



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!

2022 has been a very good year for 553. In a year, we've gone from 426 members to 532. The last high Membership was 513 in 2013. 553's jurisdictional worker average has increased, and we're very thankful this year for keeping local Substation work. 553's Inside Electricians on December 1st, 2023, we'll make the \$30 mark. And the next Inside CBA after November 2024, 553's Inside JW Electricians can look forward to wages in the thirties and, finally, a double-digit pension.

It's been so great to see the new 553 committees and 553's RENEW Committee develop bylaws and a Unity fund document and policy. I will always help 553's RENEW committee fundraise and fellowship. We have an incredible RENEW group at 553 and the most active in the 10th District. 553 now has a Women's committee, and we've been able to send a delegate to the IBEW International Women's Conference for more understanding on developing the committee here. I'm also very happy 553's has started to work on a Veterans committee with the help of IBEW LU 175. With strong committees in 553, we can better support the Membership. I'd also like to add that 553 has a Social Media Committee now, and I'm looking forward to more of 553 being seen media wide.

This year 553 has negotiated Agreements with Phoenix, Valiant, and Siemens. I greatly respect the Stewards of the groups, and it was an honor to be with you in negotiations. 553 has always benefitted from our single employer groups, and the negotiations allow 553 to be diverse with more experience in negotiating. I am very glad we're looking at another good agreement cycle. I know your employers are very fortunate to have you and you with 553.

Looking at the stability of the Local Union Hall and the relatively new staff, we have continued to stabilize the jurisdictional worker base, hopefully, and the growth of the 553 team, will then continue to be even more supportive to 553's local members. We continue to streamline the book system and update the bylaws. Now, we can depend on new IO-approved policies and procedures. These 553 policies, procedures, and all essential documents are now available to members on 553's website or app at our fingertips with your Membership account at the 553 website. Please register for your user account on 553's website

553 has officially had its second annual Labor Day picnic in the Hall's backyard. Our Hall is special because of the backyard area. It was more than enjoyable to see everyone that attended. I can't wait till next Labor Day and the RENEW picnics!



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553's training is increasing. We now have Code of Excellence training, OSHA 10, and NC license prep classes. Foreman Development training is in full swing. The vibrance here at the Hall with this ongoing training is very exciting, especially when members have Local training. We can and will continue to support 553's workers and, in turn, ensure contractors' involvement with the Local.

We've won an International award again!!! In 2022 LU 553 was 6th Internationally for Top 10: Largest 'A' % Growth July 2021 to July 2022 and 2nd in Tenth District for (NET) growth!! Gone are the days 553 never receives recognition. 553 is respected, and everybody wants a T-shirt. The 553 Bull is an icon that is recognized.

And, of course, we have continued the Local's renovations with the restrooms and lighting the outside. The parking lot has been on many members' minds, and finally, 553 has a brand-new warranted parking lot with landscaping. It looks great! With that done, we are directing renovations to the meeting room and a digital marquee sign. Our Hall is noticed and a fixture of the neighborhood. With the new officers elected at the Hall and RENEW and the community outreach of 553's committees, we will be an excellent visible, functioning part of the community.

An important resource 553 has tapped into is applying for grants for the LMCC and the NLMCC. We use these grants for training and organizing. 553 has created incentives for new and existing members to receive, which has been thousands of dollars so far. With these grants, we have attracted new folks who now have benefits and health insurance and are paid what they're worth. I will continue to apply for these grants. These LMCC grants are a true form of money-making money. Congratulations to the new 553 members.

2022 has been a good year for 553. Also, I know 2022 was a GREAT year for Raleigh/Durham JATC. I was invited to the end-of-year Friendsgiving celebration for the JATC, which filled up the entire cafeteria at Durham Tech. This was very inspiring, and more so, the apprentices that have become members right off the bat.

We've done great as a Local this year. It's been very good to see all the interest locally and the growth with our contractors and members working together to continue to build 553 into a resourceful Local with Great Electricians, Great Technicians, Great Linemen, Great Outside workers, and Great Instructor Operators.

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

BM Rob Axford