

Hello from Local 18

Brothers and Sisters, I know we are already one month into the new year but it is never too late to maybe set a new year's resolution. This year I ask that everyone takes a moment to devote some time to being more involved in our local. Even if that means that we only attend a union meeting once a quarter. I know we are all busy with our lives, our families, our friends, and many other countless responsibilities and commitments, but I think most of us can agree that it is possible for us to come up with the time. The strength of our union depends on our members being educated and informed of the issues and happenings of our organization. Moreover, you have a voice and the opportunity to speak on these points and have your opinion heard. Quite often I have conversations with fellow members who bring up matters that have been discussed countless times at our meetings, that they have heard through the rumor mill, and more often than not they are completely false or misconstrued. The easiest way to avoid this is reasonably simple.

It has really opened my eyes since becoming Journal Correspondent of how important it is for us to be the best union members we can be, all the time. I caringly suggest that all of us read and understand our constitution and by-laws as well as our contract. And reach out to our Business Agents or Officers if any clarification is needed. The privileges we receive from these two documents have been tirelessly fought for and are the backbone of our union and the most honorable action we can take is to insure we follow these works every day.

I believe one of the greatest disservices we can make to our organization is to not follow through with our obligations. With that being said, I politely remind all of us to please make certain we are getting our dues paid before the first of the month of a new quarter and that all TM's make it to the hall before the first of every month to pick up their permits.

My intention is not to chastise my Brothers and Sisters, but one last thing I need to ask of you is to please visit our website at [www.iueclocal18.org](http://www.iueclocal18.org) and register as a user if you haven't already. When you sign up, select to receive email and text notifications as this is an excellent way for you to be informed of any important information promptly. Once the registration process is completed you will be able to access the full site where you can find zone maps, contact information, contracts, our constitution and by-laws and a wealth of other information. In addition, another excellent section of the site is the message board where all members have a place to discuss a variety of topics.

Brothers and Sisters, I hope we can make progress on these topics in the coming year as it is never too late to start a new year's resolution.

p.s. – My goal is to have pictures from our members included with our article every month, please feel free to submit any that you have, including, "new arrivals".

In Solidarity

- Chris " Puddin' " Crha

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