



Guest Article

By Rod Belisle, Vice Chair, IBEW and United Workers Federal Credit Union

This is not your father's credit union

I have been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) for 34 years, and a member of the IBEW and United Workers Federal Credit Union for just as many.

If you are new to the credit union, welcome. If you are not new, but have noticed changes, you are correct.

"This is not your father's credit union" as they used to say, although some of you may actually be able to say that with some accuracy.

This credit union was developed by the union trades seeking a method to invest our union wages into a union-run, union-managed financial institution that we could all trust to invest our money, secure a loan, and earn a few dollars in benefits, savings, and pride in our industry.

Our credit union has undergone a face-lift in both the services we provide and in overall operations. The board of directors is made up mostly of building trades members representing seven different union locals. Four of the 10 board

members are in their first term of office, reflecting the changes you have noticed in our operations and representing the voice of their memberships.

As a member, I have first-hand experience in recently purchasing a used RV and obtaining a loan during COVID-19 times. I was able to coordinate the pre-approval and logistics via phone and email, travel to the site of the RV in another state, make an inspection and test drive and then contact the credit union, electronically sign the loan documents and authorize the transfer of funds in a turnaround time of about four hours, allowing me to drive it home within 24 hours of arranging the test drive.

That is a level of service, planning, and cooperation I wouldn't expect from a corporate bank.

If you are a member of one of the union locals listed in this article, you and your family members — including parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, step-children, step-parents, step-brothers and sisters,

half brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, spouses of any of these persons, and domestic partners, are eligible to join the credit union. The unions are:

Bakers Locals 114 and 364; Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1-Oregon-Washington-Idaho-Montana; Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters and its affiliated locals, including Millwrights Local 96 and Piledrivers Local 196; Cement Masons Local 555; Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 8; IATSE Locals B-20, and 28; Studio Mechanics Local 488; IBEW Locals 48, 89, 125, and 932; Insulators Local 36; Elevator Constructors Locals 23 and 135; Laborers Locals 737, 483, 155/Idaho Falls, and Oregon & Southern Idaho District Council; Mason Industry Trust Funds; Northwest Oregon Labor Council; Office & Professional Employees Local 11; Plasterers Local 82; Roofers Local 49; Sheet Metal Workers Local 16; Southwest Washington Central Labor Council; International Union of Painters & Allied

Trades District Council No. 5 and its affiliated locals, including Painters Local 10, Drywall Finishers Local 101, Glass Workers Local 740, Floor Coverers Local 1236, and Sign Painters & Paint Makers Local 1094.

Once you become a member of the credit union you can download our mobile app and access your money on the go. You can log in using your fingerprint, face, voice or online banking password — it's your choice. In the mobile app you can: apply for a loan, check your balances, make an account to account transfer to and from another financial institution, move money between accounts, set notice alerts, manage you debit and/or credit cards, mobile deposit your checks, and more.

I encourage you to check us out. You might even take out a loan from the credit union to buy an RV. Why not?

Rod Belisle is training director for the NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center and a 34 year member of IBEW Local 48.



... Speaker Kotek says objections aren't meant to stop union

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In a letter to fellow legislators, House Speaker Tina Kotek called the objections "necessary technical and legal clarifications" and said they're not an attempt to shut down the staff effort to form a union.

"This is part of the normal process and not in any way blocking the unionization effort," Kotek wrote. "The objections address some very novel questions of law and fact. All objections were filed to inform the process as we learn more."

IBEW Local 89 representa-

tive Tony Ruiz says when news got out about the state's objection, labor organizations stepped forward to offer the union legal help and letters of support, some legislators reached out to ask if there's legislation they could present that would be helpful, and the Democratic Party of Oregon offered whatever support is needed.

The case is being watched by union locals around the nation, Ruiz said.

ERB was set to hear arguments from both sides Jan. 14, after this issue went to press.

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As pandemic surges, 140,000 jobs lost in December

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI)—The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Jan. 8 that employers shed a net of 140,000 jobs in December. The U.S. ended 2020 with a 6.7% jobless rate, compared to 3.6% in December 2019.

The day before BLS released the data, the country's daily death toll set a record of 4,085.

The regular jobless report captures an economic portrait from mid-December, but weekly unemployment insurance claims report, issued Jan. 7, showed 19.2 million (13.1%) of the nation's 146.5 million workers received state or federal jobless aid as of mid-December.

The monthly report showed 10.7 million people were jobless in early December. Another 115,000 dropped out of the workforce that month. By contrast, 5.8 million people were jobless in December 2019, before the pandemic hit.

As of Jan. 8, 21.6 million people had tested positive since the pandemic was first declared on March 13, 2020, and 365,539 have died. Just on the day of that weekly jobless claims report, 274,403 tested positive and 4,085 died.

To put those numbers in per-

spective, the total number who've tested positive since the pandemic began exceeds, by 90,000, the populations of the nation's six largest cities—New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Phoenix and Philadelphia—combined. The cumulative death toll equals all of Anaheim, California.

The December jobs report shows the pandemic hit hotels, restaurants and bars hardest. They reported letting almost half a million workers go that month. The data would have been even worse

if construction (+51,000 jobs), factories (+38,000) and couriers and messengers (+37,000) hadn't added jobs in December.

Big losses occurred in other sectors. One was mass transit. Those systems cut 9,000 jobs in December, and 128,000—one of every four—in a year. Another was state and local governments. They dumped a combined 51,000 jobs, all in state higher education and local governments, in December. For the year, they were down 1.35 million.

UNIONIZATION → NOV-DEC 2020

The following are Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces where workers have decided whether to be represented by a union. The thumbs-up symbol means workers will be union-represented. Thumbs-down means they'll be on their own. "Decert" means union-represented workers voted whether to remain union. The information comes from the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

Union election results

Employer (Location) Union	Yes-No	
Meritus Solutions Group (Corbett) Security, Police Fire Professionals	6-1	👍
■ 12 security officers at the Bonneville Lock and Dam		
Package Containers Inc. (Canby) Machinists District W24	DECERT 2-21	👎
■ 28 machine operators, maintenance machinists, and others at printed paper bag producer		

Unionization by majority signup

Employer (Location) Union
Nestucca Rural Fire Protection Dist. (Hebo) N. Lincoln Professional Firefighters
■ 9 fire fighters