

Friday Night Union Meeting – Recap

Guests from the International

We were joined by several representatives from the International who shared updates, guidance, and strategic priorities for our Local.

1. Steve Simpson – Organizer

Brother Steve Simpson emphasized several key points:

- **Union Market Share vs. Non-Union Competition**
He discussed the importance of maintaining and growing our market share. He highlighted effective strategies for approaching non-members and engaging workers who may not fully understand the benefits of union representation.
 - **Contract and Upcoming Convention**
Steve provided a brief overview of the upcoming convention, including the processes, procedures, and how decisions made there will impact locals across the country.
 - **Prevailing Wage Concerns in North Carolina**
He explained how government surveys and grant-related data determine prevailing wages for public projects. Currently, **no counties in North Carolina list us as the prevailing wage**, which presents clear pitfalls:
 - Non-union rates influencing government job standards
 - Reduced leverage for fair compensation
 - Long-term erosion of wage expectations in our craftHe stressed the need for better participation in these surveys to protect union wages statewide.
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2. Josh Josoff – Director of Codes and Standards

Brother Josh Josoff provided insight into the role of codes within our industry:

- **Importance of Code Representation**
He pointed out that employers have had representatives on code committees for many years, advocating for their interests. He emphasized the need for **each local to designate a code liaison** so labor's voice is heard in these critical discussions.
- **Global Safety Summit**
Josh also announced the upcoming **IUEC Global Safety Summit**, highlighting the International's commitment to improving safety culture, sharing best practices, and ensuring every member goes home safely at the end of the day.

3. Scott Russell – Organizer, Local 80

Brother Scott Russell spoke about:

- **Organizing Efforts**
He encouraged continued efforts to organize non-union workers and emphasized the value of building strong relationships within our local industry.
- **Political Engagement**
Scott stressed the importance of being politically active. Decisions at the local government level—permits, regulations, contracts, and labor standards—directly impact our work. He urged members to stay informed and involved to protect our craft and our jobs.

Key Takeaways & Action Items

- Strengthen organizing efforts and outreach to non-members.
- Ensure participation in wage surveys to establish accurate prevailing wage standards.
- Consider selecting a local code liaison to represent our interests on code committees.
- Encourage member involvement in political and community issues related to labor.
- Support and participate in safety initiatives, including the upcoming Global Safety Summit.