September 10, 2020

To: All 6th District Local Unions

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

The challenges we face in the upcoming weeks for the 2020 election are huge but not insurmountable. In the 2016 elections forty percent (40%) of union members, IBEW members, voted for an individual who has no regard for working men and women. A man who would strip away every right the American Labor Movement has achieved if re-elected. Yes, President Trump is no friend to organized labor or working men and women.

In February of this year International President Stephenson with the support of the officers of the IBEW unanimously endorsed Vice President Joe Biden for President of the United States. It is now our task to make this endorsement a reality. As I stated above, we have many members we must reach out to and educate on the importance of the man who sits in the White House.

President Stephenson’s recent letter of August 20, 2020 provided an excellent link to a short nonpartisan video on the “Powers of the President” which should help our members better understand how electing Joe Biden will make a difference to working men and women. To access the video, click on https://vimeo.com/431571993 and use the password: “political”. There is also an excellent video of Kamala Harris while she was still a candidate for President in which she expresses her views on unions. To access her video click https://vimeo.com/447322211.

In an effort to make our endorsement a reality, I am directing all 6th District local unions to do the following:

- send a minimum of two letters to all members endorsing VP Biden for President
- set up member to member phone banks
- set up member to member texting
- establish electronic messaging for members on local union websites

Early voting is beginning in our states within the next week or two. We should be encouraging our members to vote early if possible. If voting early by mail they should do so now. Don’t wait until the last minute to mail their ballots, it may not get there in time.

There will surely be a shortage of poll workers this election we should attempt to find members willing to work the polls. This would help the process on election day and hopefully discourage people from walking away.
If you were able to view the virtual Membership Development Conference you saw three excellent presentations which can assist you in messaging with your membership; 1) Jon Newman: Trump Administration Attack on Labor; 2) Lucas Aubrey: NLRB Update and 3) AFL-CIO Presentation. I have attached all three.

In these remaining weeks of the election cycle we will require all hands on deck. We must get the IBEW vote out and we must get the IBEW vote to be for VP Joe Biden. I know I can count on you to get the job done.

In Solidarity.

Fraternally yours,

David J. Ruhmkorff
International Vice President
Sixth District, IBEW

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Cc: 6th District Staff