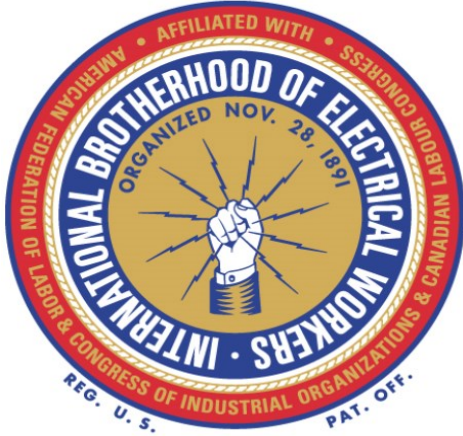


TAILGATING

November 2020

Published frequently by IBEW Local 204

Volume 40 issue 11



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IBEW Local 204 Clothes

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As the weather turns cool and eventually cold, don't forget to check out our clothing line with hooded sweatshirts and long sleeve tee shirts

shipped right to your door. **All of the options can be found on our website at www.ibew204.com under the clothing tab on the right side. We do not have any inventory at the Hall.** If you have any ideas on a design please let us know.

Put Personal Agendas Aside and Unite

At the time of writing this article we still do not know who the next President of the United States is going to be. We do know that we lost ground in Iowa in the fight to restore the bargaining rights for public sector employees. We lost ground in the Iowa State Senate and House. Nonetheless we will continue to fight for worker's rights.

I believe a lot of people, myself included, took a deep breath when we woke up on Wednesday, November 4th, 2020. Even though we did not have a winner we saw signs coming out of yards and the commercials are finally done. The feeling is that we can get back to fighting this pandemic and focus on getting our lives back to normal, whatever that normal will be.

I know many of our members are not Joe Biden supporters, and like I have echoed many times this past month, that is your right to choose who you support. But one thing stuck out to me on November 4th that Joe Biden said, "To make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as enemies. We are not enemies". After weeks of being called and treated like a third-rate citizen over a letter our members received, I could not agree more with what Vice President Biden said. We are not enemies because of our personal political views. We need to stop treating each other like enemies because of our personal political views. We need to get back to working together to fight for better wages and benefits. Individuals trying to tear us apart as a Local Union need to take a good hard look in the mirror and ask themselves "what am I doing to make this Local a stronger better Union? What am I doing that is productive in the fight for better wages, benefits and working conditions?". We can accomplish, and have accomplished, great things when we put our personal agendas aside and come together.

We as Union Leadership have never discriminated because of the political party you support. We do not care. We will not care. We will fight for Republican members just as much as Democratic members. Since day one we have worked very hard to strengthen our Local and bring our members together. We will continue to do so. Like the saying goes "United we stand, divided we fall". What side of that saying are you on?

Dustin Stumma

Black Hills Energy Negotiations

We will be starting Black Hills energy negotiations on Tuesday, November 17th, 2020. These negotiations will be in person in Des Moines, Iowa. Currently we are scheduled to be in negotiations through Friday that week. We will try to post updates on our website. To view those updates, you must register on our website. The updates will only be viewable by members under the Black Hills Energy contract. If you need help registering please contact Robin at the Hall at (319)366-3434.



November

The month of November brings so many important events; the end of Day Light Savings, Election Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. I hope all Brothers and Sisters can look back on a fast ending 2020 and be proud of all your safe work and play hours. I hope all 204 Members had a chance to get out and vote for the good of our careers. When you see a Veteran, be sure and give a sincere thank you for their service. Mostly, I hope everyone has a good Thanksgiving with friends and family. Safe travels to all of you to and from this holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Josh Eaton—Area 9



Non-Union Contractors vs. Non-Union Members

Back during the Derecho we had a lot of outside workers come into our territory and provide mutual assistance. One of greatest concerns we heard from members was having non-union contractors come in and help. We were able to work with Alliant Energy management to allow those non-union contractors on property as well as reward our members.

Currently, as of the time of writing this article, Alliant Energy sent crews to provide mutual assistance in Mississippi in areas ravaged by hurricanes and then on to Oklahoma for ice storm restoration. We have had some concerns form members as to why we allow non-union members to go on mutual aid when we fight so hard to keep non-union contractors out of our back yards. Unfortunately, we do not have the right to manage or direct the workforce. But that does raise a good point. We recently had a few Travel Crew members quit the Union because they thought they were not represented in the latest negotiations. Yet here some of them are working mutual aid under a negotiated agreement and making far more money than they would have if they stayed home. Not to mention the added wage they make over an operations lineman doing the same exact work. How do we treat this scenario? Are we willing to speak up? I would like to think wee would have members politely and respectfully remind those non-union members of the wages and benefits they are receiving because of the agreements negotiated by this Local. I would like to think those non-union members would see how they are benefiting form the mutual aid agreement and the other agreements tied to travel crews. We have a number of operations lineman who wanted to go to Mississippi and Oklahoma, who would have loved the opportunity to help out those communities ravaged by natural disasters, who would have loved the opportunity to help out and make some extra money in return, who are paying dues. But those members stayed back to cover stand-by or could not find someone to cover their stand-by, so they were not afforded that opportunity. That to me is not fair.

I hope someone has the courage to share this article with those narrow-minded former members. I hope those former members see how they do benefit from negotiated agreements and how they are represented. I hope those former members see how selfish they are, and finally, I hope those members realize how hypocritical they are by quitting the Union and not their Union job.

Dustin Stumma

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Times to be posted prior to meetings. Meetings are subject to be changed and added per business needs		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Executive Board	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Local 204 and COVID-19 Update

December's unit meetings are cancelled. In addition, with the spike in Covid-19 cases, the office will be available by appointment only. One of us will always be in the office, otherwise we can always be reached by the contact information below. If you need to get a hold of one of us, our contact information is as follows:

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