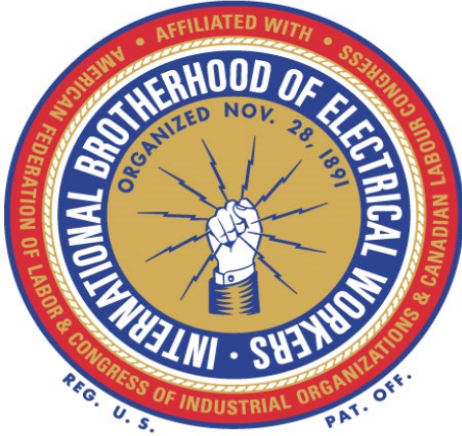


# TAILGATING

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## IBEW Local 204 Clothes

[WWW.IBEW204.COM](http://WWW.IBEW204.COM)



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](http://www.ibew204.com).

If you have any ideas on a design please let us know.

Recently I had the opportunity to work the “Big Storm” or Derecho that hit most of Iowa on Monday August 10<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately the residents of Burlington were on the edge of the widespread storm and had some damage, but nothing compared to the hardest hit areas of the state. I personally have worked two different hurricanes. Hurricane Sandy in New York state and Irma down in Florida, and I feel the devastation was far worse here in Iowa. I was asked, along with two coworkers to go help in my managers areas first, consisting of Dewitt. Which by the way is a large district in central Eastern Iowa, starting down south of interstate 80 and going all the way on up to the Bellevue area. I nearly put a thousand miles on the truck in one weeks time. When we finished there, we went and helped in Clinton a couple of days, then onto Cedar Rapids to join the troops for more fun. The major thing throughout the whole ordeal that astonished me, was the major amount of resiliency and perseverance our customers have. Most people would band together to clear their own streets. Pitch in to help their neighbors clear brush and debris. They would literally want to give you the shirt off of their own backs. Try to feed you, give you water, Gatorade or whatever to help you along throughout the day. Of all the bad stuff going on in our world right now, it sure makes you feel good to see this and helps restore your faith in your fellow man. No one was protesting. No one was rioting. The only burning was controlled, of brush and debris. It’s too bad that it takes a gigantic slap from mother nature to make people put aside their petty differences and become wonderful human beings. But that’s Iowa for you. Can’t say everyone out “east” or down “south” are as generally nice as Iowans. But hey its just my opinion. Thank you.

Jeff Denz

Line Mechanic

Area 8 Eboard member

It doesn't take long to see or hear how politics has our Country more divided now than ever before. Unfortunately that has boiled over into our Local. Recently you might have received a letter from us stating that the IBEW has endorsed Joe Biden. We thought it was clearly evident that the letter was derived from the IBEW International Office since nowhere in the letter did it reference Local 204. We were wrong. We received numerous calls from upset members about that letter. Those calls got me thinking about a few things. First of all, when did it become new news that a labor union would back a Democratic candidate for President? Secondly, does the membership know and understand that no general funds are used for political contributions, campaigns or any literature such as the letter you received.

We all know that labor unions have historically endorsed and backed Democratic candidates. This is nothing new. Democratic candidates have, for the most part, been pro-labor and pro-union. That is what labor unions mostly look at. They look at what is going on with the National Labor Relations Board and how candidates tend to lean when it comes to worker's rights and the right and ability to organize. It should be of no surprise that the IBEW came out, even as far back as February, to endorse Joe Biden. We do not and will not use membership funds for anything political. This is a very common myth about labor unions that your dues will go to back Democratic candidates. Every member has the opportunity to submit donations into the COPE fund (Committee on Political Education) through the COPE check-off or single donations. That is the funds used for political campaigns. The letter that we were told to send out by the IBEW was paid for with COPE funds.

Right now our Country is being torn apart by radical political views. We are all entitled to our own beliefs and opinions, but when did it become ok to let those beliefs and opinions tear apart friendships, families and more specifically, our Local? We have tried to do our best to focus more on local and State elections. A place where we see the negative impacts to our Brothers and Sisters in the public sector. A place where our voices can be heard louder and more clearly. We thought we were doing a good job not letting what is going on across this Country in to our Local and not allowing personal beliefs rip us apart as we try to unite the membership. We were wrong. All it took was one letter to expose just how far we are to being united, as a Local and as a Country

We as a Local, need to put our political differences aside and come together again. I too believe in the Second Amendment and hear of all the radical ideas that are jeopardizing our careers. I have my personal beliefs and opinions, and so do you. We can respect each other as well as those beliefs and opinions despite possible differences. Obviously this pandemic has a lot of people on edge and we recognize that. But I do ask that we be more open minded, and rather than call expressing your distaste for a letter you received, call and ask why it was sent out or what was behind the letter. Information is powerful. We all need to be more inquisitive.

Dustin K. Stumma



## Don't Be Part of the Problem

Often things come up that we don't agree with and that make us upset. Sometimes it leads to a grievance or a call to the Hall to look into something. Maybe it was something that you just found about that you thought you should have been informed of but were not. Whatever that issue might be, don't become part of the problem.

How we react to issues, differences and grievances can hinder all of our ability to fight for what is right. There comes a time where we need to be the bigger person and not let our managers or supervisors get the best of us. I know, this is easier said than done. I will be the first to admit that before I came into office I may have overreacted a time or two, and looking back at it now I can see that I didn't help the situation out by the way I reacted. I have learned to try my best to not let someone get under my skin, especially the Company representatives, regardless of how bad they piss me off. Even when we know they are wrong and they have no clue what they are talking about, which seems to be more frequent recently than ever before, we still have to remain calm and let the process work itself out.

One thing we have to remember is that how we react can and will be used against us at a later date. We have even seen how we react can end up leading to discipline. Our employers have expectations of us as employees. One of those expectations they have for us is to act in a professional manner. If our managers or supervisors fail to live up to those same expectations that is a win for us. If we were to have a grievance go to arbitration and we presented a case where, not only was the Company in the wrong, but they acted in a very unprofessional manner, how would that Arbitrator look at that employer?

Another thing we want to make sure we don't do when we get upset is not work. We have seen this on occasion where something will happen, a member will get upset, and the next thing you know they just spent half of the day on the Company phone calling everyone they know and making a mountain out of a mole hill. How do you think the Company would react if they knew or found out that the member in this situation just spent half of the day not being productive or doing what they were supposed to be doing? Not only that, but this is so easy to prove when they do this with the Company phone. It shines a bad light on us as a Local.

Our employers have expectations of us and so does the IBEW through the Code of Excellence. We need to do our best to be the bigger person and not try to right a wrong with another wrong. We live by the motto of "work now, grieve later". Let us do our job and help you out. If you need call us and vent, chew our butts or scream at us, go ahead. We would rather that than have to defend you in an investigation meeting. We are all in this together fighting for the common good of our membership as a whole.

# November 2020

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

|  |           |                                     |                                      |  |  |           |
|--|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------|
| <i>1</i><br><b>Daylight<br/>Saving<br/>Time Ends</b> | <i>2</i>  | <i>3</i><br><b>Election<br/>Day</b> | <i>4</i>                             | <i>5</i>                                 | <i>6</i>                                       | <i>7</i>  |
| <i>8</i>   | <i>9</i>  | <i>10</i>                           | <i>11</i><br><b>Veterans<br/>Day</b> | <i>12</i>                                | <i>13</i>                                      | <i>14</i> |
| <i>15</i>  | <i>16</i> | <i>17</i>                           | <i>18</i>                            | <i>19</i><br><b>Executive<br/>Board</b>  | <i>20</i>                                      | <i>21</i> |
| <i>22</i>  | <i>23</i> | <i>24</i>                           | <i>25</i>                            | <i>26</i><br><b>Thanksgiving<br/>Day</b> | <i>27</i><br><b>Day After<br/>Thanksgiving</b> | <i>28</i> |
| <i>29</i>  | <i>30</i> |                                     |                                      |  |  |           |

## Local 204 and COVID-19 Update

November's unit meetings are cancelled. In addition, the hall is currently open at our location in Hiawatha. If you need to get a hold of one of us, our contact information is as follows:

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# TAILGATING

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**Election 2020**