



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS LOCAL NO. 18 • AFL-CIO

Business Manager Report

November 2023

Tony Gazzaniga

Work Picture

With projects winding down in Las Vegas, unemployment rises within Local 18. While the overall percentage of unemployment is less than 2%, having 40 or 50 members without jobs this time of year is not a favorable report. San Diego has been putting members from Los Angeles and Las Vegas to work and we want to thank the members that have hit the road to take those jobs. There have been some spot hiring in the Los Angeles area with requests for mechanics with an LA City License.

IUEC 18 Stats

Mechanics 1886

Apprentices 507

Helpers 3

Total 2397

Probationary 133

Women Build Nations Conference

IUEC Local 18 will be sending 11 of our sisters to this year's conference. On behalf of our entire Local, I want to thank these sisters and offer our full support. Women have been historically underrepresented in our trade and our sisters of IUEC 18 are changing that. Supporting women in the trades is not just about doing the right thing, it's about creating a more diverse and skilled work force and in turn, will help all of us. To our sisters attending this year's conference, we hope you submerge yourselves with the valuable information the conference supplies and bring back ideas and conversations to better this Local. Women in our trade is not a new concept but we have embraced our diversities and made a concerted effort to change the culture of the workplace. That effort has helped us see our sisters contribute as officers, instructors, recruiters, and mentors. We have more work to do but we can proudly say that IUEC18 is an organization that supplies equal representation, fair pay, benefits, stability, and dignity that every worker has the right to. Safe travels, good luck and thank you for being IUEC Local 18.

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iuec18.org



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Mental Health Benefits

Mental health has been a topic of discussion at recent meetings and the concerns regarding our mental health benefits, as well as other related topics surrounding mental health. If any member has any concerns or issues with accessing their benefits, or issues with obtaining services covered by the Benefit Plan, please contact us directly. I am also working closely with our Benefit Plan Trustees to ensure our members' concerns are being addressed at the International level. We are handling each situation individually and finding each member the best health care option for them. We are currently using Lyra, a member assistance program, and I suggest every member visits neibenefits.lyrahealth.com, create an account, and explore all that Lyra has to offer.

Let's be clear, there are various levels of mental health needs and if you are in crisis, searching for help on a website is not what you need. In these cases, **call me or any Business Agent** & for more serious situations, call the Suicide Hotline at **988**. We have access to various resources and some within our own organization.

As brothers and sisters, let us all ask ourselves, "Am I my brother's keeper?" I know the members of this Local and I know that all of us care about the wellbeing of the people we work with. If you suspect something might be ailing someone, ask them if they are ok, and don't be afraid to dig a little deeper if you are not satisfied with the answer. And certainly, don't be afraid to reach out to us at Hall, we can get involved too. Never be ashamed to ask for help. We are proud of you and proud that you want to be a healthier you.

Las Vegas Hall

While doing our due diligence for the proposed building, while in negotiations, we discovered some of the parking spaces were not included in the building purchase. For that reason, we have pulled our offer on that property. The search for a Las Vegas Union Hall continues and we will provide you with updates as they occur.

IUEC18 Veterans Day Golf Tournament

When the Golf Committee launched the idea of having a tournament in Las Vegas on Veterans Day weekend, they tempered their expectations. The committee was expecting to have 60 to 70 golfers show up, but on November 11, at The Wild Horse Golf Course, 144 IUEC members, friends, and family showed up and filled every golf cart available. When the team pulled into the course at 6am to set up for the 7:30 tee time and saw a parking lot filled with elevator constructors, we knew it was going to be a fun time. Between the putting games, raffles, and the huge support from our sponsors, IUEC18 was able raise over \$5,000 for Tunnels to Towers supporting our veterans. The tournament was a huge success; excellent job to everyone involved and thank you to our membership in supporting this cause. We look forward to seeing you out there again next year.



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Las Vegas Softball Tournament

The Southern Nevada Building Trades held their annual softball tournament earlier this month. This tournament is new on the circuit, and we want to applaud Joe Boswell for getting a team together in such short notice. It was a great day for union workers to get out and play one another. Our team got off to a good start, winning their first couple of 60-minute games. They made it to the semifinals and with time running out and down a couple of runs, it looked to be over, but that was until Chris Fitzpatrick hit a shot that put the IUEC in the finals. Unfortunately, they came up short in the Championship game, but came home as 2nd place contestants. While we didn't get that 1st place prize, our brothers and sisters by far were the best-looking team on the diamond that day. The red, white, and blue jerseys with the Las Vegas skyline and red caps were a hit, but the best part of that day was the teamwork and brotherhood our members displayed.

This team has sparked some excitement across the Local and the search party is out signing up softball players interested in playing in next year's tournament. We are hoping to at least one, possibly two more teams to the tournament next year. If you are interested in playing sign up at iuec18.org. It wasn't that long ago that Local 18 hosted the Regional Softball Tournament and locals from across the West Region would come out to play ball. The trophy is currently in Las Vegas, we hope to see you out there next year.

PAC and COPE Committees

With 2024 around the corner and another important election on the horizon, our PAC and COPE Committees are getting prepared to find and support candidates that are in step with labor and working people. Our committees are looking for volunteers to canvas precincts, make phone calls, raise money, and interview prospective candidates to support and elect labor friendly politicians. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Steve Bills at Steve.bills@iuec18.org or Ken Michalik at Ken.michalik@iuec18.org.

Continuing Education

If you completed your Mechanic Exam after July 9, 2022, and before January 1, 2023, this requirement has slightly changed since last reported. You must complete 8 hours of Continuing Education by December 1st to receive your pay advance on January 1st; this also includes mechanics who are on Assistant Mechanic Agreements. NEIEP (*National Elevator Industry Educational Program*) has created an online course to fulfill this requirement, and it is available at NEIEP.org. Once you have completed the course, you will receive 8 hours of the local mechanic rate. For assistance with your username or password, contact the NEIEP Administrator in your area.



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Shepards Pantry Food & Clothes Drive

We are accepting donations to support the Local Chapter of Shepards Pantry. Please bring any donations to the hall, classrooms, events, or meetings and we will get them to the Pantry. Shepards Pantry works with people in our communities who are less fortunate and sometimes needing help to clothe themselves and their families. Our donations have been substantial in the past and I would like to thank our members for donating an additional \$2000 to Shepards Pantry this year.

Our Local has been extremely generous in supporting various charities throughout our communities. We should all be aware that just because someone has a job, it doesn't mean they aren't struggling with purchasing gifts for their children this Christmas. If you know of a member in this situation or are in it yourself, please stop by the Hall, we will always take care of our members' needs first and if our donations can help one of our own, then all the better.

Happy Thanksgiving

This Thanksgiving I am thankful to work with a group of brothers who have decided to make less money and work longer hours because they believe in the cause. These brothers share their best ideas and don't worry about who gets the credit. I am thankful to lead the most highly skilled and highly trained labor force. We are the envy of all the Building Trades. Our members are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of the conveyance riding public and perform their duties magnificently in stressful situations with dangers lurking around every corner. I am also thankful to be a member of a Union that puts us, their people, ahead of everything else. A Union that has compassion for its members and commits most of its focus, energy, and resources to getting our members home safely each day. Most of all I am thankful for the love of my family and friends and the time I get to spend with them.

On behalf of the staff, officers, and members of Local 18, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving weekend!

Stay Safe

Tony Gazzaniga