



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NUMBER 553

POST OFFICE BOX 13551

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NORTH CAROLINA 27709

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Hello, 553 members!

I hope the Holidays are very enjoyable for you and your family.

We've almost made it to 2022! It's been another year of Covid, and all the issues involved with it; however, I think 553 has met 2021 very well.

We've been very busy here this year at your Local! We've represented members with grievances, answered contractors' and members' CBA questions, and negotiated the Inside Electricians' Agreement with the highest increases in many years. Additionally, Our Local represents several unique Units that include units at Fort Bragg - Valiant Global Defense Services that trains America's soldiers on shooting ranges, as well as Phoenix Logistics that trains soldiers as medical responders. Local 553 also serves to represent the Siemens Unit while they maintain transformers in the entire USA. We are a great local that functions within North Carolina's communities, as well as nationally.

Our outside members have classifications as Lineman, Groundman, Operators, and Truck drivers and have a newly negotiated Outside Agreement this year as well. Hopefully soon Our Local will be referring local outside workers within the 553 jurisdiction under this new agreement.

In 2021 we gained 2 new branch managers and new contractors in our jurisdiction. South Fair Electric now has a branch in our jurisdiction. We've finally gained national recognition with the IBEW International Office when we ranked as 11th in the nation for per capita growth. The good news is that we may achieve a similar award in 2022! Additionally, Our Local is very engaged within the community and have made our presence known throughout the surrounding counties.

Over the last several years, the JATC has become bigger than it has ever been for decades. The JATC instructors are to be commended and thanked for their superior dedication. A personal note from your humble representative BM Rob Axford. I taught for 12 years in the JATC, and I can say emphatically that it's not easy. Looking at it subjectively, I believe in the new leadership being trained there, and I believe in the Training Director Rebecca Axford. She has won the NC State Apprenticeship Award. Very hard to win among all the other great apprenticeships registered in the State. The Local 553 and the JATC will continue to work together, creating a terrific future for both organizations and those involved.



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As members of 553 you have helped modernize and make our home here on US 70 a prominent feature in the surrounding landscape. It's the only IBEW Local Union Hall on a major highway in the Carolinas. With your help, we'll continue to improve the building with a new parking lot, a digital marquee sign, a flagpole, and updated landscaping. In 2022, we will continue with the lobby upgrades, and we plan to start membership meeting room improvements throughout the upcoming year.

We had a Labor Day picnic in the Hall's back yard, which was a fun and entertaining success for all ages. What do you say we plan on making this a 553 tradition? Also, check out the recently installed restrooms in the former storage space at the back of the Hall. We feel these will be great for our future picnics and convenient for apprentices training.

Offering education is a great way to empower our local, and 553 is continuing its extracurricular training with the Foremen Development Series and also by offering the NC Electrical License courses at a reduced cost through JCR Productions. Our Outside Organizer has helped with discounts on training relating to certifications needed by Outside members. We now have at our fingertips the Agreements with your membership account at the new 553 website. Please register for your user account on 553's website

This year, we have had great success at the State Fair Contest! The 553 JATC is the **only** electrical apprenticeship to make 100% two times on the NC State Fair NEC Code test. Our two participating apprentices were included in the ranks of the top 5 contestants! I'm very proud of the JATC's contestants! Jill Mongato and Bobby Carden

We've done great as a Local this year. It's been very inspiring for me to see all the excitement and growth with our contractors and members working together to a common goal of a resourceful and dynamic Local with Great Electricians, Great Technicians, Great Linemen, and Great Outside workers, and Great Instructor Operators.

Thank you for allowing me to work for you and to represent you.

BM Rob Axford