

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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## IBEW Members Repair Hurricane-Ravaged Texas Chemical Plant

As the U.S. presidential election campaign captured the world's attention last September, Hurricane Ike ripped through the Gulf Coast. Far away from the cameras, Beaumont, Texas, Local 479 surged into action, helping its own members recover from the catastrophe and welcoming travelers to bring a battered ExxonMobil chemical plant and a lesser-damaged adjoining refinery back to operation.

Work on the chemical plant, which produces six different substances from petroleum, was completed in late May, putting back to work more than 1,500 production workers and returning much-needed capacity to the U.S. market for synthetic oil.

At its peak, the project employed more than 700 journeymen working for Newtron Inc., one of the largest U.S. signatory electrical contractors, and 70 instrumentation technicians at Paton Engineering and Design Group. Working seven-day, 12-hour schedules, they completed two years of work in four months at the chemical plant that had been flooded with 10 feet of water. Local 479 invited electricians to live at the union hall for up to seven weeks—until housing opened up in the area—and served meals on several occasions. Many of the electricians slept on the floor of the hall or in tents and trailers in the parking lot.

The IBEW's work was "monumental," says Joey James, a 27-year Local 479 journeyman wireman and project manager of Newtron Inc., which



*Celebrating the completion of the Hurricane Ike recovery project at Beaumont Mobil Chemical Plant are Kirby Smith, left, shop steward, Jonesboro, Ark., Local 1516; Joey James, Newtron Inc. project manager; Richard Townsend, BMCP plant manager; and Beaumont Local 479 Business Manager David Gonzales.*

has performed maintenance in the refinery and chemical plant for many years. Complicating every aspect of the job was the fact that blueprints and computers were destroyed by the flooding. "Everything was soaked in sea water for four days until we got the water out," says James.

James, whose own home was without electricity for a long stretch, recalls the hardships faced by many of the residents and travelers. After finding out that workers were taking showers from a hose in the janitor's room, James worked with Local 479 Business Manager David Gonzales to set up an eight-stall portable shower house.

The chemical plant job was the first con-

struction project for Paton, a 25-year-old nonunion firm. Managers contacted Local 479 soon after the hurricane flooded the chemical plant in Beaumont.

Despite potentially severe dangers on the job—including pipelines that remained pressurized and "live" (explosive) hydrocarbons—only two OSHA reportable injuries, a broken arm and a twisted ankle, were recorded.

At safety meetings each morning, James, journeyman Silver Robles and Shop Steward Kirby Smith, Jonesboro, Ark., Local 1516, passed the hat for a fund to help hurricane victims. They collected more than \$120,000 over the course of the job. "Nothing goes in the bank," says Robles of the fund that disburses money within a week of collection and is run by a volunteer committee of travelers.

TEXAS PLANT REPAIR *continued on page 2*

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## Texas Chemical Plant Repair

Robles, a member of Coos Bay, Ore., Local 932, took his first referral in Beaumont in October. It was his last job before retiring with 39 years in the electrical trade, much of it spent on the road. The job was a last chance to work some overtime to build up his retirement average.

After almost four decades of traveling, the Beaumont job stands out as special, says Robles, who says that Project Manager James “should get an award, something like ‘IBEW Brother of the Year.’”

“If anybody has a chance to go to Beaumont for work in the future, they should help out. This local has a proven track record of brotherhood,” says Robles, who was presented with a gold watch by Gonzales at a January retirement party attended by 100 co-workers.

Many local members were driven out of their homes by the hurricane, says Gonzales. Some had beach cabins that were wiped away. “But they and members from out of town still exhibited the quality and the sense of responsibility that every Brotherhood member brought to this job.” The solidarity extended to the community surrounding the plants.

**“There is no better testament to the heart and soul and spirit of organized labor than the work of IBEW members in Beaumont, Texas, after Hurricane Ike.”**

—Edwin D. Hill, IBEW International President

When Beaumont held a volunteer workday, Local 479 donated 1,600 lunches and electricians offered hundreds of hours of free electric work to residents whose homes were damaged.

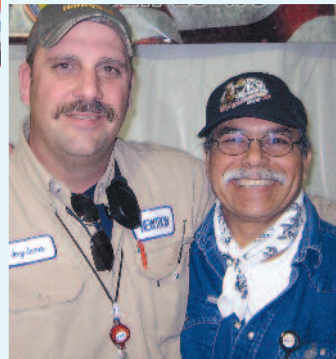
Camaraderie was high, despite the tough living and working conditions, says James, who laughs when he recalls directing journeymen on the bus to get to the work site after safety meetings. With all of their lunches and tools, the first on the bus couldn’t occupy the front seats without blocking their co-workers. “Back to the front,” yelled James each morning.

With 15,000 homes along the coast flooded, Gonzales knew that many of his own members were hurting. While directing the clean-up of the union hall to better serve them, he received a phone call from Paton Engineering and Design Group requesting workers.



Top: Beaumont Local 479 member Donna Havern, left, welcomed travelers Deb Melcomson, Denver, Local 68, and Lee Vigil, Boston Local 103.

Bottom: Joey James, project manager, Newtron Electric, left, and Sylvester Robles, Coos Bay, Ore., Local 932, helped collect over \$120,000 to help hurricane victims.



Travis Poe, a Local 479 journeyman wireman who topped out of his apprenticeship in 2000 and went to work as a planner-scheduler for Paton in 2007, told managers the IBEW could satisfy their needs. Poe had completed the local union’s 16-week instrumentation course and knew his peers’ range of talent. He set up a meeting.

“I gave a sales pitch on the benefits of using union labor,” says

alarms, sensors and flow valves were working to specifications.

In the final stage of the project, electricians performed a mechanical integrity procedure checking every device individually to make certain that it would properly shut down in the event of a future catastrophic event.

The work at Exxon Mobil has positioned Local 479 to reap the benefits of one of the largest markets for construction in the U.S. Before the financial meltdown, over \$15 billion of projects—primarily in petrochemical and refining—were anticipated for the region over the next five years. Work could be spread out over a longer time span, but prospects for construction are still promising.

With 125 instrumentation technicians already on the books, Local 479 is preparing for new projects. Classes are filled months ahead of schedule.

At a Business Roundtable luncheon, Gonzales says, Exxon Mobil gave full credit to the IBEW for the start-up of the chemical plant. The safety record on hurricane restoration is another testament to the productivity of IBEW labor. “In today’s market, if you don’t have safe work practices, they won’t let you in the gate,” says James.

IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill said during a time when corporations are spending millions of dollars to bash unions, our deeds must speak louder than their money. “There is no better testament to the heart and soul and spirit of organized labor than the work of IBEW members in Beaumont, Texas, after Hurricane Ike.” ■

## TV News Consolidation Threatens IBEW Jobs

In Boston, one of the top television markets in the country, local TV news used to be a cutthroat business. The competition was so fierce to report the big story of the day that a news photographer’s job wasn’t just to get the exclusive video, it was to make sure the competition didn’t get it.

“You had to fight for the story, for the exclusive aspect,” said Boston Local 1228 Business Manager Andy Dubrovsky, a former television news photographer. His local represents photographers and production personnel at eight Boston-area stations. “It used to mean so much for us to beat the competition.”

But times have changed. A shaky economy, massive drops in local advertising revenue and advances in technology are drastically reshaping the local TV news game. Suddenly, competition is being replaced by cooperation. Stations that used to stop at nothing to beat their competitors are now sharing resources, including work done by union employees.

**For the thousands of IBEW members working at television stations nationwide, there is a looming threat.** Consolidation of news-gathering means broadcasters will need fewer people to report and distribute daily stories.

In Philadelphia, stations owned by NBC and Fox Broadcasting announced a partnership in January that pools union photographers from each station’s newsroom to cover routine events like press conferences. Both stations then use the identical video in their newscasts.

In Washington, D.C., three stations, owned by Gannett, Fox and NBC, have announced a similar agreement. A news event that, in the past, would have been covered by three competing union-represented photographers, now will be covered by just one. Again, the same video is distributed to all stations.

“I believe that many companies are using the economy to take advantage of the situation,” Dubrovsky said. “Today, they share two photographers, but we can see it being four, five or six in the future. This is just the beginning.”

There is a battle to hold on to jobs, said Robert Wratschko, Director of Broadcasting and Recording at the IBEW’s International Office in Washington, D.C. “The stations will get all the video coverage they need for the news.

Unfortunately, the number of technicians may be diminished,” Wratschko said.

**In some places, union jobs are already disappearing.** A local management agreement signed in St. Louis in 2008 combined nearly all of the resources of KTVI-TV, owned by Local TV LLC, and Tribune-owned KPLR-TV.

More than two dozen IBEW workers were laid off when the two stations merged their newsrooms in October. The layoffs included KPLR photographers, editors, reporters and most of the station’s main anchor team.

“Everybody was crushed,” said Clark Bowen, a former KPLR photographer and shop steward.

After 12 years with the station, Bowen, like many of his colleagues, lost his job in a matter of minutes. “They just called us into a room and said, here you go, your services are no longer required,” Bowen said. He is now working on freelance projects while searching for full-time work.

**Union leaders in cities across the country** are trying to keep similar scenes from playing out in their local newsrooms.

In Boston, where two stations announced a deal to share photographers and a news-gathering helicopter starting this summer, Local 1228 is fighting the consolidation trend at the highest levels.

**The union took the issue to the National Labor Relations Board** in May, alleging that CBS-owned WBZ and Fox-owned WFXT violated the National Labor Relations Act by entering into the news-sharing agreement without consulting the union.

The union filed a grievance against WBZ, where an IBEW contract expired last fall, and an unfair labor practice charge against WFXT, where more than 100 workers were organized in March 2008. The union accuses both stations of changing working conditions without negotiating them.

“We’ve been told at the table that no one will be laid off,” Dubrovsky said. “But we’re staring at a huge tidal wave change in this business. We all have to stand up and fight to preserve our jobs.” ■

# IBEW Locals Stand Up Profitable Utility Companies Exploit Economic Crisis

In a surge of activism, members of utility locals are taking on some of the sector's most profitable companies, rejecting their mandates for concessions in benefits, wages and working conditions as contracts expire.

**Some utilities are counting on diminished public support** for the men and women who keep the lights and appliances on in cities and small towns across North America.

"When people are hurting, it's sometimes harder to get them to identify with other folks trying to defend what they have," says International Representative Don Hartley, IBEW Utility Department.

**Utility locals are patiently spreading the message** that to give in to the greed of still profitable companies will only add to the hurt of surrounding communities.

The utility industry historically has not been hit as hard as other sectors during recessions. Domestic demand for electricity has always kept utilities more stable than other economic sectors. In the 1981-1983 recession, for example, manufacturing jobs were reduced by 13 percent.

Construction was reduced by 17 percent. But utilities lost only 2.5 percent.

In the current downturn, utilities have actually increased by 13,000 additional workers.

**The nation's industrial load for electricity is down** more than 12 percent in 2009, compared to 2007. But revenues are down only 1.2 percent. Overall revenues are up 10 percent in 2009, compared to 2007.

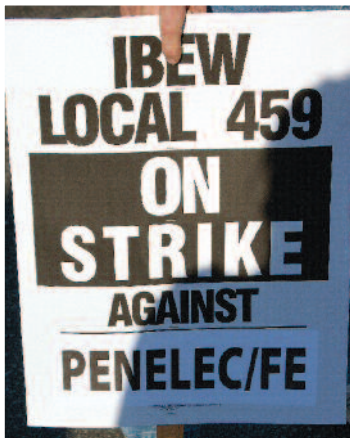
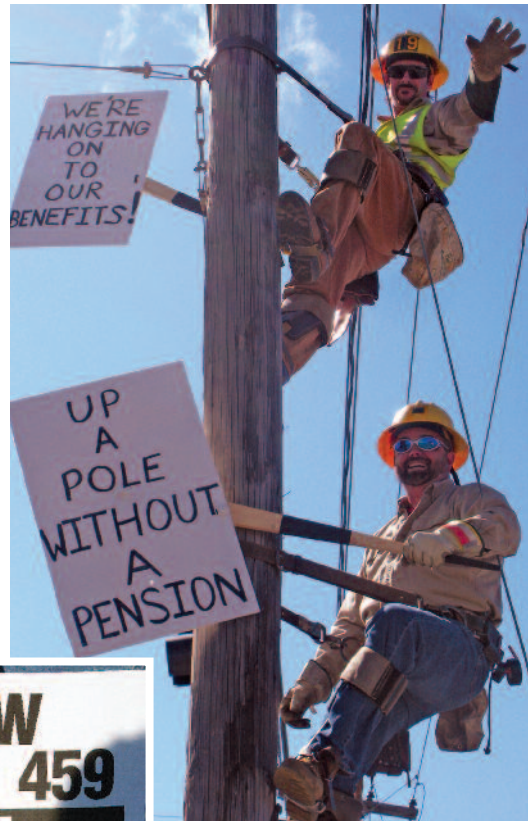
Here's how local unions are dealing with today's reality.

## Central Maine Power (Energy East-Iberdrola)

Members of Manchester, Maine, Local 1837 have voted to authorize a strike at Central Maine Power, a subsidiary of Energy East, which is owned by Spain-based Iberdrola, the world's fourth largest utility. Negotiations are continuing beyond a May 15 contract expiration.

**Seventy percent of the local's membership rejected** the company's first contract proposal, which called for steep cuts in health care insurance for active and retired work-

*IBEW 1837 members from Central Maine Power Leo Plante (top) and Dick Rogers (bottom) make their point to passing motorists on Augusta's Western Avenue during a recent demonstration.*



ers and the elimination of a defined benefit pension plan for new hires.

"If there's any way to break up a union," says 12-year CMP lineman Sam Grodin, "it's having two classes of citizens in the same local union."

**CMP had a healthy 10-percent profit margin** last year, sending \$55 million to Spain to fuel Iberdrola's expansion across the globe.

A local union press release challenges Iberdrola's bargaining position: "CMP's proposed concessions may very well mean that some of their workers will be forced to seek some form of public assistance for healthcare, thereby shifting this expense from CMP to the taxpayers. This could pose a long-term threat to Maine's economy."

**Rochester Gas and Electric**, also an Energy East subsidiary, has been in negotiations with Rochester, N.Y., Local 36 on a new contract since May 31, 2008. The NLRB has already issued a complaint charging the company with an unfair labor practice for

instituting unilateral changes to its health insurance plan, covering 380 union members.

**International President Edwin D. Hill attempted to reach an understanding** with the company's CEO to bring in a special independent mediator to reach a comprehensive contract settlement. His request was rejected.

Local members have overwhelmingly authorized a strike.

## FirstEnergy

More than 500 Johnstown, Pa., Local 459 members went on strike against Penelec, a Pennsylvania subsidiary of FirstEnergy on May 21.

"Our members will not submit to the philosophy of FirstEnergy, a corporation that made \$1.3 billion in 2008, telling us that they can't afford a decent wage increase because they only expect to make \$1 billion in 2009," said Don Hoak, Local 459 business manager.

**Along with meager pay increases**, FirstEnergy wants to impose a work schedule that would "take us back to 1910," says Hoak. Contract proposals would give managers total flexibility in setting hours of work.

Support is strong in the community served by Penelec. "Everybody is tired of the corporate greed and they want to stand up against it. Many just

don't have the avenue that we do," says Hoak.

## Florida Power and Light

The contract between 11 locals of System Council U-4 and FPL expired last October. "FPL isn't losing money," says the council's Business Manager Gary Aleknavich. "They just aren't making as much as they want."

**The parties have agreed to a one-year contract extension.** FPL is seeking cuts in medical insurance benefits and limiting wage increases to 2 percent per year. The utility also wants to modify the bargaining unit position of nuclear watch engineer, reducing the pay of future engineers by \$5 per hour.

On May 19, approximately 25 members of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Local 759 picketed an FPL facility protesting the company's wage offer. Linemen are already paid 8 percent below the national average for similar employees, while FPL has paid bonuses to executives.

**Members of the council's 11 locals are voting** on a new contract proposal, with results due after our press date.

## Alliant Energy

Alliant Energy has shut down its Rock River Power Plant in Wisconsin as part of a cost-cutting plan. Thirty-

one members of Madison, Wis., Local 965 will lose their jobs at the 50-year-old former coal-fired generators that were converted to natural gas in the past decade.

**Local 965 Business Manager Tony Bartels** says that the average age of 1,300 members at Alliant is 50 years old. Alliant will be laying off skilled workers who will be needed over the next few years.

"It's crazy," says Bartels. "They will be letting third-year apprentices go today and hiring new apprentices next year."

**While Alliant's demand has dropped** due to the shutdown of a General Motors plant and supporting businesses, the company still declared first quarter income of \$72.6 million.

## Moving Forward Together

International President Edwin D. Hill applauds the efforts of local unions in the utility branch to stand up for reasonableness and far-sighted solutions to problems.

"The IBEW didn't formulate our Code of Excellence for the utility industry to have our members marginalized and undermined by short-sighted management policies," says Hill. "With a transmission grid to build and renewable energies to explore, the IBEW and the utility industry need to move forward together." ■

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# IBEW Green-Job Training Facilities Around the Country Open Doors to Public

If renewable energy is the wave of the future, then the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is letting everyone know that its members are the best-trained green work force around.

Local International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers training centers recently opened their doors to policy makers and members of the public to learn more about the union's extensive green job-training programs.

"I hope I saw the future and I believe that I did," Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman told the Meriden Record Journal after touring New Haven Local 90's training center.

Legislators were in their home districts for Congress's Memorial Day recess and many eagerly accepted the IBEW's and the National Electrical Contractors Association's invitation to tour their local joint apprenticeship training facilities. More than 90 members of Congress attended open house events.

In Warren, Ohio, state and local leaders got a first look at plans for a new solar photovoltaic system and wind turbines to be installed at Local



Local 68 Business Manager Dennis Whalen, left, and Denver Local 68 President Ed Knox and help dedicate a new photovoltaic array at Denver Local 68's training center.

573's Electrical Trades Institute, while in Tennessee, Rep. Jim Cooper (D) called Nashville Local 429's apprenticeship training center and its green-skills program a "ticket to

the future," after touring its facility.

In San Diego, more than 120 community, local and state leaders visited Local 569's Electrical Training Center, including representatives

from Sen. Barbara Boxer's and Rep. Susan Davis's offices. The center focuses on solar power, which allows apprentices to earn professional certification in photovoltaic installation.

Local 569 is also planning to open a new green-training facility in neighboring Imperial County to help staff its rapidly growing solar and wind market. The local's program was featured in the San Diego Union Tribune newspaper as part of its hot-jobs list for new college grads.

Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-Colo.) dedicated a new photovoltaic display at Denver Local 68's training center. Perlmutter told guests that renewable energy will "rebuild the country and the middle class."

The 18-kilowatt panel was originally displayed at last year's Democratic National Convention in Denver. The local plans to add wind turbines to the facility soon.

More than 200 apprentices from Richmond, Va., Local 666 are learning specialized skills in solar and wind, one of the fastest growing job sectors in central Virginia. "We're the best kept secret in the industry," Business

Manager Jim Underwood told WWBT-TV during the local's open house.

Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.), state Senate Majority Leader Tony DeLuca and representatives from the Delaware Economic Development Office and others checked out Wilmington Local 313's green-training facilities during the local's open house.

Recently instructors from Local 313 helped 90 inside wiremen complete a state certified solar training class. The journeymen got hands-on experience with photovoltaics by assembling a 1.4 kilowatt solar array.

New opportunities are opening up in the renewable energy sector as millions of federal stimulus dollars are made available for training and investment in the new energy economy. But the expected rapid growth of green jobs—covering everything from retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency to installing and wiring solar panels and wind turbines—means that our economy will require thousands of trained electricians who can safely and professionally carry out the work.

It's a demand that is already being met by the IBEW. "Renewable energy is not the wave of the future, it's already here," said Honolulu Local 1186 Business Manager Damien Kim. "Our members and apprentices will be going into the workplace with skills that are expected of them as we move toward a new energy economy." Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii) toured Local 1186's facility which features training in photovoltaics, wind turbines and automated building operations.

"The IBEW has the curriculum, facilities and instructors needed to lead the new energy revolution and we've been doing it for nearly a decade," said International President Edwin D. Hill. "And we make sure that green-collar workers and their families get a decent wage and benefits so they can take their place in the middle class."

More than 70 IBEW training centers offer training in renewable energy, with more and more facilities incorporating green power into their curriculum.

Check out additional media coverage of green-job open houses across the country at [www.ibew.org/WorkingGreen](http://www.ibew.org/WorkingGreen). ■

## Membership Cards Land in Mailboxes Across the Brotherhood

The massive job of sending membership cards to every IBEW member will be completed this month. Now the ball is in your court: register your card online and put it to work for you.

Since June, more than 1,000 members per day have logged onto the system to complete the registration process.

"It's vital that everyone register their card, because it's the best way to make sure your personal information is accurate and up to date," said Information Technology Department Director Darren DeMarco.

The card connects members to a comprehensive database at the International Office which will soon allow everyone who signs up to change addresses, phone numbers and other personal information, as well as to confirm training information.

As always, members' personal information remains secure and confidential at the International Office, even if the card is lost. Only the card's registered user can access his or her record.

If you have received a card and you're not sure what to do, here is the step-by-step process for activating your card:

1. Go to <https://my.ibew.org>. Make sure the URL is typed directly in the browser's address bar, not into a search engine like Google or Yahoo. You can also access it by going to the IBEW Web site and clicking on the MyIBEW.org button on the upper right-hand corner of the page.

2. Click on the Register Account button.

3. Enter the personal key that came with the letter you received. If the code is not clear, look at the back of your card. If you are still unable to read it, please call (202) 728-6231 or e-mail [myibew@ibew.org](mailto:myibew@ibew.org).

4. You will be prompted to verify your name, card number and local union. Click start registration.

5. You will need to type your e-mail address twice and pick a password for your account, using a minimum of six characters.

6. You will receive an e-mail confirming your registration.

An online tutorial, accessed through <https://my.ibew.org> also outlines the process.

For "A" members whose retirement is in their near future, the card also allows them to calculate pension benefits. A card is planned for retirees next year.

As the program expands, you will be kept updated of new changes through your e-mail address on file, so it's important to keep your address current.

Call (202) 728-6231 or send an e-mail to [myibew@ibew.org](mailto:myibew@ibew.org) if you have any questions or problems. ■



North of 49° | Au nord du 49° parallèle

## Northern Exposure: Frozen Tundra No Deterrent for IBEW Organizers

**T**hey are some of the coldest and most remote lands in North America, but the IBEW considers Canada's Northwest Territories fertile organizing ground.

The NWT, one of three Canadian territories in northwest Canada, are a vast expanse of land stretching from the 60th parallel north to the Arctic Circle. They are sparsely populated—about 40,000 people in all—but include some ripe targets. An IBEW delegation visited Yellowknife, the gateway to the Northwest Territories, in mid-May to attend the annual trade fair, join the labour federation and formally re-establish a presence in the vast region.

During their five days in Yellowknife, the group visited local nonunion contractors and investigated other targets on the professional and industrial side, which produced several leads for organizers, said First District Lead Organizer Darrell Taylor.

"A lot of them were amazed that we were up there talking to them," said Edmonton, Alberta, Local 424 Organizing Director Al Brown.

The group also met with Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Local 1574 members, employed by Northwest Telecom.

Diamond mines, a gold mine, gas and oil exploration, and school and hospital construction represent some of the most promising opportunities, Brown said. Organizers see other non-construction openings in mining, such as in security and support staff at the mines, as well as the mining jobs themselves. They are also talking to pilots for the small airline carriers that transport people and supplies across Northwest Territories and neighboring Yukon Territory, Taylor said.

One obstacle is the Christian Labor Association of Canada—an undemocratic pro-employer association making inroads across Canada, including the oil sands projects in Alberta.

"CLAC has been running unchecked for so long, no one has really taken an interest," Taylor said.

"But if you leave it alone, the nonunion will grow and grow and it makes it so much more difficult to get a foot in the door later."

CLAC represents some of the non-construction workers in the mines, but organizers have other challenges in reaching the workers: mine companies control both access to the property and the airfields that serve them. "Some of these mines are 500 miles from anywhere," Brown said, adding that outside organizers would need a court order to allow them on site.

That's where the work of salts—

IBEW members working inside the mines—comes in. Once construction work picked up in the mines over the past couple of years, members from other parts of Canada, primarily the Maritimes, traveled West for work. Their help is being enlisted to convince other mine workers to sign IBEW authorization cards.

That effort was moving along until December, when the global recession finally reached the Northwest Territories and layoffs hit the diamond industry, slowing the organizers' work of the past 18 months.

"We had good traction going, but

a lot of the work was postponed in the diamond mines. Now we are rebuilding," Brown said. He is working closely with the home locals of the members who will be the first to be called back following the shutdown. "By and large, they want to help others win the same benefits and protections they enjoy as IBEW members," Brown said.

The four diamond mines, which can employ up to 800 people each, are a great target, particularly for a construction union. Always pushing the depths for more diamond exploration, the mines are constantly under heavy construction. Conditions

are tough, with workers pulling 12-hour shifts and temperatures plunging to minus 50 degrees Celsius.

Most are not entitled to pension plans or reciprocal benefits. And for the difficult conditions and remote location of the work, many are being paid substandard wages, Brown said.

"We're up there now plowing the fields and planting the seeds and it's going to be a long-term project," Brown said. "You never know when it's going to pay off. But if you don't start something, nothing will ever happen." ■

## Exposition au Nord: La toundra glaciale n'a pas d'effet dissuasif sur les recruteurs syndicaux de la FIOE

**L**a FIOE considère les Territoires du Nord-Ouest comme une région propice à la syndicalisation des travailleurs, bien que ce soit une des régions les plus éloignées de l'Amérique du Nord avec un climat particulièrement rigoureux.

Les T.N.-O., l'un des trois territoires situés dans l'Ouest du Canada, couvrent une vaste superficie au nord du 60e parallèle jusqu'au cercle Arctique. Dans cette région peu peuplée—environ 40,000 habitants—plusieurs entreprises ont été ciblées en vue de la syndicalisation des travailleurs. Une délégation de la FIOE s'est rendue à Yellowknife, porte des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, à la mi-mai, afin d'assister à l'Exposition annuelle des métiers spécialisés, de se joindre à la fédération du travail et de rétablir officiellement une présence dans cette vaste région.

"Au cours des cinq jours passés à Yellowknife, le groupe a rencontré des entrepreneurs locaux non syndiqués et a examiné d'autres objectifs possibles dans le secteur professionnel et industriel; plusieurs indications ont pu être fournies aux recruteurs syndicaux suite à cette visite." déclare le confrère Darrell Taylor, responsable de la syndicali-

sation pour le Premier District.

"Plusieurs d'entre eux étaient très étonnés que nous soyions venus les rencontrer dans une région aussi isolée", dit le confrère Al Brown, Directeur de la syndicalisation pour la S.L. 424 d'Edmonton en Alberta.

La délégation s'est également rendue à Whitehorse, dans le Territoire du Yukon pour y rencontrer les membres de la S.L. 1574 à l'emploi de Northwest Telecom.

"Parmi les meilleures possibilités de syndicalisation, notons les mines de diamant, une mine d'or, l'exploration pétrolière gazière, la construction d'une école et d'un hôpital." souligne le confrère Brown. "Les recruteurs syndicaux envisagent d'autres possibilités en-dehors de la construction, ciblant les préposés à la sécurité et le personnel de soutien du secteur minier, de même que les emplois dans les mines. Ils ont aussi approché les pilotes à l'emploi de petites compagnies aériennes assurant le transport des gens et des provisions à travers les Territoires du Nord-Ouest et le Territoire du Yukon, son voisin." ajoute le confrère Taylor.

L'obstacle qu'il faudra surmonter: L'Association ouvrière chrétienne du Canada, une association anti-démocratique pro-employeur qui a fait une percée importante à

travers le Canada, y compris sur les projets de production de sables bitumineux en Alberta.

L'Association ouvrière chrétienne (AOCC) représente des travailleurs d'entreprises minières (hors construction) mais nos recruteurs syndicaux auront bien d'autres défis à relever pour rejoindre les travailleurs. Ces entreprises contrôlent l'accès aux emplacements miniers ainsi qu'aux aéroports qui les desservent. D'après le confrère Brown, certaines de ces mines sont situées à plus de 500 milles de distance et il faudrait une ordonnance de la cour pour que les recruteurs syndicaux de l'extérieur puissent avoir accès sur le site.

C'est là qu'entre en jeu le rôle des membres de la FIOE travaillant déjà dans les mines (*salt work*). Lorsque les travaux de construction ont repris dans les mines au cours des dernières années, des membres d'autres provinces canadiennes, principalement des Maritimes, sont venus travailler dans l'Ouest. Nous nous sommes assurés de leur concours pour convaincre les autres travailleurs de signer une carte autorisant la FIOE à les représenter.

Cette démarche allait bon train jusqu'à ce que la récession mondiale touche les Territoires du Nord-Ouest au mois de décembre dernier,

entraînant des mises à pied dans l'industrie du diamant. Les recruteurs syndicaux qui travaillaient sur cette campagne depuis dix-huit mois ont dû ralentir leurs activités.

Les quatre mines de production de diamant peuvent employer jusqu'à 800 travailleurs chacune; elles représentent donc une cible très intéressante, en particulier pour un syndicat de la construction. Les conditions sont difficiles car les travailleurs doivent effectuer des quarts de travail de 12 heures à des températures pouvant descendre jusqu'à moins 50 degrés Celsius.

La plupart d'entre eux n'ont pas droit à une pension de retraite ni à d'autres avantages par entente de réciprocité. D'après le confrère Brown, malgré les conditions difficiles et l'éloignement des sites de travail, plusieurs travailleurs reçoivent une rémunération non conforme aux normes.

"Nous avons commencé à labourer les champs et à planter nos semences et nous sommes conscients que nous entreprenons un projet de longue haleine. On ne sait jamais quand la récolte sera fructueuse. Si nous ne commençons pas quelque part, il ne se passera jamais rien." conclut-il. ■

## Circuits

### Quick-Thinking Member Saves Woman's Life

Safety on the job saves lives in the community, too. Just ask Cindee Goodling, who passed out at a movie during church in February. Goodling's life was saved by South Bend, Ind., Local 153 electrician Frank Emery. The six-year member, who had volunteered to help with the film showing, jumped in and applied cardiopulmonary resuscitation training that he had been afforded under his local's collective bargaining agreement.

Emery didn't just save Goodling's life. At a Local 153 lifesaving award ceremony for Emery in late May, Goodling, who was eight months pregnant, held up an ultrasound photo of the baby that also could have perished without Emery's quick action.

Goodling, who has a rare heart condition that occurs during pregnancy, told the South Bend Tribune, "If I'd been at home I wouldn't be here. My husband knows it (CPR) now. But he didn't then."

"I didn't think about it. I just did it," says Emery, who received CPR training two years earlier. Goodling had slumped in her chair. With help, Emery got her to the floor and performed chest compressions while an off-duty policeman did resuscitative breathing. Goodling was connected to a defibrillator after an ambulance arrived.

"Others in the church who knew CPR just froze, but Frank acted quickly," says Mike Compton, Local 153 business manager. Since Emery's instruction included updated techniques, says Compton, he was even more effective than a retired doctor who was on the scene but had been trained earlier.

"I hope that I never have to do this again," Emery says. "But I'm happy Goodling is alive."

Emery says that the experience has changed his feeling about the importance of knowing proper resuscitation techniques. He took a refresher course after the incident and hopes to become a CPR instructor. ■



South Bend, Ind., Local 153 Business Manager Mike Compton, left, presents award to journeyman wireman Frank Emery for saving the life of Cindee Goodling.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of South Bend Tribune

### Largest Offshore Wind Farm in U.S. Planned for Delaware

The waters off of Rehoboth Beach in Delaware may soon be home to the largest offshore wind farm in the United States.

Legislation to allow the construction of more than 150 wind turbines a dozen miles off the shore of Rehoboth was passed by the Delaware legislature and signed into law last summer.

Each turbine will stand more than 250 feet above the water and extend 90 feet below sea level.

Delmarva Power, the state's utility, expects the wind farm will

power approximately 50,000 homes a year when it's completed in 2012. The Energy Department recently said that nearly 20 percent of our domestic electrical supply could be provided by offshore wind.

In addition to more clean energy for Delaware residents, the wind farm will mean green jobs for IBEW members. Wilmington Local 313 signed a project labor agreement with Fluor Corp.—a construction contractor—and Bluewater Wind LLC to construct and maintain the turbines. Installation of the farm will require more than 200 electricians, while its maintenance will require approximately 20.

The wind farm needs to complete environmental impact studies and clear federal regulatory hurdles before construction can begin.

"We worked with Bluewater to help make it happen," said Local 313 Business Manager Douglas Drummond. Instrumental in getting the project approved was state Senate Majority Leader Tony DeLuca, former Local 313 business manager, who guided negotiations with the utility, elected officials and Bluewater.

"Our coasts are rich in wind power, and our members have the skills and training needed to tap into it," Drummond said. "It just shows how important our green-training programs have become." ■

### Cable Plant Workers Rake in Accolades

A leading trade magazine showered applause on an IBEW-represented New Hampshire cable plant.

Nearly 150 Fall River, Mass., Local 1499 members who operate the General Cable factory in Manchester, N.H., helped the company score a top 10 ranking in Industry Week's 2008 list of best plants nationwide.

"It's very nice to have gotten the award," said Local 1499 Business Manager Mike Perry. "It really shows the kind of quality work that a union team can produce."

Workers at the plant make electronic cable and wiring for use in security systems, professional audio/visual markets and other areas. Perry credits the members' improved labor-management relations with healing a rift between the bargaining unit and the company. While arbitrations and grievances used to be routine, General Cable brought in new management four years ago, yielding "a 100 percent turnaround in labor relations," Perry said. "They've shown the IBEW members a lot of respect."

Workers are now getting more advanced training and are allowed more autonomy to run their equipment than in years past, a development that Perry says is helping the

company remain successful despite decades of decline in the manufacturing sector. Productivity is up. Waste—especially expensive copper—is down. Even with the recent economic tailspin, the company is getting more orders than it has in two years, and employee morale is high.

"The whole plant is on board," said Second District International Representative John Faria, who collaborated with Perry to improve working conditions at General Cable. "Our members are really ensuring that quality workmanship contributes to success for everyone."

Company brass is impressed with the IBEW members' output. "One of the keys for us to stay competitive is to have a great work force," said Plant Manager Paul Furtado. "Our union employees here really get it—they understand that change is what you need to stay viable in the industry. They were instrumental in us receiving this prestigious honor."

About 350 applicants were in the running for Industry Week's awards. The magazine rated plants according to quality, customer relations abilities, employee participation, new technology application, environmental and safety standards and other criteria. The Manchester factory also won the company's 2007 Plant of the Year award.

## IBEW On Duty

### Maryland Wireman Answers the Call

For Rich Karge, freedom and service go hand in hand. An Army National Guardsman since he turned 18, the Cumberland, Md., Local 307 member stepped up to volunteer for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief and served an eight-month tour in Kuwait at Camp Doha—the main hub for newly-arriving troops during the earlier days of the war in Afghanistan.

In May, Karge got the call again. This month, the journeyman wireman ships out to Iraq with the 115th West Virginia Army National Guard to put his IBEW skills to the test in combat zones. His knowledge of cable splicing, transformer and panel terminating and other tasks will be valuable assets as he helps maintain infrastructure stability at various U.S. bases over the next year.

"For me, my biggest thing is my freedom," Karge says. "I'm willing to do whatever it takes to protect my country. I'm proud to go."

At 27, Karge has impressive military, educational, volunteer and work credentials. He found that with his busy service schedule, pursuing a college degree to become an electrical engineer wasn't exactly feasible. "I



Local 307 member Rich Karge

also knew that sitting behind a desk wasn't going to be my thing," Karge said. So he entered the IBEW apprenticeship program in 2003, topping out last year.

"The union was great about giving me time to catch up on my coursework while I volunteered in Louisiana after Katrina," Karge said. His instructors worked with him to ensure that he wouldn't be delayed an extra year for taking time out to perform national service. "I appreciate everything my local has done for me."

Karge said he's also grateful for the emergency leave time he'll take in August when his wife Ashley gives birth to the couple's first child. "We'll do whatever we can to help Rich and Ashley during this time of separation," said Local 307 Business Manager Rich Carder. "He's been an asset to our local and to the IBEW, and we pray for his safe return." ■

## Organizing Wire

Kentucky-based General Cable operates 46 sites in 23 countries, with annual revenues clearing \$6 billion. ■

### Union Constructors Elect New President



Robert W. Santillo was elected president of the Association of Union Constructors at the

group's leadership conference in May.

In his acceptance speech, he called on union contractors to work with industrial business owners and labor leaders to create a new set of action plans for business in this modern world.

"We have entered a challenging era...an era in which union construction needs to rise from the ashes of a reduced market share and reclaim its dominant position in the market," Santillo said. "If we act strategically, this could be the beginning of a millennial era of union maintenance and construction."

Santillo is president of Beaver Falls, Pa., -based McCarl's Inc. and has more than 30 years of experience in the mechanical contracting, maintenance and fabrication fields. He has been an active member of the association for more than 20 years, and has served in a variety of capacities on the board of directors. TAUC itself consists of more than 2,500 union contractors, local union contractor associations and vendors in the industrial maintenance and construction field.

A graduate of Clarion University, Santillo has an MBA from Duquesne

University. He is also a graduate of the Small Company Management program at Harvard University. ■

### Tennessee Wiremen Serve Disabled Iraq Veteran

For members of Nashville, Tenn., Local 429, brotherhood doesn't stop at the union hall or on the job site. Scores of members spent nearly two months helping with the local's "Volunteers for Veterans" program, wiring a new wheelchair-accessible house for disabled National Guardsman Sgt. Kevin Downs, who was seriously injured while serving in Iraq in 2005.

"I'm excited that so many members in our local stepped up to help a hero in need," said Local 429 Business Manager Bobby Emery.

Local 429 members provided all of the wiring for the house, including close-to-the-ground outlets, a high-tech security system, outside lights and a special shower.

"This project was one of the greatest things I've taken part in as a union member," said Local 429 member Larry Parnell, who lives close to Downs' family in Kingston Springs—about 20 miles southwest of Nashville. A superintendent with Broadway Electric Co., Parnell used his business connections to drum up about \$8,000 in donated materials from local contractors and electrical supply houses. Parnell also coordinated the wiring job, which yielded nearly 400 man-hours of volunteered union expertise.

"Everyone was happy to help a man who gave so much for his country," Parnell said.

Downs' new home was finished in May, and he moved in last month. ■

### Kansas Tree Trimmers Go Union

Aaron Fullerton was happy enough working as a nonunion line clearance tree trimmer with Asplundh. But when the company abruptly decided last November to ax health benefits for Fullerton and his co-workers, the married father of two decided to phone the IBEW.

"I knew that the union would go to bat for us," Fullerton said. He'd been an IBEW member for 10 years with Wichita, Kan., Local 1523 starting in 1993, but he later began doing nonunion work closer to his home in El Dorado—about 30 miles northeast of Wichita.

In February, Fullerton and his co-workers voted 4-0 in a National Labor Relations Board-supervised election for representation with Local 1523. "The company didn't put up too much of a fight," Fullerton said. "It wasn't a real hard sell." The workers hope that a contract will help mitigate the \$500 in health care coverage fees each worker is now getting hit with every month.

"Health care is incredibly expensive when workers are paying for it out of their own pockets," said Local 1523 Business Manager Merv Wiltshire. While Wiltshire agrees that the company didn't appear to use any union-busting tactics prior to the NLRB vote, "I still see a potentially hard fight ahead at the bargaining table," he said.

Wiltshire is also working on collective bargaining agreements for Asplundh units in the cities of Coffeyville and Winfield and Butler County who recently voted for IBEW representation. His goal is to get the company to accept a pattern agreement that would streamline negotiations.

Whether or not Asplundh pushes back at the table, Fullerton already sees benefits for himself and his co-workers.

"I feel a lot more secure knowing I have some backing from the union," Fullerton said. "Before, you could complain about problems on the job but there was nothing you could really do to solve them. I'm in a much better situation now being back with the IBEW." ■



Nashville, Tenn., Local 429 members donated labor to wire a wounded warrior's new home.

## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

In addition to your monthly issue of The Electrical Worker, check out the wealth of IBEW-related information in cyberspace.

### www.ibew.org

From breaking news to video news stories, our updated Web site has information not available anywhere else.

### IBEW on the Huffington Post

International President Edwin D. Hill has a new blog on the Huffington Post. Read it monthly at [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com).

### IBEW on Twitter

President Hill has joined the latest social networking scene. Find out what's on his mind at [http://twitter.com/IBEW\\_IP](http://twitter.com/IBEW_IP).

### YouTube

The IBEW has its own channel on YouTube, devoted exclusively to videos about the IBEW and its members.

[www.youtube.com/user/theelectricalworker](http://www.youtube.com/user/theelectricalworker).



### HourPower

This week on the IBEW's online video magazine, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis tells us why IBEW labor is vital to the future of America's economy.

[www.ibewhourpower.com](http://www.ibewhourpower.com).

### ElectricTV

As America looks to us for leadership on rebuilding the nation's electrical grid, the NECA-IBEW team is more than ready to take on our part of the work. [electricTV.net](http://electricTV.net).



# Local Lines

## Retired Officer Mourned

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—With regret Local 1 announces the passing of retired former business manager Don Bresnan. Bro. Bresnan passed away April 1 at St. Anthony's Medical Center. He was 78. The burial was held at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

After serving in the Korean War, Bro. Bresnan was initiated as a member of Local 1 in 1946. He initially worked in production and the residential industry, and became a journeyman wireman in 1968. Don served Local 1 tirelessly in numerous capacities, including as Examining Board member, recording secretary and business representative. He was business manager from 1978 until his retirement in 1994. He devoted his energy to the members and their families, dedicating his life to Local 1. Don's charisma and passion for Local 1 and its members will forever be remembered.

We mourn the following members' deaths: Frank D. Feldewerth, Donald G. Woolwine, Leonard C. Hagedorn, Rosario Pagano, Lee Roy L. Sander, Jerry C. Simpson, Samuel Tessler, Alfonso Vigna, Donald J. Bresnan, Jerry E. Linneman, Harold V. Krueger, Arthur E. Huether, Norman E. Eisenmann, Donald M. Hoenemeyer, Ronald H. Burckhart, Amos K. Meyer, Kelly A. O'Leary, Paul W. Powers, Michael A. Johnson, Edward F. Schira.

Matt Gober, P.S.

## Picnic & Golf Outing

L.U. 9 (catv,govt,lctt,o&u), CHICAGO, IL—It was a full house when Local 9 celebrated the newest retired members at our annual 'Old Timers' party. The April 3 party held in Countryside, IL, drew over 1,000 members, friends and guests to the traditional Harrington's comed beef and cabbage dinner. Those in attendance helped raise more than \$1,700 for Komen for the Cure, a breast cancer awareness program.

The Local 9 golf outing is Aug. 8. Get your four-some together and call the hall to sign up. The outing always sells out so get your reservations.

Our family picnic will be Sept. 12 at Miller Meadow in Maywood. Make sure you attend this great family outing. Food, music and fun are guaranteed for all.

Local 9 hopes Chicago will be selected as host city for the 2016 Summer Olympics. The International Olympic Committee will announce the host city in October. Hosting the Olympics would open many jobs for Local 9 and all the other IBEW locals in the Chicago area if our city is picked.

John Conroy, Pres.

## Town Hall Meeting

L.U. 11 (i,rt&s&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis attended a town hall meeting, on "America's Veterans and the Jobs They Deserve," held in Los Angeles at Union Station. The event was hosted by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. Local 11 members and staff as well as more than 1,000 trade unionists attended. Local 11 Bus. Mgr. Marvin P. Kropke, a decorated Vietnam veteran himself, addressed the gathering.

The District 4 Organizing Committee celebrated six years of service to the local with refreshments served after the Unit 4 meeting. Several members displayed their union pin collections.

The organizing department has five banner crews targeting Land Mark Electric projects throughout Los Angeles, in a campaign to inform the public and customers that Land Mark Electric pays less than area standard wages and benefits to its nonunion employees.

Thanks to members who volunteer at various functions. Your dedication is appreciated and we are proud of the work you do.

Bob Oedy, P.S.



IBEW Local 11 Bus. Mgr. Marvin Kropke applauds U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, who is speaking at a town hall meeting in Los Angeles.

## Happy Fourth of July

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—On May 1, we celebrated our 15-year anniversary since amalgamation of former System Council U-25 into Local 15.

During three weeks in April, our members employed at Midwest Generation Powerton Station participated on a "Rebuilding Together" project and completely rehabilitated a home in the Peoria area. The company supplied materials; the employees, management and union alike donated the manpower.

On April 28, Local 15 participated in a Workers Memorial Day event in Rockford. More than 150

gathered to remember those killed or injured on the job. Bro. Alex Collazo, who died Dec. 9, 2008, was honored at the ceremony.

Like most electric utilities, ComEd Energy Delivery has experienced a sharp decline in new business work. Through negotiations and discussions, plans were agreed upon that redeployed our members to other departments needing extra employees. We hope work soon picks up to keep our members employed. The company is scheduled to begin a "pilot program of smart meters" in late fall. We are discussing with the company how to best use our members to install and maintain the new meters and associated infrastructure.

The recently established Local 15 IBEW Scholarship Award Fund for members and their families was approved by the membership at April unit meetings. Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dean Apple is naming a Selection Committee. Awards winners will be announced soon.

Ronald V. Welte, P.S.

## Mobilization Seminar

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&i), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Stewards and mobilization coordinators attended a two-day seminar to prepare for upcoming contract negotiations with AT&T. They received training in preparation for what are sure to be our toughest negotiations in years. The seminar was highlighted by a visit from Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and Telecommunications Dir. Martha Pultar. Local 21 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Ron Kastner announced a historic agreement was reached with other IBEW locals currently representing "Legacy T" AT&T members. Those locals changed their contracts' expiration dates to match our expiration date of June 27, 2009. Working with these locals and the IBEW International, Local 21 was also able to get AT&T to agree to nationwide bargaining.

Our stewards and mobilization coordinators left the seminar fired up with the tools to educate members on the issues which their employer is

expected to attack during bargaining. Our union and the System Council T-3 stand united. We're "set to talk and ready to walk."

Bro. Steve Yatsushiro, an AT&T employee, shop steward, activist and leader was named by our IBEW International as a winner and co-recipient of the 2008 Founders Scholarship. We recognize Bro. Yatsushiro for his activism, leadership, broad vision and rock-solid work ethic. We are proud Steve is a Local 21 brother.

Thomas Hopper, P.S.

## Fund Drive for Family

L.U. 23 (u), ST. PAUL, MN—As a result of an initiative started by IBEW Local 23 Pres. Tim Block, a fund drive was started to benefit the late Bro. Andy Reichwein's wife and daughter. Andy, a lineman for Connexus Energy and a member of Local 160, died on the job while he was working to restore power during the big winter ice storm that hit Kentucky. [See June 2009 Electrical Worker, pg. 12.] An amount of \$2,000 was collected from Xcel Energy employees. We hope this will help the family through this extremely difficult time.

Bruce Ohmann, P.S.

## Local Honors Members

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—For more than 20 years, IBEW Local 37 has helped support charitable organizations in a very special way. Each time a union member or a close member of their family passes away, Local 37 makes a charitable donation to the Canadian Diabetes Association in the deceased's name. In 2008, the union donated over \$1,100 to the Canadian Diabetes Association in memory of those lost. The regional office of the Diabetes Association recently acknowledged Local 37's kindness and support. [See photo, pg. 9.]

Ross Galbraith, B.M.



Local 21 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Ronald E. Kastner (second from left) thanks Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill for his inspiring speech at the Local 21 Mobilization Seminar. At right is Asst. Bus. Mgr. Gerald Gast.

## Trade Classifications

(as) Alarm & Signal	(ei) Electrical Inspection	(lctt) Line Clearance Tree Trimming	(mps) Motion Picture Studios	(rr) Railroad	(spa) Sound & Public Address
(ars) Atomic Research Service	(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(lpt) Lightning Protection Technicians	(nst) Nuclear Service Technicians	(rtb) Radio-Television Broadcasting	(st) Sound Technicians
(bo) Bridge Operators	(es) Electric Signs	(mt) Maintenance	(o) Outside	(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing	(t) Telephone
(cs) Cable Splicers	(et) Electronic Technicians	(mo) Maintenance & Operation	(p) Powerhouse	(rts) Radio-Television Service	(u) Utility
(catv) Cable Television	(fm) Fixture Manufacturing	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers	(pet) Professional, Engineers & Technicians	(so) Service Occupations	(uow) Utility Office Workers
(c) Communications	(govt) Government	(mar) Marine	(ptc) Professional, Technical & Clerical	(s) Shopmen	(ws) Warehouse and Supply
(cr) Cranemen	(i) Inside			(se) Sign Erector	
(ees) Electrical Equipment Service	(it) Instrument Technicians				





Canadian Diabetes Association Regional Dir. Jake Reid (left) thanks IBEW Local 37 Bus. Mgr. Ross Galbraith for the union's support in 2008. Local 37 represents more than 2,100 New Brunswick workers in a variety of fields including utilities, broadcasting and administration.

### September Events Planned

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—Congratulations to another graduating class of journeyman wireman members. It's amazing how fast five years go by. I thank all our instructors for their time and dedication given to our apprentices.

We have been busy negotiating new contracts in recent months for Niagara Transformer, Buffalo News, Inside Wireman's Agreement and a wage re-opener for the Residential Wireman's Agreement. Hopefully by the time this is printed, everything will be complete.

At the April meeting, the membership voted overwhelmingly to adopt the CW/CE classifications into our bylaws. We hope this will be a tool our contractors can use to put our members on more jobs that we are not currently working on.

On Sept. 12, the annual outing will be held at the VFW Post #8113 (the Chicken Coop) in West Seneca, NY. Also, the Annual Charity Golf Outing to benefit Mercy Flight will be held Sept. 19 at The Links at Ivy Ridge in Akron, NY. More information on both these events will be provided in the future.

On behalf of our officers and staff, I wish all our members and their families a happy and safe summer.

Anthony S. Coppola, B.M./F.S.

### St. Patrick's Day Float

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Work has improved slightly for the membership. Some stimulus money and early school work has started to move Book I. Unfortunately at this time the work picture in Local 43 doesn't look as bright for our traveling brothers and sisters. If we do get into Book II, it would be late July or August.



Local 43 members and officers assemble for the St. Patrick's Day parade in Syracuse, NY. Among those shown are Pres. Don Morgan (front row, right) and Executive Board members Jim Corbett (front row, third from right) and Al Marzullo (front row, fifth from right).

In March our apprentice classes were issued a challenge for the annual Syracuse St. Patrick's Day parade. They were asked to construct a float and participate. Well, they were certainly up to the challenge. One young man proudly wore his tam, vest and full kilt as he and his wife pushed their child ahead of our float. With over 50 members, spouses and children participating it was a glorious day! A full gallery of pictures can be viewed on our Web site [www.ibew43.org](http://www.ibew43.org).

Jim Corbett, P.S.

### Bus. Rep. Peterson Retires



Local 51 Bus. Rep. Tom Peterson announced his retirement.

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Bus. Rep. Tom Peterson has announced his retirement. Bro. Peterson, a Vietnam veteran, was initiated into Local 51 on Sept. 1, 1972, as an employee of Illinois Power Company in LaSalle. After serving his apprenticeship, Tom became a journeyman lineman on July 16, 1982, a position he held until joining the staff of Local 51 in

January 1998. As a staff member, in addition to his representational duties where he served the membership well, Bro. Peterson was instrumental in organizing several municipalities in the local's northern jurisdiction.

On behalf of the staff and membership of IBEW Local 51, I would like to thank Tom for his service to our Brotherhood and wish him a long, healthy and well-deserved retirement.

As of this writing, our work scene remains slow with 14 journeyman linemen on Book 1 and 46 on Book 2. Hopefully when summer arrives, our work picture will improve.

Remember, brothers and sisters, to work safe, give eight hours' work for eight hours' pay and attend your union meetings for this is where it all begins.

In Solidarity,

Dan Pridemore, Pres.

### Report on Negotiations

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—PSCO (Xcel Energy) general negotiations came to an abrupt end on April 29 when, during a sidebar with Jonathan Adelman, Xcel Energy director, HR Business Consulting & Workforce Relations, he gave the union an ultimatum to either agree with the company's con-



IBEW Local 111 PSCO Negotiating Committee.

cessions (over \$9.6 million), or negotiations were over. Bus. Mgr. Michael Byrd would not agree to these concessions and insisted the process move to federal mediation for resolution. This is a result of the company's continual stalling and surface bargaining during the negotiations process. At this writing, federal mediation was scheduled for May 27, 2009.

On a positive note, 19 tentative agreements were earlier reached between the parties.

Dennis Z. LeTurgez, P.S.

### Colorado Springs Local Goes Solar

L.U. 113 (catv,ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—With completion of its rooftop solar panel project on March 26, IBEW Local 113 took a bold step into the 21st century. The Astralux system, which consists of 144 Sharp solar modules and three DC power inverters, is now the largest solar generating system connected to the Colorado Springs Utilities grid.

Astralux Environmental Solutions is a Boulder-based company that helps individuals and businesses assess the process of implementing solar power. Sharp solar products are now being made, by IBEW members, in a clean factory in Memphis, Tennessee.

Ours is a direct use system, which means that power is used as it is generated. Unlike other systems, which may also store created power in battery banks, ours is more directly suited for businesses—where most of the energy consumption occurs during the day.

After an immediate \$93,330 rebate, through the Colorado Springs Utilities Renewable Energy Rebate Program, the project cost Local 113 members \$164,226. While this seems like a lot, for the amount of time it could take for the system to pay for itself, there is no telling what the benefit could be down the road—both for contractors and Local 113 members, who we hope will be installing a lot more of these systems in the future.

Joe Collins, P.S.

### 2009 Scheduled Events

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—The local has a variety of events and educational opportunities available this year. Please contact the IBEW Local 125 business office at (503) 262-9125 for additional information.

July 25: Bring your family for a day of competition, food, and fun—join us in Gresham, OR, for the 16th Pacific Northwest Lineman's Rodeo.

Aug. 14: Join us in Bend, OR, for our annual tournament to benefit the Oregon Burn Center.

Aug. 15-16: Please join us for another family-friendly weekend of softball during our annual two-day tournament in Bend, OR.

Sept. 19: Career Development—How many members have considered applying for other positions but didn't because of concerns about résumés and interviews? Join us at the IBEW Local 125 business office to get practical interviewing experience and walk away with the tools to build an effective résumé.

Nov. 7: Advanced Shop Steward Training—This course will focus on investigations and preparing for arbitration. To learn more about the investigation process and logic behind determining which grievances will be pursued via arbitration, plan on attending this course at the IBEW Local 125 business office.

Marcy Putman, P.S.

### 'Rebuilding Together'

L.U. 153 (em,i,rtb,rts,se,spa&st), SOUTH BEND, IN—April 18 was the 21st annual Rebuilding Together event, a community-based volunteer effort to provide needed home repairs and upgrades. The project is a partnership among the University of Notre Dame, the City of South Bend and the St. Joseph Valley Building & Construction Trades. More than 40 IBEW Local 153 members and retirees volunteered to upgrade and rewire homes in South Bend's River Park community. Local 153 has been active in this great project since its inception. Last fall to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Rebuilding Together in South Bend, the area building trades did a rebuild of two homes for retired building trades members.



At IBEW Local 153's first HELP Committee Chili Cook-Off, contestants and taste testers are joined by guest speaker U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly (back row center, white shirt).

## Local Lines

Local 153 was founded April 21, 1914. We recently held a banquet to celebrate our 95th anniversary. More than 600 people attended and 76 retired members were guests of honor. Guest speaker U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly congratulated the local and reaffirmed his support for blue-collar working families and the Employee Free Choice Act.

In February, the Local 153 HELP Committee held its first annual Chili Cook-Off. Chris Wilson won the prize for best chili. The fundraiser brought in over \$1,300 to help our members when a time of need arises. Thanks to all who helped make this and other union events a success!

Troy D. Warner, B.R.

## July Activities Scheduled

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Although the work picture has shown improvement from last summer, we are far from where we would like to be in getting all our members back to work. It has been a very difficult economy for all of us. Hopefully better days are ahead for all our brothers and sisters.

We do have some things to look forward to in July. On July 12 we will have our annual "IBEW Day at the Mallards." The Mallards are our local semi-pro baseball team. Baseball and hotdogs; what could be

better? Also, on July 18, we will have our annual Suchoman Scholarship Golf Outing. Proceeds help us to offer a full one-year college scholarship to a Local 159 member or an immediate family member.

Happy 4th of July! We hope the remainder of 2009 brings a better work outlook for all of us.

Joel Kapusta, B.A.

## IBEW Life Saving Efforts

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—In Moses Lake, WA, on March 17 the quick thinking of Mark Davis, an IBEW Local 280 member, may have saved his tool partner's life. Bro. Davis and Bro. Robert Scoggins, from Local 291, were working as travelers on a Local 191 job with REC Silicon Inc. When Robert suffered a heart attack on the job, Mark remembered the nitroglycerine pills Robert carried and put them under his tongue, then administered CPR. Thanks to Mark's heroic efforts, Robert is at home with his family enjoying a second chance at life.

On April 30 and May 1 the LMCC hosted a partnering meeting with IBEW and NECA at the new, union-built Tulalip Casino Hotel. The meeting included input from participants including apprentices, journeymen, foremen, general foreman, business reps, organizers, the JATC, and small and big



Local 197 officers, JATC director and instructors congratulate new journeymen. Back row, from left: graduates Sam Nichols, Will Hancock, Brandon Baker, John Altop, Travis Dulaney, Chris Carlson, Luke Brown, Clint Johnson and Dustin Epperson; and Instructor Eric Post. Front row, from left: Instructor Dale Glasscock; graduates Brian Simmons, Craig Riddle, Kevin Revels, Tim Kubiak, Steve Johnson and Josh Scaggs; JATC Dir. Renée Riddle; and Bus. Mgr. Lance Reece.

contractors. We all learned that to be successful we must promote cooperative and mutually beneficial working relationships. The partnering involved common objectives, shared risk taking, mutual respect, trust and a team approach. The meeting adjourned a success with new tools to build a stronger working relationship. Thanks to all who attended to advance the future of our industry together.

Work has been slow. Thanks again for all the travelers' help.

Robert De Velder, P.S.

Wal-Marts of the world and persuade your family and friends likewise.

Two members, Kurt Neuleib and Frank Harold, are currently serving in Afghanistan. By press time, Sean Tibbs, a second year Teledata apprentice, will also be serving in Afghanistan. Thanks to these three brothers for keeping us safe back home. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers and look forward to seeing them on the job again as soon as possible. [Please watch for an "IBEW on Duty" article in an upcoming Electrical Worker.]

Take pride in your local union; get involved!

Mike Raikes, P.S.

## Groundbreaking for New Hall

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—The new Local 193 union hall ground was broken on May 15. The new hall will house the administrative offices, training facility and meeting room.

Our work scene has 80 on the Inside Book 1 and 300 on Book 2.

The new City Water, Light & Power Dallman Unit 4 and Dallman Unit 1 rebuilds are progressing to their goals.

Local 193 thanks Tom Schafer and the apprentices who are rewiring and updating the Computer Bank, a great charity that our local supports.

Habitat for Humanity has four houses to be wired. The Local 193 contractors are: Carmean Electric, Egizii Electric, B&B Electric, and Lewis Electric. Thanks to all members who participate.

The apprentice party was held May 30 at The Anchor Boat Club. Graduating this spring were 14 from the Inside apprenticeship, six from the City Water, Light & Power apprenticeship, two Residential apprentice graduates, and one Telecommunications apprentice graduate. Congratulations to all.

Local 193 extends condolences to families of the following brothers who passed away: Donald Arnold, William Headen, John Hofman, Seymour Jones, Willard A. Prewitt, Ovid Reed and Robert Smith.

Don Hudson, P.S.

## Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—Congratulations to our newest class of journeymen and residential wiremen graduates. We topped out another class of future leaders. [See photo, above.] Tim Kubiak took the highest GPA for the inside class and Clint Johnson took top honors in the residential class. Each was awarded a new set of Klein hand tools.

The Wal-Mart on the west side of Bloomington chose to do a remodel using nonunion, out-of-town workers. Thanks to all who showed up at Wal-Mart on May 2 to protest the company for not using IBEW and other union trades. Please do not shop at the

## Missouri SkillsUSA

L.U. 257 (em,i,rtb,rts,spa&t), JEFFERSON CITY, MO—Local 257 retirees and volunteers helped organize and judge contests in motor control, residential wiring, conduit bending, and VDV for students from across the state at a recent Missouri SkillsUSA event hosted by Linn State Technical College. SkillsUSA helps students develop technical and leadership skills for future work. Local 257 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Jim Winemiller visited with the electrical contestants to inform them about benefits of IBEW apprenticeship and membership. Local 257 thanks the retirees for their assistance.

Our Local 257 telephone members at CenturyTel received big news last fall about the proposed merger of CenturyTel and Embarq. The merger will create one of the biggest communications companies in the United States and will affect 8 million lines in 33 states. Talks will be held this fall between CenturyTel/Embarq and our local telephone members concerning the merger and



Local 257 retirees and volunteers attend SkillsUSA event. From left, back row, are: Kenny Schulte, Herman Grothoff, Bob Kauffman, Jerry Rehagen and Training Dir. Rick Stokes; front row, Steve Kloepel, Emil Fisher, Doyle Maupin and John O'Bannon. Local 257 retirees and volunteers who also attended but are not pictured include: Herb Bruemmer, John Sullivan, Ron Martin, Mike Cave, J.R. Taggart and Jim Breid.

Career: Up. Tuition: Down.

IBEW has partnered with Excelsior College to give IBEW members access to college degrees and significant savings on tuition and fees.

College is more affordable than ever for all IBEW members.

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new contract. Stay informed and join preparations for contract negotiations in the fall.

At this writing our work picture is still a little slow. We are awaiting a couple of big projects to bid out and local economic plans to be voted on for more projects to be released.

Remember the Local 257 picnic Sept. 19 at Riverside Park in Jefferson City.

Support your local unions, so we can keep our union strong.

Ryan Buschjost, P.S.

## Solar Training Advances

L.U. 313 (i&spa), WILMINGTON, DE—With the work situation slow, the Local 313 JATC has had a tremendous turnout for solar training classes. The Local 313 solar training curriculum was accepted by the State of Delaware as continuing education credits to get on the state's Solar "Preferred Bidder" list. [Please see article on "IBEW Green-Job Training Facilities Around the Country ..." and the success of our local's "green energy" advances on pg. 4 of this issue.]

Welcome home to Bro. Chris Panico, a U.S. Air Force staff sergeant and second-year IBEW inside apprentice. Bro. Panico was deployed during the winter of 2009 in Southeast Asia. His duties included operating heavy equipment, convoys, construction and electrical work. We thank Bro. Panico for serving our country and representing IBEW Local 313 with honor. [Please watch for "IBEW on Duty" story in an upcoming Electrical Worker.]

Thank you to Bro. Eric Lewis and Entertainment Committee members for making the Shrimp Feast a huge success. Thanks also to the Feby's Restaurant staff. Food and refreshments were excellent and brotherhood was in full force.

Robert MacLennan, P.S.

## Wind Turbine Training

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN—Nearly 35,000 wind turbines are scheduled to be constructed in the Midwest through 2012. Local 343 members want to be trained and capable in the construction of these wind turbines. As a result, local members committed \$50,000 to the construction of a wind turbine training facility. Consistent safety practices and construction techniques are part of the five-day training session. Local 343 is working to obtain certification for our Wind Turbine Safety Program. This training will give our local members an edge when competing for wind turbine jobs.

Phil Heim, P.S.



IBEW Local 343 members train for a potential wind tower rescue situation.

## AFL-CIO Winter Meeting

L.U. 349 (em,i,mps,rtb,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—On March 3, our local union hall was full of excitement.

AFL-CIO Pres. John J. Sweeney and the AFL-CIO Executive Council held the council's annual winter meeting at the IBEW Local 349 hall. More than 40 labor union presidents serving on the AFL-CIO Executive Council addressed vital aspects of reviving the nation's economy for working families including good jobs, health care reform, strengthening social security and revising the nation's trade practices. The council also discussed the Employee Free Choice Act.

A guest speaker at the council meeting was U.S. Labor Sec. Hilda Solis. IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill invited AFL-CIO Pres. John J. Sweeney and Labor Sec. Solis to visit our IBEW Apprentice Training Center. Our apprentices demonstrated work they are learning at the training center.

On a different note, the Local 349 children's Easter party was fun for all and had a medium turnout. Thanks to the Entertainment Committee for their hard work.

Remember to attend union meetings and make our local strong.

Frank Albury, P.S./Exec. Bd.



IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill (right) joins labor leaders and U.S. Labor Sec. Hilda Solis, who visited the IBEW Local 349 Apprentice Training Center. From left are: AFL-CIO Pres. John J. Sweeney, IBEW Int. Sec.-Treas. Lindell K. Lee, Labor Sec. Solis, Local 349 Bus. Mgr. William Riley and Pres. Hill.

## 2008 Retirees Honored

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ—Congratulations to all our members who retired in 2008. The newly retired members were honored at our April general union meeting and received IBEW watches. [See photo, top right.]

The 2008 retirees are: Kenneth J. Bailey, Kenneth E. Ballard, Andrew J. Becker, Timothy L. Berry, George S. Cade, Stephen M. Campbell, William Colclough, Michael J. Dicamillo, Jeffrey E. Garton, Edward C. Gore, George J. Haughey, Edward L. Hayes, Larry L. Johnson, Joseph Knecht Sr., George H. Kyle, Dennis Laspata, Michael P. Martin, Stephen H. Martin, Norman Minner, Joseph P. McGahn, Herbert R. Monroe, Vincent A. Perla, Robert S. Pluta, Gregory W. Price, Roger Riggins, Ernest Roswell, Richard W. Ruiz, Mark S. Sainsott, Stewart



Local 357 apprentice graduating class of 2009, joined by JATC Training Dir. Madison Burnett (front row, right), Asst. Training Dir. Jerry White (front row, second from right), and Asst. Training Dir. Robert Buntjer (front row, third from right).



Local 351 Bus. Mgr. Ed Gant (front row, fourth from left) and Pres. Bill Hosey (back row, second from left) congratulate recently retired members honored at April general meeting.

Scheaffer, Richard L. Smith, Robert V. Spangler, Jeffrey A. Stahl and Harold J. Vanderslice.

Please remember to stay active in the local and participate in our union meetings and functions.

Daniel Cosner, P.S.

## Graduating Class of 2009

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Congratulations to the graduating class of 2009.

Inside wiremen graduates are: Shawn Addison, Gregory Allen, Joseph Allen, Randy Alvarez, Richard Anderson, William Asche, Jonathan Baker, Leonard Banks Jr., Jeremy Barnes, Michael Becherer, Dina Bechtloff, Michael Berger, David Bevers, Brian Bradway, Joseph Brewster, Roberto Brooks, Thomas Brown, Brien Burley, Scott Butler, Salvador Campos, Marcus Carlisle, Sabina Carr, Ian Cook, Jennifer Craig, Leota Cripe, Meylin Davila, Renato Diaz, Matthew Eddy, Jess Ellingson, Michael Fisher, Carlton Ford, Nathan Forgach, Roy Gallegos, Gerald Grazzini, Jazon Hampton, Richard Howard, Anthony Ivey, Nicholas Jerram, James Kauffman, Kenneth Kieffer, Kenneth Kimble, Lauralee Mallory, Sinisa Mandic, Matthew March, Mark Mason Jr., Brett Mathews, Dana McGuine, Kevin Miller, Antonio Mims, Ronald Morgan, Erik Mozur, Jared Muffoletto, Patrick O'Brien, Stephen Odgers, David Padilla Jr., Nicholas Pesce, Erich Pilotzi, Berman Porras, Christopher Rabben, Debra Rieser, Todd Riskovitch, Joseph Scott, Dallas Sewell, Jeff Sillman, Gregory Simpson, Arnold Duane Slater, Nicholas Snyder, Karen Solomon, Theresa Stafford, Mark Stromer, Leslie Sweet, Joseph Thomas, Matthew Todd, Jeremy Traylor, Jason Weigel, Lenny Wight, Wayne Williams, Arthur Wilson, David Worth, David Yokoyama, Travis York and Jason Zwart.

Installer/technician graduates are: Edgardo Ayala, Carola Billmyer, Carlene Curtin, Gilor Gepes, Marcial Perez, Bobby Pierson, David Romero, Ahmed Sennain, Alexander Snyder, Brett Ufer and Jeff Yates.

Tim Bolton, P.S.

## Instrumentation Training

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—Local 363 is fortunate to have several large manufacturing clients including pharmaceutical and electronic chip manufacturing plants. A major requirement from these clients is instrument calibration. Local 363 has an EPRI-certified lab for both EPRI Level 1 and EPRI Level 2 training as well as two certified instrumentation instructors.

Due to our superior classroom and hands-on training, our clients have been employing more and more of Local 363's instrumentation technicians and replacing their own on-site techs with ours. This is a true testament to our business manager, training director, instructors, and brothers and sisters who have attended and passed these intense instrumentation courses.

Timothy Poulin, P.S.

## Retirement Party

L.U. 391 (u), GADSDEN, AL—Local 391 held a retirement party March 17 for recent retirees. The retirees were presented with an IBEW wristwatch or pocket watch, depending on the recipient's choice, as a token of appreciation for their loyal and dedicated IBEW service. Local 391 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Alan Wagon and special guest Fifth District Int. Rep. William J. "Joe" Pledger presented the watches. We wish all our brothers well on their retirement.

Kerry Gowens, R.S.



Local 391 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Alan Wagon (back row, right) and Fifth District Int. Rep. William J. "Joe" Pledger (front row, right) present IBEW watches to recent retirees. Front row, from left: Jake Talton, Elton Fomby, Leo Lightsey, Clyde Nance, James Lowe and Int. Rep. Pledger; back row, Jesse Poore, Wayne Beasley, James Posey, Steve Gillium and Bus. Mgr./Pres. Wagon.

## Local Lines

## Ode to the 'Code Man'

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—C—stands for code, a body of laws organized for easy reference, a set of principles and rules.

O—is for obsessed about ohms, occupancy, over-current protection, overloads, outlets and everything over 600 volts.

D—is dedicated to definitions, direct burial, disconnecting means, direct current and dwellings.

E—gets excited about everything electrical—wiring and protection, wiring methods and materials, special occupancies, special equipment and special conditions.

M—masters all the tables, and manages Annex A, Annex B, Annex C and Annex D.

A—is adamant about knowing and following the National Electrical Code, and appreciates all who do.

N—never lets someone down who wants to learn.

There is a "Code Man" in every local. You know who they are. In Local 449 our senior Code Man and JATC director, Jim Wiemer, retired May 1. His expertise is now being utilized on the NEC code-making panel for the next edition. Good luck, Jim; don't make it too tough on the rest of us. John Baker is our new JATC director.

Congratulations also to Robert Jenkins on his recent retirement.

Our condolences go to the families of two members who passed away, Kenneth McDonald and Mondell Nash. These brothers will be missed.

Laurie Watters, R.S.

## Local Has a New Home

L.U. 455 (em&u), SPRINGFIELD, MA—Local 455 has purchased a building for its new headquarters. Bus. Mgr. William O'Rourke, Pres. Brian Kenney, Treas. Gerry Triggs and all the executive board members were instrumental in making this purchase possible and deserve special thanks.

Owning our own building is a cost-effective approach in securing the future of our local for generations to come and is a testament to the pride and solidarity of our local.

Please visit our new Web site [www.ibew455.org](http://www.ibew455.org).

Jim Di Bernardo, P.S.

## 'Adopt a Highway' Project

L.U. 459 (ees,em,govt,so&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—The local wishes to thank Bro. Paul Cameron, vice president and business representative, for the hard work he put toward the Adopt a Highway project. Paul and other Local 459 members adopted a two-mile stretch of highway along Route 210 in front of the Keystone Generating Facility in Shelocta, PA. Bro.



Shop Steward Aric Baker (left) and Vice Pres./Bus. Rep. Paul Cameron stand alongside the stretch of highway "adopted" by IBEW Local 459.

Cameron thought this would be a great opportunity to get fellow union members involved in cleaning up the environment and also promote good public relations for the local.

Thanks to Paul and all who participated in the cleanup effort.

Kenneth L. Richards, Pres./A.B.M.

## MS Fundraiser Volunteers

L.U. 503 (t&u), MONROE, NY—The officers of the local extend heartfelt thanks to all who participated May 16 in the Multiple Sclerosis Walk at Bear Mountain State Park, NY. This local has known all too well the effects of this debilitating disease as we've had members and family members afflicted with MS. Team Local 503 comprised friends, family and local members, who raised a substantial amount of money that will be donated toward a cure. Special thanks to Rec. Sec. Jacqueline Sanchez for organizing our team at this event.

Our new administration has committed to enhancing communications for all members throughout all the units. In keeping with that promise, the Web site is regularly updated with the latest information when possible. As well as attending monthly meetings to stay informed about what's happening within your unit and the local in general, please also visit the Web site: [www.ibew503.org](http://www.ibew503.org).

Mary M. Casey, P.S.

## Hard Times

L.U. 531 (i), LaPORTE, IN—Well, we don't need to write about our work picture, because we know many locals are facing the same situation. Work is bad! The good news is that there is upcoming work, but unfortunately it is all being pushed back because of the economy.

With the work situation the way it is, two Local 531 brothers, Clark Sutley and Don Puent, secured employment with a company doing work in Afghanistan. Our prayers and best wishes go out to them.

I know our retirees have a Retirees Club, and it would be nice to print some of their activities and events. If you have information for me to write about, please e-mail me at [golfer2708@sbcglobal.net](mailto:golfer2708@sbcglobal.net).

Congratulations to our members who recently took part in picketing the new Olive Garden, even during rough weather. Your efforts are appreciated. We need to stick to our convictions now and not patronize this restaurant.

Welcome to our new members: Robert Allen, Ryan Belstra, Andrew Brenda, Daniel Chmielewski, Allen Easton, Adam Grass, David Hudson, Scott Kelly, Bradley Kerkes, Mathew Lessner, Joshua Payne, Ryan Pierce, Russell Prichard, Andrew Tillema, Alvin Udvare, Ryan Wildfang, Wesley Wright and Sean Ryan. Congratulations to all.

J. Switzer, P.S.



Some of the many volunteers from IBEW Local 569 who helped make the Christmas in April (Rebuilding San Diego) community service project a success gather for a group photo.

## Employee Free Choice Act

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA—We are doing all we can and then some to get the Employee Free Choice Act passed. On April 14 our five-member Sonoma County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution by a 4-1 vote to support the legislation. On May 5 our Santa Rosa City Council voted to adopt a resolution in support of the Employee Free Choice Act. And on May 6 we headed down to the San Francisco Federal Building and the office of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and held a 24-hour vigil calling for passage of the Act.

On April 18 we held a forum with many of our elected officials, including U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey and California state Sen. Pat Wiggins, who stood in support of the Employee Free Choice Act. We had a great turnout with many unions participating.

Local 551 is fortunate to have the support of our elected representatives who know the importance of unions and what unions can do for working families. Everyone deserves the right to join a union. This is the key to unlock our broken economy. For other locals that don't have it so easy, please don't give up. Call and write your senators today!

Thanks to all our members and 551 volunteers!

Denise D. Soza, V.P./P.S.



IBEW Santa Rosa, CA, Local 551 members attended the San Francisco vigil for the Employee Free Choice Act in May.

## Saginaw Update

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—At this spring writing, we are seeing a few warm days and also layoffs as projects at the semiconductor plant are completed. Thanks to our traveling electricians for helping bring the work to this point of completion.

Colleen Kincaid, our local's longtime secretary, is retiring early this summer. Her years of care and hard work assisted in keeping our local stable when times were difficult. Colleen's work flexibility was highlighted as computer systems replaced ledgers; as Health and Welfare programs changed as hardware became more sophisticated; and as the membership grew. Now as Colleen works training Janet Clayton, she smiles with a grin, which may indicate relief; now she doesn't have to deal with our upgrade as we turn to having our own computer server. Janet

brings much the same office experience, with decades working in a busy office with a large volume of business at a local manufacturing facility. Welcome to our team, Janet! Best wishes to Colleen as life hopefully becomes even more enjoyable!

Thanks to IBEW Local 43 for the donation to Utica's Lincoln Hospital improvements.

Congratulate to our recent new retirees: Carl Peil, Maynard Whitman, Fred Schmunk and Dick Woods. Best wishes to each of you and thank you for your years of service.

John E. Clemens, P.S.



Three generations of the extended Dupuis family are proud IBEW members and active supporters of the union. Seated, front row, from left: Paul Dupuis Sr., Saginaw, MI, Local 557 retiree; Bob Dupuis, Local 557; and Louis Dupuis, Local 557 retiree. Back row, from left: Darv Dupuis, Local 692; Tony Dupuis, Local 557; Keith Mercier, Local 557; and Paul Dupuis Jr., Local 557 apprenticeship director.

## Christmas in April 2009

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—Thank you to all Local 569 members and their families who participated in this year's Christmas in April event. [See photo, below.] More than 50 volunteers completed six projects at various homes in the San Diego area. Our members always show up in force and with great spirit to help those with no financial means to install and repair needed electrical systems in their homes. Projects included new wiring, light fixtures and ceiling fans. Thank you to Chula Vista Electric, Dynalectric, Southland Electric, Robinson Electric and Johnson Electric for donating their service vehicles for a very important cause. Thank you all!

Nicholas J. Segura Jr., P.S.

## Colonel Dijeu Honored

L.U. 595 (c,govt,i&st), DUBLIN, CA—On April 7 George E. Dijeu, a 72-year member of Local 595, was recognized by the Civil Air Patrol with the honorary rank of colonel and a service ribbon for his wartime service from 1942-1945. The special occasion was hosted by the Amelia Earhart Squadron 188 at Oakland Airport's North Field. [See photo, pg. 13.]

At this same ceremony, Dijeau also received a Certificate of Recognition from the Oakland Port Commission honoring his "exemplary service training pilots during World War II and...your ongoing commitment to the Civil Air Patrol." George was escorted by his son Edward and his family. Ed is also a proud IBEW 595 retiree with 40 years of service.

Work is still very slow in the Bay Area with all but one of our area sister locals experiencing high unemployment. We're hopeful that school summer projects and federal stimulus dollars will reverse this trend and get our members back to work.

Applications have been taken for our Thomas J. Sweeney Scholarships that honor the memory of our longtime former business manager. We hope to give 20 grants to our members and their dependents. Ten grants are available to graduating high school students and 10 for students currently enrolled in a secondary education institution, including a California state-approved apprenticeship program. Good luck, applicants!

Tom Mullarkey, B.R.



Local 595 retiree and CAP Col. George E. Dijeau (second from left), is joined by daughter-in-law Shirley (left), son Edward and granddaughter Audrey at awards ceremony. Edward is also a Local 595 retired member.

### Monthly Retirees Breakfast

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—Our local provides a monthly breakfast for the retirees and their spouses. Due to the size of the local, one breakfast is held in Champaign and another in Streator for the convenience of our retirees. It is a good time to socialize with the retired members we used to work with and get to know their spouses. The retirees express thanks to Local 601 for picking up the tab.

Forty members and their spouses attended the most recent Saturday morning breakfast in



Attending Local 601 breakfast for retirees and their spouses are: at front table, Pat Warmbier, George Vaughn, Mary Ellen Terven; second table, Bill and Mary Limp, Eddie Lane, Elwood and Garnnet Peterson, Pat Lane; standing, Doris Deremiah. Others facing camera at back of room include: at third table, Bobby and Anita Bean; fourth table, Robert Henderson; standing, Russ Bender and Bill Bland; and fifth table, Penny and Dick Revell.



Atlanta Local 613 initiates 101 new members at April meeting.

Champaign. Conversations range from stories about the old times to this new generation of electricians.

Local 601 has an excellent apprenticeship program and facility with a great group of teachers and a very capable apprenticeship coordinator in Bob Withers. Bob works full time for the apprenticeship and is always available for assistance.

Dan Hatter, P.S.

### 101 Members Initiated

L.U. 613 (em,i,o,rts&spa), ATLANTA, GA—Congratulations to the record-breaking 101 new members initiated at the April meeting. [Photo, above.] This brings our membership total to 3,048. We served over 350 plates at the meeting, so more than 200 additional proud members also attended to see history being made. This well establishes the commitment of our apprentices to make a career of electrical work, as well they should. We encourage all apprentices and CW/CEs who qualify to join the union and receive the benefits shared by the rest of us. Being able to express your opinions and have a vote on matters of concern to you is important, so exercise your rights.

Union meetings are open to all members with a paid-up dues receipt; plus if your death benefits are paid up you will receive a ticket to win door prizes at the end of the meeting. Meeting and mingling with your fellow members is the way to incite brotherhood and learn about what's happening on other jobs in our jurisdiction.

Steve Warren, A.B.M.

### Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—Congratulations to the Local 617 class of 2009 apprentice graduates. Inside Wireman graduates are: Askia Amen, Thomas Arnold, David Benjamin, Donny Blake, Anthony Bucher, Jayson DellaChiesa, Michael Dubois, Jennifer Duncan, William Eldred, Jillian Elliot, David Fujimoto, Patrick Gallagher, David Goodwin, Fredy Guardado, Eric Gutierrez, John Ham, James Huston, Paul Kennedy, James Lauren, John Ledford, Randolph Lynch, Luciano Mariotti, Eldridge McDowell, David Melgar, Joseph Murtagh, Michael Myers, Dean Oliver, Bryan Parkin, Adam Pisani, Daniel Robinson, Shervin Shahpar, Randy Thomas, Justin Wallace and Scott Wein. Sound and Communications Installer graduates are: James Alotis, Dennis Dudics, Roy Francisco, Lyndon Garces, Jonathan Granados, Justin Guzman, Juan Huerta, Michael O'Conner, Michael Paiz, Ronald Tercero and Wheatly! We are proud of you!

Thirty members participated in Rebuilding Together's National Rebuilding Day April 25 under the direction of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus and eminent leadership of Joe Sweeting and Lisa Booker. Local 617 Pres. Mark Leach, Dave Wilson, Larry Lopez, and Cliff Brown and son served a hearty breakfast to the many volunteers who left the hall to bring new life to aging residences throughout San Mateo County.

Our local mourns the passing of Bros. George Bastidas, 26; Chuck Masters, 90; and Harry Emerson, 91. May God bless them and their families.

Dan Pasini, V.P.

### Habitat for Humanity Project

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—Congratulations to our most recent newly certified journeypersons: Mike Potter, Duncan Sampson, Dave Machnik, Shane Higgins, Tanya Perkins, Danny Mombourquette, Trevor Murphy, Chris Brown, Grahon Zinck, David Scott and Blaise MacNeil.

Beginning in spring 2010, the Department of Education will replace Certificates of Qualification

with ones without an expiry date. This is a confirmation of education completed and should not have an expiry. At the same time, the Department of Labour will begin issuing licenses to practice the trade. These will have a new fee and an expiry date. This will come in line with all the other Provinces, which already have licenses issued by DOL.

At this writing negotiations were ongoing with both our Manufacturing Unit #6, Surrette Battery, and our five Construction Units with the CLRA. Hopefully by the time this is printed we will have an agreement on both fronts.

This summer, Local 625 members will assist Habitat for Humanity with its Build 2009 Project—to build two duplexes in Spryfield to house four families. Please contact Bus. Rep./Organizer Barnaby McHarg to volunteer.

Work slowed over the winter with 175 journeypersons out of work in Halifax and 131 journeypersons out of work in the four outside units.

Another 114 apprentices are on the books in all units for a total of 420 out-of-work members as of May 1.

Our condolences to the family of retired Bro. Russell Malay, who passed away Feb. 10.

Bro. Ian Mumford won the gold medal in Industrial Control Wiring at the Provincial Skills Canada Competition. Ian will compete in the Nationals in Prince Edward Island.

Tom Griffiths, Pres.

### ConocoPhillips Expansion

L.U. 649 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), ALTON, IL—Construction work is good thanks to a major expansion of the ConocoPhillips refinery. All of our members are working, plus 100 travelers. How bad is the national economy? There are more than 1,000 traveling wiremen seeking work in Local 649. It takes over six months to get a job here.

Line construction and line clearance work is booming.

Our maintenance work situation could be better. In an exhibition of true brotherhood, workers at Global Brass took a reduction in hours rather than have some members face layoffs. Rexel Motor Repair has eliminated jobs and laid people off.

The Illinois properties of Ameren lost money before being granted a rate increase. No jobs have been lost but that's only because the company has already eliminated much of the work force through attrition.

We thank Ed Taylor for the good job he did as our organizer since 2007. Ed wanted to go back to the tools. Ron Miller is the new Local 649 organizer.

We mourn the passing of retired Bros. Monte Edwards, Rick Gorman, Leo Friederich and Jim Lyons. Bro. Dave Beeman passed away at age 40; he is survived by his widow and three children.

Charles Yancey, A.B.M.



Local 625 members receiving service pins are, from left: Craig Buckley and Connie Beaton, for 40 years of service; Peter Citulsky, 30 years; Phil Meagher, 20 years; Jeff Myette and Treas. Carter Milligan, 30 years; John Doyle, 20 years; Don Crossman, 30 years; and Dan "Tigger" Macdonell, 20 years.

## Local Lines



IBEW Wichita Falls, TX, Local 681 crew members on a \$70 million United Regional Hospital expansion are lauded for the quality of their work.

### Hospital Expansion Project

L.U. 681 (i,o&spa), WICHITA FALLS, TX—As of this writing the work situation here remains steady.

Work is wrapping up on the \$70 million United Regional Hospital surgical facility expansion, which has kept a large portion of our members working steady for the last year and a half. We are very proud of this project and the excellent quality of our IBEW members' work. State hospital inspectors who passed through doing their regular inspections complimented the quality of work on this job.

We thank all members for their hard work and dedication on this project, as well as all other projects in the local jurisdiction.

We also wish to recognize our armed forces on the great job they are doing. Thank you to those who serve.

Leland Welborn, A.B.M.

### Union Activities

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—Spring brought many opportunities to be involved in various union activities. At the March 26 blood drive the goal was again met, thanks to volunteers and to Co-Chmn. Malcolm Giffen and Dave Swackhammer. Also on March 26 was the 50th anniversary of the Central Ohio Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Speakers included Gov. Ted Strickland, Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman and Ohio AFL-CIO Pres. Joe Rugola.

April brought the Rebuilding Together Central Ohio project on consecutive Saturdays, April 18 and 25. The program provides home repairs and upgrades for more than 20 area homeowners with disabilities. Thanks to all volunteers and Chmn. Steve Smith.

Golf League did begin on April 27. Games are



IBEW Local 683 members are among the volunteers at one of the Rebuilding Together Central Ohio home repair sites. From left: Dondi Hatcher, Local 683; Susan Mouser; Charlie Moats, Local 683 site-organizer; Kevin Berls, Local 683; and Rick Deime, Local 683 vice president.

Mondays, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.; thanks to Chmn. Bob Liston.

On April 24 the officers hosted and attended the IBEW Ohio State Conference at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North. Keynote speakers were: Ohio Democratic Party Chmn. Chris Redfern; Dennis Duffey, Ohio State Building and Construction Trades secretary/treasurer; Ohio state Rep. Matt Szollosi, speaker pro tem; and IBEW Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Salvatore J. Chilia. The event was informative and well-attended.

Remember, brothers and sisters, when we are traveling in other jurisdictions we are guests and should be respectful and do our best to make 683 welcomed and appreciated anywhere in the country.

Rick Deime, V.P./P.S.

### Labor Rally Gets Results

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—Local 697 is struggling through the same economic downturn that's plaguing all of America and, in many ways, the world. High unemployment, corporate greed and anti-worker efforts combine to make these trying times.

When circumstances are bright and the economy is booming, it is easier to give in times of plenty. And we, as a union, have given much out of our plenty. A true testimony to an individual's or an organization's inner strength is what happens when times are difficult.

Local 697's members and families continue to volunteer their time and resources. Our semiannual blood drive still supplies blood vital to our area. Christmas in April volunteers provided home repairs to help less fortunate families. Also in April we again participated in the Walk America fundraiser for treatment of birth defects.

On April 27 Local 697 members, together with 6,000 other building trades workers, traveled to our state capital with a message for elected representatives: "We are not seasonal workers. We are skilled craftsmen who built this state and this country." The anti-worker elements in the state wanted to reclassify construction workers as "seasonal workers" who would not be entitled to unemployment benefits. The good news is the legislation was changed.

David A. Soderquist, P.S.

### August 29 Golf Scramble

L.U. 723 (em,govt,rtb,rts&t), FORT WAYNE, IN—It's that time of year again for Local 723's 10th Annual Golf Scramble at Noble Hawk Golf Links in Kendallville, IN. We will have a shotgun start at 8 a.m. on Aug. 29. There is a \$65 entry fee per person, which includes 18 holes of golf, free driving range, and barbecue and beverages at the party after the golf scramble.



Wisconsin Power & Light's first-year IBEW Local 965 line technician apprentices joined by Business Manager Tony Bartels (at right, back row, in red hard hat) gather for a photo outside the Alliant Fond du Lac Training Center. Behind them is the new IBEW sign manufactured by Local 965 members employed by Everbrite Corp.

We will pay cash prizes for first-place through fourth-place finishes, longest drives and for closest to pins for men, women and seniors (age 65 and over), including door prizes. The picnic is open to active and retired IBEW members and their immediate family only. There is a dress code request of no tank tops, no gym trunks or half shirts. Shirts with collars are required. The deadline to enter is Aug. 14, by 5 p.m. We thank Scarborough Alliance Corporation for sponsoring our golf outing this year and years past.

For more information on items above (including the entry form), when our unit meetings are held, as well as other upcoming events, visit our Web site [www.ibew723.org](http://www.ibew723.org) or call us at 1 (888) 844-0373.

Michelle Barbour, R.S./P.S.

### Service Pins & Cookout

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—April brought anticipation of our annual cookout and service pin presentations. The brotherhood and fellowship among attendees was a joy to experience. The cooks did an excellent job on food served. Thanks to all who helped in serving both new members and those who paved the way before us.

Congratulations to Bro. Howard Fields for his 55 years of IBEW service; and for 50 years—Bro. Bert Barham; for 45 years—Bros. Joseph Dempsey, Jesse McCraw and James Melendi; for 40 years—Bros. Don Boothe, Ronald Keene and Leslie Liebman. Congratulations also to all others who received serv-



Local 915 member Leon Ward (center) receives Brother of the Year Award, presented by Pres. Randall King (left) and Bus. Mgr. Bill Dever (right).

ice pins for their commitment to the IBEW.

A father and son received their service pins together: 45-year member Jesse McCraw and 25-year member David McCraw.

Our 2009 James Phillips Brother of the Year Award goes to Leon Ward. Bro. Ward is a second-generation IBEW member. He has served on the executive board for multiple terms, on the apprenticeship committee, the local's negotiating committee, and is always there to assist others when needed. Local 915 is honored to recognize Bro. Ward.

Theresa King, P.S.

### Code of Excellence Training

L.U. 965 (em,govt,ptc&u), MADISON, WI—Code of Excellence training for local members employed by Wisconsin Power & Light Co. concluded in April. The COE stewards were selected and their training was held May 5. The COE program will encourage all union workers to use the best skills, best work practices and highest quantity of work while demonstrating the highest level of safety practices. Successful implementation of this program will help us ensure the future for union workers and grow the strength of our union. [See photo, above.]

Construction of a new 300 megawatt coal/bio-fuel power generating plant at Cassville, WI, was canceled after the Wisconsin Public Service Commission rejected the Alliant Energy Corp. proposal. Local 965 supports the construction of new power generation. We understand the need for renewable sources as well as the need for reliable base load units. Local 965 is committed to ensuring that those new energy sources are operated and maintained by union workers.

Kurt Roberts, P.S.

### Rio Grande Valley Update

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TX—Work is still slow here in the Rio Grande Valley due to the economy taking its toll, but things are picking up. Local 1015 is working with contractors for new projects coming to the area and expects to have more brothers and sisters working in upcoming months.



IBEW Weslaco, TX, Local 1015 members attend March union meeting.

Attendance at our union meetings is increasing. At our March meeting 33 members were in attendance, the highest turnout in the local's history.

IBEW and JATC congratulate six members who were accepted into our first-semester apprentice program. Good luck to all.

Local 1015 negotiations with our contractors were settled, and for the first time in seven years Local 1015 will have health and welfare insurance.

Nominations for Local 1015 officers were held in May and at press time elections were scheduled for June.

Ray Duran, P.S.

## Kudos to IBEW Work Force

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY—At our April general meeting Kevin Law, Long Island Power Authority CEO and president, addressed the membership. Law discussed numerous scenarios about what LIPA may or may not look like in the future. He thanked and praised the entire Local 1049 work force for their hard work and dedication. He also committed to the membership that no matter what LIPA's future holds, our concerns and interests will always be considered and protected.

Also in April, nearly 100 members attended the Long Island Federation of Labor Annual Congressional Night. This is an event at which people from labor get the opportunity to express their views and ask questions of Long Island's congressional delegation.

Bus. Mgr. Robert Shand and the business staff are currently preparing for negotiations. We will be negotiating new collective bargaining agreements on behalf of our members who work under the National Grid Energy Services and the Line Clearance Tree Trim contracts.

Our officers and staff are receiving the IBEW's Code of Excellence training. The goal is to have our new Code of Excellence stewards trained by Labor Day so we may begin meeting with the members. With this new training the entire membership will be better prepared to handle challenges of the future.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

## Lineworkers Rodeo Champs

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—A Local 1245 crew from Turlock (California) Irrigation District took top prize at the 2009 Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo in Austin, TX. The TID team of Mark Pickens, Dustin Krieger, Bryan Lovio and Dennis Mattos finished first in overall competition. In the apprentice competition, TID's Josh Klikna finished second.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District team of Gerald Mankins, Kyle Martin and Mike Munn placed fourth in overall competition. SMUD's team of Branden Carter, Chris Fukui and Todd Prangley won first in the Transformer Change-Out, and SMUD Apprentice Matthew Wilson won the Obstacle Course competition.

The Modesto Irrigation District team of Sean Coulson, Scott Dutey, Jered Huntington and Victor Madrigal took first place in the Cross Arm Change Out competition.

In other news, Joe Heberline, a truck driver for Merced Irrigation District, was honored by the California Highway Patrol for rescuing a man hanging from an overpass. Heberline positioned his truck below the man just as he fell. By cutting the distance of the fall, Heberline saved the man from serious injury.

Members at Sierra Pacific Power—now NV Energy—submitted proposals for upcoming bargaining. The Nevada-based utility recently announced it was selling its California electric assets to newly-formed California Pacific Electric Co.

We mourned the loss of Peter Tololi, an apprentice lineman for Pacific Gas & Electric who was fatally injured at work on March 24 when he fell from a pole. The local convened a meeting of linemen on April 30 to discuss job site fatalities and explore ways to make line work safer.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.



IBEW Local 1245 members Dustin Krieger (left) and Mark Pickens compete in the Transformer Change-Out for Turlock Irrigation District in the 2009 Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo in Austin, TX. The TID team finished first out of 48 teams.

## Retiree Watches Presented

L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—There is no time like the present to prepare for the future. Our JATC is currently offering a journeyman upgrading course in instrumentation. A Comet training class was held May 27. OSHA 10 was again offered in June with NFPA 70E to follow.

This local was proud to award a number of retirement watches at the March membership meeting. Recipients were: Sam Babbidge, Shirley Bradeen, Sid Dupont, Howard Haas, Frank Lockhart, Walter Morris Sr. and John Nason. Eugene Sukeforth was unable to attend.

We mourn the loss of Owen Lugdon, a journeyman wireman and proud member for many years. He will be greatly missed.

William Gifford, P.S.



Local 1253 Bus. Mgr. Jeff Rose (fourth from left) and Pres. Tom Staples (right) congratulate members receiving retirement watches. From left: Howard Haas, Frank Lockhart, Sam Babbidge, Bus. Mgr. Rose, John Nason, Shirley Bradeen, Sid Dupont, Walter Morris Sr. and Pres. Staples.



Local 1307 members respond to assist restoration efforts following the Gulf Coast landfall of Hurricane Ike in fall 2008.

## Local Mourns Member

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Local 1307 mourns the death of Bro. Fred McCall, who passed away April 19. Bro. McCall was a 1st class lineman with A&N Electric Co-op and a Local 1307 member since October 2008. A native of Southwest Virginia, he lived in Chincoteague, VA, at the time of his death. Bro. McCall was a former member of Orlando, FL, Local 222. Our condolences to Bro. McCall's family.

Congratulations to four members who retired in November 2008: Patricia Corkell, Priscilla Dashiell, Darlene Drummond and Barry Jarmon.

Sister Corkell started at Choptank Electric Co-op in 1988 as a communications clerk in the Denton District. She later worked in several districts, as operations field helper, clerk, meter reader, Work Order and Material coordinator and system controller.

Sister Dashiell began at Choptank Electric Co-op in 1979 as a stenographer clerk in the Salisbury District. She retired as a regional customer service representative.

Sister Drummond began as a clerk in Denton District of Choptank Electric Co-op in 1970. She held numerous positions and worked in Membership & Easement, Consumer Accounts, and elsewhere. She retired as regional customer service rep.

Bro. Barry Jarmon started at Choptank Electric Co-op as an apprentice lineman in the Berlin District. Barry advanced to journeyman lineman, and was a chief lineman since 1985.

E.D. Sparks, F.S.

## Patriot Missile

L.U. 1505 (em), WALTHAM, MA—Bus. Mgr. David Johnson and the entire Local 1505 membership are celebrating the signing of a Patriot Missile contract with the United Arab Emirates, which is a revival of

the Patriot Missile program. For those of you who were at the 100th anniversary convention of the IBEW, the local passed out the "Scud Buster" pins.

Also, Bus. Mgr. Johnson was pleased to announce that over the last couple of years there have been more than 200 new hires into the union. He also said more are to be hired. In this economy, hiring into a manufacturing company is a daunting challenge for any local. Bus. Mgr. Johnson also formed a "Future of 1505 Committee" and has held new member orientations where the newest members learned the importance of the labor movement and the history of our local.

Robert Garnhum, V.P./P.S.

## Legacy of Strength & Unity

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—It's nice to know we have retirees who meet each month. It's also nice to know that our business manager makes time to spend with them. We owe our retired members a lot. Shown in the accompanying photo is retired member Eldon Sterak, who recently received his 65-year membership certificate, presented by Bus. Mgr. Merv Wiltshire.

Our retirees are the ones who took the time to look ahead and made the effort to put this local together for future generations. They are the ones who dedicated their personal time to organizing. We aren't the largest local in Kansas, but we are standing strong and unified. As we move into the new generation of members, we need to remember how we got where we are. With the economy the way that it is, let's pool our vast knowledge, energy and skills together to make Local 1523 even stronger. Each member is important and has something to offer.

We recently lost one of our leaders, Bro. Mike Liby, who was a past president and a strong union member. He will be missed.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.



Wichita, KS, Local 1523 retiree Eldon Sterak receives his 65-year membership certificate. Seated are Mrs. Eldon Sterak and Local 1523 retired member Marvin Spencer.

Local Lines

### NJATC Graduation Banquet

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—On June 12, the Augusta Chapter National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee hosted a banquet to recognize 14 members who completed their apprenticeship.

Guest speakers included: Local 1579 Bus. Mgr. Ken Ward and Senior Dir. of Craft Certification Jim Boyd. Graduates were presented with diplomas and gifts, and group pictures were taken to round out a memorable evening.

These new journeymen worked hard to reach this important step in their career. Anyone who works with or knows the following new journeymen and journeywoman should thank them for their hard work. They are: Robert Attaway, Jarvis Blair, Matthew Gay, Clarissa Green, Anthony Hilton, Christopher Ingram, Marques Johnson, Lawrence O'Garro, Matthew Park, Patrick Rowland, Matthew Siegler, Terrence Simmons, Michael Strowbridge and Ricardo Turner.

Until next time, God bless.

*Will Salters, A.B.M.*

### Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—The Examining Board gave the journeyman wireman exam in March to the fifth-year apprenticeship class. The board reports all passed. Instructor Larry Boswell also reports all apprentices who have taken the Kentucky state exam have passed it as well. Congratulations, brothers and sisters.

The board also gave the journeyman wireman exam in April to Jason Roby and Tony Frakes and they too passed. Congratulations and welcome, brothers.

A workers memorial ceremony was held April 24, on the Daviess County Courthouse lawn, sponsored by the Owensboro Council of Labor. Local 1701 council member Donna Haynes conducted the ceremony. We thank all members who attended.

Local 1701 and Big Rivers Electric Generation Division reached a tentative agreement on April 16. The 39-month agreement increases wages and benefits by approximately 14.5 percent over the life of the agreement. Thanks to Chmn. Tim West and committee members Neal Benningfield, Donna Haynes and Robert Melloy for a job well-done.

With sadness we report the passing of Bro. Jim Cassilly. May he rest in peace.

Remember the union meeting held the third Monday of every month.

*Tim Blandford, P.S.*



Local 1701 class of 2009 apprentice graduates, joined by Examining Board members and instructor, gather for group photo. From left, back row: Joe Fulkerson, Examining Board; graduates Cynthia Adamson, Bryan Pryor, Jeremy Boswell, Josh Casebier, Joe Brown; and Tim Blandford, Examining Board. Front row: Instructor Larry Boswell, Examining Board; and graduates Justin Blackburn, Thomas Brown and Roger Duff.



IBEW Local 1837 line worker Rob Lang (third from left) receives IBEW Life Saving Award. From left are: Local 1837 Pres. Ray Colello, Tara Hurtado, Rob's fiancé; Lang, Bus. Mgr. Cynthia Phinney, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Tom Ryan and Chief Steward Arthur Cornelissen Jr.

### OPC Hockey Tournament

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—I wish to thank and congratulate our members who took part in this year's 46th Annual IBEW OPC Hockey Tournament, which was hosted by Local 3 in New York on April 3 and 4. Everybody had a good time, and we thank Local 3 for their hospitality. I encourage all members to visit [www.ibewhourpower.com](http://www.ibewhourpower.com) and watch coverage of the tournament and the little promo our team did for the show.

*Frank Kastle, P.S.*

### Visit to State Legislature

L.U. 1749 (u), NEW JOHNSONVILLE, TN—The Tennessee State Electrical Workers Association met April 21 and 22 to witness and learn about the legislative process at the state government level.

Legislative proposals before the state legislature of importance to working people include issues such as prevailing wage measures, unemployment compensation, living wage provisions, politically restrictive requirements for organized labor, and more. Several of the proposed bills were defeated or postponed.

Folks sometimes don't realize how politics affects their jobs. But since the other party took control of the statehouse, labor is playing defense trying not to lose ground on hard-fought issues important to working families.

Upcoming statewide elections in 2010 will be critical in terms of advancing the interests of working people and avoiding political setbacks for labor.

Let's remain politically active to fight for the interests of working families.

*Mark J. DeJulius, E-Bd./P.S.*



The Tennessee State Electrical Workers Association organized a day at the Tennessee state legislature in April. From left, back row, are: John White, IBEW Local 175; Mark DeJulius, IBEW Local 1749; and Cameron Bennett, IBEW Local 429. Front row: Marcia Mayberry, UAW; Ken Freeman, USW; Natalie Nelson and Eloise Freeman, Westwood Baptist Church; Ronnie Fletcher, IBEW Local 365; Patrice Cook and John Ledwell, IBEW Local 429.

### IBEW Life Saving Award

L.U. 1837 (rtb&u), MANCHESTER, ME—IBEW Local 1837 member Rob Lang was enjoying a Sunday afternoon last summer when two young children who lived next door came running up to his house. They told him their dad was badly hurt and they needed his help.

The first-class line worker from the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative raced down to find his neighbor bleeding profusely after a chainsaw accident. As the man went in and out of consciousness, Bro. Lang reached into the injured leg and was able to hold a severed artery together until an ambulance arrived. Emergency medical technicians told Lang later that his quick action had saved his friend's life.

This March, surrounded by local members, company management, friends, family and the man whose life he saved, Rob Lang was presented with the IBEW Life Saving Award.

"You stepped up, and your friend and his family are in your debt," Local 1837 Pres. Ray Colello told Lang.

*Matthew D. Beck, Org.*

### Retired Officer Mourned

L.U. 2321 (t), MIDDLETON, MA—It is with great sadness that we announce the death of retired former business manager Jack Clement.

Jack was an Air Force veteran. He retired following a 31-year IBEW career and moved to Myrtle Beach, SC. Jack served Local 2321 as business manager for three years and as assistant business manager for nine years.

Jack is survived by his four children and eight grandchildren.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Jack's family and friends. We ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

*Ed Starr, B.M.*

## In Memoriam

### PBF Death Claims Approved for Payment in May 2009

Local	Surname	Amount
1	Eisenmann, N.	3,000.00
1	Powers, P. W.	3,000.00
1	Qualls, G. E.	1,464.00
1	Schira, E. F.	3,000.00
1	Simpson, J. C.	3,585.40
3	Burbank, J. R.	3,000.00
3	Chiappetta, F.	1,500.00
3	Colletti, B. J.	3,000.00
3	Corso, T.	12,500.00
3	Dee, A.	3,000.00
3	Fugnitti, V.	6,250.00
3	Goldstein, S.	3,000.00
3	Green, G.	3,000.00
3	Hanley, J. M.	3,000.00
3	Jones, J. M.	5,191.60
3	Lecardi, G. J.	2,892.50
3	Murino, A.	2,577.00
3	Noon, T. J.	3,000.00
3	Perman, N.	3,000.00
3	Pessin, J.	3,000.00
3	Phillips, G. S.	2,867.00
3	Pugliese, V. W.	3,000.00
3	Rizzuto, J.	3,000.00
3	Robichaud, A. M.	3,000.00
3	Russo, N. A.	6,250.00
3	Sandomenico, V.	3,624.75
3	Scala, A. M.	3,000.00
5	Foster, R. H.	3,000.00
5	Shook, N. K.	3,000.00
5	Siefert, C. W.	6,250.00
6	Allen, J. P.	2,728.00
6	Kocee, J.	3,000.00
6	Laurence, C.	3,000.00
7	Gauthier, R. J.	6,250.00
8	Flagg, K. J.	6,250.00
9	Bach, C. H.	3,000.00
9	Byrnes, F. A.	3,000.00
11	Chavez, M.	3,000.00
11	Clark, B. G.	3,000.00
11	Connor, T. R.	3,000.00
11	Groetken, D. L.	6,250.00
11	Hendrick, J. M.	3,000.00
11	Shuck, D. R.	2,703.95
11	Wasson, C. S.	750.00
11	Young, J. T.	3,000.00
13	Weyer, J. W.	3,000.00
14	De Tray, F. S.	6,154.00
15	Frantz, T.	6,250.00
15	McLean, J. D.	2,951.46
17	Pettit, C. J.	3,000.00
18	Curtis, S. W.	3,000.00
18	Viottes, P.	3,000.00
20	Crenshaw, J. R.	3,000.00
20	Furr, J. W.	3,000.00
20	Irvin, L. B.	3,000.00
20	Wilkinson, J. C.	3,000.00
22	Sorensen, D. C.	6,250.00
24	Kilpatrick, C. H.	6,250.00
25	Martin, H. L.	3,000.00
26	Jeffers, W. E.	3,000.00
26	Stone, E. C.	3,000.00
32	Huser, D. C.	3,000.00
34	Groeper, J.	3,000.00
34	Vannattan, E. E.	6,250.00
38	Alexander, D. K.	3,000.00
38	Begun, S. B.	3,000.00
38	Blair, R. H.	3,000.00
38	Candela, F. I.	3,000.00
38	Errante, J. W.	6,250.00
38	Pozna, J. A.	3,000.00
38	Steele, J. G.	3,000.00
41	Horucy, M. J.	6,250.00
41	Strickland, M.	1,999.00
44	Lind, D.	2,839.46
46	Foss, M. A.	1,000.00



Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount
48	Doucette, J. L.	3,000.00	136	Jones, R. W.	5,205.81	340	Fritts, R. D.	1,000.00	595	Lubeck, J. R.	3,000.00	1426	Syrstad, R.	710.39
48	Limberg, T. J.	4,200.00	145	Quigg, B. R.	3,000.00	342	Vipperman, A. L.	6,250.00	595	Turney, F. A.	3,000.00	1547	Matthisen, C. J.	2,940.13
48	McBroom, J. C.	4,255.00	146	Reinhart, R. W.	3,820.00	345	Seals, W. A.	3,000.00	596	Nutter, H. L.	3,000.00	1547	Newman, C. R.	6,250.00
57	Snyder, E. F.	3,000.00	153	Scheid, R. E.	3,000.00	347	Henderson, M. C.	3,000.00	601	Barger, M. R.	6,250.00	1547	Waugaman, R. L.	3,691.28
58	Campbell, B. J.	6,250.00	158	Gauthier, J. P.	4,166.66	347	Leon, L. E.	3,000.00	602	Ansley, T.	3,000.00	1579	Rabun, B. M.	3,000.00
58	Clark, L. H.	3,000.00	158	Haslitt, R. W.	3,000.00	349	Pinder, E. F.	3,000.00	606	McMahon, K.	1,000.00	1583	Gould, A. H.	2,964.72
58	France, K. R.	3,000.00	164	Berberich, S.	12,500.00	349	Russell, D. J.	3,000.00	611	Buoy, S. S.	3,000.00	1583	Skidmore, D. W.	2,399.33
58	Frede, D. R.	3,000.00	164	Larkin, T.	3,000.00	351	Gilson, J. J.	2,954.00	613	Cook, K. G.	6,250.00	1631	Tynan, E. F.	3,000.00
58	Kovach, E. M.	3,000.00	164	Oboyle, D. F.	3,000.00	353	Bate, A. W.	3,000.00	613	Folden, A. L.	1,500.00	1749	Brown, W. L.	2,930.93
58	Reynolds, J. R.	3,000.00	175	Garner, B. W.	2,821.00	353	Craik, D. R.	3,000.00	613	Steele, J. D.	2,922.00	2085	Demery, R.	3,000.00
58	Richardson, G. R.	3,502.97	175	Hastings, J. D.	4,312.00	353	Loizides, G.	3,691.50	617	Emerson, H. H.	3,000.00	2113	Christian, V. W.	3,000.00
58	Stucky, R. M.	3,000.00	175	O'Rear, M. K.	3,000.00	353	Pilgrim, E. W.	3,000.00	640	Pilgrim, S. P.	6,250.00	2166	Kenney, R.	3,000.00
58	Thibodeau, C. J.	3,000.00	175	Quinn, R. L.	2,542.50	353	Pritchard, D. A.	3,000.00	640	Mangum, O. A.	3,000.00	2286	Jacobson, J. V.	2,932.78
60	Bankston, L. L.	12,500.00	175	Sharp, J. L.	6,250.00	353	Turowski, E.	3,000.00	659	Kleve, H. J.	3,000.00	I.O. (134)	Mantia, B. J.	6,250.00
60	Becker, J. R.	5,417.50	176	White, K. H.	2,936.53	357	Cavaliere, M. A.	6,250.00	661	Williams, W.	3,000.00	I.O. (134)	Schneider, R. R.	3,058.00
60	Gustafson, D. G.	6,250.00	176	Williams, J. G.	2,966.89	357	Denny, D. A.	3,000.00	666	Marston, R. E.	3,080.00	Pens. (260)	Brumbelow, J. H.	3,000.00
64	Kay, D. J.	6,250.00	177	Gratta, J. P.	3,000.00	357	Hefner, R. A.	3,000.00	667	Jones, L. A.	3,000.00	Pens. (323)	Smith, J. D.	3,000.00
68	Moser, H. H.	3,000.00	177	Wingate, J. P.	3,000.00	357	Muse, R. L.	6,250.00	683	Bilyeu, B. L.	2,923.72	Pens. (637)	Hess, D. K.	3,000.00
71	Endicott, R.	3,000.00	180	Saylors, K. H.	3,000.00	357	Poma, W. A.	4,322.41	688	Balduf, F. D.	3,000.00	Pens. (1788)	Galikowski, E. B.	2,593.28
71	Norris, R. R.	3,000.00	191	Kennedy, W. O.	1,500.00	363	Hoeko, M. E.	3,000.00	692	Cross, G.	2,960.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Anderson, N.	3,000.00
73	Winger, R. J.	3,000.00	193	Hofman, J. W.	3,000.00	363	Yablonsky, S.	6,250.00	692	Davis, C. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Arnholz, L. A.	2,913.58
76	Jones, A. D.	3,000.00	193	Jones, S. J.	2,932.39	364	Laken, R. H.	3,000.00	697	Bonich, M.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Audet, A. J.	3,000.00
77	Birge, B. R.	6,250.00	193	Smith, R. D.	3,000.00	366	Ringdahl, K. D.	1,500.00	697	Storey, L. W.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Baldwin, W. D.	2,250.96
77	Ellis, H. E.	2,932.39	212	Stiene, J. W.	600.00	369	Bogard, R. H.	6,250.00	702	Cavins, R. G.	1,500.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Bennett, J. D.	3,000.00
77	Kennaugh, A. W.	3,000.00	213	Goy, A.	2,840.00	369	Dicken, R. G.	2,946.56	702	McDaniel, P. J.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Board, W. L.	3,000.00
77	Lawson, D. C.	2,961.59	213	Main, I.	2,927.62	369	Shelley, H. L.	3,000.00	712	Leighty, C. H.	2,947.19	Pens. (I.O.)	Brown, G. A.	2,772.00
77	Niebuhr, D. E.	1,470.39	213	Mollison, D. B.	5,757.00	369	Turbeville, L. H.	3,000.00	712	Tervo, W. J.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Caiazza, E. N.	3,000.00
77	Peterson, M. R.	3,000.00	223	Brown, E. J.	3,000.00	369	Vanhorn, E. A.	2,899.17	714	Beckman, L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Cameron, G. T.	3,000.00
80	Millard, D. D.	3,000.00	223	Normandeau, M. A.	3,000.00	369	Woolslayer, E. D.	6,250.00	716	Coggin, J. D.	12,500.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Coats, V.	3,000.00
80	Sykes, W. R.	3,000.00	223	Spencer, E. B.	3,000.00	379	Deese, H. R.	3,000.00	716	Hearon, A. H.	2,931.36	Pens. (I.O.)	Corrigan, A. J.	3,000.00
82	Poffenberger, H. L.	2,714.18	226	Wadkins, G. A.	12,500.00	379	Reynolds, H. L.	3,028.30	716	Reeves, J. R.	3,125.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Daniels, V. F.	3,000.00
86	Krenzer, R. G.	6,250.00	230	Beckensell, H. R.	2,904.50	380	Mazzanti, A. J.	6,250.00	716	Selph, A. T.	2,815.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Davis, C. R.	3,000.00
89	Johnson, L. M.	4,108.00	234	Perez, V.	3,000.00	382	Young, S.	3,000.00	716	Williamson, H. F.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Dernberger, J. J.	3,000.00
90	Solomon, G. A.	3,125.00	236	Christiansen, C.	3,000.00	388	Klein, M. G.	3,000.00	728	Fisher, R. E.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Ernst, P. F.	3,000.00
96	Sher, L.	3,000.00	236	Dennebaum, T. R.	3,000.00	397	Norwig, C. E.	3,000.00	728	Knight, R. C.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Floreani, G.	3,000.00
98	Calhoun, J. J.	2,907.98	237	Johnson, T.	2,924.00	398	Johnson, A. T.	2,891.18	756	Hawkins, L. R.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Footlik, S.	3,000.00
98	Decristofano, V. P.	3,000.00	238	Guffey, J. J.	3,000.00	400	Flynn, J. F.	3,000.00	756	Mattison, V.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Forbes, A. F.	3,000.00
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98	Vantrieste, D. C.	2,951.19	245	Boedecker, J. L.	3,000.00	405	Klocke, N. L.	3,000.00	760	McElhaney, S. S.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Ford, A. M.	3,000.00
102	Horcher, J. S.	3,000.00	245	Bringe, C. H.	3,000.00	413	Skutak, J. H.	3,000.00	768	Moravec, D. R.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Gossard, E. L.	3,000.00
102	Stone, J. P.	2,816.00	245	Groves, M. R.	3,000.00	429	Rhea, T. B.	6,153.00	769	Allen, R.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Harding, A. L.	2,807.50
103	Connolly, J.	3,000.00	245	Kieffer, R. N.	3,000.00	429	Tenny, W. L.	3,000.00	769	Guscott, W. D.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Huffman, W. W.	3,000.00
103	Sheehan, E. P.	2,954.69	245	Saus, A.	3,000.00	429	Tinsley, J. T.	1,000.00	769	Orr, H. F.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Johnson, B. H.	3,000.00
104	Lohnes, B. J.	1,500.00	252	Freeman, J. J.	6,250.00	429	Tonks, C. B.	6,250.00	772	Hankinson, J. E.	2,936.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Jordahl, V. A.	3,000.00
104	O'Toole, M. J.	6,250.00	252	Rickman, H.	3,000.00	449	Nash, M. F.	2,926.38	773	Larche, L. R.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Kelly, D. V.	3,000.00
105	Somerville, K. B.	3,000.00	254	Davishall, A. D.	3,000.00	456	Csaszar, W. J.	3,000.00	814	Evans, W. L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Kinzel, B. H.	3,000.00
110	Erlandson, R. N.	3,000.00	254	Gamache, J.	3,122.00	456	Reilley, E. J.	3,000.00	816	Futrell, B. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Koetz, L.	3,000.00
111	Opsal, L. D.	3,000.00	254	Smith, B.	3,000.00	459	Kelsey, M. G.	2,878.36	841	Preston, A. M.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Krueger, R. H.	3,000.00
112	Harrell, E.	2,933.58	258	Rowland, M. R.	2,943.19	461	Marion, J. J.	3,000.00	841	Shaw, A. L.	2,841.57	Pens. (I.O.)	Larson, D. E.	3,000.00
112	Tibbs, W. R.	3,000.00	258	Verhoeve, R. G.	2,928.92	466	Frame, C. L.	3,000.00	852	Denman, W. H.	2,948.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Levick, D. F.	3,000.00
113	Parker, H. W.	3,000.00	258	Webster, A. G.	3,000.00	474	Allen, G. H.	2,628.72	861	Richard, E. L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Lindquist, R. L.	3,000.00
115	McMahon, J. A.	3,000.00	258	Weel, W. J.	1,000.00	474	Harris, C. L.	3,000.00	915	Cay, J. M.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Lindstrom, L. P.	2,945.59
117	Reid, W. R.	3,000.00	278	Rusakov, E.	6,250.00	474	Harwell, W. R.	3,000.00	915	Duncan, D. G.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Macstry, K. M.	3,000.00
120	Roszt, L. J.	3,000.00	280	Cooke, B. E.	3,000.00	474	Williams, L. A.	3,000.00	915	Gill, S. G.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	McClintock, L.	2,870.37
124	Ducoulombier, G. H.	3,000.00	280	Hurst, S. M.	6,250.00	477	Hood, P.	6,250.00	915	Hall, R. L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Mills, C.	1,000.00
124	Miller, G. J.	3,000.00	280	Meyers, R. B.	3,000.00	477	Ruano, H. R.	1,500.00	917	Evans, D. M.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Moore, H. W.	2,884.78
124	Oneal, H. J.	1,500.00	294	Wolk, W. W.	3,000.00	479	Bertrand, J. M.	3,000.00	917	Goodman, D. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Neuhaus, T. J.	2,773.95
124	Taylor, R. L.	3,000.00	295	Clark, R. H.	3,000.00	479	Matak, W. L.	12,500.00	917	Smiley, E. W.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Olson, V. K.	3,000.00
125	Kegg, J. G.	3,000.00	295	Keenon, R. L.	3,000.00	479	Purdon, D. G.	3,000.00	949	Theede, J. A.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	O'Quinn, W. V.	3,000.00
125	Marr, K.	2,720.00	295	Mathews, W. H.	3,000.00	480	Bradley, R. E.	3,000.00	953	Hansen, R. F.	2,585.53	Pens. (I.O.)	O'Sullivan, J. D.	3,000.00
125	Sturdevant, M. G.	3,000.00	295	Russell, J. R.	6,250.00	481	Cook, B. D.	3,000.00	970	Morgenweck, E. C.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Ownby, J. R.	2,896.98
126	Holland, C.	3,000.00	302	Coakley, B. A.	1,500.00	481	Kijovsky, B. W.	3,000.00	972	Angert, D. P.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Patrick, S.	2,913.58
126	Keeley, T. M.	3,000.00	302	Daigan, A. A.	3,000.00	481	Siemon, H. J.	3,000.00	993	Guilou, A. M.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Reynolds, J.	2,000.00
129	Mautz, D. E.	3,000.00	302	Granada, M. D.	6,250.00	481	Stewart, R.	3,000.00	1105	Sharkey, W. S.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Roatcap, L. J.	3,000.00
129	Strickler, H. A.	3,000.00	302	Jessup, R. C.	2,924.00	488	Gioia, V.	3,000.00	1141	Burns, J. D.	2,956.44	Pens. (I.O.)	Rose, C.	3,000.00
134	Bergstedt, H. L.	3,000.00	303	Manders, K.	3,617.50	488	Lisi, M.	3,000.00	1141	Fore, J. A.	2,943.20	Pens. (I.O.)	Rubin, P.	3,000.00
134	Coughlan, E. J.	3,000.00	304	Enright, R. J.	3,000.00	494	Cifaldi, A.	3,000.00	1141	Hart, C. W.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Salvato, S. J.	3,000.00
134	Darre, R. J.	3,000.00	305	Wasson, R. A.	2,935.98	494	Kurek, F. Z.	3,000.00	1141	Smith, D. K.	2,924.97	Pens. (I.O.)	Schweiger, D. W.	3,000.00
134	Duperow, W. E.	3,000.00	306	Boso, T. W.	3,000.00	495	Gibson, R. G.	3,000.00	1186	Murayama, H.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Shubinski, J. M.	3,000.00
134	Fliris, J. J.	3,000.00	306	Johns, C. M.	2,937.98	495	Petry, D. A.	6,250.00	1186	Niino, C. S.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Smith, W. A.	3,000.00
134	Gonzini, R. J.	3,000.00	306	Oaks, T. L.	6,250.00	502	Baird, D. M.	6,250.00	1191	Lewis, R. J.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Sommers, P. J.	3,000.00
134	Graca, C. S.	3,000.00	309	Bailey, C. L.	3,000.00	505	Whitcomb, J. O.	2,869.32	1205	Dyer, D. A.	5,260.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Statler, R. D.	3,000.00
134	Kovich, G.	3,000.00	309	Kebel, K. H.	3,000.00	532	Hyde, J. R.	3,000.00	1206	Baker, R. K.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Storrs, L. J.	3,000.00
134	Lezon, S. G.	3,000.00	309	Parker, F. D.	6,250.00	532	Love, C. F.	3,000.00	1206	Boylan, G. E.	3,000.00			



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

The *Electrical Worker* was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

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## FROM THE OFFICERS

# Health Care Reform, Not Short-Sighted Take-Backs



**Edwin D. Hill**, International President  
**Lindell K. Lee**, International Secretary-Treasurer

As political weapons are sharpened for another historic showdown over health care reform, it's important to talk about what this debate means for tens of thousands of workers like IBEW members Brenda Howington and Dick Rogers.

Howington, who started working as a telephone operator on an old cord board at Illinois Bell (AT&T) in 1972, serves as president of a retirees club for Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21. Five years after retiring, Howington was diagnosed with breast cancer and treated with chemotherapy. "Just knowing that my medical costs were covered by my union-negotiated benefit meant that I had one less thing to take care of as I came to grips with cancer," she said.

Howington's cancer is in remission, but now she's worried. AT&T, currently in negotiations with IBEW and CWA on new contracts, wants to severely reduce active and retiree health coverage. "AT&T's revenues for the fourth quarter of 2008 totaled \$31 billion, and CEO Randall L. Stephenson took home over \$11 million last year," says Howington. "It would be very hard to accept if they turn their back on us retirees."

It could also be self-defeating. AT&T is busy marketing Uverse, the company's new TV-phone-Web bundle, in the competitive market with Verizon and Comcast. That means building a bigger customer base.

But personal bankruptcies due to high medical bills are already skyrocketing in the U.S. and unemployment has yet to level off.

If Stephenson really wants to increase the market share of his company's new product, wouldn't it make more sense to use some of AT&T's big lobbying budget to push for a public health care option that can help to cover some of the 49 million Americans who currently have no health insurance and are forced to limit purchases of consumer services like Uverse?

Wouldn't it make more sense to support government policies that can bring down the costs of pharmaceuticals and health insurance than to pick a fight with dedicated workers and retirees like Howington?

The situation faced by Brenda Howington and thousands of AT&T workers is not unique. This issue of *The Electrical Worker* reports on highly-profitable utility companies that are also seeking to slash health care coverage for active and retired workers.

Dick Rogers, a member of Manchester, Maine, Local 1837, is a first-class service worker at Central Maine Power. CMP is a subsidiary of Energy East, which is owned by Spain-based Iberdrola, the world's fourth largest utility company.

Local 1837's contract with CMP expired on May 15. The company is demanding a big bite out of Rogers' and his co-workers' health insurance coverage. A member of the negotiating committee, Rogers is organizing informational picketing. He wants Maine citizens to know that if CMP slashes health care benefits, the burden could fall back on the state's taxpayers.

Jose Ignacio Sanchez Galan is the CEO of Iberdrola. Unlike Stephenson, his yearly compensation is kept secret. But Galan's contract with Iberdrola, covering his total compensation, is nine pages long.

Back in Spain and in many other countries where Iberdrola has utility investments, health care insurance is a government-provided benefit.

Galan hires the best lobbyists when he is meeting resistance in getting permits for new utility construction. Instead of messing with workers in Maine and New York, why doesn't he assign some of his lobbying heavyweights to help win a public health insurance option here in the U.S.? Wouldn't that be a better way to bring down his company's insurance costs in the long haul?

Brenda Howington, Dick Rogers and millions of American workers deserve real health care reform, not a hard time from men who have money to burn. ■



#### HOW TO REACH US

We welcome letters from our readers. The writer should include his or her name, address and, if applicable, IBEW local union number and card number. Family members should include the local union number of the IBEW member to whom *The Electrical Worker* is mailed. Please keep letters as brief as possible. *The Electrical Worker* reserves the right to select letters for publication and edit all submissions for length.

#### Send letters to:

Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Or send by e-mail to: [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org)

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## Letters to the Editor

### Not in My Name

I have just read that this union is going to continue sponsorship of the ARCA series race car driven by Alli Owens, which will now be a Toyota Camry. As a 20-year race fan, and now an eight-year union member, I can only express my huge disappointment in this decision. I will not cheer for a driver in NASCAR who drives a Camry (and I have had to stop supporting drivers I stood by for over a decade), nor will I do it for this union. If a Camry is made in plants in this country now, it wasn't before, and people who buy these vehicles are in part responsible for UAW workers now having to give back wages and benefits in concessions in order to maintain their jobs. I am not overlooking mismanagement and poor choices by the respective automakers.

This is a poor choice on behalf of our management, and unionism starts with us, the workers. "Buy American" used to mean something, and every choice to buy a Camry or shop at Wal-Mart for goods made in China is now reflected in how many people you know who are unemployed or underemployed in this poor economy. Please take my IBEW emblem off of the Toyota!

John M. Klingelschmitt  
Local 134 member, Chicago

### A Sister in Spirit

[Editor's Note: Liliana Robbins, a sister from Birch Bay, Wash., was featured on the cover of the March 2009 edition of *The Electrical Worker* after she was fired for attempting to organize a union at her workplace. Ms. Robbins sent the following letter after attending a unit conference of Seattle Local 77.]

I felt welcomed and blessed to have been in the company of such an amazing group and organization. I could feel the solidarity in the room.

I wish to thank everyone for their support, their time and dedication to such a wonderful cause—supporting the workers of this country. Without people like you who work to ensure that workers' rights are protected, I would not be so strong in the belief that all the hard work done by the union veterans will not be forgotten or taken for granted.

Even if the union will not be allowed to enter NG Jensen Inc.—my previous employer who terminated me for participating in concerted rights—I hope that I would be allowed to join in the honorable cause of IBEW and to be afforded the opportunity to offer any support I can and be part of your wonderful organization and its work.

Thank you again. I am humbled and honored to have had the opportunity to be a part of the IBEW's family.

Liliana Robbins  
Birch Bay, Wash.

### Safety First?

Regarding the May 2009 cover photo of "The Electrical Worker," the lack of concern for personal safety in that photo is disturbing to me. I try to promote our professionalism to everyone, everyday, everywhere, including customers and fellow wiremen. This includes safety.

Those two men on the roof in that photo are in serious violation of OSHA standards, including no hard hats and no safety lines or belts. Every job I had for the last 30 years required me to have full length pants. And let's not forget the proper personal protective equipment, such as appropriate gloves while handling sharp and heavy objects—like glass panels! In today's labor market we must exude professionalism in every circumstance. As far as that photo goes, this publication let me and every other hard-working, safety-rule-following IBEW worker down. When the nonunion is working and I am not, I tend to get a little testy! Safety is a choice; make it your only choice!

James R. Thomas  
Local 134 member, Chicago

[Editor's Note: Brother Thomas is absolutely right. We erred in running that photo, particularly on the front page. We appreciate him calling us on that. We couldn't emphasize the importance of safety here any better than he already has. Please remember to work safe.]

## Who We Are

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org).

# Member Uses the Arts to Inspire Young People



Kansas City, Mo., Local 412 member David Bjorgaard works with high school student Ty Roach on a landscape oil painting.

David Bjorgaard believes strongly in the healing value of artistic expression. That's why every Thursday at noon, the Kansas City, Mo., Local 412 journeyman electrician swaps his tools for brushes and oil paint, leaves his job and heads to West Platte High School, about 30 miles from Kansas City. There, the Kansas City Power & Light's latan Generating Station employee teaches landscape painting to art students—many of whom have disabilities or need specialized services.

"When I was in school, creating art always built my self-esteem and made me feel like I could accomplish anything," Bjorgaard said. "I try to pass that feeling along to youth who are looking for something to help them feel more upbeat about their abilities."

Bjorgaard works one-on-one with students for about two hours, teaching them a particular style of landscape painting—made popular by artist Bob Ross on Public Broadcasting Service programming—that yields remarkable results quickly. "After a few hours, the kids are amazed with what they have made," Bjorgaard said.

"The kids are turning out some fantastic work," said West Platte art instructor Nan Taylor. "With David, many of the students who would not ordinarily be in a mainstream art

class are getting the chance to develop something spectacular. They're gleaming when they show their completed paintings to friends and other teachers."

KCP&L sponsors Bjorgaard's work at West Platte through the Energizing Our Community program, the utility's initiative to increase employees' volunteerism in the company's service and generating areas in Missouri and Kansas.

"I feel fortunate that my company wants me out there serving people," Bjorgaard said. "It helps to have a good-paying union job that allows me the time and freedom to pursue my passions."

An accomplished artist, Bjorgaard started oil painting nearly two decades ago when his 9-year-old stepson took an interest in the medium. With an engaging and easy-going style in the classroom, Bjorgaard took to teaching naturally. Having honed his chops on the canvas, Bjorgaard has volunteered his time and energy throughout the years at numerous schools in the Kansas City area—as well as at the Bridge Home, a facility for abused and neglected youth. He spends most of his time these days at West Platte.

"I would love more than anything to travel around in a van from shelter to shelter, to homes for abused kids, to juvenile detention

centers or any place a child is having a tough time," Bjorgaard said. "I know for a fact that getting these kids on the right track would have an effect that would last decades."

Ty Roach, an 18-year-old junior at West Platte who has developmental delays, saw Bjorgaard in action one day at school and wanted to explore his world of oil painting. Under Bjorgaard's wing, Roach—who has fine motor skill challenges—has dazzled teachers, parents and the community with his breathtaking landscape images. Roach's paintings have been on display in the Weston Public Library and won four awards at the Platte County Fair.

"I was extremely impressed with Ty's work the first time I saw it," said Frances Roach, Ty's mother. "David is a compassionate, dedicated teacher who is good at explaining techniques while also giving students freedom." She said that some of Ty's future goals include selling his art and winning ribbons at the Missouri State Fair.

"In the end, it's not just about the art—it's about believing in yourself and following your dreams," Bjorgaard said. "I want these students to understand that if you have confidence, you can do anything."

To see works by Ty Roach and other students, visit [www.icandrawportraits.com](http://www.icandrawportraits.com). ■

# Give It Your Best Shot

Each year we get a window into the breadth and scope of our diverse organization through the eyes of our fellow members. Last year, for the first time, IBEW members chose the winner. It's time for the 2009 contest, so take a moment to look around your workplace with a fresh eye. This year's winning image could be the one that you capture.

Like last year, a panel of judges will narrow down the entries to 15 finalists, which will be posted on [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org). Keep an eye on future issues of *The Electrical Worker* and the Web site for announcements on when the judging will begin.

**DEADLINE: November 30, 2009**

**Prizes to be awarded in each category:**

First Place .....	\$200
Second Place .....	\$150
Third Place .....	\$100
Honorable Mention .....	\$50

## Enter the 2009 IBEW Photo Contest Today!

### PHOTO CONTEST RULES:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter more than one photo.
2. International Officers and staff are not eligible.
3. Photo submissions can be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, in color or black and white, on slides or glossy prints. The preferred print size is 8x10.
4. All submissions become the property of the IBEW Media Department.
5. Photo entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
6. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g. a safety committee, a lineman's rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
7. Photos previously published in the IBEW Electrical Worker or Journal are not eligible for submission.
8. All entries must include a completed contest entry form. *Please note that photo entries and forms may be submitted through the IBEW Web site at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).*
9. Please fill out the contest entry form and affix it to each photo you submit for the contest and mail it to the IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001.

### IBEW Photo Contest Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City and state \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local union number \_\_\_\_\_  
 IBEW card number \_\_\_\_\_

## May International Executive Council Meeting

### Minutes and Report of the International Executive Council's Regular Meeting

Chairman Pierson called this regular meeting of the International Executive Council to order at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2009. Other members of the Council in attendance were Lavin, Dowling, Riley, Calvey, Clarke, Calabro, Lucero, and Schoemehl.

### International President Hill

International President Edwin D. Hill met with the members of the International Executive Council a number of times to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the Brotherhood.

### International Secretary-Treasurer Lee

International Secretary-Treasurer Lindell Lee presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood both in Canada and in the United States.

### Legal Defense

Payments for legal defense made from the General Fund were examined and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1, of the IBEW Constitution.

### Financial Reports

The International Secretary-Treasurer's reports for the various funds of the Brotherhood were presented to the International Executive Council, examined and filed.

### Local Union Under International Office Supervision

International President Hill advised the Council that there

are no local unions, as of this meeting, under the supervision of the International Office.

### Retirement of International Office Director

Bobby Roberts Effective August 5, 2009  
 Director—Manufacturing Department

### Retirement of International Office Employee

Ann R. Chapman Effective May 6, 2009  
 International Office Employee—Senior Research Analyst

### Appeal of Tim Jolly

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal of Tim Jolly, Card No. D583119, a member of Local Union 150, IBEW, Waukegan, Illinois, and it is the decision of the International Executive Council to uphold the decision rendered by International President, Edwin D. Hill.

### Appeal of John Rowell

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal of John Rowell, Card No. D474363, a member of Local Union 1316, IBEW, Macon, Georgia, and it is the decision of the International Executive Council to uphold the decision rendered by International President, Edwin D. Hill.

### Appeal of Randy Woodall

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal of Randy Woodall, Card No. D493267, a member of Local Union 613, IBEW, Atlanta, Georgia, and it is the decision of the

International Executive Council to uphold the decision rendered by International President, Edwin D. Hill.

### Appeal of Edward Pletzke

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal of Edward Pletzke, Card No. D989791, a member of Local Union 14, IBEW, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and it is the decision of the International Executive Council to uphold the decision rendered by International President, Edwin D. Hill.

### Article XX and XXI Cases

There are currently no ongoing Article XX or XXI cases involving the IBEW. However, a decision is pending concerning a dispute with the CWA, which arose from an Article XXI petition filed by the IBEW in April, 2008, which was seeking to claim the exclusive right to organize employees at AT&T's Yellowpages.com.

### Proposed Amendment to the IBEW Constitution

The International Executive Council instructed the International Secretary-Treasurer to submit this proposed amendment to all local unions for a vote pursuant to Article XXVII, Section 1(b) of the IBEW Constitution.

Article III, Section 8, of the IBEW Constitution, shall be amended by including the following language at the end of the first paragraph:

"Notwithstanding the above, effective beginning with the October 1, 2009, pay increase, such increase shall be 50% of the increase described above and then added to the pay rates in effect. This method of calculating the pay increases

shall be used to calculate the October 1, 2010, and October 1, 2011, pay increases. However, as the intent of this amendment is to result in additional funds for the Pension Plan for International Officers, Representatives and Assistants of the IBEW equal to 5% of Officers, Assistants, Directors and International Representatives salaries over the three year period, the International Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to discontinue or modify this calculation in 2009, 2010, and/or 2011, as necessary, to achieve the overall 5% additional funds. This language shall be removed by the IBEW Constitution effective January 1, 2012."

### Per Capita Objection Plan

The International Executive Council discussed the IBEW Reporting Form for the Per Capita Objection Plan.

### The Next Regular International Council Meeting

This regular meeting of the International Executive Council was held in the International Office, in Washington, D.C. This meeting adjourned on May 13, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, in Washington, DC.

### For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary

*The IEC acted on numerous applications dealing with pensions under the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund. For a complete listing, consult [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org), clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "About Us" page.*