

## BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT

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March 2, 2018

Aloha Sisters and Brothers,

The Collective Bargaining Agreement between the IBEW and IT&E in Saipan expires in April 2019. I reached out to Executive Director Rob Harrell last month to start engaging in the bargaining process. It is important that IT&E and Local 1357 begin having dialog early in order to come to an agreement before the expiration of the current CBA. As our sisters and brothers at Hawaiian Telcom just experienced, the process is a lengthy one, however if the two parties start engaging sooner rather than later, a fair agreement can be met before the current contract's expiration.

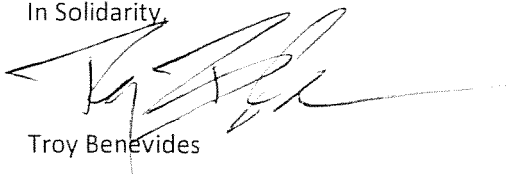
Just a friendly reminder that March 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for applications for our local's scholarship awards. This award is open to all Local 1357 active members and their children that are students showing leadership, promise, and academic excellence. Please reach out to our office for applications.

In addition to Local 1357's scholarship award, the Hawaii State AFL-CIO has established scholarships that will be awarded to students who are currently attending high school in the state of Hawaii and plan to pursue post-high school study on a full time basis. There will be three \$1,000 scholarships awarded and all submissions must be received or post marked by April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please see the attached flyer for address information.

The National Association of Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive which benefits the Hawaii Food Bank is right around the corner. This year the event will be held on Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> and remember, all donations received benefit our local communities. For those that are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact the union office as soon as possible to get on the volunteer list and let's make this year's event another successful one!

The heartbreaking event in Florida last month will not soon be forgotten. It seems as though horrible events such as this are continuing to happen with more frequency now and it tears through the fabric of our country. I can't begin to imagine what it would be like to be enjoying your day at school and then you experience the worst 7 minutes of your young life. The teens that lived through that will never forget that day, however, they are not afraid to do everything they can to prevent another tragedy like this from taking place in America again. These courageous young men and women are standing together in solidarity, making a push for better legislation on a topic that may have not entered their mind the day before. Seeing these students come together in unity should make us feel that our future is not lost on the youth. In recent weeks, this event and the direct actions of everyone involved has raised the awareness on many topics to new highs and now large corporations are taking a stand on issues as well. All of this done by children that had to grow up too fast, standing together unified and making their voices heard for something that they believe will be better for everyone collectively.

In Solidarity



Troy Benevides

Business Manager/Financial Secretary