INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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VIA EMAIL

To: All IBEW Business Managers in the United States and Canada – Having "A" Membership

Re: The Importance of Paying Dues Until Retirement

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

It has come to my attention that with increasing frequency, some IBEW "A" members who reach retirement age – or take an early retirement from their local union – stop paying their dues and are subsequently dropped from membership six months thereafter [Article XI, Section 6(a) of the *IBEW Constitution*]. In some cases, members are unaware of the pension and death benefits available to them from the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF), or mistakenly believe that having reached retirement age for the local union pension plan, are no longer required to pay dues. As you know, "A" members who are dropped from membership forfeit all accrued pension and death benefits from the PBF. To remain eligible, a member must maintain continuous good standing by paying dues monthly or quarterly until the member is placed on PBF pension.

To help mitigate this occurrence, I must enlist your assistance in educating your members on the importance of paying dues and the benefits available to them from the PBF. It is imperative members understand the importance of paying dues until they are *approved* for PBF pension. If there is an overpayment, the Per Capita Department will make a refund. I am certain you would prefer to deal with an overpayment rather than a member's complete loss of PBF benefits due to nonpayment of dues. To be clear, members must continue paying dues until they are placed on PBF pension *and* receive an approval letter from the PBF.

To inform your members, I suggest using any or all of the tools available to you as business manager, such as a special letter to the membership, a notice in the local union newsletter, and/or a posting on the local union's website. Please inform your members of the advantages of union membership, particularly the benefits that are available to them from the PBF.

I am pleased to announce that soon the international office will post an article in the *Electrical Worker* that will discuss dues payments and PBF benefits. I believe you and your members will find it helpful.

With best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,

Kenneth W. Cooper
International Secretary-Treasurer

KWC:bap
Copy to All IBEW International Vice Presidents