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Electrical Work
for Electrical Workers



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local Union No. 176 Joliet, Illinois

Brothers and Sisters,

As we begin another month dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, I would personally like to thank the members, retirees, and family members of our local brothers and sisters for their solidarity, patience, and understanding in these unprecedented times. There have been many changes and adaptations we have all had to make in a short amount of time that has made life challenging at times. I would like to remind everyone that if you or a family member are struggling mentally, financially, or otherwise, our local Member Assistance Program (MAP) is available twenty-four hours a day by calling (800) 292-2780. It can also be accessed online at www.ers-eap.com. If you access MAP online the username is **ibew176** and the password is **member**. MAP is free of charge and any contact you have with them is confidential. MAP provides counselors and other professionals that can handle a wide variety of issues that range from psychological concerns to financial, legal, relationship, and substance abuse issues. I would encourage anyone who feels they may need help to please reach out to MAP and take advantage of the services they offer.

On another note, all ballots for the inside contract ratification and allocation have been mailed out. Please be on the lookout for this mailing and **do not throw it away** with your junk mail. As stated in previous letters, we will be counting all ballots received on the morning of May 22nd, so it is important to return your completed ballots in a timely manner. It was pointed out to me that a mistake was made in my last letter in which I stated the economic package increase in our settlement agreement with NECA was \$2.40. This was an incorrect statement, as the increase is \$2.65. While I was writing my last letter, I did have \$2.40 on my mind. I was working on some VDV issues at the time, and \$2.40 is the amount of economic package increase that was negotiated last year and will take effect on June 1, 2020 in the VDV agreement. This brings us to another issue, how is the VDV economic package increase going to be allocated? The answer to that is, the same way the inside wage package is being allocated. Along with the ballots that were mailed out dealing with our inside agreement, a wage allocation ballot has been sent to each VDV member in the local. These ballots contain ten (10) allocation proposals, just like the inside allocation ballot. These ten (10) proposals are based the thirty cents (\$0.30) that has been recommended by our fund professionals for our health and welfare as well as past allocation proposals from prior years VDV allocations. These ballots were sent out at the same time as the inside ballots and will be mailed back to the same post office box. These ballots will also be tallied on May 22nd, the same day and time as the ballots for the inside agreement.

As summer approaches and people become more restless and anxious wanting an end to stay-at-home restrictions and for life to return to normal, please keep in mind everyone's situation in how they are dealing with this pandemic is different. Everyone has different points of view as to what is right and true and what is wrong and false, especially when dealing with this pandemic. Remember we are all brothers and sisters and we are all in this together. No matter what side of the political spectrum you find yourself, please try and keep tribal politics out of this situation. Do not take pleasure in each other's pain and failures. Stay focused on what is good and right and not what is wrong. As all of you, I am proud to be a member of this local and heartened to see the unity that we have all displayed throughout this situation. Our local will emerge from this situation as it has from every other critical situation to hit our country, stronger, more prosperous, and more unified than ever. Stay safe and stay unified brothers and sisters.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Clemmons".

Michael J. Clemmons
Business Manager