

THE BULLETIN BOARD

L E T T E R

July 2007

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Donald J. Hoak, Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Watch Dogs

First of all, let me take this opportunity to thank the members of Local 459 for re-electing me as the Business Manager of the Local.

THE BULLETIN BOARD
INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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*Donald J. Hoak, Business
Manager/Financial Secretary*
*Kenneth L. Richards,
President/Senior Business
Representative/Editor*
Tony Henry, Vice President
*Gregory W. Wolf, Assistant
Business Manager*
*Mary M. Perdew, Recording
Secretary*
Kevin N. Poling, Treasurer

Keeping 32 contracts negotiated and moving forward, fighting bankruptcy issues in Federal Court, attempting to organize the unorganized, and trying to forward a worker's agenda politically is a daunting task and I appreciate your confidence in me and your participation in the local union. I have an experienced staff and good stewards who work very hard to accomplish the aforementioned subjects. I will continue to do my very best to represent our collective interests, as well as those who work with me for the Local.

We, the average Americans, must take back our government. I am dumbfounded by what I see on CNN every night when I watch the news with Lou Dobbs. We are a nation of laws. If you steal and get caught, you are punished; if you murder or rape, the same. Driving above the speed limit will get you a ticket with a fine. Our laws are enforced everyday by police agencies, local government and state government agencies. Yet, when it comes to illegal immigration, the Federal Government turns a blind eye to 12

million infractions of the law and rather than enforce the current law, chooses to adapt a new law rather than enforce the existing. With the vast majority of Americans saying enforcement, not change to the existing law, is what we prefer as a people, who in the hell do the U.S. Senators that continue to push for "comprehensive reform" think they are? Are they so arrogant to think that they know better than the majority of America? The fact of the matter is this: They are going to push Corporate America's cheap labor agenda, driving the middle class out of existence with pure indifference to us. After 27 years of corporate dominance in our government and the workplace, with CEO salaries so high they are incomprehensible, the only way we as workers will get a fair chance at anything is to watch each politician on immigration and the Employee Free Choice Act, see how they cast their vote, and for us to cast our vote and spend time helping them before the election, accordingly.

There have been rallies across the country, rallies in Washington, D.C., testimony on Capitol Hill and

unprecedented efforts of organized labor in favor of the Employee Free Choice Act. Sixty million Americans say they would join a Union if they could. Who stands in their way? The U.S. Senate, the President and Corporate America. Are you starting to see the message? It's Groundhog Day again. Corporate interest over the overwhelming majority of America, once again.

Everyday in the United States people get fired, threatened, harassed and intimidated, all because they want to have a voice at work. The Employee Free Choice Act would put an immediate stop to this. What do we hear from the U.S. Senate? We hear a sham argument that Corporate America has brought forward that "this would eliminate secret ballot elections." That is a lie. If the employees chose a secret ballot election, the NLRB would come in and do it under the Employee Free Choice Act. The fact of the matter is, no one would be stupid enough to choose this format so that the employer could fire, threaten and harass the workers while the Labor Board takes months to rule that no injustice was done and the organizing drive has fallen apart. This is the telltale issue of our lifetime; legislators are either for us as workers or against us. If against us, they stand firm with Corporate America, shipping our jobs overseas, reducing our wages, eliminating our pensions and health care, and stripping us of our dignity, and we will strip them of their elected office for failure to represent us - the majority of Americans. Watch closely. Our futures are at stake right in front of our eyes.

Election of Officers

Kenneth L. Richards, President/Senior Business Representative/Editor

The Election of Officers is behind us and I would like to thank the members who took the time to vote. Also, thank you to the membership for re-electing me as the President. Having confidence in Don Hoak is a great move on the membership's part. Don is a great leader and will negotiate with employers to the best of his ability to make sure your rights are not weakened. It is a pleasure and I take pride in working with Don each and every day.

The Local needs to give a big thank you to the volunteers who ran the election. Mike McGuirk did a wonderful job in taking charge as the Judge of Elections. He has many responsibilities to oversee and must make sure things go as planned. The Tellers worked with Mike to keep things on track and get everything completed. The Tellers were Brian Clark, John Elmquist, Randy Ferry, Cliff Fetterman, Michael Holby, Richard Killian and Rebecca Kinney. I also want to mention and thank them for their time, two retirees who came in to assist in preparing the ballots for mailing. They are Paul Pozar and Bob Barnette.

Thanks again to everyone involved and the members who took the time to return their ballots.

Election Results:

Business Manager/Financial

Secretary ----Donald J. Hoak

President----Kenneth L. Richards

Vice President----Tony Henry

Recording Secretary----Mary M.

Perdew

Treasurer----Kevin N. Poling

District Executive Board:

Joseph L. Oliver (Southwest)

Timothy J. Dougherty
(Northwest)

Jay S. Schlegel, III (Central)

Patrick J. Eddy (Northeast)

Executive Board At Large:

Robert L. Ashbaugh

Kevin P. Carroll

Donald M. Hull

Ronald D. Itell

Robert D. Smith

The Times "They Are A Changing"

Gregory W. Wolf, Assistant Business Manager, Local 459- Erie

To say that we live in interesting times may be an understatement if you consider what is happening on the national level. There are three major issues of such magnitude that our children's children will be greatly affected by the outcome of each event.

Obviously, of no more importance to the families directly involved, is the war in Iraq. It takes center stage for them, but for the rest of the nation the importance in both national prestige and treasure will have great significance far into the future. Will we, as a nation, in the future be looked upon as the bedrock of democracy and by our fortune able to alleviate some of the pain and suffering of the world or, as some pundits suggest, become a nation so weak both economically and politically, befit of any direction, with no moral compass, and with little capital to provide leadership in resolution of the problems of the world?

The second issue of great

significance to this and future generations is solving the question on immigration. The need for our representatives to tone down the rhetoric and resolve the problem and not look for the politically expedient solution is not only in our nation's interest but may raise the question of the nations very survival. We in the labor movement have seen the actions of Corporate America; it should come as no surprise that some members of that structure are responsible for the massive illegal immigration of the last decade. Not only are these immigrants used and abused, they are then, through manipulation of information, made to look like they created the problem and only through dealing with them directly will the problem be solved. The thought of a guest worker program is no different than a return to land-owners rights, male only voting and nullification of the "Bill of Rights" of the Constitution.

Lastly, of great concern to working families, is the Employee Free Choice Act. We in the movement have seen our standard of living decline. We have seen our real wages go down. We have seen our benefits stagnate and, in some cases, eliminated so we realize that the only force against the greed of business is a vibrant, dynamic and growing organized labor movement. This legislation is needed so that the unrepresented can gain free and unfettered access to representation, so that all workers can have access to the gains of a unionized workforce.

The reader may question what the individual can do on these topics; the answer is simple and straightforward. Read responsible publications, listen to

knowledgeable people and get active. Remember, events will be determined by those that participate, but all will be affected by those events.

Local Website

Kenneth L. Richards, President/Senior Business Representative/Editor

The Local has opened a new website for the members to view and to be more informed about what is going on in and out of the Local.

The Business Manager, Don Hoak, has been working diligently to update the "News" and "Posts" sites. On there, you will find information about what is going on throughout the country politically as well as local issues. You will find a lot of good articles about organizing, the right to representation, health care and weekly postings that the Local puts out. New information is posted weekly.

On the site called "Worksites Represented by LU 459," Don has requested from every employer a photo of your worksite and a small overview of what your employer is all about. We have received a few so far. If you have the chance, ask someone at your worksite if they

have responded to Don's request. If they haven't, please ask that they do.

Our "Sites to Link To" has a few good sites that you can access. You can connect to the International and the AFL-CIO home pages. From both of these pages, you can sign up to be political activists. Fill in your information and click on submit and, as easy as that, you can respond to your Legislators. Other sites offer union made products.

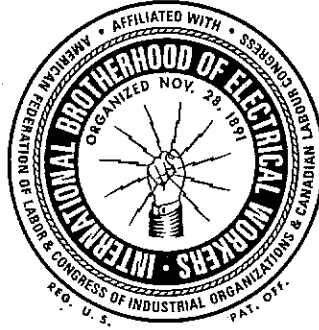
The "Clothing" site is another great area to visit. Open this site and view all of the products that Local 459 has to offer. You may click on the product and it will enlarge to show you a better view. At the top of the page, there will be an order form to click on. Just fill out your order, and it will be forwarded to the Local. We will ship out your order along with the amount due. Then you will have to send us a check made out to Local 459. At this time, no shipping will be added.

The Officers believe this website will be a good tool moving forward. If you have any suggestions to better improve the website, go to "Contact Us" and relay your suggestions. Visit the site often and keep yourself informed. www.ibew459.org



"I see pay equity in your future... but only if you organize a union."

**International Brotherhood
of Electrical Workers
AFL-CIO
Local Union 459
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Johnstown, PA 15906
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**The Bulletin Board is the Official
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408 Broad Street
Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15906**

Business Manager/Financial Sec.Donald J. Hoak
Assistant Business Manager.....Gregory W. Wolf
President/Editor/Sr. Bus. Rep. ...Kenneth L. Richards
Secretaries.....Judith A. Roberts
Marjorie L. Zimmerman



THE BULLETIN BOARD

Business Representatives

Robert L. Ashbaugh
Kevin P. Carroll
Kenneth L. Richards (Senior Bus. Rep.)

Executive Board Members

Robert L. Ashbaugh (Chairman)	Ronald D. Itell (Secretary)
Kevin P. Carroll	Joseph L. Oliver
Timothy J. Dougherty	Jay S. Schlegel, III
Patrick J. Eddy	Robert D. Smith
Donald (Mark) Hull	

ATTEND YOUR MONTHLY UNION MEETINGS

1st Thursday
4:00 PM Executive Board

2nd Monday
7:00 PM Northwest District
Erie/Warren

2nd Wednesday
7:00 PM Central District
(Clearfield)

2nd Thursday
7:00 PM Northeast District
(Towanda)

3rd Thursday
7:00 PM Southwest District
(Johnstown)

**DON'T LOSE
YOUR VOICE**



**ATTEND YOUR
UNION MEETINGS**