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Electrical Work  
for Electrical Workers

**International Brotherhood  
Of Electrical Workers**

**Local Union No. 176  
Joliet, Illinois**

November 11, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

As COVID-19 continues to spread and infection rates climb, we remain more focused than ever on the health and safety of our members and their families. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) continues to impose further restrictions in our area, which affects operations for many organizations, including our own. In the future, these restrictions could impede our ability to conduct monthly union meetings or may interrupt normal day-to-day operations at the Union Hall. As far as this month goes, we will conduct our monthly union meeting with the same COVID-19 safety precautions that have been in place at our prior meetings this year. As we have done throughout this year, monthly reports from the business agents, the JATC, and safety are included at the conclusion of this letter.

COVID-19 continues to spread throughout our job sites and our community. Turmoil within the federal government has resulted in vague and incomplete guidance from federal agencies such as OSHA and the CD. In Illinois, the IDPH has taken the lead in issuing guidance and imposing restrictions upon businesses and the community. By this time, we probably all know someone who has been infected with COVID-19. The number of members inflicted with this virus increases every day. Along with more positive cases, we are seeing more and more members be hospitalized with the coronavirus, including a member currently on a ventilator. I myself had the virus, and while I was not hospitalized, I was severely ill and experienced affects long after and testing negative for this virus.

While some may not agree on the severity of this virus, it's indisputable that COVID-19 is real and is affecting every one of our lives. As the IDPH monitors the situation throughout Illinois, they are continually implementing more restrictions in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. As we see more COVID-19 on job sites, it is entirely possible that the IDPH could step in and shut down construction work in Illinois. In mid-March of 2020, during the early stages of this pandemic, there was serious discussion amongst state officials around shutting down all construction work at that time. If trends continue as they are, the IDPH is looking at shutting down areas where they see rapid spread of the coronavirus, which includes construction sites.

To help combat the spread of this virus, please wear a mask, maintain social distance when possible, and practice proper hygiene such as hand washing. Like everyone else, I don't want to see any more restrictions or shutdowns put into place. I also don't want to see any

more of our members or their families become ill or hospitalized. I implore everyone to follow basic health and safety protocols so we can drive down the spread of this virus and we can get back to normal life.

Last Tuesday was Election Day. Organized labor spent much time and effort to help get labor-friendly candidates elected to office. With only a few exceptions, we were successful in our efforts to get pro-labor individuals elected. We continue to work on pro-labor, IBEW-friendly legislation with lawmakers on the local, state, and federal levels to help ensure a steady stream of union construction jobs in our area into the future. I know that there were differences of opinion amongst some in our membership as to which candidates to support for different offices. I implore everyone to set those differences aside as we work together to make pro-labor policy and legislation a reality with these labor-friendly elected officials.

On a federal level, it is important that new members of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) be seated who have the best interest of working men and women at heart and reject anti-union corporate agendas. We need to ensure that apprenticeship standards are maintained and not watered down. We need to strengthen the Davis-Bacon Act so that prevailing wage rates are set accurately and not artificially lowered. We need to make sure distressed union pension plans are shored up, but not at the cost of damaging healthy pension plans like ours. We also need to work on getting an infrastructure bill passed that includes money for not only road construction, but vertical construction as well.

On the state level, we have two major issues we are working on. The first is the Hazardous Materials Workforce Training Act (SB 1407). This act would ensure high safety standards and apprenticeship training, as well as prevailing wages paid at almost all our hazardous industrial facilities in our area. We are also working on a comprehensive energy bill, in cooperation with the Governor's office and legislators, on legislation that would keep Dresden and Byron and the Exelon Nuclear Fleet open and viable. In this same energy legislation, we are also working to ensure that any new renewable energy project be constructed and maintained by IBEW members. I have been helping facilitate educational tours of nuclear plants, gas fired plants, solar farms, and other energy producing facilities in our area with legislators and stakeholders from throughout the state. These tours have allowed us to give policy makers a firsthand view and knowledge of the issues facing the IBEW during construction, maintenance, and operation of these facilities.

Unity is more important than ever in these turbulent times. Members have differing views on politics and on the current COVID-19 pandemic. We must not let these differences divide us. The political noise and the pandemic have put many members under great pressure. These are difficult times, but staying united we will get through this stronger in the end. Stay healthy, safe, and united.

in Solidarity,



Michael J. Clemmons  
Business Manager

**Business Agent, Apprenticeship, and Safety reports are as follows:**

**Jim Lockhart**

Book count for Thursday, November 12, 2020

67 on Book #1

424 on Book #2

5 - Residential

14 - Sound

3 - Apprentices

2 - IT

Portability count commercial – 75/1

Portability count residential – 0/1

186- Book 2 working in local.

Calls since our last meeting:

166 - JW long calls, 43 went in Book 1, 123 went to bk-2, and 11 were turned into short calls.

34 - JW Short calls, 23 went into Book 2.

- RW long calls

0 - RW short calls

- Sound Long Calls, went to Book 2

- Sound Short calls

- Apprentice Calls

There are 84 out of town contractors reporting in the jurisdiction as of tonight.

**Andy Rico**

**Joliet** - At 1700 Spencer Rd., the ComEd Headquarters is adding several HVAC units and a fully redundant UPS system. Starting Thursday, November 12, there will be 10 electricians working on that project for Hartmann Electric. The initial completion date for this job is May 2021. Hartmann may be looking to add a second shift.

At 3200 Channahon Rd. Electrical Design Systems is working on a new construction trucking rental facility consisting of a 12,000 square foot building and 40 acre parking lot.

At 2114 S. Frontage Rd., Local 130 Plumbers are adding a separate 10,000 square foot building. Connelly Electric currently has 2 electricians onsite. The scheduled completion date for this project is April 2021.

On the corner of Theodore and Drauden Rd., Executive Construction has begun construction for the new Gas & Wash. NuCore Electric has been awarded that job.

At 2959 Centerpoint Way, BCU Electric is doing the electrical work for new conveyor lines at the Home Depot Regional Distribution Facility. This project was scheduled to be completed by

December 2020, but there have been several equipment and material delays. BCU has laid off a few electricians due to the delays.

The Tower Apartments at 247 Caterpillar Dr. is doing a \$2 million remodel project. Rex Electric has this job.

Amita St. Joseph Medical Center is remodeling a portion of a 4th floor wing to add new CT scan rooms. Jamerson & Bauwens is doing that work and will man it with 4-5 electricians.

At 2848 McDonough St., the IDOC In-patient facility;  
Block Electric has approximately 35-40 electricians working.  
City Services Electric is doing the temperature control work and currently have 4 electricians onsite.  
Live Wire Electric has 6 electricians working at the Administration building.  
The VDV work is scheduled to begin ramping up in the coming weeks and months. Low Voltage Solutions has the bulk of that work.

At 2705 Plainfield Rd. (Rt 30) Prairie Construction has resumed construction for the new Chick-fil-A restaurant. American Electric is doing the electrical work on that project.

At 250 Water Stone Circle, the Joliet Area Community Hospice, Meade Electric is getting close to wrapping up work for the \$3.5 million addition/renovation.

Meade Electric continues work on the IDOT Des Plaines River bridge project, reworking the bridge tender house and cabling for 6 bridges. They will be manning it with 4-8 electricians periodically.  
Torres Electric is doing the fire alarm work on this project.

At Centerpoint Logistics/Business Park, Connelly Electric has manned up to approximately 25-30 electricians at Harbor Freight's nearly 2 million sq. ft. warehouse. Connelly is the VDV contract for this project, as well.

At 3501 Brandon Rd., a 1.2 million sq. ft. spec warehouse is under roof. Jan Electric currently has 4 electricians working on this project and will likely add a few more before the project is completed late in December.

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.

Continental Electric near completion on a 2.4 megawatt ground mount solar tracking system at Chicagoland Speedway. They currently have 20-24 electricians working on this project.

At 1023 E. Laraway Rd., Connelly Electric is working on a tenant buildout for General Motors parts distribution. There are currently 15 electricians working on this project and it is scheduled to be completed by November.

At 2500 Centerpoint Way, Sievert Electric is installing a new crane rail system at the Union Pacific railyard. Currently they have 9 electricians onsite and may add more manpower. Sievert also will be doing the VDV work on this project and will be looking to hire a couple Sound Techs

The State Group Industrial is working on a couple pumping/ metering stations on Brandon Rd. feeding into the Jackson Generation Power Plant. They currently have 5 electricians working between the 2 projects and may add more manpower depending on scheduling. These projects should remain busy through December.

**Plainfield** - At 15320 Wallin Dr., Plainfield School District 202 / ICI Construction has the new elementary school directly south of Ira Jones Middle School under roof. Indicom Electric has this job.

**Elwood** - The Jackson Generation project on Noel and Brandon Rd. is in the cable pulling phase and installing raceways above ground on the electrical side of things. Currently there are approximately 120 electricians combined between day and night shifts working on that project. Manpower is expected to continue to ramp up through the winter months. Elliott Electric has the electrical contract for the Administration building.

**Bolingbrook** - At 1150 115<sup>th</sup> St., Connelly Electric is doing a 450 light fixture upgrade for IDI logistics. This project is scheduled to be complete by mid November.

**Romeoville** - At 502 W. Taylor Rd., Power Construction is moving dirt for a new spec warehouse directly south of the Crate & Barrel warehouse they just completed. The sub contracts have not been awarded yet.

Preferred Electric has been contracted to install a 1.5 megawatt solar array at Lewis University. This work has been delayed, but is anticipated to begin in the next month or so.

**Shorewood** - At Black Rd. and Rt. 59 next to Home Depot, G.A. Johnson is wrapping up construction on the new Aldi store. The store is set to open within the next couple weeks.

At 21540 SW Frontage Rd., Complete Electric has a warehouse buildout for Kenco Logistics Group that is scheduled to be completed in November. Complete has 5 electricians working there.

**Crest Hill** - At 20600 Kubinski Dr., just north of Menards and directly east of the Crest Hill Public Library, construction has begun for the new Crest Hill City Center/Police Department. The city of Crest Hill is direct hiring sub-contractors and has contracted Timm Electric to do the electrical work for that project.

On the corner of Caton Farm Rd and Perinar Dr., Narvick Brothers construction has walls up for Low Voltage Solution's new shop. Ideal Electric will be the electrical work on that building.

**Naperville** - At 2244 W. 95th St., Johnson Construction has the new Compass Church under roof. Nesko Electric has been awarded the contract for this job and is now onsite.

### **Scott Smith**

**New Lenox** - The new Metra Station located on Rt. 30 and Cedar Rd. Volt has a couple guys in and out on this project. The job is scheduled to be finished by December.

Garden Electric has some school work at Union School Dist 86 on Cherry Hill Rd.

Timm Electric started underground work for a new shop for Aries Earth Moving Construction. This is just south on Cherry Hill Rd.

Silver Cross has a 30,000 sq. ft. expansion. Block Electric has been on site for a few months, it's been a slow moving project. They want to be up and running by the end of the year. They should be hiring a few guys in the next couple weeks.

Hy-Power Electric out of 134 was awarded to West End Tool. This is a 80,000 sq. ft. industrial building. Steel started last month. This is located at 2253 New Lenox Rd. They cleared in a couple guys this week. Depending on the schedule, probably hiring by the end of November.

**Lockport** – J.B Contracting is finishing up the Holiday Inn Express this month in Lockport. It consists of 81 units at 54,000 sq. ft. It is located at I-355 and 159<sup>th</sup> St. This project took about six months to complete.

Berry Electric has drive up and go for grocery pickup at Jewel Osco located at 159<sup>th</sup> in Lockport.

Jolen Electric has School work at William Butler Elementary located at 1900 Farrell Rd.

**Homer Glen** – Hawk Enterprises has various traffic signal work in the area.

NuCore Electric has the Gas and Wash on the corner of 159<sup>th</sup> St. and Gougar Rd. NuCore will be hiring a couple guys in the next couple weeks.

GS Electric out of 134 has School work at Oak Prairie Junior High at 15161 S. Gougar Rd.

**Mokena** – At 191<sup>st</sup> St. and 88th Ave., Altorfer Power Center is putting in a new Caterpillar sales and service center. Northern is the general contractor and Connelly Electric is the electrical contractor. They have few guys on site as of last week.

On the corner of Rt. 30 and Owens Road, Palos Health Care Center broke a few months ago. It consists of 3 stories and is 50,000 sq. ft. Walsh is the general contractor. Sharlen Electric was awarded the job in the late spring. They have 5 guys on site. It's been a slow-paced job as of right now, looking like six or seven guys for about 6 months depending on the schedule. Completion date is supposed to be in March sometime.

Atomatic Service has some lighting upgrades at Mokena Intermediate School located at 11331 195<sup>th</sup> St.

**Tinley Park** – NuCore Electric has the new Food and Fuel located on 183<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Frankfort** - On Wolf Rd. and Rt. 30, Cedarhurst Senior Living consists of 56 living apartments and 26 memory care apartments. All Electric out of West Frankfort, IL Local 702 took this away from Bates Electric out of St Louis, MO. All Electric only cleared in one guy and currently has four from us. The owner is very impressed with Local 176.

Excel Electric is finishing up Hickory Creek Church expansion, located at 10660 W. Lincoln Hwy.

**Residential** – Plainfield on Wallin Dr. has an apartment development. This project is called Sixteen-30, luxury lifestyle apartments with 248 units. Cary Electric out of Local 117 was awarded this job a few months ago. They started roughing this week, putting a call this week and will run a few more in the near future. It's been slow starting off because of COVID-19 and ongoing pickets. This is the largest residential project we've seen in over 10 years.

### **Barry Aldrich**

**Channahon** – Titan has started putting calls in for the spec warehouse along I-55, south of the new Amazon warehouse on the opposite side of Amoco Road. Clayco is the GC on this job and Titan said they could need up to 20 on this project. 1200 lights to be added, along with multiple charging stations throughout.

Homestead Electric is in the area working on Nicor pumping stations, installing monitors, adding general use receptacles & lighting into the small out shacks on those.

At the new Love's Travel Stop on Bluff Road, Headrick Sign Company, a non-union contractor, had shown up onsite to install the overhead Love's sign, after speaking with the folks out there they had agreed to sub out work to NuCore that was currently onsite.

Gibson Electric has two sound techs cleared in at the Amazon warehouse on Bluff Road, they are adding work stations and should be done with their scope by the week's end.

**Essex** – Tesco has two JW's cleared in for a small 800 amp transformer replacement job, that stems back from the fire out there last year.

**Morris** – The new CPV project has started putting in the first calls this week, MJ Electric has the temporary power for the trailers, generators and some underground work in the beginning stages out there.

Thompson Electronics Company had one Sound tech working on the fire alarm system at the OSF Urgo along Rt.47.

ABCO was awarded the new Procter & Gamble Warehouse that is being built along Rt.47 across from the airport. They are moving dirt now on this project.

JB Electric is now onsite at the Morris Menards for their small 2000 sq ft addition.

Indicom had one JW working on the lighting for the Ottawa Savings Bank on Rt.6 & Creek Drive.

Gaytan Signs had guys repairing the Hi-Tech Sleep Center sign along Rt.47.

At the Costco Warehouse along Rt. 47, Associated has been awarded the rooftop unit replacement project. They will be looking to hire 6-8 JW's for that work.

The Dresden Outage has come and gone since my last report. Allied took only around 50 JW's for this one, and it turns out it was the fastest breaker to breaker outage in the fleet's history. Although there were some COVID-19 challenges along the way, things went pretty smooth out there. I'd like to thank Chris Marsala for being the day shift Steward, Rich Bellotti for being the night shift Steward, and Joe Andrews for handling the Bull Steward's position.

**Braidwood** – Ayers Electric has picked up the new generator job over at the Reed-Custer High School, which should be starting sometime this week.

**Minooka** – Gaytan Signs had a few guys onsite working on the sign at 2-Fer's Pizza & Pub in the plaza at Mondamin & Ridge Road

**Wilmington** – I had a couple calls and texts about a signatory contractor, Vision Signs & Design working on the sign over at the Collision Center on Baltimore Street.

**Diamond** – The new Domino's Pizza has broken ground along Rt.113. Although they haven't been good with using any of our signatory contractors at any other of their locations within the jurisdiction, we were able to get them to entertain a bid from Current Electric, and we are currently awaiting the outcome of that submission.

### **Floyd Jones**

**Ottawa** - Halm Electric was awarded the addition to Rosen's on Route 23 North of Ottawa. Gatza Electric has the contract for the new Clean Getaway Car Wash going in next to Culver's in Ottawa, they have most of the underground done and are waiting for the building to get closed in. Financial Plus Credit Union is planning on building a new credit union across the street from the existing one on Chestnut Street. It is in the bidding stage now. The General Contractor is The Redmond Company from Waukesha, Wisconsin. Ayers Electric has been working on the office remodel for Dr. Wise in Ottawa, Terrance Electric from Local 134 has the low voltage work, that project should be wrapped up in the next week. B&G Electric was awarded the project at Marquette High School replacing the stadium lights.

**Oglesby/Utica** - Rock River Electric from Local 145 was awarded the next phase at GreenThumb Industries. They have the steel up and are putting the roof on now. Once the roof is installed, they will be looking to add manpower sometime after Thanksgiving and before Christmas. That project will go through the winter and into next spring.

**Princeton** - Gatza Electric was awarded the new Advanced Asphalt building going in by the Bureau Junction on Route 26. Vissering Construction is the General Contractor, that project is just getting started and will go through the winter. Halm Electric has 2 JW's and an apprentice at the new Bureau County Law Enforcement Center, that project is continuing to move slowly.

**LaSalle-Peru** - Gatza Electric is continuing to work on the remodel for the Double D warehouse in Peru, and Advanced Data Technologies has picked up the low voltage work on that project. Grand Kahn Electric from Local 134 was awarded the new \$16 million dollar Peru Police Station. There are 6 JW's out there now. That project is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. J-Horn Electric from Local 34 has the remodel of the old Dairy Queen on the corner of



Route 251 and 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Peru. They are turning that into a Jimmy John's. They have 2 guys there now and that is a 4 week project.

**Troy Grove** - Mid Illinois Electric from Local 601 was awarded a project at the Nicor Gas Plant in Troy Grove. They have 2 guys there now and that is around a 4 week project.

**Spring Valley/Ladd** -JMS Electrical has the remodel at the McDonald's in Spring Valley. That is around a 3 week project. Hart Electric from Local 146 has a project updating the control wiring at the Ameren Metering station North of Ladd, that is a 3-4 week project.

**Kewanee/Bishop Hill/Wyoming** - RNS Electric from Local 34 was awarded the remodel project for Midwest Dental of Kewanee. It is located at the strip mall by Menards. They have 2 guys there now and there are 2-3 weeks left on the project. Oberlander Electric from Local 34 picked up a fiber job at the Bishop Hill Wind Farm. That is around a 3-4 week job. H&S Mechanical has been awarded another project at FMC in Wyoming. They are installing some new Motor Control Center, they have 2 guys there now.

**Galva** - Rock River Electric from Local 145 picked up a job at the Lincoln House Apartments in Galva. It is mainly life safety work and that is about a 6 week project.

## **Deric Wilkins**

**Beecher** - A new fire station addition is going up. Timm Electric has the job. A solar array is going up on Corning Rd. PDC Electric out of Monroe, WI is doing this non-union.

**Bourbonnais** – Bill Kay Honda addition/remodel job, Schmidt Electric has this project.

Oak Orthopedics Center on RT 45 & 6000RD in Bourbonnais is putting up a new \$15 million building. They have broken ground and Balanced Load Electric out of Naperville has this project.

Riverside Orthopedics \$25 mil New Med Building in Bourbonnais, Ruder has that project.

St. George School in Bourbonnais is doing a 10-classroom addition. Ruder Electric has that project, completion date is the end of July of 2021.

The old Huddle sports bar at 1887 Armour Rd. is going to be a Burgers and Beer. Schmidt Electric has that project.

**Kankakee** – Jewel-Osco is doing a small remodeling job. Barry Electric has the project.

The Kankakee Housing Authority has a remodeling project and Outsen Electric has this job.

The traffic signal project throughout the city is being done by Outsen Electric, as well.

CSL Behring is moving slow. There is talk about taking down the existing steel and just doing storage. There is also talk of starting a waste-water treatment plant.

Riverside Hospital remodel job is starting to come down, Ruder still has a few guys on this site.

New Solar project 2 megawatt going up on South Schuyler; Keast Electric has this project and it is near completion.

A new solar array is going up just east of town on 2700Rd. E. Borrego Solar has giving the job to MKD.

There are multiple solar arrays going up in the area, some are good, some are not.

A new Dollar General is going up on Jeffery St. Schmidt electric has that project.

NuCore Steel – Com Ed is putting in a new substation. Intren Electric has that project.

**Manteno** – Peoples Bank is building a new facility next to McDonald's. Process Electric has the project.

A new O'Reilly Auto Parts is going up. Schmidt Electric has that project.

The Manteno Veterans Hospital is putting in a new back-up generator and considering a new fire alarm system. Ryan Electric has the generator project.

**University Park** - The new Amazon is going up at Steger Rd. and Central, Clayco is the general. The electrical contractors are ABCO, MJ, and Austin electric is doing the parking lot lighting.

Local 9 is putting up a new crane training facility. Linear Electric has that project.

**Watseka** – Walmart is doing a small remodeling job, Schmidt has this job. The city is putting in 3 new generators and Outsen Electric has this job.

### **Chris Lindstrom**

- I'd like to thank all of our brothers and sisters who have served in the Armed Forces.
- Since last month we have organized one new probationary member into the apprenticeship. He was stripped from Orchard Electric and placed with a signatory contractor. We are still working with several other unrepresented workers to try and strip them from non-union contractors.
- Working to help labor-friendly candidates get elected has been high priority this past month. I am proud of the hard work that Local 176 has done, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that helped with the final get out the vote push on the weekend before election day. It is nice to see that hard work pay off with wins both locally and nationally.
- Local 176 stood up pickets for a short time this last month. I would like to thank those that volunteered to help with that effort.
- Local 176 is planning to handbill the newly constructed Mr. Sparkle car wash location in Peru this coming week. The owners refused to work with contractors that employee

members of 176, therefore, we should refuse to patronize their business. Anyone interested in helping can contact Floyd or me.

- With the on-going threat of COVID-19, I again urge everyone to follow the best practices to stay safe and healthy. Wear your mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance.

### **Matt Kenney - JATC**

The JATC has been able to stay up and running despite the surge of COVID-19. We require everyone who enters the building to wear a mask, we stagger start times and break times, maintain 6 foot spacing in the classrooms, and sanitize many times through the course of the day. We keep the numbers in each class to under 10 and do not have the apprentices mix with other classes during the week so that we can contact trace if necessary. We also require gloves for hands-on activities.

We are, however, facing many challenges. We encourage anyone who does not feel 100% to call us and reschedule their class. The same goes for any contact that meets CDC guidelines. We hope that anyone that travels will let us know, as well.

These protocols have caused us to have many make up classes for those who have missed a day. The pandemic, combined with a late start to the school year, has caused us to have some apprentices attend weekly and possibly more than once in a week. Please bear with us as we are trying to get everyone caught up with the rest of the JATC. We are asking all apprentices to notify their job sites every time that they have a class.

Please stay safe and work with us so that together, we can all get through this safely. Thank you.

### **Kenny Sanderson - Safety Committee Report**

COVID-19 cases in Illinois are through the roof. This Tuesday, November 10, 2020 saw 12,623 new cases and 79 additional deaths reported in Illinois. The total number of cases in the state have reached 498,560 and deaths have reached 10,210.

Region 7, which include Will and Kankakee Counties, will return to Tier 2 mitigations on Wednesday, November 11. These restrictions include no indoor bar or restaurant service, an 11 PM closing time, tables 6 feet apart, and no tables exceeding 6 people. Meetings, social events and gatherings are limited to 10 guests, whether indoors or outdoors. Organized group and recreational activities, such as sports, also have a limit of the lesser of 25 guests or 25% of overall room capacity, again, indoors or outdoors.

The main corrective measures for COVID-19 are simple, and are the same as those used to battle the "Spanish" flu 100 years ago: wear masks, wash your hands, and maintain social distance. If this doesn't get better, and soon, we are headed for stay-at-home orders again.

Stay safe, brothers and sisters.