International Secretary-Treasurer Lindell K. Lee retired May 1, bringing a career spanning more than 40 years with the IBEW to a close.

Announcing his retirement at this year’s Construction and Maintenance Conference in March, Lee told attendees, “I’ve been your Secretary-Treasurer through very difficult times, but with your support and cooperation, and that of my staff, we have gotten through it. I will leave this job knowing that I have done my best.”

A Missouri native and graduate of the University of Missouri, Lee was initiated into Kansas City, Mo., Local 124 in 1969, after four years in the U.S. Navy. He was first elected to Local 124’s executive board in 1981.

Serving as business manager for nearly a decade, he was appointed Eleventh District International Representative in 2002. Three years later, he was elevated to district Vice President. Understanding that the top priority of any union leader must be to organize, he spearheaded an aggressive organizing strategy that led to some big wins, including a victory at Milbank Manufacturing which organized more than 150 production workers in his home state.

Appointed Secretary-Treasurer in 2008—just as the biggest economic downturn since the Great Depression was settling in—Lee helped keep the IBEW’s retirement and health benefits strong, even in the worst of financial times. “Brother Lee took the helm of Secretary-Treasurer in the midst of very tough times,” says International President Edwin D. Hill. “But his steady hand and clear thinking helped the Brotherhood navigate the rough waters of the economy.”

Salvatore “Sam” Chilia has been appointed International Secretary-Treasurer to replace Lindell Lee, effective May 1. A former business manager of Cleveland Local 38, and Third District International Executive Council member, Chilia has served as Fourth District International Vice President since succeeding Paul Witte, who retired in 2007.

Chilia, who has two sons in the IBEW, says he learned early on about the value of the Brotherhood. After his father died in 1956, his mother joined Cleveland Local 1377 and worked in a manufacturing plant building alternators for automobiles. Now 90, she still collects an IBEW pension.

Initiated into Local 38 in 1967, Brother Chilia graduated from his inside wireman apprenticeship in 1971, working for various electrical contractors until 1989. He was elected to his local’s examining board in 1977 and its executive board in 1980.

“After being elected president of my local union, I got my first thirst for organizing and involvement and did double duty as a second organizer,” says Secretary-Treasurer Chilia, who is proud that, under his leadership, the Fourth District

**Linville Lee Retires**

[Lee Retires continued on page 2]

**Salvatore ‘Sam’ Chilia Named Secretary-Treasurer**

[Chilia continued on page 2]
Chilia Named Secretary-Treasurer

adopted an aggressive approach to building membership and introducing recovery agreements in the inside electrical trade to open up new projects. “Membership buy-in is going to take some time for recovery programs,” he says. “I am looking forward to the journeyman on the job explaining to his peers that he would not be working if not for new classifications to lower composite labor costs and win projects. That person is the best salesman for the program.”

After serving as chairman of his local’s pension and benefit funds, Chilia was elected business manager in 1997. In 2001, he was elected to serve on the International Executive Council.

Brother Chilia instituted his local union’s 401(k) plan and full retirement at age 55. He is a leader in negotiating project labor agreements, including those covering construction of the Cleveland Browns and Cleveland Indians stadiums and the Cleveland Clinic.

Chilia’s civic and labor activism earned him a place in Leadership Cleveland’s Class of 2005, which brings together recognized leaders from the private, nonprofit, and government sectors for seminars on the challenges and dilemmas facing the region.

A vice president of the Cleveland AFL-CIO, Brother Chilia has also served as treasurer and board member of the Cleveland Building and Construction Trades.

President Hill announced Secretary-Treasurer Chilia’s appointment last month at the Construction and Maintenance Conference in Washington, D.C.

Presidential mem ber is better prepared to protect our union membership’s benefit funds and our Brotherhood’s legacy than Sam Chilia. From staunchly representing his local union to his service on the IEC and as Vice President, Sam has always put the union membership first. In these challenging days for our organization, experience and selfless commitment are absolutely essential. Brother Sam Chilia has both in great measure.”

The officers and members of the IBEW wish Brother Chilia great success in his new position.

Continued from page 1

Lindell Lee Retires

omy and we were very fortunate to have him on board. I wish him and his family all the best.”

As trustee of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, he followed a path of prudent financial investment to secure the retirement funds of tens of thousands of IBEW members—investments which went straight back into projects that created good union jobs.

He also helped to expand saving options for members by working to get the IBEW 401(k) plan off the ground.

Coming to Washington in the midst of the health-care debate, Lee played his part by working to expand the IBEW/NECAB Family Medical Care Plan to every member of the Brotherhood. “The IBEW has been my life’s commitment from the moment I first strapped on the tools and there has been no greater opportunity for me than to serve the membership of this union from the union hall to the International Office,” Lee says. “I’ve been blessed to work with great leaders like President Hill and all our International officers and I know that Fourth District Vice President Sam Chilia has what it takes to carry on the great traditions of my predecessors in this office.”

Lee served as business manager of Kansas City, Mo., Local 124 in the 1990s, at left, and as secretary of the Grievance and Appeals Committee at the 2001 IBEW Convention in San Francisco.

Clockwise from top: At his desk at Local 124; speaking to the crowd at a 1993 fund-raiser for muscular dystrophy; participating in a Kansas City trades event repairing homes for the needy.

Continued from page 1

The Electrical Worker online

Before heading to Afghanistan, Army troops get precision electrical safety training from N.Y. members.

An Oregon local saves prevailing wage in the state’s second largest city.

Dedication to the trade earns an Ontario apprentice instructor a community award.

To read more, visit www.ibew.org and click on “Online Extras” in the May Electrical Worker link.

But wait! There’s MORE, in...

President Hill announced Secretary-Treasurer Chilia’s appointment last month at the Construction and Maintenance Conference in Washington, D.C.
New Signatory Contractor Helps Boost Market Share, Membership in N.Y.

The two goals of increasing market share while netting more man-hours for New York electricians were reached this spring when a nonunion contractor signed a unique agreement with two local unions in the Empire State.

C.M. Richy Electrical became the state’s newest signatory contractor employing IBEW members of both New York Local 3 and Long Island Local 25. The shop’s nearly 50 formerly unrepresented electricians joined the IBEW fold as part of the union’s recovery agreement as the locals go after smaller, previously-overlooked projects.

“This has been a very long time coming,” said Gene Parrington, Local 25 business agent/organizer who, along with other union leaders, has been promoting the IBEW to CMR management since the late ’90s. “It’s unbelievable that we were able to sign this company. It’s helped us out quite a bit. We’re organizing the work, the members, the whole ball of wax. The jobs picture has been slow for a number of years, so them coming to us with work is huge.”

“The company did more than 100,000 man-hours last year in the small works area, which will open new doors for us.”  
- Kevin Harvey, Local 25 Bus. Mgr.

CMR boasts solid market share in the smaller works arena—performing construction jobs for national chains like CVS, McDonald’s, Staples and many more. Company owner Chris Richey saw potential in the Local 25’s implementation of the recovery agreement strategy, which he told IBEW leaders could be an invaluable tool for his continued business success.

Richey was also eager to tackle bigger jobs that had historically been within the locals’ jurisdictions. CMR and its employees will now get the chance to work on previously out-of-reach projects at giant retailers like Lowe’s and Home Depot, as well as grand scale endeavors at shopping malls and power plants. Local leaders say that will spell increased revenue, boosted man-hours and more hiring.

“The company will likely go from its current size as is many as 100 as we approach summer,” Parrington said.

And management wants to hit up these new projects, which they could never do without us coming in. This is clearly a win-win for our locals and for CMR.

Since 1996, Local 25’s entire business office has worked to bring CMR under the union banner. That’s meant a marathon effort from the local’s organizing committee, stewards and rank-and-file members.

Parrington and Local 3 organizer Ray West combined forces over the last seven years when CMR began establishing itself in Local 3’s jurisdiction. Innumerable phone calls, strategy meetings and conversations with CMR management bore fruit last December when Richey reached out to Parrington, who said “we’ve been in constant contact since.”

After the New Year, talks became increasingly serious and additional local leaders—including Local 25 Business Manager Kevin Harvey and Local 3 Business Manager Christopher Erikson and Assistant Business Manager Ray Melville—became more active in the campaign.

Harvey, Parrington and Richey met to discuss the construction electrician/construction wireman agreement, “and after that, it was a firestorm,” Parrington said. Business managers and organizers from both local unions shared tips and strategies about how to best work an agreement with CMR—which for now includes portability within respective jurisdictions of the two locals. This interim relief expires at the end of the current NECA agreements.

CMR employees’ work will be divided between Local 3’s jurisdiction—which includes the five boroughs of New York City and Westchester County, as well as Fairfield County in Connecticut—and that of Local 25 on Long Island. Local 3 initiated 22 new CW/CEs and the rest are new CW/CE members of Local 25. Some new members of the locals will be going into the apprenticeship program.

“It is anticipated the signing of CMR will broaden work opportunity for Local 3 members with CMR’s customer base, including Home Goods stores, Staples stores, McDonalds, Burger King, CVS and Walgreens, and other national chains with whom CMR has been providing construction services,” said Local 3 Business Manager Christopher Erikson. “We look forward to a long relationship as the representative of CMR’s work force and growing that group with IBEW members of both local 3 and 25.”

The agreement has already been a boon to longtime members, as well as those recently brought into the IBEW fold.

Ten-year Local 25 member Rob Pet cocci will work his first job for CMR soon. He offered thanks to the organizing team for signing the contractor: “I was running out of benefits and had little money, so this was a godsend.”

Jim Volpe, a veteran electrician with CMR, will see his company’s job prospects expand even further with its new IBEW membership. “The guys from the hall are great,” he said. “We are really working well together.”

Local 25 Business Manager Harvey said, “It’s tremendous to have gotten this deal completed.”

“The company did more than 100,000 man-hours last year in the small works area, which will open new doors for us,” Harvey said. “I feel like we have an excellent relationship with owner Chris Richey and there’s a lot of trust between us. I’m excited about moving ahead and am looking forward to a long and prosperous relationship.”

Construction Members Honored by Hour Power

New hand. Journeyman. Veteran. Three IBEW members in the construction branch from across the experience spectrum have been selected for excellence by an online news magazine. Hour Power awarded Omaha, Neb., Local 22 member Dave Nisley as journeyman mentor of the year, Dublin, Calif., Local 595 member Melvin Switzer was named instructor of the year and Albuquerque, N.M., Local 611 member Daniel Trujillo was selected apprentice of the year. All were honored at the IBEW Construction and Maintenance Conference in Washington, D.C., in April.

Nisley, an active member of Local 22, is “committed to becoming a better electrician every day,” said Business Manager Gary Kelly.

“Dave goes out of his way to impart his knowledge of the craft to fellow journeymen and apprentices,” said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. “He simply makes those around him better at their own jobs.”

Switzer, an apprenticeship instructor, spent years in the field before joining the Alameda Electrical JATC.

“Mel’s passion for the electrical trade is paralleled only by his dedication to teaching his craft,” said Local 595 Business Manager Victor Uno. “Mel’s work ethic and skills are invaluable to the apprentices and journeymen learning from him in the classroom.”

A newly-graduated journeyman lineman who topped out of the Southwestern Line Constructors Joint Apprenticeship program, Trujillo is already a valued member of his local.

“He can handle any problem you throw at him and does his job with the pride and professionalism that is so emblematic of all of our IBEW brothers and sisters,” said Local 611 Business Manager Chris Frenzel.

For more, visit www.ibewhourpower.com.
C

anadians went to polls for the fourth time in seven years this month in an election that decided the future of Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s minority government. The opposition Liberals and New Democrats—along with the Bloc Québécois—toppled Harper’s government in a vote of no-confidence March 25, holding his government in contempt of Parliament for failing to disclose financial details behind some of its recent budgetary moves.

While final results were not available before press time, it was a high-stakes election, particularly for the construction industry, where many key legislative issues remain in the air.

Canada has largely recovered from the 2008 recession and industry is booming in many parts of the country, but the future growth of good jobs will depend in large part upon the continuing intervention of the federal government, says Christopher Smillie, senior advisor for government relations and public affairs at the Canadian Building Trades.

“We called on all the parties to lay out their plans to keep our economy on track and put Canadians to work,” he says. While stricter federal campaign laws passed in 2006 limit the ability of labour unions to campaign for particular candidates or parties, the building trades mobilized members across Canada to lobby candidates on the key legislative issues.

Canada is one of the few countries that has been able to weather the financial crisis, and we want to ensure that the government continues to support industries and sectors that will sustain economic growth,” he says.

Smillie, who was a key player in the federal Liberal government’s $108 billion stimulus plan, says he is optimistic about getting more Canadian youths into the skilled trades.

Labour mobility has become an issue for many construction workers, as oil sands’ recruiters scrounge the country for skilled tradespeople.

Making the Red Seal standard the qualifying benchmark for skilled construction employment in every province and allowing travel to and from projects to be tax deductible would make it easier for workers to get to where the jobs are.

And while the job picture is looking up in construction, Canadian manufacturing continues to take a beating. “Canada needs an industrial strategy and governments must continue with economic stimulus measures that have saved us from sinking into recession,” says Canadian Labour Congress President Ken Georgetti in a statement. Smillie helped produce an electronic election newsletter for activists, along with developing political action kits to help members talk to their candidates about the major issues.

Regardless of the results, Fleming says it’s up to every member to remain mobilized beyond Election Day.

“We need to keep writing our MPs, talking to party leaders and making our voices heard, because it is up to us to make sure the issues of importance to working people are part of the national debate in Ottawa,” Fleming says.

Elections fedérales 2011:
Les emplois dans la mise des migrants!

The opposition Liberals and New Democrats—along with the Bloc Québécois—toppled Harper’s government in a vote of no-confidence March 25, holding his government in contempt of Parliament for failing to disclose financial details behind some of its recent budgetary moves.

We called on all the parties to lay out their plans to keep our economy on track and put Canadians to work,” he says. While stricter federal campaign laws passed in 2006 limit the ability of labour unions to campaign for particular candidates or parties, the building trades mobilized members across Canada to lobby candidates on the key legislative issues.

Canada is one of the few countries that has been able to weather the financial crisis, and we want to ensure that the government continues to support industries and sectors that will sustain economic growth,” he says.

Smillie, who was a key player in the federal Liberal government’s $108 billion stimulus plan, says he is optimistic about getting more Canadian youths into the skilled trades.

Labour mobility has become an issue for many construction workers, as oil sands’ recruiters scrounge the country for skilled tradespeople.

Making the Red Seal standard the qualifying benchmark for skilled construction employment in every province and allowing travel to and from projects to be tax deductible would make it easier for workers to get to where the jobs are.

And while the job picture is looking up in construction, Canadian manufacturing continues to take a beating. “Canada needs an industrial strategy and governments must continue with economic stimulus measures that have saved us from sinking into recession,” says Canadian Labour Congress President Ken Georgetti in a statement. Smillie helped produce an electronic election newsletter for activists, along with developing political action kits to help members talk to their candidates about the major issues.

Regardless of the results, Fleming says it’s up to every member to remain mobilized beyond Election Day.

“We need to keep writing our MPs, talking to party leaders and making our voices heard, because it is up to us to make sure the issues of importance to working people are part of the national debate in Ottawa,” Fleming says.

Elections fedérales 2011:
Les emplois dans la mise des migrants!

or the qu thé eens en seeg ans ces pois, les Canadiens sont alliés aux usines afin de décider de l’avenir du gouvernement minoritaire conservateur, sous le leadership du Premier Ministre Stephen Harper.

Faisant front commun, les libéraux et les néo-démocrates—ainsi que les bloqueurs—ont réussi à renverser le gouvernement Harper sur un vote de non-confiance, le 25 mars dernier, en trouvant le gouvernement coupable d’outrage au Parlement pour ne pas avoir remis certains documents exigés, notamment ceux liés aux coûts de certains projets de loi.

Cette élection était cruciale, en particulier pour l’industrie de la construction, où les principaux enjeux éthiques démeurent toujours en suspens. Malheureusement, les résultats finals n’étaient pas disponibles avant la rédaction de cet article.

Comme le mentionne Christopher Smillie, conseiller principal au Ministère des Affaires publiques au Département des métiers de la construction du Canada, l'économie canadienne s'est considérablement redressée depuis la récession de 2008 et l'industrie est en plein essor dans plusieurs coins du pays; toutefois la croissance d'emplois rémunérés dépendra d'une grande partie de l'intervention continue du gouvernement fédéral.

« Nous avons demandé à tous les partis de nous présenter ce qu'ils avaient l'intention de faire pour maintenir notre économie sur la bonne voie et pour faire travailler les Canadiens » dit-il.

Depuis l'adoption de lois fédérales plus restreignantes sur les campagnes électorales en 2006, les syndicats n'ont plus la capacité de faire campagne pour des candidats ou des partis spécifiques. Le Département des métiers de la construction avait donc mobilisé les membres à travers le Canada pour qu’ils exercent de la pression sur les candidats afin de les sensibiliser aux principaux enjeux touchant les familles travailleuses, établissant ainsi un agenda pro-travailleurs au niveau fédéral pouvant transcluser les lignes des partis.

« Nous restons en contact avec tous les partis. Nous nous en tenons aux enjeux et nous travaillons pour que les dépouilles agissent dans ces dossiers » poursuit M. Smillie.

L’industrie de l’énergie vient en tête de liste des priorités politiques. Les ressources naturelles du Canada, et en particulier les sables bitumineux de la région de l’Alberta, ont été d’une impor- tance capitale pour la santé économique du pays et les Métiers de la construction exercent de la pression pour que le gouvernement continue d’investir dans ce secteur économique clé.

« La croissance de notre économie a été maintenue grâce aux ventes de gaz et de pétrole et nous voulons nous assurer que les partis s’engagent à établir un code d’imposition et un cadre réglementaire qui contribueront à la réalisation de plusieurs autres projets énergétiques et des emplois rémunérés » affirme Phil Fleming, Vice-président International pour le Premier District de la FIOE.

Répondre à la demande de main-d’œuvre pour combler ces emplois fait aussi partie des priorités des syndicats de la construction. De plus en plus de baby-boomers quittent le marché du travail et le Canada fait face à une pénurie de travailleurs qualifiés. Le Conseil sectoriel de la construction indique qu’en 2017, il faudra 327,000 nouveaux trava- vailleurs qualifiés pour répondre aux besoins de main-d’œuvre.

Le Département des métiers de la construction souhaite qu’il y ait plus de subventions fédérales pour aider les provinces à financer la formation en apprentissage et insiste auprès des hauts fonctionnaires et des entrepreneurs pour que la formation en apprentissage fasse partie de tous les grands projets de construction.

« Faire appel à des travailleurs étrangers temporaires pour combler ce manque ne réglera pas la situation. Il faut songer sérieusement à attirer plus de jeunes Canadiens dans les métiers spécialisés » indique M. Smillie.

Avec les recruteurs pour les entreprises présentes dans les sables bitu- mineux, qui parcourent le pays à la recherche de travailleurs des métiers spécialisés, la mobilité de la main-d’œuvre est devenue un problème pour plusieurs travailleurs de la construction. En établissant les normes du Sceau rouge comme référence pour mesurer le niveau des compétences dans les emplois spécialisés de la construction, dans toutes les provinces, et en offrant un crédit donnant droit à une déduction d’impôt pour l’aller et le retour à ceux qui vont travailler à l’exter- nité sur des projets de construction, il sera plus facile pour les travailleurs de se déplacer pour se rendre à l’endroit où sont les emplois.

Et tandis que la situation de l’emploi s’améliore dans la construction, le secteur manufacturier continue d’être malmené.

« Le Canada a besoin d’une stratégie industrielle et les gouvernements doivent continuer à fournir la stimulation économique qui nous a évité de plonger dans la récession » a déclaré Ken Georgetti, Président du Congrès du travail du Canada.

Le conférencier Smillie a participé à la préparation d’un bulletin électronique sur les élections, pour les militants; il a également conçu des trousseaux d’information sur l’action politique pour aider les membres à discuter des principaux enjeux, lors des rencontres avec leur candidat.

Comme le souligne le Vice-président Fleming, « Peu importe le résultat, tous les membres doivent demeurer mobilisés au-delà du jour de l’élection ». « Nous devons continuer d’écrire à nos députés, de parler avec les dirigeants des partis et de faire entendre notre voix car c’est à nous de voir à ce que les principaux enjeux des travailleurs fassent partie du débat national à Ottawa », conclut le Vice-président Fleming.
**Retired Stephen Schoemehl**

Fifth District International Executive Council member Stephen Schoemehl retired effective March 31, ending a career of service to the membership that spanned nearly four decades.

Initiated into St. Louis Local 1 in 1972, Schoemehl served on various committees, including the joint labor management committee as well as the inside and residential negotiators committees. He was also a member of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus.

Schoemehl went on to serve as an organizer/business representative beginning in the late '90s, then was elected business manager of the union’s flagship local in 2001. He was appointed to the IEC in 2005 by International President Edwin D. Hill, and was elected at the 57th International Convention in 2006.

In the wake of the recession, and with unemployment high in the construction branch, Schoemehl actively promoted IBEW excellence, especially the union’s role in providing critical skilled work for high-tech industries. In an op-ed published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch last year, he pointed to a massive job loss and also became active in the local’s leadership, taking the role of a shop steward for 14 years. Walter also served as a business representative starting in 1995 and spent nine years on the local’s executive board.

During that time, Walter negotiated more than 24 contracts with nine municipal and 15 investor-owned utilities including Ameren, Alliant, Energy, and Dallas-based Atmos Energy—one of the largest providers of gas distribution in the country.

Walter was appointed business manager in 2007 and elected to the position in 2008. In that role, he was actively involved in public utility rate cases at Ameren UE and successfully helped steer money into training funds on the generation side as well as into funds to hire new technical employees. He has also lobbied to spur on the state’s public service commission in addressing staffing challenges resulting from an aging workforce.

Walter is chairman of the Missouri Utility Workers Conference. A member of the Missouri Energy Workforce Consortium, he has served as vice president of the South St. Louis County Labor Political Organization and is on the City of St. Louis Workforce Investment Board. He is also currently chairman of the St. Louis County Board of Zoning Adjustments.

Early in my career, I realized the value of the IBEW and made a decision to be active," said Walter. "I am grateful to be appointed to the IEC. I feel my work with the IBEW is nowhere near complete. I am 54 years of age and feel that I have much more to learn, accomplish and teach to others in my work with the IBEW."

The IBEW officers, staff and membership wish Brother Walter much success in his new position.

**Appointed Michael Walter**

St. Louis Local 1439 Business Manager Michael Walter has been appointed Fifth District International Executive Council member effective March 31. Walter replaces Stephen Schoemehl, who has resigned. A native of St. Louis, Walter was initiated into Local 1439 in 1979 as a mechanic with utility company Ameren UE, formerly known as Union Electric. He quickly moved up the job ladder and also became active in the local’s leadership, taking the role of a shop steward for 14 years. Walter also served as a business representative starting in 1995 and spent nine years on the local’s executive board.

During that time, Walter negotiated more than 24 contracts with nine municipal and 15 investor-owned utilities including Ameren, Alliant, Entergy, and Dallas-based Atmos Energy—one of the largest providers of gas distribution in the country.

Walter was appointed business manager in 2007 and elected to the position in 2008. In that role, he was actively involved in public utility rate cases at Ameren UE and successfully helped steer money into training funds on the generation side as well as into funds to hire new technical employees. He has also lobbied to spur on the state’s public service commission in addressing staffing challenges resulting from an aging workforce.

Walter is chairman of the Missouri Utility Workers Conference. A member of the Missouri Energy Workforce Consortium, he has served as vice president of the South St. Louis County Labor Political Organization and is on the City of St. Louis Workforce Investment Board. He is also currently chairman of the St. Louis County Board of Zoning Adjustments.

"Early in my career, I realized the value of the IBEW and made a decision to be active," said Walter. "I am grateful to be appointed to the IEC. I feel my work with the IBEW is nowhere near complete. I am 54 years of age and feel that I have much more to learn, accomplish and teach to others in my work with the IBEW."

The IBEW officers, staff and membership wish Brother Walter much success in his new position.

**Deceased Kenneth Rose**

Retired First District Vice President Kenneth Rose died on March 19 at the age of 86. Initiated into Toronto, Ontario, Local 195 in 1962 after completing a railroad electrician apprenticeship, Rose served as business manager of the IBEW from West Virginia to Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Addressing the recent wave of right-wing attacks on working families, he said that now is a critical time to mobilize “to maintain the things our founders fought for and that people risked their lives for.”

“We need to get back to doing the things that made America great,” he said. “When people take care of each other, earn fair wages and have decent benefits, our communities are stronger and better places to live.”

Cooper said he looks forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead.

"As a wireman in Local 688, I was always told that I was charged with one thing—leaving the IBEW better than when I found it,” he said. “Take it to heart.”

The officers, staff and membership of the IBEW wish Brother Cooper success in his new position.

**Deceased Danny McKinney**

Seventh District International Representative Danny McKinney died on March 3 at the age of 62. McKinney served as business manager of Phoenix, Ariz., Local 266 from 1981 to 1995. In 1993, he was appointed as an International Representative and served as a desk representative at the Seventh District office. A lineman, McKinney chaired negotiations with his employer, the Salt River Project, and served on the labor-management committee. He was a delegate to the Arizona State AFL-CIO for 12 years.

Later, McKinney represented the IBEW in negotiations with Asarco, covering copper mine electricians in Arizona and Texas.

Brother McKinney, who was raised in the White Mountains of Northeast Arizona, worked in his youth on actor John Wayne’s 26 Bar ranch near Springerville. He served in the U.S. Army’s 103rd Airborne Division in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968 as a parachute rigger for the 5th Special Forces Group. He was a licensed pilot and enjoyed skiing and riding his dune buggy.

On behalf of the members of the IBEW, the officers send condolences to Brother Rose’s children, Kenneth Jr., Lynn and Darlene.
Industry Trends Discussed
L.U. 1 (acct,govt,lbtw,rtb,sm,sp,sta), ST. LOUIS, MO—In early February, Local 1 was honored to have Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill in attendance at a union meeting. Pres. Hill discussed current trends in our industry, the state of the IBEW on a national scale, and the battles faced by the IBEW in Washington, D.C. In addition, Pres. Hill discussed methods used to maintain and increase market share around the country, as well as in St. Louis. He opened the floor for a question-and-answer session, focusing largely on the use of the construction wireman classification in the Local 1 jurisdiction. Pres. Hill pointed out that while no effort to regain market share is perfect, steps need to be taken to maintain and improve the amount of work for our out-of-work members.

In addition, Bus. Mgr. Stephen Schoenehn announced his retirement before the membership. Bro. Steve Licari was appointed as the new business manager of Local 1 by the Executive Board.


Robert Persson, B.M.

L.A. Mayor Praises IBEW Work
L.U. 11 (lct,sp,ska), LOS ANGELES, CA—Congratulations to apprentice Erica Marquez Villegas on being chosen to represent Local 11 at a recent press conference held by the mayor of Los Angeles in front of the WJAVA project being built by Walton Electric Corp. Mayor Antonio Villarigosa praised the quality work by Villegas and other IBEW Local 11 members. He championed project labor agreements and stimulus spending to create needed construction jobs.

Local 11 sent 10 members to Wisconsin in a show of solidarity to support the protests against the Wisconsin governor’s attempt to take away union members’ collective bargaining rights. The membership was able to follow their progress and voice encouragement to members on the front lines through the local’s Facebook page. We are very proud of our members for volunteering on such short notice to join in the protests.

Congratulations to retired member Butch Bachand and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Dick Reed, who were elected to the board of directors of the L.A. Electrical Workers Credit Union. We know they will do a fine job!

With great sadness, we report the passing of Bro. Jack Webster, a 51-year retired member. He will be missed by all.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

August Golf Benefit
L.U. 9 (catv,govt,ltt,nta), CHICAGO, IL—Congratulations and best wishes to Asst. Bus. Mgr. Matt Gober, P.S. as honored to have Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill in attendance. Jerry has been a hard worker on a nationalscale, and the battles faced by the membership were able to follow their progress and voice encouragement to members on the front lines through the local’s Facebook page. We are very proud of our members for volunteering on such short notice to join in the protests.

IBEW Local 9 apprentice Erica Marquez Villegas joined Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaragosa at a press conference, where he lauded the excellence of IBEW members’ work.

Utility Local Update
L.U. 15 (u), DOWNS GROVE, IL—Through tough negotiations at AT&T, we were able to reach an agreement to prevent more than 800 members from being laid off. As a result of the talks, an enhanced separation package was negotiated which allowed more than 200 members to voluntarily leave AT&T; and others were able to move into new jobs in other areas of the company. Tough choices had to be made during these negotiations, but in the end jobs were saved—jobs along with the hardships their losses would have had on our members and their families.

John Tracy, who recently retired from the AT&T Dundee garage, is very proud of his son Army SPC Adam Tracy. While serving in Afghanistan, SPC Tracy was awarded the Purple Heart and the Medal of Valor. He was the gunner for the lead vehicle during a combat patrol. The vehicle was disabled by an IED. While under heavy machine gun fire, SPC Tracy crawled out of the vehicle and fired back at several enemy machine gun positions. His actions enabled others to maneuver and recover sensitive items from the disabled vehicle and evacuate the wounded. All Local 15 members gratefully congratulate SPC Adam Tracy.

Local 21 apprenticeship with Tracy was recently outed to Lincoln Centre (in Oakbrook).

L.U. 21 (catv,govt,ltt,nta), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—In early February, Local 15 hosted an IBEW Code of Excellence class. Attendees included Local 15 officers and guests from Exelon/ComEd management.

Talks were continuing for an Underground reorganization package.

On the Nuclear side, we are discussing a “working foreman” position and will revisit nuclear travel agreements after the spring outage season. Our Nuclear business reps attended a public hearing at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission headquarters and work-hour rules were discussed.

In the Fossil Station area, safety continues to improve. Will County has gone three years injury free, completing 1 million man-hours. Fisk has two years without a lost-time accident. Kincaid went one calendar year without an OSHA recordable and 1 million man-hours without a lost-time accident.

Kincaid Station set a station record for longest on a unit (Unit 1, 126 days) and highest summer Equivalent Availability (99.6 percent). In December 2010, as part of an agreement with the Illinois ERRA, Midwest Generation shut down Units 1 and 2 at Will County Station.

ComEd call centers (Chicago North and Oakbrook) and the commercial center (Oakbrook) will relocate to Lincoln Centre (in Oakbrook). Local 15 has a new, improved Web page: www.ibewlocal15.org.

Doug Vedos, P.S.

Promoting Career Possibilities
L.U. 37 (em,oa), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Once again, Local 37 demonstrated its strong support for promoting the many career possibilities in the trades and technologies by sponsoring and participating in the 2010 New Brunswick Skills Networking Dinners for Young Women. These dinners, hosted by the NB Chapter of Women in Nuclear (WIN), are designed to bring female high school students together to listen to, and learn from, professional female mentors (many of whom are IBEW members) working in non-traditional fields such as electrical technology, chemical technology, instrumentation, power engineering, welding, pipefitting, nuclear response, etc. Local 37 looks forward to supporting this event again in 2011.

Doug Vedos, P.S.

Tough Battles
L.U. 21 (catv,govt,ltt,nta), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Through tough negotiations at AT&T, we were able to reach an agreement to prevent more than 800 members from being laid off. As a result of the talks, an enhanced separation package was negotiated which allowed more than 200 members to voluntarily leave AT&T; and others were able to move into new jobs in other areas of the company. Tough choices had to be made during these negotiations, but in the end jobs were saved—jobs along with the hardships their losses would have had on our members and their families.

John Tracy, who recently retired from the AT&T Dundee garage, is very proud of his son Army SPC Adam Tracy. While serving in Afghanistan, SPC Tracy was awarded the Purple Heart and the Medal of Valor. He was the gunner for the lead vehicle during a combat patrol. The vehicle was disabled by an IED. While under heavy machine gun fire, SPC Tracy crawled out of the vehicle and fired back at several enemy machine gun positions. His actions enabled others to maneuver and recover sensitive items from the disabled vehicle and evacuate the wounded. All Local 15 members gratefully congratulate SPC Adam Tracy.

Local 37 staff member Annette Perry (far right) speaks with high school students about the IBEW.

Trade Classifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>class</th>
<th>description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(as)</td>
<td>Alarm &amp; Signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ars)</td>
<td>Atomic Research Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(bo)</td>
<td>Bridge Operators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ca)</td>
<td>Cable Splicers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cb)</td>
<td>Cable Television</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cr)</td>
<td>Cranemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ees)</td>
<td>Electrical Equipment Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(em)</td>
<td>Electrical Inspectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(enes)</td>
<td>Electrical Machines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(es)</td>
<td>Electric Signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(et)</td>
<td>Electronic Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ft)</td>
<td>Instrument Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(fr)</td>
<td>Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(nt)</td>
<td>Nurse Service Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(rt)</td>
<td>Radio-Television &amp; Radio-Television Manufacturing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(rs)</td>
<td>Radio-Television Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(so)</td>
<td>Service Occupations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(sp)</td>
<td>Sound &amp; Public Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(st)</td>
<td>Sound Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(t)</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(u)</td>
<td>Utility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(uw)</td>
<td>Utility Office Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ws)</td>
<td>Warehouse and Supply</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.
GM Engine Plant

L.U. 41 (em, gen, Govt), BUFFALO, NY—As of this writing, based on our work outlook, we expect to put travelers out to work this summer. With close to full employment and with our General Motors engine plant in Tonawanda, NY, about to start staffing up, we hope to share our good times with some out-of-work brothers and sisters.

We prepared our local as float for the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade, an event that usually has a nice turnout and is fun for everyone involved. Thanks to Bro. Pete Czaster for acquiring the trailer for the float, putting it together and using his truck to pull it into place.

This summer Local 41 will host a family night out at a Buffalo Bison’s Friday Night Bash to be held June 22, and also the Miss Buffalo cruise on Aug. 5. Hope to see you there!

The election this November will be very important to us all, and it is never too early to start focusing on candidates. Here in Buffalo, we have a very important county executive election upcoming, along with some redistricting we’ll be watching. We are always looking for candidates to evaluate. Any input from our members would be greatly appreciated.

Gregory R. Ingals, A.B.M.

Acts of Service & Brotherhood

L.U. 43 (em, &&rs), SYRACUSE, NY—Our work picture is slow, but better than most. One of the bright spots in March was the refuel outage at Nine Mile Point. Although only a three to four week duration, the pre-outage and outage kept more than 75 journeymen busy. This summer also looks good for employment. We have signed project labor agreements in place for both the Syracuse and Utica School District renovations, as well as one for work to be done at Hancock International Airport.

This past March Local 43 participated in “America’s Greatest Heart Run/Walk” in Utica, NY, and the American Heart Walk in Syracuse. Local 43 Bus. Mgr. Don Morgan, himself a survivor, is on the Executive Committee for the American Heart Association. IBEW Local 43/NECA again sponsored the “red hats” worn by survivors of heart disease.

All unions talk of brotherhood and have examples. Let me share one of ours. Two of our younger members had tried to practice and qualify as nuclear certified welders but didn’t pass the “make or break” test. Enter recently retired member Dave Wierowski. On his own time Dave set up a class at our Training Center, donated the steel, built a “coupon bender” at a friend’s machine shop and then adapted it to the hydraulic Greenlee bender from class. Both journeymen passed on their next test and are now certified. When asked why he did all of this, Dave simply said it was to give something back for all he had received through the IBEW during his career. Thank you, Dave.

Jim Corbett, P.S.

Mobilizing to Stop Attacks

L.U. 53 (litt, CRT, &rob), SPRINGFIELD, IL—with their anti-union and anti-worker rhetoric at a few pitches, Republicans along with their Tea Party (so-called) patriots are showing everyone their true colors. These enemies of organized labor and working people must be stopped in their tracks, and it is up to every one of us as union members to contribute to the cause. To borrow a phrase (repeated somewhat) from the late John F. Kennedy: Ask not what your union can do for you, but what you can do for your union. Organize and mobilize, brothers and sisters! The threat is real.

Local 53 recently reached agreements with American Line Builders (NECA), Henkel’s & Mccoy, and Asplundh Power covering outside power work. Agreements were also reached with L.E. Myers Co. and Donco Electrical Construction (meter readers). Negotiations continue with: WMBD (radio-television broadcasting) and Corix Utilities (AMR meter readers). Additionally, negotiations are underway for a first-time agreement with the City of Ladd, a newly organized municipality.

As of this writing, work remains slow for our outside power membership. However, there are several nice-size projects in the planning stages. Hopefully with the arrival of spring we will return to full employment.

Remember to work safe, give eight hours work for eight hours’ pay and attend your unit meetings.

Dan Pridemore, B.R.

Worker Solidarity Rallies

L.U. 77 (litt, mt, &fru), SEATTLE, WA—On Thursday, Feb. 24, Bus. Mgr. Don Gullott, Executive Board member Pat Darling and I went to Wisconsin to represent our local in the protests rallies at the state Capitol in Madison, WI. The issue at hand was Gov. Scott Walker’s proposal to take away collective bargaining rights for state workers—including teachers, office workers, snow plow drivers and many others. Thousands of supporters, both union and nonunion, joined the rally in an attempt to persuade the governor and controlling Republican Party to withdraw their anti-labor legislation.

We attended rallies every day we were in Madison, from Feb. 24-27. Approximately 100,000 people attended on Saturday, in 15 degree weather and heavy snowfall. This stripping of basic human rights to bargain collectively was not only wrong, but an attempt to bust unions in Wisconsin. The domino effect could no doubt move state to state.

The outgoing of concerned workers was overwhelming. We met people who had come from across the country to show support. It was the most heartfehl and proud moment in this union man’s career.

On April 8 here in Washington state, Local 77 members participated in a big labor-wide “Save Collective Bargaining Labor Rally” at the state Capitol in Olympia to continue our support and solidarity against assaults on union workers and families.

Rick Stolt, B.R.

Local 53 mourns retired former business manager William H. “Bill” James.

Local 53 mourns retired former business manager William H. “Bill” James.

Former Officer Mourned

L.U. 53 (litt, CRT, &rob), KANSAS CITY, MO—Local 53 mourns the death of retired Bus. Mgr. William H. “Bill” James. Bro. James passed away Jan. 9, just eight days after his 94th birthday. Bill was initiated into IBEW Local 51, Des Moines, Iowa, in 1942. In 1948 he went to work for Kansas City Power & Light and in 1953 became business manager of then Local 51-64, representing the physical unit employees of KCP&L. He retired as business manager of then Local 51-64 in 1976.

In 1972 Bill came out of retirement and returned to work in Local 53 and became a business representative. In 1979 he was elected business manager of Local 53 and held that office until 1984, at which time he again retired. To the best of my knowledge, Bill is the only member of the Brotherhood to be elected and retire as business manager from two IBEW locals.

Bro. James was respected throughout the IBEW. He was one of the great labor leaders of our time. Local 53 owes a great deal to Bro. James. He came to the local when it was going through difficult times and turned the local around. He will be sadly missed by all of us at Local 53.

Robert E. Stuart, B.M./E.S.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 97 (litt, sy), SYRACUSE, NY—Recently the Local 97 leadership team has been negotiating several contracts for different properties we represent. The service employees secured a three-year contract with a 3 percent annual wage increase. The NYISO (New York Independent System Operator) contract agreement is for four years, seven months. Wage increases are 2.4 percent for two years and 2.5 percent for the remainder. Language was added so supervisory personnel cannot perform bargaining unit work. The NRG Energy contract was difficult because under the current economic conditions the company’s generating plants are often off-line. The Brotherhood agreed to a regional work force, working between plants. Per diem and transportation allowances were agreed to. The agreement is for two years from the expiration of prior agreement. Wage increases of 2.5 percent per year were included along with shift differential increases. A Voluntary Separation Agreement was also established. Constellation Energy contract talks will begin May 3.

National Grid, our largest employer, recently announced it will be reorganizing again. The company stated the union would not be “included at this time,” when it announced the elimination of 1,200 non-represented jobs in the U.S. At this writing, political forces are trying to weaken the collective bargaining rights of public employee unions in different states across the country. Beware As a member of this union, no matter what political party you support, this is an attack on your standard of living. If you are not affected now, then you may be tomorrow. Please become active in your local—you need it and it needs you.

John Delparuto, P.S.

Strong Show of Solidarity

L.U. 99 (g&tr), PROVIDENCE, RI—IBEW Local 99 members turned out to show their support at the American Federation of Teachers rally held March 2 at the City Hall in Providence. (Photo, pg. 8) AFF Pres. Randy Weingarten led the rally of some 1,000 strong. Union electricians, pipefitters, laborers, fire fighters, police and teachers from across Rhode Island showed support for the those teachers caught up in mass firings by Providence Mayor Angel Taveras. The new mayor fired all 3,962 teachers rather than honoring the collective bargaining agreement with layoff notices and negotiating with the teachers.

If we continue to allow this national anti-union parade to go on without a strong showing of brotherhood, we will be run over by the corporate mindset, right-wing agenda. No one knows this better than the throngs of Local 99 supporters, who understand that “an injury to one is an injury to all.” Solidarity and support
We at Local 99 recognize recently retired Bus. Agent Ron Leddy and thank him for his dedication and stewardship to keep our union strong. Bus. Agent Leddy previously served as Executive Board chairman, and as trustee to our local pension and annuity funds. Best wishes to Bro. Ron and his wife, Ann, for a happy retirement.

S. P. Callahan, P.S.

Tribute to Service

L.U. 111 (em,govt,mt,mtb,spa,udl), DENVER, CO—On Feb. 24, Bus. Mgr. Michael Byrd and Pres. Mike Kostelecky presented member Pru Rinne of TriState G&L with her retirement pin and a gold IBEW ladies watch in recognition of her tireless contributions to Local 111. Pru began her career with Colorado Ute in April of 1980 moving through the various classifications in her department and retiring in the position of Work Order Material Control Specialist in April 2011. She survived the strike of 1984 and when Tri-State took over Colorado Ute following bankruptcy, she paved the way for workers in her department.

Pru was essential for the clerical workers of Colorado Ute before and after their three-week strike in 1984. She was and is the glue that held this unit together cementing a working relationship with not only her coworkers, but the labor force as well. She served on numerous committees, participated on the negotiating team, served as a steward for years, and went above and beyond the commitment made to this local union. We sincerely wish her the best on her retirement and future endeavors, and will miss her unending efforts in the labor movement.

Mike Kostelecky, P.S.

Attacks on Union Workers

L.U. 125 (fta,bsb), PORTLAND, OR—By now, most Americans are aware of aggressive actions taken by Wisconsin’s governor in a fight involving state budget issues. To be dear, Wisconsin is not the only state targeting public employee unions nor is Scott Walker the sole governor leading the effort. Many states, including Oregon, have said that they cannot afford to sustain existing benefit levels.

What’s different about Wisconsin? Gov. Walker eliminated collective bargaining.

Local 125 members need to focus on understanding their own collective bargaining agreements. The local has numerous contracts open, and employers will continue raising their expectations. Beyond the act of collective bargaining, members must focus on demonstrating professionalism by working efficiently and safely to demonstrate the quality and craftsmanship associated with the IBEW.

This local represents numerous members employed by public employers. These are your union brothers and sisters who are performing the same work that you do. Don’t get involved with attacks on other union members. You may be asked to contact your legislators, sign a petition, or attend a public event. It’s your personal choice on how you represent this local, but remember that Local 125 will not be immune from the attacks on organized labor. Do your part and educate your friends, family and neighbors on the positive attributes that are associated with the IBEW.

Marcy Putman, P.S.

Work Picture Brighter

L.U. 229 (lmt,bspa), LORAIN, OH—The work picture in our area has started to pick up. At this writing, the Cleveland Clinic project is taking off with about 20 to 30 members on-site. Also our steel mill Lorain Tubular has started manning up with approximately 35 members on-site. Both projects are being done by Firelands Electric. Additionally, E.C.A. Inc. has projects at Labrall and PolyOne chemical plants. There are also school construction projects in our area. The $50 million battery plant project is going out to bid shortly.

We had several members attend the wind mill school in Toledo, OH. A Code upgrade session was held at the hall Feb. 23 and 24. Local 229 member Terry Monroe passed away and will be greatly missed.

Dennis Pedings, P.S.

Fight for Workers

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Officers and members of IBEW Local 159 extend sincere thanks to all the union brothers and sisters across the United States and Canada for their support and concern regarding our struggle with Gov. Scott Walker’s budget bill and the underlying Republican agenda of union busting.

We also thank and recognize Local 159 Bro. Mark Roughen, who was inside the Capitol since the initial days of the protest, providing online live streaming on what transpired inside our Capitol rotunda. Mark has been dedicated to providing this service to keep the public informed, despite numerous obstacles and attempts to shut down the transmission of this information.

Despite decisions of the Republican majority in the Assembly to ramrodded legislation that eliminated collective bargaining rights of our public sector workers, the fight continues. We are not only fighting for Wisconsin, but for the survival of this nation’s middle class. At this writing, recall efforts are underway as well as pending lawsuits.

We held our biggest rally yet on Saturday, March 12, with more than 100,000 protesters. To keep updated on this movement throughout Wisconsin, visit www.wisacflcio.org.

Again, we truly appreciate all the solidarity and support we have received.

Joel Kapusta, B.A.

Union Appliance Technicians

L.U. 193 (l,mo,rb,ri), EVERETT, WA—Judd & Black Appliance has had a lot of growth in its 70-year history. Since the days when Bob Long Sr. would manually change the scoreboard for the Everett Giants (now the Everett Aqua Sox), Judd & Black has been a first-class, community-minded neighbor for all. The company’s belief in taking exceptional care of the customer before, during, and after a sale or repair has never changed.

Judd & Black has the only factory-trained union technicians in the state of Washington. The company has one of the largest Parts & Service Centers around. Judd & Black has been under a collective bargaining agreement for more than 40 years. The technicians go through a two-year, 4,000-hour apprenticeship—which includes classroom and hands-on training at the factory—before they receive their journeyman card. After their apprenticeship, the journeymen take continuing education classes yearly to keep up with constantly advancing technology and National Electrical Code changes. Eight Judd & Black technicians are on the road six days a week to service the community. They include Mike Trushinsky, Daniel Isbelle, Jeff Smith, Ken McPherson, Oliver Christmas, Luke Krueger, Mike Jones and Shop Steward Marty Kontelekas.

Judd & Black offers a discount to all IBEW members on sales or service. Special thanks to Judd & Black and the union technicians for their continued hard work and professionalism. The IBEW is proud to have members like you.

Rob “Bulldog” De Velder, P.S.

We also thank and recognize Local 159 Bro. Mike Jones and Shop Steward Marty Kontelekas.

Among the Local 193 members attending the rally at the Illinois state Capitol to “Save the American Dream” are, beginning third from left: Bros. Glenn Baugh, Paul Moore and Don Hudson, joined by Susan Salom’s daughter, Angela (right).
**‘Save the American Dream’ Rally**

L.U. 193 (Litt,L,uts,rp,spak), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Several labor unions, teachers and trades along with their families rallied on the Illinois State Capitol steps on Feb. 26, under the gaze of the Abraham Lincoln statue, to support Wisconsin public workers’ bargaining rights. [See photo, pg. 8.]

The spirit of Mother Jones was flowing throughout the rally. Local 193 made a great showing along with union brothers and sisters from all across Illinois. Local 193 Bus. Mgr. David Burns gave a good speech, letting all know that Local 193 stands strong with our labor friends, nationwide!

Future Gen is still progressing; the sequester/insighted gap has been determined in Morgan County. If the project stays on schedule, the start date is fall of 2012. Local 193 will continue to work closely with those involved to assure that the $1.5 billion project comes to fruition.

At press time, spring looks promising for getting our Book I members to work.

Our condolences go to the families of recently deceased members: Bros. Dan Hart, Walter Goodman and Maurice Shofner.

Don Hudson, P.S.

---

**‘Wearin’ & Workin’ Green’**

L.U. 269 (LbL), TRENTON, NJ—Congratulations to Local 269 Asst. Bus. Mgr. and state Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo on being selected grand marshal of the Trenton St. Patrick’s Day parade at Hamilton. In addition to the Trenton parade, members also marched in parades in Mt. Holly, NJ, and Buck’s County, PA. Along with the continuous good works performed by our members, participating in these local parades provides an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of our union within the community.

On the work front, solar initiatives are starting to bear fruit within our jurisdiction and throughout New Jersey. Along with Bro. DeAngelo, Local 269 has numerous members sitting on boards and committees that are responsible for the allocation of funds involved with these solar installations and other municipal construction projects. Having a pro-labor voice directly involved in budgetary decisions can only better our local’s prospects.

In an effort to keep our members in the forefront of the skilled labor market, the Rupert A. John Trade School has started classes in solar technology and installation. Given the increasingly competitive work environment facing our members in today’s labor market, we need every edge we can get.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

---

**PAC Golf Tournament**

L.U. 309 (Litt,mo,mt,uts,spak), COLLINSVILLE, IL—A letter sent to Bus. Mgr. Scott Haskell from our recently retired office service administrator Judy Baczewski is reprinted in the “Letters to the Editor” section of this issue (page 39). The letter is a thoughtful one and we wanted to share it with readers.

Judy worked with the local for 25 years. Her late grandfather, Theodore Czarnecki, was a Local 309 journeymen wireman. Her husband, Stanley Baczewski, also worked as a Local 309 journeymen wireman until he became disabled. Judy expresses her appreciation to the IBEW and notes the benefits of association with a great union.

Good luck to Judy and Stan on a long and healthy retirement.

The local’s annual PAC golf tournament is June 24 at Locust Hills Golf Course. We look forward to seeing everyone there, as the tournament is always a success.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

---

**Collective Bargaining Rights**

L.U. 343 (spak,spakl,LE SUEUR, MN—At this writing, the right of collective bargaining is under attack in the state of Wisconsin. Collective bargaining has given working people, union and nonunion, not only better wages but also better pensions, health care and working conditions. In this present economy, most members will be reasonable in negotiating contracts, but the right of collective bargaining must be maintained. Samuel Gompers was asked in 1893, “What does labor want?” He replied, “We want more schoolhouses and less jails, more books and less arsenals, more learning and less vice, more constant work and less crime, more leisure and less greed, more justice and less revenge.” Have our wants changed from then to now?

Phil Heim, P.S.

---

**Continuing Education Classes**

L.U. 349 (em,mps,rtb,spak), MIAMI, FL—The work picture seems to be holding its own. There’s enough work to keep our local members working some. Dale Evans hosted another great Super Bowl party. Everyone had a good time with good food and family fun. Many thanks, Dale.

Our continuing education classes are ongoing. So, make sure you get enrolled. Also, other journeyman classes are available. Call John McGuff at the apprenticeship office for class schedules.

Remember our troops here and overseas. We hope for their safe return.

Attend your union meetings. Strong attendance helps make this a strong local union.


---

**Solar Farm Project**

L.U. 351 (L,ci,L,ul,mt,ci,oe,spakl), FOLSOM, NJ—Local 351 members and Lucas Electric recently constructed a 6.2 megawatt solar farm in West Deptford, NJ. This project was completed within a very aggressive 12-week time frame and was within budget. As of 2010, this solar field project was the largest in New Jersey, consisting of more than 26,000 panels over a 76-acre tract. The project’s economic production ties directly into PSE&G’s electrical grid helping to power approximately 1,600 homes.

American Capital Energy, the integrator for this project, was pleased to have a single electrical contractor perform all aspects of the solar farm development.

Another job well done by IBEW labor.

Daniel Casner, P.S.

---

**District Progress Meeting**

L.U. 357 (ci,mt), LAS VEGAS, NV—Local 357 was proud to host the 67th Annual Ninth District Progress Meeting at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino, March 2-4. Officers and representatives of the Ninth District were addressed by: Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, then-Int. Sec.-Treas. Lindell K. Lee, Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey, IEC Chmn. Robert W. Pierson, IEC member and Local 47 Bus. Mgr. Patrick Lavin, as well as many special guest speakers. The events and trends of our trade and our nation were discussed. Pres. Hill also addressed implementation of the construction electrician/construction wireman classifications nationally and the necessity for the CE/CW classifications to reclaim markets that we are not competitive in. Pres. Hill assured everyone that this is our program and not NEC’s.

We have an opportunity to emerge from this economic depression stronger than we have ever been. We have emerging markets such as solar, electric vehicles and nuclear power. We are in a climate where working people are under attack and fighting back. Now is the time to take action!

Aaron Jones, P.S.

---

**Stand in Solidarity**

L.U. 369 (kahem,spakl), NEW CITY, NY—Greetings to all our IBEW brothers and sisters.

We all have heard stories about how bad work was in the 1970s—mostly as a lesson about appreciation need to be out there and ready to counter the public brainwashing put forth by some Republicans, some confused Democrats and all of the anti-union business groups that promote having a war against the workers.

Together we can make it through these bad times and come out stronger and smarter than ever before. The secret is that it will take all of us to make that happen. IBEW members are smart and will surely rise to answer that call.

Kevin Keeley, P.S.

---

**’Another job well done by IBEW labor.**

---

Rec. Sec. Ruhland Retires

L.U. 445 (gi,ls,ltt,b), SANTA ANA, CA—Over the last 25 years, Local 445 has experienced many changes. One constant feature throughout has been our current recording secretary, Dave Ruhland. As we prepare for his retirement, we are reminded of his impressive 40-year tenure with the local.

Dave was initiated in 1971 and graduated from Local 445’s apprenticeship in 1974. Certified as a high voltage cable splicer in 1982, he also assumed his first officer’s position with Local 445’s Examining Board. In 1986, Dave became recording secretary, a position he has held since.

Dave has served selflessly in his position for 25 years. Since becoming recording secretary, Dave has donated the majority of his officer’s pay to Local 445’s Health & Welfare Fund, which was designed to offer dues assistance to members in need. It is because of his commitment to the perpetuation of this fund that we have decided to refer to it as The Dave Ruhland Health & Welfare Fund.

We hope his retirement marks a new chapter to Dave’s hard work as a servant to the local and the integral role he has played in Local 445’s development over the last four decades. On behalf of the entire local—thank you, Dave, for your dedication, friendship and brotherhood.

Kenneth L. Richards, A.B.M.

2011 Scholarship Winners

L.U. 543 (mo&t), SAN BERNARDINO, CA—Congratulations to the 2011 scholarship winners: Tyler De La Houssaye, Jamaal Martin, Chance Erwin and Sarah Schrader.

The essay question for applicants was: “In What Ways Are Unions Good for America?” Following are quotes from some exceptional responses.

Chance Erwin wrote: “Union—It is the act of joining, which [symbolizes] the foundation of this country. Even appearing on one of the nation’s founding documents: ‘In order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense [and] promote the general welfare.’ [These words] … from the preamble to the U.S. constitution … embody the same ideas that labor unions represent today. The formation of unions helped create the middle class, opening new doors for millions of poverty stricken American workers.”

Sarah Schrader wrote: “Unions provide the support to ensure that workers can avoid being exploited by employers. … Unions ultimately benefit the foundation of America, the working class, and give workers a stronger voice so they can receive a fair share of the economic growth they helped to create.”

It is comforting to know that some of our youth today realize the importance of unions!

Jerry Nagel, B.M.

LED Retrosfits

L.U. 551 (l,m,lbs,spa), SAGINAW, MI—Local 551 is doing its part in the ongoing battle between unions and politicians who are foes of working people. Many members of our local have been active in standing up for workers; thanks to all for taking a stand when we need them the most in these difficult times. Around the state of Michigan, it is almost a daily occurrence to hear of a demonstration to bring union members together. These fights can only be won with total solidarity and mass numbers.

Recently, Local 557 joined up with members from other locals all across the state. A whirlwind of measures have been taken statewide to combat anti-worker legislation. These demonstrations include literature drops, marches on the Capitol, handing out flyers, or going door to door. In February, 20 Local 557 members joined another 1,600 union members from all walks of life to tell our state representatives that we oppose their new policies. We and all union members are enraged at the lack of compassion shown by our state leadership.

Solidarity is the key in these trying times. Everyone, young and old, must get involved and do it right now! If we do not act now, there may not be a later.

Evan Allardaye, P.S.

‘On Time & Under Budget’


Annual Food Drive

L.U. 449 (ess,em,govt,so&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—Since 1983, Local 449 has conducted annual food drives and the contributions have grown each year. This year, the local has been very successful in the amount of monetary contributions and non-perishable items we received. The local’s 2010 Food Drive collected and distributed a total of $6,450 for a grand total of approximately $594,500 in cash donations since 1983. Our donations are received from members of Local 449, employers of represented members and friends of the community. Local 449 represents members in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland. Donations are distributed to food pantries in those areas where our members work and reside. The food drive funds were also used to purchase food coupons that were distributed to members who were off work because of long-term illnesses.

The local feels this is a great tribute to the members of Local 449 who generously support this valuable initiative, and we thank all who contributed their hard-earned dollars. Thanks to all the union stewards who collected funds and a big thank-you to Mary Perdew, chairperson of the 2010 Food Drive.

McEntagart and Michael Donegan. Thank you all for your commitment to labor!

On the organizing front, LEDtronics and Local 551 have partnered to give the IBEW an edge in the LED market. LEDtronics has offered a special distribution price to the IBEW. We felt that we were large enough that we wanted to be able to buy for our projects at a better rate. This deal will give the IBEW an advantage in the retrofit of street lighting, parking lot lighting and all other retrofits being done. Visit Web site www.ledtronics.com to see what is available for our contractors. When ordering, all our contractors and other locals have to do is mention IBEW Local 551 for the pricing discount.

The Retirees Club would like to see more active retirees and/or local members join them at their monthly lunches. They meet faithfully the second Tuesday of each month. Call the hall for more details.

Denise D. Sazu, B.R./P.S.

Code of Excellence

L.U. 551 (l,m,lbs,spa), RALEIGH, NC—A Code of Excellence class was held in February at the local union hall with some of our members attending. Over a period of time, we can have the entire membership onboard with the Code of Excellence. And then the electrical contractors can get on board also.

At the time of this writing, there is a small amount of work generated at Fort Bragg, Spring Lake, NC. Fort Bragg is a major U.S. Army installation. White Electric is working with Johnson Controls on soldier support facilities and some of the barracks for soldiers. An outside contractor is coming to the area for work in nearby Fayetteville, NC, and this will generate more work for our membership for 2011 utilizing the CE/CW program.

We extend solidarity to our union brothers and sisters in the state of Wisconsin in their fight to stand up for workers and collective bargaining rights.

David A. Ingram, P.S.

Act Now, Not Later

L.U. 557 (l,m,lbs,spa), SANTA ROSA, CA—Local 557 is partnering to give the IBEW an edge in the LED market. LEDtronics has offered a special distribution price to the IBEW. We felt that we were large enough that we wanted to be able to buy for our projects at a better rate. This deal will give the IBEW an advantage in the retrofit of street lighting, parking lot lighting and all other retrofits being done. Visit Web site www.ledtronics.com to see what is available for our contractors. When ordering, all our contractors and other locals have to do is mention IBEW Local 551 for the pricing discount.

The Retirees Club would like to see more active retirees and/or local members join them at their monthly lunches. They meet faithfully the second Tuesday of each month. Call the hall for more details.

Denise D. Sazu, B.R./P.S.

‘Fast-Start’ Sound Technician Training Program

L.U. 569 (macm,ct,lbs,spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—San Diego Electrical Training Center’s Sound and Communications Training Coordinator Tim Moylan has launched his second accelerated training program class for sound technicians called “Fast-Start.” This program provides participants with a strong foundation as they gear up for a future in Sound Technician Apprenticeship Program.

The 10 individuals selected have met the stringent physical and mental requirements for entering the Fast-Start program. The program consists of a seven-week, eight-hour day rigorous training schedule. Training starts off with physical training and material handling. This is followed by lectures and hands-on training for Structured Cabling, Fiber Optics, Constructions Class, Basic Fire Alarm Systems and Safety and Basic Electricity. After successfully completing this seven-week program, students will have earned certifications in Premise Cabling, Fiber Optic Technician, Fiber Optic Cleaning, Hilti Qualified Operator, CPR/First Aid and OSHA 10.

With this valuable skill set, these individuals become productive employees at their first job with...
Green Training Grant

L.U. 673 (cat,lu,ts,spa,11a), MINNESOTA, OH—Local 673’s JATC has been very busy in training our members in wind, solar, and building automation green technology.

This was all made possible through the Ohio Green Renewable Opportunities for Workers (GROW) program—when the Ohio LMCC (NECA/IBEW) applied for and was awarded a Green Training grant from the U.S. Dept. of Labor. JATC Instructor Ken Farabaugh is teaching the Solar Photovoltaic class and as of this date has trained more than 50 members. JATC Instructor Tony Gambatese is currently teaching the Energy Efficiency/Building Automation class, which has more than 30 members to be trained. Local 673 also has more than 20 members trained as wind technicians.

Remember to check the Local 673 Web site for upcoming training classes and entertainment events at www.ibew673.org. Wishing everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day.


Attacks on Workers

L.U. 683 (emk), COLUMBUS, OH—Brothers and sisters, the onslaught has begun. It only took the Republican Party six weeks to begin legislative attacks on public sector collective bargaining rights in Ohio, Wisconsin and other states. Their next target is the prevailing wage law in Ohio. Additionally, anti-worker “right-to-work” bills have been filed in numerous states. If any union member still does not believe that the Republican Party is against organized labor, ask the teachers and auto workers in this country. Who or what’s next?

On a local level, we thank the donors to the January blood drive. Thanks to Dillon Isaac and Malcolm Giffen for coordinating the effort.

Current journeysmen classes offered are: Code of Excellence, Electrical Contractor Business, Solar Photovoltaic and Building Automation. The Retirees Club holds monthly luncheons at the union hall, which are well attended. Thanks to the officers for their continued efforts.

We extend condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Ronald Riffe, Timothy Yost, Damon Rutledge, John Stenson, Mark Armintrout, John Thompson and Joseph Scherler Sr.

Rick Deim, Ext. Bkd./P.S.

Historic Stand for Workers

L.U. 725 (C&Kspa), TERRE HAUTE, IN—We are witnessing an attack from unfriendly Republican state legislators. At the time of this writing, “right-to-work” for less, a ban on project labor agreements, and gutting our common construction prevailing wage laws were on the table. Under Republican proposals, as of this writing, teachers would lose their collective bargaining rights, taxpayer money would fund vouchers and charter schools would compete for public money. In response, Democratic representatives refused to participate in the radical agenda of the
Local 955 members gather for February work party as if your job depended on it. And it does. The middle class is under attack and our right to collectively bargain will slide away from us if we don’t become proactive. It is up to each member to remember why you became a union member in the first place and stand up for your rights against those who wish you and your families the greatest struggle of your life. Issues range from health care and unemployment benefits, to your pension and collective bargaining. Nothing is safe. So contact your local union and ask how and where you can help. We all need to stand up for labor. Educate yourselves, read and watch the news—then get involved. Labor is depending on you.

Theresa King, P.S.

**Negotiations & Protests**

L.U. 995 (em,govt,ctv,catv,pet,tt,u), MADISON, WI—Negotiations with the local’s largest employer, Alliant Energy/Wisconsin Power & Light, have begun. On Feb. 21, the local traded contract proposals with the company, followed by a union solidarity meeting at the local office where proposals from both the company and union were presented to the members. Union proposals include improvements to working conditions, use of accumulated sick time at retirement, job security enhancement and other improvements to the agreement. The company’s proposals include transferring more insurance costs to the employees, replacement of the overtime meal policy, elimination of the last week of earned vacation for those who haven’t earned it yet and other changes to the agreement. Also at that solidarity meeting was a celebration to tear up the mortgage on the local’s building, which is now completely paid off.

While these negotiations are important, the big news out of Madison is the protests against Wisconsin’s governor and state legislature. We have more than 100 members who will lose their collective bargaining rights if Gov. Scott Walker’s bill is signed. These protests will continue ...

**Excellence in Training Award**

L.U. 1015 (em,govt,ctv,catv,pet,tt,u), WESLACO, TX—IBEW Local 1015 and the Rio Grande Valley Laredo Electrical JATC are working together and realizing that the impact of the recession has yet to budge for the fiscal year 2011. Though the recession does not help the work situation in any way, it does help the local and the JATC produce many new angles of organizing and ideas to get through these tough times, as well as to visualize the jurisdiction in many different ways.

As for the JATC, apprentices and members of Local 1015 are still training and expanding their knowledge and work performance in the electrical industry. Since 2004, the RGV/Laredo Electrical JATC has planted its roots in the Rio Grande Valley, working together with Local 1015. Organizing and training electrical workers provides the contractors with certified, skilled employees.

At the 2010 IBEW Seventh District Progress Meeting, Local 1015 was honored to receive our first award for skilled training of journey workers at a high percentage within our local by Southeast Texas Chapter of NECA. The Excellence in Training Award was presented to Local 1015 Bus. Mgr. Sergio Salinas by IBEW Int. Vice Pres. Jonathan B. Gardner.

Our respect goes out to the members who take the time to participate in training opportunities the IBEW offers.

Ray R. Duran, P.S.

**Initiatives Mobilize Members**

L.U. 245 (cab,em,govt,ctv,pet,tt,u), VACAVILLE, CA—Local 245 has launched new initiatives to mobilize our members in the worker struggles playing out around the country.

Local 245’s Solidarity Action Network aims to collect personal contact information for 1,000 members willing to participate in upcoming solidarity actions—call-ins, e-mail campaigns, etc. Our new Facebook page has sparked an overwhelming response, with members contributing ideas, photos, videos and links conveying news about the Wisconsin fight as well as our local actions and social activities.

Among those activities: A bowling tournament for members at Turlock and Modesto Irrigation District; the Apprentice Graduation Dinner for Outside Construction apprentices, held Feb. 25; the upcoming Gold Cup Soccer Tournament in Livermore; the upcoming Perry Zimmerman Golf Tournament in Vacaville, CA; and the upcoming Northern California Sporting Clays Shoot on Nov. 12 in Dunnigan, CA.

The union has sharpened its focus on training. We are holding several two-day conferences on grievance handling.

We launched a Leadership Training series to bring younger members into leadership roles. Guest speaker at the first training, held Jan. 24 in Berkeley, was former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich.

The local began its “Hold the Pul” safety program, which focuses on peer-to-peer communication among linemen to increase job safety awareness. Initial presentations were for PGE Linemen in San Francisco and SMUD Linemen in Sacramento, with additional presentations scheduled.

In Nevada, the Public Utilities Commission, in response to the local’s petition, has launched an investigation into staffing at Sierra Pacific Power, where the aging of the work force is a concern.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.

**‘Stand Up for Brotherhood’**

L.U. 955 (b&i,WW, b&i), TAMPA, FL—We had our annual work party in February with a turnout of approximately 40 members. Lindy Woody and friends fed us with a breakfast fit for kings to start the day. We refurbished our folding tables, laid 6 yards of rock in the apprenticeship workshop area making room for the new journeyman wireman Certification testing space. Once again, we made great use of a pretty day—and a good day for brotherhood.

With the attacks in our great USA on labor, I would like to awaken our members to become active as if your job depended on it. And it does. The middle class is under attack and our right to collectively bargain will slide away from us if we don’t become proactive. It is up to each member to remember why you became a union member in the first place and stand up for your rights against those who wish you and your families the greatest struggle of your life. Issues range from health care and unemployment benefits, to your pension and collective bargaining. Nothing is safe. So contact your local union and ask how and where you can help. We all need to stand up for labor. Educate yourselves, read and watch the news—then get involved. Labor is depending on you.

Bill Huber, Pres./B.M./F.S.
Battle for Workers’ Rights
L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—Workers’ rights are under attack in Augusta as they are in other states across the nation. This includes a fight against “right-to-work” legislation LD 788. Sisters and brothers, this is our livelihood and our country. We must do our part to protect basic rights for our children and generations to come.

Recent Central Labor Council events included a legislative breakfast held in Brewer on Saturday, Feb. 11, and another held in Augusta on March 3.

Attendance by IBEW members was strong at an Augusta State House rally Saturday, Feb. 26, as Maine participated in a national show of support for workers in Madison, WI. Our members turned out again on March 3 at a rally to support Maine state employees. Additionally, there was participation from all Maine AFL-CIO locals on March 22 for Labor Lobby Day.

We’re sad to report the death of Tom Smith, who just retired last year. We extend our sympathy to his family.

New Journeyman Linemen
L.U. 1429 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—At this writing, the snow and ice storms have moved on leaving a new class of journeyman linemen for the next batch of storm restoration. (Photo, below). Future linemen will be needed as many members of the current, aging workforce plan for retirement. Our association with Ameren/Missouri and its Apprentice Training Dept. is a working partnership to secure top quality linemen.

We are also testifying on behalf of the proposed Ameren/Missouri rate case with the Missouri Public Service Commission.

At this writing, so-called “right-to-work” legislation has hit the Missouri Senate but has been put on the informal calendar. Every state must fight to defeat this anti-worker, anti-union legislation at the local, state and federal levels.

Congratulations to all the union members who helped make this happen.

When our members work together as a body, good things happen. A key role of that union body is filled by your union steward. Stewards volunteer their time and effort to make a better future for members. Stewards are the ones who hear first-hand the issues members have, the ones who take note of and respond to the frustrations members encounter. That requires a lot of a person, but the

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
IBEW Locals 1501 and 1805 hold a Stewards Training course.

Every Role is Important
L.U. 523 (u), WICHITA, KS—Utilities have a long-standing tradition for helping neighbors, even if that neighbor is hundreds of miles away.

In late January and early February 2010, Local 523 and other locals assisted with storm restoration efforts following the storm that resulted in 44,496 customer outages across Oklahoma. Parent company Westar Energy received the Edison Electric Institute’s Emergency Assistance Award for 2010. Congratulations to all the union members who helped make this happen.

When our members work together as a body, good things happen. A key role of that union body is filled by your union steward. Stewards volunteer their time and effort to make a better future for members. Stewards are the ones who hear first-hand the issues members have, the ones who take note of and respond to the frustrations members encounter. That requires a lot of a person, but the

Local 1523 Journeyman Lineman Todd Wookley works to restore power after an ice storm.

Stewards Training Course
L.U. 1501 (w, em, mo, pet, rtw, stw), BALTIMORE, MD—On March 10, Local 1501 along with Local 1805 held a Stewards Training course presented by the IBEW Education Dept.

The training was held at the Maritime Trades Institute Conference Center in Linthicum, MD, from 12 noon to 8 p.m. This program is well presented and very informative. It covers nearly every situation a steward would come across and how to handle the situation. Trainees reminded stewards that they are always a steward, even off the job, and that it is important to always conduct oneself in such a way as to best represent the IBEW for its members. We had in attendance: Nathan Allen, John Arter, Neil Becker, Delaney Burkhart, Web Burris, Travis Doeno, Victor Fontain, Paul Jonas, Richard Keim, David Kinsler, John Phillips, Fred Richards, Jeffrey Stinchcomb, Jason Strawhorn and Phillip Weber. Also attending were: Local 1521 Administrative Asst. Margo Milliken, Local 501 Bus. Mgr./Pst. Dion F. Guthrie, Local 1805 Bus. Mgr. Kenneth Morris and Int. Rep. James Kaufman. Participating stewards gave four hours of their own time. We thank the stewards for their time and dedication.

Thomas Rostkowski, R.S.

Tribute to Six Retirees
L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Local 1307 recognizes six recent retirees:

Edward Mitchell joined the local in 1995 as a building services repairman in Delmarva Power’s Salisbury District; he previously held a non-bargaining unit position. He worked at Indian River Power as a relay tester. He retired Feb. 1, 2010.


Buddy Shaffer joined the local in 1981 and worked as a ground man; completed the apprentice lineman program and became a journeyman lineman. He retired on Dec. 1, 2009.

Stewards Training Course
L.U. 1501 (w, em, mo, pet, rtw, stw), BALTIMORE, MD—On March 10, Local 1501 along with Local 1805 held a Stewards Training course presented by the IBEW Education Dept.

The training was held at the Maritime Trades Institute Conference Center in Linthicum, MD, from 12 noon to 8 p.m. This program is well presented and very informative. It covers nearly every situation a steward would come across and how to handle the situation. Trainees reminded stewards that they are always a steward, even off the job, and that it is important to always conduct oneself in such a way as to best represent the IBEW for its members. We had in attendance: Nathan Allen, John Arter, Neil Becker, Delaney Burkhart, Web Burris, Travis Doeno, Victor Fontain, Paul Jonas, Richard Keim, David Kinsler, John Phillips, Fred Richards, Jeffrey Stinchcomb, Jason Strawhorn and Phillip Weber. Also attending were: Local 1521 Administrative Asst. Margo Milliken, Local 501 Bus. Mgr./Pst. Dion F. Guthrie, Local 1805 Bus. Mgr. Kenneth Morris and Int. Rep. James Kaufman. Participating stewards gave four hours of their own time. We thank the stewards for their time and dedication.

Thomas Rostkowski, R.S.
Local 1701 members receive their 30-year IBEW service pins.
From left: Bruce Laney, Tim West, Jerry Frey, Richard Whittoke and Alan Rafferty.

Wage Survey is completed and has been submitted.
L. U. 1579 (catv, ees, i&o & u), OWENSBORO, KY—At our L. U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—The Davis-Bacon Wage Survey stewards serve with dedication. I have said this many times: Do you know who your steward is? Your steward is the link who presents your issues to your business agent. Take the time to say thank you.
Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

Davis-Bacon Wage Survey
L. U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—The Davis-Bacon Wage Survey is completed and has been submitted for our jurisdiction. This survey is very important to the IBEW as well as other building trades unions and will keep our wages competitive for our contractors, and the U.S. Department of Labor guidelines are very specific. The information collected is complicated and takes a lot of cooperation from the contractors. End, the contractors play a vital role in keeping our wages competitive. We thank them for their cooperation.

Our work situation looks promising. The Vogtle plant project will have a gradual buildup. It is hard to predict if and when this work will get into Book II. Check our Web site at www.ibew1579.org for the current work situation.

Until next time, God bless.
Will Saiters, A.B.M.

Projects Getting Started
L. U. 2101 (catvces, L&L), OWENSBORO, KY—At our December monthly meeting, we presented service pins to our 20- to 60-year members eligible for awards. [Photo, above.] We also recognized all 2010 retirees. Congratulations to all.

The Executive Board in January appointed Bro. Scott Coleman as Local 2101 president to fill the unexpired term until the next regular local union election. Also, Bus. Mgr. Larry Boswell appointed Bro. Mike Vanwinoke as Membership Development coordinator. We ask the membership to stand behind all our local union leaders. We wish all good luck in their new positions.

Job calls are starting to come in, and our Book 1 is beginning to move. Bettline Electric is manning up at the OMHS new hospital and has approximately 50 on site. The Cannelton Hydro Electric plant just recently got underway and should build to about 70 workers at peak. IES has several projects breaking and will be calling for manpower. Additionally, the Owensboro downtown development projects should be underway by press time. We thank all locals that have employed our traveling brothers and we hope to return the favor soon.

In sadness we report the passing of retired Bros. Leroy McCully, James McCarthy and Ed Nave. May they rest in peace.
Tim Blandford, R.S.

Mobilization & Solidarity
L. U. 2325 (i), WORCESTER, MA—As scheduled, on March 1, the local moved into our new union hall. It was a lot of work but worth every drop of sweat equity. Our local’s enduring vision of becoming property owners would not have been possible without the hard work of Bus. Mgr. Dave Nealing, Pres. Keith Herrick, Vice Pres. Chris Doyle and Bro. Colin Plante.

With contract expiration fast approaching at press time, arrangements have been made to start local bargaining in Rye, NY. Meanwhile, the local continues to prepare by meeting with other IBEW regions to discuss bargaining strategies, holding membership meetings and coordinating mobilization activities. As we know, solidarity is crucial to successful negotiations.

As of this writing, all eyes are on Wisconsin and Ohio and the future of collective bargaining rights. Margaret Mead said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Although the protesters were an amazing 100,000 strong, unionized workers only represent 11 percent of the workforce. We have changed the world before and perhaps this challenge to collective bargaining rights is the very catalyst needed for resurgence in organization that workers desperately need.

United we bargain, divided we beg.

Dawn Nelligan Rosa, P.S. /R.S.

‘Let’s Fight with Our Votes’
RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1 retirees have witnessed a harsh winter and harsh attacks on working people. These ongoing attacks are a serious threat to our national conscience—and should bring all Americans to the ballot box next election to throw out those who would destroy workers’ rights. We must not allow political dictators to take workers back to the 19th century by destroying hard-fought gains organized labor has won. They blame budget shortfalls on workers, not on the politicians and corporations that created them. Their agenda: bust unions, destroy the middle class and reap the rewards of greed. Let’s fight with our votes!

At a St. Louis area labor rally March 1, thousands of union members and supporters protested threats made to their futures. Local 1 was well represented.

Steven P. Schoemehl resigned as Local 1’s business manager. We wish Bro. Schoemehl good luck in future endeavors and thank him for his dedicated service to Local 1. Stephen A. Licari was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

The March 16 club meeting was informative and a great opportunity to socialize with old friends. Bus. Mgr. Licari addressed the gathering.

We mourn the passing of Bro. Vito J. Gowath. He was 102. We will miss him.

A golf outing is planned for mid-May. Upcoming meetings are: May 18, July 20, Sept. 21 (luncheon) and Nov. 16.
Don Appelbaum, P.S.

Annual Holiday Party
RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER—Our chapter held its annual Christmas/Hanukah/New Year’s party at Benvenuto’s in Boynton Beach on Jan. 2. [Photo, above.] The food, excellent on- and off-duty dancing were fun! All the brothers and sisters had a great time, thanks to Sandy Rosenhough and her helpers who made the arrangements. A terrific barbecue was held at the Delray Beach South Civic Center on March 11 and all local 3 retirees were invited.

Our meetings feature informative talks by invitees; currently we are having lively discussions about employment and other union benefits.

The chapter meets on the second Friday of each month (from May to October) at 10 a.m. in the Delray Beach South County Civic Center. Many of our members are “Snow Birds,” and we welcome all local 3 retirees to our events and meetings.
Dick Dickman, P.S.

Local 2325 Pres. Keith Herrick stands outside the new local union hall.

Celebration of Brotherhood
RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER—The Central Florida Chapter of the Local 3 Retirees Club celebrated the 99th birthday of their honored member Leo Raffo on Nov. 11, 2010, at the club’s regular meeting. [Photo, below.] Joseph P. Golan, P.S.

Summer Luncheon
RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA—The Local 11 Retirees Club meets the second Wednesday of every month at 9:30 a.m., at the Electrical Training Institute in the City of Commerce. We invite all Local 11 retirees to join our club. Please plan to attend one of our upcoming meetings. Retirees have many opportunities to remain active in Local 11—by hosting a booth at the Annual Local Wide Picnic, serving on the organizing committee, and participating in other activities.

The club is busy planning this year’s summer luncheon, to be held Wed., June 8. This is a wonderful event so please plan to attend. An RSVP is required in advance so we know how much food to order. Last year, club member Harvey “Bud” Bachand, our new vice president, catered the event.


Attendees socialize at the Local 3, North Florida Chapter, Retirees Club’s Jan. 3 holiday party at Benvenuto’s.
with his wife, Sharon. We are happy to report they agreed to treat us to another delicious Mexican fare. Don’t miss it!

We are saddened by the passing of longtime club member Jack Webster. Jack was initiated into the local in 1930 and remained active for many years. He was well-respected and will be missed.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

Local 26 Retirees Club members gather for a service-pin presentation held in September 2010.

Agreed to treat us to another delicious Mexican fare. Don’t miss it!

Local 11 Retirees Club members gather for a service-pin presentation held in September 2010.

Jacquelyn Moffit, P.S.

Service Award Honorees

RETIRES CLUB OF Local 110, ST. PAUL, MN—Local 110 hosted the annual luncheon for the retirees at the Prom Center on Oct. 14, 2010, in Oakdale, MN, with more than 350 retirees, widows and guests attending.

Service pins were awarded to eligible recipients. Receiving 70-year pins were Ray Achilles and Harold Ameter; 62-year pins—Doug Ackley, Arthur Fransen, Richard Kenney; 55-year pins—Maurice T. Foster, Lloyd Glancy, Monteil Rustad, Kenneth Swanson, David Youngren; and 50-year pins—Bruce Campbell, Bill Denn, David Kuhn, Gordon Nielsen, Paul Schmidt, Tony Vilgos and Filby Williamson; Bus.Mgr. Mike Redlund thanked the honorees for their years of service. The Local 110 Retirees Club is an active group, with monthly meetings with 70 to 125 in attendance. All retirees are welcome to attend. The retirees cook and serve food at the Local 110 picnic, stuff 600 Christmas stockings with candy and decorate the hall for the holiday party. Many thanks to Local 110 for supporting their retired members, and our deepest thanks to April Lupin for her outstanding job in planning the annual luncheon and all the service pin awards.

Jon “Jack” Bucel, P.S.

Retired Local 130 former business manager M.E. Joseph (left) receives birthday greetings from his daughter Gail (right) and Bro. Harry “Buddy” Carver.

Celebrating a 96th Birthday

RETIRES CLUB OF Local 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—Retirees Club members honored M.E. Joseph, retired former business manager, with a celebration of his 96th birthday.

We invite all new Local 130 retirees to join the Retirees Club. Our yearly dues are $35. The club has quarterly meetings for the members and a guest; food and refreshments are served.

Please mark your calendars; we have monthly bus trips to various casinos.

Until our next meeting, God bless all.

George Cesi, P.S.

Upcoming Retiree Events

RETIRES CLUB OF Local 134, CHICAGO, IL—Board members elected on March 9 are: Irv Blaszynski, Vito Alberotanza and Hugh O’Connell. Nominations were held at the February meeting. We also had a delicious $1 luncheon for members.

The speaker for the May meeting will present information about asbestos exposure.

Don’t miss the June 8 event: a $1 luncheon celebration and live entertainment to honor our members who have 50-, 55- and 60-year service anniversaries.

The July 13 speaker, a representative from the Citizens Utility Board, will answer your utility bill questions. Also in the summer, we will go to Arlington Racetrack.

The Aug. 10 speaker, from the Silver Connection, will discuss senior “OA” aid and benefits.

On Sept. 14 we will have a $1 luncheon.

Brian Boulby, Pres.

Welcome to New Members

RETIRES CLUB OF Local 134, JEFFERSON CITY, MO—The Retirees Club met for their monthly luncheon meeting on March 29 in Westphalia, MO. Everyone enjoyed this family-style meal and the blackberries that Pres. Jerry Rehagan supplied for the blackberry cobbler.

Guests were Local 257 Bus.Mgr. Don Bruemmer, Organizer Jim Winemiller and Apprenticeship Training Dir. Rick Stokes. We thank Don and Jim for talking and handing out information on the pending Missouri “right-to-work” bill. Our group can help defeat the bill by attending rallies and talking to friends and family. Rick Stokes talked to the group about volunteer- ing to help judge and grade the competition at the Skills USA Competition at Linn State Technical College March 31 and April 1. This makes the seventh year that Local 257 and retirees have volunteered as judges. Also, we thank Local 257 for hosting our Christmas luncheon at the Labor Temple last December. We had a record crowd and the event was appreciated by all. During the winter a few new members joined our group and we welcome them. After our long winter with record-breaking snow, we look forward to spring.

See photo (pg. 16) of several members who recently received service pin.

Delores Melloway, P.S.

Louis Rodriguez, P.S.

Trip to Foxwoods

RETIRES CLUB OF Local 223, BROCKTON, MA—Our quarterly meeting was held March 2 at the union hall, where members and spouses enjoyed a pizza luncheon and cribbage tournament.

A committee was formed to make arrangements for a trip to Foxwoods. In order to charter a bus, a minimum number of 45 participants is required. Plans for the trip will be finalized at the June meeting.

Members were reminded to contact Bob Revil for information about continuing education for all retirees.

If you would like to join the retirees’ get-together, call Bob at 508-447-5855.

Our June 1 meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. and will feature a cookout. The Sept. 7 meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. Following the business meeting and luncheon, a yard sale will be held. If you plan to attend the luncheon, please RSVP by Aug. 31 by calling Patty at the union hall at (281) 942-8555.

There will be information about dinner choices for the Christmas party. Personal checks or money orders for the dinners must be received by Nov. 23. The Christmas party will be Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m. at the Finside Restaurant.

Burt Boulby, Pres.


Local 257 Retirees Club officers include: Board member Vito Alberotanza (left), Pres. Maria Coletta and Board member Irv Blaszynski.

Local 134 Retirees Club officers include: Board member Vito Alberotanza (left), Pres. Maria Coletta and Board member Irv Blaszynski.

Local 11 Retirees Club members Harvey “Butch” Buchand and his wife, Sharon, will cater the club’s summer luncheon.

Retirement to a Brother

RETIRES CLUB OF Local 26, WASHINGTON, DC—Time marches on and some of us are still going on trips, while others are glad to be on the right side of the grass. This year our club bid farewell to our retired brother and Club Chef, Nick Dell’Erba. He was 93 years young and we all miss him.

We have already been on a bus trip to Delaware Park—and we didn’t mind the rain shower, because we were indoors! With our warming weather we will soon be doing more travel, just checking out our famous cherry blossoms.

This year we are scheduling two different cruises. The first will be going to the Mediterranean in May, and another in September to the Caribbean. Last September, we awarded more 45-, 50- and 60-year service pins. [Photo, below] That’s a lot of experience!

More good times are in store for 2011.

Susan Flashman, P.S.

Invitation to Retirees

RETIRES CLUB OF Local 42, HARTFORD, CT—The Retirees Club invites anyone who’s a retired member of Local 42 to join them. The club meets several times a year at Local 42’s hall.

The retirees get together and talk about old times; they share funny stories, enjoy each other’s company and have coffee and donuts.

They also have a successful 50/50 raffle every year at the Local 42 Family Picnic. The Retirees’ Club donated some of the 50/50 raffle money to help with the flag poles and the flags on each side of the Memorial Monument dedicated to our departed Local 42 brothers. Also, the money was used to help other organizations. Retirees thank the members for their support and the ladies in the office for all their help. If you would like to join the retirees’ get-togethers, the club would love have you.

For more information, please call the union hall at (860) 966-7292.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

Local 134 Retirees Club officers include: Board member Vito Alberotanza (left), Pres. Maria Coletta and Board member Irv Blaszynski.
Retirees

Several Local 257 retirees recently received service pins. From left are: Paul Gallatin (55 years of service), Herman Grothoff (45 years), Emil Fischer (50 years), Phil Butts (40 years) and Bob Kauffman (45 years).

Springtime & Fellowship

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 291, BOISE, ID—The March luncheon was held in Nampa at the Golden Corral. There were 30 in attendance with one visitor who is a 60-year IBEW member. He plans to visit our club again, since he had such a good time. We have a few snow birds missing, but they will be back soon. Our members enjoyed the food and fellowship as always. [Photo, below.]

At this writing, it is beginning to look like spring, but this is Idaho and it might snow tomorrow—like it did earlier in the week. We were excited that all members who attended the March meeting were in good health and no new health issues were reported. However, a few members were not there because of health issues and we wish them a speedy recovery. Congratulations to Dave and Carol Barl, who are expecting grandchild #3.

We feel for our brothers and sisters who are currently unemployed and hope they will be back to work soon. We pray for our country and everyone who is struggling in this economy. Defend and protect our rights to be union members!

Joe Sirani, Pres.

Three or More Generations

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 306, ARLINGTON, VA—The following families are among those who have produced three or more generations of wiremen in our local union: the Kingans, Oaks, Pease, Peck, Romito and Schwindtjen families. These families were inadvertently “electronically excluded” from our article in the March issue. Please call or visit those members who have family problems and can’t get around.

Tracy Hall, Pres.

We also sadly note the passing of Edmund Romito. Ed served as an apprentice instructor for many of us and was the driving force in creating our Pension Annuity Plan. Stay well and keep smiling!

Bob Soliz, P.S.

Jobs Day Rally

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 641, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Sorry I didn’t have a picture in the last article. I attempted to place a photo of two of our oldest retirees attending the Christmas buffet into a collage, but unfortunately the photo could not be reproduced for publication. We won’t let that happen again.

Our annual Jobs Day Rally in Santa Fe at the Capitol “round house” was the usual success. Local 641 rented a school bus with 35 to 40 union supporters taking the ride to Santa Fe, mostly retirees from other crafts. Noticeable also at the rally was a much larger group of Local 641 members than in previous years, and 50 union members joined the march to the Capitol, also a larger turnout than usual. During the march, spectators and the general public gave us a “thumbs up” as we passed. Even though the legislature was not in session that day, the speaker of the House and several union representatives gave speeches on the theme of jobs.

We offer condolences to the families of several retired journeyman wiremen brothers who passed away this year: Joseph J. Faykus, Burton A. Brown, Frank T. Casados, Leonard D. Pearson, Terry G. Caddel and Jerry M. Gonzales.

Please call or visit those members who have health problems and can’t get around.

T. Francis “Jeep” Hanley, P.S.

Retirees Picnic in June

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 613, ATLANTA, GA—We were the retirees of Local 613 who held our 2010 Christmas meet- ing on Dec. 22. We had a lot of fun and gave away many prizes. More than 200 members attended.

Our March 23, 2011, meeting was a success, with 120 members and spouses attending.

We are excited about what is planned as the first Annual Retirees Picnic, in June at the union hall.

We mourn the passing of: Donald Deen, Danny Meeks, Holland Booth, Charles Whitten, Rufus Gates, Richard Gehman, Kristina Adkins, David Standlevant, Lew Wileg, Isaac Smith, Henry Evans, Donald Deen, Danny Meeks and Holland Booth.

Blake McCool, Pres.

‘Gems of Brotherhood’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 654, CHESTER, PA—I started writing this article as press secretary for Local 654 in the former IBEW journal in 1996 and now write in the Electrical Worker for the Retirees Club.

I enjoy reading the publication. “Local Lines” includes reports about the work situation—good or bad, apprentice graduations, union picnics, retired and deceased members, solar photovoltaic and green energy training, members who save lives by using CPR skills learned in a union program, etc.

Then there were articles about the 2010 midterm elections. In one Electrical Worker article online, Local 645 bus driver Paul Mullen is pictured with former U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak, a friend of older living in New Orleans. Local 150 (November 2010 issue). Unfortunately, Sestak did not win. Did you vote?

There was a “Who We Are” article about a line crew who saved a family of eight from a house fire [March 2011 issue]. I was particularly struck by a “Letter to the Editor” from Bro. Warren Duviel of New Orleans. Local 150 (November 2010 issue). He thanked Bro. Gary Buresh, Seventh Dist. Int. Rep. of Arlington, TX, for his kind offers of help and the gift of his tools to Bro. Duviel, who had lost everything in Hurricane Katrina.

It’s great to pick out gems of brotherhood such as these.

T. Francis “Jeep” Hanley, P.S.

Annual Retiree Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL—IBEW Local 702 held its Annual Retiree Luncheon to honor our retirees on April 5 at the Bend Lake Resort. Approximately 125 retirees attended and everyone had a good time. Bus, Mgr. Steve Haghart wanted to express our local’s gratitude for all the struggles and challenges the retirees endured, which helped to make life better for all the members who followed.

Currently, the middle-class, blue collar, union made American worker is under attack by corporate America and politicians who support union busting agendas. We must rely on everyone to help in this struggle, and who better than our retired members who have been through the same and/or similar battles.

We appreciate each and every one of our retirees.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

May 14 Fishing Tournament

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1205, GAINESVILLE, FL—Our Christmas parties were a terrific opportunity to bring members and their families together for fun and food. We are fortunate that our local’s president, who is a retiree, was in attendance. The children’s party had fun and many took pictures with Santa. Our local is a 100% union family and we enjoyed our union barbecue. Attendance was great and included more than 20 retirees, a few Executive Board members and the local’s officers.

We look forward to the annual W.S. Brown Brim Fishing Tournament in both April and May. We look forward to the annual W.S. Brown Brim Fishing Tournament for both the fishing and the second-quarter Retiree’s Lunch Meeting. All members, retirees and their families are welcome to join us at Earl Powers Park on Newman Lake on Sat., May 14, with a 5:30 a.m. breakfast to begin the festivities and a lunch at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending, please see the local’s Web site www.ibew1205.org or contact the hall at (352) 376-7701! Thanks to all who participate in our events!

Wayne Sparkman, P.S.

Tennessee Contingent

The Fort Lauderdale, FL, Local 728 Retirees Club sends greetings to three Local 728 retired brothers and their wives living in Tennessee, who get together once a month for lunch. In the Tennessee contingent are, from left: Barry “Corky” Schmolz with wife Rita, Al Kimball with wife Pam, and Bill Smith with wife Cindy.

At the Local 1205 children’s Christmas party, a younger visits Santa.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**In Memoriam**

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in March 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

---

**The Electrical Worker | May 2011**

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)
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.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- Edwin D. Hill, International President
- Salvatore J. Chilia, International Secretary-Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Chairman: Robert W. Pierson
- First District: Joseph P. Calabro
- Second District: Myles J. Calvey
- Third District: John R. Clarke
- Fourth District: William W. Riley
- Fifth District: Michael Walter
- Sixth District: Gregory A. Lucero
- Seventh District: Patrick Lavin
- Eighth District: John F. Bringle
- Ninth District: William W. Riley
- Tenth District: Donald C. Sorge
- Eleventh District: Joe S. Davis
- President-elect: Mike Brown
- Pulpit: Matthew J. T. Reilly
- Office of the International President: Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4R6
- Media: media@ibew.org

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

Editor: Edwin D. Hill
C. James Speltaine
Mark Brungemjohn
Malinda Brent
Len Shindel
Carol Fisher
Alex Hogan
Lucas Orra
James H. Jones
Len Turner
Tim Prendergast
Curtis D. Betman
John Sellman

An Honor and a Solemn Duty

I am honored that President Hill has appointed, and the International Executive Council confirmed, me as Secretary-Treasurer of our great union. As a business manager, a member of the IEC and as vice president, I have seen Ed Hill’s leadership up close and am privileged to work beside him to protect the legacy of the IBEW and expand our horizons for the future.

I salute the excellent work done by my predecessor, Lindell Lee. Lindell is a strong but quiet man who let his actions do the talking. I thank him for the example that he and those who came before him have set—not just in standing watch over our union’s benefit funds—but in our situation has changed. The economy is still suffering. In nearly every section of North America, unemployment has eroded the economic base of our benefit plans. To make matters worse, powerful politicians have the audacity to question whether workers even deserve the benefits we have won over the years.

We are in a fight for the heart and soul of our society. What happens in my home state of Ohio and other places will determine whether we as a people value labor or are content to let our future be dictated by others. I pledge my full energy and devotion to defend our IBEW legacy.

Paul Ryan’s Jobs Killer

unemployment still tops 8 percent but the priority on Capitol Hill, strangely, isn’t jobs. It’s the deficit. The Republicans issued a budget blueprint which, according to author Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) will save America from a “debt-fueled economic crisis.”

Inside-the-betway columnists and media talking heads initially praised the House Budget Committee chairman’s “bravery,” but there is nothing brave about appeasing corporate special interests by making working families pay the costs.

Ryan’s plan functionally dismantles Medicare while slashing Medicaid—which provides health care to the most vulnerable in society—by $2.97 trillion.

Education, infrastructure investment and research—programs that encourage economic growth and job creation—will be slashed by more than $1 trillion, while federal programs that help students and their families, including Pell Grants and Head Start, are on the chopping block.

Astoundingly, as a means to slash the debt, the Ryan proposal is a total fraud; Ryan himself has been criticized by most major economists for relying on faulty math and unreliable budget estimates. It cuts the top individual tax rate down to 25 percent from 35 percent and makes Bush-era tax cuts, which overwhelmingly benefit the wealthy, permanent.

Not only has his blueprint have a minimal effect on the deficit, it will wipe out millions of jobs. Business Insider magazine estimates that it could drive down GDP by as much as 5 percentage points by 2020.

Ryan’s proposal has nothing to do with reducing the deficit and everything to do with pushing a political agenda that rewards the top 1 percent of earners while making everyone else pay the costs.

Our debt problem is fundamentally a jobs problem. Until we get Americans back to work and earning a decent wage, our economy will continue to contract and the deficit will grow. Job killers like Ryan’s blueprint are a course for disaster.

As announced in this issue, International Secretary-Treasurer Lindell Lee retired this month. I have greatly valued Brother Lee’s advice, steadiness and friendship over the last three years.

I accepted his decision with regret but with happiness for him and his family. And I’m glad that Sam Chilia will be stepping up to fill Lindell’s big shoes. Sam is the right individual at the right time for this position, and I ask for your support as he assumes his new duties.

FROM THE OFFICERS

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer
Super Job
I was recently hired by International Alliance Theatrical Stage Employees Fort Worth, Texas, Local 262 to work spotlight at the Super Bowl in Dallas on February 6, Green Bay vs. Pittsburgh. Local 262 members treated me great and I had an enjoyable experience helping our fellow union brothers out at the biggest event of the year.

Honored to Serve
I would like to thank Collinsville, IL, Local 309 for my 24 plus years of employment.

My grandfather, Theodore Czarneczki, was a Local 309 journeyman wireman his entire career until he passed away in January 1998. The local has always had a special place in my heart because this was his local union and I had the privilege to work here. When I got hired for the job of office service administrator, I was never sure who was more excited about it, my mother or myself. My mother used to tell me how she would take my grandmother to East St. Louis to pay her dad’s dues (back in the days before people had checking accounts and mailed checks).

Ten years ago I married a journeyman wireman, Stanley Baczewski, who also worked his career as a Local 309 until he became disabled. I met Stan when I worked in the office at Wischir Electric. So often he tells me the interesting stories of his work and the other members he worked with and how much he misses working.

I am sure some of the members got upset with me when I got on them about keeping their union dues current, but I don’t think they realize what a privilege it is to work for a great union like Local 309, and how much better the wages and benefits are working under a collective bargaining agreement.

Most of my career since I was 16 years old I have worked in the construction industry, and this was my first job that I was ever in a union. Some people don’t seem to understand how tough it is on the outside when you have to negotiate for yourself for each and every raise and benefit you try to get.

I have enjoyed all the staff that I have worked with at Local 309 and the opportunity to deal with the membership, contractors, the fund offices, travelers and everyone else that I have met. I have had lots of laughs, heartwarming experiences, as well as some frustrating moments. All of these have made my job a wonderful experience.

As I look forward to starting a new journey in my life of retirement, I know I will miss all the people I have met and worked with at Local 309.

Judy Baczewski
OPEIU St. Louis Local 13 retiree

55 Years and Counting

Amarillo, Texas, Local 602 member Don Daughtrey was recently presented his 55 year pin at a Duke Electric Co., Inc. luncheon. Don has worked his entire career at Duke Electric. He continues to perform his supervisor responsibilities while working and outfitting all who work with him.

He is an amazing individual, providing guidance, direction and inspiration to customers he serves as well as the electricians he supervises. For the last 34 years, Don has worked at the Department of Energy Pantex plant outside Amarillo. He has been active in the IBEW for his entire career, holding various local union positions including executive board. He was also an apprentice school teacher for 20 years, specializing in first-year classes.

Don Daughtrey

Traverse City, Mich., Local 498 charter member James Eisenheime r was honored to serve at the Super Bowl in Dallas and enjoyed the experience helping his fellow union brothers out at the biggest event of the year.

Who We Are

Surrounded by friends, family and his IBEW brothers and sisters, Traverse City, Mich., Local 498 charter member James Eisenheimer celebrated his 100th birthday April 10.

“Brother Eisenheimer is one of the last founding members of Local 498 and we want to honor the long life of this IBEW pioneer,” says Local 498 Business Manager Jeffrey Bush. “He has lived quite a life.”

The son of a Traverse City farmer, himself the son of a German immigrant, James Eisenheimer graduated high school just as the full effects of the 1929 stock market crash were kicking in. But Eisenheimer, who studied electrical work through a correspondence course, managed—with some help from his older brother—to land a job as an electrician at General Motors’ Fisher body plant in Lansing in the early ’30s—a major turning point in labor history.

Nearby Flint would soon host the great sit-down strikes that gave birth to the IBEW as well, as working people in nearly every industry—taking advantage of the newly passed Wagner Act, which protected the right of workers to form unions and collectively bargain—took to the streets and picketlines to take collective part in one of the labor movement’s biggest organizing drives ever.

Experiencing the greatest labor upsurge of a generation would give Eisenheimer an appreciation for union solidarity that has lasted throughout his life.

“I can’t remember him ever missing a union meeting,” says daughter Donna Basch.

The Great Depression would soon give way to full employment as the United States’ entry into World War II converted assembly lines at General Motors into centers for tank and plane production. Eisenheimer would put his electrical skills to work making vital military equipment for the Army.

When the war ended, missing the rural life, Eisenheimer—along with his wife, Virginia, whom he met in Lansing, and their two sons, Eugene and Daniel—moved back to Traverse City, buying property at nearby Glen Lake. Daughter Donna was born soon after.

When the postwar period opened up new opportunities for working people and the labor movement, including the IBEW, which saw spectacular growth, as historian Grace Palladino writes in her history of the IBEW, “Dreams of Dignity, Workers of Vision,” “In the 15 years between 1930 and 1945, the world had changed dramatically for most IBEW members. Growing from 50,000 members in 1933, it counted 342,000 by the war’s end.”

The surge of new growth meant the formation of hundreds of new locals, including Local 498, which was chartered in 1939. Eisenheimer was among its founding members.

Living in rural Leelanau County—just north of Traverse City—he was one of the few licensed electricians in the area, and his skills were in high demand, as he installed original wiring in many homes for the first time, helping to electrify the county. Eisenheimer would often accept potatoes and meat in lieu of pay from customers going through tough times.

“My dad was very frugal and worked very hard every day to provide for us,” says Donna. “He paid for everything in cash.”

Retiring in 1976, Brother Eisenheimer and his wife moved to an old farmhouse they had bought. Long after leaving the trade, he kept in touch with his IBEW friends, joining them at monthly retiree luncheons.

Virginia passed away in 2001. Donna says her father looked forward to meeting younger Local 498 members who continue the tradition that he and his generation helped start.

“We didn’t grow up with luxuries, but the IBEW helped make sure my father was able to provide a good and secure upbringing for us,” she says.

---

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to media@ibew.org
U.S. Nuclear Industry Continues Safety with Eye to the Future

Jay Wagner vividly remembers an ominous night in 1994 when five tornadoes descended in rapid succession on northwestern Illinois—threatening homes, buildings and power infrastructure in Rock Island County.

Wagner was helming the control room that night at Quad Cities Nuclear Generating Station—squared in the flight path of the swirling storms.

“Even with the dangerous weather, I was confident the plant would hold up,” said Wagner, a Downers Grove Local 15 member. “We got everyone inside and put our contingency plans into motion, which we’d constantly trained on.”

In the aftermath, many structures suffered significant damage. But the plant remained functionally unscathed.

“This place is built like a tank—it can withstand more than 200 mph winds,” Wagner said.

With more than 19 years of experience as a reactor operator at the station, Wagner is considered something of a nuclear expert by people in the community.

15,000 IBEW members work at 42 U.S. plants

So when the earthquake and resulting tsunami hit Japan March 11, triggering a crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, Wagner’s phone started ringing.

“Friends, family and neighbors all called wanting to know more about Japan’s problems and if we could have them here,” he said. “Our plant is basically the same model of Fukushima’s—but we’ve had so many upgrades since its construction that it barely resembles how it functioned right after construction. I believe there’s no reason for concern.”

Earthquake aftershocks and fires have exacerbated an already dangerous situation at Fukushima, as radiation from partial meltdowns has leaked beyond the plant into surrounding areas. Equipment damaged by floods, fires and explosions are compromising what analysts are calling the most complicated nuclear accident ever.

Industry experts—citing rigorous scientific data on possible seismic events—they say that such a situation would be highly unlikely in the United States.

They say that even in the event of earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes or other natural disasters, workers at the nation’s nuclear facilities are able to stand up to such challenges.

Resistance to Natural Events

Two thousand miles away from Quad Cities, California’s Diablo Canyon Power Plant sits on the Pacific Ocean in sunny San Luis Obispo County. While it’s one of the closest U.S. nuclear reactors to any major body of water, it was designed and built to withstand natural disasters.

Vacaville Local 2345 member and Diablo Canyon reactor operator Mike Jacobson has logged more than 30 years at the facility. When it became apparent that an earthquake and resulting tsunami had caused major problems at Fukushima, “our plant kicked into high gear.”

When the tsunami warning was issued along the Pacific Coast, Diablo Canyon management began their emergency procedures to prepare for a potential scenario.

“Our station took precautions until the warning was downgraded,” Jacobson said. Strong waves lapped the coastline but didn’t threaten structures near the shore; Jacobson said that designs and procedures in place at Diablo Canyon would have protected and prevented most potential disasters.

Diablo Canyon is anchored deep in bedrock and has safety systems and emergency reservoirs 80 feet or more above sea level—higher than Fukushima. It also has the highest seismic standards of any nuclear plant in the world.

Experts say that Quad Cities and Diablo Canyon are just two examples of the industry’s 64 nuclear sites nationwide that are ready to mitigate disasters. Plants’ safety standards, emergency plans and procedures are fully scrutinized by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—the independent federal watchdog of the industry.

More facilities are similarly battle-tested. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in 2005, Louisiana’s Waterford Nuclear Generating Station maintained operation on backup diesel generators for four days until crews were able to reconnect off-site power. Loss of such power was the key culprit in the Japan disaster.

Industry leaders also pointed to safeguards implemented after 9/11. Following the attacks, plant designs and operating practices were modified to withstand scenarios like aircraft impact, which could cause a loss of off-site power and all on-site emergency power sources. As rigorous as these protocols are, new, more stringent procedures are being put in place in the wake of Fukushima.

Regarding earthquakes, the Nuclear Energy Institute—an industry group active in legislative and regulatory issues affecting the industry—reported:

“Every U.S. nuclear power plant has an in-depth seismic analysis and is designed and constructed to withstand the maximum projected earthquake that could occur in its area without any breach of safety systems.”

Safety First … and Second, and Third

From the dawning of the nuclear industry in the ’50s, the watchword has always been safety. That’s why the IBEW reactor operator at Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Mike Wagner, is considered something of a reactor operator.

Mullen, the IBEW International Representative. “Regarding new construction, current things are slowed as we are taking time to learn lessons from Japan,” he said.

Plants will also continue to be inspected and generate power, but expansion will be delayed as the industry and regulators work to improve and ensure the continued safety of the U.S. fleet. Utility managers, regulators and scientists have testified to U.S. Senate members that the nation’s plants are safe, but “we cannot be complacent about the accident at Fukushima,” said William Levis, president of N.J.-based Public Service Electric and Gas Co., which operates several nuclear facilities.

In the meantime, the IBEW members in the nuclear sector nationwide will do what they do every day—display excellence on the job and lead by example in an industry increasingly under the microscope.

Want more info on nuclear safety?

www.nei.org—An industry group active in key legislative and regulatory issues affecting the nuclear sector.

www.ibew.org—Visit us for official union statements on the industry and a comprehensive, easy-to-understand fact sheet on U.S. plants’ continued safety records.

Wagner, the reactor operator at Quad Cities, recently completed a week-long “continuing training” course which mandated 20 hours in a site-specific control room simulator. He said he does similar trainings every six weeks—just one part of the high level of knowledge nuclear workers are required to possess.

“Becoming a nuclear reactor operator is a massive undertaking,” he said. “You need to have college experience and then the company trains you for an additional two years. And there’s always more to learn as plants phase in more top-of-the-line digital systems.”

Where We Go From Here

For all its contributions to the nation’s clean energy generation, nuclear’s future looks murky in the wake of Fukushima, Mullen said. But agencies, operators and labor leaders all agree that the first priority is to help Japan with its challenges, while assessing and learning how to improve plant safety back at home.

The NRC says immediate changes are being implemented. It has called for additional inspections to verify plant readiness for hurricanes, tsunamis and similar events, as well as a 90-day review at stations to determine if any larger steps need to be taken. Further steps include testing and retesting equipment, and making sure that plant operators and support staff have the most up-to-date qualifications.

“The 15,000 IBEW members in the nuclear sector working at 42 plants are not industry insiders—they’re workers,” International President Edwin D. Hill said.

“They operate the plants and are responsible for being at the forefront of safety. Their families live close to plants, so IBEW members have every reason to be as informed and proactive about making sure their stations run as safely as possible.”

“We continue to believe that nuclear power will be a vital part of our national energy portfolio as it addresses environmental and supply issues in the future,” he said.

But at the moment, the industry will remain in a holding pattern, said Mullen, the IBEW International Representative.

Regarding new construction, current things are slowed as we are taking time to learn lessons from Japan,” he said.

Plants will also continue to be inspected and generate power, but expansion will be delayed as the industry and regulators work to improve and ensure the continued safety of the U.S. fleet. Utility managers, regulators and scientists have testified to U.S. Senate members that the nation’s plants are safe, but “we cannot be complacent about the accident at Fukushima,” said William Levis, president of N.J.-based Public Service Electric and Gas Co., which operates several nuclear facilities.

In the meantime, the IBEW members in the nuclear sector nationwide will do what they do every day—display excellence on the job and lead by example in an industry increasingly under the microscope.

Visit us for official union statements on the industry and a comprehensive, easy-to-understand fact sheet on U.S. plants’ continued safety records.