

# The IBEW SPARQ

A quarterly newsletter highlighting IBEW values

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## Commitment to Quality Builds Pride

At the intersection of first-class workmanship and safety on the job, you'll find IBEW members proud of being the best at what they do.

Quality is IBEW's calling card, from state-of-the-art training to expert journeymen who never stop learning to our embrace of the Code of Excellence.

It's a source of pride. Look around: You see IBEW sisters and brothers everywhere wearing our hats and T-shirts. Members talk up the union on social media. Spouses and kids brag about having an IBEW lineman or wireman in their home.

An apprentice in Pennsylvania who traded college for an IBEW apprenticeship recently commented on Facebook, "I can't wait to truly become one of you guys, because there's no better gratification in the world than restoring power to someone who's lost it."

Pair that enthusiasm with IBEW-NECA's unrivaled training and you've got a can't-miss formula for success. Contractors who are willing to invest in the best want IBEW members to get the job done.

After signing with Brockton, Mass., Local 223, the CEO of Beaumont Solar said, "The quality of work that is being done by our company has reached a new level ... I am delighted. However you measure it—callbacks, meeting schedules or customer satisfaction—the feedback is phenomenal."



In Fairbanks, Ind., where our members rebuilt a substation in an isolated area, a manager described the project's complexity and need for skilled craft labor. "We picked the IBEW because they are safe, very well trained and capable," he said.

At Rauland-Borg, members of Chicago Local 134 take the Code of Excellence to heart as they manufacture life-safety products. Callie M. Greer beams with pride in a video about the plant: "I love what I do, and that's an important thing. You have to love what you do. Anything I'm working on, I want it to be perfect. I can do a repair on these small parts; and you won't even know that it wasn't done on a machine. I'm just that good."

IBEW quality and pride is out of this world—literally. Engineers and technicians from Baltimore Local

1501 did some of the most meticulous work imaginable to assemble components of the \$8 billion James Webb Space Telescope, the most powerful ever built. It is expected to be launched into space next spring.

"We only have one chance to get it right," Mechanical Integration Specialist and Local Steward Delaney Burkhart said during the painstaking process. "Our job is to test, and retest and test again."

Whether you're building a telescope that can detect light from the Big Bang, climbing a utility pole, wiring a home, working an assembly line, servicing a locomotive, filming the Super Bowl or doing any other vital work, you are raising the bar for excellence and doing the IBEW proud.



What does SPARQ mean to you? Have an idea for the newsletter? Email [theSPARQ@ibew.org](mailto:theSPARQ@ibew.org)



## Earning Trust Starts with Quality

In some jobs, you make a mistake and the worst thing that could happen is you get embarrassed and you have to redo your work.



IBEW Government members don't have those kinds of jobs.

There is no do-over for our Army Corps of Engineers members who maintain the system of locks and dams that protect millions of Americans from floods.

There is only one chance to get it right for the men and women modernizing the U.S. Navy's fleet of nuclear submarines.

When the James Webb Space Telescope launches next year, it will orbit nearly 1 million miles from Earth, far beyond the reach of any rescue or repair mission. The members of Baltimore Local 1501 who put it together and performed exhaustive testing have only one shot to get it right.

Quality is the IBEW's promise, and it's why our members are trusted with jobs that have to be done right the first time, because there is no second chance.

It starts with training, but craftsman-like work is the nexus of knowledge, experience, confidence, and integrity. We know we are the best trained, most experienced people in our trade and that breeds confidence.

So, when there is only one swing, it is our integrity that makes the difference. We can all recount times when quality suffered at the hand of complacency and over-confidence.

Excellence exists because IBEW members have the integrity to speak-up when unsure and constantly question our processes. When we strive to improve on a personal level, to learn, to teach, and never forget what is at stake, our jobs are secure and more importantly, so are the millions of people and billions of dollars entrusted to us.

## SPARQ GOES LOCAL



At the Cherokee Generating Station in Denver, Colorado, the IBEW Code of Excellence brought safety to a higher level. IBEW Local 68 members put in 250,000 feet of conduit—without a single injury.



To ensure the highest standard of quality, IBEW Local 134 teamed up with the company Rauland to implement the Code of Excellence. The result: leading-edge and defect-free life-safety products.