



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL
WORKERS
LOCAL NO.130**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this newsletter you will find information on the recent 40th IBEW Convention, the annual Electrical Training Alliance meeting, upcoming work and the need of apprenticeship instructors. The IBEW Local 130 membership picnic and lastly, you will find information regarding the retirement of our Dispatcher Billy Buckel and his replacement Travis "Butch" Naquin.

Two years after the pandemic shut down all conferences, we were finally able to hold the 40th IBEW Convention in Chicago during the month of May. I arrived in Chicago on May 4th, a week prior to the start of the convention and had the privilege to serve on the International Secretary-Treasurer Report Committee.

The 40th IBEW Convention was held from May 9th through May 13th, in attendance were our delegates Corky Cortez, Tim Moran, Rodney Wallis and me, Paul Zulli, there were a total of 2,304 delegates and guests. The theme of the convention was, "Lightning the Path to The Middle Class," the way to the middle class is to join a Union, Unions built middle class. This year's convention was a very memorable experience, as it was the first time in history to have a sitting U.S. President speak at the convention. President Biden spoke highly of IBEW, as we were the first Union Trade to support him and his bid to become President. President Biden also spoke on the many bills that have been passed that will provide work for our members for the next 10 years and as he said, "The way to build better and stronger is to build Union." Our President stressed that the IBEW has the best trained workers in our industry. President Biden is the only President that has spoken the words Union and IBEW on national television time and time again

Another first, was the election of the first female IBEW Vice President Gina Cooper Fourth District V.P. International President Lonnie Stephenson, International Secretary Treasurer Kenny Cooper and our Fifth District Vice President Brian Thompson were re-elected with no opposition. We would like to extend our Congratulations to all. There were many guest speakers including the first female president of the AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. President Schuler is an IBEW member who rose through the ranks of our great Union and was tapped to lead AFL-CIO as Vice president before becoming its president. Another message we heard everyday was the need to organize, organize, organize, as we come out of the last two years dealing with the setback of Covid we did not reach our growth projection goal set at the last convention in 2016. Membership was up slightly but BA membership has fallen. I know I can speak for the four of us that attended that it was very exciting to be there and to network with all the other delegates in attendance.

After getting back home, I had to fly to Washington, D.C., to represent the Fifth District for the annual Electrical Training Alliance Committee. There is a major push to increase our apprenticeship numbers across the country as the need to grow and man the work that is coming in the future, the way to grow our Local is to increase the size of our apprenticeship classes and organize to keep up with those members that are retiring and to increase our membership.

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Our work picture continues to improve. I fully expect we will need more labor in the upcoming months. The new Harrah's hotel tower was awarded to Frischhertz Electric and some work inside the casino has started. There are several projects that I am waiting to be award, the Convention Center, PBF refinery, Charity Project, Venture Global LNG Plant in Plaquemines and Zephyr Field.

The organizers and I have been speaking with two non-union contractors and we hope to have some news to report soon. I have called for a Labor and Management meeting to address the need to work together to bring in more contractors and grow our industry. At this moment, we are running 4 to 1 Journeyman to Apprentice ratio, we have 760 Journeymen, 116 Apprentices, and 54 CE's and CW's combined. We need to do better than this to win more projects as this will allow us to provide more work opportunities for our membership.

The Apprenticeship office is looking for class instructors for next year, if you are interested, please contact the office at 504-835-9899. Also, we are interviewing applicants for the next class and we're trying to get more females involved, since we don't have any right now.

It is always a great pleasure to announce our newest Journeymen! Congratulations, Hunter Allums, John Bilich, Alex Cusimano, Joseph Fairbanks, Keith Joseph, Brandon Rynick, Dixon Sartor, Roy Shepard Jr., John Swiger and Brandon Wyche on completing the Apprenticeship Program! We are very proud of you all for putting in your time and best effort as you all put in the work to reaching this milestone, and the beginning of your long and satisfying career. You are now the future mentors of the new apprentices.

I would like to congratulate Assistant Business Manager/ Recording Secretary Billy Buckel on his retirement this June 30. Most members know Billy as our Dispatcher, I know Billy as my partner in my administration and great friend who has contributed greatly to Local 130's success over the last eight years. Billy is responsible for the introduction of Local 130 daily emails providing our members with open jobs and other important information. Billy, thank you for your dedication to Local 130 and friendship over these many years. We would like to wish you good health any may you enjoy your very well-deserved retirement.

I would also like to welcome Brother Travis "Butch" Naquin to our administration. Butch has served on the Local 130 Apprenticeship Committee and Local 130 negotiations committee. I know Butch will serve Local 130 membership well.

Finally, I invite you and your family to attend our membership picnic on Saturday, October 15th. The picnic will be held at City Park's Shelter #1 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There will be games for the kids, plenty of great food and refreshments. If you'd like to volunteer for the picnic, please contact Kelly at (504) 831-1372.

I wish you a happy and safe Summer!

Fraternally,



Paul