



**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**  
**LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – DECEMBER 2013**

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

From the Staff of Local 953

Dale Bob Brady Marty  
Don Connie & Grace

Hello Brothers and Sisters:

Once again, the Holiday Season is here! It is amazing how fast a year goes by. Before we know it, it will be spring!

A huge topic at the negotiating table this year was and is the Affordable Care Act and what effect, if any, will this law have on our existing health care plans. First, if you or someone you know does not have an existing health insurance plan they must purchase a plan through the health insurance exchanges by spring of 2014 or be subjected to fines and penalties by the government at income tax time. There are a couple of changes starting January 1, 2014, that you may notice in your health insurance plan. There will no longer be a yearly cap on how much money the insurance company may have to provide for your insurance needs. Deductibles will now count towards your out-of-pocket maximums. It is still up in the air as to whether or not the Affordable Care Act will help to lower insurance costs, time will only give us that answer.

I recently testified at the E.P.A. (Environmental Protection Agency) hearing held in Chicago, Illinois, addressing carbon capture storage for existing coal fired power plants. First of all, let me say I want clean air as much as anybody else, but it must be obtained in a fashion that is feasible, practical and affordable. The equipment and technology needed to capture carbon dioxide the way the EPA wants does not yet exist. The costs to do this are extremely high. Several power companies across the United States are left with no option but to shut down their old coal fired power plants, resulting in the loss of good paying jobs for many of our own IBEW members.

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*Continued Message from Dale Blank*

Secondly, the coal companies will continue to mine the coal and most likely sell it overseas to countries that do not have the pollution rules in place like the United States. The chances of green house gas increasing goes up under this scenario. We need to keep pressure on the EPA to establish reasonable effective rules.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Stay Safe - Remember the Designated Driver!

Yours in Solidarity,

Dale Blank, Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary

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Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Once again, 'Old Man Winter' and the Holiday Season are among us and 2013 is winding down!

As many of you are aware, Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) recently announced the plant closing for Alma 4 & 5, which will occur somewhere between June of 2014 and February of 2015. While these tough decisions are made for business reasons, they are made by Management and not by the Union. We requested to bargain over the effects of the closure and we are in current discussions with DPC on these issues. It is in both parties interest to retain as many employees as possible and attempt to minimize the negative effects of this closure. We will also be working on a plant closure agreement for the members that work at the LACBWR facility. We are consulting with our attorney and be assured that the Union is working for you.

Whether it is a plant closing announcement or some other issue, everyone deals with these

pressures in different ways. Remember this when you interact with other members. The most important thing we can all do is to go home safe at the end of the work day.

I wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season and a great 2014!

In Solidarity,

Martin Sandberg  
Asst. Business Manager

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I would like to express my thanks to the many brothers and sisters who have supported the efforts of your Union over the past year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Solidarity and the Christmas Spirit,

Robert J. Lahti, Asst. Business Manager

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