

# BUSINESS MANAGER'S DESK



## **IBEW LOCAL UNION 130**

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April 7, 2021

It is with a heavy heart that I share some sad news. As you may or may not be aware, one of Local 130's dear friend and brother Joe Mendel, a retired member of Local 3 New York has passed away due to COVID-19. Joe was a great brother who helped many of our members in the 1980s when work in Local 130 was very slow. He came down to New Orleans for work in 1976 since work in New York was slow and worked here for four years, one year after arriving, he met a young lady from New Orleans who a year later would become his wife, Annie. In 1980, Joe and Annie moved to New York and had their first child, Jacquelyn who grew up to become a member of Local 3.

Brother Joe never forgot the friendships he made or his time in New Orleans. While working here, Joe was asked to become Steward for the BF Goodrich project and he did not want to take the position, but former Business Manager Gabe Alexander told him, "this is a 100-man job that you are on and you will be my steward or you will go back home" and Joe replied, "no problem, I'll be the steward." At that time, everyone got to know Joe because of his big personality and laughter, everyone had the upmost respect for him and his work. Joe participated in everything our local had to offer from union meetings, softball games, and other functions. Joe became a member of the Westchester Mechanic's Club. The club had an annual picnic and he started "Joe's Cajun Kitchen" introducing the brothers and sisters of Local 3 to a little New Orleans flavor where he and his boys would cook food brought up from New Orleans such as: shrimp, oysters, gumbo, and many other products. This tradition goes back to former Business Managers: Al Bostick, Joe Pardo, Tiger Hammond, Clay Leon, Chet Held, and now Paul Zulli. Local 130 has always assisted and provided Joe with some of seafoods and the Westchester club would always send an invitation to attend. Joe would always give the business manager of Local 130 a tour of the Joint Board where you would be introduced to the officers and staff of Local 3. Later that night, Joe would take you to workers night, which was a night before the picnic to cook and set-up for the following day picnic.

Joe served as an employment director and helped a lot of Local 130 members, he ran the Elect-Chester apartments which was about 2,000 units owned by Local 3, he was big with the Masons, coached baseball and played softball. No one could figure out how he could fit all his agenda in a day. Joe would come down here once a year to visit family and would always stop by the union hall to visit the business manager and would have lunch regardless of who was in office at the time. Joe will always be remembered as a great Union Brother, friend to many, and one of the best leaders of Local 3. We will miss him, please keep Joe Mendel and his family in your prayers.

Fraternally,

*Paul J. Zulli*