Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

I want to start by thanking you for your confidence in my administration and the direction we are going. We are working very hard every day to secure work for our contractors and working hours for our members through labor agreements and exploring organizing opportunities. There are several local projects in the pipeline and we will do our best to get our fair share of the work to ensure that our members continue to build hours towards our pensions and health care. I want to congratulate returning officers as well as new officers: President Nick Paglia, Vice President Patrick Wheeler, Recording Secretary Joe Tremaine, Executive Board members Sean Corcoran, Hannah Kaufman, Gary Giuliani & Steve Vonderahe; Examining Board members: Joe Cimino & Brian Kelly. Again - congratulations to all!

These are unusual times: there is an abundance of work opportunities; our pensions are growing and health care banks are filling up. It seems as if it will never end but we know better. Therefore we must take advantage of the moment. We must grow our membership and fill all manpower calls quickly. Open calls might seem like a good thing but they mean our market share is shrinking. Which in turn means less opportunity for our members to go to work in the future. That is why we are asking you once again to look at your friends and neighbors who are in the industry. Have you approached them and talked with them about the IBEW? Have you told them about the opportunities that have been afforded you? We should wake up every day thanking the IBEW for what we have in the way of health care, pensions, a decent wage and dignity in both our personal life as well as our working life. I mean how many times have you felt the pride of going through an apprenticeship and thought – “I am so lucky”. We all should remember that, and thank the IBEW for what we have today. I can here you say - “Well how do I do that, how do I thank the IBEW?”

Here's how: In order to stem the growth of our competition, we all need to do a little more than we are comfortable doing. That includes having a conversation about what the IBEW has done for you, with our friends and neighbors who are electricians or communications installers, and are working for our competition. We are bringing in apprentices at a rate we haven’t seen since before the crash and we still cannot keep up with the demand. We need to organize more experienced workers. We need those workers who are already out there doing electrical work to understand that this is a better option for them. We need you to convey that message because they know and trust you. If you need help with the details then call the office and ask to speak with one of the organizers. Being very grateful for the opportunities we have is only part of the equation – we should want everyone, who is doing what we do, to have what we have. To do that we have to step out of our comfort zone. I am asking that every member bring in just one new member to our group. Not a new apprentice – we have 300 or more apply every year – I’m talking about one of your neighbors or friends who do what we do. Bring them into the fold and we will place them in the correct classification they can thrive at, whether it be slotting into the apprenticeship or coming in as a Journeyman or Communications Installer. Now I know that this is a big undertaking, but this is the kind of effort that it’s going to take, to maintain what we currently have, for the generations to come long after we are gone. It’s a team effort – let’s get to work!

There are also multiple training opportunities. Whether it be training an apprentice or showing a newly organized hand something you learned along the way. Remember, we need the membership to grow, so our contractors will bid the work, which in turn will grow our market share. We should be vigilant in our quest, to pass on the training that was passed on which in turn will grow our market share. We should be for those that don’t know our help but are too afraid to ask. We look out for those that don’t even know that there is help available. We must be vigilant as we move about our business. We must be alert to any signs that someone close to us, possible working alongside us, is suffering and they don’t know what to do.

What happens if I come across a coworker and they may need help? Pass on this phone number - use it yourself - call toll free 877-225-2267. Anyone should use that number if they don't know what to do.

(continued on page 2)
This is our member assistance program - it’s called Optum Health. Remember, if you are living with a family member who is going through a difficult time and they are receiving professional help, that you may need some counseling on how best to help. We in construction are builders and solution finders but sometimes those skills do not translate to helping a loved one get through the tough times, in fact, they might be a liability. We might need to get some help ourselves on how we can help our loved ones effectively. I had a situation in my own family where usual solutions were not helping. I decided to take a few classes so I could learn how to be more supportive and only that way did we finally see a path to peace. So please, use all resources at your disposal so we can all find that path to peace.

Finally, the North Bay MEPS Group is starting to take hold and find it’s footing. The group consists of four trades: Sheet Metal Workers; Electrical Workers, Plumbers & Sprinkler Fitters. The four trades have lined up in several areas throughout northern California and have had some success as a team politically. We are doing that here too. We have already seen some positive impacts locally because of our collective strength and are looking to build on that. There are several projects coming to our jurisdiction that we are targeting so our members can work locally and continue to build their family lifestyle here. We hope with the strength of our four trades, along with the rest of the Building Trades and the Central Labor Council that the North Bay will be known as UNION STRONG – so when any developers come here and want to build here, they will say “We want to speak with Labor and partner with them to build our projects”. That way, we can be closer to a sustainable career and provide for our families without having to drive hours for that opportunity. Remember, this IBEW is a wonderful thing, and we are all so PROUD and GRATEFUL to be members. Now it’s time to get into action and see if we can help add to our numbers so those that follow us can have better opportunities than we have today.

We have one of our members looking for help with wiring his church that had been destroyed in the fires in 2015 in Lake County. Bobby Holmes will send in the official request sometime in late September or October, so be on the lookout for the ask, and give your time where you can.

As always, I am so proud to be your Business Manager and serve only at the pleasure of the membership.

John Mc - 707-477-2140

JOE TREMAINE - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE - DISPATCHER

Summer 2019 is coming to a close and we welcome another autumn in beautiful Northern California. We have enjoyed all of the things that summer typically offers us, sunny warm days, outdoor activities, and a beautiful Nor Cal setting in which to spend time with our family and friends.

All of the these things that make this place we call home so special, are accompanied by the current prosperity we are enjoying in the Local 551 jurisdiction. Several large projects continue to forge ahead, entwined with many smaller ones that have come and are successfully completed.

The Marin General Hospital (Morrow Meadows, BEI, Maximum) continues to proceed with the hard work and sometimes long hours employing 60+ Inside Journeymen, Apprentices, and Sound and Communication Installers. In addition the Montage Resort (Northern Electric) is moving along and promises to be another Sonoma County “go to” venue. Some of the longer term school projects that we are currently manning are the Davidson Middle School (N.E.I) and the Laurel Dell Elementary (McGrath Electric) both of which are in Marin County.

The SRJC campus continues to expand with projects that include (Lunardi, N.E.I., Integrated Security Controls, and Syserco) to name a few. These types of projects are the cornerstone of our great local and will continue to sustain work for our members into the future.

As the 2019 year end approaches we look forward to continued prosperous times in our local that are posturing to set the tone for a busy start to the 2020’s. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to address any questions or comments you may have.

Joe Tremaine - (707) 477-4970

JARED M UMM - MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to everyone that is helping us to organize and grow!

As you may have noticed, electrical contractors are competing aggressively for manpower right now. Despite how valuable our skillset is, we are still speaking to some certified electricians in the field that work for the same wages as our third year Apprentices, but have no benefits or retirement. No worker, no person, deserves to be taken advantage of like this. We all understand our responsibilities on the job, and it is important to remember our responsibility to reach out to unrepresented electricians that we meet and tell them that they are welcome here. When you have the opportunity, please do your best to extend your hand and let a brother know that you want him on our team. In doing so, we will not only grow our Local, but also restore a certain level of dignity to someone’s labor.

If you meet any electricians interested in joining our Union, I can be reached at 707.479.4422 or at jaredm@ibewlocal551.org.

SONOMA COUNTY FAIR

North Bay Construction & Trades Council has a booth at the Sonoma County Fair in the main exhibit hall. Local 551 is part of the exhibit.

We have the booth on Sunday, August 11th. Call the hall if you’d like to volunteer for a 2 hour shift, free pass and parking included.
Thank you to Brothers and Sisters who attend our monthly general meeting. We recently held a New Member Orientation class with good attendance. There will be another soon and any new members will be invited. If you are a new member and have not had the opportunity to attend, let us know and we can sign you up.

There are also continued education classes being offered by the Norcal-JATC and also the REJATC.

Reminder to Sound and Communications members - Meeting on Saturday, August 10th at 9am to discuss negotiations. Meeting will be at IBEW Local 332 Hall - 2125 Canoas Garden Ave., #100 in San Jose.

**Look out for one another especially on these hot days. Stay hydrated and if you feel any symptoms, PLEASE let someone know immediately.**

Rob Barsi—Training Director

Greetings from the Training Center,

We are extremely busy this summer with the Training Center receiving some much-needed repairs to the roof and new energy efficiency projects including replacing the HVAC equipment and retrofitting all the interior lighting to LED fixtures with advanced lighting controls.

We have also built a new 750 square foot lighting controls lab and updated our hands-on training booths with new transformer equipment. We have started putting together some new labs including switchgear installation, wire pulling, and a renewable energy trainer.

In addition to all the new work to the training center, the new academic school year is rapidly approaching. Demand has been high, and we have started 35 new apprentices this year. That brings our total student roster to 115 indentured apprentices.

We are very excited for all the new changes, and in addition to welcoming 35 new apprentices this year, we will also be welcoming to our team Brother Brandon Cunningham as our additional Inside Instructor as well as Brother Kyle Buckhorn as our CW and Residential Instructor.

Jose Casas - Membership Development Representative

Thank you to Brothers and Sisters who attend our monthly general meeting. We recently held a New Member Orientation class with a good attendance. There will be another soon and any new members will be invited. If you are a new member and have not had the opportunity to attend, let us know and we can sign you up.

There are also continued education classes being offered by the Norcal-JATC and also the REJATC.

Officer Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for the following:

- Treasurer
- 3 Examining Board

If you are interested, please contact the hall.

Benevolent Fund

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

Annual Picnic

Invitations have been mailed out!
Saturday, September 7th
Mortons Warm Springs
Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly.
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.

PROUD PARENTS

Andrew Geoffrion - Duke - 6/20/19
Kanaka Keka - Kai - 6/19/19
Ryan Gayda - Hunter - 2/9/19

RECENT CHANGES FOR INSIDE CONTRUCTION MEMBERS

Pension: John Hancock Retirement Plan Services is the new record-keeper for your Redwood Empire Electrical Workers Pension Trust Fund effective July 1, 2019. The website to register or log in to your account is: www.mylife.jhrps.com.

Health & Welfare: A Health Reimbursement Account with Navia Benefit Solutions is a recent addition to your benefit package. If you are eligible with the Redwood Empire Electrical Workers Health and Welfare Trust Fund, please make sure that you have received your Navia card. The website is: www.navibenefits.com.

REMININDERS

- Keep your address, email, and phone number current.
- Please notify your Trust Fund office asap when you have a new child, get married/divorced etc. Notify the Union office for a form to change your death benefit beneficiary.
- If you get 90 days behind in your International dues the International charges a $30 late fee. We do not accept CASH payments. Dues can be paid with credit card or check. You can pay on the website, in person or by phone or checks can be mailed. Dues increase to $42 in 2020.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2  LABOR DAY
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11 - VETERANS DAY
(Inside Construction & Sound & Communications)