



# Watt's Up ?!!!!



## IBEW Local 890's Newsletter



### Business Manager's Report

#### LOCAL 890 OFFICERS

- Leo "Pancho" Sokolik, Business Manager/ Financial Secretary
- Jason Heidenreich, Referral Agent / Organizer
- Shawn Carlson, Assistant Business Manager / Organizer, Treasurer
- Robert Walters, President
- Dan Reuter, Vice President
- Greg Phillips, Recording Secretary
- Adam Dolgner, Exec. Board
- Paul Clausen, Exec. Board
- Mike Duda, Exec. Board
- Beau Bennett, Exec. Board
- Brad Meglic, Exec. Board
- Mike Dunn, Exec. Board
- Tim J. Adams, Exam Board
- Jeff Clutter, Exam Board

Dear Members of Local 890,

As we close out an amazing year 2017, I would like to take a moment of personal privilege and thank all of you for all that you do and all of the hard work that you do on a daily basis. I would also like to give a big shout out to my staff here at Local 890, Ginny at the front desk, Jason holding down referral and organizing, and I also would like to thank the newest addition of the Local 890 staff Shawn Carlson. I also would like to thank all of the members of the Executive Board of Local 890 and the various committees that are doing a great job. Our Local 890 education department continues to develop and add classes to serve our members. It's been a crazy busy year and 2018 looks to be even more so. Members have worked more hours in 2017 than any year since I've been the business manager. Again, thank you for your hard work. In talking recently with the contractors, 2018 again should break our work records with the work currently under contract. For the first time in a long time Local 890 will have to rely on book II Travelers to help us get this work done. Situations like these are good news for the membership but a little scary when having to rely on others to get the work done with the entire Midwest being in the same situation. We will continue to work hard here in the office for all of our membership and try to meet the ever-increasing needs of our contractors. I would like to wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Leo "Pancho" Sokolik  
*Business Manager of Local 890*

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## Changing Times

To ALL members of Local 890,  
Times and methods are changing at a very rapid pace in our industry. As technology advances the way we perform our craft is changing also. One of the major and most disturbing changes is in the prefabrication area. Pipes are coming pre-bent and panels are coming pre-wired along with many other things that our members in the field have traditionally performed. Most of the larger contractors have huge pre-fab facilities that can do most anything related to the electrical construction industry in a very efficient low-cost environment that employs low cost workers. This will take away from our total man hours worked by our members and have a huge effect on manpower needs. I now completely understand how the auto workers felt when the auto industry went to robots to do much of the work!!!! My fear is that we will become installers rather than traditional proud electrical craftsman. One protection we have exclusively in our contract is that ALL prefabrication will be done under the terms and conditions of the Local 890 contract. So, in essence if you did not bend it and you did not build it someone else did and we as local 890 members are entitled to know who. I absolutely understand loyalty and dedication to those you work for but please understand for the betterment of the local if you see this happening or are asked to install prefabbed material please call me so that I can do my job and make sure it is 890 members are doing this work under the terms of our contract. There are currently none of these pre-fab facilities operating in our jurisdiction so ALL of the prefab is being done by others outside the local. Call me, I need your help on this!!!

Leo Sokolik  
Business Manager  
IBEW 890

## Organizing

Brothers and Sisters of LU 890,  
It has been both an honor and my pleasure to undertake this new staff position here with the local. I would like to thank all of our members, our local officers, and our local's staff, for the opportunity to work for and serve our brotherhood. This year has quickly come to pass. During my short time in the office, I have enjoyed being in a position to assist in strengthening and growing our local. With that being said, we still have a lot of work to do! In fulfilling our end of the bargain, we brother and sisters, take pride in providing the highest quality electrical workers to our contractors. With the amount of work upcoming in 2018, Local 890 will be experiencing a man power shortage unseen for quite some time. I am working daily in the field, to organize and educate our fellow unrepresented electricians about the benefits and opportunities of Union membership. I have to admit- it is a much harder job than I expected. So, we are asking for your help! There are over a thousand licensed non-union electricians living in our five-county jurisdiction, and I'm willing to bet that **YOU**, reading this, personally know a few. Start a conversation. Please feel free to contact Pancho, Jason, or myself with a lead on a project or electrician who may or may not be interested, yet. This local is only as strong as its membership- and my goal is to continue to strengthen and empower this local, with as many electrical workers as possible. I am wishing you and your families, a safe and warm holiday season.

Shawn Carlson  
*Assistant Business Manager / Organizer*

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## Renew Committee

Young Members of Local 890,

With the coming New Year, Local 890 will be starting a Renew Committee. This committee will consist of any of you younger members who wish to get involved in your union. This committee will get together periodically or as often as you want to do good things for your communities. You can do any kind of fundraisers for just about any charity you wish. I have tasked the starting of this project to Shawn Carlson, so any of you who wish to get involved can call and ask for him. The Local will be in full support of all of the Renew Committees endeavors.

Leo Sokolik  
Business Manager  
IBEW 890

## Annual Christmas Party

Dear members,

We would like to take a moment to announce our annual Christmas Party to be held at the Pontiac Convention Center again this year on **January 28, 2018**. This is a great event for all of the membership and the many retirees who attend. We will again have Santa and lots of presents and as always a great atmosphere and great food. Hope to see everybody there, formal invitations were mailed out in December. Please contact the hall **before January 19th** if you plan on attending. Reservations are required.

## Quote of the Month

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.

*-Helen Keller*

# Announcements

- Next union meeting is:  
Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Hall.
- Death Benefit #137
- 2018 Monthly Dues \$40.02  
Quarterly \$120.06  
Annual \$480.24
- Watch for the latest news and work updates concerning Local 890 on our website ([www.ibew890.org](http://www.ibew890.org)) and our FaceBook page (IBEW Local 890).

## Upcoming Classes

Please check postings at the hall or the IBEW Local Union 890 website for an updated list of available classes.

[www.IBEW890.org](http://www.IBEW890.org)

## Book Report

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LET US KNOW YOUR IDEAS.  
 CALL OR EMAIL US.

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## January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Union Meeting	5	6
7	8	9 A&T Meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 E-Board Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Christmas Party	29	30	31			