Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all is well with you as we move through the holiday season.

We received a bit of good news in mid-November, as the U.S. Department of Energy approved the Presidential permit for the Northern Pass project.

This decision allows the Northern Pass transmission lines to cross the U.S.-Canadian border and connect them to the U.S. energy grid, as the DOE found the project to be in the best interest of the public.

The approval was good news as the project is nearing the end of New Hampshire’s Site Evaluation Committee process, with a decision expected to come early in 2018.

If this project is approved, it will mean full-time jobs for our members for several years, as we bring clean and reliable hydropower energy from Canada to Massachusetts.

As for the current overall work situation in Local 104, I am happy to report work is good and there are open calls for travelers.

For many of our members, December is a great time of year, as it means a chance for you to spend time with family and friends during the holiday season.

I encourage you to attend our Christmas party and share some good memories and laughs with friends – both old and new. It’s always a good time, and my crew and I will be there. We hope to see you for an enjoyable evening.

In mentioning my crew, I want to thank everyone who supports me in my position as Business Manager, with a special thanks to the Local 104 officers and staff. They play a huge role in our union and provide guidance to my position, as they remain committed to ensuring Local 104 continues as a strong and vibrant union. I could not do this job without them.

Also, as the winter weather sets in, I urge all members to follow all safety guidelines.

When the temperatures drop and equipment gets icy or slippery, we sometimes want to rush and finish a project so we can get warm and dry. When safety procedures are not followed, all members on the jobsite are put in danger.

Remember, we all want to go home to our families at the end of the day. As always, stay safe, and like myself, be proud that you are part of this great organization, IBEW Local 104.

Fraternally,
Brian T. Murphy
MESSAGE FROM HUGH BOYD

I wish things were simpler, we all do. Let’s imagine if everyone had the same common sense about everything, then the world would go around just fine. The world actually does, but what about us working together? Some common sense is not so common and another person’s notion on an understanding may have a different point of view based on his/her particular interests. Simply stated, we are all different. GOOD! Everyone reading this will absorb it differently and that is OK. (ie. “I know what Hugh is trying to do” or “this is a long article”). When it comes to political discussions, many Thanksgiving dinners have been ruined; however, as Brothers and Sisters of the Best Local in the IBEW, we need to come together and be conscientious on issues that pertain to our common interests as a group. Easy, right? Our common (sense) bond should be fighting for the very core of our existence; bargaining and labor law rights.

Working together on the recent Mass Senate race shows what working families coming together can do to protect those rights. The Bristol /Norfolk Senate seat is a big deal and when Brother Paul Feeney from IBEW Local 2222 (Verizon Workers, Boston) tossed his hat in the ring, all the unions came together as did Local 104.

Being a part of something like this is not about ourselves as individuals. It cannot be. It is about getting someone in office to protect all of our bargaining rights and laws which our forefathers fought so hard to get. We are thrilled that our Brother reached out to us and we helped get him into office.

The challenge is for the next election opportunity. If you could spare some time (I know, but even two hours of your time next year is huge!), it would make a big difference. You can keep it simple by sending a note to your state representative and/or just voting for supporters of working families or, on the other end of the effort spectrum, head to State House as a constituent or by running for office yourself. It happens! To keep things simple, Speaker of the House Tip O’Neil would always say, “All politics is local”. Here is an easy one to start with: Whether you are in ME, MA, NH, RI or VT, let your politicians know today that “right to work” laws do not work for you. There are many causes out there looking for OUR/OUR support next year. So, let’s work together to get the next Paul Feeney into office.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Be well in solidarity!
Hugh Boyd
Treasurer/Asst. Business Manager

Pictured left to right, U.S. Congressman and Iron Workers Local 7 member Stephen Lynch, Mass State Senator Paul Feeney of IBEW Local 2222 and Hugh Boyd.

MESSAGE FROM DAVE MOREAU

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

The school season is upon us and seniors are thinking about graduating, whether it be from high school or college, they will be looking to enter the workforce. You may have family or friends who may be interested in linework. Take this holiday season as an opportunity to talk to them about what we do.

As you know, there are some big projects on the horizon for Local 104. If you come across nonunion lineworkers, extend a hand, introduce yourself and let them know we, the IBEW, are here to help them in any way possible. Although stripping a guy here and there from a nonunion company is fine, a better approach may be to give him or her the info that the IBEW cares about them and their families, and can make better lives through collective bargaining. Let them take the information back to their workers and spread the word. They can continue to work nonunion and we can turn the company Union from within and in the process get all the workers and improve all their lives! That’s the IBEW’s goal. Take a moment and read the "Objects of the Constitution", it’s page iv of the new constitution.

Please be safe this Holiday Season, stay focused on the task at hand, and thank you for your help in organizing!

In Solidarity,
Dave Moreau
Organizer
moreau@ibew104.org
NORTHERN PASS RECEIVES DOE PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT

In mid-November, the U.S. Department of Energy approved a Presidential permit for the Northern Pass project.

This means the DOE will allow the Northern Pass Transmission Line to cross the U.S.-Canadian border and connect into the U.S. grid.

In a Nov. 16 press release, the DOE said it “is pleased to recognize projects like Northern Pass that add diversity to our energy supply, benefit the environment and solidify our commitment to enhancing grid reliability, affordability and resilience.” U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry said in a prepared statement that projects like the Northern Pass, which support a reliable and resilient grid, promote economic growth, lower energy costs and benefit the environment, shouldn’t take this long to approve.

“This Administration is committed to improving our nation’s energy infrastructure while also reforming the federal permitting process so that projects like Northern Pass receive full, and prompt, consideration,” he said.

The DOE may issue a Presidential permit if it determines that issuance of the permit is in the public interest and after obtaining favorable recommendations from the U.S. Departments of State and Defense.

In this case, the DOE determined that the proposed international electric transmission line would not have an adverse impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system and was in the best interest of the public.

The approval of the DOE Presidential permit was a significant step in moving the project forward, but it still faces further review.

By the time this article is printed and mailed, hearings with New Hampshire’s Site Evaluation Committee, which was established by the state legislature for the review, approval, monitoring and enforcement of compliance in the planning, siting, construction and operation of energy facilities, should be finished.

The purpose of the hearings was to give SEC board members the opportunity to get new information in the form of expert opinion and analysis from various groups, both for and against the project.

This review is in addition to already submitted testimony and information.

Members of the SEC will weigh all the information to make a decision on the future of the Northern Pass project.

Throughout the hearings, witnesses were cross-examined on a wide variety of topics ranging from the impact of the project on the Karner Blue Butterfly, the visual impact along the proposed route, to loss of property value, construction noise and much more.

They discussed possible environmental impact to the Karner Blue butterfly, which is an endangered species.

In New Hampshire, Karner Blue butterflies are found in the Concord Pine Barrens in East Concord. Their larvae only eat wild blue lupine, which will be affected by this project.

However, during cross-examination, it was revealed that a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biological report stated the project would cause minor temporary adverse impacts on the butterfly, and its habitats, but the Northern Pass Transmission plan to develop 7-acres of undeveloped habitat in Concord will have long-term benefits for the butterfly.

Other cross-examination was related to the effect of this project on property value. Lawyers for the Northern Pass have repeatedly said affected property owners will be compensated for any potential loss in property value.

Regular updates on the SEC hearings can be found in the news section of our website, www.ibew104.org.

MESSAGE FROM TIM BURGESS

Local 104 Members,

I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce our newest employee, Stacy Brann, who joined our team at Local 104 in the Lewiston, Maine office on October 30th.

Stacy has seven plus years of experience in increasingly responsible roles that included office management and data coordination at the Maine AFL-CIO. She graduated from UMaine at Augusta with a Degree in Business Management.

In her spare time, she volunteers coaching and training basketball players in Central Maine. Stacy has a strong union background and is very excited to be working for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 104.

I appreciate you joining me in offering Stacy a warm welcome to our team.

Also, as a reminder, the Lewiston Hall offers the following: certs, referrals, book signing, dues payments, and union meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

The office hours are 8am to 4 pm.

Respectfully,

Tim Burgess
We had another successful 60 plus gathering on November 8th at the Common Market Place, located at 97 Willard Street in Quincy, MA.

Please try to join us for our next gathering at the same location on April 11, 2018, at 11:30am. This is a very informal gathering for our retiree group. I call it the 60 Plus Club because many of our experienced IBEW Brothers tend to go back to work helping out when there is a need for lineman in storm situations. Our group expands decades of work experience and you never know who will show up. Hopefully, the new person is you.

One of my favorite moments is when Chet Marsh saw Donald Coutinho for the first time in fifty years! The common bond that lineman have is unmatched.

An interesting side note: BM/FS Brian Murphy had me search the group for possible WWII Veterans that may be interested in going on the Honor Flight sponsored by Local 104. This trip is a one day visit to the WWII Memorial in D.C. We had three that met the criteria and, understandably, they had to decline. One of them is Mr. James Flynn (was in the Pacific) who joined the union in 1943, and the other is Chet Marsh who received a Bronze Star for fighting on the beaches of Normandy. He described how working in line work is very similar to fighting on the beaches in France as a 19 year old man. His story is that of a very humble and grateful man. Chet goes on to describe, like the infantry, you always have to be looking out for your brother’s back.... Always.

Please be a part of the next get together when we will be discussing the "Signing of the Beam" for our new IBEW Local 104 Facility in Mansfield. We will have our retirees sign a permanently exposed beam in the new facility. Stay tuned.

May you and your families be blessed! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Hugh Boyd
Treasurer/Asst. Business Manager

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

The IBEW Local 104 officers, members and staff would like to congratulate the members who have retired in 2017. We wish you all a very happy and healthy retirement.

Dana Artruc
Michael J. Casey, Sr.
Frank Ciano
James Dugan
Malcolm Eaton
Boyd Fulton
David Hayes
William S. Lane, Sr.
Paul Troy

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**DEEPEST SYMPATHIES**

The IBEW Local 104 officers, members and staff would like to extend our condolences to the families of Local 104 members who have recently passed:

Joseph Guinard
Joseph Hart

Yvette Henley
Larry Therrien
David Yanachek

Roger Robert
Everett Wilbur
The 34th Annual International Lineman’s Rodeo was held on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017, in Bonner Springs, Kansas. Kansas City Power & Light and Westar Energy were the host utility. The Lineman’s Rodeo attracts the best linemen from around the world to compete in events based on traditional lineman tasks. The first Lineman’s Rodeo was held in September 1984, with twelve participating teams from Kansas and Missouri. The Rodeo has grown now to over 200 teams and more than 200 apprentices who come to compete. Local 104 sent 2 teams and more than 200 apprentices, and Brian Lovell made up the other. With one team, and Joe Jodoin, Kyle Lazaron and Richie Davis, and Jimmy Foster made up the other. With the apprentices, and along with the usual practical events, they also had knot tying/splicing and a written test. Although they didn’t bring home a plaque, they got to experience this competition and were able to interact with other apprentices from different parts of the country and outside the United States. Tim Burgess and Cut Lesveque judged for the rodeo, which can be challenging at times, so a huge THANK YOU to them for helping out the teams. Anyone interested in competing and representing 104 needs to come to our Rodeo and compete for a chance to go. Russ Carlson (Milwaukee) and Tyler Jenson (Hydron) helped out with some tools and gear. Thank you guys, it doesn’t go unnoticed.

“This experience for the members is unique. The other teams, utilities, family members, and sponsors all are supportive to each other. It really demonstrates how much pride there is in this industry.”

– Mick Van Natta

Michael Van Natta
Area Coordinator
Northeastern Joint Apprenticeship

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### 2017 RODEO AND SUMMER OUTING RESULTS

**Apprentice Speed Climb**

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**JL Speed Climb**

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**Apprentice Hurtman Rescue**

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**JL Hurtman Rescue**

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**UNION MEETING REMINDER**

All union meetings are now held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at **ALL three locations**: MA, NH and ME halls and are connected through video conferencing.

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**ON THE WIRE: IBEW LOCAL 104 Newsletter**

**www.ibew104.org**

**PAGE 5**

**FALL 2017**
HOLIDAY PARTY & AWARDS CEREMONY

Please join us at this year’s Annual Holiday Party & Award Ceremony on Friday, December 15, 2017

The Crowne Plaza Hotel
2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, NH 03063
5:00 PM Doors Open
6:00 PM Awards Ceremony

We will present Service Pins and Apprentice Diplomas for 2017 and have prize and raffle drawings, followed by a nice buffet style dinner. Kowboy Karaoke & DJ’ing will provide music entertainment.

TOYS FOR TOTS

For the 17th year running, Local 104 is collecting toys to contribute to the United States Marine Corps Reserve “Toys for Tots” Program.

Toys for Tots collects new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in our community.

IBEW Local 104 is proud to participate in our annual Toys for Tots program. We look forward to your support again this season. If you wish to contribute, please bring an unwrapped gift, or monetary contribution made out to “Toys for Tots” to the Walpole, MA, Barrington, NH or Lewiston, ME Halls or to the holiday party.

DUES INCREASE NOTICE

Effective January 1, 2018

IBEW Local 104 has been developing a new, streamlined website that will feature a Members Portal where members can log in and pay dues online. Look for our new website to be live in the coming weeks.

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