



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO

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October 1, 2020

MEETING REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Aloha Members!

It has been seven months now since we were able to meet at the Union Hall, and I hope this report finds everyone well. We have had around a dozen cases of COVID-19 in our membership but happy to report that I have not heard that any of them that were serious cases. If you or someone you in our membership tests positive for COVID-19, please let us know. The International Office is requiring me to report our cases on a weekly basis.

Union Elections ballots were counted in August and the elected Executive Board and Examining Board members were sworn in in the month of September virtually by our 9th District International Vice President John O'Rourke. While the swearing-in took place in September, the term is still until July of 2023.

This month, State Election ballots are being mailed out and our endorsement list will also be mailed out to you. The endorsement list will also be posted on the Website and Local 1186 app. This year's Presidential election is also important for the Labor movement and IBEW has endorsed the **Biden/Harris** ticket and want you to cast your vote for them. Watching the news has been depressing, to see our current President tell lie after lie on all issues. We need to stop this now and not let it continue. Exercise your right and make sure that Labor is represented in politics. This means fair pay, job creation, healthcare, and fairness for all.

The Inside/Outside Agreement has been ratified via online voting with 87% in favor of the 1-year extension with no language change and a 1.65% increase in wage and benefits.

I know that I have been saying it for months, but we are finally close – and will be starting construction of our new Pension Building. It has been challenging not being able to meet in person with all of those involved to work out the final details. The New Building will take roughly one year from the start date and Phase 2 (renovation of existing building) will take an additional year to complete. Pension Trustees met on September 30th to discuss if positive changes to our Pension Fund credits can be made and if so, how much. Trustees have decided to have our Actuary review our September 2020 numbers and factor into the calculation, so a more accurate number can present. Good news is that it does look like we can make the changes. I will keep you posted after our next Trust Fund meeting in December.

We are also working on having an informational meeting via Zoom sometime this month starting with the neighbor Islands to test it out. This may turn out to be a better way to get general information out and be able to field questions.

Renewable projects are on the rise again and we have been working with the State of Hawaii's Energy Office to help to educate them on the work that electricians do and the license requirements. We also had them take a tour of our training facility (prior to Mayor Caldwell's Tier 1 Mandate), while maintaining social distancing, and visited a live solar farm. The Solar Industry was also trying to pass Bill 58 through the City Council of Honolulu which if passed, would expedite the permit process for renewables, but it would also do away with Electrical Inspection by an Inspector. They were advocating to self-inspect themselves which I do not believe this will ensure the public that it was installed safely. Since that Council meeting, I have spoken with the Hawaii Solar Energy Association to see if we can work together in presenting a Bill that we can all get behind.

COVID-19 has changed the way we do things, and we are adjusting as practical as possible. If any of you have ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to offer them to your Union Representative.

Stay safe and remember to keep social distancing, wash your hands often and wear a mask.

Reminder: **October meetings have been cancelled.**

Happy Halloween!

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kim', written in a cursive style.

Damien T.K. Kim
Business Manager/Financial Secretary