

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

L E T T E R

December 2007

## BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Donald J. Hoak, Business Manager/Financial Secretary

### Happy Holidays

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to every member of Local 459. We have much to be thankful for and we need to stop and recognize that in this crazy

**THE BULLETIN BOARD**  
INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD OF  
ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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*President/Business Rep.*

*Gregory W. Wolf, Assistant  
Business Manager*

*Mary M. Perdew, Recording  
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world we live in. We belong to the best International Union in the nation. We belong to one of the very best Local Unions in the International. We are a formidable adversary for those that choose to do us damage. We continue to make headway in an economy that has the middle class in its crosshairs.

Thank God for our predecessors and what they fought for and taught us. Thank God for those that have taken a stand when confronted with the elitist agenda. Thank God for our families that are there for us. Thank God for politicians that have stood with us when it may have been more popular not to.

I thank every member for their confidence in me to allow me to run a real Local Union and I thank every one of you for your support. We are more solidified than I have seen us in many years. We must turn back this attack on the middle class in this country and we are beginning to find out ways to do that. We will not fail, no matter what outsiders may say. We have now seen the power of our solidarity and there is no stopping it. We will work diligently for those

politicians that stood with us in our time of need and we will work just as diligently to replace those that forgot us after they were elected.

Thanks to the Local Union Representatives and all of the Stewards. They work so hard to fight on behalf of our members and they are a force to be reckoned with. They put in tireless hours of their own and deserve to be thanked periodically by all of us.

The year 2008 will bring many tough challenges, a presidential election, a fight for our very own survival, the things near and dear to us. Rest assured, we will not falter. Our Union is strong, our Local is strong, our members are strong and I believe we are on the edge of an upturn. Everywhere I go, people are fed up and they are starting to come together. We will lead the way once again and our membership will grow, which will grow our strength. Corporate America's agenda is about to take a backseat by force, not choice, and the American worker is about to be recognized rather than ignored. I'm thankful for this already even though it is in the future. (continued on Page 2)

### Happy Holidays

(continued from Page 1)

We are on the very edge of change for the better. We MUST get the Employee Free Choice Act passed and ban striker replacement for good. We will be a part of this; actually, we will be a significant part of leading the way. Take heart and never forget that solidarity does work - in the past, in the present and in the future. Happy Holidays to you and each of your family members.

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### Year Ending

Kenneth L. Richards, President/Assistant Business Manager/Editor

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Holidays will be fast approaching. The New Year is right around the corner. I believe that Local 459 has had a great deal of success this past year. We have been successful in obtaining some new contracts and protecting our members' rights. This is not only an accomplishment by the leadership of this Local but a tribute to the membership as well. It appears that there is more involvement by the members and a lot more support from the membership. Solidarity is key to the strength of our Local Union. Hopefully, we will continue this momentum through the years to come. This support is stronger in some areas more than others but I personally believe it is catching on in all areas. Your Business Manager needs support from all members at all Units. Continue supporting your Local Union and keep up the good work.

On another note, when we are

doing our shopping for the holidays, we need to keep in mind that other working families need the support of Union workers. When shopping and spending your hard earned Union dollars, remember to look for the Union Labels. Look for products and merchandise made in the U.S.A. Our manufacturing base is leaving our country like a whirlwind. Big box companies like Wal-Mart are destroying the working families who have held good paying union jobs in manufacturing. Wal-Mart imports 20% of all products produced in China. They encourage manufacturers to move to countries like China where there are no regulations on how these products are made such as products with lead base paint, etc. We need to put a little thought behind our purchasing power.

We as Union members cannot sit back and let the unionized work force in this country dwindle. We all have a responsibility to leave this country to our next generation better than what was left to us. With less and less organized labor in our country, the standard of living declines. Organized labor sets the standard for all working families in America. If some of your friends work in a non-union environment, encourage them to organize their work site. IBEW is putting on a major drive to organize the unorganized. This is important to our survival also. Speak well of your Local Union when talking to friends. Your Local Union speaks well of you as members.

I want to take the time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

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### Reflections

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

Is the glass half full? As we approach the end of the year, I ask you to ponder that question. We sometimes make too much out of our problems and too little of what we have to be thankful for in our lives. Now is a great opportunity to share in our bountiful harvests. The Local's Holiday Food Drive is a great way to answer the needs of the less fortunate in our communities.

As I reflect on the past year, my glass is half full. I consider myself fortunate to be a part of this organization. To see what was accomplished in the direst of times involving General Kinetics, Inc. and realize that the Local was and is the only thing that kept those members from total loss is inspiring. I look at the Saturday Rally in Erie and feel that a step was indeed made to a stronger feeling of solidarity; it may have been a small step, but a move in the right direction nevertheless. Additionally, the participation in elective office of some members is encouraging and harbors well for the future.

I challenge the membership to attend District Meetings and to get involved so that the rightful place for organized labor is attained, that a stronger and more prosperous working America is realized, and that the dreams of our children and grandchildren are not just wishful imaginings, but within their grasps to attain. The time for action is not down the road or for someone else. It is now and it is for everyone.

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(continued on Page 3)

### Stay Informed

Tony Henry, Vice President/Business Representative

As 2007 comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone "Happy Holidays." Just a reminder that Local 459's Annual Food Drive is in progress and with all of the local businesses that are closing their doors, the Food Bank really needs our help. See your Shop Stewards with your monetary or food donations. Do your part to help your area's less fortunate.

At this time of the year, all of our attention is focused on our families, friends and the holidays but we can't lose sight of the constant attacks on everyone's livelihoods. These attacks range anywhere from employers wanting you to live your life around their time clock to companies who top the Forbes 500 List but still refuse to pay their employees a decent wage or benefits while selling Chinese-made products with no regard to our children's safety. Therefore, I urge you to keep informed by visiting Local 459's website ([www.ibew459.org](http://www.ibew459.org)). Don Hoak spends many hours keeping it updated so take five minutes to visit the website and stay informed about legislation that will affect our livelihoods for years to come, as well as seeing what is going on with other Units in our Local. Knowing what other Units are fighting for can only help you when that same fight comes knocking at your door. Do your part. Stay informed and educated to help our Local stay strong.

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### New Era Coming?

Robert L. Ashbaugh, Business Representative

As we round out the year and look forward to a new one, 2008 will be an extremely important year for working people. It is time to start listening and questioning politicians at all levels of government.

Read as much as you can, listen to debates and interviews, call, write or e-mail your Legislators. Ask the hard questions: Where does he/she stand on major issues? What will he/she do for working people? Ask about health care, Union protection and accessibility, social security, energy, trade agreements, job securities and pension protections.

The year 2006 showed that working people can make a huge impact on the political process, but that was only the start. There is much more to do. Don't be afraid to get involved. Volunteer to aid labor groups, civic groups, your Union and any level of politics that you can.

Where do you think the 40-hour workweek came from, or minimum wage, or worker's insurance, and many other worker benefit and protection programs? It was Unions being involved politically. Be active. It is never too early to get involved. Your livelihood may well depend on it.

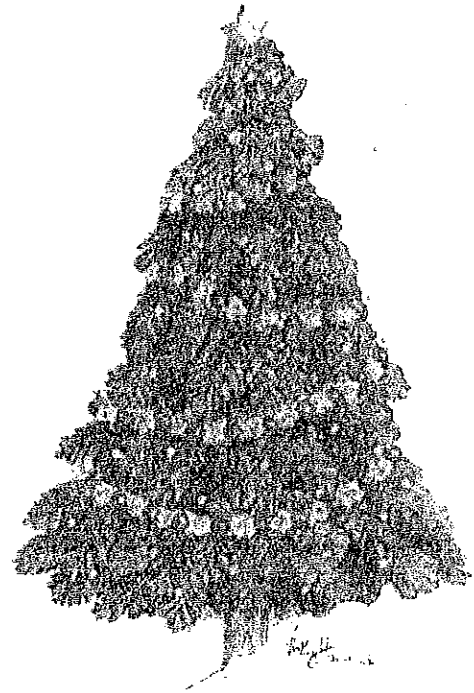
Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season!

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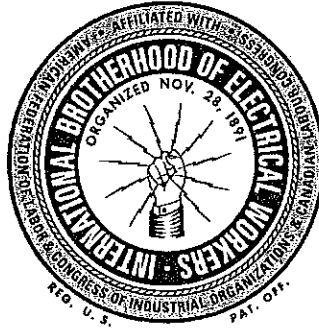


*SEASON'S  
GREETINGS  
FROM THE  
OFFICERS AND  
STAFF OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL  
WORKERS*

*LOCAL 459*



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of Electrical Workers  
AFL-CIO  
Local Union 459  
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The Bulletin Board is the official  
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408 Broad Street  
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Assistant Business Manager ..... Gregory W. Wolf  
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Donald (Mark) Hull

**ATTEND YOUR MONTHLY UNION MEETINGS**

<u>1<sup>ST</sup> Thursday</u> 4:00 PM Executive Board	<u>2<sup>ND</sup> Monday</u> 7:00 PM Northwest District (Erie/ Warren)
<u>2<sup>ND</sup> Wednesday</u> 7:00 PM Central District (Clearfield)	<u>2<sup>ND</sup> Thursday</u> 7:00 PM Northeast District (Towanda)
<u>3<sup>RD</sup> Thursday</u> 7:00 PM Southwest District (Johnstown)	

**DON'T LOSE  
YOUR VOICE**



**ATTEND YOUR  
UNION MEETINGS**