

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## CHARGED UP

# Electric Cars Open Up New IBEW Opportunities

**S**kyrocketing oil prices, the revival of the auto industry and pressure on the Big Three from lawmakers and aggressive Japanese competitors are spurring a new drive to make the mass-marketed electric car a reality. And as a competitive race unfolds before our eyes, IBEW members are already doing the work installing the electrical infrastructure and developing a training curriculum to get the United States ready for gas-free transportation.

“There is no question that these are the cars of the future,” says Kevin Lynch, the electrical program coordinator at Chicago Local 134’s training center. “Oil prices are just too high.”

Back in 2006, the sad state of the electric car industry was best summed up by filmmaker Chris Paine’s documentary “Who Killed the Electric Car?,” which chronicled the story of General Motors’ failed efforts to market the first ever mass-produced electric car—the EV1. The car was discontinued in 2002, causing many to question whether the Big Three would ever get serious about developing an electric car that could free us of our dependency on big oil.

The answer may be found in the title of Paine’s sequel, which premiered in April: “Revenge of the Electric Car.”

New York Times journalist Joe Nocera writes that “people who follow the car business like to say that this particular moment in automotive history is the closest we’ll ever come to seeing what the industry was like a century ago ... the race is on to come up with an affordable, mass-market electric car.”

Last year, General Motors unveiled the most fuel-efficient compact car sold in the United States,



*Trained IBEW members are needed to install charging stations for mass-marketed electric cars like the new Chevy Volt.*

the Chevy Volt, a plug-in hybrid that was named the 2011 Motor Trend Car of the year. Ford is also getting into the market with its Focus Electric, a 100 percent gas-free car which is expected to go on sale next year.

And while the sticker price on these new models are on the high end—the Volt goes for more than \$40,000—a \$7,500 tax credit, not to mention the long-term savings that come with gas-free transportation, is expected to boost affordability.

venues—where owners can plug in their vehicles.

“Your average shopping mall might have seven charging stations,” says Lynch, envisioning a not-too-distant future. “Not to mention charging stations in many homes. That is a lot of electrical man-hours.”

All which could mean thousands of new jobs for IBEW members sitting on the bench. But getting inside wiremen ready for these new positions requires training, a challenge being taken up by a new coalition of electrical trainers, contractors and auto manufacturers.

In April, Local 134 hosted the first-ever master train-the-trainer program for the installation and maintenance of electrical charging stations. The event was sponsored by the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program, a broad-based

### Train-the-Trainer

Successfully marketing the electric car will require building a new network of hundreds of thousands of charging stations—both in commercial and residential

**ELECTRIC CARS** *continued on page 2*

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Continued from page 1

## Electric Cars Open Up New IBEW Opportunities



IBEW members from across the country joined automakers, dealers, utilities, NECA contractors and educators at the first-ever master train-the-trainer program for the installation and maintenance of electrical charging stations.

national industry collaborative which was formed late last year. It is made up of automakers, utilities, charging station manufacturers, universities and community colleges, NECA contractors and JATC electrical training centers.

The gathering brought together IBEW members from more than 20 states, as well as NECA contractors and representatives from GM and Ford for a two-day intensive session.

**“We’re talking live electricity here, and it should be handled by those who know how to safely work around it. And working with skilled electricians means you get the best bang for your training dollar.”**

— Kevin Lynch, electrical program coordinator at Chicago Local 134’s training center

“We gave attendees the curriculum so they could take it back to their training centers to get instructors up to speed on the program,” says Lynch, who serves as co-chair of the group’s curriculum committee.

The goal is to develop a national training and certification program for the installation of charging stations for residential and commercial customers, says program co-chair Bernie Kotliar, who also serves as director of green energy solutions for the California Labor Management Cooperation Committee—a joint partnership between the IBEW and signatory contractors. Courses are now available at joint apprenticeship training centers and com-

munity colleges in 21 states.

Program participants say electric car infrastructure work should only be done by experienced electricians.

“We’re talking live electricity here, and it should be handled by those who know how to safely work around it,” Lynch says. “And working with skilled electricians means you get the best bang for your training dollar.”

Participants are not only trained in the technical side of things. They are also being prepped to become the public face of the electric car.

“We need electricians to be able to talk to their customers about every aspect of being an electric car owner,” Lynch said.

With more than 70 percent of installations expected to come on the residential side, one-on-one customer service is a core part of the program’s curriculum.

“All the industry participants are operating outside of our regular comfort zones,” says Barbara Cox, director of green energy grants for the California LMCC and co-chair of the training consortium. “Obviously auto companies have an interest in customer service, but they don’t have much contact with them once they leave the dealership. And utility companies want to know how the chargers will affect the total load, but once again they don’t hold discussions at your house,” making it the installers’ jobs to interface with the owners.

“Being able to communicate to the electric car owner in regular language about the technology is vital,” Cox says.

The IBEW has already started putting members to work putting up charging stations, a demand that will grow substantially in the next year.

### Laying the Groundwork

In targeted states ranging from Hawaii to Missouri, automakers are rolling out new electric vehicle models and working with contractors to help make sure the appropriate charging infrastructure is in place to meet the growing demand.

To really create a market for electric vehicles means there has to be a massive push to get charging stations up and running. Manufacturers aim to have 475,000 up by 2015.

“We’re still at the tip of the iceberg, but the potential is huge,” says Tom Bowes, assistant training director for the Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center, which is affiliated with Detroit Local 58. Michigan already has more than 200 electric vehicle charging stations in place, and Bowes sees more much work coming down the road. The center has already put more than 40 journeyman wiremen through the course, which Bowes hopes to expand in the coming year.

San Jose, Calif., Local 332 is another location that has recently been approved as a training site. “This will help our contractors participate and take advantage of the growing electric vehicle industry,” says Santa Clara County Electrical JATC Training Director Daniel Romero. Its first class starts August 20.

One major obstacle to marketing electric cars is what is known in the industry as “range anxiety.” With an average range of 40 miles per charge, many customers are worried that electric cars can’t match the distances they get from gas-power vehicles.

But as General Motors pointed out in a recent study, nearly 80 percent of

### The Electric Car: A Blast from the Past?

Vintage science fiction novels are occasionally prescient, having forecasted future developments like manned space travel, cloning and wireless phone technology.

But when a forward-looking article entitled “The Electric Car: Dream or Reality?” hit the pages of the IBEW Journal in December 1967, it looked less like science fiction and more like a reasonable next step for the auto industry.

An eight-page analysis of what was then a prospective revival of the electric car—which was phased out of production in the early 1930s as the gas-powered engine gained prominence—paints a picture of American society enamored with automotive transport but starting to experience the downside of having more cars on the road.

“The polluted air that envelops our cities and adversely affects the health and well-being of our citizens,” the piece states, “is reason enough for the development and marketing of the electric car.”

Accompanied by diagrams, artistic renderings and vintage photographs, the article expounds on the demonstrated science behind the machine while opining on issues that have come to dominate today’s discussion of electric cars’ feasibility, including how to repower batteries. “The car could be recharged overnight, during off-peak hours, reducing the cost of battery power,” the Journal reports. “Or, instead of recharging batteries, there could be a battery rental system with battery exchange stations similar to gasoline stations setup at regular intervals.” The latter suggestion is still being batted around in research and development departments of automobile companies.

Cars like the American-made Ford Escape Hybrid may have been three decades away, but the article mentions what has now become a growing trend: “It has been suggested that a hybrid (gasoline-electric) car be marketed first and that the all-electric car [will] follow. After all, improvements in the electric car will have to come along as the car is used and accepted.”

Historical events like the 1973 oil crisis and the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency were still years away at the time of the article’s publication, but readers get a taste of the social import. “California officials are so concerned about air pollution that they have suggested the banning of gasoline engine cars in the state by 1980 for survival,” the piece states.

In the 1967 story, readers also learn about Ford Motor Co.’s effort to develop a marketable carbon-free vehicle (“10 years off,” we wrote) as well as other concepts like steam-powered engines that never materialized. Other companies like Renault, Westinghouse and Chrysler are mentioned as having been possible pioneers in the market, and their prototypes are profiled.

The article envisioned the invention as “promise for the electrical industry,” saying that “many of our members would play a big role in [the electric cars] development, manufacture and maintenance.

“It does seem to be a reality,” the piece concludes, “or are we just dreaming?”

Read the full article by visiting [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org). Click on the “Read More in the Archives” link on the home page and search for 1967 issues. The piece appears in the December edition on page 12. ■



This early ancestor of the electric car dates back to 1900. This image was published in the December 1967 issue of the IBEW Journal.

Americans commute less than 40 miles a day. And better battery technology and more charging stations across the country will help reduce drivers’ stress about running out of power.

“You have to remember that when cars were first introduced—long before gas stations went up everywhere—Americans had the same concerns,” Cox says.

Tom Bowes says one of the most hopeful signs has been the aggressiveness by NECA contractors in going after charging station installation work.

“They are really targeting it,” he says. And more charging stations means a bigger market for gas-free cars.

“This is a way to get electricians to work right now,” Cox says. ■



The IBEW ratified a new four-year contract with General Electric in July, winning a 7-percent wage increase and beefed up retirement benefits.

Photo used under a Creative Commons License by Flickr user chuckthewriter.

## IBEW Members Ratify GE Contract

**M**ore than 1,200 IBEW members at General Electric overwhelmingly ratified a new four-year contract in July, days after the company reached an agreement with its larger unions.

“It is a good contract,” says Manufacturing Department Director Randy Middleton. “All in all, it is a net gain for GE workers and went a long way in meeting the needs of both current and retired employees.”

The agreement contains a projected wage increase of more than 7 percent over the life of the contract, a \$5,000 bonus, improvements to vacation and sick time, a beefed-up disability pension and improvements to retiree health benefits.

“The contract offers a special early retirement window for long-service employees, a key issue,” says International Union of Electrical Workers—Communication Workers of America lead negotiator Bob Santamoor, whose union represents more than 8,000 employees at GE.

Workers under the age of 65 will be able to buy into the retiree health plan at a 50 percent discount. Current retirees will also receive an extra pension check each year.

The bargaining committee agreed to GE’s demand to close pension plan participation to new hires. But, Middleton says, the company made a strong commitment to funding a new defined contribution plan.

“I don’t think anyone is happy about having to make that change, but we did end up with a healthy defined contribution account,” he says, “which gives young employees a good start towards a secure retirement.” New hires will get an automatic 3 percent company contribution. If they contribute 8 percent, the company will kick in another 4 per-

cent. In addition, the company will add \$600 to the account yearly.

Leaders of the United Electrical Workers and the IUE-CWA—the two largest unions at GE—reached a tentative agreement with the company June 24. The terms of the contract were extended to the 12 other GE unions, including the IBEW, United Auto Workers and the Machinists.

System Council EM-5, which coordinates IBEW bargaining at GE, unanimously recommended the settlement offer. Locals affiliated with the council are New York Local 3; Chicago Local 134; Atlanta Local 613; Milwaukee Local 663; Houston Local 716; Medford, Mass., Local 1014; Lexington, Ky., Local 1627; Buffalo, N.Y., Local 1813; and Bloomington, Ind., Local 2249.

In the last few years GE has committed more resources to investing in American manufacturing, defying the industry trend of outsourcing and layoffs.

More than three years ago, workers at GE’s Bloomington, Ind., refrigerator plant were told the company was planning to shutter the factory, putting more than 700 members of Local 2249 out of work. But last fall GE announced

that not only would the plant stay open, it was hiring 200 more workers as part of a \$93 million facility upgrade to add a new line of side-by-side refrigerators that will incorporate “green” insulation and other components.

Go to [www.youtube.com/theElectricalWorker](http://www.youtube.com/theElectricalWorker) to see the IBEW video team’s coverage of GE’s big comeback in Bloomington. ■

## New NLRB Rules Help Eliminate Barriers to Voting

**F**or workers looking for a voice on the job, sometimes one of the biggest obstacles to forming a union is time.

Too often workers who petition for a union election are forced to wait weeks or even months for the National Labor Relations Board to sponsor an election, giving management time to initiate or continue to campaign against union supporters.

But newly proposed board rules announced June 21 would streamline the election process, upholding the right of employees to hold a secret vote in a timely manner.

“For too long, the right of workers to choose their own collective bargaining agent has been hampered by red tape and delays,” says International President Edwin D. Hill.

Management can easily hold up the election process by filing frivolous charges over a list of miscellany, like unit determination, allowing plenty of time to call in union busters to intimidate workers.

The board said in a statement that the changes will: “[R]emove unnecessary barriers to the fair and expeditious resolution of questions concerning representation.” IBEW Eighth District Organizer Bob Brock has witnessed firsthand how employer delaying tactics can end up denying a worker’s right to vote.

A group of CenturyLink technicians in Idaho reached out to Brock in 2009 about joining the IBEW. They then signed up every worker in the half-dozen person unit to petition the NLRB for an election.

But the telecommunications company brought in the notorious union-busting law firm Littler Mendelson to make sure it never came to a vote.

“They filed every objection they could think of,” Brock says. “They brought in this multi-million dollar law firm just to stop six employees from voting.”

The workers never got their election and dropped the campaign after more than six months of delay. “They were worn out and disgusted by the whole procedure,” says Brock.

The changes will also cut down on excessive paperwork, allowing workers to submit signed petitions online.

**“By eliminating delays, the board is not only bringing some balance. It is also saving money for taxpayers who foot the bill because of unnecessary litigation.”**

— Edwin D. Hill, IBEW International President

The board also proposes to help make workplace elections more transparent. The new rules require employers to provide workers with an up-to-date voter list in electronic format soon after an election date is set.

“This is a good first step to creating a level playing field in the workplace,” says Hill.

“We’ve seen wages and benefits decline to their lowest levels in years, in part because anti-worker employers have manipulated the system to prevent employees from having a fair chance to vote on a union. By eliminating delays, the board is not only bringing some balance. It is also saving money for taxpayers who foot the bill because of unnecessary litigation.”

The rules are subject to a 75-day public comment period before going into effect in September. ■

# Sun Farms Grow IBEW Employment

The great astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus said, "In the middle of everything is the sun." As hundreds of unemployed IBEW inside wiremen head toward the California-Nevada border in the Mojave Desert and to Arizona to erect some of the world's largest solar energy systems, the sun's nourishment of civilization is taking on its most immediate and practical significance.

Marc Joseph, an attorney who has handled negotiations over project labor agreements and has worked to remove obstacles to solar development for the California Building and Construction Trades, estimates that, in California alone, projects on the books will total more than 27 million man-hours of work for the trades. That's an exciting development, a break in the clouds of a prolonged construction downturn that has darkened the spirits of workers in the trades.

Living and working conditions for electricians seeking jobs in sun power are not as harsh as those endured by workers who traveled to Nevada's Black Canyon to build Hoover Dam, setting up shantytowns and tents during the last century's energy boom. But the heat, the scarcity of housing and complex design and logistics issues are substantial challenges for today's skilled hands on large-scale renewable energy projects.

## California

### Ivanpah-BrightSource Energy

At California's Ivanpah Dry Lake in the Mojave near the Nevada border, members of San Bernardino Local 477 are building a solar energy system for BrightSource Energy under a project labor agreement that will provide 4 million man-hours of work to the building trades.

The 392-megawatt Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating Station lays claim to being the world's largest solar thermal power project currently under construction.

General Contractor Bechtel's 3,600-acre Ivanpah project will employ concentrated solar technology. Advanced software will enable more than 347,000 flat mirrors, called heliostats, to track the sun throughout the day to concentrate energy on boilers atop centralized solar power towers that will produce steam at temperatures of more than 1,000 degrees. The steam will be used in a conventional turbine to produce electricity.

At a groundbreaking ceremony last October, Bob Balgenorth, president of the state's Building and Construction Trades Council and former business manager of Santa Ana Local 441, thanked the



Members of San Bernardino, Calif., Local 477 provide electricity to buildings and will install 347,000 mirrors at the 3,600-acre site of the Ivanpah Solar Generating Station in the Mojave Desert near the Nevada border.

Obama administration for making available \$1.4 billion in Department of Energy loan guarantees and placing Ivanpah on the list of 16 priority clean energy projects. He also praised the California Energy Commission for approving the project, also funded with \$300 million from NRG Energy and \$168 million from Google, without the lengthy delays that often stymie facility startups.

"Three years from now," said Balgenorth, "when this project is built out, it will be the largest solar thermal project in the world ... Our partnership will mean unprecedented economic growth for the High Desert, which is suffering terrible unemployment." The current unemployment rate in San Bernardino County is more than 14 percent, among the highest in the state. In construction it is 35 percent.

Local 477 will provide electricians for the entire project, including the construction of onsite manufacturing plants where mirrors will be robotically assembled. Glass will be brought into one building where mounting points will be glued. Then, metal will be affixed in an adjacent building. The entire project is expected to put all unemployed Local 477 members to work and require hundreds of travelers within six months.

While the bulk of electrical work at Ivanpah will be performed by inside electricians, the construction of new transmis-

sion capacity to send solar power to high-population centers will tap the skills of outside construction members of Diamond Bar Local 47. Members of Local 47 actively lobbied the Clark County Council to open up rights-of-way for the lines. (See "A Greener Grid? Not Without Eminent Domain Laws," July, 2011 Electrical Worker).

Doug Pouch, a nine-year Local 477 member, had been laid off after working on electrical jobs for the state's prison system when he got the call to work at Ivanpah. Assigned to 10-hour shifts Mondays through Thursdays, Pouch is living with co-workers in a motel 10 miles from the job site and travels 175 miles back home to San Bernardino on Thursdays after work. When he began hooking up temporary trailers in April, temperatures at Ivanpah were in the 80s. Temperatures have since climbed into the 100s.

Bechtel's safety program includes an onsite nurse's station and daily safety meetings to guard against potential accidents and heat-related injuries. "It may sound strange," says Pouch, but Bechtel initiated a morning stretching program to prepare crews for the work day. Even though the site is spread out, says Pouch, "We work as a team."

General Foreman Rick Nelson, says "This being a 'design and build'



project, just keeping up with change orders, revisions and materials, along with covering 6,000 acres of property keeps us going nonstop from 5 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every day."

The power tower bases are 100-foot square and 10 feet deep. No conduit is smaller than four inches in diameter. "Our brothers and sisters have created some works of art in those bases," says Nelson.

With hundreds more members of the trades soon expected on the project, hotel space will get scarce. So Nelson and other electricians are finding more permanent residences in Las Vegas and commuting 37 miles to work at Ivanpah. Relocating is a stretch, but it's not unprecedented.

Local 477's jurisdiction is expansive, says Nelson. "We're a suitcase local. Many of our members were already traveling for work."

### Solar Millenium

In three months, crews will break ground on Solar Millenium's farm located near Blythe, Calif., 165 miles across the desert

from Ivanpah, in the Palo Verde Valley between Phoenix and Los Angeles.

Solar Millenium's project will provide 8 million man-hours of work for the building trades. Due to be completed in 2013, the project will use parabolic trough technology.

Solar Millenium expects to build four plants on the site with a total capacity of 1,000 megawatts, the equivalent of the total current solar capacity of the U.S. Local 440 Business Manager Robert Frost expects that the first call for IBEW members will be in November, with peak construction demanding hundreds of electricians and other classifications.

## Arizona

### First Solar—Dateland

Dateland, Ariz., 320 miles southeast of Ivanpah, just north of the Mexico border, served in the 1940s as a desert training camp for troops under Gen. George Patton and, later, for service members headed to Iraq. Today, a 2,500-acre tract of land that



Credit: BrightSource Energy

When completed, Ivanpah will look similar to this solar array in Israel. The smaller, flat mirrors are more efficient, simpler to manufacture, and cost less to install than parabolic mirrors used in solar troughs.

once produced dates, citrus and cotton is home to First Solar's 290-megawatt, 4.5 million-panel photovoltaic farm. The facility will be operated by NRG and power will be sold to California utilities.

The Dateland solar facility is an oasis for members of Tucson Local 570 who have seen tightening employment over the past few years. Michigan-based Conti Electric's project is expected to employ an average of 200 electricians for 65 weeks on the first phase of the project. The signatory contractor is now negotiating with First Solar on the next phase, which could double that number during peak construction.

Davis-Bacon prevailing wages and apprentice-journeyman ratios are in effect, and demand for apprentices has outstripped Local 570's roster. Business Manager Mike Verbout has reached out to Phoenix Local 640 and Las Vegas Local 357 for apprentices.

"The biggest challenge is dealing with the elements," says Conti Vice President Matt Snyder. With afternoon heat hovering around 115 degrees, says Snyder, the temperature can climb to 130 degrees from the sun's reflection off of panels. Putting on personal protective equipment and working in the afternoon heat is punishing, not just on the body, but on productivity. Prior to the project bidding, Snyder and Verbout negotiated the addition of a night shift to enable electricians to install panels after the sun goes down. Lighting plants to safely illuminate the terrain are staged by apprentices at the end of the day shift for crews arriving in at night.

Finding suitable housing nearby for electricians and other trades is a growing problem. "Dateland is in the middle of nowhere," says Verbout. Gila Bend and Yuma, each about an hour's drive, provide the only lodging for workers.

Tony Wennerstrand, a fifth-year Local 357 apprentice, had been out of work since January when he decided to join some co-workers and travel to Dateland. While he has a photovoltaic card, required in Nevada, this is his first solar project. "Since we don't make the wages of journeymen, we pool our living and driving expenses," says Wennerstrand.

While he's hopeful that he can return to Las Vegas, Wennerstrand says, "This is a brand new market and I'm excited to be part of it." Las Vegas, he says, won't see the number of large new casino projects that have provided work in the past. Most of the casino work is in remodeling. "At least in this part of the country, renewable energy—solar and wind turbines—will be our future," says Wennerstrand.

"These large solar plants are not a fad," says Snyder, yet "we don't have a database on projects this big." It's important, says Snyder, for Conti and the IBEW to partner, aggressively pursue projects and show First Solar and others that "we can compete, set a good pace and allow union contractors to understand the work." Conti can't build all the new solar plants, says Snyder, "but we want the union to build them all."

While looking to pick up more large-scale projects, Local 570 and its signatory contractors aren't passing up smaller jobs. At Arizona Western College in Yuma, journeymen, construction electricians and construction wiremen are erecting a 5-megawatt photovoltaic array for Rosendin Electric. "Our composite crew is doing a great job," says Verbout. ■



'Design-and-build' at Ivanpah is challenging for general foreman Rick Nelson and his crew.

## Changing Solar Technology

The number of construction jobs that will open up in the solar sector, says Todd Stafford, a senior director of the NJATC specializing in renewable energy, will depend on factors like oil and gas prices and subsidies, grants provided by states, the federal government or local utilities and tax and other incentives.

Employment levels will also hinge on technological choices. As prices for panels drop, investment in photovoltaics could climb. But the scarcity of water could also be a factor.

John Perlin, author of "Golden Thread: Twenty-five Hundred Years of Solar Architecture and Technology," says that water usage will be a key determinant of whether future projects employ photovoltaic or concentrated solar technology. He sees photovoltaic arrays gaining the edge.

Photovoltaic arrays don't use a lot of water. They don't have moving parts that break down or require ongoing maintenance. And unlike any other electricity generator, says Perlin, who oversees the development of photovoltaics at the University of California at Santa Barbara, photovoltaic power is not "limited by the laws of thermodynamics." The panels directly convert sunlight to electricity without the need for a costly accompanying steam-generating facility.

BrightSource, the company building the Ivanpah Solar Generating Station, reports its new facility has greatly reduced water use since the company pioneered solar thermal energy in the Mojave Desert nearly three decades ago. Steam is created directly from the sun, avoiding the use of oil or another intermediary heat transfer.

At Ivanpah, air will be used to cool steam, unlike in competing solar thermal technologies that use wet-cooling systems. The company claims water use will be reduced by more than 90 percent. Additional efficiency will result from employing software that will capture the late afternoon sun more efficiently than fixed-tilt photovoltaic panels. ■

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

# IBEW

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## MERCHANDISE



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These items and more are now available at your IBEW Online Store.

## NJATC and Thomas & Betts Partner on Electrical Training

**T**homas & Betts, a major manufacturer of electrical parts and an employer of award-winning IBEW manufacturing workers, has signed an agreement with the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee to develop a joint national training program.

The agreement between NJATC and T&B includes mutual commitments to: develop programs, including apprentice scholarships and equipment donations and train entry-level electrical workers by developing a T&B-branded grounding and conductivity academy to familiarize IBEW members with the latest equipment and technology.

Says NJATC Executive Director Michael Callanan, "Since my days as an apprentice and journeyman wireman more than 25 years ago, T&B has been a company that has stood for quality and excellence in every product that they have put their name on." Callanan expressed pleasure that the agreement "formalizes a partnership that brings together two organizations committed to excellence in all they do and to the future of the electrical industry." That partnership extends to manufacturing.

Members of Chattanooga, Tenn., Local 175 who work at T&B's plant in Athens were awarded a top-10 ranking by Industry Week magazine in 2006. (See "Tennessee Plant Named Among Best in North America," IBEW Journal, May 2006.) Workers at the only union-organized plant remaining in Athens ratified a new three-year contract in June.

Thomas & Betts is a global leader in the design, manufacture and marketing of essential components used in electrical construction, distribution and transmission, from conduit and cable fittings to lattice towers and wind power structures. ■



*Thomas & Betts, an electrical device manufacturer, will supply equipment to train IBEW apprentices.*

## Organizing IT Specialists Brings Tech-Savvy Professionals into the Fold

**J**ohn Shane doesn't wear a hardhat, scale transmission towers or string power lines. But he does eat, sleep and breathe infrastructure.

On the Web, that is.

Shane is part of the tight-knit team of information technology specialists who staff and run Indianapolis-based Web Connectivity, a rare-breed company that provides complex computer services almost exclusively to unions, including the IBEW, the auto workers, the sheet metal workers and many more.

"We want to take the best practices of the IT sector in the nonunion world and make them available and widespread for union members," he said.

But while Shane's union pride runs deep, he and his co-workers starting out in the company in the early 2000s were without a contract of their own. Leaders of Indianapolis Local 481 knew the IBEW could benefit workers in this traditionally hard-to-organize sector, so a top-down effort began in 2003 to bring the IT members under the local's umbrella.

"The workers came in wanting to do some projects for the local, and I explained to them the opportunities they could have being a union IT group," said Local 481 Business Manager Sean Seyferth. "Since coming on board, they've become very active in the labor movement. Our local is trying to be very cutting edge as far as how we communicate with the membership, and the IT team does an excellent job for us."

Becoming unionized also opened up the workers' market share. They now perform services for more than 330 clients, nearly all of them local unions of various trades.

While the bargaining processes went smoothly for the Local 481 IT members, Shane says his positive experience is the exception, not the rule.

"There are a lot of companies who'll hire a guy on salary but force him to work a 70-hour week," he said. "He can't complain or he'll get fired. It's just the same as in the nonunion electrical sector."

"Many of these workers don't have job security because there's nothing that holds employers' feet to the fire regarding how they treat employees," Shane said.

IBEW Membership Development Director for Professional and Industrial Organizing Gina Cooper agrees. "Anyone working in IT is in a field different than any other," she said. "Since you can have access to your work from nearly any location, companies can then expect you to work anywhere at any time. Vacations?



*Leaders of Indianapolis Local 481 organized employees of Web Connectivity—one of the few IT signatory contractors in the IBEW.*

Forget about it. They want you connected to your job around the clock.

"This is fertile ground for organizing," Cooper said. "But it's challenging because many of these workers are hired as independent contractors and bid against one another for work, which creates a race to the bottom. IT professionals need to band together. It is the only way for them to have the power to demand the dignity and respect in the workplace that they deserve."

Bringing Shane and his co-workers into the union fold has reaped political rewards for Local 481 and many other local unions across the country, while benefitting the movement as a whole.

Following the 2010 elections, which ushered in a wave of anti-worker lawmakers nationwide, Shane and his co-workers got busy. "We were getting calls from various local unions in places like Wisconsin telling us that they didn't have an efficient way to communicate with their membership online. They had newsletters and had done mailers, but they needed to be faster in getting their messaging out."

While their brothers and sisters were taking to the streets, the team members took to their keyboards and mouse pads. Rapid-fire messages and instructions were sent from the office to union clients nationwide on how to strategically use texting, Facebook, Twitter and other social media to mobilize for rallies and stay informed on fast-developing news stories.

Mere days after the Democrats lost the Indiana statehouse, the Local 481 IT team was already on the front lines—setting up Web sites for unions to oppose

expected right-to-work legislation in the Hoosier State and working on search engine optimization so that pro-worker hits ranked high.

"At the campaign's peak, if you went to Google and typed in 'right-to-work,' one of the first hits you'd see was for our site [www.RightToWorkIsWrong.com](http://www.RightToWorkIsWrong.com)," Shane said. "We set up several similar sites. There are a few where we purposely tried to pick domains which would serve as search terms for the general public—just another trick to get moved up in the search engines. We then asked every local in the state to link to these sites. This network, combined with the naming conventions, had quite a bit of momentum when we needed it most."

"This is definitely a unique environment to work in," said Shane, who shares office space with former Fortune 500 IT professionals and other computer whizzes who now bring their skills to the labor movement. "I think that so far, we've been making some good strides."

Employees attend the JATC training for telecom workers, their current classification, but talks are in the works to open up a new trade classification for the IT specialists.

"What we always push when we talk with locals is that if it's not good for the members, it's not what we should be doing," Shane said.

Local 481 leaders praised the quality work of the IT team.

"Their knowledge and contributions are incredible," said Seyferth, the business manager. "We're very happy with the work they do for the movement." ■

### We'll Be Back in a Flash!

With the 38<sup>th</sup> International Convention in our sights, our annual photo contest is on hold.

**IBEW  
PHOTO  
CONTEST**

Don't pack away your cameras...  
we'll return in 2012.  
Until then, keep shooting!

# Private-Sector Collective Bargaining Taps Grassroots Courage

The campaign to constrain and weaken collective bargaining in the public sector is unprecedented. But in the private sector, obstructionist tactics by employers in contract negotiations have been standard operating procedure for years.

Recent experiences of IBEW locals in Iowa and Washington State show employer opposition deepening.

Members of Des Moines Local 347 are seeking a first agreement with a wind tower producer, where they organized a bargaining unit a year ago.

Two thousand miles to the west, Seattle Local 46 members are fighting to conclude a successor agreement for broadcasting members at KIRO-TV.

Paul Clark, head of the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations at Penn State University, sees common links in both employers' violations of U.S. labor law.

"They raise in my mind how deeply ingrained is the opposition to unions and employees' rights to engage in collective bargaining," he said. Many employers, says Clark, "clearly have come to believe that the end justifies the means, even if the means violates the law. And clearly one of the reasons why these beliefs and actions have become mainstream is because they have been effective."

In response, courageous grassroots efforts by workers standing up for fundamental labor rights are spreading. Here are the stories of two local union memberships who are tenaciously seeking justice by challenging law-breaking employers.

## Winds of Solidarity at Iowa Turbine Manufacturer

In August 2010, after voting 69 to 62 in favor of IBEW representation, workers at Trinity Structural Towers, Iowa's leading manufacturer of wind towers, looked forward to making gains negotiating a first contract between their employer and Des Moines Local 347. Their struggle, at a plant located in the shadows of the iconic Maytag appliance factory shut down by Whirlpool in 2007, received national attention. Would percolating renewable energy manufacturing take the high or low road on workers' wages, benefits and working conditions?

In June, negotiations on a first contract had bogged down and frustration was building. The law firm representing Trinity had limited bargaining meetings to two-day sessions only once a month.

"Trinity kept dragging their feet on wages and benefits and gave us the same proposals over and over again," said



Workers at Trinity Structural Towers, an Iowa manufacturer organized by Des Moines Local 347 last year, picket during their lunch break to win a first contract.

Travis Healey, a leader of the organizing campaign and a negotiating committee member. Management arrogantly reminded Healey and other union activists that their election was only won by seven votes, raising the question in monthly union strategy meetings whether Trinity was planning to foment a decertification election following the August 20 anniversary of their organizing win.

Says Healey, a crane and forklift operator, "We asked ourselves what we could do to show Trinity that we weren't going away."

Healey knew support for the union had grown as some of the original complaints that led to the campaign remained unresolved, particularly Trinity's practice of knocking off production during the week and scheduling workers to work weekends without overtime compensation.

Their organizing efforts were fortuitously aided by a cocky new plant manager—the sixth in the plant's three-year history—who was serving workers at a lunch celebrating good safety performance. As workers sporting union stickers passed through the chow line, the manager asked them, "What has the union done for you?" Says Healey, "He'd say stuff like, 'No potato salad for you—you're a union member.'" The disrespect lit a fuse.

Local 347 filed NLRB charges charging Trinity with coercion and failure to bargain in good faith. Says Assistant Business Manager Jerry Kurimski, "Management said that our charges were creating a sideshow. We didn't want to file charges, but we were left with no choice. They created the sideshow."

A June 13 informational picket brought out 80 percent of the workers in the 175-member plant, all wearing union T-shirts. While they drew local press attention, the activists' impact inside the plant was dynamic. Forty-five workers

marched to the plant manager's office, each carrying a flier: "WE DESERVE: A fair wage increase! Affordable Health Care! Time off to spend with our families or overtime pay when working weekends."

"The plant manager was on the other side of the door, but he wouldn't acknowledge us," says Healey. So workers slid their fliers under his door. "That's 45 members," a majority of the shift, said Healey, who had worked at Maytag for 10 years and was active in the UAW local there.

In subsequent discussions with Trinity management, Local 347 agreed to drop the NLRB charges in return for a public apology by the company for disrespecting bargaining unit members and a commitment to schedule five negotiating sessions before mid-August. The company complied.

"Trinity workers displayed great solidarity and courage," says Kurimski, praising more senior bargaining unit members for enlisting support from new hires for the picket and action on the job.

With three years of orders on the books supplying towers for General Electric, Trinity is solidifying its position in the marketplace.

Healey, Kurimski and other activists are determined to be partners in the company's success. Says Kurimski, "We tell them over and over that—with a union—they will have a high-quality work force."

## Seattle Broadcast Workers Fight Ultimatums

Last October, Seattle Local 46's contract covering broadcasting workers at TV station KIRO expired. Since then, a bargaining unit committee led by Business Representative Angela Marshall has been working on monthly extensions of the agreement.

Management continues its drive to

gut language on past practice and remove rights to effects bargaining. KIRO is also holding out for a clause that would bar workers from hand-billing and informational picketing, even though the local has not conducted such activities in several years.

In May, a dispute erupted in an ongoing skirmish that has persisted since new technology was introduced in the control room in 2007. The dispute eclipses all others in the negotiation and has resulted in NLRB charges.

In 2007, the station began using a new software program, Ignite, which dramatically reduced the number of jobs in the control room. Traditionally, control room crews consisted of producers, directors, technical directors, audio engineers, a tape operator and one or two camera operators in the newsroom.

Now control rooms can be operated with just one operator. Because most of the functions were formerly assigned to bargaining unit workers, Local 46 negotiated an agreement providing for the station's Ignite operator work force to consist of at least 50 percent of the bargaining unit.

This spring, however, in the midst of negotiations, KIRO's news director and general manager called bargaining unit Ignite operators into the office one by one and notified them that they were being given the option of relinquishing their bargaining unit rights or being laid off. They were offered a pay increase if they left the bargaining unit and were told that they must make their decisions within 24 hours.

The operators called Marshall, who was meeting with the local's lawyer preparing for an NLRB hearing. Operators were advised by counsel to accept the company's ultimatum. Local

46 immediately filed NLRB charges on their behalf, contending that the station was engaged in direct dealing with employees, intimidation and coercion.

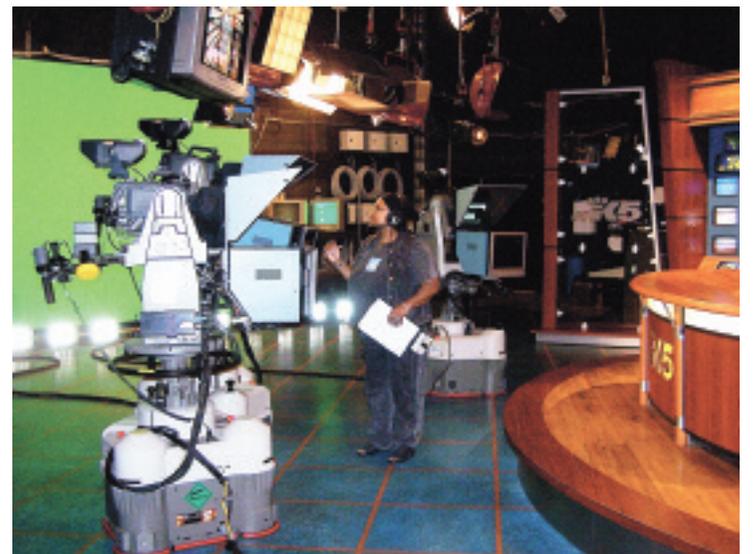
Disputes over which jobs are properly placed in the bargaining unit are natural. But, says Marshall, "establishing a precedent for simply reclassifying jobs and pulling them out from under the union's protection would be damaging at KIRO and across the nation. Stations would keep grabbing for more."

Chuck Carter, a 15-year KIRO broadcast engineer and Local 46 shop steward contrasts IBEW's negotiations to those of KIRO's photographers, members IATSE and reporters, members of AFTRA. Both groups reached their current agreements without giving up jobs. Says Carter, "Our members are frightened that if we keep losing bargaining unit positions, we won't have a union left."

Carter knows how much pressure the utilization of Ignite exerts on the remaining operators. Ironically, he says, that pressure comes at the price of quality news. "Edward R. Murrow told us that it's a news crew's responsibility to keep the public informed to the highest standards," Carter said. "Ignite throws quality out the window and interferes with our ability to report on breaking news."

A steward for three years, Carter adds, "I came to KIRO to work with high-caliber professionals. Managers don't go around and tell people that they are doing a good job, so I do. Our members deserve positive reinforcement."

Carter expresses hope that the bargaining unit will prevail in achieving a decent contract. But events in Wisconsin and elsewhere have convinced him that victories won't come easily. He says, "Unions will stand as long as people stand." ■



Members of Seattle Local 46 at KIRO-TV filed NLRB charges after the company told workers they could leave the bargaining unit or face layoffs.

# Working Families Unite to Hold Lawmakers Accountable



IBEW members joined the tens of thousands of Ohioans who protested anti-worker Senate Bill 5.

**A**ccountability. It is something members of the IBEW know a lot about. From wiring buildings to stringing line, quality, safety and a hard day's work are the norm—each day, every day.

And this summer IBEW members are joining with other activists to bring that same kind of accountability to Capitol Hill and state legislatures across the country.

"We have no choice but to keep their feet to the fire," says Portland, Maine Local 567 Training Director Don Berry, who also serves as the president of the Maine AFL-CIO. "Voters expected our representatives to focus on fixing the economy, but instead we've seen nothing but wave after wave of anti-worker legislation."

## What You Can Do

- Talk to your representative: Find out when your senator or member of Congress is scheduled to host a public town hall meeting. Ask them about their record and where they stand on working family issues. Go to [www.congressmerge.com](http://www.congressmerge.com) to contact your local representative.
- Write a letter to the editor. Tell the truth about the attacks on working people and let readers know why protecting workers' rights are more important than ever.
- Go to [www.we-r-1.org](http://www.we-r-1.org) to find actions in your area and connect with other pro-worker activists.
- Register to vote. ■

Jobs and the economy are the voters' No. 1 priority, but too many elected officials have put the needs of their big corporate and Wall Street bankrollers first. Legislators have pushed bills to slash good jobs, reduce wages, make workplaces less safe, hobble Medicare and erode retirement savings.

And freshmen governors like Scott Walker (Wis.), John Kasich (Ohio), Rick Scott (Fla.) and Paul LePage (Maine) have launched all-out assaults on the rights of workers to collectively bargain.

At the federal level, nearly every congressional Republican backed House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan's austerity plan, which calls for slashing \$4.5 trillion in government spending, with the cuts falling hardest on the middle class and poor. Most controversially, his plan effectively eliminates Medicare as we know it.

"Too many politicians are trying to make the rich richer and poor poorer," says Denver Local 111 Assistant Business Manager Timio Archuleta. "What they should be doing is helping the middle class."

The August congressional break means many members of Congress will be in their home districts, holding town halls. Pro-worker activists are using the summer recess to alert anti-worker politicians—from the statehouse on up—that it is time to end the war on working people.

The We Are One Web site—[www.we-r-1.org](http://www.we-r-1.org)—is an online hub for those looking to connect with actions in their area, from workplace leafleting to knocking on doors.

Meanwhile, the fight to protect workers' rights on the state level continues. In Ohio, activists gathered an

unprecedented 1.3 million signatures in support of a public referendum repealing the anti-worker Senate Bill 5 in June.

The bill bans public employees from striking and restricts collective bargaining for more than 35,000 Ohio workers, police officers, teachers and others.

"This isn't just about public sector workers," says Hamilton Local 648 Business Manager Frank Cloud. "The bill would drive wages down and there would be less money for local governments to spend. It's a race to the bottom."

Activists are organizing training sessions throughout the state to mobilize voters against SB 5.

In Wisconsin, working families are knocking on doors and making phone calls in their efforts to recall six state senators who supported Scott Walker's bill to eliminate collective bargaining for public workers. The election is scheduled for August 9.

Anti-union special interest groups tried to disrupt the process by putting up fake candidates in the Democratic primaries in July, hiking the cost to Wisconsin voters by forcing two elections. But voters weren't fooled; they supported the real Democrats in all six races.

"The shameful and despicable GOP tactic to delay judgment day for the 'Walker 6' by running fake Democrats needlessly cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars," says Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Stephanie Bloomingdale. "This GOP trickery fell flat. The people of Wisconsin are serious."

"We have to take our government back from the corporate special interests," Berry says. "And it starts at the grassroots. We need members and their families to make their voices heard." ■



North of 49°

## British Columbia's Labour History

### A note to our Canadian members

Because Canada Post locked out the members of Canadian Union of Postal Workers as the July issue was being printed and prepared for mailing, the IBEW, in solidarity, did not mail the July issue to our Canadian members. The July issue can be viewed online at [www.ibew.org/articles/11ElectricalWorker/EW1107/index.html](http://www.ibew.org/articles/11ElectricalWorker/EW1107/index.html). ■

*[Editor's Note: Excerpted from the 38th Convention (in Vancouver Sept. 19-23) program, this special North of 49° article spotlights the unique history of British Columbia.]*

**B**ritish Columbia has a well-earned reputation as home to one of Canada's most active and energized labour movements, with a union tradition as old as the province itself. And from the very beginning, the IBEW has played a key part of it.

Yesteryear's legacy and the modern-day work of the IBEW continues today: from electrifying this expansive Pacific Coast province—a 1,500-mile span from the border of Washington State northward to the Yukon Territory—to guaranteeing decent working conditions and building B.C.'s middle class.

British Columbia's origins as a frontier society based on the extraction of natural resources made its early workers' struggles particularly challenging. The unsettled nature of the work force combined with the difficult and dangerous labour involved in mining and logging meant that workers early on had to take militant action to build solidarity to protect their rights.

Rapid economic growth at the turn of the 20th century gave rise to B.C.'s electrical industry. And just as in the U.S., linemen in Canada suffered from dangerous working conditions, low wages and often abusive employers.

The first West Coast local in Canada was chartered in 1901 with the founding of Local 213 in Vancouver. The southern port city would become the most important and largest in the province, and a hub of the labour movement.

Its goal, as one anonymous Local 213 member wrote to the IBEW Journal in 1926, was to "obtain higher wages and improved conditions of employment, to aid the sick and needy, and [to provide] mutual protection."

One of its first organizing targets was the B.C. Telephone Co. After organizing its linemen, the local went after the operators, one of the Canadian labour movement's earliest efforts to organize women. Local 213 successfully struck the company in

1902, winning the eight-hour day.

By 1907, the local signed its first agreement with the B.C. Electric Company (now B.C. Hydro), establishing a more than century-long association between the utility and the IBEW.

The IBEW would expand to Victoria in 1902—another major southern port city and the capital of province, located off the coast of the B.C. mainland—with the chartering of Local 230. It also represented linemen at B.C. Electric, as well as shipyard electricians at the Victoria port.

The first two decades of the 20th century were a difficult time for organized labour in British Columbia, as employers remained hostile to unions. Despite the anti-labour climate, the IBEW scored some important victories, including the eight-hour day, competitive wage scale and a union shop.

World War I caused major labour shortages, which, combined with frustration over stagnant wages and growing inflation, led to a massive postwar strike wave across Canada. The movement's center was in the western provinces, which also served as home to more radical currents in the labour movement.

The militancy of the postwar period faded fast however, and an aggressive counterattack by employers gravely weakened the labour movement in the 1920s.

### The Great Depression and World War II

The Great Depression wreaked havoc across Canada. Locals 213 and 230 lost nearly two-thirds of their inside wiremen between 1930 and 1939. Most linemen at B.C. Electric managed to hang on to their jobs, but saw their work week drop to an average of only three days by the middle of the decade.

The province would not fully recover until Canada's entry into World War II in 1939. The shipyards of Vancouver and Victoria came alive with the production of ships and armaments, providing near full employment for members of the IBEW.

The postwar boom pushed most electrical workers into the ranks of the middle class for the first time, as IBEW

membership expanded across British Columbia, bringing with it higher wages and better benefits.

“We feel that wage increases give purchasing power to the people who need it most. That increases the demand for goods and creates employment which is badly needed today,” wrote Local 213’s press secretary to the IBEW Journal in 1950.

Economic growth meant the development of cities and towns outside of the

Vancouver-Victoria area. In 1947, Kamloops Local 993 and Nelson Local 1003—located north and east of Vancouver, respectively—were the first locals to be chartered outside of B.C.’s two largest cities.

Public control over B.C.’s rich natural resources soon became a major political issue, and pressure from both organized labour and consumers led the government to nationalize B.C. Electric in 1961, which became the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority.

British Columbia’s combination of rugged landscape formations and ample precipitation means powerful river flows, creating tremendous potential hydroelectric power, a force B.C. Hydro would harness following the construction of a series of dams. A second Vancouver local, 258, was chartered in 1967 to represent the thousands of workers at B.C. Hydro. Today it represents workers in many jurisdictions throughout the province.

The expansion of the B.C.’s popula-

tion northward brought new growth as locals were chartered to represent electrical workers who lived and worked in the province Interior’s region, which extends from the southern end of the Fraser Valley east of Vancouver to Prince George, known as B.C.’s northern capital.

B.C.’s wild frontier roots are still on display for IBEW members working in the Interior. As a 1992 article from the IBEW Journal tells it, “IBEW workers from Local 258 are accustomed to the numbing cold

that comes with hazardous winter maintenance of their numerous hydroelectric cables and transmission lines. They risk their lives in frigid weather to chip ice from the massive transmission cables to keep the power flowing.”

The province’s strategic location as Canada’s gateway to the Pacific has kept its economy going strong through the ups and downs of the economic cycle—making the IBEW a vital part of British Columbia’s prosperity. ■



## Au nord du 49° parallèle

# L’histoire du mouvement syndical en Colombie Britannique

**[Note de l’éditeur :** Extrait du programme de la 38e convention (Vancouver 19 au 23 septembre), dans ce numéro spécial d’au nord du 49° vous verrez les caractéristiques unique de l’histoire de la Colombie-Britannique.]

Le mouvement syndical en Colombie-Britannique, avec une tradition aussi vieille que la province elle-même, a une réputation bien méritée comme étant l’un des plus actifs et énergisés au Canada et la FIOE y a joué un rôle clé depuis ses débuts.

L’héritage du passé et le travail des temps modernes de la FIOE continue aujourd’hui; en passant par l’électrification de cette province en expansion sur la côte du pacifique, de la frontière qui commence au sud à l’état de Washington et qui s’étend 1,500 miles vers le nord au territoire du Yukon, à garantir des conditions décentes et grossissantes les rangs de la classe moyenne en Colombie-Britannique.

L’extraction de ressources naturelles est à la base des origines d’une nouvelle société de frontière sauvage en Colombie-Britannique ce qui a rendu les luttes des premiers travailleurs particulièrement difficile. La nature perturbante des travailleurs, combinés avec les conditions difficiles et dangereuses du travail dans les mines et l’exploitation forestière a fait que les travailleurs dès les débuts, pour protéger leurs droits, ont dû être militant afin de former une solidarité.

La croissance rapide de l’économie au tournant du 20<sup>e</sup> siècle a fait surgir l’industrie électrique. Et comme aux États-Unis les monteurs de lignes au Canada subissent des conditions dangereuses, de bas salaire et des employeurs abusifs.

La charte du premier local au Canada a été donnée en 1901 avec la fon-

dation du local 213 à Vancouver. Cette ville portuaire au sud deviendrait la plus importante et la plus grande de la province et le mouyeu du mouvement syndical.

Son but, tel qu’écrit par un membre anonyme du local 213 dans le journal de la FIOE en 1926 était : ‘d’obtenir des meilleurs salaires, de meilleures conditions de travail, d’aider les gens malades et en besoin et d’avoir une protection mutuelle.’

La première cible pour la syndicalisation a été la compagnie de B.C. téléphone. Une fois les monteurs de ligne syndiqués, la prochaine cible étaient les opératrices ce qui a été un des premiers efforts du mouvement syndical Canadien d’inclure les femmes. En 1902 le local 213 a grevé la compagnie et a gagné la journée de huit heures.

Une association plus que centenaire entre la compagnie de service et la FIOE a été établie lors de la signature d’un premier contrat en 1907 avec la compagnie B.C. Electric (maintenant B.C. Hydro).

L’expansion de la FIOE continua en 1902 à Victoria, cette autre ville portuaire majeure du sud, situé à l’extérieur de la côte du continent de la C.B. et la capitale de la province. Une charte fut établie pour le local 230 qui représentait aussi des monteurs de ligne à B.C. Electric ainsi que des électriciens au port de Victoria.

Les deux premières décennies du 20<sup>e</sup> siècle étaient difficiles pour le mouvement syndical en Colombie-Britannique car les employeurs demeureraient hostiles aux syndicats. Malgré ce climat antisyndical la FIOE y a réussi d’importantes victoires incluant la journée de huit heures, des salaires compétitifs et un syndicat de boutique.

La première guerre mondiale a causé des pénuries majeures de travailleurs, ceci combiné avec la frustration

de salaires stagnant et une inflation galopante a conduit à une vague de grève massive à travers le Canada. Ce mouvement était centré dans les provinces de l’ouest ou il y avait des courants plus radicaux dans le mouvement syndical.

Le militantisme de l’après-guerre a été de courte durée et une contre-attaque agressive de la part des employeurs a gravement faibli le mouvement syndical dans les années à partir de 1920.

## La grande dépression et la deuxième guerre mondiale.

La grande dépression a causé tout un ravage à travers le Canada. Entre les années 1930 et 1930 les locaux 213 et 230 ont perdu près du deux tiers de leurs câbleurs d’intérieurs. La plupart des monteurs de ligne à B.C. Electric ont pu sauver leurs postes mais ont vu leurs jours de travail diminuer à trois jours semaines au milieu de la décennie.

La province n’a pas récupéré jusqu’à ce que le Canada entre dans la deuxième guerre mondiale en 1939. Les chantiers navals de Vancouver et Victoria ont retrouvé vie avec la production de vaisseaux et armements ce qui a permis le plein emploi pour les membres de la FIOE.

La plupart des travailleurs de l’électricité furent poussés dans les rangs de la classe moyenne durant l’expansion d’après-guerre, la FIOE a vu ses rangs gonflés partout en Colombie-Britannique apportant de meilleures salaires et bénéfices.

Le secrétaire de presse du local 213 a écrit dans le journal de la FIOE en 1950 : ‘Nous croyons que l’augmentation des salaires crée un pouvoir d’achat aux

## Une note pour nos membres canadiens

Alors que nous étions à faire imprimer et envoyer l’édition du mois de juillet de notre journal, poste Canada a mis tous ses employés en lock-out, la FIOE a alors décidé en solidarité à nos confrères de ne pas envoyer le journal par courrier à nos membres Canadiens. La version du mois de juillet peut-être vu en ligne à l’adresse suivante [www.ibew.org/articles/11ElectricalWorker/EW1107/index.html](http://www.ibew.org/articles/11ElectricalWorker/EW1107/index.html). ■

personnes qui en ont le plus besoin ceci augmente la demande et subséquemment crée de l’emploi qui est extrêmement nécessaire aujourd’hui.’

Le développement de villes et villages à l’extérieur de Vancouver et Victoria a débuté grâce à la croissance économique. Les premières chartes à l’extérieur des deux plus grandes villes de la C.B. ont été pour les villes de Kamloops Local 993 et Nelson Local 1003 respectivement au nord et à l’Est de Vancouver.

Le contrôle public des riches ressources naturelles de la C.B. sont rapidement devenus un problème politique majeur. Les pressions faites par le mouvement syndical et les consommateurs a forcé le gouvernement à nationaliser B.C. Electric en 1961 qui est par la suite devenu Hydro et autorité du courant C.B.

La Colombie-Britannique avec une combinaison de terrains difficiles et ample précipitation lui donne de puissant courant dans les rivières créant un potentiel immense de pouvoir hydro-électrique. Ce potentiel, suite à la construction d’une série de digues a permis Hydro C.B. d’utiliser ce pouvoir. En 1967 une deuxième charte dans la ville de Vancouver fut donnée pour le local 258 représentant des milliers d’électriciens qui travaillent sur les digues et écluses à travers la Colombie-Britannique.

Le mouvement et l’expansion de la population de la C.B. vers le nord a amené de la croissance alors que des locaux furent créés pour représenter les travailleurs de l’électricité qui travaillent à la région intérieure de la province. Cette région s’étend au sud de la vallée Fraser à l’Est de Vancouver jusqu’à Prince George reconnu comme la capitale du nord.

Les racines de la frontière sauvage en C.B. sont toujours affichées pour les membres de la FIOE qui travaillent dans l’Intérieur. Un article du journal de la FIOE en 1992 dit : ‘Les membres du local 258 de la FIOE sont accoutumés au froid engourdissant en travaillant sur la maintenance, avec des conditions hivernales hasardeuses, sur de nombreux câbles hydro-électrique et des lignes de transmissions. Ils risquent leurs vies dans des conditions glaciales afin de briser de la glace qui s’est formé sur les câbles de transmission pour que le pouvoir puissent continuer à circuler.’

La location stratégique de la province comme porte entrante du Pacifique au Canada a permis à son économie de demeurer forte malgré les hauts et les bas du cycle économique ce qui fait de la FIOE une composante vitale à la prospérité de la Colombie-Britannique. ■

# Local Lines

## 'United We Stand'

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—My name is Bryan Emerick and I am the new press secretary. I would like to thank former press secretary Terry Short for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Work continues to increase with book one dropping below 400 for the first time in many months. We hope that trend will continue throughout the summer and employ our members who have been off. I wish to thank the various locals that have given our traveling brothers and sisters a chance to earn an honest day's wage for an honest day's work. We hope we can return the favor and employ some traveling brothers and sisters soon.

The state of Ohio is currently under attack with the passing of Senate Bill 5. Gov. John Kasich wants to abolish collective bargaining rights for public employees. A petition campaign was launched to put SB5 on the ballot, thus letting the voters decide. Nearly 1.3 million petitions were presented. Thanks to all for supporting the fight. In addition, Kasich wants to raise the prevailing wage threshold from \$78,000 to \$5 million. Local 8 has been involved in meetings and letter-writing campaigns encouraging our representatives to oppose any changes to the prevailing wage laws. United we stand, divided we fall.

*Bryan Emerick, P.S.*

## Colorado Candidate Endorsed

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO—Pueblo Democrat Sal Pace, who is running for U.S. Congress, was given a campaign donation by the IBEW COPE Fund and an endorsement letter by the Colorado Conference of Electrical Workers. [See photo below.]

Sal is running for the Colorado 3rd District seat that was previously held by former three-term Democratic Rep. John Salazar, a labor friendly legislator. Sal Pace will be a formidable foe for the seat that is currently held by Rep. Scott Tipton. Sal is currently House minority leader in the Colorado General Assembly. "I'm humbled by the outpouring of encouragement and support," he said. Pictured here with the candidate are several IBEW officers.

*Clif Thompson, A.B.A.*



*Local 667 Bus. Mgr. Jerry Bellah (left), Rep. Sal Pace, Local 12 Bus. Mgr. Dean Grinstead and IBEW Int. Rep. Guy P. Runco.*

## Attention Press Secretaries:

Please note that Local Lines will not be published in a combined October/November post-convention issue of The Electrical Worker.

## Fight Anti-Labor Legislation

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—Local 16 recently held its annual Easter Egg Hunt. It was well attended and a resounding success. Many thanks to Bro. Brandon Wongngamnit and his dedicated crew for all their hard work, and to Bro. Monquale Owsley for again donning the bunny suit, ears and all!

Congratulations to the Tri-State Industrial Safety Council Scholarship winners. This \$1,000 scholarship is available to ARSC card holders, their spouses and dependents.

Even though the regular legislative session ended several weeks ago, Indiana workers are still forced to defend against anti-labor legislation. Special summer studies have been set up to consider changes that would further weaken project labor agreements and advance so-called "right to work" laws. These studies come even after concessions have been given on unemployment insurance and common wage rulings that include granting the ABC seat on wage setting boards. If union members hope to minimize their losses and protect against further erosion of what was once considered common standards, everyone in the Brotherhood must become clearly aware of what this threat means and be actively involved in defending against it.

*Donald P. Beavin, P.S.*

## 2011 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 22 (i,rts&spa), OMAHA, NE—The maintenance outage at the Fort Calhoun nuclear power facility has been completed. There were 116 Book One members and 53 travelling brothers and sisters referred to this job. NPS Day-Zimmerman was the electrical contractor. Our electricians were involved in work in the control room, recycling pumps in containment, installing various new conduit and cable trays, and pulling several thousand feet of cable. Having this work was a fortunate benefit to the local in these times of economic recovery. We hope we will start to see some work pick up in the area.

Congratulations to the 2011 Apprenticeship Class graduates. They are: Telecommunications—Tom Harper, Alicia James, Mike Matthews, Joe Rotolo (Apprentice of the Year), Paul Steinbock; Residential—Tom Bard, Mike Blair, Mike Cupich, Trent De Troy (Apprentice of the Year), James Delisle, David Grant, Erick Hazen, Brent Lofgren, Nick Mikovec, Tommy Plambeck; Inside—Jeff Adams, Mike Bailey, Tommy Baldwin, Steven Beccard, Gabriel Bencker, Adam Darlington, Scott Draper, Jeff Evert, Casey Freyer, Jared Gable, Josh Husk, Dustin Jeck, Corey Kallhoff, Jay Kallsen, Jason Trowbridge, Kyle Kastrup, Shane Kuenning, Jason Lang, Josh Langer, Jarod Layton, Jared Loehr, Kyle McAndrew, Frank Navarrette Jr., Zack Peppers, Ray Pieper, Ryan Roetman, Bryson Rollins, Nicholas Seliga, Tim Tanner and Jason Weeks (Apprentice of the Year).

*Chris Bayer, P.S.*

## Spring 2011 JATC Graduation

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—Our local JATC apprenticeship program is currently graduating two apprenticeship classes per year to meet the demands of the inside electrical industry.

The spring class graduation ceremony was March 4 and welcomed the fifth-year apprentice graduates to the ranks of journeyman wireman. After refreshments were served, JATC Training Dir.

Dave Norfolk gave the invocation and congratulated the graduates. Guest speakers included: Maryland Chapter NECA Treas. Alvin H. Pettie Sr.; IBEW Local 24 Bus. Mgr. Roger M. Lash Jr.; and Maryland Chapter NECA Pres. Jack F. Beck Jr. The speakers encouraged the new journeymen to be diligent and wished them success in the trade.

Certificates and awards were then presented by Roger Lash and Jonathan E. Thomas, Maryland Chapter NECA executive director. Special awards were presented to Bro. Jacob Lindblom, for highest total grade point average; and to Bros. Joseph Danko, David Mikolaichik, Randy Roberts, Darren Stachowiak, Mathew Wright and Malek Yosah for perfect attendance. Congratulations to the entire class for completing the rigorous five-year training. At this writing, the commencement ceremony for our second class of 2011 graduates was scheduled for July.

Work remains slow in our area, but bidding activity has increased with several large projects on the horizon. Several contractors are aggressively pursuing smaller projects in the area utilizing the recently implemented Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C. Market Recovery Agreement.

*Roger M. Lash Jr., B.M.*

## Union Picnic in August

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Local 26 welcomes summer in the city. We hope you have been able to attend our union picnics, golf outing and shoots to enjoy the camaraderie. Tickets for the local's picnic on Aug. 6 at Camp Letts in Edgewater will be on sale at the headquarters office in Lanham through the first week in August.

Local 26 congratulates the 2011 JATC apprentice graduates. Graduation ceremonies were June 4, and it was a delight to see so many supportive family members and happy graduates! Best wishes to our new journeyman electricians!

The Scholarship Committee announced 2011 scholarship award recipients: Shelby R. Coghill and John B. Kutzfara. Shelby is the daughter of Bro. John



*Local 24 congratulates the spring 2011 apprentice graduates.*

## Trade Classifications

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

*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.*

Coghill. She has applied to Lehigh University. John is the son of Bro. John C. Kutzfara. He will attend Washington & Jefferson College.

Several members passed away recently: Charles P. Abel Sr., Edward W. Leary, William J. Sweeney, Harry H. Carter Jr. and Gregory N. Parthee.

Best wishes to new retirees: Janet A. Awkard, Donald B. Edwards, Charles E. Haley, Ronald Harris, Joseph C. Horstkamp, Charles F. Lutz, Boris Petrow, Thaddeus O. Reed, Paul J. Robinson, David E. Sutliff, Thomas P. Wright, Gerald T. Beach, Larry P. Gnagey, John W. Goforth Jr., Ronald L. Henry, James A. Travis, Matthew R. Zembower, Daniel A. Logalbo and Horace R. Waldbauer.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

## Protesting Anti-Family Attacks

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Shown in the photo below are officers and members of Local 38 and other Cleveland Building Trades members at a rally on Cleveland Public Square gathered to protest the anti-labor actions of Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

The state of Ohio is still under brutal anti-family attacks from right-wing legislators, and our members are fighting back by attending rallies, protests and government meetings, as well as lobbying and contacting state lawmakers.

Gov. Kasich has proposed extreme budget cuts, which include the decimation of Ohio's prevailing wage laws. The IBEW has intensified lobbying efforts and we seem to be making some progress with lawmakers as we provide them with the evidence of how bad the governor's agenda is for Ohio families.

At the time of this writing, the proposed Horseshoe Casino job has been shut down because of another of the governor's proposed policies. We were to have hundreds of building trades members onsite by now working on this project—until the governor got involved with trying to change the rules of the constitutional amendment that was passed by voters with the help of the building trades allowing the project to be built.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.



IBEW Local 38 members and fellow trade unionists join labor-wide protest in Cleveland Public Square.

## Bike Run for Burn Center

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT—The Bridgeport Burn Center is one of 59 burn centers in the United States and has been around since 1973. It is the only burn center between New York and Boston equipped to treat severe burns. The Bridgeport Burn Center is very important to our local union. The facility has treated our injured members



Local 42 held a Motorcycle Run to benefit Bridgeport Burn Center.

very well and provided us with a highly qualified staff to care for patients.

The Burn Center is excited to announce that it is undergoing a major renovation. This will include modernizing the facility to improve the safety of patients and provide greater comfort and more amenities for visitors and family members. The cost will be \$1.5 million and the center needs our help.

Local 42 held our 7th Annual Bike Run on Saturday, June 4. All proceeds were donated to the Bridgeport Burn Center. We had a \$20 donation per person to ride, which included a barbecue buffet at the end of the run. We also sold T-shirts for the fund-raising effort.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.



Three Generations: Local 46 Bus. Mgr. Virgil Hamilton (right) and Vice Pres. Guy Hawkins (left) congratulate members Curtiss Hedges (second from left), Corwin Hedges (center) and Eric Hedges.

## Three IBEW Generations

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA—Corwin "Cory" Hedges, a 70-year member, joined Local 46 in the early 1940s and worked as an electrician, electrical contractor, and as a state electrical inspector.

Cory's son, Curtiss "Curt" Hedges, is celebrating his 50th year of membership with Local 46. When Curt was not studying in college or in the Marine Corps, he worked as an electrician with his Dad's electrical contracting company. Curt has worked as a JATC electrical instructor, project manager, field engineer, electrical contractor, bus driver/tour guide and as an electrical inspector. He retired, as a foreman electrician, after completion of the SeaTac Airport Terminal expansion. Curt is also proud to have worked on construction of Seattle's Safeco Field. Curt has been active with Habitat for Humanity and has recently been involved working behind the scenes with Washington State Dept.

of Labor & Industries, Habitat and the Puget Sound Electrical JATC to develop a program that will enable electrical apprentices to volunteer time on Habitat projects to apply toward the hours required to obtain their Washington state journeyman license.

Eric Hedges is proud to be a third-generation, 20-year member of Local 46. He and his wife live in western Washington.

Angela Marshall, Rep.

## Family Night

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts&st), PORTLAND, OR—IBEW Local 48 is introducing a new event with "Family Night" during the general meeting on Aug. 24, 2011. Since August is

prime time for vacations and evening activities, this meeting usually has the lowest attendance of the year. By inviting members to bring their families to the hall, Local 48 provides spouses and family members a better understanding of union membership and how Local 48 operates. The meeting will be light on business in order to welcome families and will include our traditional summer barbeque and special entertainment for kids. We recognize that the annual picnic on July 10 at Oaks Park is also a family event. Hosting our families at their home local will give even more opportunity to show that Local 48 is good for members and their families.

Robert Blair, P.S.

## Colorado House Bill

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—During the recent legislative session, Colorado House Bill 11-1115 was introduced by state Rep. John Soper, a Local 68 retiree. Gov. John Hickenlooper signed the bill into law. Attending the signing ceremony were: Colorado AFL/CIO Exec. Dir. Mike Cerbo, Local 68 Bus. Mgr. Jim Mantele, Rep. Soper (D), Rep. Su Ryden (D) and Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D),

Senate sponsor of the bill. Primary House co-sponsor was Rep. Kevin Priola (R).

Working across the aisle brought this bipartisan bill to fruition. It will help employ our members by making our contractors subject to less "retainage" when public projects are complete. Retainage basically refers to the amount of money held back to compel contractors to complete "punch list items," and this law reduces that amount from 10 percent to 5 percent.

Remember to work and play safely. Your family depends on you!

For great family fun, the Local 68 Annual Picnic will be Aug. 20, at the Westminster Elks Lodge, noon to 3 p.m. The Horseshoe Tournament begins at 11 a.m., but plan on arriving early to get signed up and to help prepare the pit. Bill Watters is again heading up



Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper signs bill into law as labor leaders and legislators look on.

the tournament, so please call him at (303) 591-9385 to volunteer or for more information.

We extend deepest sympathy to families of our recently deceased brothers: Robert B. Jerome and James A. Peterson

Ed Knox, Pres.

## Work Picture Improves

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—Summer is upon us and the work picture has improved for our members. We have a few good-size projects going and we are hopeful they will put most of our brothers and sisters back to work in our jurisdiction. It's been rough for the entire construction industry nationwide.

Our state legislative session is behind us and we came out of it pretty unscathed and also got a few good bills passed that will benefit our members.

On the horizon are our golf and softball tournaments as well as the summer membership outing. These are fun events for all who attend.

Sean Daly, Pres.

## HB 648 Eminent Domain Public Hearing

L.U. 104 (lctt,o&u), BOSTON, MA—Locals 104 and 490 filled the House of Representatives Hall with 100 members in green shirts on Thursday, May 19 at the New Hampshire Statehouse in Concord. We were at the Statehouse for a public hearing in opposition to House Bill 648, an amendment to the existing eminent domain laws. We were amidst a sea of hunter-orange shirts all in support of this bill. HB 648 states that no public utility may petition for permission to take private land or property rights for the construction or operation of an electric generating plant or a transmission facility so long as the transmission facility is not needed for system reliability for the state of New Hampshire. The Northern Pass transmission project will create a new connection between Hydro-Québec's world-class hydroelectric resources and the New England grid that supplies electricity to all customers in the region—including New Hampshire.

The heart of this project is the construction of a direct current (DC) transmission line that will bring up to 1,200 megawatts of hydroelectric power into the region, providing much-needed fuel diversity, lowering energy costs and lessening our reliance on fossil fuels.

Chris Blair, P.S.



IBEW Locals 104 and 490 attend hearing on HB 648 at New Hampshire Statehouse.

## Local Lines

## Keynote Speakers

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rts,se&spa), KANSAS CITY, MO—A lot has happened in recent months. The Eleventh District Progress Meeting in St. Charles, MO, was informative and inspirational. Gov. Jay Nixon told the gathering that Missouri was the most efficient state in the nation at utilizing stimulus money and that stronger unions make a stronger Missouri.

Economist Richard Levins spoke about the U.S. political and economic climate. He said the Republican message—that tax cuts for the wealthy will increase public revenue and that sending our jobs to China is good for our nation—is not an easy lie to sell. This lie is amplified with corporate money that working class people can't match; however, organized people can beat organized money. Levins' Web site is [www.middleclassunionmade.com](http://www.middleclassunionmade.com).

We also had our Jackson County Democratic Club annual event, Truman Days, in Independence, MO. Keynote speaker was U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, who gave a fiery speech lauding the value of union labor. Kucinich is a true friend of labor.

At this writing, the Local 124 election of officers was scheduled for June 3. Local 124 delivered supplies to tornado victims who are members of Locals 95 and 1474 in Joplin, MO. Fourteen members from those locals lost homes to the tornado.

We remember the following deceased members: Harry V. Groff, Anthony J. Manzella, Robert G. Smith and Jack L. Steel.

Congratulations to recently retired members: Robert A. Anderson, Alva L. Rasa II and former Int. Sec.-Treas. Lindell K. Lee.

*Steve Morales, P.S.*

## Events of 'Tornado Week'

L.U. 136 (ees,em,i,rtb&u), BIRMINGHAM, AL—Local 136 started out a week in late April conducting our well-planned "end user blitz." We had more than 20 organizers from surrounding locals come in and take on the task of bringing the IBEW's message to approximately 500 businesses and contractors. The organizers did a great job, and carried on their task despite early morning straight-line winds on April 27 that swept through the jurisdiction, knocking down power lines and trees. Little did they know what was to transpire that afternoon. The largest and most deadly tornadoes in Alabama history ripped through the jurisdictions of Locals 136 and 558, destroying homes, businesses, and even entire communities and towns. We thank these organizers for "hunkering down" and completing the job.

In response to many locals and IBEW brothers and sisters offering to help and sending donations to aid victims, we set up a tornado relief fund and committee to make sure the help got to the right places. We decided to do the thing we do best besides electrical work, and that's cook barbecue.



Local 136 Bus. Mgr. Jerry Keenum (left) and Bro. Steve Wofford survey tornado damage to Bro. Chris Gardner's house.

We have been able to cook and distribute food to the hardest hit towns and communities, and to feed the building trades workers out cleaning up the areas and restoring power.

*Bobby Hamner, P.S.*

## Activities Report

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—We hope everyone has had a safe and productive summer. We here in Local 146 have once again been very busy. In June we held our annual Local 146 golf outing. Congratulations to Joe Webb's team on a stellar performance. We also once again provided the electrical needs for the Macon County Fair. In July it was our well-attended Poker Run. August brought the Decatur Celebration with more than 300,000 attendees. For Labor Day we held the annual picnic and had a large contingent march in the downtown Decatur parade. We also sent a team of members to the Local 601 softball tournament. Thanks again to all who attended and helped out. Without the efforts of the IBEW and its members, these functions would never exist.

The work situation improved somewhat over the summer, but there are still numerous members working in sister locals. Thanks to those locals for the work opportunities.

Our next large project will be the Clinton Power Station nuclear outage, scheduled for November and December.

Election Day will soon be here; remember to vote your job and support labor friendly candidates.

Congratulations to Rick Willenborg and Monte Thornton on their recent retirement.

*Rich Underwood, R.S.*

## New Journeymen

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—Recently the JATC graduation banquet was held. The graduates are to be commended for not just finishing their training programs but for persevering during such a tough work climate. The Inside Apprentice graduates were Daniel Duba, Adam Goad, Gerardo Gudino, Joshua Henley, Tyler Herron, Casey Jensen, Ryan Kennedy, Russell Koopman, Natanael Madar, Daniel Meyer, Justin Ryan, Ryan Senica, Richard Siebert, Steven Smart, Michael Smekens, Scott Snyder, Michael Suchy, Kevin Thomsen, Jeremy Walton and Allan Zochowski. The 2011 Robert C. Hansen Scholarship Award for the highest GPA for the 2010-2011 scholastic year was given to Richard Siebert. The 2011 Outstanding Apprentice Award for the highest overall GPA for five years was given to Michael Suchy. The sole Voice, Data, Video Apprentice graduate was Lisa Appelhans. A hearty congratulations to all the graduates and many wishes for long and rewarding careers.

Klein Tools has had several ongoing focus groups. The purpose of these groups is to learn how to improve their tools to better benefit our industry. These groups are very interesting and it is always gratifying to be asked how something can be improved to make it more suitable to our needs. Please sign up for one; it is only a few hours of your time.

*Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.*

## 'Fortunate Work Situation'

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Local 158 has been very fortunate this year as far as the work situations goes. Two nuclear plant outages, work at one of the shipyards, and several calls at one of our paper mills supplied quite a bit of work. We were able to put many Book II brothers and sisters to work. I thank all our members as well as travelers who manned these jobs. Many long hours and days were spent away from their homes and families.

Local 158 purchased a building in January for our new offices and training facility. Many members helped with demolition of the interior of the building and also helped out with renovating for the new offices and classrooms. We did our own electrical work on the building and once again I thank all those who volunteered their time for the benefit of our local. A few members were there several days a week to help. We moved into our new space on June 16 and 17 and were back in business on June 20.

*Donald C. Allen, B.M.*

## Support for Creating Jobs

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Recent months have been a whirlwind of political activity in Illinois. There were several major pieces of legislation in Springfield that could have provided thousands of good paying jobs for the citizens of Illinois—however, not all of our politicians seem to understand the importance of creating jobs.

Illinois Senate Bill 1652 is known as the "Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act," which will update the process for a utility to recover the costs of upgrading the electric grid through a formula-based structure for rate increases. At the peak of the 10-year plan, 2,000 jobs will be created and Com-Ed and Ameren will spend more than \$3.3 billion on their systems. The legislation passed the House and Senate—and Gov. Pat Quinn has already promised to veto it. That is just great (sarcasm added).

There were two other projects for generation plants which stalled that would have created another 4,000 to 5,000 jobs. That is sickening. We will continue to support these very important bills moving toward the veto session in October so our members can go back to work. IBEW Local 196 will support the politicians who support us and we will fight the politicians who fight us.

The Sixth District, and the IBEW as a whole, lost a very good brother on May 27 when former Int. Vice Pres. Jeff Lohman suddenly passed away. He will be missed by all. Rest in peace, Bro. Lohman.

*Eric Patrick, B.M.*

## Awards Recipients &amp; Graduates

L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL—Local 222's May membership meeting was very busy and well-attended. We held nominations for officers and recognized members receiving service pins. Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell presented retiree Murphy Woolard with his 55-year service pin. Receiving his 30-year pin was Bro. Fred "Buzzy" Whisman.

Local 222 also congratulates our newest journeyman linemen: Jorge Cartagena, Chris Cottelit, John Fender, Kevin Hare and Joshua Chad Davis. These brothers successfully completed their SELCAT apprenticeships and came by the local union office to check in, get their journeyman dues receipts and visit with Bus. Mgr. Bell and the staff. Local 222

extends congratulations and wishes them the best of luck in their IBEW careers.

During these dog days of summer, please remember to stay hydrated, start drinking water before work and keep it up through quitting time. Be safe.

*William "Bill" Hitt, A.B.A.*



Local 222 retiree Murphy Woolard (left) receives 55-year service pin presented by Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell.

## National Training Institute

L.U. 252 (ees,i,rts&spa), ANN ARBOR, MI—Local 252 is staying busy: A new apprentice inside wireman class of 10 has been selected and put into the field. They will begin classroom training this fall.

Congratulations to all the participants who helped our softball team to victory this spring, bringing home the trophy.

June elections were held for positions within the local. John Salyer retains the office of president. Thomas Mayne becomes vice president. Lisa Chantelois continues on as recording secretary. Matthew Jesse takes the helm as treasurer. A run-off election between Greg Stephens and Scott Neff for business manager, which took place July 9, resulted in a win for Stephens. There are also many new faces in positions on the Executive Board, Examining Board and as Convention delegates.

The NJATC National Training Institute (NTI) arrives in Ann Arbor this summer for the third year, starting on July 30 and running through Aug. 5. Classes are open to members through the NJATC. This event is always enjoyable and an excellent opportunity to gain new skills and exposure to new ideas. Welcome and thanks are extended to all the teachers, students, contributors and participants of this great tradition. Local 252 is proud to host this event.

*Jayson Ouillette, P.S.*

## Local Thanks Apprentices &amp; Instructors

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—May was busy for our JATC as our program graduated 38 Inside apprentices and 13 Limited Energy apprentices. Our last day of school was May 14 and we celebrated with a fantastic barbecue and great weather. Training Dir. Dave Baker and Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew shook hands with the graduates and thanked them for their dedication and hard work shown at school and on the job. We also appreciate the great job our instructors have done this year. Our instructors have given extra effort to encourage our new journeymen that recessions are part of the trade and to stick with the education and training that our fine JATC provides.

Bro. Dave Baker must also be thanked for putting together an excellent Medium Voltage class on May 7. Bro. Joe Whitehouse from 3M Company gave

a detailed, “hands-on” presentation on splicing and terminating with some of the latest techniques in the industry. We worked in teams and with his guidance we made 25,000-volt terminations and had fun during the process.

In closing, we thank all the journeyman and apprentice instructors who have made the IBEW the most skilled, professional and respected of all the unions!

*Jerry Fletcher, P.S.*

## Benefit Dinner for a Brother

L.U. 294 (ees,em,i,rts,spa&u), HIBBING, MN—Local 294 recently held a spaghetti dinner benefit for journeyman wireman Daniel Quirk. In 2008 Daniel was diagnosed with a rare cancer of the thymus gland. The benefit was very successful with excellent support from Local 294 members and their families. The proceeds will help offset major medical expenses, as Daniel needs to travel to Duluth and Rochester, MN, for treatments. Our prayers are with Bro. Quirk and his family. If anyone wishes to help Daniel Quirk with his medical expenses, donations can be sent to the Daniel J. Quirk Fund at Hibbing Cooperative Credit Union, P.O. Box 908, Hibbing, MN 55746.

Bro. Quirk had been very active in the local union as a well-respected instructor in the Local 294 apprentice program. He spent countless hours training our apprentices in the trade and getting them ready for the state exam.

Speaking of apprentices, Local 294 congratulates apprentices who recently passed their Minnesota journeyman electrical exam: Dallas Dolinsek, Mikael Fisher, Dustin Johnson, Eric Laine, Michael Sandnas and Daniel Wilson. Special congratulations to Dallas Dolinsek, who had the top score on the exam. Dallas received a Klein tool kit in appreciation for his efforts.

*Daniel Arvola, P.S.*

## New Marketing Campaign

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—Local 300 is busy creating a new marketing campaign for the inside construction group with the intent of organizing contractors as well as qualified apprentices, journeyman electricians and telecommunication technicians. We will have a quick and busy summer regarding construction projects.

Local 300 would like to welcome its newly organized group of police officers from the city of Winooski, VT—*Welcome.*

Central Vermont Public Service, Vermont’s largest utility, is in the process of being acquired by a Canadian company called Fortis. It is believed that this acquisition will be in the best interest of Local 300 members and Vermont residents.

Vermont Yankee is still in the news as to whether or not the state of Vermont will allow the



*In Vermont a Local 300 lineman works late to keep the lights on after a storm.*

power plant to continue operation past March 2012. It is unfortunate that we find ourselves in a situation where our state government wishes to close the third best place to work in Vermont (awarded by Vermont Business Magazine).The political saga continues.

Local 300 held elections on June 3 and would like to thank outgoing officers for their time and efforts over the past three years. We also welcome the incoming officers; we have a busy three years on our hands.

Local 300 wishes all IBEW members a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Jeffrey Wimette, B.M.*

## Kudos to Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA—Congratulations to our recently graduated apprentice class. Welcome to the 49 new journeyman inside wiremen and three journeyman voice-data-video (VDV) members. You have all earned your journeyman cards through hard work and dedication. You are the product of the IBEW apprenticeship program with the highest graduation rate in the state! You should be very proud of that!

Work continues to be very slow and we do not anticipate clearing our books this year. We do have two power plants scheduled to start this summer. These are the result of more than 15 years of California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE) environmental/political activism promoting cleaner generation of electricity constructed by union labor. Other bright spots in our work picture are the project labor agreements we have in place with several school districts and public entities within our jurisdiction, as well as more than \$100 million in photovoltaic work.

Remember to practice safety!

*Paul Doolittle, A.B.M.*



*Seventh District Int. Vice Pres. Jonathan B. Gardner (left) presents Outstanding Apprentice Award to Mark McCubbin of Local 304.*

## IBEW Award Recipients

L.U. 304 (lctt,o&u), TOPEKA, KS—Congratulations to Kansas apprentice lineman Mark McCubbin as the 2011 Outstanding Apprentice in the Seventh District. He attended the Progress Meeting in March and was awarded a plaque and a watch for his accomplishment. He had the highest score among apprentices from Arizona, Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

IBEW 35-year member Dave Shell received the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award from his employer, Kansas Gas Service. “Spider,” as we know him, is a Local 304 journeyman gas worker. He has donated countless hours to the Atchison County Fairs and has been a volunteer fireman since 1984. He donates 540-plus hours a year to these two organizations and



*Local 322 Wyoming JATC apprentice graduates.*

says, “It’s not that you do this for recognition but because it’s the right thing to do.” Thank you, Spider, for all your volunteer service to the community.

Labor Day parades are being organized and will be held in many cities on Sept. 5.

Local 304 members will be participating in parades in the cities of Osawatomie, Topeka and Hoisington to honor working men and women. Please join in and participate in a parade.

*Paul Lira, B.M.*

## Wyoming JATC Graduates

L.U. 322 (govt,i,it,lctt,o&u), CASPER, WY—On May 20 the WJATC turned out 20 new journeyman wiremen: James Alm, Seth Bellika, Devin Butler, Chris Denman, Jonathan Horton, Brian Jackson, James Johnson, Tony Johnson, Alex Lewis, Jason McLemore, Kevin Nelson, Thomas Powell, Cade Roberts, Doug Roberts, Wyatt Schrank, Justin Taylor, Blaine Tolbert, Thurman Tomlin, Luke Wicht and Tony Wolfley. Congratulations to all the new brothers and sisters! These young men and women are fine examples of what the JATC does to bring new craftsmen into our industry. One of these fine graduates, Jimmy Alm, was selected as Outstanding Apprentice and will attend the National Training Institute (NTI) in August.

The graduation ceremony was held in Casper. More than 200 people attended including family and friends of the new wiremen, IBEW officers, NECA representatives, and contractors. This is another fine example of the industry coming together to honor excellence.

*Chris Morgan, P.S.*

## Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—We continue and strive to provide the highest level of training for our members.

In anticipation of proposed work in our area, we have been certified as an approved training site for the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP). This will help our contractors participate and take advantage of the growing electric vehicle industry. Thanks to JATC instructor Mike Gorin and the support of the JATC committee, we have been recognized as an approved testing site for the Electric Power Research Institute’s Level B Certification. The EPRI certifies electricians as instrument technicians. We are the only approved such testing site in northern California.

On June 10, we celebrated our JATC graduation

commencement. We are proud of the 68 new Inside wireman graduates and the 11 new Sound and Communication graduates. Congratulations to all. Special congratulations to Jason Towle, who took top honors as apprentice of the year. Congratulations as well to Ricardo Barrientos, Alyssa Brown and Jeffrey Wittman, who were close runners-up.

*Daniel Romero, Training Dir.*

## Take a Stand for Workers

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Labor Day is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of all American workers. Held in September, it is an annual national tribute to the contributions of workers to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country. This is a day to celebrate our achievements and also a day to unite with workers of all trades and take a stand when others are trying to stop our progress and take away our rights. We have fought too long and too hard to just stand by and watch these rights being chipped away by politicians who have never climbed a ladder, picked up a tool, pulled wire, etc. Labor Day picnics will be held all across the United States, honoring us for our hard work. Speeches will be given by leading union officials and government officials. Please pay attention to the issues these officials talk about. We are under attack like never before and our future depends on us!

California was hit with some strange weather in May and June, causing a delay in starting several projects. Work is still slow here.

Retired Bros. Edward A. Walden, Lake Wheeler and Luiz Gutterres passed away since our last article.

*A.C. Steelman, B.M./F.S.*

## Graduating Class of 2011

L.U. 354 (i,mt,rts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—The Utah Electrical JATC will hold a graduation ceremony for the graduates, who successfully completed IBEW Local 354 apprenticeship requirements.

Please congratulate the Class of 2011. The new journeyman wiremen are: Joell Adair, Nick Ainsworth, Shay Allman, Nathan Anderson, Kade Bankhead, Jesse Bankhead, Adrian Beasley, Keith Bertoch, Derrick Bodine, Joseph Bryant, Jared Brydson, Bryant Christensen, Scott Crystal, Nathan Curtis, Barry Demott, Jason Dillard, Dominic Duran, Travis Engles, Wayne Fonoimoana, Larry Fontaine, Mark Godfrey, Clint Goodman, Paul Harris, Kevin Harry, Steve Harryman, Jesse Haviland, Kirk Heiner,

## Local Lines

Ronald Higham, Rallin Hovey, Jeremy Huhhtala, Tyler Jensen, Tolon Johnson, Jesse Kenley, Chase Klenk, Judith Kvenvold, Shaun Loop, Mike Lorenzen, McKade Lott, Luis Martinez, Eric Maxfield, Zachary McOmber, Carlino Mendez, Kevin Merrill, Erick Mueller, Ross Muirbrook, Alan Peterson, Jasen Riser, Derik Rogers, Kolby Rollins, Andrew Rutter, Clifton Sant, Jeffery Shaw, Bradley Simpson, David Van Orman, Jason Vandervaart, Jody Wahlberg, Joseph Walker, Matthew Warren and Brandon Willard.

The new VDV communication technicians are: Justin Benich, Tyler Geertsens, Tracy Hardman, Nathan Palmer, Gregory Robinson and Matthew Thomas.

Work remains slow in Utah.

Manya Blackburn, R.S.

### 'We Are One' Rally

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—The best representatives of union people are union people. We congratulate Bros. Mark Fiene and Nick Elmer, who ran unopposed for Rock City Board, and Bro. Tim Tammen's wife, Kate, who was elected Machesney Park trustee. Running for alderman were Bros. Jimmy Moore in Freeport and Ray Pendzinski in Belvidere, though they came up short. Thanks to all for representing us and the citizens where you reside.

Local 364 and Rockford's labor community participated in another pro-union demonstration at the Illinois AFL-CIO "We Are One!" rally in Chicago. More than 1 million union members and supporters participated in similar nationwide rallies. The rally emphasized that no matter what race, religion or gender a worker is, the commonality that binds us is we're all workers—and we must band together to fight for economic and social justice against the moneyed classes who wish to divide and weaken us for their own gain.

A Workers Memorial Day ceremony was held April 28 in Rockford. The ceremony recognizes union workers killed on the job in Illinois. Thanks to Bros. Todd Kindred, and Ty Hillman, who represented us manning our electrical safety booth. Thanks also to retired Bus. Agent Bro. Tom Kindred, who attended as well.

Charlie Laskonis, B.A./Organizer



IBEW Local 364 was represented at the We Are One rally by: from left, Sister Theresa Fernbaugh, Organizer Charlie Laskonis, Bus. Agent Pat Tomlin, Bro. Laskonis' daughter Hillary, Bro. Greg Cote and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Tom Sink.



IBEW Local 388 members employed with Van Ert Electric: from left, back row, Jim Eternicka, Aaron Zurawski, Tim Heistad, Katie Jo Legner, Don Baacke, Coral Sandberg, Mike Kufahl, Adam Walters, Jim Sliwicki, Paul Baumann; front row, kneeling, Kyle Stevenson and Jon Lee.

### Tornado Restoration Work

L.U. 388 (em,i,rts&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—Local 388 would like to say "a job well done" to our members employed by signatory contractor Van Ert Electric.

On April 10, a devastating tornado touched down in Merrill, WI, destroying many homes and businesses. A leading manufacturer of doors and windows was one of the businesses severely damaged.

Van Ert Electric was called in and in a matter of days this plant was operating on temporary power. A total of four weeks passed and this facility is back on permanent power along with all the new lighting installed.

During the long hours worked, our members kept safety, quality and the needs of the customer their No. 1 priority. Thank you to all for doing such a good job representing the IBEW.

At this writing, the work picture looks to be picking up for the summer after a slow start in the spring. We also anticipate the start of a new biomass boiler project at one of the local mills in our jurisdiction.

Guy LePage, P.S.

### Kudos to New Journeymen

L.U. 412 (u), KANSAS CITY, MO—On March 18, three apprentice electricians turned out. Pictured here are the new 2011 journeyman electricians: Keith Cook, Rob Crews and Vaughn Mercer.

Congratulations to you all!

Debi Kidwiler, P.S.



New Local 412 journeyman electricians, from left: Keith Cook, Rob Crews and Vaughn Mercer.

### 2011 Picnic & Pin Presentation

L.U. 428 (govt,i,rts&spa), BAKERSFIELD, CA—Thanks to everyone who helped make our picnic a big success—all those who helped put the picnic together and all the members and their families who attended. Thanks to the picnic organizers, helpers,



IBEW Local 490 members work on a Public Service of New Hampshire project.

cooks, servers, cleaners and all members who participated. As usual we had great food and a load of nice prizes. With all the

fun, the smiles and the fellowship, we all had a great time.

Our Bus. Mgr. Danny Kane, his secretary Jackie, and our Bus. Agent Jim S. Elrod announced and presented the service pins. We had four 65-year members who were not able to attend. Our three 60-year members (pictured below) are G.J. Hackett, Tom Wilson and Jim Devers. Jim Devers is a retired Local 428 lineman who served as our business manager from 1977–1979, then again from 1983–1985.

Our 55-year members attending were Bob Barnett, Richard Julian and Jim D. Elrod. Jim served as our business agent for many years and now his son (Jim S. Elrod) serves as business agent.

We had one 50-year member, six 45-year members, 10 40-year members, nine 35-year members, 13 30-year members, 10 25-year members and 12 20-year members. Congratulations—we thank all you members for your years of service to Local 428.

Ivan Beavan Jr., P.S.



Local 428 Bus. Rep. Jim S. Elrod (right) congratulates 60-year award recipients, from left: G.J. Hackett, Tom Wilson and Jim Devers.

### Outstanding Craftsmanship

L.U. 490 (i&mt), DOVER, NH—Local 490 is happy to announce our contribution in helping Public Service of New Hampshire bring its coal-fired Merrimack Station "scrubber" to completion. The Wet Flue Gas Desulfurization or "scrubber" technology will reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by more than 90 percent and will capture at least 80 percent of the mercury.

Work started on this project in January 2009 and is nearing completion at press time with start-up crews making their way through the multiple new structures that have been erected. Ninety-plus Local 490 members contributed to this 100 percent union project.

All reports coming from the construction manager and customer have been outstanding. Another highlight of the project was reached a few months ago when the project recorded 1 million man-hours with no lost-work-time accidents. Once again we have proven that project labor agreements work.

Thanks again to IBEW members for all your outstanding craftsmanship.

Jaye P. Yanovitch Jr., P.S.

### Members Build Orphanage in Haiti

L.U. 502 (c,em,i,it&t), SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—The PotashCorp mine in Sussex has moved to the next phase with head frames, precipitator and wet mill finishing while the shops, substations and concentrator building ramp up. The Point Lepreau Generating Station refurbishment, east wastewater treatment plant, Huntsman Marine Center and St. Andrews Science Center, as well as various commercial and residential projects in and around Saint John, should keep our local close to full employment until fall.

Our local's generosity is alive and well with a donation of \$10,000 to the Joshua Group in Saint John. The money was raised during the annual IBEW Local 502 Ride for Fallen Brothers. We were proud to sponsor three members on a humanitarian trip to Haiti to build an orphanage in Jacmel.

The annual IBEW Dave Chilton Memorial Bass



IBEW Local 502 ride organizers, joined by Joshua Group reps. From left: John Higgins (Joshua Group), Marven McGrath, Sean Illman, Dan Bonnevie, Bobby Hayes (Joshua Group), Tom Bass, Al Landry and Carl B. Randell.

Tournament was held at the Palfrey Lake Lodge in June and the IBEW Family Picnic was held at the Glenn Carpenter Center in July. Thanks to all volunteers who helped make these popular events happen.

We mourn the loss of Bros. Howard Mersereau, Randy Corcoran, Frank Deane, John Dunn, Tom Connors and Bob Stewart Sr.

*Dave Stephen, P.S.*

## Negotiations

L.U. 520 (i&spa), AUSTIN, TX—Local 520 is continuing with negotiations/arbitration. It has now been approximately 18 months since starting the negotiating/arbitration process. Thus far eight contractors have signed independent agreements. One arbitration decision has been rendered for the NECA arbitration; however, they have since filed suit in federal court to vacate portions of the award. We continue in negotiations/arbitration with six independent contractors.

Local 520 has experienced a change in business managers with the appointment of Bro. Chris Wagner, effective April 21, 2011. Bro. Lane Price was appointed president of Local 520, effective June 7, 2011. Local 520 welcomes Mike Gula as the new training director for the Austin Electrical JATC.

The Annual Apprenticeship Banquet held May 20 honored 12 graduates: Christopher Basuino, Agustin Campos, Scott Cleary, Jose L. Gomez III, Kevin Holder, Clinton Hughes, James Lawhon, Kristopher Leatherman, Rudy Martinez III, John Mortellaro, Ronald Norwood Jr. and Levi Vanderveer. Scott Cleary was recognized as the 2011 Outstanding Apprentice. Congratulations to Scott and the entire class of 2011.

*Lane Price, Pres./P.S.*

## 2011 Events Update

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—Greetings, brothers and sisters. As of this reporting, Local 558 has had its share of events for 2011.

We have had a positive increase of employment getting our members back to work; organized a new contractor in our jurisdiction; and held our 2nd Annual Local 558 Picnic. We also experienced devastating tornadoes here in north Alabama that took the life of a dear member and his wife. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Michael Morgan family on the tragic loss of Michael, an IBEW member, and his wife, Kelli.

Our picnic held April 30 was a great success as usual. Several brothers and sisters gathered for good food, fellowship and stories from the past. Retired member Ronald Holdbrooks won our car



*Local 558 members and families enjoy April picnic.*

show with an awesome 1969 Camaro.

Special thanks to all the members employed with our utilities and municipalities for their hard work and dedication restoring power to all communities hit by the storms on April 27. They were all missed at the picnic.

*Mac Sloan, Mbr. Dev.*

## 'Honoring One of Our Own'

L.U. 596 (i,o&u), CLARKSBURG, WV—Memorial Day was a time to remember fallen comrades who were once a part of our brotherhood.

We wish to honor one of our own, Bro. Nick Duryea, who faithfully served for four tours in defense of our country. Nick served in the following: Desert Shield Desert Storm, Jan. 1991 to May 1991 (Saudi Arabia); Operation Iraqi Freedom, Nov. 2001 to Aug. 2002 for Homeland Security (Tobyhanna); Operation Iraqi Freedom, Feb. 2003 to Feb. 2004 (Balad, Iraq); and finally Operation Iraqi Freedom, July 2009 to Aug. 2010 (Tikrit, Iraq). Bro. Duryea has received many medals, including the Purple Heart. He was wounded while on mission in combat by an IED roadside bomb. He is recovering stateside now with hopes of returning to the trade.

Bro. Duryea, we salute you and thank you for your service to our great country. May God bless you with a swift and complete recovery. Your brothers and sisters of Local 596 extend their gratitude and best wishes.

*Joseph N. Yeager, P.S.*



*Local 596 member Nick Duryea (right).*

## Steward Training Class

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—We extend a special thank-you to the 35 union members who attended the two-day steward training session at the union hall. Information the members received was very informative and will lead them into the roles of shop stewards on the job.

For the 2011 legislative session our local sent four representatives to inform our legislators on issues of importance to labor. Kudos on a great job representing Local 606 go to: Larry Kidd, Jennifer Kenny, Fernando Rendon and Butch Cox.

Ermco of Florida was awarded the Project CONSERV II Water Reclamation Facility electrical system upgrade. Members installed more than 32,000 feet of 15 KV three-conductor cable in more than 11,000 feet of new concrete-encased duct bank. This job had an overall upgrade on the equipment and operating system, which tied the two to a state-of-the-art switchgear controlled by PLC (programmable logic controllers) with network interfacing.



*Local 636 members stand strong during a lockout at Essex Power.*



*Local 606 members working on project with Ermco include, from left: Miguel Negron, Charles Rupe, Jacinto Vazquez, Eddie Grammer, Rodrick Pryce and John Kennedy.*

Teamwork came from project managers Scott Urban and Steve Pavao; general foremen Eddie Grammer and John Kennedy; and all the members who worked on this project. Thank you all for a great job.

Bros. Joel Persian, Al Stucky, Jerry Odom, Bob Bean and Martin Bayer passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

*Janet D. Skipper, P.S.*

## Spirit of Solidarity

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—In a world that often places a greater value on “me” than “we” comes a story that reminds us all why unions still matter. When a boardroom bully pulled the plug on negotiations and locked out members at Essex Power, he clearly underestimated the strength of their resolve. Despite the struggles and sacrifices faced by our members and their families, their commitment to

each other has been unwavering—and stands as an inspiration to us all.

Support from the labour community throughout this ongoing dispute has been outstanding and the generosity shown by our union sisters and brothers is remarkable: offering a friendly wave or honk of the horn as they pass; stopping by with coffee and donuts; dropping off donations, spending time on the line and joining in rallies at Town Hall.

Thanks to IBEW Local 773, some members have found work to help ease the burden on their families. As a testament to the quality of their character, these members have each adopted a fellow member still on the picket line and are sharing their earnings—this is truly the spirit of solidarity. Let us never forget that, “The power in each of us comes from the power in all of us.”

*Paddy Vlanich, P.S.*

## Serving the Community

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—One of the most rewarding aspects of being a member of the IBEW is participating in efforts to aid those in need of assistance. A number of our members gathered recently to help clean up the property of one of our elderly neighbors. Approaching the age of 95 had made it difficult for him to maintain a large semi-wooded property adjacent to ours. Security had also become



*Local 654 community service volunteers: Dave Havrilak, Rob Young, Andre Scott, Jake Gallagher, Chris Bryan, Ryan Owen, Reed Dormond, George Horn, Bill McDonald, Jay Metzger III, Bill Martin, Ryan Crowley, Gerald Smith, Scott Huddle, Marc Pauline, Matt Thompson, Jim Thompson, Jr., Jim Russell and Kevin Hassett. They are joined by neighbor Tony Manerchia (standing on porch).*

## Local Lines

an issue. Asst. Agent Kevin Hassett organized a group of 18 other members to take care of the problem. Gathering early on a Saturday morning with chainsaws, trimmers and rakes, the property was cleaned up within just a few hours. Thanks to all the members who pitched in to help. [Photo, pg. 15.]

We also saw a great turnout of volunteers at the primary polls in May. At this point, no one needs a reminder as to the significance of being involved politically. Our presence in May at the polls and since then should send a message as to how active we will be in November and beyond. Legislation continues to be presented that is intended to weaken organized labor. The most effective means to combat these initiatives is to be heard and seen in numbers and to vote.

Thanks for all of your efforts and keep up the good work.

*Jim Russell, Pres.*

### 'A Tool to Grow Our Local'

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—The subject of the CE/CW (construction electrician/construction wireman) program is a topic that has many different opinions by all IBEW members. Local 684 has been fortunate to have a couple of our contractors be successful in getting some good jobs using these classifications. This has put general foremen, foremen, journeymen and apprentices, along with these potential new members, to work. We have begun testing these new CEs. The training director is scheduling continued education classes that our journeymen need, along with classes the CEs will need to take. I thank our members for recognizing this program as a tool to grow our local.

Work is still moving along slowly, but it's moving.

Hope everyone had a great time at our July 23 picnic. Have a great summer. Stay safe.

*Richard Venema, Rep.*

### New Members Welcomed

L.U. 688 (em,i,t&u), MANSFIELD, OH—Congratulations and a big welcome to two new members: Darrell Stage (teledata wireman) and Nick Testa (construction wireman).

Thank you to Gary Baumberger, Carl Neutzling and Linda Wenzel, who represented Local 688 and volunteered during the Rehab Telethon's Labor Hour.

Our own Local 688 member Kenny Cooper was appointed IBEW Fourth District International Vice President. Ken replaces Salvatore "Sam" Chilia, who was appointed IBEW International Secretary-Treasurer. Hats off to Kenny!

John Pifner received a 45-year service award at the December 2010 meeting. I apologize for not including his name in the April newsletter.

Congratulations to Billy and Mary Walters, who recently adopted a baby boy. Also, congratulations to Dalton Bays and his wife, who are parents of a baby girl.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bob Neault's child, who had heart surgery.

We are saddened to report the loss of Woodrow McClurg, a 60-year member. We send our condolences to his family.

*Dan Lloyd, P.S.*

### Work Picture Slow

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—At press time we have 106 on Book 1. There are 238 on Book 2. Book 1 will remain slow. We do not foresee getting into Book 2 even in 2011

Work in our jurisdiction still needs to improve for our members. We have had a few short-term jobs to help move our book. Gas prices aren't helping anything; they constantly move up and down, mostly up. Carpooling becomes part of everyday life. Some Web sites compare prices per day, but who's going to drive 30 miles to save 3 cents a gallon. There are some tips on how to save gas: proper tire pressure, tune-ups, driving habits, etc. Granted these tips don't save a lot of fuel, but times are tough and everything helps.

A reminder: Our membership meetings are the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

Thanks to all our brother locals for helping keep our members employed in these times. It's tough being away from home for long periods, either working or just looking for work.

With regret we announce the death of retired Bros. Paul Clements, Howard H. Kimberlin, Dale A. Herbek and Dan C. O'Leary.

*Tom Bartosek, P.S.*

### Annual Indoor Lineman Rodeo

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—Local 702 held our Annual Indoor Lineman Rodeo on Saturday, April 30 in DuQuoin, IL. We had several events for competition and it was well attended by brothers and sisters from several states. Local 702 members Aaron Richards received second place for the Overall Apprentice Individual category, and Mike Smith received third place in the Journeyman Individual category. Local 702 was represented well by all who competed. Congratulations on a job well done. A special thanks to Bus. Rep. Scott Kerley for all the hours of work that were devoted to this successful event.

Brothers and sisters, the American worker is under vicious attack by corporate America. You may not currently be affected, but if we do not stand together you will be.

*Marsha Steele, P.S.*



*Local 702 holds Annual Indoor Lineman Rodeo.*

### Bidding New Work

L.U. 716 (em,i,lctt,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—The summer heat is on here in Houston. We had hoped to have everyone back to work by this time of the year, but job calls have been slower than we anticipated. We appreciate the other locals that are putting our members to work.

The South Texas Nuclear Project that was to start this year has now been put on an indefinite hold as a result of the Japanese nuclear power plant failure. We will keep everyone informed on any new developments that might occur with these two new reactors.

Our contractors are aggressively bidding new work and have recently been awarded the new Dynamo stadium as well as work at several schools in the Houston Independent School District.

We had 29 apprentices graduating this year and we congratulate all of them for a job well done. Special congratulations to Melchor Sanchez for being the Outstanding Apprentice.

Congratulations to the 43 members who received their 50-, 55-, 60-, 65-, and 70-year service pins. We appreciate your service, your loyalty and your guidance for our local union. Thank you.

Local 716 is in preparation for our 100 Year Anniversary; check our Web site [www.ibew716.net](http://www.ibew716.net) in the coming months for more information.

*John E. Easton Jr., B.M./F.S.*

### Super Walmart Construction

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Local 756 is working on a Super Walmart project in New Smyrna Beach, FL. The job was awarded to TP Electric, a contractor from White, GA. The company signed an agreement with the local and is now one of our signatory contractors.

Our local has been out of the big-box store market for the most part since the '90s. This job is moving at a very fast pace and the union crew is performing well. The foreman, with many years' experience running nonunion projects, stated this is one of the most productive and smooth running jobs he has run. As of mid-June, we have the foreman, two journeyman wiremen, seven indentured apprentices and two construction electricians on the project. More calls should come in to meet the completion date of late October. Walmart wants to be open by November. Kudos go to the Local 756 members for making the first union experience with this new contractor a success.

In other local news, as of this writing, the final shuttle launch was scheduled for mid-July. The end of that era should bring a new era of NASA exploration of deep space, and the IBEW and the building trades should be a part of that program.

*Dan Hunt, P.S.*



*A view of some of the great pipe work installed by Local 756 members on Walmart project.*

### Work Picture Improves

L.U. 776 (i,o,rts&spa), CHARLESTON, SC—By the time you read this article, our local union elections will be over. At this writing we have a great bunch nominated to serve our local.

Our work picture has improved from last year, helping the books move some. We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters who have been affected by the tornadoes, floods, and other disasters across our country.

*Chuck Moore, B.M.*

### Careers of Longtime Service



*Local 1116 member Eugene "Geno" Penta receives retirement gift lamp.*

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ—Eugene "Geno" Penta retired after 41½ years of IBEW membership working in line construction. Geno was presented with a retirement gift lamp (made by Bro. Mike Riesgo) during his standing room only retirement breakfast of spaghetti and meatballs. Geno served as our union treasurer for many years.

Another longtime member of 38 years, Doug Dalby, also took the retirement route. Doug worked in communications construction and maintenance. He was very active as a union steward and served on various committees.

Both Geno and Doug have always taken great pride in being union workers and members. We bid them farewell and extend our gratitude. We wish you both a great retirement, brothers.

We welcome new members: Cheryl Fuhler, Teresa Linssen, Joel Risk, Kristopher George, David Castillo, Amanda Bauman, Chavez Nakai, Michelle Puett Kinion and Joshua Woods.

*R. Cavaletto, P.S.*

### Annual Fall Gathering Sept. 24

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH—The 38th IBEW International Convention is set for Sept. 19-23, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Our delegates to the convention, as elected by the membership, will be Kent Cline, Barry "Bubba" Hickie and Dan German. Jimi Jette will also attend as an alternate delegate.

We also plan to have our Annual Fall Gathering at the union hall on Saturday, Sept. 24. All members and their families are welcome to come out and enjoy the festivities. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Finally, we hope everyone has a great Labor Day. Let's not forget this is a holiday to honor working people. Enjoy your day. You've earned it.

*Jimi Jette, P.S.*

# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in June 2011

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Capstick, B. J.	5/7/2011	48	Shearer, R. D.	4/23/2011	143	Henry, M. E.	4/27/2011	340	Romitti, A. E.	3/28/2011	570	Ethington, B. W.	5/8/2011	995	Donellan, H. L.	3/28/2011
1	Louks, J. L.	5/4/2011	53	Pingleton, G. J.	10/27/2010	150	Lange, E.	1/4/2011	340	Walden, E. A.	4/13/2011	570	Kiersch, J. M.	4/21/2011	995	Hill, N. W.	2/4/2011
1	Murphy, D. E.	4/20/2011	55	Kauzlarich, P. D.	4/10/2011	153	Falk, R. L.	5/3/2011	343	Warzecha, J. A.	3/9/2011	584	Cable, R. L.	11/22/2010	1003	Miner, A. T.	4/1/2011
1	Prunty, J. C.	5/2/2010	57	Fletcher, J. E.	3/23/2011	153	Reid, C. O.	3/4/2011	351	Gray, R. E.	2/2/2011	584	Maxwell, S. W.	4/3/2011	1003	Rourke, L.	3/7/2011
1	Pusateri, S. R.	5/7/2011	57	Schrivier, J. P.	5/11/2011	159	Bewick, E. M.	12/20/2010	353	Boxill, E.	5/12/2011	586	Howard, D. M.	2/19/2011	1105	Hitchens, T. H.	5/14/2011
3	Caravella, J. L.	3/3/2011	58	Gibbs, W. E.	5/11/2011	159	Endres, F. B.	3/23/2011	353	Lymberis, A.	8/1/2010	586	Jaik, H.	3/20/2011	1200	Perkins, T. W.	5/14/2011
3	Carroll, R. J.	1/8/2011	58	Griffith, C. G.	4/16/2011	163	Llewellyn, C. W.	3/22/2011	353	Putsey, D. C.	1/8/2011	596	Wilson, C. E.	4/10/2011	1208	Anderson, H. E.	1/1/2011
3	Conway, J. P.	4/25/2011	58	Levy, A.	4/1/2011	164	Dasilva, J.	5/4/2011	353	Rose, K. G.	3/19/2011	601	Adamson, J. S.	4/18/2011	1245	Glenn, B. R.	3/4/2011
3	Glica, F. A.	4/24/2011	58	Thurman, R. D.	2/19/2011	175	Martin, A. A.	9/18/2010	353	Strilchuk, T. J.	11/20/2010	605	Freeny, B. H.	4/29/2011	1253	Smith, T. N.	3/2/2011
3	Holland, A. H.	5/1/2011	58	Waters, J. G.	1/18/2011	175	Stallings, W. H.	3/27/2011	353	Wilson, J. A.	4/15/2011	606	Stuckey, A. R.	5/8/2011	1288	Burrows, D.	5/29/2009
3	Klein, D.	4/20/2011	58	Winchester, E. L.	4/11/2011	176	Brown, G. K.	3/31/2011	357	Moenius, J. E.	1/27/2011	611	Getz, E. F.	4/11/2011	1319	Harzinski, A. J.	4/24/2011
3	Krawiec, R. F.	2/25/2011	60	Seewald, W. F.	4/18/2011	176	Cora, J. M.	2/23/2011	363	Slaver, D.	4/5/2011	613	Statham, H.	2/25/2011	1340	Hammer, J. A.	4/3/2011
3	Lampner, S. I.	7/14/2006	66	Schroeder, A. W.	5/12/2011	176	McQuen, T. A.	5/12/2011	369	Rusch, W. M.	7/18/2008	613	Wright, C. T.	3/30/2011	1426	Karlson, L. P.	3/31/2011
3	Rinder, A.	4/18/2011	71	Smith, J. V.	2/24/2011	191	Boivin, L. P.	12/16/2010	375	Parks, S. A.	12/19/2010	617	Drotleff, E. H.	3/18/2011	1432	McCardle, J. J.	2/14/2011
3	Sickles, G. H.	3/23/2011	72	Maddox, J. T.	12/7/2010	191	Herston, B.	4/6/2011	379	Long, H. M.	4/16/2011	617	Levet, J. A.	4/2/2011	1434	McCann, J. A.	5/10/2011
3	Sommer, J. S.	4/2/2011	73	Cain, K. W.	4/4/2011	194	Paul, J. R.	4/1/2011	379	Robinson, J. S.	4/4/2011	640	Berlin, G.	2/6/2011	1525	Kohrt, H.	4/26/2011
3	Tagarelli, A.	3/6/2011	76	Kindle, D.	4/17/2011	196	Sharp, D. P.	3/20/2011	380	Bartholomew, A. H.	12/3/2010	640	Burgmeier, D. R.	1/20/2011	1531	Evans, M. A.	4/16/2011
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20	Jenkins, L. D.	5/7/2011	103	Riley, S. M.	3/19/2011	258	Roesen, P. J.	4/8/2011	474	Smith, D. P.	4/26/2011	714	Fiskum, L. A.	5/11/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Herman, E. S.	2/13/2011
20	Savage, C. M.	5/16/2011	103	Specht, A. T.	1/27/2009	258	Tully, B.	3/1/2011	477	Fuller, B. J.	4/13/2011	714	Offerdahl, D. M.	4/19/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Kowalke, G. R.	4/17/2011
20	Sivess, W. L.	5/2/2011	104	Olsen, J. J.	2/26/2011	269	Gerdy, J. M.	4/11/2011	477	Moore, K. G.	3/7/2011	714	Parisien, L. P.	4/2/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Lowe, G. B.	3/25/2011
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42	Munger, E. M.	3/22/2011	126	Lewis, L. L.	4/24/2011	295	Clements, H. E.	5/4/2011	502	Deane, F. F.	2/11/2011	784	Wray, R. A.	5/1/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Rule, C. M.	5/3/2011
43	Borawski, R. C.	4/23/2011	129	Eddy, B. L.	3/22/2011	295	Greis, J. J.	3/20/2011	510	Wilber, C. R.	3/25/2011	816	Tabers, G. K.	3/24/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Seabaugh, J. W.	5/4/2011
44	Otten, C.	3/9/2011	130	Bossier, W. L.	4/1/2011	302	Sloan, N. R.	3/23/2011	512	Locke, M. G.	1/28/2011	855	Brewer, B. G.	4/4/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Shelton, P. W.	3/10/2011
44	Preskar, S. H.	5/15/2011	130	Joseph, M. E.	4/15/2011	309	Biggs, G.	5/1/2011	530	Merrick, B. L.	3/24/2011	861	Abernathy, B. W.	5/8/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Sobery, C. W.	5/22/2010
44	Winchester, J. L.	3/22/2011	130	Price, S. W.	4/16/2011	309	Hurst, J. E.	2/5/2011	531	Swim, R. A.	4/27/2011	861	Stark, J. M.	4/27/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Tapin, H. K.	1/3/2010
46	Grambush, D. L.	4/12/2011	131	Forshey, W. M.	2/3/2011	309	Murphy, J. E.	4/24/2011	532	West, W. L.	5/16/2011	903	Sullivan, E. L.	8/29/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Williams, L. G.	3/20/2011
46	Krenkel, H. V.	4/22/2011	134	Bauer, E.	4/12/2011	317	Finley, F. B.	3/31/2011	553	Saffer, W. R.	4/12/2011	910	McKenna, M. A.	4/23/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Winner, T. A.	2/26/2011
47	Johnston, C. F.	3/27/2011	134	Gortmaker, G. W.	4/2/2011	317	Kinnard, C. L.	5/19/2011	553	Wiles, F. G.	9/24/2010	915	Music, W. H.	4/20/2011			
48	Baker, L. L.	3/23/2011	134	Gustafson, V. E.	3/27/2011	332	Gomes, F. M.	4/9/2011	567	Lombard, H. C.	3/31/2011	915	Welk, L. J.	4/12/2011			
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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**FROM THE OFFICERS****Tough Market Demands Versatility**

**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President

**T**his month, we report on the \$1.4 billion grant from the U.S. Department of Energy that helped to launch the massive Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating Station in the Mojave Desert.

It's satisfying to see unemployed journeyman inside wiremen and apprentices going back to work to build the infrastructure for the next generation of renewable energy technology.

Ivanpah and similar federally-aided projects dramatically repudiate political leaders who jaw about all government spending as "wasteful," the same ideologues who sliced infrastructure spending in the federal stimulus in favor of tax cuts. Their mistaken priorities are evident in the recent disappointing jobs report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics revealing that federal spending constituted the only significant gain in the construction sector. But that funding is already tailing off.

Some of the same forecasters who predicted significant increases in construction spending above the 11-year low set in February are revising their predictions, saying there will be more "stability" in both non-residential and large commercial construction. That translates into little growth, but intense competition. While the federal deficit consumes the national political debate, thousands of our brothers and sisters across North America are left behind, waiting to get back to their tools. Some are even leaving the trade after years of productive labor.

The times demand versatility from local unions and signatory contractors. We need to prepare for all kinds of economic weather just like we do with our natural climate. We keep our storm gear in the truck even when the weatherman says the skies will be clear.

I applaud our local unions that are redoubling their efforts to be competitive in the small commercial sector using our recovery agreements. If that's where the growth is, that is where we need to be.

One forecast says that public construction projects are fourth on the pecking order of states and municipalities with scarce budget dollars—coming after reinstating cutbacks in services, ending employee furloughs and increasing contributions to underfunded pension funds.

This situation calls for local unions to step up lobbying efforts—mobilizing our members—finding allies in our community who are concerned about dilapidated schools and other infrastructure. And it means challenging the Johnny One Notes who say that cutting or freezing taxes is the cure for all that ails us. ■

**Playing Politics with Labor Law**

**T**he Chamber of Commerce, Republican lawmakers and a whole array of anti-worker special interest groups blew a gasket earlier this summer over new rule changes proposed by the National Labor Relations Board, unleashing a barrage of hostile statements against the United States' highest arbiter of labor law.

Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) said that President Obama has stacked the NLRB with "union thugs," while a ranking official at the Chamber said the agency was trying to bully business owners into giving up their right to free speech.

What heinous crime did the board commit to warrant such attacks? Streamlining the NLRB certification process to reduce the period of time when workers file a petition for a union election and the election itself.

As we report this month, the NLRB's new rules are designed to eliminate voting delays and modernize election procedures to bring labor law into the 21st century.

Too often companies try to play the system when workers start organizing, throwing up delays to prevent an election. Sometimes workers have to wait months before they get a vote—if they are lucky enough to get one at all.

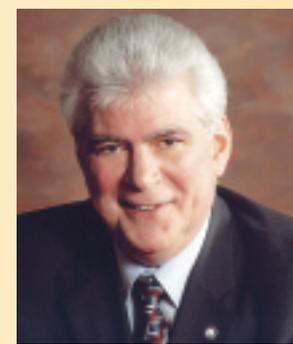
The 1935 National Labor Relations Act makes clear that "the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing" is every employee's right.

People like DeMint and Chamber officials have to be either willfully ignorant of labor law or utterly blinded by partisan ideology to find these rule changes controversial.

For years anti-union employers have managed to circumvent basic labor law, thanks in part to politicians who have subverted the NLRB by stacking it with corporate lobbyists and anti-union advocates.

But now for the first time in more than a decade we have a board whose members are versed in labor law and understand that their job is to protect workers' rights, not eviscerate them.

We need to remind Congress that the right of employees to collectively bargain is still the law of the land and that the NLRB is merely doing its job. The frantic opposition to a very modest change just shows how committed right-wing legislators are to talking away our rights on the job by playing politics with the agencies charged with upholding basic workplace fairness. ■



**Salvatore J. Chilia**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

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## Letters to the Editor

### Green, But is it Good?

As a current IBEW member and a former Canadian Union of Postal Workers member, I discourage you from offering the electronic versions of ANY mailings. If you want to support the CUPW members who work for Canada Post, please reconsider this proposal. Not mailing items just cuts out work for the members who work for the Canada Post and does more harm than good in the solidarity movement. If everyone switches to electronic versions and no printed versions go out, we're putting our brothers and sisters out of work.

Michael Danroth  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 258 member

**[Editor's Note:** Bro. Danroth has a point, but we cannot deny the explosive growth of online communications, which often complement, not replace, printed material. It should also be noted that sending communications electronically helps keep IBEW members in the telecommunications, construction and utility branches employed.]

### Do Labor and Religion Mix?

[Regarding the June 2011 article, "Retiree Links Labor and Religious Traditions"], given that those responsible for the unprecedented assault on woman's rights, gay rights and workers' rights were put into office with the overwhelming support of the Catholic Church, I find your article hypocritical and offensive.

I want my children and grandchildren to have a good life, and I do not want my daughter or my granddaughters to be nothing more than baby making machines because of the beliefs of some fat old men in dresses.

Dale Carselli  
Local 86 retiree, Rochester, N.Y.

### Not Just a Piece of Plastic

Our country is in a state of economic decline, and nonunion labor is claiming more and more of our market share. The IBEW has to change to meet world demands. Some of the IBEW's best tools are the apprenticeship programs that give our contractors the skills, knowledge and dedication that it takes to get the job done. One of the main goals for my classmates and me from our apprenticeship program is passing the test and obtaining that small plastic card that says "California State Certified General Electrician." To the Local 340 class of 2011 this card exemplifies skills, knowledge, training, dedication, and the means necessary to help bring the new IBEW to the forefront of the modern electrical industry.

Being a good journeyman is all about constant learning and passing that knowledge on to a good apprentice. We need to skill up so we can handle any situation within our trade quickly, effectively, and with top quality craftsmanship.

Highly skilled and knowledgeable is the trademark of an IBEW electrician. Knowledge doesn't only mean knowing how to rough in a wall or install a piece of switchgear.

We as new journeyman have a distinct responsibility to pass on work ethics to our apprentices. Our shop foremen must be able to depend on us to get the job done while he or she is spending valuable time planning our next phase of work. If we can't teach dependability by example then as a class we are of no value to the IBEW.

We as the class of 2011 owe much heartfelt thanks to the dedication of our instructors.

Dedication means coming to class on time, and making sacrifices at home to get our homework done. We learned how important it is to attend local union meetings, and more recently how important our vote is there. We realize how vitally important it is to dedicate ourselves to a career of constant learning and the subsequent passing on of our skills to the next generation of apprentices.

We have had the support of our classroom instructors and some of the best journeymen in the nation. There are none in the field more dedicated than we are to continuing the tradition of the IBEW. Hopefully the support of our fellow union brothers and sisters will give us the means to realize, and meet all of the new challenges facing the Local 340 graduating class of 2011. Is the state journeyman's card just a piece of plastic? When you complete an IBEW JATC apprenticeship program as good as the one at Local 340 Sacramento, and then you go out into the field and work with the best, you have to earn the title.

Jerry Lee Weidman  
Sacramento, Calif., Local 340 member

## Who We Are

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

### THE 'WRITE' CHOICE:

# Member Promotes Activism in Cyberspace

For budding journeymen powering through their apprenticeships, it can be a jungle out there.

Rateeluck "Tarn" Puvapiromquan knows this in a more literal sense. A daunting project last year found the Washington, D.C., Local 26 fourth-year apprentice in a simulated rainforest at the National Zoo in the heart of the city. Working with her team on the vast exhibit, she shared space with curious monkeys who frequently scurried around equipment and colorful birds that both screeched and sang. In the background, razor-toothed piranhas swam forebodingly in tanks and boa constrictors slithered among enclosed foliage.

"At one point, I had to extend my 16-foot ladder into the flood pool [an area that replicates monsoon activity in a rainforest]," recalled Puvapiromquan, who earned her journeyman status in June. "I had waders on, but water was leaking into my socks. I had my tools wrapped around my chest and a safety harness on. It was one of those early experiences that you never forget."

Puvapiromquan knows that "every electrician has eye-opening stories." That's why the skilled worker and practiced writer devoted time and creativity to chronicling her journey through the apprenticeship on a special blog established by instructors at the D.C. Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. The goal of the project, which features blog updates from seven Local 26 members at different levels of their IBEW training, was primarily geared toward attracting new applicants to the program.

But it has also served as a potent platform for Puvapiromquan to expound on bigger ideas of solidarity, discuss challenges and opportunities for women and minorities in the trade and offer inspiration and advice to apprentices newly embarking on their union experience.

Since May 2009, Puvapiromquan has posted updates on everything from the importance of being active at union meetings, anxieties before a crucial exam and the sense of pride from accomplishing a tricky project.

In a June post about her cohort's matriculation, she writes, "Five years is indeed a long time, but MAN! The satisfaction of finishing is like nothing else. When I bump into fellow apprentices who will be walking across that stage with me



When Washington Local 26 journeyman wireman Rateeluck "Tarn" Puvapiromquan isn't teaching at the area JATC, she blogs about her IBEW experiences.

on Saturday, there's a little glimmer in our eyes that communicates it all.

"These days at work," she continues, "I'm still learning: that I must embrace my codebook to size things right the first time; how to balance the energy levels of my crew ... motivate when necessary, antagonize for fun, have teaching moments when we can ... Yes, we've come a long way!"

Puvapiromquan's personal biography reflects the changing image of the nation, as unions become increasingly more diverse and representative of women and members of different ethnicities. She immigrated from Thailand with her parents when she was seven months old. Puvapiromquan's father worked in the building trades and her mother joined the army and also spent time as an entrepreneur—but their daughter's activism in the IBEW was the first inking of unionism in the family.

"My dad was very happy about my decision to become an electrician," Puvapiromquan said. "He's told me that he wishes he had known about the union 30 years ago. We would have been more financially stable and my upbringing might have been better for it. Part of being an immigrant is you've got to have survivor mentality. I've seen some pretty tough things and seen my parents survive."

With union membership come solid opportunities for professional development and activism around issues that resonate with Tarn personally and politically. She was her local's delegate to the 2010 IBEW Women's Conference in D.C.

and blogged about the solidarity she experienced. "The common underlying values of workers' rights, and the massive body of desire to uplift our union as a whole was positively overwhelming in its own right," she wrote last August.

Since then, Puvapiromquan has teamed up with fellow Local 26 members like instructor and mentor Kevin Burton for a flurry of activity within the local and the broader union. Months after the Women's Conference, she blogged about her participation in the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus ("There is a cohesion that exists through a tapestry of wisdom and skills") and announced the formation of ARC-DC, short for Apprentices Reaching our Community. The initiative seeks to tap the skills, knowledge and curiosity of the local's newer members to further empower apprentices to be of service both within and beyond the local.

Puvapiromquan also spoke as a panelist at the Metro D.C. Asian Pacific American Workers' Rights Hearing in May, where she told dozens of attendees how unions can benefit minority employees in nail salons, restaurants and other workplaces.

In June, she landed a position as a part time instructor at the JATC, where she now helps new members navigate the terrain as they begin their careers.

"Tarn is eager to share what she's learned so far with people coming in," said JATC Assistant Director Ralph Neidert. He credits the blog initiative for helping recruit new talent and gird the local's reputation as boasting the work force of choice. "When we started this project three years ago, we wanted to allow someone thinking about going into this industry to get an 'inside' feel," he said.

The effort is succeeding. During the JATC's most recent interview period, an applicant who took the entrance exams told the board that his interest was piqued by the posts. "He knew Tarn and the other writers by name and said that he follows them online," Neidert said.

When she's not teaching or involved with her myriad activist efforts, Puvapiromquan will continue her blog updates. She said that her experience on tough assignments—like the National Zoo project—helps foster a sense of optimism that is integral to success in the trade. Visit her blog at [www.necaibewr-puvapiromquan.blogspot.com](http://www.necaibewr-puvapiromquan.blogspot.com). ■

## Circuits

### Nevada Utility Pioneer Leaves Legacy of Activism

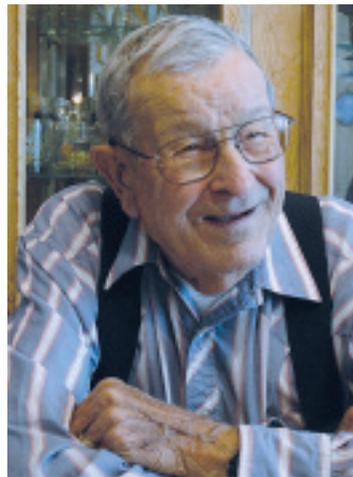
When Sylvester Kelley, a 63-year member of Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 returned from World War II, he applied for a job with Sierra Pacific Power. But the company wouldn't hire him because his finger, disfigured by German shrapnel, would not fit into a work glove. So Kelley went to the Veteran's Administration hospital and had the finger amputated. Then he went to work as a troubleman, a foreman and was elected to the local's leadership in the 1950's.

Kelley, who died on June 3 at the age of 87, exhibited nearly the same determination fighting for worker justice that he demonstrated in securing his job back in 1948.

Last year, Kelley, a Purple Heart recipient, was featured in full-page newspaper ads and TV spots opposing cuts in medical benefits for retirees at NV Energy, Sierra Pacific's successor. His story and his death were posted on the Web site, "Shame on NV Energy" ([www.shameonnvenergy.com](http://www.shameonnvenergy.com)) and the accompanying Facebook page which has hit a milestone of 40,000 members.

In a series of 2010 interviews in Local 1245's media library, Kelley discussed the highlights and challenges of his utility industry career, including his service in WW II, his decision to join the union and meeting President John F. Kennedy.

He laughed when the interviewer asked why he didn't support former President Richard Nixon for president. Speaking of modern-day members of Nixon's party, Kelly said: "Some of these people advocating doing away with Social Security must be millionaires who don't give a damn about working people. They'd pay you \$.50 an hour if they could get away with it."



Sylvester Kelley, an outspoken retiree leader of Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245, died on June 3.

In an obituary in Local 1245's Utility Reporter, Editor Eric Wolfe wrote, "Kelley struggled with many health problems in his later years. His left arm was badly injured on the job, and even after weeks of physical therapy remained misshapen the rest of his days. He suffered the usual ailments of old age after a life of hard work, but he was too much of a lineman to talk a lot about it or seek sympathy."

The Reporter concludes, "All he [Kelley] wanted was to live outside Silver Springs, Nev., in the well-maintained modular home with the American flag out front, secure in the knowledge that his growing medical needs would be taken care of. In his last years, NV Energy took that security away." ■



Sarnia, Ontario, Local 530 member Gregg Mellon atop Mount Everest.

### Member Ascends 'Top of the World'

Sarnia, Ontario local 530 member Gregg Mellon has completed a feat that places him in a league of fewer than 3,000 people. In May, Gregg successfully ascended the 29,025-foot summit of Mount Everest. Not only did Mellon complete a dangerous and strenuous challenge attempted by few, but with every step to the peak of Everest Gregg raised money for a local charity. The trek was part of LamSar Climb for Kids 2011, a fundraiser whose goal was to raise \$300,000 for Big Brothers of Sarnia-Lambton.

"Gregg is a person who likes adventure and seeks it out. What he has accomplished here is nothing short of remarkable and to raise money for Big Brothers just adds to that," said Local 530 Treasurer Wesley Segade.

Mellon has been a member of Local 530 for more than 25 years and is president of Mellon Inc., an electrical and instrumentation contractor. In his free time, he trains to climb some of the highest peaks in the world. He has already conquered the highest peaks on four continents: Kilimanjaro in Tanzania (Africa), Denali in Alaska (North America), Elbrus in Russia (Europe), Aconcagua in Argentina (South America), and now Mount Everest on the

Nepal-China border (Asia).

Mellon says he caught the climbing bug at the age of 20 and has been hooked ever since. "There's just no comparison. The sense of accomplishment—even when you get halfway up the mountain—is amazing."

Due to the extreme altitude of Mount Everest, which makes every breath a struggle, Mellon and his team trained for more than a month by doing smaller treks on Everest before actually beginning the climb to the summit.

They also took part in a traditional "puja" ceremony, which blesses all the climbers and sherpas to ensure safe passage up the mountain. "Once the ceremony is over there is lots of celebration with music, alcohol, and food. I can still hear the sherpa celebrating," Mellon wrote on his adventure blog.

<http://www.melloninc.ca/>.

His first attempt for the summit was in mid-May, which was aborted due to strong winds. Two days later his climbing party started their upward journey to the summit. After 12 hours of hiking and waiting (that day there were more than 100 hikers, making it a slow journey up) Mellon and his team made it to the high point in the world on May 20th.

"Everest gave us everything, from the good to the bad: the good was amazing views, teamwork. The bad...I will leave for your imagination. Everything about our summit was simply astonishing." ■

### IBEW Members Save Big with New Union Plus Benefits

As college tuitions rise, Andy Hartmann knows that the time to start saving for his daughter's education is now.



Santa Cruz, Calif., Local 234 member Andy Hartmann and his wife Juel received a \$500 Union Plus grant for their daughter Camille's college education savings.

That's why the Santa Cruz, Calif., Local 234 president took advantage of a new program from Union Plus that offers grants to children in union families. Now 20-month-old Camille has an additional \$500 waiting for her in a college savings plan account when she heads off to pursue a degree.

"That money will have a great opportunity to grow and provide her opportunities in the future," said Hartmann, who wrote about the Union Plus offer in his local's monthly newsletter. "A lot of our members are concerned about saving for college. I want more people to learn about this benefit."

Camille's grant is just one way that IBEW families are benefitting from new savings and discount offers from Union Plus.

Maurice Broussard of Little Rock, Ark., Local 647 received a \$500 rebate check for purchasing a "green" appliance as part of the IBEW Union Plus Credit Card Energy Efficient Grant program.

Michael Hennessey won a "Welcome to Your First Home Award" through the organization's mortgage and real estate program, the only mortgage that helps members make their payments when they are out of work. The Kennewick, Wash., Local 112 member and his family now have an extra \$500 in gift cards to spend at unionized Safeway stores.

Union Plus also offers more benefits to IBEW members, including:

- Life and accident insurance
- Free credit counseling
- Discounts on AT&T wireless service, college test preparation classes, Goodyear tires and more.

Learn more at [www.UnionPlus.org/IBEW](http://www.UnionPlus.org/IBEW). ■

## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

### [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org)

From breaking news to video stories, our updated Web site has information not available anywhere else. Visit us to connect with the IBEW on **Facebook** and to follow International President Edwin D. Hill on **Twitter!**

### Workers' Battleground

From Wisconsin to Maine, anti-worker politicians are coming after our rights and hard-won benefits.

Keep up with latest news and learn to how to join the fight back at

[www.ibew.org/articles/WorkersBattleground/](http://www.ibew.org/articles/WorkersBattleground/).

### YouTube

Every worker needs a voice on the job, even lawyers. The IBEW video team talks to state attorneys in New Jersey who recently joined the Brotherhood.

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

### HourPower

The tornados that recently hit the south left 500,000 without power.

IBEW linemen had most of it back within two weeks.

See the story on [www.IBEWHourPower.com](http://www.IBEWHourPower.com).



### ElectricTV

Heat loss can signal a building owner to a lack of efficiency. Thermography, done by the NECA-IBEW Team, can help. Check out the latest on [electricTV.net](http://electricTV.net).

