



Local Union 97

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

New York State

May 31, 2022

Brothers and Sisters,

As many of you already know, I have made the decision to not seek re-election as your President/Business Manager. It was a very tough decision, to say the least, as I have spent over half of my 36 years as an officer of this Local Union and served as Union Steward prior to that.

It has been an honor to serve as your President/Business Manager/Financial Secretary for more than a decade. I served to the best of my ability, and together we have accomplished a lot over the past 12 years, from numerous contract negotiations and going on strike to working through a never before seen pandemic! Through all of this we continued to work – providing for our families with good pay, benefits and safe working conditions.

Our industry is ever changing and we need not only to maintain our existing contracts, but also to build upon our many accomplishments and continue to provide good paying jobs with top shelf benefits. Now more than ever is the time to come together as one voice. We can disagree on issues, however, do not lose sight of the fact that we need to stand up to the companies as one united force. Local 97 stands for solidarity, dignity and excellence.

Rhetoric is not what we need now. We need to do better in order to demand better! Now is not the time to be divided. WE ARE THE IBEW!

Experienced union leaders along with the next generation will build the union of the future. Only together can we secure that future.

I would like to thank all of the office staff, Assistant Business Managers, Business Representatives, Executive Board, all of the Stewards and Safety Advocates for the hard work they have put forth over the years to support and represent this membership. I am proud of their dedication and the work they have done for this Local Union.

On another note, history was made at the 40th International Convention as President Joe Biden was the first sitting United States President to address the delegates. Another historical moment was when we elected the first female (Gina Cooper) into the office of International Vice President representing the 4th District.

More information related to the IBEW Convention will be forthcoming.

Fraternally yours,

Theodore J. Skerpon
President/Business Manager
IBEW Local 97

TJS/dl

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