

THE RECORD



LOCAL 1-2



**Here's to a Better,
Stronger 2022.**

VOL. LXI, NO. 548 NOV 2021

The Record LOCAL 1-2

Our merchants and masters complain much of the bad effects of high wages in raising the price and lessening the sale of goods. They say nothing concerning the bad effects of high profits. They are silent with regard to the pernicious effects of their own gains. They complain only of those people."

-Adam Smith, [An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations](#)=1776



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Utility Workers Union of America LOCAL 1-2

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Your Views and Comments Are Welcome

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

JAMES SHILITTO



Brothers and Sisters, As we look toward the last Membership Meeting of the calendar year, I can tell you that circumstances in all of our workplaces are changing at warp speed. By the time we have our meeting, we will be edging toward the December 8 federal “mandate” which some companies interpreted (wrongly) as requiring all federal workers and their contractors to be inoculated against the CoVid-19 virus. Our employers at Con Edison and the tree-trimming companies are asserting that they are federal contractors and, as such, all employees are required to be vaccinated or face sanctions. We have challenged this position and have demanded all documents on which Con Ed is allegedly relying for its allegations. Once they are produced, we will be reviewing them very, very carefully.

As you know by now, Local 1-2 has filed unfair practice charges with the NLRB against Con Edison and has asked the NLRB to take Con Ed to court for injunctive relief (in other words, to stop them from acting unilaterally). Con Ed reacted to our charge by backing down from its prior position that anyone not vaccinated by December 8 would be fired; and, as this column is being written, is bargaining with us about the proper way to proceed.

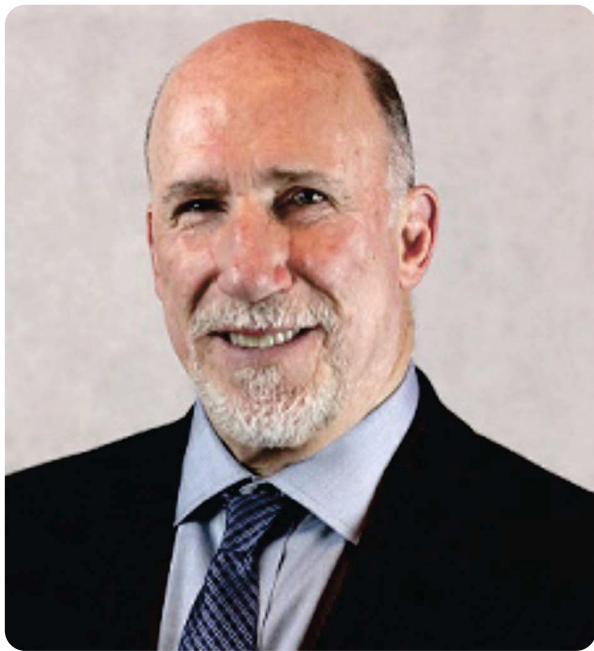
All of this might be out of date by the time we meet, but the underlying conditions that created the battle in the first place will never go away. This fight goes to the very core of why we are Union Members. If you were out there on your own and refused to be vaccinated, you would be out of a job, as we have seen over the past few months where employers are firing people outright, by the thousands. Being a Member of a Union provides stability in the workplace for you, the Member, and protects you from the whims of management. Employers, especially Con Ed, stonewall and delay in responding to information requests; but

we will and do keep pushing to get everything to which we are entitled.

We have been talking to these employers every single day to point out to them that this is not covered in our contract. While we urge everyone be protected from CoVid, the Bosses need to negotiate with Local 1-2 as to how this will work. We will be nearly two years into this global pandemic when this “mandate” is to take effect. We are saying we kept the lights on, we kept the power flowing, 24/7, without mandates; and we did it by testing, masking, distancing, and quarantining when necessary. All of this before vaccines became available and now these companies have the temerity to “mandate” inoculations. They did not care so much when they sent out Brothers and Sisters to work in the field, day and night, exposed to the public before any vaccines existed, as they made profits for their shareholders and bonuses for their executives. We have very strenuous objections to the idea of a “mandate” imposed from on high when it concerns the health, safety and personal freedom of our Members. This has nothing to do with denying science; it has everything to do with why we join together as one, to keep arbitrary rules from defining the scope of our jobs or how to do them.

For nearly two years we have done everything asked of us to keep New York operating, with many of us directly in harm’s way - many have been sickened, and some have perished - but we honored the terms of our labor agreements. It is about time for these companies to honor our labor instead of looking for ways to punish us.

Come to the Membership Meeting on December 2nd. It will be on Zoom, once again, but it is important to attend to show that we act as one. Where one Member is harmed, all Members are harmed. Stay united!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

WILLIAM SMITH

Brothers and Sisters, As President Shillitto observed, we kept working throughout this pandemic and we are working still every day. And the people we work for were happy for our labor, day in and day out, before vaccines and after vaccines. And they are happy for our toil still as our entire society has undergone profound shifts. We still have jobs to do. Not everyone can work remotely. Some of us have to keep the lights on; to keep the steam, gas, water and electricity flowing. We keep the plants powered and substations operating so hospitals and universities and elementary schools can stay open; so society itself can function. Our work is vital and as Members of Local 1-2, we have a say in how this all comes about. In November, we reached an agreement with NAES for our unit there which comes with increased wages and benefits. We bargained with NAES just as hard as we do at Con Edison, our largest employer, and we came away from the bargaining table with an excellent agreement that was ratified by the Members. Nearly two years deep into this global health crisis,

you - the Members - kept our nation's largest city working under the greatest strains imaginable and for that all New Yorkers should thank you.

As this year draws to a close, and we pray brings the end of the pandemic, we have more work to do for our Members in the New Year, including talks with Holtec/CDI, the new owners of the decommissioned Indian Point, to reach an Agreement for our Members who continue to work there following Entergy's exit. And there will be more agreements to negotiate including Westchester Joint Water Works.

We ALL look forward to a 2022 that will be free from arbitrary employers; where we will enjoy good health, and good wages for our labor; and good for all else which we hold dear.

Let's begin 2022 with a new outlook, a new resolve and the dignity and respect we demand, expect and have earned from our employers.

Remember: Apathy is Lethal. The Boss is not your friend!

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Local 1-2 members from Con Ed's Eastview, Rye, Yonkers and the Bronx yards who traveled to Louisiana for Ida hurricane restoration. Local 1-2 Executive Board Secretary Christopher Katzmann stands fourth from the right.

Crews from New York Local 1-2, Ohio Local 270, and Massachusetts Local 369 repaired poles and wires to re-energize thousands of homes and businesses. Local 1-2 Executive Board member Chris Katzmann is one of scores of union members who responded to Hurricane Ida. He joined Con Ed crews from the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Westchester Counties in New York.

"They have giant trees in Louisiana that were all snapped twisted from the wind," he reported. "We were talking to one of the homeowners and they said it sounded like a freight train coming through the swamp because of all the trees snapping."

He explained his crew's work: "Picking up poles at the staging areas. Spotting them at locations. Another truck comes and sets the poles. Once the poles are set, bucket trucks go in and they frame the poles and get the wire back up. We were like a well-oiled machine."

"Unfortunately," he adds, "there was a huge shortage of transformers. There were more people we wanted to restore power for but we couldn't because of the lack of tubs [transformers]. With all these utilities cutting back on their workforce, and a lot of maintenance not getting done, it's a recipe for the disasters we are seeing now."

"The mechanics are the unsung heroes," he says. "A lot of times when we go out on trips, you see all the pictures of bucket trucks. The mechanics are the ones that follow behind the vehicles. If someone has an oil leak, a blowout, or a transmission problem, the mechanics are there, on the spot, to fix the trucks."

When asked how the locals greeted them, Chris said, "They are very thankful and appreciative of the work that everyone was doing. One of them made gumbo for the crew, another made fresh baked ham. We got the ham. It was excellent!"

While he was on his way to Louisiana, torrential rains from Ida flooded Chris's car in Con Ed's Eastview yard. "I'm away at work and my union brothers and sisters back at home helped my son get my car out of the yard. Luckily it started."

Utility workers like Chris are there, on the scene, when communities face crisis, working in partnership with firefighters, law enforcement, paramedics, and other first responders amidst some of the most perilous conditions - hurricanes, floods, fires, dealing with the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters.

Help recognize the essential nature of this work by calling for utility workers to be designated as first responders.



ENGAGE. EDUCATE. MOBILIZE.

The Union Veterans Council brings working class veterans together to speak out on the issues that impact us most, especially the need for good jobs and a strong, fully funded and staffed VA. Additionally, we hold private enterprise and elected officials accountable for their words and actions. We believe wholeheartedly that the ability for someone to self-identify as “pro-veteran” isn’t determined by what lapel pin they don or what catchphrase they employ; veterans face real issues that require real actions—constructive actions that lead to positive solutions. Learn more at www.unionveterans.org

Representing more than 1 million union veterans, Union Veterans Council local leaders from around the country will speak through videos, events, call-in campaigns, and paid advertisements about how a union career was their pathway to the American Dream and how more American workers should have the freedom to organize together.

“I know first-hand that the transition to civilian life is never easy. Unions provide good-paying careers and a sense of camaraderie that many veterans are missing from their time in the military,” said Union Veterans Council Executive Director Will Attig.

UTILITIES UNPREPARED FOR ENERGY, CLIMATE CRISES



By Seth Blumsack

Professor of Energy and Environmental Economics and International Affairs, Penn State

A busy 2021 Atlantic hurricane season is in full swing. The year's 18th named storm, Sam, has become a hurricane. Meanwhile, some residents in the parts of Louisiana hit hardest by Hurricane Ida in late August are still waiting for their power to be restored. And thousands of Texas residents endured multi-day outages after Hurricane Nicholas in mid-September.

Americans are becoming painfully aware that U.S. energy grids are vulnerable to extreme weather events. Hurricanes in the east, wildfires in the west, ice storms, floods and even landslides can trigger widespread power shortages. And climate change is likely making many of these extreme events more frequent, more severe or both.

As a long-time researcher of the electric utility industry, I've noticed that the U.S. tends to treat extended power cuts from natural disasters as an unfortunate fact of life. Even in states like Pennsylvania, where I live, that aren't typically in the path of major tropical storms, a surprising amount of energy infrastructure is potentially vulnerable to extreme weather.

But in my view, major energy disruptions are not inevitable consequences beyond our control. Rather, the rising number of large weather-related blackouts in recent years shows that utilities, regulators and government agencies aren't planning for these events in the right way. What's needed is an understanding that extreme weather events are fundamentally different from other kinds of power blackouts, and that resilience is not just about the grid itself, but also the people that it serves.

How power companies plan for disasters

In most areas of the U.S., power grids tend not to fail unless they are pushed really hard. Utilities have built a tremendous amount of redundancy into energy delivery systems – extra generating capacity and transmission lines that can get electricity to customers if part of the system fails. That's the right approach if major threats are things like equipment overloads on very hot days, or random equipment failures that could cascade into much bigger problems.

Utilities and regulators have planned grid design around these kinds of failures for decades. And for the most part, this approach has worked well. Truly severe power outages from causes other than extreme weather don't happen very often in the U.S. The last really big one, on Aug. 14-15, 2003, affected some 50 million people across the U.S. Northeast and Midwest and southern Canada.

Redundancy is a good strategy for keeping the grid stable following an unexpected malfunction of

one or two pieces of equipment. It also allows utilities to do more of what they are good at – building, maintaining and operating power grid infrastructure.

But in the face of extreme weather events, the system needs a different kind of redundancy. Building more equipment in vulnerable places won't keep the lights on if the entire area is hit by a disruptive event all at once. In Louisiana, Hurricane Ida was so fierce that it took down multiple power transmission lines that feed electricity into New Orleans and surrounding parishes. Some of this damaged infrastructure had been upgraded or put in place following previous severe storms.

Rethinking resilience planning

Planning properly for resilience to extreme weather events requires doing some things differently.

First, it means realizing that a lot of equipment in the same place will be affected all at once. One reason that Ida led to such large blackouts in New Orleans was that some older transmission lines going into the city hadn't been upgraded to withstand more severe weather, even though they ran beside new equipment.

Second, the goal should be to get people the services that they need, not necessarily to keep the grid up and running, which is very costly and just won't be possible in all circumstances.

This means thinking about solutions outside of the traditional utility business model – for example, deploying lifeline systems such as solar panels, batteries or generators. This isn't how utilities traditionally do business, but it will tide people over while power companies make large-scale grid repairs after storms.

Third, it's time to acknowledge that the risks of extreme events are increasing faster than many utilities have been adapting their plans. For example, Pacific Gas and Electric in California has only recently incorporated wildfire risk into its transmission planning, and now is more seriously considering burying power lines.

Entergy, which serves much of the area hit hardest by Ida, has upgraded its transmission design standards so that newer lines can withstand higher winds. This is a useful step, but it did not prevent catastrophic power outages during a period of dangerously hot weather. Utilities and regulators still assume that the scale and likelihood of many weather-related risks has not changed in the past several decades. As climate change accelerates, utilities and regulators should be working to understand which risks are changing and how.

Some utilities, like those in New York, are learning from recent experiences with extreme weather events and trying to solve these problems. Con Edison, for example, has focused not only on restoration plans following extreme events, but has also tried to model and quantify the changing risks that it faces. Others, like those in Vermont and California, are weighing how they can achieve extreme-weather resilience as their grids become more dependent on renewables.

How much money to spend for resilient grids is a major question. What's already clear is that building more, bigger infrastructure is not necessarily better.



Christmas Gifts for Rosary Hill 60th Anniversary 1961 - 2021

Co-chairpersons

Marion Clark
Diane Miskiewicz
Chris Solomou
Walter Klinke
Ed Nicholson
Mark Pasquale

For 2021, we'd like to outline what **ROSARY HILL** is about as a reminder to our old friends and an introduction to our new ones. **ROSARY HILL** serves incurable cancer patients of all races and creeds. They do not accept payment from the patients or their families but instead are supported solely by the expression of God's love through the gifts of individuals. See one of the individuals listed below to make a donation that will surely make you feel good this Holiday Season.

In memory of Joe Caradonna and our brothers and sisters who succumbed to the virus

Please make your checks payable to ROSARY HILL

(PLEASE NOTE ON CHECKS: "Servants of Relief for Incurable cancer" to submit for Company match contributions)

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Karen Tubman, Joe Shannon, Maria Corea-Gray, Lori Miller, Jane Solnick

RYE SERVICE CTR:

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VAN NEST:

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ASTORIA/Bldg82/CFS:

Chris Solomou, Scott Koehler, Anthony Salomon

HIGH LINE:

Eric Dechent

YONKERS:

Michael Hall, Derrick Candelaria

SUBSTATION OPER:

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TRBL SHOOTERS #9:

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BENEFACTORS:

B.J. Harrington, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Jack Quealy,

NATIONAL UNION:

Jim Slevin, National President

Please submit your donation by, **Monday, December 20, 2021**. We will meet between 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Monday, **December 20, 2021** at the Union Office, 5 West Cross St., Hawthorne (next to the Post Office, 2nd floor). The Phone # is 914-747-0309 if anyone needs to check in.

**With Holiday Blessings
"Merry Christmas to All"**

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It's Time To Winterize Your Home

Not surprisingly, energy costs will rise again this winter as consumers try to keep their homes warm and toasty. Residential electricity rates have risen on average about 15% nationwide over the last 10 years, an increase of about \$0.02 per year. Consumers who use oil heat are expected to pay about 20% more this year than last year.

Before you get your first heating bill, take these steps to conserve heat and make your home more energy efficient:

- Adjust your thermostat. Throw an extra blanket on the bed and turn down the temperature in your home by 5 to 10 degrees at night to save energy and money. Buy a programmable thermostat and let it adjust the temperature for you.
- Fill the cracks, gaps and leaks. Pick up some spray foam insulation and look for gaps around your windows and pipes. If you have a gap under your door, install weather stripping or just make a "door snake." This can save up to 40% on your annual energy bill for both heating and air conditioning seasons.
- Take advantage of free sunlight. During the day, open the blinds on windows that face south and turn down your thermostat. At night, close the blinds so the heat doesn't escape through the window. Remove any objects that might block sunlight from shining on heat-absorbing walls.
- Add extra insulation. Start with the larger gaps around the chimney, furnace flues, plumbing pipes, and ductwork. Then check your roof insulation to make sure it's about 10 to 16 inches deep. If it isn't, have more installed. If your home is more than 50 years old and still has the original insulation, consider replacing it with newer insulation.
- Use a space heater in moderation. Use it if you keep the central temperature in your house very low and you want to heat one or two rooms. Turn it off when the room reaches a comfortable temperature. Place your space heater at least three feet from any flammable objects such as bedding, drapery and furniture, and never leave a space heater unattended.

The Qside College Scholarship Program is a product of our long-standing commitment to the prosperity of our young members. Since 2003, we have granted over \$46,000 in college scholarships to our young members.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Current high school seniors, who are:

- attending a two or four year accredited college for the first time in Fall 2020
- members of Qside FCU (to join, visit QsideFCU.org/Membership)

AWARD

Three applicants will be selected to each receive a \$1,000 award. Qside will also submit all applications to the Credit Union Association of New York to compete for a separate scholarship award of \$1,000 or \$500.

APPLY

The application deadline is January 10, 2020. Applicants will be judged on academic achievements, a written essay, and extracurricular and community activities.

To download the application and for further details, visit QsideFCU.org/Scholarship

Rate Update

The Annual Percentage Rate for a Qside FCU EquiFlex Home Equity Line of Credit is 3.75% for the fourth quarter of 2021.

Rate Effective 10/01/2021

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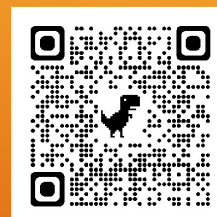


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UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO
LOCAL 1-2
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2021

ASSETS

	General Fund (Without Donor Restrictions)	Defense Fund (Without Donor Restrictions)	Political Action Fund (With Donor Restrictions)	Building Fund (Without Donor Restrictions)	Eliminations	Total
Current assets:						
Cash and cash equivalents:						
Cash	\$ (257,628)	\$ -	\$ 38,026	\$ 5,528,459	\$ -	\$ 5,308,857
Cash equivalents	-	957,024	-	-	-	957,024
Total cash and cash equivalents	(257,628)	957,024	38,026	5,528,459	-	6,265,881
Receivables:						
Dues	24,928	-	-	17,715	-	42,643
Interest	-	2,367	-	1,876	-	4,243
Due from other funds	-	737,677	-	(70,684)	(666,993)	-
Other	2,985	-	-	-	-	2,985
Total receivables	27,913	740,044	-	(51,093)	(666,993)	49,871
Prepaid expenses	10,080	-	-	-	-	10,080
Total prepaid expenses	10,080	-	-	-	-	10,080
Total current assets	(219,635)	1,697,068	38,026	5,477,366	(666,993)	6,325,832
Non-current assets:						
Long-term investments	28,908	-	-	-	-	643,605
Security deposits	38,947	-	-	-	-	38,947
Property assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total non-current assets	67,855	614,697	-	-	-	682,552
Total assets	\$ (151,780)	\$ 2,311,765	\$ 38,026	\$ 5,477,366	\$ (666,993)	\$ 7,008,384

UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO
LOCAL 1-2
Statement of Financial Position (Continued)
March 31, 2021

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses
Liability for supplemental pension plan - current portion
Due to other funds

\$	297,814	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	297,814
	114,696		-		-		-		114,696
	<u>666,993</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>(666,993)</u>		<u>-</u>
	1,079,503		-		-		<u>(666,993)</u>		<u>412,510</u>

Total current liabilities

Non-current liabilities:

Liability for supplemental pension plan - non-current portion

	<u>22,600</u>		-		-		-		<u>22,600</u>
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Total non-current liabilities

	<u>22,600</u>		-		-		-		<u>22,600</u>
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Total liabilities

	1,102,103		-		-		<u>(666,993)</u>		435,110
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Net assets

	<u>(1,253,883)</u>		<u>2,311,765</u>		<u>38,026</u>		<u>5,477,366</u>		<u>6,573,274</u>
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Total liabilities and net assets

\$	<u>(151,780)</u>	\$	<u>2,311,765</u>	\$	<u>38,026</u>	\$	<u>5,477,366</u>	\$	<u>7,008,384</u>
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UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

LOCAL 1-2

Statement of Activities

For the three months ended March 31, 2021

	General Fund (Without Donor Restrictions)	Defense Fund (Without Donor Restrictions)	Political Action Fund (With Donor Restrictions)	Building Fund (Without Donor Restrictions)	Total
Revenue:					
Dues and initiation fees	\$ 1,952,530	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 197,886	\$ 2,150,416
Interest and dividends	1,021	2,696	-	-	3,717
Other	(500)	-	500	-	-
Net assets released from restrictions	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-
Total revenue	1,954,051	2,696	(500)	197,886	2,154,133
Expenses:					
Program services:					
Member services	1,726,677	983	800	-	1,728,460
Supporting activities:					
Management and general	431,669	246	200	-	432,115
Total expenses	2,158,346	1,229	1,000	-	2,160,575
Change in net assets	(204,295)	1,467	(1,500)	197,886	(6,442)
Net assets:					
Beginning of period	(1,049,588)	2,310,298	39,526	5,279,480	6,579,716
End of period	\$ (1,253,883)	\$ 2,311,765	\$ 38,026	\$ 5,477,366	\$ 6,573,274

UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

LOCAL 1-2

(Supplemental Schedule)

Schedule of Expenses

For the three months ended March 31, 2021

	General Fund (Without Donor Restrictions)	Defense Fund (Without Donor Restrictions)	Political Action Fund (With Donor Restrictions)	Building Fund (Without Donor Restrictions)	Total
Salaries	\$ 741,270	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	741,270
Payroll taxes	59,409	-	-	-	59,409
Employee benefits	223,143	-	-	-	223,143
Business agents' expenses	39,360	-	-	-	39,360
Lost time wages	5,302	-	-	-	5,302
Executive board and other allowances	33,341	-	-	-	33,341
Per capita taxes:					
National union	590,571	-	-	-	590,571
Other	9,420	-	-	-	9,420
Automobile expenses	93,399	-	-	-	93,399
Meetings, conferences and negotiations, net of reimbursements	2,401	-	-	-	2,401
Education, books and publications	11,902	-	-	-	11,902
Contributions, gifts and awards	3,046	-	1,000	-	4,046
Rent and utilities	104,122	-	-	-	104,122
Insurance	12,284	-	-	-	12,284
Repairs and maintenance	17,573	-	-	-	17,573
Printing and postage	36,002	-	-	-	36,002
Telephone	12,578	-	-	-	12,578
Office supplies and expenses	2,253	-	-	-	2,253
Equipment rental	4,793	-	-	-	4,793
Computer expenses	9,615	-	-	-	9,615
Professional fees:					
Legal	52,673	-	-	-	52,673
Accounting and audit	43,335	-	-	-	43,335
Arbitration	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Lobbying	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Other	32,866	-	-	-	32,866
Legal settlement	700	-	-	-	700
Election expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Investment expenses	-	1,229	-	-	1,229
Other	4,988	-	-	-	4,988
Total expenses	\$ 2,158,346	\$ 1,229	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 2,160,575

HERE ARE SOME SCENES SHOWING WHAT WE DO TO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON;
BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT WORK ALL AROUND FROM SUEZ, TO NRG, TO ASPLUNDH, TO
RAVENSWOOD TO CON ED STEAM, UNDERGROUND, AND ALL ELSE. WE ARE FIRST RESPONDERS
WHO ARE THERE, DAY AND NIGHT, SUNSHINE AND STORM. NEVER FORGET THAT OUR JOBS ARE
VITAL, IN EVERY SENSE, TO CIVILIZATION ITSELF.





UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Local 1-2, Affiliated with AFL-CIO
5 West 37th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018



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Union Meeting



Local 1-2

Utility Workers Union
of America, A.F.L. - C.I.O.

UWUA LOCAL 1-2 Virtual MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Place – Via Zoom Meetings **Date** – Thursday 12/2/2021 **Time** – 6:15 P.M.

Admission only to members in good standing.

To Register: send your name, personal email, the Company you work for, and your employee number to: localmeeting@uwua1-2.org by 12:00 noon 12/2/2021.

Invites will be sent out the afternoon of the meeting by 4:30 P.M. on 12/2/2021.

Please note: NO COMPANY EMAILS WILL BE ACCEPTED and ...

IF you register you will AUTOMATICALLY be invited to the next three Regular Virtual Meetings (registration is good for a year).

Questions and comments under New Business, Old Business, or Good of the Union should be sent via your personal email to localquestion@uwua1-2.org by 12:00 noon 12/2/2021.

Looking forward to you attending.

Fraternally,
John Capra
Secretary-Treasurer