Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope and trust that you are well and enjoying the great weather we get to experience here in the North Bay. We have recently wrapped up our Inside Wireman negotiations. We ratified the new contract and allocated the $1.75 towards our pension. Starting June 1st, this year, a journeyman wireman will earn $7.00 per hour towards their pension. Apprentices 50% and above will earn $5.00 per hour towards their pension. Vacation pay will no longer be withheld. As of June 1st, the 10% from your paycheck that goes towards your vacation account will be staying on your check. Your account at Operator Engineers Credit Union will remain active. You will get the last deposit of your vacation money by July 10th. If you want to continue setting money aside from your active paycheck, talk to your employer or bank, about allocating a portion of your paycheck to an account of your choosing. The contract also includes a four year agreement with three more pay raises to come – $2.00 June 1, 2018; $3.00 June 1, 2019 and $3.00 June 1, 2020. Our plan for this contract was to give our Inside Wiremen a pathway to $50.00 on the check, and $10.00 towards the pension. With this contract we believe we can accomplish that goal. If there are any questions on any of this information, please call me directly.

Sound & Communication Brothers and Sisters – this is a contract year for you and your participation is needed to make sure your voices are heard. On Saturday, February 25th, the Sound & Communication unit held a membership meeting in San Jose, to discuss the upcoming negotiations since the contract expires on November 30, 2017. There was a lot of discussion. Members had the ability to tell the negotiating team what to focus on. The message was heard loud and clear. The members were able to have a significant influence on the direction the negotiating team needs to take. Please be sure to attend these events in the future. Local 551 was well represented at that meeting but we could always use more members to make sure our voices are heard here in the North Bay.

Volunteering is an important part of helping sustain a community and we are committed to doing our part and a little more. We have been working with our partners from Habitat for Humanity by completely rewiring one of their homes that will go to house a family of eight. I would like to thank all our members who have volunteered for this ongoing project – Rick Zielsinski, Nick Paglia, Tony Cimino, Soren Anderson, his son James and lead electrician Joe Cimino. Habitat is excited that we are willing to donate our time because the money saved will be put towards another home. The efforts of Local 551 will make it possible for an additional family to have a home.

We owe our career to IBEW Local 551. We have a jurisdiction to maintain and our goal is to grow our market share. In order to grow we need our contractors to bid the upcoming work and we need members to man the work. Ironically, in these busy times, we see market share go down. If our contractors are maxed out, and all members are working, then who will man the work that is still out there waiting to be bid on? The answer is simple – the union contractor will not bid the job if they cannot get the labor force from the union hall to build the project.

Most of us got our start here in Local 551 either through the apprenticeship or through organizing. Without Local 551 we would still be struggling, trying to make ends meet financially. Contractors are telling us that they are turning down work because we cannot man their jobs now. I ask that you look to your home local when you see or hear about open calls. Help us turn the tide and man our work.

Finally, if you were at our recent Old Timers Dinner, you were probably one of the many members who had a great time seeing old friends and making new ones. This is where we get to honor those who came before us, and also honor those who are still working for the betterment of Local 551 today. Pins were given out to members for years of service. Two pins were given out to members with sixty-five years of service to Elmo Bianchi Rossi and Mike Sepulveda. Just think sixty-five years ago, Harry Truman was president, a gallon of gas was .20c and Local 551 was just four years old. This dinner is OUR dinner and open to all members – not just the old timers. It is important that we continue to meet and honor our retirees, share stories of how it was and how it is today. That way we can continue the proud tradition of IBEW Local 551 and pass it on to the generations that follow us.

To be sustainable we need to know our history, believe in our brothership and believe that we ARE a BROTHERHOOD and believe that together we make a difference.

Congratulations to the following Apprentices who are graduating on May 19. Inside: Terry Adair, Justin Chavez, Ed Christiansen, Tony Cimino, Austin Crivelli, Paul Khun, Connor MacDonald Smith, Tim Mentz, Sean Nelson & Aaron Ullyott.

Sound and Communications: Hjamar Hake, Reyes Mendoza Jr., Wilkin See, Marcus Sweeney & Aaron Walters.
Benevolent Fund Committee. You can also make contributions to members. Contact the Union office to make a request to the Benevolent Fund Committee. You can also make contributions to the Fund to help your fellow brothers or sisters.

ROB BARI - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE - DISPATCHER

Spring is upon us and work is picking up. We are happy to report that we currently have low numbers on the out of work list. We have been training new apprentices to fill calls for our local contractors, and we are anticipating a very busy summer. We currently have a few good sized projects ongoing that are employing our members:

Silman Construction is working on a winery in Sonoma, Lunardi is working on a winery project in Healdsburg, WBE is finishing up a project in Novato, Redwood Electric Group is building the Kaiser Medical Office Building in Santa Rosa, and we have dispatched the first Local 551 member out to Marin General Hospital for Morrow Meadows.

This summer should have a lot of work opportunities. Marin General will be manning up early summer. There is going to be a brewery constructed in Windsor, and all of our local contractors will be manning up for our summer school work.

We will also have a good amount of work in our northern counties. Schetter Electric has a ground up build of a CHP facility that will be a 14 month project in Crescent City. Cupertino has some work in Humboldt County needing close to 9 members, and Stephens Electric has a ground up build in Eureka needing about 7 or 8 members.

In closing, the work picture looks great. We hope to see all of our members employed. Have a great spring and summer Brothers and Sisters. Please feel free to call me at the hall with any questions or comments.

JARED MUMM - MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE

We are hosting a Job Fair this month in an effort to reach out to electrical workers in our area and outside of our union. Last year we drew in about 120 interested people, many of them experienced electricians and VDV installers. There were workers there from virtually every non-signatory contractor in our jurisdiction. There will be new faces at our meetings and on the job. I will do my best to make sure that every new member understands what it means to be part of the IBEW, but at the end of the day I will be relying on you to help bring these workers into the fold. You will be the person that works beside them, commutes with them, and eats lunch with them. You have the privilege and responsibility to show our new members Brotherhood. They will not be used to working under our Agreement, exercising their voice at meetings, or using our referral procedure. They will have questions, and it is your kindness and willingness to help them that will transform a new worker into a new brother or sister, so please remember that any and all assistance in bringing these people into our union will be greatly appreciated, and greatly needed.

If you have any questions about how these new member go about joining 551, I invite you to reach out and ask; I am happy to answer any and all questions. My cell phone is 707-479-4422.

BENEVOLENT FUND

If you find yourself in financial troubled times, please remember that Local 551 has a Benevolent Fund which is available to members. Contact the Union office to make a request to the Benevolent Fund Committee. You can also make contributions to the Fund to help your fellow brothers or sisters.

PROUD PARENTS

Congratulations to the following families on the births of their babies:

Michael Donegan - Twins - Vivian and Alexander - Born 5/5/17
Admin Alcazar - Baby Boy Alan - Born 4/27/17
Cory Bracy Cruz - Baby Boy Christiano - Born 2/2/17

NEXT HOLIDAY IS MEMORIAL DAY ON MONDAY, MAY 29TH. BE SAFE

Please keep your address, phone number and cell phone number, carrier and email current with the local.

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.

CONDOLENCES

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

Raymond Hoehn - passed 1/14/17 - Age 80 - initiated 12/1/64
Robert Key - passed 1/27/17 - Age 80 - initiated. 3/1/64
Ralph Scultz - passed 1/30/17 - Age 95 - initiated 3/1/48
Rodney Thorsen - passed 3/29/17 - Age 83 - initiated 1/1/53

Condolences to Brother Craig Foley on the passing of his wife and Bob Holmes on the passing of his son.

Do you know the exact date Local 551 was initiated? First person to respond to suem@ibewlocal551.org wins a t-shirt!
OLD TIMERS NIGHT 2017

65 Years! Michael Sepulveda and Elmo Bianchi Rossi. Business Manager John McEntagart and President Nick Paglia
OLD TIMERS NIGHT 2017

Jeff & Paula Pearce

Tom Varney

Rod Orr, Ray Sciacca & Jack Buckhorn

20 Year Pins McEntagart, Andrews, Giuliani, Rinella, Casadidio, Krabbe, O'Neil, O'Halloran & Yates

25 Year Pin Bob Young

30 Year Pin Ray Pingatore
OLD TIMERS NIGHT 2017

35 Year Pins Jack Buckhorn & Steve Johnson

40 Year Pin Paul Bertlin

45 Year Pins Clark, Theodorou, Tharsing, Piper, Sciacca, Klein, Harder, Kendrick, Quinto & Varney

50 Year Pins Jeff Pearce, Jerry Price & Rod Orr

55 Year Pin Dick Sullivan & Herb Miller

Sean Higgins winner of grand prize 50 inch TV
SERVICE PINS

Congratulations to the following for your many years of service to the IBEW!

70 YEARS - JAMES KELLY - 95 YEARS YOUNG!!

65 YEARS
Elmo Bianchi Rossi
Erwin Erdmann
Frank Hansen
Leo Nauman
James Perry
James Poppe
Michael Sepulveda
Elmer Ueland

60 YEARS
Gaston Demers
Thomas Gwin Sr.
William Herrin
John Martens Jr.
William Mendenhall
Eddie Menosse
Herbert Miller
William Raudio
Kenneth Ridgeway
Paul Schieberl
Norman Siler
James Sullivan Jr.
David Tanner

55 YEARS
John Alfred
James Arthurs
Gaston Dallaire
Richard Edgington
Philip Grow
Camille LeBlanc
Louis Marsh Jr.
Ernest Moreno Jr.
Albert Patten
Harvey Welter
Elmer Williams

50 YEARS
Curtis Ball
Dave Beaudin
Janel Beaulieu
Joseph Bell
Gary Borri
Gerald Byrne
Leroy Chapman
Kenneth Christie Jr.
Leroy Dufault
Adolf Engel
Alan Ferris
Robert Freet Jr.
Theodore July
Eugene Loewen
Herman Marchbanks
Melvin McKinney
James Merriman
Henry Moore
Robert Mounyjoy
Rodney Orr
Dennis Parmer
Jeffry Pearce
Gerald Price
Keith Robertson
James Schulze

45 YEARS
Richard Aaggeler
Lawrence Albini
Glenn Birdsell
Anthony Cantarutti
Glen Clark
Ronald Griffith
Patrick Harder
Herman Joseph
James Kendrick
Richard Klein
Kenneth Magill
Sidney Nix
John O'Donnell
Lee Ostrander
Joseph Pasquale
Bruce Piper
Peter Potter
Robert Price
John Quinto
Arthur T. Ryan
Ray Sciacca
Richard Smartt
Roy Steig
Thomas Tharsing
Mike Theodorou
Robert Turn
Thomas Varney
Jerry B. White
Michael Williamson
Samuel Wimmer

40 YEARS
Jon Aronson
Michael Berkowitz
Larry Berlogar
Kenneth Bunting
David Clarey
Samuel Davis
David Ivy
Aziz Kadri
Mike Leszkiewicz
John Maas
Kenneth Thompson
Clayton Wilcox

35 YEARS
John Bihn Jr.
James Blair
Betsy Brown
Jack A. Buckhorn
Michael Cox
Rob DeRutte
Donald Dooley
Richard Gietzen
Arthur Hanna
Steven Johnson
Bert King

30 YEARS
Stephanie Kramer
Tony Noe
Michael Robertson
Casey Stewart
Mark Thomas
Robert White

25 YEARS
Randy Brown
Jeff Butcher
Martin Hollis
Paul Kingsley
Joseph Lappin
John Lynch
Stephen Marchbanks
George Masciorini
Donald McRae
Larry Metz
Scott Miller
Kathleen Mortell
Carl Patten
Raymond Pingatore
Patrick Robertson
Norbert Rodrigues
Tim Schieberl
Joseph Triola
John Young

20 YEARS
Richard Brookman
Kevin Fowlie
Steven Globe
Tom Gugel
Michael Hastings
Patrick Kerrigan
Paul Klee
Steve Lustenberger
Dixie McEachern
Keith Murnin
Ken Philippi
Jesse Rodriguez
Tim Rohlapp
Jack Schmermund
Robert Smith
Scott Townsend
Darryl Weese
Daniel Wise Jr.
Robert Young

15 YEARS
Jeff Allee
Jason Andrews
David Blanc
Joe Casadidio
Eric Casted
Marcus Caudill
Robert Christiansen
Trevor Clarey
Michael Clary
Sam Coe
Ray Dominick
Jason Doris
Mohamed Elmaghrabi

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 551