

From The Hall

I.B.E.W. Local 2067

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Membership Engagement Challenge for 2019

Membership engagement has been an issue for many unions for many years. A few years back I came across some local Unit Meeting meetings from the early 60's; one of the main points under new business was "what do we do to get members to attend union meetings?" It's a great question, one I have contemplated for a long time. Over the years we have tried several different initiatives including prizes, lunches, changes of times and locations. They sometimes yielded short term results but often revert back to our historic numbers of less than 10% attending monthly meetings.

After attending a recent Unit Meeting one of our members brought forward a unique idea, one of which I do not recall ever being discussed. He asked if we would send out a newsletter asking that all members make a commitment within their work unit to have at least one member of their group attend the monthly unit meetings. This commitment would ensure a single member may only have to attend several meetings a year, and everyone's concerns would be raised at every meeting. In many of our current meetings we have a group of members who often have the same concerns, and those are the ones that are discussed, debated, and brought forward to the Executive and Business Office for answers. Groups who do not have representation at Unit Meetings likely have more questions, however they don't get submitted to the Executive and/or Business Office.

I would challenge our membership to become more engaged and make a commitment to discuss with members within your workgroup how you can have representation and a voice at the unit meetings.

The Union belongs to all members, and an engaged membership is the strength of a Union.

In Solidarity,

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