From the Business Manager - John P. McEntagart

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are enjoying the excellent working opportunities and getting time to spend with your families. The balance of family and work should not be overlooked, and we should put as much importance on balance in our lives as we put on anything else. We have overcome a tremendous previous 12 months here in 551 and are looking at a busy 2018. We have several jobs ongoing and more about to kick off. So please look for the opportunities and help us keep our side of the bargain and man the work.

You may have heard about our health care plan for all Inside Wiremen and Apprentices and the potential changes that are being discussed. So let me get you up to speed. We have two health care plans: a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) and a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). If your health care provider is with Kaiser then you are in the HMO plan – if you are not in Kaiser then you are in the PPO plan which is Blue Shield. Every year, the health care providers negotiate rates with all their plans. When we received our rates for 2018 they set off alarm bells and we had to do something. While our HMO came in at a 4% decrease, which was great, the PPO plan (Blue Shield) came back with a 16.5% increase. The numbers we are getting right now show us that we are looking at another big increase for 2019 in the PPO plan because of our experience over the last 12 months. Our overall health plan will be unsustainable if we keep going down this road and do nothing different.

We have started talking with other areas to see what they were doing and what their H&W contribution was. We also have interviewed other health care providers to see if they could give our members the care and benefits they are currently receiving while also reducing costs. These providers we have spoken with are Sutter Health and Western Health Advantage (WHA). WHA have partnered with both St. Josephs Health and Canopy Health and they cover most of the hospitals in Sonoma and Marin counties. While the Trustees have already interviewed these providers, we intend to have a special called membership meeting specifically on this health care issue. We will have the very same providers at that meeting to answer all membership questions. We have also asked that they bring nurses and doctors with them to help answer any specific questions. We are looking ahead 5 - 10 - 15 years and want our plan to be there for Local 551 members and their families, but if everything keeps going at its current rate, and we don’t change anything, drastic changes would have to happen at some point, and that would be poor leadership on my part.

When we have that special called meeting – we will send out a mailer, a text and an email. We want everyone there who may have questions. If you have Kaiser and plan to stay with Kaiser – this will not affect you but you are welcome to attend the meeting also. Look for the meeting later in the summer – as soon as we have a better idea of what the 2019 rates will be.

Politics is extremely important whether we like it or not. The old sayin’ – “If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu” applies. We have been successful on some local ‘big work’ that was directly tied to our political friends. Most recently, Sutter Hospital expansion was in danger of going to a contractor driving yellow trucks from Sacramento, but we got involved. We called our political friends, local and at the state level, sat in supervisors offices and waited until he would see us, levied more pressure on the GC until we got the word that Del Monte Electric would be the Electrical Contractor on the project. If we did nothing-we would have been looking at those yellow trucks again. We must stay involved with the people that help us secure work for our member - and hold them accountable if they do not work with us.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and if you have any suggestions, please let me know. We have included the names of our members and retirees who have donated to the Benevolent Fund specifically for the fire victims. We have also included some of the letters we received from both donors and recipients of the several checks we have sent out to the fire victims. They will move you to tears. The stories are real. Our members are working beside you right now and still need our support. If you see one of our brothers or sisters who lost their home due to the fires – it is still an emotional roller coaster for them and their families – acknowledge that – acknowledge them – give them your time and show them you care. Just letting them know will remind them that they are not alone – we are one union and we are united.

(continued on page 2)
We are so lucky to belong to a great organization, a great labor union, the greatest labor union in the world, but it is easy to become complacent. It is easy to forget, that we in labor, have struggled for so long throughout our history. If you ever get a moment, take the time to look up stories about labor history and feel proud to be a part of it. It is so important to remember that if we want things to get better, we must stay united. When we speak with one voice, all at the same time, all saying the same message, that can create a roar that can be deafening and whoever we want to hear our message will hear it loud and clear. We should air out any differences behind closed doors but when we take to the streets, we must show everyone else that we are one unit and we have one voice!

I would like to congratulate our graduating apprentices, both Inside and Sound & Communications. It is a tremendous feat to complete an apprenticeship and we salute you. I hope and trust that you will continue to support the IBEW throughout your career so that one day you will be able to retire with dignity and an IBEW pension telling stories of how it used to be!

Lastly, if you know a retiree or see a retiree – say thank you. If you have a retiree’s phone number, call them up and say thank you. If you know the spouse of a retiree that passed away, say thank you. We must always remember those who came before us for they gave us the playbook that we now play by. It might have changed a little, wages, health care, working conditions, but they gave us a running start. One last auld saying “we stand on the shoulders of those that came before us” – to all the retirees out there – WE THANK YOU!

Stay safe and see you on a jobsite or at a Union meeting soon - John Mc

JARED MUMM - MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Is there an unrepresented electrician living in your neighborhood? Do you see his work truck parked there on the last leg of your commute, and on your weekends, a constant reminder that we are still fighting tooth and nail for every bit of work that we have in our jurisdiction? Do you realize that if that electrician in your neighborhood were to come to work for one of our signatory shops, it would not only increase our contractors’ ability to bid work, but also harm their non-signatory contractor’s ability to bid work? Every time we strip a new member from our competition, we are killing two birds with one stone. We must grow. If we aren’t growing we are dying. And we must give our contractors the confidence to bid aggressively and bid more.

The next time you see that truck, say something. I will happily talk to any electrician about what we can offer them, anywhere. “Sunlight is the best disinfectant,” and just a little information can spark within our unrepresented counterparts the idea that they don’t need to tolerate lower wages, lousy healthcare, and inadequate retirement funds. Their tolerance of such mistreatment is what allows their contractors to take the jobs that we could build. If we win over the workers, we win the work.

See something, say something. Call, text, or email. And thank you in advance.
Jared Mumm –
707.479.4422 cell
707.542.3505 office
jaredm@bewlocal551.org

BEN SOUZA - REPRESENTATIVE - DISPATCHER

The political push is upon us. Positioning of favorable & friendly candidates in the Primary Election is essential to victory at the political level for securing and defending our work as skilled and trained electricians. If you haven’t registered to vote or wish to mail in your ballot, log on to registertovote.ca.gov, and check out IBEWVOTES.com can get privy to the candidates or incumbents that stand with working class folks like ourselves. With a strong and unified message, we can accomplish great things. IBEW votes contains information related to State & County election issues. If you’re in need of information related to who is running for Attorney General, what is Regional Measure 3, or why you should or shouldn’t support Prop. 69; give IBEWVOTES.COM a visit and expand your knowledge on the subject you seek.

Politics can be tedious, overwhelming, frustrating, rewarding. It can be rewarding with work if we engage politics properly. Members who have been engaged with politics have helped push many millions of dollars in bonds for school work throughout the counties residing in our jurisdiction. School work that results in good wages and benefits lifts up the membership and the community as a whole. Our members are currently working on a few projects in Rohnert Park that have come to fruition thanks to the efforts of being engaged in politics. Rancho Cotati High’s new gym, Lawrence Jones Elementary, and Evergreen Elementary modernization projects are a few to name thanks to the political game.

Politics can effect more than prevailing wage on public work. With the right connections and communications, private work can be swayed our way. Case and point is the coming expansion for Sutter Health and their regional hospital on Mark West Springs Rd. After hearing of the expansion going the non-union way and some honest engagement of elected officials, Sutter will be using a union contractor for the project that is estimated to break ground in 2019. This is a big win for a job without a PLA.

For a project with a PLA, Marin General is making some progress on ramping up. The project will need up to 60 JWs at peak with completion in 2020. This work can roll into the Sutter Hospital expansion if all plays out well. Stay safe, work smart, and lead by example.
2018 has been a busy year here for all of us at the Training Center. Just recently, on May 18th the class of 2018 had their graduation ceremony. We would like to congratulate all the graduates on a job well done. We are expected to start two new 1st year classes this year totaling about 30 students. We have hired Mike Hebner as our new CE/CW and Journeyman instructor. Mike has already had two Journeyman Upgrade classes that were both quite popular. We plan to continue offering the Journeyman courses as the year goes on. We are also excited to announce that Mike will be our new Residential instructor for the newly resurrected Residential Apprenticeship Program.

This summer we will be working on constructing new labs for the Inside and Residential students and hope to also have the time to build some new labs for the Journeymen courses as well. New and exciting things are happening here at the Training Center. Stay tuned…

ROB BARSİ - TRAINING DIRECTOR

If you find yourself in financially 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.

BENEVOLENT FUND

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BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund is available to members in need of financial assistance. To make a request, contact the Union office or make a contribution to help others.

PROUD PARENTS

Congratulations to our proud parents!

Hannah Kaufman - Baby Girl - Amelia - born 1/25/18
James French - Baby Girl - Quinn - born 12/31/17
Casey Adamson - Baby Girl - Iris - born 12/19/17
Jacob Tamba -

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- Saturday, September 8, 2018 - Annual Local 551 Picnic at Morton’s Warm Springs.

- Saturday, October 6, 2018 - Health Fair for Inside Construction Active and Retired members
- Date not set yet but the next Old Timers Dinner will be in the Spring of 2019!

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 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.

CONDOLENCES

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

Kenneth Kondratieff passed away on 2/03/18. He was 68 years old and a member for 39 years.

Leo Nauman passed away on 1/17/18. He was 92 years old and a member for 66 years.

James Poppe passed away on 09/28/17. He was 93 years old and a member for 67 years.

Elmer Ueland passed away on 12/21/17. He was 86 years old and a member for 67 years.

Harvey Welter passed away on 2/19/18. He was 86 years old and a member for 58 years.

Joe Scott passed away on 4/23/18. He was 80 years old and a member for 59 years.

INSIDE WAGE ALLOCATION

Effective June 1, 2018: The $2.00 per hour wage increase has been allocated as follows:
$1.00 per hour to wages - $48.40 JW
$0.50 per hour to health & welfare - $12.00
$0.50 per hour to pension - $7.50 JW & $5.50 Apprentice

**Full wage and benefit schedule is on website**

9TH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Local 551 would like to welcome our new 9th District Representative Mike Meals. We have worked with Mike in the past and our excited to move forward with his knowledge.

Thank You so much Victor Uno for being our previous Representative! You were a pleasure to work with.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 551
Sonoma County Fire
Thank you letters and donations

To: John McIntyre, Amisa Thompson and all the officers and
staff of Local 551,

10/26/2017

My wife and I wish to thank you for the financial
support so graciously given to us. It is very telling
to me that the swiftst response came from my local
union from all of my Brothers and Sisters. Joining Local 551
of the IBEW is the best thing I have ever done for my
family. I will always be a staunch supporter of trade
unionism.

Thank you all very much.

Joel & Marian
Dear Anisa and John:

Dan and I want to extend our sincere appreciation of the donations that have been sent to us. We have been very moved by the warmth and generosity shown to us by people in the electrical industry, particularly from the IBEW LU 551 members and Redwood Empire NECA Chapter contractors.

Like so many in the North Bay, our lives have been forever changed by the wildfires last October. It’s proving very difficult to coordinate all the aspects of pulling our lives back together. However, as we look for silver linings, the kindness of others such as you and those you represent have been very meaningful and helpful to us.

Again, a heartfelt thank you—please share our gratitude.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Vicki Whitebrook

Peterman

At the request of International Vice President John J. O’Rourke, the IBEW is providing assistance to your members affected by the recent natural disaster. Our hearts go out to all IBEW sisters and brothers who experienced loss. Contributions have been collected from IBEW members and local unions all across the country who truly believe in solidarity. As a nation and as a union, we get through the best and the worst of times by assisting others during their hour of need.

With best wishes
Lonnie Stephenson—International President
Kenneth Cooper—International Secretary-Treasurer

Thank you to the following for their generous donation

- IBEW Local 479
- IBEW Local 416
- IBEW Local 40
- IBEW Local 617
- LMCC
- Denise Soza
- Thomas Tharsing

- IBEW Local 11
- IBEW Local 332
- IBEW Local 234
- IBEW Local 38
- Jason Gutowski
- Rich Klein

- Redtop Electric
- Saltzman & Johnson Law Corp
- Union Motor Cycle Club
- Nick Paglia
- Larry Berlogar
- Senior Sixes

- Jerry Hancock
- Victor Uno
- Russell Heath
- Robert Boss
- Alvaro Padilla
- Michael Hastings

- Vicki Peterson
- Russell Schieberl
- James Schulte
- Bryan Morse
- Vance Love
- Jeff Pearce

- Jerry White
- Gary Thornburgh
- Doug Syverson
- Paul Schieberl
- Thomas Hines
- Edmund Wesolowski
- John McEntagart
- Philip Farrelly
In 1891, ten electrical workers met in St. Louis, Missouri, to form the first national union for the advancement and safety of those practicing a challenging and dangerous craft. From their efforts came a legacy of pride, skill and dedication: the foundation of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. With hope and determination, they created an effective and respected union that has contributed to the well-being of men and women in all aspects of the industry for more than a century.

Before the IBEW - NBEW what were we called? First to respond with the correct answer wins a t shirt. Email suem@ibewlocal551.org
JOB SITE PICTURES

VALUE ON DISPLAY

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 551
OFFICERS

Business Manager: John P. McEntagart
President: Nick Paglia
Vice President: Dave Borgeson
Treasurer: Mark Dohner
Recording Secretary: Jared Mumm
Executive Board:
Patrick Wheeler
Sean Corcoran
Gary Giuliani
Hannah Kaufman

- Keep your address, email and phone number current.
- If you work outside of Local 551 jurisdiction, please make sure you complete Reciprocity (ERTS) and confirm hours and contributions are being transferred to your Home Fund.
- Keep your beneficiary information current. Forms are available at the Union office and the Trust Fund office if you would like to change your beneficiary(ies)
- If you get 90 days behind in your International dues the International charges a $30 late fee.
- We no longer accept CASH payments. Dues can be paid with credit card or check. You can pay also dues online.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS
Monday, May 28, 2018 - Memorial Day
Wednesday, July 4, 2018 - Independence Day