

# Business Manager's Desk

## IBEW LOCAL UNION 130



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Business Manager/Financial Secretary

October 14, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

On November 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a wage increase of \$1.15. This is the last increase of the current 3-year contract that will expire next year. We will discuss and decide where the increase should be placed (wages and/or benefits) at our next union meeting on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Please make every effort to attend.

Please note there will NOT be an increase in the I.O. per capita dues for the upcoming year. The dues will remain the same for Journeyman Wireman and Construction Electrician at \$46.00 per month. The dues will also remain the same for an Apprentice Wireman and Construction Wireman at \$43.50 per month. If you need to update your contact information, please give the office a call (504) 831-1372.

Unfortunately, I regret to inform you of the cancellation of our Local 130 Annual Service Pin Night held in December due to the ongoing pandemic situation with the coronavirus. We greatly appreciate your understanding and patience. We would like to ensure the health and safety of our members and their families. Know that we are always grateful for your participation. Service pins will be mailed. If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Rupp.

This November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we have the opportunity to elect a president who will fight with us and restore a country ravaged by an ongoing pandemic and economic devastation. I would like to encourage you to consider voting for Joe Biden for President and Kamala Harris for Vice-President. As you know, the IBEW has endorsed Biden for President. Biden and Harris are pro-worker, pro-union, and have pledged to support a law to eliminate "Right to Work" laws across the country to make it easier to organize and to protect collective bargaining. If we do not make a change in Washington, the labor movement will suffer a greater loss including the constant attack on our pensions and health insurance as well as our ability to organize and collectively bargain.

Here are a few of many things that proves Trump is no friend of unions: "Since Trump took office in 2017, he has been at war with organized labor. Yet even after all of his attacks on labor, union members still support him. These issues have had a profound impact on unions.

1. Appointments to the National Labor Relations Board: Trump has used the NLRB as his own personal attack dogs against unions. He nominated employer side lawyers, including PATCO strikebreaker. Just some of the decisions they have made include deciding that McDonald's is not a joint employer, repealing the Obama era union

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election rules, attempting to make Scabby illegal and consistently siding with management over the workers.

2. Making it more dangerous to go to work: To get rid of “onerous” safety regulations, Trump has gotten rid of several OSHA safety standards and reduced the number of investigations that OSHA is taking part in. The result has been an increase in workplace deaths.
3. **Trump’s Support for Right to Work: This law is possibly the biggest threat to unions. A National Right to Work law has been introduced in the Senate and Trump has announced that if it comes to his desk, he will sign it. No supporter of labor would support right to work.**
4. Trump proposed ending federal pensions: In Trump’s 2019 budget he proposed massive cuts to federal workers including ending their defined benefits pension plan and freezing wages.”

*(LaGrange, Kris. “10 Things Trump Has Done to Hurt Labor.” Ucomm Blog, 20 Dec. 2019, ucommblog.com/section/national-politics/10-things-trump-has-done-hurt-labor).*

President Trump supports eliminating the Davis-Bacon law that helps equal in the playing field on federal projects. Without this law we wouldn’t have received the bulk of work at the VA Hospital, the new MSY Airport, and the Sewage & Waterboard projects that Barnes Electric usually obtain.

As a reminder, the Grow Act will increase the cost to maintain our pension fund. For years the IBEW has been fighting to secure the viability of multiemployer pensions. We had fought hard to see the Butch Lewis Act pass through the House last July and we’ve been disappointed that the senate has yet to address it. Instead, congress has pushed the Grow Act which would not work to address those pension plans that are having problems. This proposal would allow well-funded multiemployer plans to adopt a “hybrid” pension plan, which cuts out employer withdrawal liability, eliminates the safety net of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and makes benefits unpredictable. Given that these plans will no longer have to contribute to the PBGC, it puts the system further in jeopardy.

In the last four years of Trump’s presidency, the country is somewhat or very divided among racial, ethnic and political lines. There must be opportunities for a path to the middle class and that begins with good paying jobs, union jobs that pay livable wages with benefits. November 3<sup>rd</sup> is election day. Early voting is available from October 16<sup>th</sup> to October 27<sup>th</sup>. The endorsed candidates list was mailed recently and will remain posted on our daily email blast through election day. Again, I encourage you to vote Joe Biden for President and to support those pledged to support working people, so our nation can start the healing process that it needs.

In Brotherhood,



Paul