



Electrical Workers Local 58

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March 18, 2020

TO: All Local 58 Members
RE: Update regarding COVID-19

Seven days ago, the WHO (World Health Organization) declared COVID-19 (coronavirus disease – 2019) to be a pandemic. Since then, there have been many communications regarding this. On March 12, 2020 and March 13, 2020, IBEW Local 58 issued notifications regarding jobsite disruptions, specifically the potential for unemployment. Any Local 58 member facing unemployment due to COVID-19 is eligible for RIF (Reduction in Force) layoff. RIF layoffs are in order when an employer cannot provide 40 hours per week of employment. The 40 hours per week of employment has to include safe working conditions.

We stand behind our members who raise COVID-19 safety issues. Therefore, the RIF layoffs are in order for these members. As stated in the March 12, 2020 letter to the SE Michigan Chapter of NECA, all members receiving a COVID-19 related layoff are eligible for a call by name recall. The recall is to be to the same job and the same shift. Recall eligibility is available through April 3, 2020. This date may be extended.

We recommend that every member always carry an up to date referral recognizing the jobsite that you are currently working at. This will also make the recall process easier to implement. Some members may choose to stay at home and receive less than 40 hours per week of employment and not register on the out-of-work list. Many refer to this scenario as a furlough. Although furloughs are not addressed in any collective bargaining agreement, Local 58 encourages all members who face layoff due to COVID-19 to take the layoff and sign the out-of-work list and not accept a furlough. Once a member is registered on the out-of-work list, Local 58 will provide a SUB application.

Again, as members of Local 58 please lead by example. This includes following recommended guidelines to reduce COVID-19 exposure to yourself and others.

As always brothers and sisters, work safe and remember that we are all in this together.

Solidarity Always,

Brian D. Richard
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

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