Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to start with a heartfelt Thank You for being a part of this great Brotherhood. I believe when we stand together, we are continuing down the path that was already paved by those who came before us. We are so very fortunate to have this opportunity to work in the trades, under the union flag, enjoy our health care and pension benefits. We work under an agreed upon set of working conditions and earn a wage that allows us to live and hopefully buy a home locally. The labor movement has been a blessing to all of us, and owe it to the generations coming after us to honor that blessing so that the next workforce has the same or better opportunities than we are currently experiencing.

Let’s talk about what the labor movement has done for us in more detail. How about giving us the weekend; a 40 hour work week, an 8 hour work day, overtime, double time. Did you know in the 1800’s and early 1900’s the workers had to fight in order for us to have the rights we have today. In the 1800’s the average American workweek was over 60 hours. Many workers were expected to work 6 days a week, 12 hours a day and sometimes allowed Sunday off because it was a holy day. There was no overtime pay for these workers. If you did not comply, you were fired and replaced immediately. There were no rights. You either worked and did exactly what the boss told you, took the pay you were offered, or you and your family went hungry and homeless. Kids as young as 6 and 7 were also part of the workforce and expected to produce. Can you imagine? Take a look at your own kids, or kids you know, and imagine what it would be like for them if Child Labor Laws did not exist. Kids should be playing with toys, their imaginations, dreaming big dreams – not working in textile factories or coalmines.

That is why we have to be aware of who is running for the different offices and what issues are going to be decided on election day. Equally important is being up-to-date on the information, who is on our side and then we have to act. We must vote. Politics may be uncomfortable and it might be easier to ignore what is happening but the old saying “If you’re not at the table – you’re on the menu” applies here. We must exercise our right to vote in order to hand off a better world to the next generation. Let’s take a look at where we are at and why we are here and remember when we vote that it is our chance to have our collective voice heard – but in order to be effective we must all say the same message, in one LOUD voice, and force the other side to step back and take notice.

Let’s focus on that November 6th, Brothers and Sisters. When we go to the polls, please vote your pocket book. Don’t be fooled by the many commercials stating they have your best interests at heart. The truth is most of them could care less about you or your family. Check their voting records. What percentage of their votes were in favor of labor and what were the numbers against labor. Those numbers are public record and every union member should know if the person they are voting for actually supports union families. We check these numbers if they have a public voting record, and that is why we ask you to vote for or against any candidate or measure. Take this Proposition 6 issue: either you are for it or against it. The yes on 6 campaign is very colorful and claim to have your best interests at heart but that is misleading. The person behind that campaign cannot be trusted and does not have labor interests at heart. He supports Right-To-Work legislation, repealing Prevailing Wages and banning PLA’s and that directly contradicts everything we stand for. All of Labor are united in saying No to Prop 6.

Shifting gears to the Inside Construction health care changes we are experiencing: Blue Shield is no more as of January 1, 2019. Western Health Advantage and Sutter will be the two plans offered to everyone in place of Blue Shield. We have had several meetings and are now in the process of switching coverage for anyone under the PPO plan. Please call Alice or Sarah at the Trust Fund office if you have any further questions.

Check out the Prudential plan if you are looking to put more towards your retirement. This is the IBEW/NECA National 401k plan that is available to all Inside Construction members. We have forms for you to fill out here in the office. You take it to your employer, who will deduct from your paycheck (pre-taxed dollars) an amount you choose, and they will send that to the IBEW/NECA National 401k Plan. For more information on this check out www.nefp.org.

We are nearing the end of 2018 and it has been a good year for Local 551. However, we are still experiencing open calls, which slows the contractors down in their bidding practices. I am not ok with our contractors not bidding work as that only promotes non-signatory contractor growth. Please, when you see an open call on the books, look at it as an opportunity to work in and help maintain your local.

(continued on page 2)
I would like to introduce you to our new organizer Jose Casas. Jose has been in the IBEW for 14 years and has shown a keen interest in his fellow workers. He will be a strong advocate for all workers as he walks the different jobsites looking for future members. Please welcome Jose when you see him at a union meeting or on a jobsite.

Finally, mark the date for our next Old Timers Dinner. It will be at the Sheraton in Petaluma on March 30th, 2019. Invitations will go out in the new year.

Be safe, enjoy your time with your families, and Happy Thanksgiving to all.

JARED MUMM - MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE

First and foremost I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to help our Local Union with our political walks and phone banking. Recently we have been canvassing in Rohnert Park with not only our own members, but alongside representatives and members from the Plumber’s UA 38, Sheet Metal 104, and Sprinkler Fitters UA 483. This group of trades share some common goals; to organize the workers, organize the contractors, and organize the work. Often, organizing the work is done by applying our political strength. It will benefit us all if our local School Boards, City Councils, Mayors, etc., believe that unions are good, contractors should train apprentices, and that local work should be performed by local workers. While these may seem like small, common sense asks, there are plenty of people who oppose those ideas, and we simply cannot sit back and allow them to run our Counties for us. We are not done yet, and we will continue to need your help with the campaigns for Rohnert Park School Board and “No on 6” right up until the November 6th elections.

We will be reaching out by email, phone, and text message asking for your time. Help secure votes, help secure jobs. And don’t forget to vote!

Jared Mumm
707.479.4422
jaredm@ibewlocal551.org

INTERNATIONAL DUES INCREASE

International dues for “A” members are increasing to $41.00 per month effective January 1, 2019. Please make every effort to pay the correct amount. “BA” members will remain at $22.00 per month. Dues can be paid online with credit card, in the office with credit card or check or by mail with check. We do not accept cash.

DO NOT SHOP AT RESTORATION HARDWARE

Restoration Hardware in The Village at Corte Madera, Marin County is not a good community partner. One of our local contractors was under the impression that they were going to be selected as the electrical contractor but was told at the 11th hour that they were out and Rex Moore was in. This is an example of a local community based business NOT abiding by the Go Local slogan that is very popular right now. Our stance is that the Go Local campaign starts when the shovel goes in the dirt. We disagree with the idea that someone opens up a new business, slaps a Go Local sign on their door, expects the local community to spend their hard earned dollars there, but builds the building with out of area anti-union contractors. We are asking all members to spend your money elsewhere and DO NOT SHOP at RESTORATION HARDWARE. Thank you for your support.
Rob Barsi - Training Director

Summer has flown by this year at the Training Center. We have a new paint job and we have made some upgrades to the building as well as some of our labs. The academic school year began this year in early August. We have indentured 31 new Inside Apprentices into our first-year class and we also have 4 new Residential apprentices in our newly resurrected Residential apprenticeship program. The apprentices have all been gainfully employed and busy throughout the summer.

Something to keep in mind, we have the apprentices here in classes for roughly 10% of their apprenticeship, the other 90% is spent in the field learning from those who came before them. Please remember, it is our responsibility as Journeymen, Foremen, Instructors and IBEW Brothers and Sisters to help educate these young tradesmen and tradeswomen. It is an effort requiring all of us to share our knowledge and experience. So please try to take a little extra time and effort to share what you have learned from those that came before you.

We are also in the process of putting together some new Journeymen courses and are looking for knowledgeable Journeymen to teach them. If you are a Journeyman or even a Retiree that would like to teach a class, please give me a call here at the Training Center to discuss. Ideally, we would like to put on a minimum of one 8-hour Saturday class per month.

Member Assistance

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 Heath (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.

Congratulations to Our Proud Parents

| Alex Alvarado | - Hunter | born 2/6/18 |
| Simon Geddes | - Lark   | born 3/24/18 |
| Andrew Saramur | - Sitara | born 4/10/2018 |
| Matt Twitty | - Nicolas | born 4/30/18 |
| Michael Proctor | - Elizabeth | born 5/28/18 |
| Gianluca Parenti | - Alessia | born 6/1/18 |
| Luis Ortega | - Gabriel | born 6/10/18 |
| Stephanie Hall | - Charlotte | born 6/26/18 |
| David Kane | - Mateo | born 6/29/18 |
| Alexis Vazquez | - Damian | born 7/5/18 |
| Budd Glock | - Raelynn | born 7/19/2018 |
| Christina Dietrichson | - Grayson | born 7/27/18 |
| Ryan Clark | - Lola | born 9/5/18 |
| Michael Calvert | - Ava | born 9/9/18 |
| Tim Mentz | - Emilio | born 9/27/18 |
| Arthur Cader | - Geovanni | born 10/10/18 |

If you have recently had a baby please add them to your medical plan as soon as possible. Call the Trust Fund office. 707-526-1996

Alice or Sarah

Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of our recently departed members. You honored IBEW Local 551 by your service.

Arthur Henriksen passed away on 6/6/18. He was 84 years old and a member for 64 years.

Philip Grow passed away on 6/11/18. He was 89 years old and a member for 56 years.

Lynn (Bill) Orr Jr passed away on 8/5/18. He was 68 years old and a member for 44 years.

Lee Ostrander passed away on 8/6/18. He was 77 years old and a member for 46 years.

Your Vote Counts

Recently we sent out an endorsement sheet for the upcoming election. There are a couple of candidates that we would like to highlight.

Cotati-Rohnert Park School Board: IBEW 551 member Joe Cimino, Leffler Brown and Chrissa Gillies

Santa Rosa City Council District 4: Victoria Fleming - Strong supporter of the IBEW and PLA’s

Sonoma College Board (SRJC): John Kelly - Strong supporter of the IBEW and PLA’s

Marin College Board: Diani Conti - Strong supporter of the IBEW and PLA’s

Your help is needed to be successful in all of these races - so please vote with your union.
2018 ANNUAL BARBEQUE