



# Local Union 97

## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

### New York State

Brothers and Sisters,

As we move past the two month mark on dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to say “thank you” for all that you are doing during these trying times. No matter what line of business you work in (generation, transmission, distribution, field or office), whether you are still required to report to work or are managing work from home, I am proud to say that the work ethic that you have shown during this crisis is a testament to the professionalism that defines us as members of IBEW Local 97.

At the onset of this, I challenged each Company not to put profits before people; I also challenged our Local 97 leadership to put our members’ needs at the forefront of all decisions made related to COVID-19. I can honestly say that both of those challenges are being met and should continue to be as we go forward.

Now is not the time to let our guard down. We need to remain mindful of the CDC as well as state and local recommendations in order to lower the risk of exposure to ourselves, those we work with and the family members we return home to each night. We need to make social distancing, wearing of face coverings, washing hands and cleaning work areas a daily practice.

The number of members who have tested positive throughout the Local 97 foot print has been very low. The number of members quarantined is higher, and unfortunately some of that can be attributed to poor judgement. We need to wear face coverings when social distancing cannot be achieved...even when riding with two in the cab of a vehicle.

How we do business today will definitely look different tomorrow and we need to have a different mindset as we look at future work to be performed. As we start to prepare to return to some sense of normalcy, we will need to ensure that a safe work place is provided for all.

With that said, please remember that you are part of those assurances. There will most certainly be protocols that will need to be followed in order to safely perform work. We cannot ignore good practices that could prevent the spread of the Corona virus. Doing so may not only have an impact on you personally, but also your co-workers and your families, some of whom may be more vulnerable than you to this disease.

Together we will find creative solutions to the many new challenges we will face as we move forward.

Stay Safe!! Stay Strong!! Together we will get through these unprecedented times.

Fraternally,

Theodore J. Skerpon  
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