

TAILGATING

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Generation

Recently we all experienced another one of Iowa's Polar Vortex, an extreme cold spell that seems to be coming more prevalent. Fortunately, through the hard work of our members across the state, we were able to weather the storm and provide the electric and gas that our customers count on to keep them warm during these times. Fortunately, we also had a variety or diverse portfolio of electric generation to make this happen. A large shout out to the folks working the Coal, Gas

and Wind Turbines for their hard work during these times! Far too often we see in the news and on TV commercials all the negative press the fossil fuels receive. The irony is, without these fossil fuels the world comes to a halt. Look at the chaos and turmoil that happened down in Texas due to some bad decision making, all of it unnecessary. The good folks at MISO along with utility companies in their territories worked and performed flawlessly to assure that us in the Midwest had the power we needed.

We have all seen the plant closures and scheduling of plant closures all driven by Clean Energy. Coal, Gas and Nuclear being the target, with Solar and Wind being the replacement for the guaranteed base load that we have grown accustomed to in Fossil and Nuclear Energy. What happens though when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow? One doesn't have to look far to see what happens when poor planning takes affect. Just look to California last summer in the month of August, they did not have enough base load to accommodate the load when the sun went down and the solar couldn't handle the demand, hence the rolling blackouts. If Solar is the answer, then how can it not work in a state like California where the sun obviously shines more frequently than in Iowa?

By no means are we saying do away with green energy, we fully support it, but have a healthy balance in your base load. Your energy supply should be no different than your retirement portfolio, it should be diverse. When conditions are right, capitalize on the wind and solar. Companies like Alliant, Mid-American and NEXTERA should not be the whipping post because certain groups have an agenda, and their agenda has no idea the financial implications these plant closures have on communities. How often have you ever heard these groups commend a company like Alliant for the roughly \$700 million plus they have spent at OGS alone to operate at or below clean standards. \$700 million that the customers paid for, now you force a company's hand at raising rates again to pay for a new energy supply such as Solar, an energy supply that is not yet proven. Thanks to our members at BGS, OGS, Prairie Creek, MGS and Emery for the hard work they put in during these times, also don't forget the good folks at Duane Arnold who are the victims of cleaner energy agenda, many jobs lost and many more to come unless we all speak up.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

2021 Officer & Executive Board Elections

The election of Officers and E-Board takes place this year. The IBEW's Constitution, Article XVI and the By-Laws of IBEW, Local 204, Article III, govern our election. Our E-Board has approved doing nominations by mail this year. You may self-nominate yourself and mail a letter to the local union accepting the nomination. A sample letter is below. Nominations will begin on April 1, 2021 and conclude on April 30, 2021. May 5, 2021 will be a scheduled Cedar Rapids union meeting. This meeting will be open to the members (there may be limited members allowed into the meeting depending on the restrictions) and all nominations received will be read at this meeting. Once a candidates eligibility to run for office has been verified, they will be contacted by the election judge.

Nominations will proceed in the order of offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be three (3) years:

President

Vice President

Recording Secretary

Financial Secretary/Business Manager

Treasurer

Executive Board (Central, DAEC, Eastern, North Central, Northeast, Northwest, South Central, Southeast, Southwest, and one At-Large)

If you are unsure which unit you reside in you can find a Unit Map on our website, www.ibew204.com.

Additionally, nominations will be held for delegates to the International Convention which will be held this summer.

Sample Nomination Letter

I self-nominate myself, (your name), for the position of (position running for) of IBEW, Local 204.

(and/or)

I self-nominate myself (your name), to be a delegate at the 2021 International convention.

I can be reached at (telephone number) to verify my eligibility.

Fraternally,

(your signature and date)

Doug Havel and Tyler Auman
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There is Still Time . . .

Traditional and Roth IRAs may provide you with retirement investing options and different tax treatment — and, **you still have time to make 2020 contributions.**

If funding an IRA by April 15, 2021, you may be able to:

- ◆ *Take an IRA contribution tax deduction on your 2020 federal tax return*
- ◆ *Contribute up to \$6,000 if you are under age 50; Contribute up to \$7,000 if you are over age 50*
- ◆ *Fund a spousal IRA — even if your spouse doesn't have earned income — if you are married filing jointly*
- ◆ *Distributions made prior to age 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10% IRS penalty. Deferred assets from a traditional IRA and some non-qualified distributions from Roth IRAs will be taxed as ordinary income when withdrawn.*

Contact us today to discuss the IRA that may be appropriate for you.



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135 YEARS of Service!

Recently these four Ladies received their Retirement and 25 year watches. They have a combined 135 years of Service with Alliant Energy in Dubuque, IA.

Congratulations !



Pictured Left to Right– Sandy Blocklinger, Sue Einsweiler, Brenda Wise & Peggy Kennedy

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
In person meetings and/or virtual meetings to be scheduled at a later date. Check the website and facebook for updates				1 <u>Election Nominations Begin</u>	2	3
4 <u>Easter Sunday</u>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 <u>Executive Board</u>	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 <u>Election Nominations Conclude</u>	

Local 204 and COVID-19 Update

April's unit meetings are cancelled. In addition, the office is staffed but will be available by appointment only. We can be reached by the contact information below:

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