



# Watt's Up ?!!!!



## IBEW Local 890's Newsletter



### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

*To all members of Local 890,*

To all members of Local 890, as I've said in the past, Local 890 would only publish a newsletter when there was news worthy of publishing. That is the case with this newsletter. There are currently a few events coming up in the near future that each and every one of you need to know about. First and foremost, the upcoming elections for officers of Local 890. The coordination of the upcoming election shall be the same with nominations in May and an election in June. The process we will use shall be the same as the elections held in 2020 when Covid-19 prevented us from meeting in person to nominate members, or even cast a ballot for members. We did nominations by email or mail, and we voted for the new officers strictly by mail. The increase in participation was so great that a new by-law was proposed and adopted that all elections would be held this way to give more people an opportunity to vote. The BIG change in the election process this time around is that it will be the first time in the last six election cycles, or 18 years, that I will not be on the ballot. It's time for some of you younger members to get involved and lead this great Local Union into the future.

We also have proposed increases coming to Health and Welfare. We were asked as trustees to recently take a vote on some increases, I voted no because there was only one option and that was to increase the cost to you the members. There were no other options as far as changes to the plan that could possibly save members money or reduce the increase proposed. I still believe that there could be value with us joining our statewide health and welfare plan with the National Family Medical Care Plan. Many of the parameters and players within the National Family Medical Care Plan are the same; they use Blue Cross and they also use Save RX. The network would be the same also. The only downside is there would be changes to how much we could save in the dollar bank but what we couldn't save would go back to the check. The main difference is that they have in excess of 110,000 participants. So, if we take our roughly 5,000 participants and add it to theirs it should be better for all of us. I just think that it's a worthwhile option to get a quote and compare rather to just propose throwing money at the problem like we have in the past.

There are also some events coming up that will help educate members on how to use the WEEBF website, things like how to use the site when it comes to filing EOBs or stuff like that or simply just checking your work hours reported. There will also be an online meeting about our retirement plan and some of the features like moving funds around. You will find more info concerning these events later in this newsletter. Also, there will be an event called Health Gauge. This event will be right here at the Local 890 hall and members will be in and out in a short time. The purpose of this is to check a person's blood for illnesses that don't physically show up until it is almost to late. They can detect and predict illnesses just by taking and testing a sample of your blood. We will keep you informed so that all can participate in this event to possibly prevent a bad health crisis.

Sincerely,

Panch

Leo Sokolik

#### LOCAL 890 OFFICERS

- Leo "Pancho" Sokolik, Business Manager/ Financial Secretary
- Ben Myers, Referral Agent / Organizer
- Garrik Harwick, Organizer
- Robert Walters, President
- William Dunn, Treasurer
- Greg Phillips, Recording Secretary
- Beau Bennett Exec. Board
- Craig Ibeling, Exec. Board
- Mike Duda, Exec. Board
- Greg Humphrey, Exec. Board
- Brad Meglic, Exec. Board
- Nate Kalas, Exec. Board
- Tim Adams, Exam Board

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## Education Seminars

Dear Members of Local 890,

We will be holding (2) Virtual Educational Seminars for the H&W and the State Retirement Plan. A Microsoft Teams link will be sent via email before the seminar with instructions on how to join, watch, and interact with the host. Local 890 will be open to anyone who does not have computer access or would like to attend this zoom session in a group. Please call the office at (608) 752-0321 to RSVP if you intend to join us at your hall!

The two dates for the Health and Welfare Seminar are **April 18<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**—start time **5:00 pm**. This seminar will go over LiveHealthOnline, Sword Health, Smoking Cessation, Employee Assistance Program, Website review, flex filing demo from website and of course the Plans H&W benefits presented by Duane and Bonnie. We expect this to be at least 1 ½ hours – 2 hours.

**Local 890 will host Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> at the hall @5:00pm.**

The 2 dates for the State Retirement Plan are **April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023** – start time **5:00 pm** – This seminar would start with Empower followed by a PIMCO Representative and lastly, Duane and Bonnie to address the Plan rules, early and normal retirement, 1x distributions, death benefits, 401(k) etc... We expect this to also be at least 1 ½ hours -2 hours.

**Local 890 will host Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the hall @5:00pm.**



## Health Gauge Health Fair

Health Gauge has been chosen by The Wisconsin Electrical Employees Health and Welfare Plan to coordinate our 2023 health fair. Health Gauge has provided mobile health screening services for over 20 years. Since they have started working with Union Health and Welfare plans, H.G. understands our commitment and the importance of health and safety for our members and their families. Health Gauge's health fair includes identifying chronic diseases and preventing unforeseen illnesses to protect our members and their families. Not only does this save lives and keep unions strong, it also helps keep health cost down and puts more money in the member's pocket.

Services include:

- Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)
- Peripheral Arterial Disease (ABI)
- Biometric Screening and bloodwork
- Prostate Specific Antigen – PSA (Men 40+)
- Thyroid Stimulating Hormone – TSH (Female 18+)

Health Gauge will be reaching out to you directly with information on a date for your screening. Be on the lookout for early summer. We look forward to partnering with Health Gauge to coordinate the 2023 health fair!

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS FOR IBEW LOCAL UNION 890

### The election will be conducted by mail.

The nominations for officers of Local 890 shall be conducted by email or in-person at the May 4th Union Meeting, and nominations shall be accepted via email until 4:00 pm on May 4, 2023. Nominations shall be sent to the following mailing email address:

[Electionjudge@ibew890.org](mailto:Electionjudge@ibew890.org)

You may nominate yourself for any office or for convention delegate. After the close of nominations any member nominated for an office, will be contacted by the Election Judge and at that time must provide a written or emailed statement indicating willingness to accept the nomination. No member may be a candidate for more than one office.

Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate.

Nominations will proceed in the order of offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years:

**President Vice President**

**Recording Secretary Treasurer**

**Business Manager/ Financial Secretary/Delegate to the International Convention Executive Board (6 positions)**

**Examining Board (3 positions)**

Additionally, nominations will be held for 1 delegate to the International Convention.

The Business Manager shall be a candidate for convention delegate contingent with the office as stated in Article VIII, Section 3 of the local union bylaws. This leaves 1 delegate position open to nominations for the at-large election. No member nominated for office of Business Manager may be nominated for the at-large delegate position.

To qualify to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 890. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the 2 years preceding the nominations. Per the Local Union Bylaws, Article III, Section 8 (e) no apprentice shall be eligible to hold office in the Local Union.

An election judge and tellers have been appointed by the Local 890 President. None of these may be a candidate for any office.

The election shall be conducted by mail ballot, and ballots shall be counted beginning at 8:00 am on June 1, 2023. All members in good standing shall be mailed a ballot not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the above-specified date. Ballots received after the close of business on May 31, 2023 will not be counted.

In you do not receive a ballot in the mail by May 22, 2023 please contact the election judge immediately at

[electionjudge@ibew890.org](mailto:electionjudge@ibew890.org) and request a replacement ballot.

In the event a run-off election is required, same shall be held on June 22, 2023. The same rules shall apply to the run-off election as were applicable to the regular election. Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive same for the run-off.

All officers shall be installed and begin their 3-year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on July 6, 2023.

Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place and during the counting of the ballots. Observers may not interfere with the orderly procedure of the election. There shall be no campaigning inside the building at the polling place. Signs and literature are also forbidden.

Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted must present their protest to the election judge prior to the certification of the election results. Further, protests of the election may be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the district within 30 days following the election.

The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW.

In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor.

## Retire, Retire, Retire

When should I retire? That is a question that everybody at some point in their working career will have to ask themselves. When is the right time to retire? This is a question that I began asking myself a couple of years ago and also asking others who had recently retired or who were contemplating retirement. The most common answer seemed to be from most everyone that I myself would be the only person that could make that decision and that I would know when it was time. Well as I said in my opening article in this newsletter I will not be on this upcoming ballot for elections. It is time for me to retire. I just wanted to drop a line and tell you the membership of local 890 what an honor and a privilege it has been for these past 18 years to serve as your business manager.

I never in my wildest imagination thought that 37 years ago when I was so desperate for a job, that I called one of my friends' dads who happened to be an electrical contractor to ask him if he had any ditches to dig or maybe to even clean the shop that I would be retiring from the greatest Union and the greatest local in the electrical union. Well here I am and that is exactly what I'm doing I'm trying to express my gratitude and appreciation for these last 37 years. My whole career has been extremely gratifying and rewarding but it is the last 18 of those years that I'm addressing to all of you right now. I never imagined that half of my working life would be spent representing the members of IBEW Local Union 890 in an office capacity.

I have always been a person who was more comfortable with physical type work and an office job was not in the plans for sure. I can tell you for sure I would not trade these past 18 years of experience for anything in the world. I have met some of the most amazing people possible. There are so many people I should and could thank but that would take this whole newsletter. So, I just wanted to make sure that I thank the membership of Local 890. Thank you for putting your faith and trust into a guy who had no idea what he was doing in the beginning. I hope I have done the job you all elected me to do and represented each and every one of you with the honor and dignity you all deserve. I have a few months to go before it is official so, please give me a call or stop by and say hello.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Leo "Pancho" Sokolik



## Organizer Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's been a busy start to the year for our organizing team. We have conducted over 40 job site visits and met with many non-union electricians in our local. Our team continues to utilize the new wage calculator QR code to show potential members what they are missing out on. Our paystub flyers have been a success and we have received positive feedback from leaving them at the homes of non-union electricians.. We continue to make top-down visits with our local non-union shops to educate them on the benefits of membership.

We continue to pound the pavement and have knocked on over 100 doors in our local alone. Through our work with sister locals, we have knocked on 432 doors in WI so far this year. Our local has added over 40 members since July of 2022. It averages out to just over one member per week. We have already exceeded the I.O. benchmark of a 4% increase in membership for the year. But we are not done yet. With the upcoming work in our local we will need more manpower to fill calls and help our contractors bid work, so don't forget about our organizing incentive when talking with potential members!

In Solidarity,

Garrik Harwick and Ben Myers

## DUES DUDS LIST

3 mos	JED	RICKELS	3 mos	ROBERT	RICHARDS	3 mos	TIM	GRAFFIN
3 mos	ANDREW	GOIKE	3 mos	JACOB	SCHMALFELDT	3 mos	BRUCE	HADY
3 mos	JAMES	STIETZ	3 mos	JAMES	LONG	3 mos	ARTHUR	TUCKER
3 mos	KOLTON	COLCORD	3 mos	CRAIG	HADY	3 mos	SPENCER	BISHOP
3 mos	TYLER	KERSTEN	3 mos	JON	HILDEN	3 mos	BRIAN	KLINE
3 mos	MICHAEL	RANSON	3 mos	DONALD	DYE	4 mos	HEATH	MANDEL
3 mos	JOHN	HAUSER	3 mos	THOMAS	LINCOLN	4 mos	MATTHEW	SCHWARZ
3 mos	RODNEY	SKATTUM	3 mos	STEVEN	DOLL	4 mos	ELI	KOHL
3 mos	NICOLE	MEREDITH	3 mos	BRIAN	LOERTSCHER	5 mos	ROBERT	SCHROEDER
3 mos	KYLE	URBAN	3 mos	GREGORY	GRAMINS	5 mos	ROBERT	CAGNEY
3 mos	MICHAEL	MOREHART	3 mos	CHRIS	TALLMAN	5 mos	JOHN	WALSH
3 mos	BRADLEY	BIRKHOLZ	3 mos	BRANDON	CALBERT	5 mos	CODY	SCHREINER
3 mos	MATTHEW	HELMER	3 mos	JACOB	CURRY	5 mos	STEVEN	WILDES
3 mos	GARY	NIARHOS	3 mos	ROBERT	EBBERS	5 mos	LOGAIN	PALAZZOLO
3 mos	BEN	HOMMEN	3 mos	NOAH	O'DAIR	5 mos	CAYDEN	SCHULTZ- WILLIAMS
3 mos	JORDAN	SPRADLIN	3 mos	TYLOR	BONESTELL	5 mos	CONNOR	DUNHAM
3 mos	TIMOTHY	KENYON	3 mos	CHAD	BECKER	6 mos	JOSEPH	NOYCE
3 mos	NATHAN	NAJDOWSKI	3 mos	FRITZ	WENGER	7 mos	NATHAN	SCHREINER
3 mos	NICHOLAS	UPDIKE	3 mos	JEREMY	HENDRICKSON	7 mos	MARK	THOMPSON
3 mos	DANIEL	HERNANDEZ	3 mos	JON	ONSGARD			

# Announcements



- Next union meeting is: Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 pm at the Hall.
- Death Benefit #147
- 2023 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).



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




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LET US KNOW YOUR IDEAS.  
 CALL OR EMAIL US.

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# MARCH 2023



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

			1	2 RENEW Comm. Union Meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 A & T Meeting	15	16 E-Board Meeting	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	