the building trade affiliates and I believe many will see the potential for gaining market share and creating goodwill in the community by participating. This model will prove to be a valuable asset as we expand its use to other areas where we have struggled to build union density. Supporting vocational education in the high schools and then linking that training to building trade apprenticeship programs will ultimately result in a local unionized workforce.

The Trustees of the Redwood Empire Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee have started the search for a new training center. Our

(continued on back page)

ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS!

General Meeting/2nd Thurs/6pm

Eureka Unit Meeting/2nd Tues/5pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, April 21, 2007—Tool Day Demonstration (Representatives from Wes Tex, Vanguard, Klein Tools, Etc will be there) 7:00 am—1:00 pm—Training Center

Thursday, May 10, 2007—Election Nominations

Saturday, May 12, 2007—Paintball Challenge with Local 180. Contact Dee Soza for more information

Friday, May 18, 2007—Apprentice Graduation

Saturday, May 19, 2007—Benefits Fair—more information to follow from the Trust Funds

Monday, May 28, 2007—Memorial Day Holiday

Thursday, July 19, 2007—General Meeting—6:00 pm

CONDOLENCES

Our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of the following Brothers who have recently passed. John McGregor who passed away on January 25, 2007 from a massive heart attack. John was employed with DW Nicholson and was initiated in October 1996.



Retired Ron Smith who passed away on February 15, 2007. Ron was initiated in August of 1980. Retired Robert Mitchell Jr. who passed away on February 21, 2007. Robert was initiated December 1948.



INTERNATIONAL DUES INCREASE

International dues increased on January 1, 2007. A members dues are now \$25.00 per month and BA members are \$13.00 per month. Please make every effort to pay the correct amount when paying your dues.

INSIDE WAGE INCREASE

Effective June 1, 2007 Inside Wiremen have a negotiated wage increase of \$3.00 per hour. This money is currently allocated \$2.75 to wages and \$.25 to our health & welfare. We will vote to ratify the allocation at the general membership meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2007, 6:00 PM

KEEP IT CURRENT

Please remember to keep your address and phone number current with the local. If you have registered on the union web page please keep your email address current. We do send out emails periodically so if you keep your email address current you will get them, if not??

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 this quarter.

Michael Clary
Sean Corcoran
Daniel Crump
Taiwo Gray

Vincent Green
Mark Hill
John Lloyd
Nick Reiss

Michael Robertson
Bert Vranesevich
Jared Williamsen



DENISE SOZA—BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Hello Brothers and Sisters!

The clocks have already moved forward and so we March into Spring! We have an official date now for our Paintball Challenge, it is May 12. In case you have not heard, we have challenged local 180 to a Paintball Challenge, and they have accepted, may the best local win!!

I am concerned to know what is on your mind. I will be visiting your job site soon with camera in hand. Are you working safe? Are you teaching your apprentice? If you're an apprentice, are you asking your journeyman lots of questions? Un-answered questions or concerns? Call the union hall, that's why we're here. For YOU!

Apprentice committee meetings will start the second Wednesday of every month, 6:00 p.m.. They will be held here at the union hall.

Apprentices interested in attending, please show up. Misty Lozano, 1st year and Sergio Sales, 4th year are starting this important committee. Thanks to both of you for your commitment!

I will end with a political note "The Employee Free Choice Act" was passed by the House of Representatives!! Hooray! Now it has to pass the Senate. Please contact your U.S. Senators and tell them to support this bill. Our U.S. Senators are Dianne Feinstein, and Barbara Boxer. This act enables workers to form unions by signing authorization cards. To quote the AFL-CIO "CEO's get contracts to protect their pay and benefits, but fight tooth and nail to keep workers from having the same opportunity." Visit www.aflcio.org to learn more, or call me at the hall for all your political scoop. Work safe, and see you at the next union meeting, or worksite.

STEVE STOBEL - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Job calls have been steady through the winter months, and between conversations with Contractors and Job Foremen, it looks like we are going to experience a very busy summer. We have been pro-active with some pending jobs that are "under the radar" by contacting either the NECA office and/or the Contractors directly to get more "bidders".

I would like to thank three Job Stewards that are on site: Ray Sciacca (Ukiah Water Treatment Plant- Blocka Construction), Jim McQuaid (Ellis Creek Water Treatment Plant-Mass Electric), and Larry Albini (Agilent Remodel Project-Redwood City Electric). Your hard work is appreciated by us all. I have had some members report to me when

they get laid off about different issues that were in conflict with our CBA. When you are on a job site and you know the Agreement is being compromised, make a call to any of the Business Representatives here and we'll fix it-It is a lot easier to deal with a problem when it is happening, than it is two or three months later.

I got a letter in the mail last week regarding a new sportsmen's organization: "Union Sporting Alliance". From what I've heard, and read, I think this may be a group that is going to do some good things politically for outdoor enthusiasts all over the country. If you would like more information, call me here at the hall. Remember to ALWAYS WORK SAFE!

JOHN LLOYD - ORGANIZER

I am proud to be working for the IBEW as the new organizer for Local 551. I have attended the Organizers Conference in Portland, Oregon this year and found a wealth of information available from other organizers throughout the ninth district.

I am currently working on some new campaigns and working on organizing new members. The work will be piling up here soon and new members are my main goal. My door is always open, if you know someone interested feel free to come sit and chat. Ray Nichols, Jack Buckhorn,

Steve Stobel, & Denise Soza have all been instrumental in my initiation into the organizing pool here in the 551 jurisdiction.

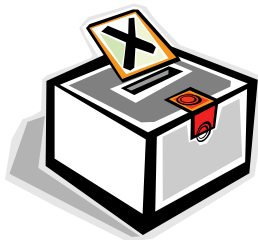
Frank Maio has been very helpful in coming to help me through the computer programs, at my disposal to aid in my work. I would like to see more members come to the meetings. You have a say in what happens in this local and by not attending you are giving up your voice. Show your support and attend the meetings.

current lease with the Carpenters at the Labor Center will expire this year and the timing seems right to make the move. I have long been an advocate for apprenticeship and journeymen’s training as it is critical to our success in gaining employment and maintaining our standard of living. This investment in our future will pay dividends as we increase our competitive advantage over unorganized workers and bring added value to the customers that hire union electrical contractors.

By now you should have received a letter outlining the changes to our prescription drug plan for those participants who receive coverage

from Save Rx. The Health & Welfare Trustees have authorized a one-year trial period eliminating the co-pay requirement for all generic prescription drugs. I would encourage you to try generics, as they are effectively equivalent to their name brand counterparts. If they work for you the savings can be substantial over time, if they do not work you still have the option of the name brand product. One of my long-standing goals is to develop policies that offer you the widest possible range of choices that is within my sphere of influence. This is yet another effort to give you more control over your affairs. Work smart, work safe and may God bless you all.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS



The election process will begin in May of this year for officers of the Local Union with balloting in June for new three-year terms. Complete information on nominations, elections, duties, and qualifications of

officers are found in the Local Union Bylaws and the International Union Constitution. If you do not have copies of these documents, they may be obtained from this office.

Offices

The following officers shall be elected in accordance with Article XVI of the IBEW Constitution and Article III of the Local 551 Bylaws: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager-Financial Secretary, Executive Board (4 members), Examining Board (3 members).

Qualifications

Business Manager-Financial Secretary. The offices are combined per Article III of the Local Union Bylaws and must be filled by a member holding an “A” membership (EWBA) as required by the IBEW Constitution.

Members elected to office in the Local Union must be able to be available to attend all regular and special meetings and to conduct the affairs of their office without compensation or other expenses other than provided for in Article VII of the Local Union Bylaws.

To qualify as a candidate for Local Union office, a member must have at least two years’ continuous good standing in the Local Union immediately prior to May 1, 2007.

Nominations

Nominations of officers shall be made under “New Business” at the first meeting of the Union/Unit in May 2007. (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 9 (a))

In order to be a candidate for any Local Union/Unit office, a member must be present at the Union/Unit meeting where he or she is nominated, or notify the Local Union Recording Secretary in writing on or before May 1, 2007, that he or she will run for a specific Local Union office if nominated (IBEW Constitution Article XVI, Section 10).

A member shall not accept nomination for more than one office of the Local Union (unless combined under the Bylaws). If a member is nominated for more than one office, he or she must immediately declare for which office he or she will be a candidate and decline all other nominations for Local Union office (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 9).

Voting

Ballots will be mailed before May 25, 2007 and must be returned by June 8, 2007. To be eligible to vote, you must have paid your dues for March 2007 on or before May 31, 2007, per L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 10.

The election schedule will be as follows:

Nominations	May 10, 2007
Election	June 8, 2007
Run off Election	June 29, 2007
Swearing in of officers	July 19, 2007
	Thursday, 6:00 pm

The July general meeting date has been changed to Thursday, July 19, 2007, 6:00 pm.