



International Union of Elevator Constructors

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the holiday season upon us I have spent a great deal of time reflecting on the year gone by, our goals for the years ahead, and the state of our International Union of Elevator Constructors. The one thing that's consistent across all of these is safety. I want to take this moment to personally thank all of our local unions and our members for embracing our safety initiative and, together with our IUEC leadership, achieving over two years without a jobsite fatality.

Two years without a fatality is nothing short of amazing, especially since not long ago the IUEC was "used to" about six fatalities a year. Yes, used to. The fact that we once accepted fatalities as simply the risk of working in a dangerous industry meant that we had to completely revamp our approach to safety if we were going to bring our members—*all of our members*—home safe each day. Providing safety gear and safety training simply wasn't going to be enough to turn around our injury and fatality rates. We needed a complete change of mindset and for that to happen, we needed the buy in from all of you.

Many improvements in safety were implemented on the International level such as the appointment of a safety director and an assistant safety director, safety language in our standard agreement, and a strong partnership with the employers when it comes to safety, but our local unions and our rank-and-file members are the boots on the ground each day who have to embrace our new culture of safety and make it an automatic part of their day. The International gave our local unions and our members a message and our local unions and members have run with it.

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November 20, 2024

Page 2

For some, working with a renewed focus on safety has meant you've had to alter the way in which you have long approached your workday. Yes, working safely can slow down many of our on-the-job tasks but, Brothers and Sisters, you recognize that your life and the lives of those around you is well worth a few extra minutes. I also know that the employers' demands on our members are great (and seem to be increasing every day) and achieving extra things on a to-do list seems unattainable given all that you have to do in an often-short timeframe. I thank you for making the choice every day to prioritize safety and putting it at the forefront no matter the demands you face.

When our experienced members work safely, they set the example for our younger IUEC members to learn our trade in the safest way possible. They let our younger members know that it's not just "ok" to practice safety with each task; it is expected. When our younger members use the safe work practices they have been taught, they are bringing in a new generation of IUEC members, one in which safety is every bit a part of the job and our union as skill and solidarity. And, when our union collectively works with the highest safety standards in place, we are setting the example for other trades to work safely and proving why the IUEC is a true leader in the Building Trades.

Once again, I sincerely thank you all for believing in the importance of safety, supporting our safety initiatives and, most importantly, working safely each and every day. All of our local unions and our members have been instrumental in helping me achieve the greatest goal I set for our union when I took office as your general president—to bring our members home to their loved ones at the end of every day. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

I wish all of you a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season and new year ahead!

Fraternally,



Frank J. Christensen
General President