

BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT

February 1, 2019

Hafa Adai Sisters and Brothers!

In January I attended Unit 10's monthly membership meeting and spent time with the members in Saipan. While there I was able to witness the recovery efforts going on around the island and I was surprised to see how quickly the cleanup efforts have been in restoring the island to its usual beauty. Many of the debris that was left in Yutu's wake has been removed and the restoration continues. It was obvious that the south side of the island took the hardest hit and that area still has a way to go to be restored, but for the most part the island looks wonderful. Trees that were sheared of their foliage are starting to bounce back, the tourists are still coming to visit, and the people are in great spirits. There are still people that do not have power or running water and many of the residents are waiting for construction supplies to be available so they can replace their roofs, walls and other parts of their homes that were lost. The people of Saipan are resilient and stronger than most of us can imagine. Their sense of community and compassion for each other has shown in these tough times and everyone helps the people who need it. This is their 2nd major storm to hit the island in 3 years and instead of getting discouraged or angry, they come together as a community to be even stronger and persevere through this natural disaster.

At the Unit 10 membership meeting, assistance checks from the IBEW Unity Fund were passed out to the members along with the shirts that was donated by the units here in Hawaii. The members of Unit 10 would like to thank Chairman Jody Medeiros of Unit 2, Chairman Teddy Albarado of Unit 4, Chairman Al Balocan of Unit 8 and Chairman Neal Katto of Unit 9, along with the members of those units, for donating their shirts and they were humbled by your selfless act of generosity. They also would like to thank Business Manager Damien Kim for the boxes of shirts that IBEW Local 1186 donated to them as well. A big mahalo goes out to Vice President O'Rourke and International President Stephenson for releasing funds from the IBEW Unity Fund to help our members in Saipan with their rebuilding efforts.

My unannounced visit to IT&E has also sparked a response from the leadership regarding the collective bargaining agreement. I stated last month, there has been no response from IT&E to my emails asking to engage in early bargaining, but upon leaving the island of Saipan I did get a response. I mentioned to them that the dedication from our members has kept IT&E operational during the past few months and our members will continue to work to provide the best customer experience in the CNMI and make IT&E successful. The CNMI has been through a lot the past 4 months and that the best thing for all the employees of IT&E is for management to come to the bargaining table early and iron out a contract that is beneficial for both sides. I will continue to reach out to IT&E leadership and encourage them to come to get a deal done before the expiration of our current contract. Solidarity is the pillar on what unions are built

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and we are much stronger when we are together. As always, in a show of our solidarity, please continue to wear blue or IBEW logo apparel on Friday's and work safely.

The federal government shutdown could not have come at a worse time. We all know that holidays are already a stressful time and to compound that stress with no paychecks must have been difficult for the employees that were affected. Many of our local federal workers have been visiting the Hawaii Foodbank to get affordable food for the holidays and with the increase in shoppers, the Hawaii Foodbank's supplies have diminished over recent weeks. With only a temporary resolution to the situation in Washington D.C., those same people could possibly be back at the Foodbank's shelves in a few weeks. I have asked President Sakai to reach out to the Unit Chairs to consider doing a food drive within their unit to help the Hawaii Foodbank replenish their supplies. All of the food raised on each island does remain on that island, directly benefiting those in your own community. Please consider donating to help this noble organization so it can continue to support the communities of Hawaii.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Benevides', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Troy Benevides

Business Manager/Financial Secretary