



# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

## Local Union No. 153



Brothers and Sisters,

Last night, in fact since March 16, 2020, Locals 153, 531, and 697 have come up with the Northern Indiana Disease Emergency Response Agreement (NIDERA). This agreement will now take the place of the NDERA agreement that was sent out last week to you the membership. This agreement will remain in effect until April 16, 2020, and at that point the locals will get together to renew the agreement or end it if, hopefully, things are much better, and we don't need one. Please take a minute to thoroughly read thru this agreement.

Also, for the safety of our members we will be suspending random drug testing through April 30, 2020. With the medical facilities being overwhelmed with the COVID-19 virus testing, we want to keep our members from being exposed to large groups of people who might have the virus.

The NIDERA provides for our members the right to refuse to go to work provided he/she "...*genuinely believes there is imminent danger...*" at the jobsite; as it pertains to COVID-19. This language is not a loophole for individuals who don't want to work; it is provided for individuals who have legitimate concerns about their own well-being.

"I would suggest a person first assess themselves and then the jobsite when making their decision on whether to go to work. Am I a high-risk individual? Do I have or am I prone to heart disease, asthma, HIV, pregnant, diabetic, previously undergone chemotherapy or elderly? Am I working in close contact with others on the jobsite? What precautions has the jobsite taken to protect me? Has there been a confirmed case of COVID-19 on the jobsite? Have there been any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the community? I think a quick check on the items listed above will help our members in their decision making. Remember we do have an obligation to meet the needs of our customers and our contractors, but we cannot neglect the responsibility to ourselves." - IVP David Ruhmkorff

If you have any questions, please call the Hall.

Attached are the NIDERA agreement and the MOU on the drug test policy

Keep your families and yourselves safe and keep a level head and we should all get thru this together

In faith and Solidarity,

Mike Leda

Business Manager