

Kelepona Leo

IBEW Local Union 1357



“an informational newsletter published quarterly for the direct benefit of our members, for solidarity, security and family – today and tomorrow”

Business Manager's Message

After negotiating for approximately 3 months, IBEW Local Union 1357 and Hawaiian Telcom have agreed to a new 3-year contract. With the intervention of Federal Mediator Ken Kawamoto, CEO Eric Yeaman, Senior Vice President & General Counsel John Komeiji, and Vice President of Human Resources William Chung, we were able to resolve the final bargaining obstacles to reach a fair settlement. We will be mailing ratification ballots to members employed by Hawaiian Telcom on the afternoon of September 22. The ballots must be in the repository by October 3. The negotiating team will count the votes on October 4. Members have been working on a day by day extension since the contract expired on August 31st. The negotiating team strongly recommends a vote in favor of ratification.

Meanwhile, our Unit 10 members on Saipan are busy helping to grow the Company and the Unit. Directory Services/411 is fairing well, and the Company will be looking to launch several new products on Guam and Saipan. This has meant busy schedules for everyone, which has made it difficult to find the right day and time to hold Unit membership meetings. However, Chairman Ray Tenorio and the Executive Committee will be trying to



regenerate participation in Union activities by moving our membership meetings to Chalan Laulau and Susupe. We encourage all of our members to attend as we try to advance the Labor Movement in the CNMI. We are still working with Shirley Dotts on an Incentive Program for our members, and as soon as bargaining is done at Hawaiian Telcom, we will be heading down to meet with our Unit 10 members.

With contract negotiations number one on our minds, there was little time this year to devote to an all-out Labor Day celebration. So, we chose instead to do something tried and true, and something we knew would benefit all of our members, young and old, and their children. IBEW Local 1357 held its Scholarship Golf Tournament fundraiser at the Makaha West Course over the Labor Day weekend, and with over a hundred and thirty golfers participating, President Ted Furukado and his com-

mittee did an excellent job of raising monies, while providing a good value for the players. I'd like to thank the staff, the Executive Board, their families and all the volunteers and sponsors who helped to make this tournament such a great success. Also, I would like to extend a special *Mahalo* to Tournament Co-Chairs Kimi Koge and Thomas Grogan for their hard work and dedication in putting this event together.

As we celebrated Labor Day, we were reminded of the many things that have been fought for and won in previous negotiations that give quality and comfort to our lives today: Paid Holidays, Paid Sick Leave, Paid Vacation, 40-hour workweeks, Dignity and Fairness, Medical Plan, Pensions, etc. Let's thank those who have come before us and who have helped to advance the Labor Movement here in Hawaii and within IBEW 1357, for it is they who fought the hard fight and endured long hours of bargaining and walking the line so that we and our families could enjoy the benefits we have today.

Finally, with so many issues attached to Labor, I would be derelict in my duties if I did not reflect on the 2008 elections that will be upon us shortly. Under the cur-

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Contributing Editors:

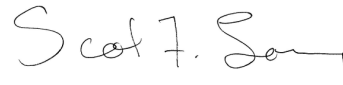
Summer Balocan, Ted Furukado, Andie Kahakui, Julie Kaupu, Nadine Kaneakua Long and Scot Long

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rent Republican administration, we have gone through soaring gas prices, market investments have plummeted, global warming continues and this administration continues to outsource our jobs. At risk, also, is the appointment of Supreme Court Justices and FCC commissioners, as well as Labor Board members. Working families have suffered tremendous losses under Republican rule. This year we have perhaps the best chance we've had in a long time to take back the White House and return our nation to a worker-friendly Democratic administration. This year's Primary Election will be held on September 20th, and the General Election on November 4th. Please take the time to

vote, and use the enclosed endorsement list as your guide to those candidates who have shown by their background and/or record that they share our heart and concern for working people throughout Hawaii and the nation. (*NOTE: If you have any questions regarding elections and/or PAC activities, please feel free to contact Local Union Registrar Andie Kahakui c/o the Union Office.*)

Aloha and Be Well,



Scotty

TOUGH TIMES

While there's a break in the negotiations, just wanted to tell our members the negotiations team has been working very hard on settling the contract.

We have tentative agreement on our new contract, which has been quite an experience dealing with a third party negotiator for the Company. Some of you may know that the company has employed the services of the Hawaii Employers Council to negotiate our contract, and it's been a learning process due to their style of bargaining. Please understand that your Union has been steady and on course to reach a settlement as soon as possible. We understand the urgency that some of you have expressed and can only tell you we've done the best we can with the hand we were dealt. We are in the process of rolling out the details of the new CBA, and we're asking all of you to continue the outstanding work you've all been doing during these tough times. Stay focused, work safe and help one another. With employees retiring, we need to maintain the business knowing all too well it'll be with fewer employees. We're still moving right along and will give you more when we're able to.



What seemed like an eternity has come to a head and the recent personnel changes are a new beginning. Over the last three (3) years we've seen some incredibly questionable decisions being made, and the employees, as well as the customers, have suffered for it. The changes have been welcomed, thus far, and we as employees of Hawaiian Telcom need to maintain our focus on the job at hand and bring this company back from the gloom. We're not out of the woods yet, so don't lose focus. Stay the course.

On a much lighter note, our golf tournament has been a great success, thanks to the efforts of your Scholarship Committee, the Union Staff and the Executive Board. We were fortunate to have the many great sponsors for the tournament, the likes of Hawaiian Tel FCU, Pac Blu, PTI (Pacific Telecommunications Inc., Saipan), Scarborough Alliance. With these sponsors' help, we were able to offer some great prizes, like a new motorcycle, cash prize of \$10,000, both if a "hole in one" was made. There was a total of 136 participants (no one made a "hole in one") with a luncheon to follow. Lots of fun, fellowship, food and live entertainment. All in all, we've totaled over \$13,000 for the scholarship fund. Thanks to all who participated, both members and non-members.

Mahalo!



Ted Furukado
President

IN MEMORIAM

KOJI M. MINAMI

MARCH 25, 1945 – SEPTEMBER 4, 2008



On the afternoon of September 4, 2008, IBEW Local Union 1357 lost one of its true and loyal trade unionists, Koji M. Minami.

Koji was born in rural Arkansas where his parents and older siblings were interned in a relocation camp as a result of World War II. At the end of the war, the family located to Colorado, and eventually back to California. After graduating high school in 1963, Koji enlisted in the Air Force and served four years. After his tenure in the military, Koji remained in Hawaii and applied to work at then Hawaiian Telephone Company. He was hired on August 18, 1967 as a Cable Splicer on Oahu. He married Carol in 1968 and then transferred to Hilo where he remained for the rest of his telephone company career until retirement on March 31, 2000.

Koji was initiated into the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on May 1, 1968. He served as President of Local 1357 from 1992 to 1998 and was the Hawaii Island Executive Board Member from 1977 to 1980. Serving on the Executive Board allowed him to be a delegate to the 1996 International Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as well as delegate to the Hawaii State Association of Electrical Workers from 1997 to 1980. He also served as a member of the Local's negotiating committee in 1988.

On the island, Koji served as Chairman of Unit 3-Hilo from 1974 to 1977, 1982 to 1988, and from 1991 to 2000. He was Vice Chairman of the Unit also between the years of 1973 – 1974.

One of the most important roles Koji took on was that of Chief Shop Steward. He served in that capacity from 1974 to 1977, from 1982 to 1988, and from 1991 until his retirement in March 2000. It was a role that he took very, very seriously. He could recite Articles in the Collective Bargaining Agreement and knew intent of language. He was willing to teach any member contract -- all they had to do was ask. There were two things in his life that he was very passionate about: 1) Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior, and 2) the right to be a Union member.

Until the day he died, Koji remained a member of Local 1357. His wife Carol, son Richard, son Kelly and daughter-in-law Nikki and their sons Nicolaus and Nathan survive him. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family, and our gratitude for sharing Koji with us during his lifetime.

Sheraton Waikiki Special For IBEW Local Union 1357 Members

We are glad to announce a special promotion made available to our membership.

Get an oceanfront upgrade, free parking for 1 car, 25% off meals at select outlets and 2PM check-in and check-out for just \$159 per night.

For reservations call 921-4676 and mention "IBEWVIP".

Special promotion is based upon availability, offer valid thru 12/25/2008.

International Per Capita Increase

Effective January 2009, per capita rates will increase by \$1.00.

"A" Members

\$12.00 Monthly Dues

\$13.00 PBF Contribution

\$25.00 Monthly Total

"BA" Members

12.00 Monthly Dues

*The increase will be on your pay period #26 pay check, pay date 12/26/2008 - PTI & Hawaiian Telcom.

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Electrical Workers**
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**Non-Profit
Organization**
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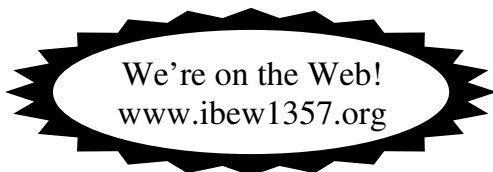
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Andie Kahakui	ext. 225
Kimi Koge	ext. 226
IBEW HOTLINE	ext. 400



Unit Meeting Schedules

Unit 1 - Honolulu

3rd Monday
6:00 PM
IBEW LU 1260 Meeting Hall
2305 S. Beretania Street

Unit 2 - Maui

3rd Wednesday
5:00 PM
Kupau Hall
330 Hookahi Street

Unit 3 - Hilo

4th Friday
5:00 PM
HELCO Union Hall
535 Oceanview Drive

Unit 4 - Kauai

4th Tuesday
5:00 PM
ILWU HALL
4154 Hardy Street
Lihue

Unit 5 - Kona

3rd Tuesday
4:30 PM
Old Kona Airport Large Pavilion

Unit 6 - Kamuela

3rd Wednesday
5:00 PM
Location to be announced

Unit 7 - Molokai

3rd Thursday
12 Noon
Location to be announced

Unit 8 - Windward, Oahu

3rd Thursday
6:30 PM
Makule Clubhouse Keaahala Rd.
across from Kaneohe Playground

Unit 9 - Leeward, Oahu

3rd Monday
6:30 PM
Manana Elementary School,
Multi-Purpose Dining Room

Unit 10 - Saipan

3rd Sunday
12 NOON
Location to be announced

