



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS **LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – DECEMBER 2011**

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

From the Staff of Local 953

Dale Bob Brady Marty

Don and Connie

Brothers and Sisters,

The Holidays are here! Another challenging year has come and gone already. Looking back we started 2011 wrapping up our contract negotiations, only to find out that our newly elected governor had set his sights on public employees and their right to collectively bargain labor contracts. This turn of events resulted in several weeks of protesting in Madison during the coldest days of winter. That change in law led to the recall of several state senators earlier in the year, which has led to the long awaited recall of the Governor and Lt. Governor. The gathering of signatures is going on in full force throughout the State of Wisconsin to recall the Governor, as it should be! I know that there are several of our 953 members out there collecting recall signatures on their own time and dime, **THANK YOU!** Thank you for doing the right thing! Standing up for what you believe in, the right to have a voice in your workplace! If you haven't already signed a recall petition, make it a point to do so soon!

There is one thing that you can rest assured on....IBEW, Local Union 953, "YOUR UNION" will continue to fight for the rights of all Union Members to ensure that you have a voice in your workplace!

Have a very Merry Christmas and may God Bless us all!

In Solidarity,

Dale J. Blank

Business Manager/Financial Secretary

GO PACKERS!!

To My Brothers and Sisters,

Ah, here we are again, another year has just passed or should I say, flashed before our eyes! We find ourselves asking, "Where did the time go?" Well, with Christmas almost here again, I thought that rather than beat the same old drum, I would switch gears and share some personal thoughts regarding what the Christmas Holiday means to me. I believe that the real spirit of Christmas transcends the lights and garland, as well as the commercialism that has all but infected this holiday. To me, Christmas is about giving. It's about sharing the message of peace and love, as well as the love of God, with my family and others. But most importantly, it is a time to realize that, on at least one day a year, we are here for something other than ourselves.

Therefore, in closing, please accept and allow me to extend my very best to each and every one of you and wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Yours in Solidarity,

Robert J. Lahti
Asst. Business Manager

P.S. Please try to buy products made in the USA.....Well, one beat of the drum can't hurt!!!

Happy Holidays!

The holidays are a great time of year to put our differences aside and reflect on the good things in life. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

A special thanks to all people who have assisted me in carrying out my duties here at the Union and to all the Apprentices that have completed their training "Congratulations"!

Let's make it a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

In Solidarity,

Brady Weiss
Asst. Business Manager

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have had many challenges the past year and they will continue throughout the next year and possibly beyond. To confront the challenges that lie ahead (whether they are economic, political or personal) will take courage, hard work, strong beliefs, and **Solidarity!**

A couple of public sector employers have shared with us what they will be taking away from their employees starting in January. Besides the employee's contributing half of the contribution rate to the defined benefit pensions, some of the takeaways will be the following: three floating holidays gone, no more overtime after eight hours (only after 40), sick leave payout at retirement cut nearly in half, higher health insurance deductibles, and one employer is not going to offer health insurance. These takeaways will only get worse as times goes on. Every time there is a budget problem, employers will fix their problems by taking away from the workers because this is the only thing they will be able to control. This is what we are or will be facing if we just sit back and do nothing. This is a great challenge and we must stand up and unite to confront it. If we don't, we will lose what we and generations before us have fought to achieve for working families.

I apologize for preaching again, but these are very challenging times and only **WE** can influence the outcome. I cannot stress enough, the need for all of our members to get involved!

I would like to thank all of the stewards and committee members for your dedication and assistance. What you do does not go unnoticed and is very much appreciated!

During this Holiday Season, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and the best of Health. Enjoy the time with your families and be safe!

In Solidarity,

Martin D. Sandberg
Asst. Business Manager
