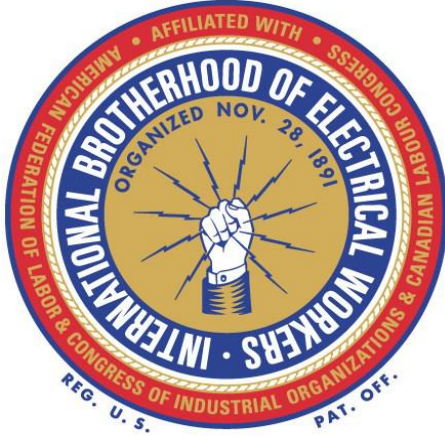


TAILGATING

December 2017

Is Published frequently by IBEW Local 204

Volume 37 Issue 9



IBEW LOCAL 204

Happy Holidays & Good-Bye to 2017

By Dave George - Business Manager

As the holiday season is upon us, and the year 2017 comes to a close, we look back on all that has happened or taken place in the last year.

While some of the things that have happened may be good things, others may not have been so good.

The bad things that took place in Iowa that will affect some of our members were the changes made by Republicans in the Iowa legislature to Workers Compensation and the public sector collective bargaining laws.

Local 204 represents six public sector bargaining units that have, or will be affected by the changes in the public sector collective bargaining laws. Of these six bargaining units, two of them are classified as “public safety” bargaining units while the others are not. Although there were changes made that negatively affect all of them equally, the four bargaining units that are not considered “public safety” can only negotiate over base wages and nothing else. The “public safety” bargaining units are still allowed to negotiate over most of the issues that they have in the past. Three of these “non-public safety” bargaining units have contracts that will expire in 2018.

Another negative issue that Local 204 has had to deal with because of these changes in the public sector collective bargaining laws was the requirement to have a “recertification election” of these bargaining units months before the expiration of their Labor Agreements. The Union has to pay for the cost of these elections. Two of these “recertification elections” have been held in the past year to see if the members of these bargaining units still want to be represented by Local 204. Local 204 has won both of these elections with the City of Lake Mills and the Scott County Bailiffs, and will start negotiations in 2018. If the results of these elections were not in favor of the Union, the members’ Labor Agreement, although not yet expired, would immediately become null and void. There will be more “recertification elections” for these public sector bargaining units in 2018 and subsequent years.

Of some of the good things that happened this past year were the ratification of negotiated Labor Agreements by the members of Local 204. These ratified Agreements were with the following companies.

- Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO)
- Windstream Communications
- Alliant Energy/IP&L (formerly IES)

(Continued on page 4)

inside...

January Calendar	2
February Calendar	3
Message from the Executive Board	4
Inter-Union Gas Conference	5
International Dues Increase	6

January 2018

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

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7 Union Meeting Mason City 6:30 PM	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Union Meeting Ottumwa 6:30 PM	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21 Union Meeting Dubuque 6:30 PM	22 Executive Board	23	24
25	26	27	28 Union Meeting DAEC 3:00 PM			

Messages From The Executive Board

Congratulations on a Safe Year!

As we approach the end of 2017, I would like to congratulate all of our brothers and sisters of IBEW Local 204 for working a safe year.

Mistakes may have been made and lessons learned, but a lot of work has been done. Whether it is capital projects, maintenance projects, storm restoration or day-to-day service work, it is important to take pride in your work and do it safely. It's the IBEW way and a job well done!

I hope everyone can sit back and enjoy the holidays, and have a Merry Christmas with friends and family.

In Solidarity

Josh Eaton
Executive Board - Area 9

(Continued from page 1)

Some of the most terrible things that have happened in 2017, were the way too many instances of terrorism in our country. Innocent people have died and were injured for no good reason at all. Hopefully, these incidents have not had a direct affect on you.

I don't mean to stress the doom and gloom of the past year, but with all of the negative things that are reported and that are front and center everyday of our lives due to technology and social media, it sometimes takes a person with an optimistic outlook on things to stay positive.

Although these good and bad happenings have affected some of our members, I'm sure that everyone else has had their share of both the good and bad during the past year. We all need to take note of the good and positive things that have happened in 2017, and be thankful, especially in this holiday season, for what we have. If you just look, you can always find someone that is far worse off than you.

Be thankful for the family that you have, your health, your job, and your home which are just a few of the things that come to my mind that I am thankful for. There are many people in our world that would be glad to enjoy just some of the things that we have and take for granted. Living in smaller towns in the Midwest is also something we should be thankful for, as the big cities and southern states seem to have more problems such as high crime and natural disasters.

(Continued on page 5)

2017 Inter-Union Gas Conference

By Tom McKinley – Alliant Energy Gas Mechanic, Britt, IA

In September of this year, I was given the opportunity to go to the Inter-Union Gas Conference in Portland, Oregon. For someone relatively new to being a Union member, it was a great experience.

Over 350 delegates from different locals and International Unions from all over the United States and Canada gathered Monday the 18th for the conference opening. Donnie Colston (Director, IBEW Utility Department) and Kenneth Cooper (International Secretary-Treasurer) gave opening statements and discussed the IBEW and its partners and the importance of being organized and working together. Together they welcomed a Gas Worker from BG&E (Baltimore Gas & Electric) to share his story of how he and other employees of BG&E reached out to the IBEW to help them and more than 1,400 other workers become organized and members of the IBEW.

In the following days, we broke out into workshops respective of our fields along with different speakers in the afternoons. A lot of topics were covered along with concerns, questions and general discussion. Problems with contractors, inspectors, operator qualifications and adapting to a younger workforce were some of issues talked about.

One of the speakers that week was retired Certified Police Trainer Jim Warwick of the Delaware State Police on situational awareness. This year two Gas Workers were shot and killed in St. Louis by an irate customer who came to their jobsite and ambushed them. Jim talked about the importance of being situationally aware on the jobsite, whether it be in a truck or out doing work. Looking for things or signs that something isn't right. Paying attention to people and their body language is important also. When working in a bad area or dealing with an irate customer have a local law enforcement member escort you.

This was a busy week with a lot of information and conversations. I met people from California, Maryland, Tennessee, Arizona and Canada. All great people. My takeaways from this conference are showing pride in your work, and taking care of our system is taking care of our fellow workers.

(Continued from page 4)

Looking to the year 2018, Local 204 will be negotiating Labor Agreements with Scott County (Bailiffs), City of Lake Mills, NextEra/FP&L (Nuclear Power Plant), Alliant Energy/IP&L (formerly IPC Dubuque & Mason City) and Atlantic Municipal. Hopefully there will also be some positive changes in politics that will benefit working men and women and bring us all together as a nation.

By the time that you receive this issue of Tailgating in the mail, you will already have celebrated Thanksgiving and hopefully experienced the closeness of family and friends as you gave thanks for all that you have.

On behalf of Matt Fischer, Rob Pitcher, Robin Kruger and myself here in the Local 204 office, I would like to wish every Local 204 member, retiree and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

International Dues Increase

By Dave George – Business Manager

In September of 2016, the delegates of the 39th IBEW International Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution. As a result of these amendments there will be an increase in the per capita dues for all “A” and “BA” members of the IBEW, effective January 1, 2018. This increase will be an increase from \$18.00 to \$19.00 per month. Therefore, the total monthly International portion of an “A” member’s dues will go from \$36.00 to \$37.00, and a “BA” member’s dues will go from \$18.00 to \$19.00.

For 2018, there is no increase in the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contributions that only “A” members pay. Also, there is no increase in the local union portion of an IBEW Local 204 member’s monthly dues for either an “A” or “BA” member.

If anyone has questions, please call the IBEW Local 204 office at 319-366-3434.

TAILGATING

IBEW, Local 204
4837 1st Ave SE, Ste 203
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-3226

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
CEDAR RAPIDS IA
PERMIT NO. 1280



Season's Greetings

UCS