



THE BULLETIN BOARD

L E T T E R

December 2008

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Donald J. Hoak, Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Thankful at Thanksgiving

First, let me say I am thankful to run one of the best Local Unions of the I.B.E.W. in the country. I am thankful that the members have faith

THE BULLETIN BOARD
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BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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["http://www.ibew459.org/"](http://www.ibew459.org/)

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in me to do so. I am thankful for the great people I have all around me to help accomplish such a daunting task. The officers and office staff work very hard on your behalf, and I thank them for all that they do. I thank our stewards and members for their dedication and support. I am thankful for our predecessors, their hard work and time spent teaching those that were to follow; it has been the key to our success.

With the New Year closer than we want to believe, I hope that we can really ramp up our solidarity. We can do this, and the officers and I will do our part to make it happen. We will need your help also. We are all brothers and sisters with a common goal and we now have a unique opportunity in front of us. We can change this country, after almost 30 years of trickle down nonsense that only worked for the elite and rich, into a place where we get our rightful share of the pie. It will not happen without our hard work (involvement). Don't be misled. It is said that power never concedes and I have witnessed that to be the truth. Unfortunately for power, a united front cannot be defeated; therefore,

the Corporate greedy will be forced to share in a new and more expanded manner.

Between the Corporate crocodile tears and my tears of joy, many as they both will be, we will create the new trickle down economy somewhat reminiscent of a monsoon rain in a parched and barren desert. We must start to rethink our goals and ideals that have been stored away in the attic of our minds.

Corporate indifference and arrogance witnessed at some bargaining tables during the 30 year period of the Dark Ages did not go unnoticed, and most certainly has not been forgotten. To their credit, many of our employers have never taken that approach with us. For those that have, we have learned well at the bargaining table and to give credit where credit is due, we learned from you just what to do and for that, I am thankful too.

We should all give thanks at Thanksgiving and at all other times for the blessings bestowed upon us. We are very fortunate to have good
(Continued on Page 2.)

jobs and we need to do everything we can to assure others have an opportunity to say the same thing. We will do so, as we always have, only with a little more bounce in our step than we've had for the last 30 years.

WE MUST GET THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT PASSED. The rhetoric has already begun at a fevered pitch from the Corporate crybabies and the Chamber of Commerce. Listen to NONE of it; it is just a spoiled child crying because he has been forced to share his toys with a child that has nothing at all. Baby Huey can cry until the desert becomes an oasis with shade trees, fruit trees, and cool spring water flowing from a crystal fountain.

We are asking every member of Local 459 to go to our website, www.ibew459.org. Click on links on the left side, scroll down to the interactive link on the EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT and sign up so we can get on with moving on for all working Americans.

Please speak highly of our Union when talking to your friends and neighbors. They may soon be our brothers and sisters.

The officers, staff, stewards, my family and I thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you in this great Local and International Union of ours.

We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Buy Union Week

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

Here we are winding up another year and the holidays are fast approaching. Our family members will be busy preparing for the holidays. Christmas shopping is probably in full swing. Not being much of a shopper myself but knowing how difficult it is to purchase that special gift for family members, I want to remind everyone that it would only take that extra minute to compare items to check for the Union made label or at least look to see if the product you are about to purchase is made in the U.S.A.

The AFL-CIO has set aside November 28 through December 7, 2008 as Buy Union Week and is asking Union families to focus on Union made gifts for the 2008 holiday season to help with this promotion. This should not just be a one week event. We, as Union members, should focus on this all year.

American consumers are expected to spend more than \$90 billion on holiday gifts. At least \$9 billion or 10% of that money comes from Union Households. We all know what a challenge this is but with the computer technology we have today, it makes finding products a little easier. Various websites will direct you to find Union made products.

On another note, the Local is conducting its annual Food Drive. The Local 459 Holiday

Food Drive began in 1983 and has been very successful ever since. We have raised approximately \$130,000 in monetary donations and also tons of food. The donations come into the Local from all Districts so when the time comes to distribute the donations back out to area food pantries, the contributions are proportionally distributed back to the areas where the contributions came from. At the end, a posting will be sent out to let members know the amount collected and where it was distributed. I want to make everyone aware of this process. I am asking that you take the time to think about the less fortunate and make a contribution to help brothers and sisters who might be in need of some help. Most of us do contribute and maybe you could think about making a small increase to this year's food drive contribution.

Thanks so much to all members who make the Annual Food Drive such a success. You are the folks who make a difference.

I want to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Times

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

If you haven't heard, Labor helped accomplish a significant triumph on Election Day 2008. The election of Barack Obama is the start of getting Labor back to its rightful place in America. I need to thank all of the members who gave up their time and energy to help
(Continued on Page 3.)

in the process. To the members that found it acceptable to be "Free Riders," my feeling is that if you look at yourself in the mirror and see nothing, your eyesight isn't bad; it is just your belief in the responsibility of the individual that makes you blind. If there was any doubt that you as a member of a Union can do anything about the mess we are in, this election should remove that doubt. Your only consideration should be how much do you want to get involved, how much do you want to do and how much is your future worth. You should not ever consider standing on the sidelines with your hands in your pockets letting everyone else do the work that needs to be done.

We all may not be able to do everything, but we all can do something. If some of the words that I write upset you, then be upset but that does not change nor does it diminish the effort that will be needed. I am asking you to get on board because the real work starts now. In the coming months, the Local will be asking for your assistance in the efforts to restore the place of Labor through the passage of the "Employee Free Choice Act." This legislation will not happen because we want it to happen. It will only occur if we (yes, you and I)

get off our tails and work to make it happen. If you have wondered where your spending power has gone, if you have wondered why your medical costs have gone so high with such inadequate care, if you have wondered why your benefits have not increased or if you are concerned about your retirement, then my brothers and sisters, it is about time you do something about it.

Obama said in Grant Park, "Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even one term. But, America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there."

Let Us Go Forward

Robert L. Ashbaugh, Business Rep.

It's been a hectic year with the election, contracts, arbitrations, etc. As the year comes to a close, let us look ahead to the future. We must strive to continue to be involved in our separate companies, units and at all levels of government. Unionism made this country strong in the past and will do so in the future.

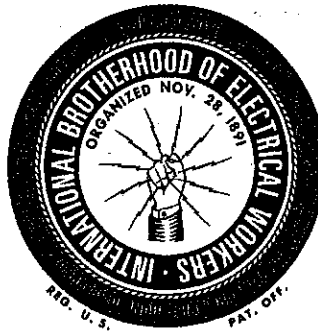
Be safe at home, work or play and enjoy the Holidays!



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

LOCAL 459

**International Brotherhood
of Electrical Workers
AFL-CIO
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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