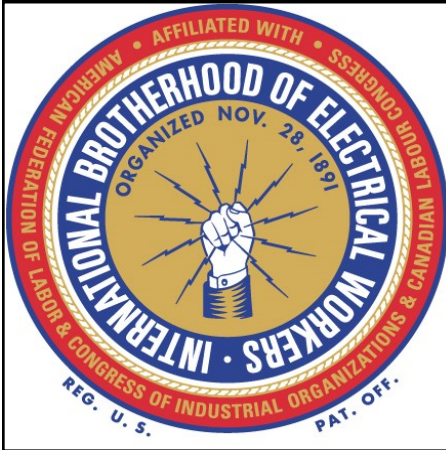


TAILGATING

November 2016

Is Published frequently by IBEW Local 204

Volume 36 Issue 7



IBEW LOCAL 204

IBEW Convention Delegates Approve Increases to Per Capita Dues and PBF Contributions

By Dave George – Business Manager

The Delegates of the 39th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted the week of September 19th through 23rd, 2016, in St. Louis, Missouri, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.

Accordingly, effective January 1, 2017, there will be an increase of two dollars (\$2.00) for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contribution, which applies to “A” members only. There will be no change in the per capita dues that is paid into the General Fund, and therefore, the rate for all “BA” members shall remain the same for 2017.

The portion of your total monthly Union dues that is sent on to the International is the only part that is affected by the amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution. The portion of your monthly Union dues that goes to the IBEW Local 204 General Fund is not affected.

The portion of your monthly Union dues that is sent to the International consists of per capita dues, which is paid into the General Fund, which applies to both “A” and “BA” members. “A” members also make monthly contributions into the PBF, in addition to their monthly per capita dues to the International’s General Fund.

Beginning January 1, 2017, in accordance with Article IX of the IBEW Constitution, \$18.00 per month from each member will be deposited in the International’s General Fund, and an additional amount of \$18.00 paid by “A” members only will be deposited into the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund. Therefore, the amount paid to the International will be \$18.00 for “BA” members and \$36.00 for “A” members.

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December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Area Meeting Washington 6:30 PM	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Area Meeting Council Bluffs 6:30 PM	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 1st day of Winter Area Meeting Oelwein 6:30 PM	22 EXECUTIVE BOARD	23	24 Christmas Eve 
25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> New Years Day	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> Union Meeting Creston 6:30 PM	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> Union Meeting Osceola 6:30 PM	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> Martin Luther King Day	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Union Meeting Cedar Rapids 6:30 PM	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Executive Board	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>				

Messages From The Executive Board



November; what a great month to stop and think about family, friends, veterans, union brothers and sisters. As Veteran's Day approaches, pause to reflect on how much our country has changed and evolved and then remember we have our veterans to thank. If you happen to see a veteran, stop and let them know just how much you appreciate all that they have sacrificed for us and our great country.

At the end of the month, we will celebrate Thanksgiving with friends, family and loved ones. Stop and take in all of the good food, good company and memories that you will be making. Count the blessings you have surrounding you and tell those people how much you appreciate and love them.

I wish all of my brothers and sisters of Local 204, a Happy Veterans day, Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. Here's to being thankful for all we have.

In Solidarity,

Josh Eaton
Executive Board
Area 9





The Alliant Energy Blue Hats (left to right) Randy Brown, Terry Shannon and Terry Harris display the Harry Read Memorial Award of Merit for Outstanding Service to Safety they received on behalf of IBEW Local 204, from the National Safety Council Labor Division on October 14, 2016.

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All of the rate increases that were approved at the 39th International Convention are summarized below and will go into effect the years 2017 through 2020:

Effective Date:	1/1/2017	1/1/2018	1/1/2019	1/1/2020
Per Capita:	\$18.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$20.00
Pension Fund:	<u>\$18.00</u>	<u>\$18.00</u>	<u>\$19.00</u>	<u>\$19.00</u>
Total:	\$36.00	\$37.00	\$38.00	\$39.00

Note: “BA” members pay only the Per Capita amount. “A” members pay both Per Capita and Pension Fund amounts.

The total increases over the next four years will be \$5.00 for “A” members and \$2.00 for “BA” members.

If anyone has any questions, please contact me at (319) 366-3434.



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How Stronger Unions Could Fix Our Economy — And Our Politics

Labor reform could mean higher wages and less inequality

Of the little we've heard, much of this election's economic policy discussion has focused on what can be done about our historically slow growth, rising inequality, and decreasing social mobility. But neither candidate has focused on one no-brainer solution: strengthening unions.

That might seem a contentious statement in a country with decades of fraught relations between corporations and labor. But as a new report from the left-leaning Center for American Progress outlines, a stronger labor movement may be the quickest way to spur the sort of broad-based growth (via wage hikes) that we need to create a more sustainable, robust recovery.

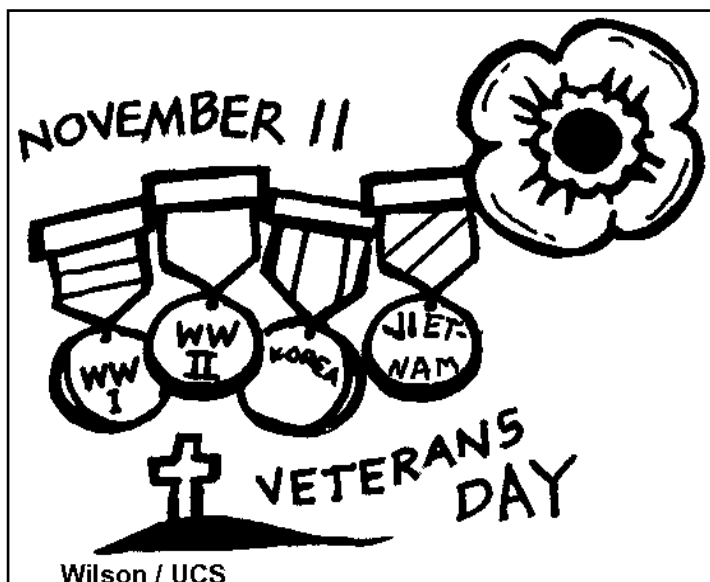
"It's become pretty clear that in order to raise wages and reduce inequality, the number one thing that we could do would be to increase worker power within our economy," says David Madland, a senior fellow at CAP and the author of the study.

Strengthening unions might also have the knock-on effect of decreasing populism. At least some of the ugliness we've seen this election cycle has been rooted in rising inequality. Meanwhile, about one-third of the recent increase in wage inequality for American males can be attributed to weakening unions, according to research by Harvard and Washington University academics. A separate IMF study found that countries without unions see a 10% increase in the share of income that goes to the highest earners.

By contrast, the social benefits of unions stretch across generations. American children of fathers without a college education earn 28% more if their dad was in a labor union, compared to those whose fathers were non-union. In other words, the demise of American unions — only about 7% of private sector workers currently belong to one — has been a key factor in the rising wealth gap, but also in the sort of horrific, Hobbesian presidential politics we've seen over the past year. (Many economists see the wealth gap as a big reason why we aren't enjoying a more sustainable recovery.)

The big challenge to revitalizing unions is moving beyond today's system of labor law, which hasn't been updated since 1935. Unions get a bad rap in the U.S. in part because most collective bargaining can be done only at a firm-by-firm level. That creates a race to the bottom away from higher-wage unionized firms. Yet there is a wealth of research that shows that when bargaining can be done at an industry level — the way it is in most other countries, including Germany, Sweden, Australia, and Canada, among others — you get higher national wages without sacrificing economic

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competitiveness. That's because factors like labor representation on corporate boards and the ability to bargain collectively is associated with greater productivity levels, as management and labor are better able to work together to solve problems.

Such a drastic change won't be easy. Reforming the National Labor Relations Board will require policy action. "Legal changes [to collective bargaining structures] have to come first – unions simply aren't powerful enough right now to drive this change on their own," says Madland. Yet there are already examples at the state and local level that show the potential of a new kind of labor movement. Think about the Fight for \$15 movement in various cities, which has helped bolster low-end service pay across industries. It's something that Hillary (fingers crossed) should make a top priority if she's elected. It would help stabilize our economy — and our democracy, too.

This article was written October 11, 2016, by Rana Foroohar and published in TIME Magazine. Rana is an Assistant Managing Editor at TIME Magazine. This article has been reprinted in Tailgating with the permission of the author.