



# Watt's Up ?!!!!



## IBEW Local 890's Newsletter



### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

*To all members of Local 890,*

Dear Local 890 Members,

Greetings to all our hardworking and dedicated members! As we have finished the end of this year, we have exciting updates and important information to share with you in this quarter's newsletter. With the updated computers and server we have installed, we are able to start some of our online updates! We are happy to announce that our online dues payment portal is now operational. This offer comes to you via a website or mobile app for your google or apple app store. We have added a few items to our store including a new hooded sweatshirt design and hi-vis long sleeve shirts. We have also designed challenge coins that have been approved and are available at your union hall. We have created a few new classes and have begun to revamp some old ones to get them current. We are still adding more labs and classes that will be available starting this spring with more to continue into next fall. We are excited to get our training center to a place where we can add more hands-on labs for our apprentices to learn, and our JW to brush up on their skills and receive CEU's. In updating some finances and signatures I have found we had money spread out in multiple low yield CD's, so we have consolidated our funds to fewer locations. We have also decided to move some funds into the market with some federally insured investments. We plan to make over \$50,000 in 2024 to continue to help our local grow.

A quick note on some items still in the works are website, reoccurring dues payments, retirement breakfasts, and newsletter updates. We are currently working on the template and build options for the new website with lots of features. Along with the online webinars and retirement educational links, we will have an in-person class and Q&A with WEEBF, PIMCO, and Empower. Come and catch up with old friends and new with the retiree club who is currently meeting for breakfast the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Eagle Inn in Janesville. Lastly, we plan on sending out quarterly newsletters to keep you informed on meeting updates and what is going on in your local!

In solidarity,  
 Ben Myers  
 Business Manager  
 IBEW Local 890

#### LOCAL 890 OFFICERS

- Ben Myers, Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary
- Robert Walters, President
- Alex Brellenthin, Vice President
- Nate Kalas, Treasurer
- Greg Phillips, Exec. Board
- John Bennett, Exec. Board
- Shawn Carlson, Exec. Board
- Nick Bell, Exec. Board
- Greg Humphrey, Exec. Board
- Dan Reuter, Exec. Board
- Rob Rygula, Exam Board
- Jason Trumpy, Exam Board
- Garrik Harwick, Business Agent/  
Recording Secretary

#### Inside this Issue:

Business Manager Report.....1  
 Retirement Info.....2  
 Online Dues.....2  
 Bylaw Language Change.....3  
 Organizer Report.....4  
 Christmas Party.....5  
 Announcements.....5  
 Quote of the Month.....6  
 Calendar.....6

## Retirement

Brothers and Sisters,

Local 890 will be hosting an in-person seminar about our State Retirement Plan. This seminar will host Bonnie, the plan administrator, to answer any questions you may have about your upcoming retirement or how our plan operates. We have also invited a representative from both PIMCO and EMPOWER to discuss their offerings into retirement. This will be a great class for those approaching retirement or any member just looking to learn more about your plan. Duane and Bonnie will address the Plan rules, early and normal retirement, 1x distributions, death benefits, 401(k) etc...We expect this to be at least 1 ½ hours -2 hours. Local 890 will host Wednesday March 27th, 2024 at the hall @5:00pm. Food will be provided.



### *Online Dues are Here!*

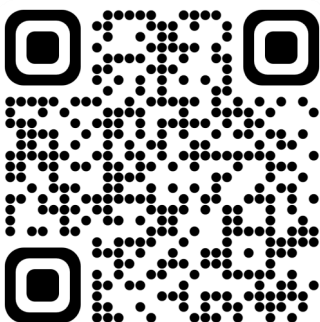
Online Dues are now available to pay on your smartphone or computer via our app or website link. Below are QR codes for the google app store and apple app store to download the LaborPower (NOT LaborPower Mobile) app. Your **username is your card number**, and your **password is your last name (no caps) and last 4 digits of your social security number**. You will be prompted to change your password upon sign in. With this app you will be able to pay ahead up to 1.5 years of dues, as well as keep up on Death Benefits. For those of you not interested in downloading the App, please use this link to pay online: [www.ibew890.workingsystems.com](http://www.ibew890.workingsystems.com).

Example Login: John Smith- IBEW Card #8755295- S.S. #- xxx-xx-0890

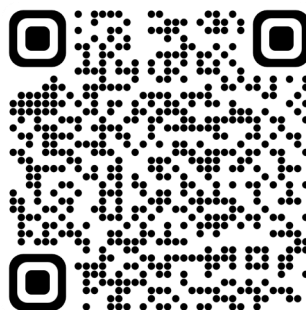
Username: 8755295

Password: smith0890

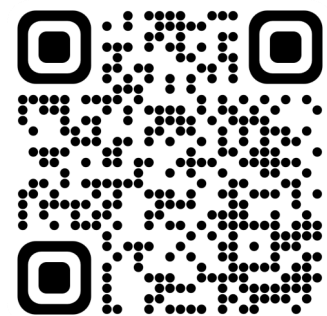
Apple App Store



Google Play Store



Direct Web Link



## Bylaw Language Change

Last quarter Local 890 had an audit from the International Office. We found there were a few items to be addressed that we are currently working through. One of these items was changes to our Local Bylaws. Some items were brought to the attention of the members and voted on but not submitted to the International Office for approval. The following Bylaw changes were read at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, and will be read again and voted on at the February meeting. The following adds and language changes are:

**Bylaw language changes:**

ADD:

**Article VII**

*“Sec. 7. Officers and board members aiding in the local’s quarterly financial audit shall receive the equivalent of 2 hours pay at the current Journeyman’s straight time hourly rate.”*

Amend language:

**Article VII**

**From**

*“(b) The Business Manager and assistants shall have two weeks’ vacation annually (calendar year), and holidays to include New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, one half day for New Years Eve, Christmas Eve and Good Friday.”*

**To**

*“Sec. 1. (b) The Business Manager and assistants shall have two weeks’ vacation annually (calendar year) that need to be used in the calendar year and not subject to rollover or pay out. Paid holidays will include New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, The day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, one half day for New Year’s Eve, Christmas Eve, and Good Friday.”*

**Article XIV**

**From**

*“Sec. 1. The Local Union’s building and other property, located at 17 South River Street, Janesville, WI 53548, shall be owned by and in the name of IBEW Local Union No. 890.”*

**To**

*“Sec. 1. The Local Union’s building and other property, located at 1900 Reuther Way, Janesville, WI 53546, shall be owned by and in the name of IBEW Local Union no. 890.”*

**Article XIV title:**

**From**

**Local Union 890, IBEW, Building Corporation**

**To**

**Local Union 890 – IBEW**



*S  
e  
r  
v  
i  
c  
e  
  
P  
i  
n  
s*

## Organizer Report

Dear brothers and sisters,

It was a busy year for organizing in the local and our state. Every month, organizers from around the state met in an IBEW local to focus efforts on local recruitment. The state organizers visited over 4,000 non-union residences in 2023. This coordination has helped Local 890 and our sister locals grow to keep up with demand.

Here in IBEW Local 890, we have had a net growth of 6% in our membership over the past year. This surpasses the IO benchmark of 4%. We are determined to meet the needs of our local jurisdiction far into the future. We had a few members earn the organizing incentive last year by referring licensed journeyman electrical workers to us. The incentive gives the member and the referred new member \$500 each after 6 months of membership, and another \$500 each after 1 year.

As we look to the future, we will be attending more school and community career fairs to show the public that the trades provide a great future. We are adding more technology to our displays to draw in potential candidates. Through funding from the LMCC, we were able to purchase (2) VR headsets. These headsets have an electrical troubleshooting demo installed that shows students a glimpse of what an electrician does on a daily basis. We are excited to provide a path to financial and career success through our trade without having to attend a 4-year college.

Local 890 sent (2) members to COMET Train-the-Trainer class in October. COMET training helps members develop skills to feel comfortable talking to non-union electricians about membership. Look for COMET class offerings in the near future at the hall.

Lastly, IBEW Local 890 will be hosting an organizer blitz this year. We would love to have member participation in this event. Be on the lookout for more information after the first of the year. Thank you all for your support!

In Solidarity,

Garrik Harwick

### Billie's Blurb:

As this is our busiest time of year for dues payments, I want to thank all the members for their patience, and I appreciate your kindness. For the members that come in to see me, don't forget to grab your chocolate from my jar!

"Chocolate is always the answer... Who cares what the question is?"

Billie's Joke of the day – What's Forrest Gump's password?

1FORREST1

### Wage Calculator

Show your non-union neighbors  
what they are missing!





# Annual Christmas Party



Dear Members,

Just a quick reminder to all of you that our holiday party is approaching, the date is February 3rd, 2024 from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Place, Janesville. This is a wonderful opportunity for the members of Local 890 and their families to not only share and enjoy a great meal together but also an opportunity to see those other members that we don't get to see that often. Remember that Santa will be there giving out gifts to the children and a new balloon artist will be tying up balloons for all those that want. Please call the office and give us your information so that we can get you on the list.

**Sign up by Friday, January 26th for the food count and attendance required.** Hope to see you there!

## Announcements

- Next union meeting is: Thursday, February 1st at 6:00 pm at Hall.
- Death Benefit #151
- 2024 Monthly Dues- \$46.02—Quarterly- \$138.06—Annual \$552.24
- Watch for the latest news and work updates concerning Local 890 on our website ([www.ibew890.org](http://www.ibew890.org)) and our FaceBook page (IBEW Local 890).
- Retiree Breakfast is on the 1st Tuesday of every month at Eagle Inn, Janesville, WI. Please contact Leo for any questions or updates (608-931-2588).

### **Quote of the Month**

What is the recipe for successful achievement? To my mind there are just four essential ingredients: Choose a career you love, give it the best there is in you, seize your opportunities, and be a member of the team.

Benjamin Fairless

---

IBEW Local 890  
 1900 Reuther Way  
 Janesville, WI 53546  
 Phone: (608) 752-0321  
 Fax: (608) 752-1262  
 www.ibew890.org




---

LET US KNOW YOUR IDEAS.  
 CALL OR EMAIL US.

---

**Inside this Issue:**

Business Manager Report.....1  
 Retirement Info.....2  
 Online Dues.....2  
 Bylaw Language Change.....3  
 Organizer Report.....4  
 Christmas Party.....5  
 Announcements.....5  
 Quote of the Month.....5  
 Calendar.....6

# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Union Meeting	5	6
7	8	9 A&T Meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 E-Board Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 Christmas Party