

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank everyone for a very productive year for our local.

2009 was exceptional for us even though the economy has brought to bear on us some challenges that we have never faced before both as members of the IBEW, and as employees of a regulated utility.

True, we had some difficult times with some job losses and an extremely difficult time with the callout issues in the Line Department, but overall, we have had a safe year and provided excellent quality craftsmanship and professional labor to Progress Energy.

Let me emphasize our own professionalism by stating that we are the comparables in the industry.

The Company compares all of their efforts to replace us with benchmarks that we created. All of the measures of efficiency are about them trying to replace us with something cheaper and more economical. Fortunately, IBEW workers are not motivated by money alone; something that I think managers have forgotten long ago. When they understand that, maybe they will understand the power of true partnership. Mutually beneficial resolve goes a long way in promoting harmony and creating powerful teamwork that has great ability to overcome any obstacle put before it. Just ask my wife.

The more that I learn about the difficulties of everyone's job the more amazed I am that we successfully achieve our own safety goals. Our Brothers and Sisters conquer extreme environmental hazards and successfully produce exceptional results time and time again. The general public, and indeed some of the people that manage us, just can't appreciate what a feat that really is. None the less, please try to

eliminate any potential for harm out there, control your environment where possible, wear all of your personal protective equipment, and be wary of potential equipment failure when you can. It's as simple as this, the safer we are, the more competitive we are, and the less we have to suffer collectively and as individuals. It brings added value to us as a workforce and as human beings. That's an admirable goal in my book. Hopefully you will share in that goal with me and all of the other officers of our local.

There is no reason why 2010 cannot be a banner year for us. We still have a nearly clean slate and plenty of year left to prove our abilities once again to management.

This year we are going to try and do even more to educate our membership on Unionism and Labor law. The Executive board and Officers have identified this area as needing improvement and Brother Mobsby and I are making plans to address the subject head on. Please keep an eye on the blog for further information.

Right now, there is some concern for the news that Progress Energy did not get the rate increase that they were asking for from the Public Service Commission. That is completely understandable; however, we were assured over the last two years that the reason why we were having job cuts, mainly in the line department, was to be nimble and efficient as a work force.

Please take a look around your job site and if you notice anyone that is not in the Brotherhood and is currently working for Progress Energy in a bargaining unit job, please offer them the opportunity to join our Union family. All of us would enjoy welcoming them into our collective organization. You can contact me with the potential members name and I will be happy to discuss membership with them also.

The IBEW has been representing trades men and women for over one hundred years. For all of the efforts of Companies to achieve bragging rights over diversity; they have to face the fact that we have been living it for the entirety of the IBEW's existence. I thought about this during the last IBEW administrative meeting that I was attending. When I looked around and saw almost every race, religion, creed, and both genders in the room I realized that all of those people had come together by choice and were there in an effort to become unified in their attempts to represent each other collectively and with little or no monetary compensation! If that's not true diversity, then I don't know what is.

Please pay attention to the details and keep yourself and each other safe.

In solidarity,

Scott Demetree
President, IBEW Local Union 682