

Monthly Meeting Summary by Michael R. Dunleavy, Business Manager
July 9, 2010

There are currently 473 members on Book I representing 15% unemployment. This means 85% are employed. We have secured commitments that the majority of the projects currently in development will be done union but these jobs are very slow to get started. It is a fact that the percentage of union electrical work being performed is increasing due to our efforts, but the overall number of projects are down. I again will remind you to take work when called.

Speaking of employment, I would like to again address "Recall". I would like to remind everyone "Recall" was about to become approved Category II language, meaning that you could not vary from that language. The approved language did not protect our members so we drafted language that did before the Category II designation went into effect. This was a preemptive move to protect you. While it may be frustrating to see the person behind you on the book go out, everyone behind that person moves up. Contractors that previously declined work or worked their regular's overtime because they feared calling someone off the list, now are calling for people because it reduces their unemployment. The net effect of "Recall" is that the book is moving quicker, and we are more competitive.

You should all be aware by now of the issue in St. Louis where the Carpenters are organizing electrical contractors. The IBEW organized simultaneous leafleting all over the country to make the other trades and individual Carpenters aware of this. The International Office has asked us to wait for further direction. This should serve as a reminder to everyone to make sure no other trade is performing your work.

There is nothing new to report on CE/CW. As I have told you at meetings over the last three years, since we voted in these classifications we have a plan to control their use to benefit the industry. We stopped taking residential classes years ago in anticipation of eventually using CE/CW on the same work that residential wiremen had previously performed. As you know, we use residential wiremen to secure work for journeymen and will do the same with CE/CW. I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the local union has not approved the use of any summer helpers. If there are any that you are aware of, please call the agent in your area. I have been put on a national committee to draft standards for an NFPA70E certification. I would encourage all of you to become informed of the requirements of NFPA70E. To reinforce the importance of safe work practices, we will be raffling off a free set of flame retardant clothes at the conclusion of every union meeting, beginning tonight.

We had over 4,500 people attend our family picnic. It was great to see the park filled with kids wearing Local 5 tee shirts.

We broke a record at our annual tool sale. Hopefully, you were able to get a pair of Local Union No. 5 edition Klein side cutters. If not, they will be available for purchase at the JATC office.

We are asking everyone to sign a petition for a Tea Party gubernatorial candidate. We are not endorsing this candidate but feel if he runs that he will detract from Tom Corbett's vote, which benefits our candidate Dan Onorato.

I would like to congratulate tonight's years of service pin recipients. It is great to see you and thanks for all you have done for the Local Union.