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Electrical Work
for Electrical Workers



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local Union No. 176 Joliet, Illinois

April 13, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

I have been receiving inquiries about the National Disease Emergency Response Agreement (NDERA), that was issued by our International and National NECA, as far as is this agreement going to be extended. I was informed Friday by our International that it is not their intention to terminate this agreement anytime soon. The International has informed us that this agreement will stay in place until the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us. Personally, I am not in favor of any temporary agreement that supersedes any of our locally bargained agreements. We know locally what works best for us and I believe we should be allowed to deal with this situation at a local level. That being said, we will deal with this agreement like we deal with other national agreements like the National VDV Agreement, NMA, or GPPMA.

As you know, we closed our apprenticeship several weeks ago in order to follow CDC guidelines and to follow Governor Pritzker's executive order regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Not knowing how long this situation was going to last, we initially decided we were going to temporarily lay-off the JATC instructors and have them return to class once we were allowed to do so. As this situation has progressed, it has become clear that all schools may be ordered to close for the remainder of the school year. In an effort to get our JATC up and running again, the JATC has been working with the Department of Labor to come up with a way to hold classes on-line instead of in person, as our standards require. The staff and instructors at the JATC have been working over the past several weeks to change their method of instruction to an on-line format that would be acceptable to the DOL. Starting last Monday, the instructors started holding classes on-line with the apprentices. As far as testing and hands-on training, we will at some point still need the apprentices to report to the JATC, but the apprentices can at least get their required classroom hours through this on-line training led by our JATC instructors. This is a new method of instruction for everyone involved, so I am sure there are going to be some glitches along the way. By moving to this on-line model of instruction, it is our hope that the apprentices will be able to finish their classes in a reasonable amount of time so that they can receive their pay raises when they are scheduled to and that the apprentices who are in their 5th year of instruction can top out when they are supposed to.

Unfortunately, the April Monthly Union Meeting was canceled due to the COVID-19 situation. We are hopeful that this situation will begin to come to some sort of resolution, and we will be able to hold our May Monthly Union Meeting as scheduled. Because we were unable to hold our meeting last week, I asked the agents to put together reports on work in the area. Those reports are as follows:

Jim Lockhart

Book count for Monday, April 13, 2020

112 on Book #1

536 on Book #2

2- Residential

7- Sound

23 - Apprentices

0 - IT

Portability count commercial – 46/1

Portability count residential – 0/1

148 - Bk 2 working in local, 108 under GPPMA, 38 INSIDE, 2 VDV

Calls since our last meeting:

216 - JW long calls, 70 went in bk-1, 144 went to bk-2, 2 went to bk-4, and 10 were turned into short calls.

4 - JW Short calls

2 - RW long calls

0 - RW short calls

3 - Sound Long Calls, 2 went to bk-2

0 - Sound Short calls

6 - Apprentice Calls

There are 53 out of town contractors reporting in the jurisdiction as of tonight.

Andy Rico

Joliet - At 2685 Plainfield Rd. (the old Lone Star Steakhouse), Prairie Construction has started demo work for the construction of the new Chick-Fil-A restaurant that is scheduled to open this summer. Prairie Construction has listed American Electric on the building permit.

At 2400 Centerpoint Way, Hinsdale Electric is doing a 150,000 sq. ft warehouse buildout for TTX, a railcar parts manufacturer & distributor.

At 2950 Centerpoint Way, Hinsdale Electric is also adding switchgear and reworking power distribution at the Home Depot Regional Distribution Center to accommodate a new Honeywell Intelligated conveyor system. Hinsdale's portion of work is scheduled to be completed by mid-summer. Honeywell has contracted BCU Electric to perform the conveyor electrical work. They are scheduled to be on-site mid-summer through late fall.

Amita St. Joseph Medical Center is remodeling a portion of a 4th floor wing to add new CT scan rooms. Jamerson Bauwens will be doing that work and will man it with 4-5 electricians. This project has been delayed due to the Covid-19 virus.

At 2848 McDonough St, the IDOC In-patient facility, Block Electric and Live Wire Electric have recently finished up underground work with approximately 24 electricians combined. This project has also been delayed due to the Covid-19 virus.

At 250 Water Stone Circle, the Joliet Area Community Hospice construction has begun on a \$3.5 million addition/renovation. Meade Electric is the electrical contractor for this project. Meade Electric will also be resuming work for the IDOT Des Plaines river bridge project in Joliet this month. They will be manning it with 4-8 electricians periodically.

At Centerpoint Logistics/Business Park, Connelly Electric is doing site utility and underground work on Harbor Freight's nearly 2 million sq. ft. warehouse. Currently they have 3-4 electricians onsite. Manpower is expected to ramp up late this summer.

On McKinley Ave., Elliott Electric is working at the Joliet Wastewater Treatment Plant. That work is expected to be completed early in 2021, with manpower fluctuating periodically.

Plainfield - At 15320 Wallin Dr., Plainfield School District 202 will break ground this summer on a new elementary school adjacent to Ira Jones Middle School. This project is valued at \$25 million and is scheduled to open in 2022. Indicom Electric has been awarded the contract for this project.

Elwood - The Jackson Generation project on Noel and Brandon Rd is getting near the end of the underground phase. Currently, there are 42 electricians working on that project and Kiewit anticipates manpower to double by late summer/early fall 2020, barring any delays.

Bolingbrook - On Remington Blvd., a new WeatherTech building is coming out of the ground. WeatherTech also has a multi-tenant office/warehouse development being constructed on Weber Rd. and 111th St. Meany Electric has a total of 8 electricians working these two projects combined. Meany's work at these projects is expected to carry through the end of the year. There are also additional WeatherTech projects in the planning stages.

Romeoville - At 1300 Naperville Rd., Magid Glove has Continental Electric working on a switchgear modification. Continental has 4 electricians onsite and this work is scheduled to be completed in June.

The Citgo Oil Refinery turnaround has been postponed until June prospectively. This project delay prompted Indicom Electric to reduce manpower significantly.

Scott Smith

New Lenox - The new Metra Station just started last week. The electrical contractor for the station is Volt Electric. John Burns has the parking lot. The job is scheduled to be finished by Dec. On Rt. 30, down from Walmart, Austin Electric has the O'Reilly Auto Parts. Block Electric has been awarded the Silver Cross, 30,000 ft. expansion. At 1991 W Haven, Wood Dale Electric has the new indoor storage unit facility. This is on the corner of Cherry Hill Business Park.

Frankfort - On Wolf Rd. and Rt. 30, Cedarhurst Senior Living Care is an assisted living facility with 56 living apartments and 26 memory care apartments. It is scheduled to be done at the end of the year. All Electric out of West Frankfort started underground last week.

Lockport - At 15901 W 147th off 355 Heritage Crossing, Industrial Park has a 750,000 square foot spec warehouse. Complete Electric will be starting this soon. Beery Electric out of Local 461, has a spec warehouse across the street in Meridian Business Park. Project should be starting in a couple weeks. On 9th St., Dav-Com Electric is finishing up the O'Reilly Auto Parts.

Homer Glen - Anderson Pump has the Circle K remodel at the corner of Bell and 143rd. Shorewood Home and Auto is building a new facility at 13639 159th. Timm Electric has this project.

Residential - Plainfield on Wallin Dr. has an apartment development. It's called Sixteen-30. It is luxury lifestyle apartments, with 248 units. Cary Electric, out of Local 117, was awarded this job last month. They started moving dirt last week.

Barry Aldrich

Channahon - At the Amazon spec warehouse job that sits a little south and east of the new Amazon build, Connelly Electric has been on site extending the parking lot lighting, adding 40-50 light pole bases. Preferred is now also onsite and has been manning up for the last few weeks for the inside work they have going.

At the new Amazon Fulfillment Facility, Communication Zone has two techs now onsite. They are doing most of the voice and data work. Titan Electric has also recently been awarded the lighting above racking area of the project. Halm Electric has the office build-out portion of the job. The conveyor electrical was awarded this week. We have calls in chasing down who that contractor will be. I have confirmed that it is not BCU or Dynamic.

Kaiser Electric had two JW's cleared in for the Casey's on Route 6, changing out LED's on that small job.

Morris - At the new Financial Plus Credit Union on RT. 47, ABR Communications now has two techs cleared in on that project. Out at Dresden, Indicom has been working on the cooling towers with a small crew. We recently setup Joe Andrews as the jobsite representative per the GPPMA. Ayers Electric has begun the underground at the new District #54 Admin Building that will go up next to the White Oak Elementary School.

Minooka - Pro-Motion Therapy has started moving dirt for their new facility. That project is on the same side of the road, directly South of Doc Rotz. Current Electric has this project.

Braidwood - The Braidwood Nuclear Outage is in full hire mode. They are looking to man up to around 150 electricians for this outage. BHI Energy will also have a call in for 5 Instrument Techs this week. April 20th is the start date for the outage. Jake Fjelde has been setup as the "Bull Steward" for the outage.

We'd like to thank everyone that volunteered their time for this year's SINBASH, and hopefully everyone that came out had a great time!

There were a few names in the Grundy and Will County areas, that when I was calling for wellness checks, their contact phone number on file was no longer in service or your voicemail was full. If you did not receive a call, that is most likely the reason why.

Floyd Jones

SENECA AREA- Meade Electric has a crew and a half at REG in Seneca. Job is good for a couple more months.

MARSEILLES-UTICA AREA- Tri-City Electric, from Local 145, has the upcoming Dam jobs at Starved Rock and Marseilles. Halm Electric had a little project at the Marseilles Bank. Gatza Electric is working on the new Dollar General in Utica, at the corner of Route 6 and 178.

OGLESBY AREA - Rock River Electric, from Local 145, has 17 guys at GTI cultivation center. Nucore Electric, from Local 134, has 2 guys at the new Speedway in Oglesby. JB Contracting has new agriculture building at IVCC.

PRINCETON AREA - Halm Electric has the Bureau County Law Enforcement Center. It was shut down for a week because of the Covid-19, but it is starting back up on Monday April 6th.

SPRING VALLEY AREA - Newkirk Electric, Local 275, has 11 guys at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center solar project that will be good for 4-6 more weeks.

LASALLE-PERU AREA - Block Electric has the east gymnasium remodel at the LaSalle Peru High School. Gatza Electric has the new Dollar General in LaSalle on 24th street and Route 351. Gatza Electric is working on the Double D Warehouse in Peru on May Road and Ficek Electric was awarded the low voltage part of that job.

KEWANEE-GALVA AREA - Wilcox Electric, from Local 197, has solar projects on the school's rooftops at the Kewanee High School and Kewanee Grade Schools; and at the Galva Grade School and Galva High School. Rock River Electric has the science room upgrades at the Galva Middle/Senior High Schools.

TISKILWA AREA- Renew Electrical, from Local 426 in Sioux Falls South Dakota, has the 32 wind towers for the addition to the Lone Tree Windfarm. Boldt Construction is the General on that project and it is supposed to start at the end of June.

I have had some calls about the old Maytag Building on the corner of First Street and Route 351 in LaSalle that is owned by CL Enterprises. They are doing a remodel for retail and a microbrew on the lower level and apartments on the upper level. Trotter Contracting is the non-union general contractor from Macomb, Illinois. As of now, they have not named the electrical contractor on the job.

Deric Wilkins

Kankakee - KCC Student Success Center Remodel job is going well. Keast Electric has three guys out there. Completion date is late July or early August. Kankakee High School addition is progressing, Excel Electric has that project. KPI has 4 people working on the addition at the Classic Cinema. Shapiro State Hospital has a job going on to create a Covid-19 isolation building. Livewire out of 134 has that job. Splash Valley Water Park on River Road in Kankakee is doing a \$4.6 million-dollar remodel. Ruder Electric has two guys on that project. Ruder Electric also has a remodel project at Riverside Hospital. They have been working 7 or 8 electricians on that job.

Bradley - CSL Behring is moving slow. We still have three or four contractors out there. We are waiting to hear from CSL about the next phase.

Bourbonnais - New Aldi's store in Bourbonnais has started. Four Star Electric has that project. Oak Orthopedics Center on RT 45 & 6000 rd in Bourbonnais is putting up a new \$15 mil building. It has not been let yet. Riverside New Med Building in Bourbonnais was set to start in July but may be on hold due to Covid-19. St. George School in Bourbonnais is doing a 10-classroom addition. It has not been let yet. Liberty School addition in Bourbonnais is in full swing. Ruder has 2 guys on that project. Cache Valley has 76 electricians working at the new mill project at Nucor Steel.

Gilman – Incobrasa, in Gilman, is doing some updates. Ruder has 4 guys out there.

Watseka - O'Reilly's Auto Parts is going up in Watseka. Ruder has one guy out there.

Chris Lindstrom

We have been reaching out to the membership for the last several days to gauge every one's reaction to the C-19 crisis. Hopefully, everyone has had a chance to get their questions and concerns answered. If there are more questions, be sure that you reach out to one of us.

I have been continuing to contact non-union contractors and their employees during this time, all be it from a safe distance. Keeping those relationships current is a priority right now. We still have a few potential guys on our radar but are sort of in a holding pattern regarding bringing them on board with the current situation.

Our 3 target contractors continue to be a focus. I have reached out to them to maintain those relationships as well.

I participated in a Zoom meeting with other organizers from Illinois last week. All the other locals are having similar difficulties to ours. Most reported that work was on going with only minimal slowdowns, at least for now. It seems that all our sister locals are holding their breath as well.

There are a few jobs starting to move this spring that we may take job action on. If anyone is interested in getting some fresh air these days, a day manning a picket might be just the thing so stay tuned for that.

We will continue to keep everyone informed and we will get through this situation even stronger than when we went into it. This pandemic has caused a tremendous amount of stress to be exerted on everyone. That stress makes evident some cracks we might have, but it also shines light on our strengths. I ask everyone to not focus on the cracks, but to lean on our strengths. Use our strengths to fill those cracks and we will be stronger in the end. Please stay unified, stay safe, and look out for one another.

Thank you and stay safe.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Clemmons', written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Clemmons
Business Manager