



I.B.E.W
Local #1974

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November 2006

Views from the President

With a profound sense of gratitude and pride, I wish to thank the brothers and sisters of this local union for their self-sacrifice in signing up and committing to taking the CC time in our efforts to avoid a layoff. This unselfish act of true unionism gives us all hope, in a world, which sometimes seems wrought with cynicism and self-absorption. This is the true example of not continuing with "business as usual", rather an attempt to think outside the box. Your efforts, in no small measure, define us as a union, and your willingness to come to the aide of your fellow union members, speaks volumes to the content of your character.

While this gets us, barring any unforeseen circumstance, through the end of the year, there will be a need in January to see where we are at and what efforts will be needed at that time. We are currently pushing the company, during this slow period, to begin cross training in many areas and follow up on much needed additional training in others. We are in uncharted waters, and to my knowledge have never tried this approach before in preserving jobs, we by no means are claiming perfection, rather a continuing effort to seek alternative strategies to avoid a force reduction in our membership.

The American worker, particularly, the union worker is under attack in our country today. We are often seen as a liability, rather than a true asset to the companies we work for. It is not enough for us to live on the laurels of past accomplishments; we must forge ahead, building a new legacy, taking pride in what we have as being earned and not given to us. We do not need to re-invent the wheel, rather apply the simple logic I have heard many times from our members on the floor.

It is with that reasoning in mind that we encourage your thoughts and ideas on process improvements. Does this sound like a pitch for the company? Perhaps it will to some, but from where I stand, no one should lose their job as a result of process improvement. It would make us more competitive, preserving jobs in the end. This enables the company to absorb some surplus during the normal slow periods of production. This would put us as a union, in a place to bargain from a position of strength not desperation.

Again, I want to thank all the members for all that you do each day that make this union great. I hope that you all have a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

In Unity,
Dan Buelt

TO: ALL UNION MEMBERS:

The monthly membership meeting will be held Thursday, November 16, 2006
In the IBEW Union Hall Auditorium,
13306 Stevens Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Phone 895-4080—FAX 895-1828

Morning Meeting 7:50am 2nd Shift Meeting 1:50pm Day Shift Meeting 3:50pm

Vice – President's Message

We have had a full plate of issues to deal with in the last couple of weeks. Foremost among them was the effort to come up with an alternative to laying off people who are excess due to the business being slower than anticipated in the apparatus business. The company could have taken the easy way out and just laid them off, but instead approached the union to see if we could come up with an alternative. We had one week to come up with a plan to take the excess cost out of the business between now and the end of February. Many options suggested by the Union leadership and options brought forward by the membership were discussed and given serious consideration, some of these options are still on the table. We have been successful in averting a lay off, the thanks for this success sits squarely on the shoulders of the membership, without whose participation this would not have worked. There are still some unresolved issues regarding cabinet orders from Alcatel, which caused some stress this week, but as of Thursday afternoon (11-09) we have received some of the orders that we have been anticipating. There are orders from our other customers which we must meet our commitments to because the cabinet management team is trying to build our business levels up with these other customers to lessen our dependence on AT&T/Alcatel.

While we are in the slow time of the year we are challenging the company and ourselves to utilize

this opportunity to do the cross training which gets put on the back burner during busy times because it is easier for management to fall back on their old habits of just doing whatever it takes to make their commit dates. While this is understandable due to their being measured on this metric it is very short-sighted for the business. Cross training needs to be done properly because moving from a flow line to bay building and back every day or two is not cross training. We are also pushing management to involve our members who want to be involved in the process improvement projects going on in their areas. Our members have ideas and suggestions on how their jobs can be done better and/or smarter. Now is the time to do these things so we can all be in a stronger position when the business picks up.

As we work through the end of the year all of us need to stay focused on the fact that we are still asking for a commitment to cc time for January and February. Unless business picks up before then the need to reduce cost is still there and people will still be at risk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for being honest and frank with us during this challenging time. We have been nothing less with you. Management insists that they are operating the same way with us and we trust that they are, but this trust is not blind and must be proven by their actions. The power of your disappointment with the contract that we now operate under is shared and felt by your officers but we must take our focus off of management and focus on doing the things that will put us in the strongest possible position at the bargaining table in 2008.

All the Officers hope you have a great Thanksgiving.

In The Spirit of Brotherhood

Jim Garza



The Short Circuit

Omaha, Nebraska

November 2006

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International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers AFL-CIO,
Omaha, Nebraska

President Dan Buelt
Vice President Jim Garza
Recording Secretary Connie Carlson
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Executive Board

Dennis Salkeld, Chairman
Larry Thomsen, Ron Black, Paul Clark, Art Huerta

Newspaper Staff

Editor Steve Reandean

Winners

By Connie Carlson

The following union members were winners at the October membership meeting.

Winners of the 50/50 Cope Drawing:

7:50 AM	Jesse Welker	Donated Back
1:50 PM	Dominic Zappia	Donated Back
3:50 PM	Joanne Salkeld	Donated Back

Winners of the \$50.00 Door Prize:

7:50 AM	Denise Whitcomb
1:50 PM	Pat Thomas
3:50 PM	Patrice Robinson

Important Numbers:

United Health Care - 1-888-332-8885 for medical questions or claims.

Cole Vision - 1-888-439-3633 Eye Med

Connectivity Solutions Pension Service Center - 1-888-257-5650

Aetna Dental - 1-877-238-6200 for questions about dental.

Medco RX Home Delivery - 1-877-842-6048 for mail in prescriptions.

Mental Health - Pre Certification 1-800-559-5951

Union Hotline - 402-697-7746

Vanguard 401k - 1-800-523-1188

Fidelity 401k - 1-800-835-5095

Movement of Personnel

By Jamie Salkeld, M.O.P. Coordinator

This month I will start my article by thanking each and every person that signed up for C. C. (Company Convenience) time. The efforts of each and every one of you taking the C. C. time may have saved some jobs. It makes me very proud to be a member of this Union, knowing that brothers and sisters of OUR local care enough to take unpaid time off to save the job of another brother or sister. That is a true sign of unity and each one of us is standing up for one another. The one thing that I do ask is that if you signed up to commit to a day of C. C. time, that you do your part to at least make that attempt to fulfill that need. Remember this is OUR brother and sisters that we are trying to protect and save.

Now on the movement side of the business, the Union is going to be a little lenient with the company of those who chose not to take C. C. time. There will be some loans, some individuals moved around to other areas within their I. B. U's, or even some of us working below their job grade to help those areas out because of people that chose to take C. C. time. Will it cause some individuals to be a little upset? Probably, but it is for a good reason. That means we are all sharing in a little pain to protect what each and every one of us has.

On the other side of movement, there have been a few things that have happened. Within the last month we have had three more people that chose to downgrade from level II's to level I's. During that time those individuals have been placed on level I jobs. The excess that happened last month is now finished from 1100 Bodines to 110 Bodines. Also, since last month there has been a job posted for an HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) on the board. That job is now filled. Congratulations to the individual that received that job. Last week on November ninth another trade job has been posted on the board. The job is for a Boiler operator. Good luck to anyone that bids on the job.

Fraternally Yours

Jamie

Benefit Updates

By Connie Carlson

I will be out of the office on vacation in sunny Cancun, from November 3, through November 14. I will return on the 15th and will answer all messages. If you need my help, please leave me a message on x4954.

Births

Joel Wedel is the proud Grandpa of two granddaughters born in September. Alyssa Renee was born on September 12th and weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Brenna Leigh was born on September 29, and was 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 21 inches long. Congratulations to Joel and his family!

Deaths

Brett Bisailion	Father
Clara Walla	Sister

Our deepest sympathies to all these members and their families.

If you hear of a death, please call your union rep to report it, or call Connie Carlson at

Labor 2006 Going Forward: What Needs to Be Done

On Nov. 7, working families spoke—and politicians had to listen. Voters in the 2006 election rejected the policies of the Bush administration and the Republican leadership in Congress, and struck a blow for fairness, opportunity, real family values, security and shared responsibilities for those in this country who need our help. They demanded a new course for the United States, and **AFL-CIO President John Sweeney** says Congress should get busy.

Working families expect the 100th Congress to immediately:

- Raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.
- Restore workers' freedom to form unions: Pass the Employee Free Choice Act and reverse the National Labor Relations Board's recent ruling that allows employers to deny workers' union rights by classifying them as "supervisors."
- Overturn the ban prohibiting Medicare from negotiating with drug companies for more affordable prescription drugs.
- Stop sending our best jobs overseas: Reward companies that create jobs at home instead of giving tax dollars to companies that export our jobs. Reverse the cuts in student loans made by the Republican Congress.

Further, working families are looking to Congress to:

- Provide quality, affordable health care for all.
 - Write new plans to provide real retirement security for America's workers and retirees, starting with reforming corporate bankruptcy laws that enable companies to dump their obligations to employees.
 - Bring our troops home from Iraq rapidly. Make our neighborhoods and nation safer and more secure by fighting the real war on terror and preparing for natural disasters.
 - End the tax breaks for Big Oil and make serious investments in renewable energy to reduce our foreign oil dependency.
 - Revitalize manufacturing and safeguard good jobs by ending China's currency manipulation, restoring balance to our trade agenda and rejecting trade deals that do not guarantee workers' rights and environmental protections. No Fast Track for George W. Bush!
 - Make America a leader again in respecting human rights and civil rights at home and around the world.
 - Adequately fund and support a world-class public education system for all our children.
 - Develop a reasonable immigration system that protects the rights of all workers and provides a path to citizenship for hard-working, tax-paying immigrant workers who come to our nation seeking a better life.
- Rebuild America's roads, bridges, schools, water systems and other infrastructure while creating good jobs to get the work done.