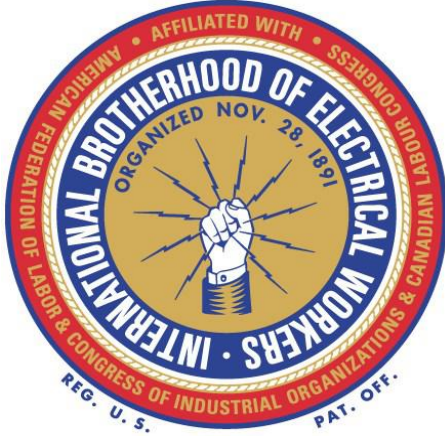


TAILGATING

October 2017 Is Published frequently by IBEW Local 204

Volume 37 Issue 7



IBEW LOCAL 204

Retirements Create Local 204 Executive Board Vacancies

By Dave George - Business Manager

Recently, two members of the Executive Board of IBEW Local 204 have announced their plans to retire.

Tim Boyle, Electric Meter Technician Foreman and Executive Board member At -Large, will retire effective November 1, 2017.

Mike Welsh, Substation Electrician Foreman and Executive Board member of Area 3, will also retire effective November 1, 2017.

Whenever there is a vacancy on the Executive Board, the Executive Board, per the IBEW Constitution, appoints a member in good standing to fill the vacant position until the next election of officers.

The Executive Board At Large position currently held by Tim Boyle, can be filled by any member of Local 204 in good standing, regardless of the location or area that the member's classification is posted in, under a Local 204 represented Labor Agreement.

The Executive Board position currently held by Mike Welsh represents the geographical area of Local 204 know as Area 3. Area 3 encompasses the area south of Hwy 20, east of Hwy 21, north of Interstate 80, and west of the Mississippi River. Any member of Local 204 in good standing, who's classification under a Local 204 represented Labor Agreement is posted within Area 3, shall be eligible to hold the Executive Board position representing Area 3.

The appointments for these two positions will be decided at the Executive Board meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2017, and will be effective at the following Executive Board meeting on Wednesday, November 22, 2017.

Local 204 members who are interested in, and meet the requirements of these positions, must send a letter to the IBEW Local 204 Executive Board stating their name, classification, where they work and for what company, their involvement in Local 204, why they would like to be considered for the Executive Board and what position, and anything else about themselves that would help the Executive Board make their appointment.

Interested members should send the above referenced letter to the IBEW Local 204 office at **4837 1st Avenue, Suite 203, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402**.

As another option, and for faster delivery, members can also email their letter to me at **DGeorge@IBEW204.org** with "Executive Board Position" in the subject line.

Either way, the letters must be received at the Local 204 office or in my email inbox **before 8:00 AM on Thursday, October 26, 2017**.

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November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Union Meeting Spirit Lake 6:30 PM	2	3	4
5 End of Daylight Savings Time	6	7	8 Union Meeting Centerville 6:30 PM	9	10	11 Veteran's Day
12	13	14	15 Union Meeting Iowa Falls 6:30 PM	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Executive Board	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 Day After Thanksgiving	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2017

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

Messages From The Executive Board

Hurricane Irma

Recently, I had the opportunity to go and work my second hurricane restoration, traveling to several parts of Florida after the recent wrath of Hurricane Irma. Like Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irma left a lot of people in the southeastern United States without power and huge amounts of damage to their homes, property and businesses.

Hurricane Irma seemed to have her own set of special conditions to deal with, due to the geographic location of the damage. Not only was there the threat of poisonous plants, but the threat of certain animal species that inhabit southern Florida, such as spiders, snakes, lizards, bugs, and, oh yes, alligators. But there was also the sweltering heat and tremendous humidity that we mid-westerners aren't used to, just ask anyone who went, and I'm sure they would agree with me on this. It was warm and very, very humid. Plus add in the tent living that some of the members endured, not making the work very favorable, as compared to the much cooler conditions at Hurricane Sandy.

Also, much of the work restoring power was performed in back-lot right of way areas. Mostly fence to fenced in back yards with massive amounts of trees and vegetation growing everywhere, and a good majority of the power poles had to be climbed to be repaired. You were lucky if you could squeeze a truck between a house and a fence and make it to the pole to be worked on. A lot of poles that needed replaced got hoisted by crane over people's houses from the street out front! This in turn slowed the progress of the restoration tremendously.

I am proud to have worked with such a fine group of skilled professionals that exhibited a great level of pride and craftsmanship in the work that they performed. It all occurred without any major injuries (to my knowledge) to Alliant Energy personnel, and I am thankful for that.

We encountered countless customers of Florida Power and Light thanking us for our efforts in getting their power back on, not only quickly, but safely. It wasn't always easy with the constant quagmire of bumper to bumper traffic everywhere you traveled. There also was a language barrier, as many of the residents were of Cuban decent and only spoke Spanish. But when the power would come back on, the thank you's, cheers and smiles were universal!

Now, I would like to speak about the mid-western work ethic that was exhibited. Many crews from Alliant Energy went above and beyond the "just good enough" attitude, and changed it to "doing it right the first time". I personally was involved in a case where another crew from another contractor or utility responded to a part power complaint in an area we were later sent to. Several customers were told that it was probably due to the trees rubbing on the open wire secondary and that FPL would be back to trim it out later. With a quick check of the voltmeter, we determined that the affected transformer feeding this portion of the sub division had a bad leg. We took the time to change out the transformer and repair several overhead services that had broken neutrals due to flying debris, did a little tree trimming and got them back in business.

So despite the heat and humidity, we took the extra time to do it safely. We restored power to these homes, and did it right the first time. Throughout this storm, many of the customers were out of power

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“Right to Work” is Bad for Workers!

“Right to Work”, quite a catchy tag line isn’t it. Right to Work is a gross misunderstanding that says workers who benefit from collective bargaining should not be required to pay union dues or a service fee, commonly known as fair share. It has nothing to do with actual employment. A more accurate meaning would be “Right to Work for Less”. Workers in states that have Right to Work laws earn on average \$5,971 less per year than workers in non-Right to Work states, or commonly known as “closed shop states”.

The real purpose of Right to Work laws is to deny Unions funding to conduct effective bargaining and political action, in order to weakening Unions and strip workers of their voice and the power they have through collective action.

The National Right to Work got its start by Vance Muse, a Texas conservative lobbyist. He started his campaign against the women’s suffrage movement, went on to child labor laws and the eight hour work day. He started his political campaign in the 1940’s against organized labor.

Today, that torch has been passed on to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). ALEC is the policy and lobbying organization backed by the billionaires Charles and David Koch, as well as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and many major corporations. (Do a Google search and see if your employer is a member.) ALEC carefully instructs its members to promote Right to Work laws under the cover of economic development and greater work place “democracy.” Do not be fooled, ALEC has only one motive and that is to further enrich the top 1%. Just this year in Iowa, when then Governor Terry Branstad signed the Union busting laws that were passed by the anti-Union Iowa House and Senate, the only person present during the signing was the Koch brothers lobbyist Drew Klein.

In 2018, there is an election for governor in this state, along with House and Senate members. You have three options; one, vote for the current Union busters; two, do not vote at all and hope it goes away and suffer the consequences; or three, get out there and vote for labor friendly candidates. The Iowa Federation of Labor and your Union will come out with a list of candidates that will support you, the working class; you just need to do your part.

In Solidarity,

Randy Drummer
Vice President
IBEW Local 204

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for over twelve days since the onset of the hurricane. That’s longer than many of our own customers that were affected by a huge ice storm right here in the Midwest several years ago.

So in conclusion, I would like to thank Alliant Energy for giving me this opportunity. But mostly, thank you to my fellow coworkers for not only helping me side by side in Florida, but also to everyone back home doing what you do every day to keep our homes and businesses up and running every minute of every day.

Thank You

Jeff Denz
Executive Board Member
Area 8



Retired Friends & Co-Workers

Retirees Myron Rhone (left) and Danny Nichols (center) proudly display their IBEW 65-year Service Awards and pins presented to them by Business Manager Dave George (right).

Myron and Danny have been close friends for a long time. They grew up together, attended school together and started their careers together at the former Iowa Southern Utilities (ISU), now a part of Alliant Energy. It was also appropriate that they received their 65-year Service Awards together.

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Do We Have Your Correct Address?

If you are a member of IBEW Local 204, and are reading this copy of *Tailgating* because you don't have one of your own that was sent to your home, there is a very good chance that Local 204 may not have your current, correct mailing address. Many times members move and forget to contact Local 204 with their new mailing address. Some may think that just because they have informed their employer about their address change, that the employer automatically relays this information onto Local 204. This is not the case. If this is you, please call our office immediately so that we can get your correct mailing address entered into our system.

If you hear that any of your co-workers, who are members of IBEW Local 204, are not getting Tailgating or any of the other mailings that Local 204 sends out from time to time, such as letters, contract packages, voting ballots, etc., please inform them to also call our office at (319) 366-3434 and talk to Robin to immediately get their correct address entered into our system.