

## **Speech for Christmas Party, Dec. 10, 2022**

Good evening to all BPUB employees, retirees and the extended BPUB family. Welcome to this year's Christmas dinner and dance. We're happy to see so many of you join us tonight. In a lot of ways, tonight can be seen as a reunion of sorts. The pandemic caused us to have to cancel this event the last couple of years, so we are reuniting with BPUB holiday traditions.

In the years since that last celebration, we have also expanded. We've moved into the new Service Center on 511. We've moved into the new Annex Building. We've gone from feeling like we were working shoulder to shoulder to an increasingly spread out workforce, so for many, tonight might be a reunion with a work friend you no longer get to pass in the halls every day.

We have also lost a lot of people in those intervening years. We lost many employees to retirement, so this is an opportunity to reunite with them. But we have also suffered real losses as well. There are employees and family no longer with us, but our stories and memories about those people tonight will help us reunite with them in some way as well.

I don't think I need to tell anyone here that there have been a lot of challenges in the last couple of years, but tonight is about celebrating the successes and coming together as a BPUB family. And also maybe about hoping someone pulls your name for one of the prizes.

I wish everyone here nothing but luck and good fortune tonight and in the new year to come, and I just want to thank you again for being with us tonight but most of all for choosing BPUB to be your work home. BPUB's goals would not be possible without your contributions.

So, everyone, have good luck tonight, be safe, and happy holidays. Thank you.