



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local • 46
19802 62nd Ave S, Suite 105 • Kent, WA 98032
253-395-6500 (voice) • 253-872-7059 (fax)
www.ibew46.com

Summary of 9th District Progress Meeting

I attended the 9th District Progress Meeting, which gathers local representatives to review the past year's progress and set goals for the coming year. This year's focus was on the political landscape due to President Biden's decision not to seek re-election and its potential impact on our work across the nation and in the 9th District.

Key Areas Discussed:

1. Political Landscape:

- Emphasis was placed on the upcoming election and its implications for the union and industry.
- IBEW's endorsement of Kamala Harris and record fundraising achievements were highlighted.
- Discussions included focusing on issues rather than candidates and aiming for 95% member voter registration.

2. Organizing and Workforce:

- The need to retain current workers and attract new ones was addressed due to a projected shortfall in the workforce over the next decade.
- Various caucuses (Women's, RENEW, EWMC) discussed strategies to recruit more women and younger individuals into the electrical trade.

3. Workshops and Panels:

- Workshops focused on inside construction and organizing efforts in the 9th District, with a goal to improve organizing and membership growth.
- Keynote speeches included insights on green energy and union involvement, and the importance of improving infrastructure and training.

4. Awards and Recognitions:

- Local 46 received the JATC Excellence Award.
- Other notable awards were given for organizing growth and successful contractor signings.

5. Membership Numbers:

- **Total IBEW Membership:** 712,840 active members.
- **9th District Membership:** 156,571 members.
 - **"A" Members:** 91,995 members within the 9th District.
 - **"BA" Members:** 64,576 members within the 9th District.
- The 9th District achieved significant growth, contributing 51% of the total increase in IBEW membership across all districts.

6. President Cooper's Five Key Goals:

- **Prompt Follow-Up with Non-Union Contractors:** It is crucial to contact non-union contractors within five days of an initial outreach. This ensures timely engagement and increases the likelihood of converting them to union status.
- **Attention to Prevailing Wages:** Locals should vigilantly monitor and advocate for prevailing wage standards to ensure fair compensation for union workers.
- **Proactive PLA Agreements:** Union representatives should bring Project Labor Agreement (PLA) proposals to developers, rather than waiting for developers to approach the union. This proactive approach helps secure more union jobs.
- **Expand Training Programs:** Enhance and broaden training programs to better educate current and prospective members, ensuring they are well-prepared for evolving industry demands.
- **Enforce Compliance and Address Violations:** It is important to hold contractors accountable for cheating or violations, reinforcing the integrity of union standards and agreements.

7. Future Outlook:

- The 9th District's market share has remained stagnant, and efforts are needed to increase membership and engagement.
- New developments in federal projects and training programs were discussed, alongside ongoing initiatives to enhance member benefits.

Conclusion: The progress meeting provided valuable insights into broader IBEW goals and strategies. It reinforced the importance of thinking beyond local concerns and working collaboratively to address industry-wide challenges.

Submitted by Steve Murphy, IBEW Local 46 and Executive Board Member