

BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT

April 6, 2018

Aloha sisters and brothers,

The IBEW's Broadcast, Manufacturing and Telecommunications conference was held last month in San Diego. It was great to see the other Business Managers in our industry and share notes with them on how things are going in the different regions of the country. Many of their locals are experiencing the same things that we here in Hawaii have been experiencing with Hawaiian Telcom over the years: a workforce that has been cut too thin, merger announcements, inexperienced managers and their poor decisions, and the challenges of an industry with technology that continues to evolve exponentially year after year. There are a few locals who are currently in contract negotiations with Frontier Communications who just endured a three week strike in West Virginia with its CWA members. IEC Chairman and Business Manager Chris Erikson addressed the assembly to talk about IBEW Local 3's year long strike against Spectrum in New York and the impact that it has had as it enters its second year. Numerous lawsuits and National Labor Relations Board charges have been filed against Spectrum essentially ending 40 years of labor peace with the employer. Chairman Erikson shared that as long as the members stay strong, along with the NLRB charges and lawsuits, Spectrum is on the verge of possibly losing its cable franchise in the city of New York. This would be a huge blow to the company and send a message to others out there that New York is a union town who stands up for workers' rights!

As expected, many Business Managers were interested in how our negotiations were going. I shared with them the details of our agreement and they were surprised at what we were able to retain. Many of their contracts have them paying 10%, 15%, even up to 20% for their medical and, their 401k plans do not match up to 10% as in our agreement. There are quite a few locals that are currently in bargaining with other Telco's and they were pleased to hear that our membership stood our ground for our benefits.

At the 9th District Business Managers meeting, the main topic was the upcoming Supreme Court decision on the Janus case that will affect public sector unions. This case is purely an attack on workers' rights and their unions, targeting their finances in an attempt to render them ineffective. I firmly believe that with today's volatile political climate workers need unions now more than ever and we as members need to continue to share the benefits of belonging to a union with those around us who may not understand just what it is we as sisters and brothers stand up and fight for. I ask for you all to get involved, stay informed and to ask another person to do the same. Only by us reaching out to those in the shadows will we be able to rise up and shine the light on workers' rights together.

Last month the first details of what Hawaiian Telcom new leadership team will look like post-merger was released. With many of our current leaders remaining in their roles, transition

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should be a bit more seamless and palatable. By having a smooth transition, we will be able to retain more customers and possibly win back those who have left over the past year or two due to pathetic experiences caused by mismanagement. I am looking forward to what Cincinnati Bell can bring to us in the islands and I am ready to work together with our new leaders to help facilitate success for our customers and members.

Just a friendly reminder that Saturday May 12th is the NALC Food Drive and volunteers are still needed. On average the Food Drive brings in over half a million pounds of food for the state of Hawaii and according to the Hawaii Foodbank, 1 in 5 people in the community utilize their services. Please reach out to the office to get on the volunteer list!

I have some sad news to report as former Business Manager/Financial Secretary George Waialeale passed away last month. George served three terms as Business Manager/Financial Secretary of Local 1357 from 1989 to 1997 and retired from Verizon in 2005. My condolences go out to his family and they will be in our thoughts and prayers.

In Solidarity,



Troy Benevides

Business Manager/Financial Secretary