

OFFICERS' MESSAGE

We Voted

We tried to push our print deadline back as far as we could to comment on the U.S. election in this issue. It is safe to say that no one—not even the most wild-eyed political novelist—could have predicted the bizarre circumstances that have left the United States on hold following the election.

As of this writing, there is still no official winner in the race for President of the United States. Florida, with its 25 electoral votes that will swing the election, is still re-counting the ballots. By the time you read this, we still may not know who has been declared the winner, or some other events could occur that keep the outcome in doubt.



J. J. BARRY
International
President




EDWIN D. HILL
International
Secretary-Treasurer

We do know that the Republicans' already razor-thin majority in the House of Representatives seems to have been shaved even closer. The outcome of the Senate race in Washington was still in doubt. The Senate may have a 50-50 split between the parties. Therefore, the identity of the person who wins the Presidency will be critical to working families.

We also know that the labor movement proved its mettle in this election. A national survey showed that union households made up 26 percent of the electorate. That is a number higher than the percentage of union members in the general population, and it means that union voter

turnout was the highest in two decades. Without this vote, pro-labor candidates would have gone down to crushing defeats. With it, we have elected many friends from both parties who will stand up for economic and social justice.

We take off our hats to the thousands of IBEW members who made phone calls, walked precincts, posted yard signs, distributed flyers, wore buttons or did anything else to help elect candidates who reflect labor values. Thanks to all our members who exercised their precious right to vote. *You* were part of the most intensive grass roots political effort ever mounted by the IBEW. *You* made your voices heard and served notice to politicians of all stripes that working families care about the issues and are a vibrant part of the democratic process. Thank you for all you did.

No matter what happens next, we know that our work is cut out for us over the next 2-4 years. The grass roots movement that was reborn in 1996 and grew larger in 2000 must continue to move forward. We must do all in our power to build a consensus around our issues and fight for what we think is right. That is part of our responsibility as union members—a responsibility we must never shirk. Let us build on the good work we did in 2000 and move on to a brighter future. 

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