Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and healthy. 2020 is a year that we will never forget. The highly contagious and deadly COVID-19 virus has reached all corners of the globe. Like all pandemics, it has a beginning, a middle, and an end. We will get through this together.

We have not published a newsletter for a few years but with union meetings canceled and social distancing now was the time to update you all. Fortunately, our work was deemed essential and that enabled most of us to work. If work slows down, now is time for brotherhood by sharing the work and allowing a fellow brother or sister enough hours to maintain health insurance. Now more than ever we need each other to make it through this pandemic. For those that unfortunately have been laid off and had to file for unemployment, your patience is going to be tested. The previous Governor Rick Scott made it all but impossible to collect unemployment. On a good note they have lessened the requirements for unemployment, like having to wait a week to file. They also allow paper filing, when previously you were only allowed to file online and had to take an aptitude exam and send in three job searches per week. On top of all that they reduced the number of weeks from twenty-six to twelve. No wonder only 35% of Floridians were able to collect unemployment. If you are having issues receiving unemployment please call the union hall so we can help.

I’m sure some have questions about the pension fund. The IUOE Central Pension Fund is one of the most well-funded pension plans in the country. Even with the drop in the stock market and hours being reduced the fund is still very healthy. For retirees nothing will change. Your money is safe, and you will continue to receive a check for the remainder of your or your spouse’s life. Once you begin to collect a pension check the amount cannot change. For those that are working towards your retirement, you will be fine. The Central Pension Fund just increased the benefit from 1.25% to 1.75% beginning April 1, 2020. The worst-case scenario will be a benefit reduction in the future. Whatever you contributed to your pension previously is yours. Bottom-line is, your pension is safe.

The local union is in good shape financially and has enough reserves to make it through this crisis and has financial reserves to withstand a long-term downfall. We are in good shape because we increased assessments a couple of years ago. If we did not make those adjustments, we would be in trouble. Our local has been very active making sure our Health Insurance has the funds to pay premiums. The Executive Board voted to loan the Health & Welfare fund $1 million to make sure we have the funds to see us through this crisis. We don’t anticipate needing all the funds, but this will make sure we have the funds needed until we can contribute more money when the contracts allow.

We have hired a fulltime organizer, member Jonathan Ellingwood. He is focusing on the hyrdo-vac excavating industry. This is technology is a growing industry in construction and we want to have a strong presence like we have in the crane industry. We also have a full time business representative, Eyal Cohan, funded by the International through a grant to represent the South Florida Water Management District workers. We are ever focused on growing our union membership.

The past few years the local’s membership has grown not only through the merger with 925 but also by adding members by organizing the South Florida Water Management District, signing new employers like United Excavations, Densification Inc. K & J Crane Service, Crane Inspection Services, North American Crane & Rigging, L & R Structural and Malcolm Drilling. We currently have forty-two signatory employers. We currently have 1,524 active members from Miami to Tampa.

Our apprentice training centers both in Miami and Tampa are state-of-the-art. We have been purchasing equipment and we are in the process of building a $2 million training center in Pembroke Pines. We have upgraded our curriculum for apprentices and journeymen. We are making sure we have the best and well-trained operators in the industry. Like our mantra states we aim to be “Simply the Best.”

In closing, I am proud to report that Local 487’s membership and finances are stronger than ever. There is a tremendous amount of uncertainty in the world right now but as I stated previously, we will get through this together.

United We Stand,
Mark Schaunaman
Business Manager
**MIAMI**

Up until the Coronavirus work has been good with man hours up. Crane Rental contractors have been busy with the FP&L pole-hardening project, with construction in general keeping us busy. Foundation work has not been as steady, but there were enough projects to keep most foundation members busy with some slow weeks sprinkled in. Work has been relatively good. Tower crane work was good through 2019 but the beginning of this year tower crane work has slowed down. Backhoe work has been good the last couple of years but has been hit hard with the Coronavirus. Please remember to let the union hall know if you change your phone number or if you have moved so that we can reach you if needed for a job.

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**DELRAY**

*Nuclear Power Plants*

In January, we began manning up St. Lucie Power Plant for an outage. This was a 25-day outage which began February 17th. This outage employed 23 operators, most from Local 487, including 3 new red-badged operators.

In March, we began manning up Turkey Point Power Plant for an outage. This was a 23-day outage which began March 30th. This outage employed 20 operators.

The next nuclear power plant outage is scheduled in October at Turkey Point Power Plant. We have limited time to get new operators in and red-badged to work in nuclear power plants. You MUST have ALL the following requirements to become red-badged: NCCCO certification, OSHA-10 or greater, AND forklift certification. If you would like to work in nuclear power plants, please call John Mullen for information.

In other news, Sarens has requested wage & fringe rates for an upcoming project in St. Lucie and Turkey Point.

*Pipeline*

There are currently no pipelines in our jurisdiction, and none are scheduled at this time.

*BluRoc*

BluRoc is finishing up their work in West Palm Beach. Their next job will be in northern Florida in Local 673’s jurisdiction.
PEMBROKE PINES TRAINING CENTER

Apprenticeship Director, Daniel McCullers

The apprenticeship and Training Center has been busy with record numbers of apprentices in the program in the past years. Unfortunately, as was expected, we have 7 apprentices that are currently out of work due to this epidemic. Hopefully once we return to business as usual these apprentices will be able to go back out. The training site has Mechanic Edward Garrison and one apprentice working daily to maintain all the equipment and do repairs so we will be in good shape when everyone is able to return and to start NCCCO practical testing and hands on training as well.

Certifications & Equipment Qualifications

Members who have obtained or renewed certifications should update them with the union hall. It is your responsibility to keep us updated on any certifications you may have. Do not miss out on a job because the hall does not have updated information. Also, make sure to update your equipment qualifications if you have added equipment to the list of equipment you can operate.

The New School will be 8100 sq. ft., with seating for 100 students, an equipment simulator room and a two bay shop 50 ft. 60 ft. with an overhead crane for NCCCO testing. The new state of the art school will be the finest Operating Engineer facility in the Southeast.

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Jonathan Ellingwood, Organizer

Our Badger Daylighting Campaign is still ongoing, and we have been making a lot of progress with our contract negotiations over the last few months. Talks with the company were going well until we hit the fringe benefits part of negotiations. We left the last negotiation meeting with an aggressive plan to turn up the heat on the company going forward to further press them on these non-negotiable benefits. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have had to pull back, but we are eagerly awaiting the right time to put the pressure on and finish this contract for the Badger workers.

The other campaign we have been working on is with Moran Environmental. This Campaign had been on fire for two months and had been moving forward at a rapid pace. We had filed a petition with the NLRB for an election and that election was slated to take place on March 24th. We were 100 percent ready for a big win. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NLRB ordered the Election postponed indefinitely. This has given the company more time to run its anti-union campaign as they try to discourage any of the on the fence employees from voting yes.

We have been in discussions with the NLRB in attempts to move to a mail-in ballot election, but as we know, this is one of the most anti-union NLRB’s in recent history, so they are taking their time. As this all happens, we continue to maintain constant contact with the Moran Environmental employees. We have been keeping them informed every step of the way on any new news as well as keeping them positive and ready to Vote YES when we finally get an election date.
Eyal Cohen, So. FL. Water Management Business Representative

SFWMD is charged with managing and protecting the water resources of 16 counties stretching from Orlando to the Florida Keys. The brothers and sisters at the South Florida Water Management District serve the region from eight Field Stations as well as from the Headquarters in West Palm Beach. They oversee approximately 2,179 miles of canals and 2,131 miles of levees/berms, 87 pump stations and more than 781 water control structures and 621 project culverts. The 487 members operate and maintain all the equipment they have and have the specialized expertise needed to keep this vast water management system operational during the rainy season and hurricane season. Local 487 has been representing the workers of SFWMD for the last 3 years. Prior to Local 487 representing them the employees did not receive a raise, not even a raise for cost of living--for years. The first contract we were able to negotiate a generous raise. Last year, they said there would be no increase. But after Local 487 found the money in the SFWMD budget and after intense negotiations and a change of the Executive Director position, most were given good wage increases on a sliding scale. The agreement is up for renewal this year and we will be working hard along with Business Manager Mark Schaunaman and International staff to make sure the members receive the good contract they deserve.

I am also working on organizing the SFWMD Electricians, I.T. Electricians, Millwrights, and Welders. They were not part of the original Bargaining Unit but after seeing what the union did for the workers, they are eager to join. I have been talking with the stewards and reaching out to the individuals of these groups and speaking with them. As soon as I can get back out there, I will be visiting them in person to deliver another union win.

Tampa

Staff Profiles

Jim Junecko, Business Agent

After 3 years as an Organizer out of our Miami union hall, Jim became our Business Agent in Tampa in 2016 when our Local Union grew even stronger by expanding to Tampa. Jim has always been passionate about organizing and representing our Brothers and Sisters. Jim also handles our political work in Tampa, representing us in community events and local politics and is on the Executive Board of the West Central Florida AFL-CIO and serves as the Secretary Treasurer for the Florida Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council. Jim also serves on our Executive Board as a representative for our Tampa District office.

Dylan Sherman, Business Agent

Dylan is our Dispatch Agent and Business Agent who started his union career by graduating from the IUOE Apprenticeship in Tampa, excelling as a Journeyman Operator, E-Board member, and as a Shop Steward. Dylan serves on our Executive Board representing Tampa and he is well respected among the membership and has established strong relationships with our Contractors. Dylan is married to his wife, Michelle, and they have 2 wonderful children, Emma and Cohen.

Tammy Morgan, Office Manager

Tammy handles everything from dues payments and the EDBF to ensuring the Local’s day to day operations run smoothly, managing all official union records and overseeing member requests. She works closely with our benefits administrators, Central Pension Fund, and Contractors in multiple facets. Tammy is a Certified Notary Public and we are fortunate to have her as our Office Manager. Tammy is married to her husband, Chris, and she is very proud of her daughter, Megan, and granddaughter Alexis.
Adrian Lacey, Apprenticeship Director

Adrian Lacey has absolutely revitalized our apprenticeship program in Tampa as Director of the program. Our 18-acre training site is state-of-the-art now with our brand-new Tower Crane and various other cranes and equipment. Our site stands out in the area and is receiving a lot of much deserved praise. Director Lacey places great emphasis in the classroom on training, curriculum, and education. He is a certified NCCCO instructor and Practical Examiner and prior to coming on board as staff, Lacey was a long-standing Journeyman Operator out of Tampa. Adrian Lacey is married to his wife, Dee Lacey, and they are proud of their daughter, Sierra Lacey.

Tampa 2019 Year-in-Review

The year 2019 saw more than a half-million work hours performed by our hard-working Brothers and Sisters out of our Tampa district. Crane Rental is our busiest sector of work in and around Tampa, with our incredible crane rental contractors like Sims Crane, Maxim, Kelley Equipment, A-Crane (Anthony Crane) and North American Crane and Rigging and PreCon staying busy as we re-shape Tampa’s skyline and improve the area’s infrastructure, and build new schools and businesses.

In addition to crane rental work, we also perform work at the phosphate plants, such as the various different Mosaic plants in our Tampa jurisdiction. We also secured Project Labor Agreements with non-signatory contractors. Project Labor Agreements are agreements that apply solely to one project, and they are a great way for us to build relationships with new contractors to show them the value of doing business with the IUOE. Among some of the PLA’s we executed were jobs with Imperial Crane Services, Barton Malow, Burton Scot, Costello Bros, and F&H Contractors.

Much of the work performed at the phosphate plants is done through our union contractors who are signatory to the union under the National Maintenance Agreement. Some of our signatory union contractors in the plants are Central Maintenance and Welding (CMW), Gulf Coast Industrial (GCI), Moretrench, and Poole & Kent. Through the union, our members receive annual training and refresher courses for OSHA/MSHA certifications, along with the necessary credentials required to work inside the phosphate plants. Site prep and dirt work in our Tampa district was done mostly by United Excavations, our union site prep contractor who also performs work in South Florida. All of our jobs are filled by Business Agent Dylan Sherman, who answers the phone any time, day or night, and always maintains communication with our members and contractors to ensure jobs are properly filled and our members are working.
State Legislative 2020 Update

Bills We Opposed and WON

- HB1/SB804 Employee Organization Dues and Uniform Assessment (Union Busting) - This bill would have weakened public sector unions. **DEFEATED BY THE UNIONS!**
- HB305/SB1126 Preemption of Conditions of Employment - This bill would have banned local ordinances or regulations pertaining “conditions of employment” and would limit the power of local governments over their communities. **DEFEATED BY THE UNIONS!**
- HB6035/SB1322 Repealing Tuition Waivers for Apprenticeship Programs - This bill would have eliminated tuition and fee waivers for economically disadvantaged individuals to learn and develop skills as part of apprenticeship programs. **DEFEATED BY THE UNIONS!**

Bills We Opposed and LOST

- HB7037/SB1794 Destroying the Citizens’ Initiative Process - This bill makes the initiative process increasingly difficult for Floridians to get issues on the ballot. **PASSED**

Bills We Supported and LOST

- HB951/SB1416 Protecting Public Transit Operators - This bill would protect our fellow union brothers and sisters that are transit workers. **FAILED**

Local 487’s, Jim Junecko, State Rep. Jose Javier Rodriguez and Jonathan Ellingwood in Tallahassee this session representing Local 487 members

We Still Made Time For Fun!

Thanks to the year-long work by Office Manager, Tammy Morgan—arranging for vendors, designing and ordering T-Shirts, planning out raffle prizes and organizing all the important details, our 2019 membership family picnic (our 2nd annual) went perfectly! We love the tradition of the membership family picnic in Miami and wanted to bring that tradition to Tampa. Last year’s picnic brought over 350 members and family members who enjoyed the brotherhood and sisterhood and the chance for families to meet each other, or perhaps to just hang out again! All the festivities were fun for the kids, and the vendors put on a ton of entertaining activities for all. We can’t wait for the next one!

Members with 50 or more years at the 2020 picnic
Photos from the 2nd annual family picnic. Held March 22, 2019 in Tampa

2020 IUOE Winter Executive Board Meetings in Ft. Lauderdale FL

Local 487 Officers and Staff in Attendance
Voter Registration Deadlines, Early Voting and Vote-by-Mail Ballots

Upcoming election dates:
Primary Election: August 18
General Election: November 3

The deadline to register in order to participate in an upcoming election is 29 days before the election. The registration deadlines for 2020 are:

Primary Election: July 20
General Election: October 5

*NOTE: Eligible individuals can register to vote at any time. Check the deadlines above to be eligible to vote in upcoming elections.

Early Voting Period

By law, early voting must be held at least for 8 days. The mandatory early voting periods for 2020 are:

Primary Election: August 8 – 15
General Election: October 24 – 31

*NOTE: County Supervisor of Elections may offer more days of early voting. Check with your local listing.

Vote-by-Mail Ballot 'Send' Deadline

Primary Election: July 9 - July 16
General Election: September 24 – October 1

*NOTE: If you choose to vote-in-person instead of voting-by-mail, you can do so. Just bring your vote-by-mail ballot with you to your polling location to surrender it to a poll worker.

To vote by mail: Use this link to find your County’s Supervisor of Elections:

https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/

Or