

BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT

April 7, 2017

Aloha Brothers and Sisters,

Last month's 9th District Business Manager/Organizer's Conference was held from March 22nd to the 24th. It was great to interact and have discussions with other Business Managers that are in our own telecommunications jurisdiction. Listening to what is going on in their respective areas, it is clear that there are a number of telco's who are facing the same challenges as us in finding a business model that is suitable for their business. We all left with the determination to find positive solutions for the struggles that lie ahead. Also, Justin Puaoi, Lead Organizer along with the IBEW 9th District's Organizers Staff put on a great conference of their own with many different workshops including; Effective Messaging, the growing impact of Social Media, and a great team building exercise for everyone in attendance. Great job Justin and team!

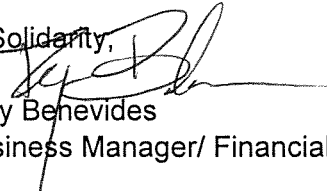
With the recent defeat of President's Trump's attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, things in Washington, DC are even more unpredictable than ever. One thing that is for certain is the assault on labor unions will continue. House Bill HR 785, or the National Right to Work Act as it is commonly known, is a direct attack on everyone in the Labor Movement. Currently, there are 28 states that are Right to Work, but with a Republican dominated House and Senate, the likelihood of this bill passing, which will alter the National Labor Law, is terrifying. Sisters and Brothers, we must stand together in these uncertain times in order to protect our past and shape our future.

Hawaiian Telcom's service woes persist. Ticket counts are high, wait times are unacceptable and Hawaiian Telcom continues to provide a reason for customers to leave. This is not our members fault. We are having to endure the consequences of what happens when our workforce is cut too deeply and not having enough manpower to provide the excellent customer service that our members are so used to providing. The mismanagement of the field techs has caught up with Hawaiian Telcom, and they continue to look at ways of stopping the bleeding. Overtime in certain departments are prolonged, with no realistic end in sight. Remember that our sisters and brothers out in the field are working long hours and if we can help each other out, we should. Although the IBEW does not drive the business, our members are the driving force behind the success of the company. For every person that is not at work, the other members in that group need to work even harder to keep up the service levels. Misuse of our sick leave benefits will lead the company to aggressively come after our collectively bargained benefits.

Thank you for all those who returned their negotiations surveys. Our bargaining team has been hard at work gathering and processing information that will help in successfully negotiating a new contract. For those of who still want to submit their surveys, it can be downloaded from our website and mailed or faxed to the local's office. I also wanted to thank the members of our bargaining team for the dedication and sacrifice that each one is making in order to help their sisters and brothers continue to enjoy the benefits we all currently receive.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the National Association of Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive which benefits the Hawaii Food Bank. It will be held on Saturday May 13th and all the donations that are received will benefit our local communities. For those that are interested in volunteering for this outstanding event, please contact the union office as soon as possible to get on the volunteer list. Please join me during this worthy event, I look forward to seeing you there!

In Solidarity,



Troy Benevides

Business Manager/ Financial Secretary