

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## Facebook Project Brings Promise of Steady Work to North Carolina

*A Facebook data center project employing hundreds of members of Asheville, N.C., Local 238 increases market share for a growing local and offers job opportunities to an economically hard-hit rural county.*

For days in mid-January, the tree-flecked hills of North Carolina's Rutherford County were hit with hammer-and-nail rain. For the nearly one in five people who are out of work, it was the natural environment reflecting the bleakness of the rural economy—where a once-vibrant textile industry was decimated by outsourcing and low-road business approaches that left crumbling buildings, few prospects and diminished hope.

"These folks are facing economic oppression, plain and simple," said Asheville Local 238 Organizer Josh Rhodes, a lifelong resident of the Tar

Heel State, which has the lowest union density in the nation. Rutherford County's unemployment rate recently pitched toward 16 percent. "When you take our so-called right-to-work laws and combine them with no work picture, what does that leave people?"

But thanks to Rhodes and a team of other organizers, activists and members of the business community, nearly 200 unemployed county residents saw a proverbial break in the clouds Jan. 12 at a job fair hosted by the local and California-based signatory contractor Rosendin Electric. Also hiring was local outfit Preferred Electric,

Rosendin's subcontractor. The mission: hire qualified electricians for an enormous Facebook data center construction project.

The social networking giant—which boasts more than 800 million active users—broke ground for new data centers in rural Forest City a year ago. Since then, hundreds of IBEW members of various classifications have built and wired the area's first 373,000-square-foot facility responsible for converting ones and zeros into "likes," status updates, photo albums and fan pages.

**JOB FAIR** *continued on page 2*

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### Video Views from N.C.

Two new videos highlight the union's efforts to organize and gain market share in North Carolina. See compelling interviews and footage of the Facebook job fair, and view a profile of an organizer committed to growing the membership in the state with the nation's lowest union density. Watch at [www.YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](http://www.YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker).

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## Massive Job Fair Helps Bring Promise of Steady Work to Carolina

As business is booming, more manpower is needed for expansion. And Local 238 is hungry to meet the challenge.

### 'Jobs are Priority'

Over the course of a bustling three hours, the temporary trailer housing Rosendin's on-site team swelled beyond capacity with eager job seekers from the county and beyond. Though they came with varying degrees of experience—novice construction helpers shared a line with veteran hands—their goals were uniform. As the night rolled on, scores would be quickly but rigorously vetted, as organizers and contractors studied resumes, administered skill assessments and conducted group and one-on-one interviews.

Like many that night, area resident Chris Patrick arrived damp and road weary. He'd been working that week in Hilton Head, S.C., when he heard about the job fair from a friend. Used to logging 80- to 90-hour weeks on far-flung jobs away from home, Patrick drove nearly 300 miles to the Facebook site in search of better-paying work that could keep him closer to his wife and three children.

"There's no work nearby, so I spend almost all my time on the road when I can get hours," he said, adding that health insurance provided by his nonunion employer is costly. "I've got a 6-month-old and twins at home, and my insurance is \$160 a week out-of-pocket. It's overwhelming."

But Patrick, 27, felt confident that his years of experience running crews for nonunion construction companies would help him land a local job. Also key was the fact that the job would provide health coverage.

"I've built hotels in Asheville, about 10 Walgreens and some Lowe's," said Patrick, who started helping his father with jobs as a youth and formally



Local 238 member Gary Chapman



Nearly 200 applicants attended a Jan. 12 job fair to interview with IBEW and signatory contractor representatives. Dozens will be hired as new Asheville Local 238 members.

began his career at 18. "After the housing crisis and the recession, things botched out—that's when I hit the road. I hoped something would work out for me at the job fair."

For those unable to travel, the Facebook job offered a chance for many to put dormant skills back to work. Sixty-two-year-old Glenn Bush had been laid off and had his insurance cancelled by his nonunion employer following a hospital stay. The promise of a decent job with benefits brought Bush, along with his son, Rocky, out from their homes in Belmont, about 50 miles east.

"When I interviewed [with Local 238's representatives], I told them that I've been in the trade for 27 years and am one of the best pipe guys in the business," Bush said. "I just wanted the chance to work hard for a fair day's wage. That's something I haven't seen here in a long while."

Thanks to Facebook and Rosendin's partnership, local leaders like Business Manager Dusty Rhodes are seeing membership numbers spike and market share increase. At the same time, all of Local 238's journeyman wiremen are off the bench and on the job.

"Facebook could have gone with a nonunion shop," said Rhodes, as he helped direct a surging line of applicants. "But they know Rosendin's quality. They knew the type of work they'd put in, that there would be no problems and it would get done right the first time." Both the networking site and the contractor are based in California.

Rosendin has more than 3,000 employees in major cities and rural enclaves nationwide, and the manager for the Forest City project began his career as a journeyman with the IBEW.

"This whole night—it's about market share and membership, of course," Rhodes said. "But it's bigger than that. People in this area have been struggling for too long. Anyone and everyone who's concerned about this state needs to do what they can to make jobs a priority and help get people back to work."

To urge that along, Local 238 worked with State Organizing Coordinator Matt Ruff and Tenth District Organizing Coordinator Dave Hoque to push stories about the job fair in local newspapers and in area TV markets. Organizer Josh Rhodes spearheaded leafleting at unemployment offices, Internet ad placement and public service announcements for every radio station in the western part of the state. Along the way, the team picked up a welcome partner in the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, which promoted the job fair for the local.

"Anything that helps create jobs and move our economy forward is something we can support," said Clark Poole, the county chamber's director. "We have a great work force here, and it's encouraging to see so many applicants at this job fair."

At the end of the night, the event was deemed an unqualified success. "This is easily the biggest one we've ever had in the Carolinas," Dusty Rhodes said around 11 p.m., as volunteers packed up, organizers headed out and attendees made their ways back home.

Leaders of Local 238 said they couldn't have had as successful a night without the help of apprentices Tom Doyle, Nathan Klutz, James Palmiter, John Pettepher, Nick Raynor, John Rice and Jason Simons, as well as President Buck Buchanan.

But while the project's sponsors

were pleased with the effort, a bigger celebration came in the days and weeks afterward for the dozens of electricians who had been waiting in anticipation to hear two magic words: "You're hired."

Patrick—the traveling wireman—got a phone call that weekend telling him that he was one of the first prospective new IBEW members. As did the Bush father and son team, who expressed interest in learning all they could about how the union helps ensure pension and health care benefits.

"It was the best news I'd heard in a very long time," Patrick said.

The next week, he hit the jobsite, where the shell of the second building was taking form. Crews were then using 3-D imagery to map locations for conduit, installing the fire system, and making preparations for the thousands of feet of wire that will connect hardware. When complete, the dark rectangular façade will resemble the first structure, sheltering what is essentially a giant computer more than a football field in length. The entire top half of the building will largely be empty space for hot air to gather, as a state-of-the-art cooling system keeps circuits and hardware from overheating. The job promises at least two-and-a-half years of steady employment for about 250 journeymen, apprentices and construction electricians/construction wiremen.

"This is complex work," said Dusty Rhodes, "and we're the best people to do it."

### 'The Social Network' in Real Life

Matt Ruff says there's a lot of overlap in the

real-world life of growing the membership and the online world of social networking.

"If you're on Facebook and you have a lot of friends, the simple fact is that the more friends you have the more you're likely to have in the future," he said. "It's the same with organizing—if I meet a good electrician, he or she's likely to recommend to me other good electricians, and then they recommend even more. Organize one, and they bring more with them. It becomes an exponential process."

At the same time, it's necessary to show that the IBEW is there not just for the electrician, but for that worker's whole family, says Dave Hoque, who works with 17 construction locals throughout the Carolinas, Arkansas and Tennessee. Two hours east of Asheville, Charlotte Local 379 is based inside a renovated house with a playground in the back. "There's a reason for that," Hoque said. "We want our folks to know that they can feel at home there. So we don't just talk about the union. We talk about hunting, racing—anything that's valuable to the member. It's nice to talk with them and see their spouse out on the playground with the kids. It reminds you as an organizer to see the whole picture." Plus, Hoque said, with family support, locals get better retention and better quality electricians and trade unionists.

Family and social involvement, even in the digital age, isn't just helpful for organizers in North Carolina and beyond. It's crucial. Life moves at a different pace than in a bustling metropolis of California or New York, and face-to-face interaction is key. "This is especially true given all we have to go up against every day," Hoque said. "This is an area that can be hostile to unions. We have extreme political counteraction on a daily

basis and we constantly face obstacles. Anything you can do to convey the fact that the IBEW doesn't want to just take your money, but that we want to improve your standard of living, is a benefit. Personal connections are everything."

And increased membership after events like the Jan. 12 job fair is proof of that. Rocky Bush, who was with his father at the event, spent more than two decades doing mostly commercial and industrial electrical work for nonunion companies. Now a construction electrician on the Facebook project, Bush said, "I know more than a dozen people on this site who used to work for me, and they all talk highly of the folks at the local. The IBEW cares about us." At 38, Bush says he's found his lifelong career. "I'm going to be in this for the long haul."

## A New Industry?

Outside of the Facebook project, the work picture is bleak for vast numbers of residents in Rutherford County. But North Carolina once helped form the hub of a textile manufacturing sector that provided steady work for generations, especially in rural communities.

Following mass strikes and worker demonstrations in the 1920s and '30s—including the 1929 Loray Mill strike in Gastonia, about 40 miles east of Forest City, which pitted violent strikebreakers against women and children—textiles continued to play a major role in the state's economy until increasing globalization and outsourcing began to cripple the industry in the 1990s. Hundreds of textile mills began to close before the millennium, and hundreds of thousands of jobs were lost in North Carolina alone, all before the onset of the 2008 financial crisis.

But if the dilapidated buildings and persistent poverty are what are left behind from a burnt-out industry, Facebook's presence may be something of a phoenix rising from the ashes. "The industry is gone, but what's left behind is a stable electrical infrastructure and power grid that used to run those facto-



Asheville Local 238 President Buck Buchanan, left, organizer Josh Rhodes and steward Charlie Phillips.

ries," said organizer Josh Rhodes. Google recognized that in 2007 and began work on a similar data center using Charlotte Local 379 labor. "Plus, land is relatively cheap, so these big companies look at North Carolina as a good place to bring their business."

Young workers like Local 238 member Gary Chapman see this as an encouraging sign. Chapman, 26, was on hand Jan. 12 to assist friends who came to the job fair—many of whom had earned four-year degrees but were still struggling to find work. "My mother worked in the textile industry, and we know people who've been laid off," said Chapman, a lifelong Forest City resident who is looking to get into the local's apprenticeship program. "This county has sorely needed jobs ever since I've been in the work force. Everyone in my generation who I went to high school with used to just want to get out of Rutherford County because there wasn't anything for them."

That has started to change since crews broke ground on the Facebook project early last year. Chapman, who had experience doing residential work, was hired as a construction electrician when the first data center building started to go up early last year. He said the promise of steady work for at least the next two years "has completely

changed the attitude and morale for this community, especially among my peers."

Chapman said that the project can set an example for other industry leaders who are looking at the area. "This is vitally important for the community and the county. If one of the biggest companies in the world is willing to come here and hire union workers, it shows to me that we may be rebuilding. Maybe one day we can get back to where we were with textiles."

## Status Update

In the weeks since the job fair, dozens of locally hired hands are working overtime to meet their construction deadlines. As the conduits are bent and the wire is pulled, the paychecks come. The arctic rain has left, and in its place are many balmy afternoons in the low '60s. Workers in the open air have traded in their ponchos and facemasks for light jackets. A news report announces that nationwide unemployment is at the lowest in three years.

Spring is coming.

The Facebook project means different things to different residents. For new members like Chris Patrick, it means being able to spend more time now with his children, without the constant tug of having to travel hundreds of miles to pull marathon shifts just to make ends meet. For Glenn Bush, it means access to quality health care, and his son Rocky will likely test up to journeyman status soon.

"Our goal was to grow the local and get area people back to work," said Dusty Rhodes. "Simple as that." It's a modest recognition of meeting monumental goals. And in a place like rural North Carolina, it's also a formula to spread solidarity to more residents adopting union values, as they—in the parlance of Facebook—find friends, share and connect.

"This is the happiest I've ever been," said Chapman, the prospective apprentice. "And I'm excited to see what the future holds for me in the IBEW." ■

# Kansas City GE Workers Vote IBEW

**W**orkers who rebuild railroad traction motors at General Electric Transportation are celebrating a Jan. 27 vote in favor of representation by Kansas City, Mo., Local 1464.

GE will not contest the results of the election, giving members of the newest bargaining unit at the massive company—which employs 1,600 IBEW members in other plants—hope that a mutually beneficial first contract will be negotiated soon.

A flier circulated during the campaign plainly stated the goals of the volunteer organizing committee that led the third campaign in four years to unionize the workplace. "We sign agreements and contracts throughout our lives [on houses, cars etc.] That's being smart by protecting yourself if the agreement is not lived up to," said the committee.

International President Edwin D. Hill says, "The IBEW has a very productive bargaining relationship with GE as a participant in a coordinated bargaining council consisting of 14 different unions. The union has worked with the company to bring offshored production back home, like refrigerators that are produced by members of Bloomington, Ind., Local 2249."

Hill says, "The IBEW is ready to pivot from an organizing mode to a mutually-beneficial negotiation on a contract that provides more security for our members while simultaneously improving the transportation division's competitive position."

Lead Membership Development Organizer Mike Knox says the 44 to 41 vote organizing win was the product of powerful teamwork among the plant's workers and a merger of local union and International resources.

IBEW organizers were called back to the plant soon after the December 2010 IBEW campaign lost. Prior campaigns by the Teamsters and the UAW also failed. A letter to co-workers from the volunteer organizing committee stated: "This facility has been here three years and gone through numerous plant managers, human resource managers and others. The only constant here is those of us who built this place and continue to keep our customers happy."

**"The IBEW has worked with GE to bring offshored production back home, like refrigerators that are produced by members of Bloomington, Ind., Local 2249."**

— International President Edwin D. Hill

IBEW organizers invited members of railroad locals who work with GE motors to organizing meetings. Says Knox, "It was a big help knowing they were there to speak the language of the trade and talk about the market for GE Transportation's product, the rebuilt motors that members of our bargaining unit send back to the field ready to run."

In a conversation with the plant's manager, Local 1464 Business Manager Darrell McCubbins said the IBEW's goal is to provide a structure for a better relationship between the parties and put union stewards in place to strive for safety while keeping the plant productive.

"It was positive to see the group work so hard to become unionized and watch their faces when they found out they won," says McCubbins. He asked union supporters not to gloat over the win with co-workers who opposed the drive, but to continue safe, high-quality work. Production improved the week after the win, says McCubbins.

IBEW Director of Manufacturing Randy Middleton praises the teamwork that led to the organizing win. He says talks will be initiated between the union and GE about placing the newly organized unit under the umbrella of the coordinated bargaining council. ■



Celebrating the victory at GE are organizer Mike Knox, left, with Kansas City, Mo., Local 1464 Business Manager Darrell L. McCubbins and Assistant Business Manager Mike Baker.

## The Facebook Project, By the Numbers

**250** Area journeymen, apprentices and alternative classifications who will be employed

**2.5** Minimum years that the project will provide area residents with work

**19.1%** Rutherford County's unemployment rate prior to the project

**232,000** Jobs lost in the state since the demise of the textile industry in the mid-1990s

**2.9%** Union density in North Carolina

**1%** IBEW statewide market share increase in 2011, in spite of great obstacles

# Boston Local Builds Hospital, Lasting Relationships in Haiti

**M**aybe it was the Marine Corps that best prepared Fletcher Fuentes, a Boston Local 103 journeyman wireman, to go to one of the world's most impoverished nations to lead a group of young electricians who speak a different language and share next to nothing of the consumer comforts that surrounded him at home.

After months in Haiti, away from his wife and three young children, Fuentes, a former infantry mortar man, reaffirms the sentiments of 41 Local 103 volunteers—including retirees and active workers—who have traveled to the Caribbean to support a renowned non-profit organization, building what will be the region's largest hospital.

"It's been an eye-opening experience that has changed the way I think about life," says Fuentes, a second-generation IBEW member who topped out as apprentice of the year last year and has been working for Sullivan and McLaughlin Companies, New England's largest electrical contractor, for six years.

Local 103 Business Agent Lou Antonellis says it was a "no-brainer" when Local 103's Business Manager Mike Monahan and SullyMac's principal, Hugh McLaughlin, were asked by contractor Jim Ansara to help build a 320-bed hospital in Mirebalais on Haiti's central plateau, about an hour and a half from its capital, Port-au-Prince, still in dire circumstances since the horrific 2010 earthquake.

"The hospital sector has given so much to the contractors and members of Local 103 and our families," says Antonellis. "We are not only provided with access to the world's best health care facilities, we are literally performing millions of man-hours building and maintaining the electrical systems in over 50 hospitals in our jurisdiction."

The Mirebalais project is sponsored by Boston-based Partners in Health, founded more than 30 years ago by Harvard-educated Dr. Paul Farmer, a visionary advocate who has been profiled on "60 Minutes" and currently disperses \$50 million in annual funding for medical projects in many parts of the world.

The complete contrast between living and working conditions in Boston and Mirebalais even shocked Local 103 volunteers who have witnessed stark cultural and economic differences in other places and times.

"This place will bring a tear to your eye. It's humbling," says 45-year member Larry Richmond, a semi-retired SullyMac electrician who recruited fellow U.S. Navy Vietnam Seabees veteran Jim Pimental, a retired Local 103 journeyman, Bill Zimkin, a



*Boston Local 103 members and New England's largest electrical contractor, Sullivan and McLaughlin, working with the nonprofit organization Partners in Health, have teamed up to train and mentor local electricians building a teaching hospital in Mirebalais, Haiti, the largest hospital in the region.*

retired member of New York Local 3, and Tom Shreves, manager of the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association and a member of Steubenville Local 246, to travel to Haiti.

Pimental had heard before arriving in Haiti that, without a hospital nearby, sick residents sometimes travel on foot for an entire day to seek medical care. But the poverty he saw on the way to the airport before leaving Haiti left an indelible image. "There was a traffic jam, so our driver took a shortcut through a neighborhood that hadn't been damaged by the 2010 earthquake." Even outside of the earthquake's devastation, he says, "what people are enduring is unbelievable." Pimental, who spent a year in Vietnam, says, "That country wasn't as devastated as this one. In Haiti, there are tent cities everywhere. This is a war—a war to survive."

Pimental said he is proud that IBEW members are passing on valuable skills to Haitian workers while letting them witness union brotherhood firsthand. "They know that union membership leads to better wages and working conditions, which means a better overall way of life. And God knows, they need it," says Antonellis.

Leaving not just physical structures, but trained medical professionals behind is a hallmark of Partners in Health programs, says Brian Scott, PIH's site supervisor at Mirebalais. Passing on trade skills to help Haitian workers build Mirebalais' outpatient clinic, birthing center, dental center and women's clinic, say Local 103 members, is part of the same mission.

"I love helping these guys out since I know it is a source of pride for

them to build this hospital," says Fuentes. "Haitian electricians are great to work with, always willing to learn and do anything," he says. Whether digging a ditch in 95-to-100 degree heat, cutting concrete to install a box, or working in a pit full of water, they are willing to get the job done, he adds.

At the beginning of the job, Fuentes used an interpreter to translate his instructions in Creole.

After that, he says, "I used my 'SpanglishCreole' to get my point across." He says teaching electricians to read blueprints gets past any language barrier. And fair treatment is essential. "I don't micromanage our Haitian brothers," says Fuentes. "I allow them to make mistakes and fix them without having someone standing over them yelling." But completing the first phase of the project on time in February also meant crossing other unfamiliar barriers.

"There isn't a supply house down the street, so most of the material is either carried down by volunteers on the plane or shipped in containers that take six to eight weeks to get to Mirebalais and clear customs," says Fuentes.

The Mirebalais project encompasses all phases of electrical construction. In a nation where shoddy, dangerous electrical installations are everywhere, IBEW electricians are familiarizing residents with National Electrical Code methods, the wiring of intricate life safety systems and installation of X-ray and CT-scan machinery.

One of the Haitian electricians, Iguenson Joseph, 27, began working at Mirebalais as a laborer and security guard. In an interview on Partners in

Health's Web site, Joseph, a former teacher and father of two, says his work is about helping his country and his family. Joseph helps translate Creole and English for workers at the hospital. He says, "I want [my children] to go to school and take the hard subjects, and to continue on to university. I was studying physics but had to stop before graduation. I want them to be able to finish."

Hugh McLaughlin says of his company's commitment to Mirebalais, "Professional fulfillment is not just about winning work. It's something more. This is a great opportunity to work in Haiti and give back to the community by working with Partners in Health and Local 103."

Chuck Richmond, a 35-year Local 103 member and operations officer at

SullyMac, has been to Haiti six times and is responsible for all technical and logistical support.

Phase 1 of the Mirebalais project was dedicated by Dr. Farmer on January 10. Phase 2 is expected to be completed by April 30. Antonellis expects that by the project's end, 75 Local 103 members will have participated, with eight making multiple trips.

Bob Crehan, a 16-year Local 103 member, was hesitant after first being asked to travel to Haiti. Today, Crehan is pleased that he overcame his doubts.

"Volunteering in Haiti was the most rewarding experience of my life," says Crehan, who plans to return for the second phase of the hospital's construction. He says Haitian people are some of the most positive people he has ever met, but electricians are severely lacking in tools and training. While he is proud that Local 103 and SullyMac helped his new co-workers acquire good quality tools of the trade, Crehan still thinks about the difficulty of life in the surrounding countryside. "It is quite a sight to watch a 10-year-old girl carry a five-gallon bucket of water on her head up hills over long distances," he says.

Antonellis says the Mirebalais project takes the slogan of the 39th IBEW International Convention, "Brotherhood Beyond Borders," to the next level. "I'll be forever grateful for the lessons I learned about basic humanity and helping my neighbor. Projects like this exemplify the IBEW's commitment to the electrical industry and brotherhood around the world."

Local 103 and SullyMac have produced a video about the building of the Mirebalais hospital. Visit

[www.the103advantage.com/video/33996936](http://www.the103advantage.com/video/33996936). ■

## Haiti's Union Electricians Face Obstacles

**W**hile members of IBEW Local 103 and SullyMac demonstrate their goodwill helping build the regional hospital at Mirebalais, Haiti's union electricians struggle to survive.

Dukens Raphael, president of the union representing electricians in Haiti, says the base salary for his organization's 500 electricians and linemen, who work in 10 municipalities for the state-run utility company, is \$350 per month.

Says Raphael, "We experienced very difficult times throughout our union's 26-year existence, particularly with the military governments from 1986 and during President René Préal's second term [ended Feb. 2011]. But we have resisted and we are still here."

Many unions in Haiti, says Raphael, are still struggling to exist. "This is hardly a state that accepts the existence of autonomous unions which criticize the status quo," he says.

Raphael serves as secretary general of Confederation of Public and Private Sector Workers of Haiti, an umbrella organization that maintains fraternal ties with AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center. He says he wants to strengthen the bonds of solidarity that bind our unions and welcomes the work of IBEW in Haiti. ■

# Hawaii Local Bridges Pacific with Guam Expansion

**M**ore than 3,300 miles of deep Pacific Ocean separate the remote tropical island of Guam and Honolulu, charter city of Local 1260, but that has not stopped the Hawaii-based local from becoming the fastest growing union on the U.S. territory.

While the Aloha State is one of the country's most unionized jurisdictions, Guam traditionally existed on the fringes of the American labor movement, too often ignored by unions on the mainland and Hawaii.

But more than a decade ago, Local 1260 made a conscious decision to bring the benefits and wages enjoyed by IBEW members in their state to the people of Guam—efforts that are now bearing fruit.

It currently has contracts at six different employers on the island, with two more in the works, making Guam, with nearly 1,000 IBEW members, home to a third of the local's membership.

Reflecting the IBEW's rapid growth on the island, Local 1260 members overwhelmingly approved a bylaw change late last year that adds two new seats to the local's executive board—seats reserved for members from the territory.

"The addition of Guam to the board is a major milestone in our campaign to bridge the Pacific," says Local 1260 Business Manager Brian Ahakuelo. "It shows that we are serious about making a long-term commitment to our members there."

The rapid growth of the IBEW on the island marks a remarkable turnaround from only a decade ago, when Guam was, for all intents and purposes, a union-free zone—at least when it came to the private sector.

A strong culture of anti-unionism—combined with a general lack of knowledge about unions among residents—permeated Guam. The business establishment was uniformly hostile to collective bargaining, and in 2000 successfully prodded the territorial government to pass a right-to-work law. To this day the Guam Employers Council still uses a graphic on the labor relations section of its Web site that says "Unions: Not Necessary."

Furthermore, company propaganda successfully portrayed union organizers as outsiders—an alien force set on upsetting traditional culture.

"Guam can be a very insular community, and strangers are not always welcome if they don't take the time to earn people's trust first," says Local 1260 Business Representative Russell Yamanoha.



## Guam: An Overview

Lying on the edge of the Western Pacific, Guam is much closer to the Philippines—by about 1,500 miles—than it is to Honolulu. Approximately 178,000 people live on the 30-mile-long island, which has been under U.S. control since 1898.

Scene of one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific theater during World War II, Guam became an official American territory in 1950.

Populated mainly by native Chammaros, a people of Micronesian descent, Guam's economy is largely dependent on tourism and the U.S. military, which has seven bases on the island.

## 'Rock Stars'

Workers on Guam earn less than a third of their counterparts in Hawaii, but even more galling is that they make less even when working for the same company, on the same federal contract.

The disparity made the dozens of private contractors that provide support staff to the island's military bases—everything from maintenance workers to day care teachers—ripe for organizing.

Then-Assistant Business Manager Ahakuelo made his first visit to the island in 2000, meeting with civilian support workers employed by Navy contractor Raytheon Technical Services.

The workers were receptive. Their work had recently been outsourced by the Navy, so anxiety about job security ran high.

It took two years, but the months of meetings, workplace discussions and round-trip flights finally paid off. In January 2002 the more than 900 employees voted overwhelmingly in



*Guam members of Honolulu Local 1260 voted overwhelmingly in support of a motion to add Jose Salas, left, and Robert Mafnas—both natives of the U.S. territory—to the local's executive board.*

favor of IBEW representation in the biggest union victory in Guam history.

It was soon followed by victories at other contractors, whose employees were impressed by the strong wage and benefit packages Raytheon workers negotiated.

The close-knit nature of Guam society that had thwarted unions for so long began working in the IBEW's favor, says Ahakuelo. Existing social networks among friends and family served as an island-wide worker-to-worker network that spread the good word about the benefits of collective bargaining.

"The IBEW became like rock stars on Guam," Yamanoha says. "Workers were jumping at the chance to work at a company represented by the IBEW."

The IBEW's strong contracts have not only helped attract new members, but employers as well, who were eager to recruit employees looking for a good-paying career, not just a job.

"Some of the companies see an IBEW contract as a way to attract new hires," Yamanoha says.

This new attitude toward unions

was illustrated by the IBEW's latest organizing victory. Advance Management Inc., which has a contract to perform janitorial services for Navy facilities, disregarded the employers' council advice on fighting unions, instead choosing to respect the decision of 30 of its employees to sign up with Local 1260 earlier this year.

Many IBEW members now hope that their organizing success can create a race-to-the-top situation for Guam's working families, with union shops setting the standard for wages and benefits—reversing decades of low-pay and poverty.

"The union works for Guam," says Pastor Ranoco, who works for the military contractor DZSP 21. "Look what working conditions used to be like compared to what we have now. There is no question things are getting better."

## A Renewed Commitment

With the flight time between Honolulu and Guam's economic center Tamuning averaging eight hours, Ahakuelo says that servicing the island from the local's central

office in Oahu is a formidable challenge. But last fall, the local assembled a team to make sure Guam gets the attention it deserves, dedicating two fulltime organizers to the territory, including Kenneth Laguana, who lives there. Also involved in servicing Guam are Local 1260 Assistant Business Managers Russell Takemoto and Thomas Decano and Senior Assistant Business Manager Teresa Morrison.

"For a few years, we felt somewhat adrift and isolated here," says Guam member Robert Mafnas, an island native who, along with Jose Salas, joined the local's executive board last December. Mafnas is a six-year member and building inspector by trade who says that the local's renewed commitment to organizing the island has motivated members to get active and stay mobilized.

"We're seeing more attendance at meetings and more enthusiasm," he says.

And with the military looking to further beef up its presence on Guam, more organizing opportunities continue to emerge. Efforts underway include a 200-person unit at the Guam Naval Station Shipyard and utility workers at Guam Power Authority. The local has also redoubled its efforts to grow its membership in Hawaii, building a strong IBEW presence throughout the Pacific region.

The IBEW's growth is also being felt in the territorial capital of Hagåtña. Members of the territorial legislature have started to attend unit meetings, as have staff representatives from the office of Rep. Madeleine Bordallo, Guam's non-voting delegate to Congress.

"Some of our elected officials were shocked at first to see that we were growing so fast," says Mafnas. "But some have already let us know that they consider themselves allies of labor." ■

# International Trade Commission Targets Imported Wind Towers



If the Commerce Department determines that wind tower components are being dumped onto the U.S. market, it could help American manufacturers.

The U.S. International Trade Commission has issued a preliminary decision that imported wind towers from China and Vietnam are being “dumped,” or sold below the cost of production, on the U.S. market, harming domestic manufacturers. The commission’s findings will now be reviewed by the U.S. Department of Commerce for further possible trade action.

**“More Americans are waking up every day to the need for the U.S. to insist on fair trade to protect and expand our domestic manufacturing industry.”**

— International President Edwin D. Hill

The case was brought by the Wind Tower Trade Coalition, a group of wind tower manufacturers deployed by the utility industry. Members of Des Moines,

Iowa, Local 347 manufacture wind towers at Trinity Structural Towers.

The ITC’s determination follows three commerce department investigations into charges that China and Vietnam were dumping the utility-scale towers.

If the Department of Commerce rules favorably for the wind tower industry, anti-dumping duties could be levied on imported wind towers, raising their costs to protect the competitive position of U.S. manufacturers.

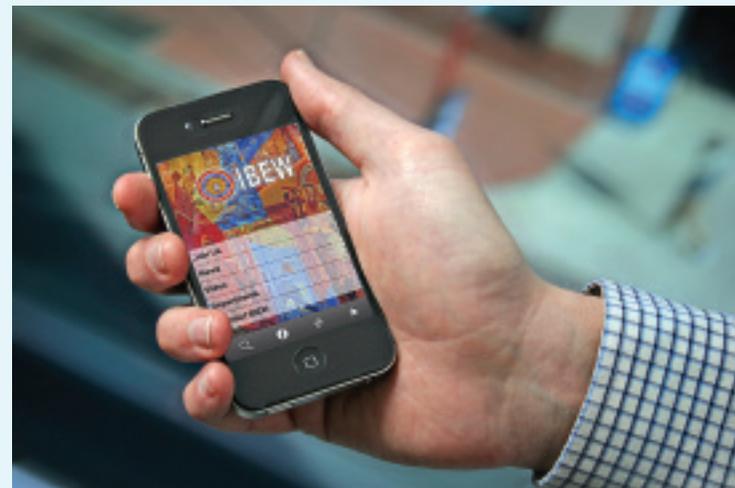
Commerce Department investigators are also probing Chinese government subsidies to the wind tower industry for violations of international trade laws.

In January, IBEW called upon members to support the development of renewable energy and increased wind power manufacturing by asking Congress to vote for a four-year extension of the production tax credit. More details are available on the Web at [www.SaveUSAWindJobs.com](http://www.SaveUSAWindJobs.com).

Says International President Edwin D. Hill, “More Americans are waking up every day to the need for the U.S. to insist on fair trade to protect and expand our domestic manufacturing industry. This action by the Department of Commerce and the International Trade

Commission show that policymakers are listening to Americans who know that opportunities for economic growth and shared prosperity will be lost if the U.S. doesn’t win a level playing field in renewable energy technologies.” ■

# The Right Choice for Your Smartphone



Get the latest news from your union wherever you are with the new IBEW Smartphone app.

Get connected with the IBEW—on the go. Check out the latest news, view exclusive videos and learn more about the best trained and most qualified electrical work force in the United States and Canada wherever you are with the IBEW app.

Available for iPhones, iPads and Androids, the app features:

- The latest updates from the IBEW News Blog
- Videos from the IBEW media team
- Information on joining, and on your rights at work

The average smartphone owner now spends more time browsing the Web using smartphones than computers. And with the number of iPhones and Android devices activated expected to surge past 1 billion worldwide in 2012, the IBEW app is a timely new way to keep working people plugged into the biggest union of electrical workers in North America.

“As one of the first unions to have its own smartphone app, the IBEW is showing it’s ahead of the curve, making sure members and others interested in the labor movement are connected no matter where they are,” says Media Department International Representative Mark Brueggenjohann.

The app is available for free download.

iPhone and iPad users go to [www.apple.com/iphone/from-the-app-store](http://www.apple.com/iphone/from-the-app-store)

Android users go to [www.market.android.com](http://www.market.android.com). It can be also downloaded from the market app on your smartphone. ■

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



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\*Limited quantities, only available while supplies last.

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



# Toronto Mayor Launches Attack on Public Sector Workers

**T**aking a page out of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's anti-union playbook, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has launched an unprecedented attack on public sector workers in Canada's largest city, threatening employees with a lockout in his effort to privatize vital city services.

"Ford is trying to set a standard for union-busting that would reverberate across Canada if he is successful," says Toronto Local 353 Business Manager Steven Martin, who represents more than 60 electricians employed by the city.

Ford is attempting to eliminate job security provisions—contractual protections that prevent the city from unilaterally contracting out jobs to private industry.

The mayor, who was elected in 2010 on an anti-labour platform fueled in part by voter alienation over a six-week sanitation worker strike, blames public sector unions for what he calls a record city deficit. But a recent analysis by the think tank the Wellesley Institute finds that the city is actually running a \$154 million surplus.

"Ford's concern isn't money, it's politics," says First District Vice President Phil Flemming. "He's playing up a crisis to achieve his goal of busting the power of unions."

Ford has also threatened to slash all department budgets by 10 percent, cuts that would have a dramatic effect on the quality of life for city residents by reducing the availability of key public services.

Toronto employs more than 50,000 workers—from librarians to garbage collectors—many of whom belong to the Canadian Union of Public Employees. More than 2,000 jobs could be eliminated under Ford's plan, says Toronto and York Region Labour Council President John Cartwright.

"City workers are clearly the main target, and there is an open disdain for what happens to their lives," he wrote in the Toronto Star. "There is a lot of money at stake and tremendous profit to be made in the plans of the Ford administration."

Union employees are covered under multiple contracts—all of which expired at the end of last year. But it's CUPE Local 416, which represents more than 6,000 employees, that will be the first to face a lockout. The mayor was granted authorization from the Ontario Ministry of Labour to lock out CUPE workers under what is called a "no board report."

While Local 353 is not directly threatened by the cutbacks, a lockout would force the city to temporarily lay them off until the dispute is settled.

"Even if we're not in the crosshairs, our members' job security is at stake," Martin says.

Ford's actions have served to build solidarity between private- and public-sector union members. The goal, says council leaders who are spreading the message in every workplace and neighborhood, is to convey that working people need to stand together against Ford's anti-labour austerity agenda.

Union activists say that building links with community leaders and opening channels of communication with taxpayers to show that good jobs and decent public service go together is key.

"It is important that all working families come together for a fair and just resolution to these issues," says Martin.

For the latest updates, go to [www.ibew353.org](http://www.ibew353.org).



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford's austerity agenda has united union members and community groups in opposition to his proposed cutbacks.

Photo used under a Creative Commons License from Flickr user PostBear.

## Le maire de Toronto s'attaque aux travailleurs du secteur public

**E**n plagiant une page du livre du gouverneur anti-syndicaliste du Wisconsin, Scott Walker, le maire de Toronto, Rob Ford, a lancé une attaque sans précédent contre les employés du secteur public de la plus grande ville du Canada, les menaçant de lock-out dans son effort de privatisation des services municipaux essentiels.

« Ford veut fixer une norme pour casser les syndicats ce qui pourrait avoir des répercussions dans tout le Canada s'il y parvient » déclare Steven Martin, Gérant d'affaires de la section locale 353 de Toronto qui représente plus de 60 électriciens à l'emploi de la ville.

Ford tente d'éliminer la sécurité d'emploi et la protection contre la sous-traitance qui empêche la ville d'octroyer unilatéralement les contrats à l'industrie privée.

Le maire, qui a été élu en 2010 sur la base de son programme anti-syndicaliste, blâme les syndicats du secteur

public pour ce qu'il appelle « un déficit record pour la ville ». Toutefois, une analyse récente réalisée par un groupe de réflexion de l'Institut Wellesley révèle que la ville enregistre un excédent de 154 millions de dollars.

« La principale préoccupation de Ford n'est pas l'argent mais la politique. Il amplifie une crise pour atteindre son objectif visant à casser le pouvoir des syndicats » dit Phil Flemming, Vice-président du Premier District.

Ford a également menacé de serrer tous les budgets avec des compressions de 10 pourcent. Ces coupures auraient des répercussions marquées sur la qualité de vie des résidents en réduisant la disponibilité des principaux services publics.

La ville de Toronto compte plus de 50,000 employés—des bibliothécaires aux éboueurs—dont plusieurs sont membres du Syndicat canadien de la fonction publique. D'après le confrère John Cartwright, Président du Conseil du

travail de la région de Toronto et de York, le plan de Ford prévoit l'élimination de plus de 2,000 emplois.

« Les employés municipaux sont clairement les principaux visés et il y a un mépris affiché pour ce que l'avenir leur réserve. Il y a beaucoup d'argent en jeu et d'énormes profits à réaliser dans les plans de l'administration Ford » écrivait-il dans un article publié dans le Toronto Star.

Les employés syndiqués sont visés par de multiples conventions collectives qui venaient à échéance à la fin de l'année dernière. Mais les membres du SCFP - Local 416 qui représente plus de 6,000 travailleurs extérieurs, seront les premiers touchés par un lock-out. Le maire a obtenu l'autorisation du Ministre du travail de l'Ontario de mettre en lock-out les travailleurs du SCFP sous ce qu'on appelle une 'recommandation de non-conciliation'.

Bien que les membres de la section locale 353 ne soient pas directe-

ment menacés par ces coupures, la ville devrait mettre les employés à pied temporairement advenant un lock-out, jusqu'à ce que le litige soit réglé.

« Même si nous ne sommes pas dans la ligne de mire, la sécurité d'emploi de nos membres est en jeu », ajoute le confrère Martin.

Les actions de Ford ont servi à renforcer la solidarité entre les syndiqués du secteur privé et du secteur public. Comme l'indiquent les dirigeants du Conseil dans leur message diffusé dans tous les lieux de travail et le voisinage des travailleurs, l'objectif principal est d'inciter les travailleurs et les travailleuses à demeurer solidaires contre les mesures d'austérité antisyndicales de Ford.

« Il est important que toutes les familles travailleuses s'unissent afin de favoriser la résolution équitable et juste de ces problèmes » conclut le confrère Martin.

Visitez le [www.ibew353.org](http://www.ibew353.org) pour obtenir les dernières mises à jour. ■

## Transitions

### RETIRED Jeremiah 'Jerry' F. Comer



Third District International Representative Jerry Comer retired January 1 after a 42-year career with the IBEW.

Born in Taylor, Pa., Brother Comer was initiated into Syracuse, N.Y., Local 43 in 1969, where he completed his apprenticeship and went to work on such projects as the Carrier Dome in Syracuse. Becoming active in the local union, he served on the executive board and examining board and as vice president before his election as business manager and financial secretary in 1988.

"I liked the challenge and working with the members," said Comer, highlighting a successful organizing campaign he took on as business manager that ended with the five largest nonunion contractors in central New York becoming signatory to Local 43 agreements. Those netted 300 new members, Comer said. He served as a member of the Syracuse Labor Council, the Syracuse building trades council and the Central New York Labor Management Committee.

He became an International Representative appointed to the Third District staff in 1997, servicing construction locals in New York. Comer said he particularly enjoyed working with the AFL-CIO president on legislative issues, including those involving project labor agreements. He also served on the state building trades executive council.

Brother Comer served on the resolutions committee at IBEW conventions in 1991 and 1996. He also nominated International President J.J. Barry, a member of Local 43, at those conventions.

In his retirement, he said he looks forward to traveling and volunteering with some local political campaigns. The IBEW officers, staff and members wish Brother Comer a long and fulfilling retirement. ■

### RETIRED Robbie Sparks



Robbie J. Sparks, a longtime business manager, a member of the executive council of the AFL-CIO and president of the Electrical

Workers Minority Caucus, retired effective Feb. 1.

President Edwin D. Hill, who nominated Sparks to serve on the AFL-CIO council in 2005, says, "Sister Robbie's commitment to organized labor and the struggle for justice and equality is unrivaled. Her integrity and courage have been instrumental in building a more diverse and inclusive IBEW to meet the tough challenges ahead."

Born in Atlanta, Sparks began working at an early age in a poultry processing plant for \$.52 an hour. In 1966,

she went to work as a production worker on the assembly line at ITE Inc., which was bought by Siemens Energy and Automation.

After questioning both union and management leaders at ITE about the disparity in pay and working conditions between white workers and minorities and women, Robbie joined Atlanta Local 2127.

While serving on the local union's negotiating committee, Sparks helped establish a bidding system to promote equal pay and promotional opportuni-

ties for all workers and led a successful strike to improve wages and benefits.

A shop steward and chief steward, Sparks was elected business manager, holding the position for 28 years.

In 1990, Robbie Sparks was elected president of the EWMC. She concentrated on spreading awareness of the group throughout the IBEW and deepening the caucus's work between meetings which were held every four or five years to coincide with IBEW International conventions. ■

### DECEASED John Flynn



We are sorry to report that retired Second District Vice President John Flynn passed away on Jan. 26 at the age of 86.

"Brother Flynn believed in organizing and building stronger labor-community relationships before they became

## Circuits

### National Labor College Scholarships Available for IBEW Members

Rising college tuition rates are putting a squeeze on many families' pocketbooks, but IBEW members can now achieve their dreams of a university diploma with a scholarship from the National Labor College.

Available to all IBEW members in good standing, scholarship recipients earn \$795 toward any class at the NLC. Application deadlines are April 9 for the summer session and August 6 for the fall.

The National Labor College is the nation's only accredited higher education institution devoted exclusively to educating union members and their families, leaders and staff.

Bachelor's degrees are available in construction management, business administration, emergency management and labor studies—fields designed to help boost your career and make you a savvy labor activist.

"The National Labor College provided me with a wonderful opportunity to return to school and get my degree," says 2004 graduate Darrin Golden. The Rockford, Ill., Local 364 business manager—who was still an organizer when he got his degree—says the program equipped him with the skills he needed to become a leader in the IBEW. "It is geared toward union members and classes are taught by labor activists who share our values."

The online classes are meant to fit busy schedules and can be done from anywhere with Internet access.

Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information and to download an application, go to: [www.nlc.edu/scholarships.html](http://www.nlc.edu/scholarships.html) ■

### Wis. Electrician Displays Courage, Skill in Afghanistan

It had been 18 years since John Danczyk, a Marine Corps veteran and vice president of Stevens Point, Wis., Local 388, returned from the first Gulf War, entered his apprenticeship, topped out and went to work as a journeyman inside wireman.

In 2010, after having worked only 15 weeks in two years, Danczyk, who says he "ran the roads," signing books for work from New Hampshire to New Mexico, decided to return to a war zone, this time as a civilian electrician working out of Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

Twenty days before returning home, while taking material inventory on a calm Saturday afternoon, Danczyk was wounded by shrapnel in a rocket attack that left 12 holes penetrating the steel walls of his workshop and a soldier evacuated by helicopter for medical treatment. A round had landed less than 30 feet from his bunker and a piece hit him just below his knee. He says he felt "bee stings" on his leg.

The second-generation IBEW member has been nominated for the Defense Secretary's Defense of Freedom Medal for offering assistance to soldiers during the attack. "I was very lucky to have only suffered minor injuries," he says.

"Having been in the service," says Danczyk, "I made use of knowing military



"The soldiers are in a tough fight and I was just glad I had the knowledge from the IBEW to make their lives a little easier," says Marine Corps veteran John Danczyk, vice president of Stevens Point, Wis., Local 388 who worked as a civilian electrician at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

rank structure to help get things done and make life for the warfighters safer and better. The soldiers are in a tough fight and I was just glad I had the knowledge from the IBEW to make their lives a little easier."

A communication and electronic specialist during his Marine service, Danczyk, who worked in Afghanistan for Inglett and Stubbs, an electrical contractor out of Atlanta, hopes that soldiers will "bring home a good impression of what a union electrician and construction worker is all about."

Years of traveling for work on diverse projects paid off in Afghanistan, says Danczyk, who has been involved in political campaigns, picket lines, attending state Democratic conventions and a Habitat for Humanity project for his local. He says, "I was very fortunate to have worked for many different contractors and in many different aspects of the trade, which made life easier and the work not nearly as daunting." Still, he had to get used to European voltages and materials and endure challenging weather and difficulties in getting materials to complete projects.

Guy LePage, Local 388 recording secretary, welcomed Danczyk back home in a January Local Lines submission. Says LePage, "John Danczyk went above and beyond what was required of him to get the job done and done right. He would go out of his way on his time off to make sure that all electrical installations were up to code and that personnel and property were safe from electrical hazards."

Danczyk says he is always learning from the quality and knowledge of the IBEW electricians he meets in his travels. "I am following my father's footsteps as an electrician," says Danczyk. "He always said that each layoff is an opportunity in disguise that could send me to new places. Boy was he right!" ■

trends. He was a low-key, professional and progressive innovator," says Second District Vice President Frank Carroll.

Flynn was initiated into Brockton, Mass., Local 223 in 1952 after his graduation from Boston University, where he received a B.S. degree in history and government. A journeyman inside wireman, Flynn took an immediate interest in his local union and served as business manager from 1958 to 1963.

He served as president of the Brockton Building Trades Council and as a labor representative to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

Appointed International Representative in 1963, Flynn, a World War II veteran, was assigned to organizing and servicing in branches including construction, maintenance, utility, manufac-

turing and shipyards. In 1968, Flynn was appointed Second District Vice President, serving until his retirement in 1990.

During his 22 years as vice president, Flynn amalgamated dozens of construction locals to free up resources for organizing. The mergers were controversial, says Carroll, but Flynn persevered because "he believed the streamlined structure was necessary to make the IBEW and the labor movement more viable."

After his retirement, Flynn served for four years as national director of the Quality Connection, a joint effort of the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association.

An accomplished skier and tennis player, Flynn enjoyed traveling, golf and bowling during his retirement. He leaves behind his wife Evelyn, sons John Jr. and

Kevin and his daughter Suzanne. He is predeceased by his first wife, Virginia, who was killed in an auto accident in 1984.

The officers, members and staff express heartfelt sympathies to Brother Flynn's family on behalf of our union membership. ■

### DECEASED Keith Huyser



We regret to report that retired Sixth District International Representative Keith Huyser died on Feb. 5 at the age of 81.

Initiated into Lansing, Mich., Local 665 in 1949, Huyser was elected business manager and was active in the area's labor movement, serving as vice president of both the Greater Lansing Labor Council and the Lansing Building Trades Council.

Brother Huyser, a third-generation IBEW member, was appointed International Representative in 1969, working out of Indiana and, later, Chicago. His brother, Don, was also a member of Local 665.

George Wilson, a retired business manager of the local, says: "Keith was good at straightening out problems; he knew how to get along with people. When he was working with his tools, contractors wanted him supervising their jobs."

William Huyser, Keith's son, a member of Local 665, says, "My dad always had a smile on his face and embraced members with a hug. The IBEW meant the world to him."

Huyser leaves behind his wife, Marilyn, three stepchildren, six children, 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His son, James, and a stepson, Brian Bass, are members of Local 665.

The officers, members and staff express our deep condolences to Brother Huyser's family. ■

## IBEW FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP

### AWARDED ONLY TO IBEW MEMBERS

The IBEW Founders' Scholarship honors the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 28, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned.

This award is for \$200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate's, bachelor's or postgraduate degree in a field that will further the electrical industry overall (as determined by the Founders' Scholarship Administrator). The maximum distribution is \$24,000 per person over a period not to exceed eight years.

### RULES FOR ENTRY

#### Eligibility Checklist

Founders' Scholarship competition is an adult program, to be used solely by IBEW members. It is NOT for the children of members.

1. Applicants must have been in continuous good standing and have paid dues without an honorary withdrawal for four years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year, or be charter members of a local union.
2. Each applicant must be recommended in writing by the local union business manager. If there is no business manager, then the recommendation must come from the local union president, system council chairman or general chairman.
3. At least two additional letters of recommendation must be sent by individuals who are familiar with the applicant's achievements and abilities.
4. Copies of all academic transcripts from high school, college, apprenticeship or other educational and developmental programs must be submitted.
5. A complete résumé is required. The résumé should outline the applicant's education and work history; military service; special honors or awards; and involvement in union, civic, community or religious affairs.
6. Applicants are required to submit a 250-500 word essay (typed and double spaced). The title and topic must be: "How I Will Use My Founders' Scholarship to Benefit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Electrical Industry."
7. Materials need not be sent at the same time but all must be postmarked prior to May 1 of the scholarship year.

#### Selection of Winners

Awards will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness and career goals. The independent Founders' Scholarship Selection Committee will be composed of academic, professional and community representatives.

They will examine the complete record of each scholarship applicant to choose the winners. All applicants will be notified, and the scholarship winners will be featured in *Electrical Worker*.

#### Responsibility of Each Founders' Scholar

Scholarship winners must begin their studies in the term immediately following receipt of the award or in January of the following year. Each term's earned grades must be sent to the Founders' Scholarship Administrator together with a Founders' Scholarship Progress Sheet. After the first calendar year in the program, and by each August 1 thereafter, the annual Founders' Scholar paper is due. The paper must be at least 1,000 words on a labor-related topic, covering any aspect affecting the current labor movement or labor history. Scholarships are not transferable and are forfeited if the student withdraws or fails to meet the requirements for graduation from the school. If a serious life situation arises to prevent continuation of studies, the scholarship winner may request that the scholarship be held in abeyance for a maximum of one academic year.

### APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please print or type*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal \_\_\_\_\_

SS/SIN # \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Member of local # \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Initiated into IBEW \_\_\_\_\_  
*On IBEW Membership Card or Dues Receipt Month/Year*

Most recent employer \_\_\_\_\_

Job classification \_\_\_\_\_ Work telephone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed field of study \_\_\_\_\_ Degree expected \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Field of study must contribute to the development and improvement of the electrical industry as determined by the Founders' Scholarship Administrator.*

School (list your first and second choices)  
First \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_

Did you complete high school or the GED? Yes  No   
*Send transcripts or other evidence to the Scholarship Committee.*

Did you take apprenticeship or skill-improvement training? Yes  No   
*Send transcripts to the Scholarship Committee.*

Do you have any education certificates or professional licenses? Yes  No   
*Send evidence to the Scholarship Committee.*

Have you taken any college courses? Yes  No   
*Send transcripts to the Scholarship Committee.*

Name used on class records \_\_\_\_\_

The creation of this scholarship program is a free act of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The IBEW retains its right to alter, suspend, cancel or halt the IBEW Founders' Scholarship Program at any time and without giving any reason, provided that each scholarship winner already in school under the program will continue to receive the stipends until graduation or the receipt of \$24,000 for undergraduate study under his/her IBEW Founders' Scholarship (whichever comes first).

My signature is evidence that I understand and agree to all the rules governing the scholarship as listed on this application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature Date*



Mail application materials postmarked prior to **May 1** to:  
**IBEW FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**  
900 Seventh Street, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Form 172  
Revised 02/11

# Local Lines

## Programs Benefit Members

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,rm,i,mt,rs,s,se,spa, st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—In December, Local 1 members launched two programs to benefit those members and their families who are suffering through hard times due to unemployment. A “Food Bank” and “Adopt-a-Family” program were initiated to provide assistance.

The Food Bank is located at Local 1 and accepts donations during normal business hours, as well as before and after regular union meetings. Nonperishable food items are requested. Additionally, those willing to donate but unable to drop items off during the above times can make special arrangements by using the “Adopt-a-Family” hotline number on Local 1 Web site [www.ibewlocal1.org](http://www.ibewlocal1.org). Those wishing to receive donations from the Food Bank are invited to drop by during normal business hours. Thanks to all who have donated. The need continues.

The Adopt-a-Family program has resulted in members providing more than 17 families with toys for Christmas, gas cards, grocery gift cards, and other “wish list” items. Many members, who remain anonymous, have gone above and beyond to donate such items to deserving families.

Thanks to Roxanne Dimariano and Heather Kehoe for their countless hours donated for both programs. Their tireless efforts bring a smile to the faces of many in need. To those who are able, please continue to help your fellow brothers and sisters.

We mourn the death of: Ralph Woelbling, James DeWitt, James Byrnes, Glenon Williams, Charles Byrd, Richard Gearhart, Robert Knoten and Artie Stegall.

*Matt Gober, P.S.*

## Bikes to ‘Toys for Tots’ Drive

L.U. 7 (i), SPRINGFIELD, MA—On Dec. 9 last year, IBEW Local 7’s Chris Paluck went to Highland Bike Shop to purchase bicycles to be donated to Toys for Tots.

The money had been raised through contributions from Local 7’s brothers and sisters. Totalling more than \$1,100, the donations made it possible to purchase 10 high-quality bicycles/tricycles as well as four sleds. Assisting Chris with the fundraising was Bill Horgan, and assisting with loading and transporting the bikes were apprentices Matt Lucey and Matt Jenkins. The bikes were delivered to the WWLP-22 News studio. Local 7 thanks all the staff at Highland Bike, including Rob and the bike mechanics, for helping us to make this happen.

*Mark Kuenzel, Tr. Dir.*

## A Strong Voice for Workers

L.U. 9 (catv,govt,lctt,o&u), CHICAGO, IL—Congratulations to Bro. Robert Koehler and Bro. Daniel Kubil, who were presented with a Local 9 Service Award at our January general membership meeting. Bros. Koehler and Kubil are journeyman linemen at the Chicago Transit Authority. Our brothers received the service award for their efforts in assisting a distraught CTA passenger looking to inflict harm on himself and the general riding public. Bros. Koehler and Kubil succeeded in distracting the passenger by talking to him and moving him away from the platform until authorities arrived. We commend Bros. Koehler and Kubil for their action.

The Illinois primary election will be held March 20. Early voting began Feb. 27 and ends on March 15. You can find a listing of candidates endorsed by the Chicago Federation of Labor on the Political Action section of our Web site [www.ibew9.org](http://www.ibew9.org). We cannot stress enough how important it is to be involved in the political process. We must join together to be a strong voice for the working families of Illinois and our country.

As winter turns into spring, we are seeing a positive outlook on the work situation. The passage of the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act



*Toys for Tots Drive: Local 7 apprentices Matt Jenkins (left) and Matt Lucey (second from left); Local 7 installer technician Chris Paluck (right); and Highland Bike employees.*



*Local 9 Vice Pres. Allan Bartosik (left) presents Bro. Daniel Kubil with his Service Award.*

(SB 1652) last fall is creating more jobs for our local. We look forward to a prosperous 2012 for Local 9.

*Mary Beth Kaczmarek, P.S.*

## ‘Can You Hear Me Now?’— Help Organize Verizon Wireless in Your Town

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Several Verizon Wireless workers contacted our organizers about forming a union at their workplace. The IBEW is serious about raising the standards of all workers in our industry and Local 21 is committed to helping these workers in Illinois and northwest Indiana. To be successful we need the assistance of the entire membership.

Verizon Wireless has more than 100 stores in our jurisdiction with large numbers of workers who face fear and intimidation every day they stand up for their rights at work. In an effort to build stronger communications with an even larger group of Verizon Wireless workers we need your help. We are requesting all members to talk to neighbors, friends and family members working at Verizon Wireless about the benefits of joining the IBEW. Share a good union story with them. We then need you to forward us their contact information so we can have a more candid conversation with them about joining our union.

If you know of anyone working at Verizon Wireless in Illinois or northwest Indiana, please contact Local 21 Bus. Rep./Organizer Dave Webster in our union hall at (630) 960-4466 ext. 449 or on his cell at (630) 222-9121. He can also be reached by e-mail at [dwebster@ibew21.org](mailto:dwebster@ibew21.org). Solidarity!

*Thomas Hopper, P.S.*

## Thanks to Union Volunteers

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—In November 2011, we saw one of our volunteer efforts come to fruition with the election of a new county executive. I am proud to say that 2012 has started out with continued member participation.

Local 41 volunteers spend numerous hours assisting at a community outreach/educational house in the city of Buffalo. This house will teach the younger, less fortunate in the area basic skills to become a productive person in society. Thank you to members Mike Allen, Aaron Arnold, Calvin Goins, Tim Horton, Dan Tillman, Grady Williams and the man who took the lead, John Tucker. Good job, men!

A house belonging to a block club leader was firebombed by some vandals. Journeymen Ed Dunatov and Paul Wasik gave their time to help repair this house.

Just as the new year began, Local 41 donated numerous bags of warm clothing items to “Friends of the Night People,” a charity that provides food, clothing and medical care to the poor and homeless. Volunteering your time for the good of the union and for projects to assist those less fortunate is a very important part of the organization. Please continue to support your local union. Thank you.

*Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.*

## Holiday Charity Fundraisers

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Work slowed down quite a bit from Thanksgiving to mid-January, but as of this writing we anticipated a number of jobs to start hiring after that time period. Our first- and second-year apprentices again worked all year on can and bottle drives, car washes and cash contributions for the 2011 “Cans-4-Kids” program. They were able to raise \$5,000 in total. Of this amount, \$3,000 was used to purchase children’s toys, distributed at Christmas to seven hospitals in our jurisdiction. The remaining \$2,000 bought 2,252 pounds of food, delivered to the Food Bank of Central New York, also in time for Christmas.

Through the generosity of Klein Tools, the NJATC’s negotiations and Lee Goodman of the Goodman Agency, our Training Center is the beneficiary of tools, meters, EMT benders and materials valued at more than \$10,000. The tools will be available for journeyman wiremen, apprentices, and CWs/CEs to use in our conduit bending labs, motor control lab and throughout the Training Center.

*Jim Corbett, P.S.*

## 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.*

## Contract Agreements

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Happy St. Pat's Day. Our members at Southern California Edison did a commendable job restoring power to more than 430,000 SCE customers after the early December 2011 windstorms wreaked havoc in southern California.

A new agreement with SCE has been reached and was ratified by our members at SCE. The three-year agreement includes a 2.75 percent wage increase each year and improvements in other economics.

We recently completed negotiations for two of our "Underground" utility contracts and our Pole Test and Treatment agreement. Despite the economically challenging times we were able to get wage increases for all three agreements.

We held our Annual Christmas Party on Dec. 16. Diane Cortez, an administrative assistant with the local, retired after 33 years of service.

The local was a host sponsor for Union Sportsman Alliance, Southern California Sporting Clays Shoot. The team of Greg O'Brien, Pat Jelensky, Stan Santos and Dave Aguon from Anaheim's Public Utility captured first place in the Class "B" Division.

Local 47 member Mike Evans was elected to the Blythe City Council in November last year.

We are sad to report the passing of Richard Dolanar. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Work safe, live well, work union.

*Stan Stosel, P.S.*

## Contract Negotiations

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,r&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—A new four-year contract and benefit package was ratified by our members at AERG on Nov. 23 last year. We also ratified contracts at Enerstar Power Co-op. At the time of this writing, we are in contract negotiations with AmerenIP MDF; Spoon River Electrical Co-op; Nexstar Broadcasting; Custom Underground Inc.; Illinois Water, Sterling and Lincoln Divisions; City of Geneseo Water and Electric; Village of Ladd; Aqua Water; and our outside power agreement (6-51-A).

A successful refuel outage at Clinton Power Station was completed with 56 IBEW Local 51 members who worked on the temporary outage project through the holidays.

We are in the process of organizing four new members at the City of Sullivan's electrical department. Cards have been signed by all employees.

With the passing of Illinois Senate Bill 1652, the work outlook for our construction and utility members looks good for 2012. We still have some jurisdictional disputes regarding wind farms.

Our retirees in Decatur meet at 8 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Diamond's Family Restaurant, 2959 N. Oakland, Decatur. Not only will you enjoy a good breakfast, but you will also see some of your fellow IBEW brothers and sisters that you've worked with throughout the years and enjoy their friendship and fellowship.

*Karlene Knisley, B.R.*

## 'Great Things are Happening'

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO—We are off to a good start for 2012 and have some good things happening here with Local 53. After 19 months of

negotiations we have settled with the Board of Public Utilities.

Also, we have newly organized workers with the City of Carrollton, although at this writing we are still in the process of finishing the negotiations.

We were also able to get a one-year extension at Channel 4 WDAF for our members who work there.

We are looking forward to the excitement of our 24th Annual Crappie Tournament scheduled for June 9. This is a great fishing event and fish fry, just a great time for bonding in the Brotherhood.

Hope all finds and keeps you well ... Local 53!

*Tracy A. Riley, V.P.*

## Organizing New IBEW Members

L.U. 55 (lctt,o&u), DES MOINES, IA—Over the past two years our staff has directed our focus to the importance of organizing new members and building strength and solidarity within our own rank and file. Though our numbers may not be massive, we have been able to increase our membership by signing more than 150 new members in construction, line clearance, and our REC (Rural Electric Cooperative) and municipal units. We have been able to do this in many ways including winning an NLRB Election, signing a Letter of Recognition and internal organizing.

Bus. Mgr. Mike Brookes also worked hard putting together a new Telecommunications Agreement, which has already been signed with Michels Communications, a division of Michels Corporation. Bus. Mgr. Brookes and two of the assistants have also worked on an easier process to bring nonunion linemen into the IBEW, which has been successful so far. Our next plan is to start going after the nonrepresented RECs and Municipals in our state. Our goal is to continue to move this local forward and to not stop until everyone in the electrical field is represented.

*Rusty McCuen, A.B.A./Organizer*

## Tribute to an IBEW Brother

L.U. 57 (lctt, mp,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—While responding to trouble calls on Nov. 25, 2011, the day after Thanksgiving, James "Jimmy" Westwood stopped his truck to assist a stranded motorist who had slid off the icy highway. Jimmy was struck and killed by another motorist who had lost control of a

vehicle. Jimmy was a Rocky Mountain Power employee and member of the IBEW for more than 30 years, holding various positions in the IBEW, including that of steward and policy representative. In these capacities, he served the local and the membership extremely well. His friendship and compassion for his fellow brothers and sisters will be sorely missed. We ask in these tragic times that the IBEW family take a moment and remember Jimmy's family in their thoughts and prayers.

*Scott Long, P.S.*

## Transmission Lines

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY—Local 97 has joined with several upstate New York legislators to lead the opposition of the proposed construction of a new transmission line from Canada to New York City. The new line would be entirely separate from the existing transmission system in New York, with its sole purpose being to allow the importation of power from outside the United States.

The local acknowledges the huge demand for power downstate, but firmly believes the solution to the problem can be found in New York, not outside the country. Upstate New York presently has a large excess generating capacity, but the lack of investment in the upstate transmission system prevents the excess capacity from fulfilling the downstate demand. Upgrading existing transmission lines and substations would eliminate the bottlenecks that prevent the electricity from reaching downstate.

Eliminating the bottlenecks would allow upstate generators to have a market for their product. The upstate generators would then be in a position to invest in their plants and hire more employees. Upgrading aging transmission lines would allow the transmission system more flexibility in moving power to where it is needed, while mitigating environmental issues the new construction being proposed will cause.

*John Delperuto, P.S.*

## Annual Sports Night in March

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—The 29th Annual Pension Dinner was held Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011. It brought 70 retired members, families and friends

together for a night of celebration and reminiscing in the union hall.

In November, two of our members were re-elected in their hometown elections. Mike Smart, councilor in District 6 of Weymouth, defeated a challenger. Glenn Jones, councilor-at-large of Franklin, was also re-elected.

The Annual Children's Christmas Party was celebrated Sunday, Dec. 4, in the union hall. Children made their requests to Santa while Santa's helpers delivered gifts. Thank you to Gary Walker for organizing and to Joe Lawlor, Jeff Sheehan, Keith Stearns, Dave Comerford and all the apprentices for their help.

Coming March 17—The Annual Sports Night will be held at UMass Boston. The Member's Children's Hockey Game starts at 3 p.m., and the Journeyman vs. Apprentice Hockey Game and Journeyman vs. Apprentice Basketball Game will immediately follow. Please join the party at Local 103 following the sporting events.

*Kevin Molineaux, P.S.*

## Kudos to Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 105 (catv,i&o), HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA—Congratulations to Lorne Newick on his recent election as business manager. Congratulations also to: our two new assistant business managers, Brad Gold and Steve Fox; the new organizer, Rich Dipietro; and to all newly elected officers. The election was judged by Terry Lewis, who did an excellent job.

On the home front our work picture is picking up and the prospects on the horizon are promising. Thank you to the locals that have given us work in Canada and also in the USA; we will return the favour. We continue our fight against C.L.A.C. and C.U.S.W. and nonunion contractors. Our new officers and members are stronger than ever and definitely up to the challenge.

In the recent provincial election, we were able to get seven out of 10 candidates elected that we support. A big thanks goes to our new Political Action Committee and to volunteers who tirelessly went door-to-door and put up signs—well done.

Our hockey team is getting ready for the year ahead and we expect a good, strong team. We wish to recognize Ron Lewis, who once again will be team coordinator. Ron has generously volunteered his time to this for 49 years now.

Local 105 wishes all our brothers and sisters a strong, prosperous new year.

*Phil Brown, P.S.*

## Union Volunteers Serve

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—As each year draws to a close, many of our union brothers and sisters again volunteer their time and resources to help the less fortunate. One of our annual events is the "Feed the Homeless" drive held in downtown Denver. Many of our Public Service Company of Colorado members, outside construction members, and the EWM of Local 111 donate their time and monies to purchase undergarments, hats, gloves and socks, and prepare food to feed hundreds of less fortunate individuals and their families.

PSCO also donates the use of its vehicles for power as well as chairs and tables, and also furnishes hot coffee, condiments, utensils and paper products.

This community service event has been held every year since approximately 1979, regardless of inclement weather conditions, and is held outside



*IBEW Local 57 members pay tribute to the late Bro. James "Jimmy" Westwood. Flags were raised utilizing utility bucket trucks lined up for Bro. Westwood's service.*

## Local Lines



IBEW Denver Local 111 volunteers help serve the homeless. [Photo provided by Ramone Vera from Local 68.]

in an empty parking lot.

IBEW members who volunteer do not want recognition or praise; they are simply helping out their community and fellow Americans.

*Mike Kostelecky, P.S.*

## Skilled & United Union Members

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—Local 125 is preparing for a busy year. This year the local will place increased focus on promoting you — the membership. Often, the news media have depicted union members as greedy and unskilled workers. They don't recognize your contributions as community volunteers and leaders. We want to end these types of anti-union attacks by promoting what you do and who you are.

If you work for a utility, you're assumed to receive direct benefit of a rate increase. Those of you working in construction are feeling the effects of poor trade agreements and inter-agency government bureaucracy, which are preventing you from building much-needed infrastructure. It's time to educate elected officials of their decisions' effects and help the public understand the regulations and laws that govern our industry.

The local is working on plans to help educate, engage and encourage our membership to enhance solidarity and show our importance not only at work but within communities. We cannot control the economy or employer-business decisions, but we can work safely and efficiently to show why the IBEW matters. You are skilled and knowledgeable professionals. We must stay united and not let outside influences move us away from our core values.

*Marcy Putman, P.S.*

## Tribute to Charles Patton

L.U. 139 (i&u), ELMIRA, NY—With great sadness I report the passing of Charles B. "Charlie" Patton, former business manager. Charlie lost his courageous battle against cancer on Jan. 2. Bro. Patton was surrounded by his family, which includes four journeyman wiremen and two apprentices.

For those throughout the country who knew Charlie, he was the epitome of a trade unionist. Charlie lived and breathed the IBEW for his nearly 50-year career. He put his members, the IBEW and organized labor first. He was well-respected by his peer business managers and admired for his leadership. When you think back to the old guard that helped to shape the Third District, Charlie was there. His word was his bond and you could take his handshake to the bank.

All of you who knew Charlie can take comfort in knowing your friendship meant a great deal to

him. He loved to tell stories from the road and I could see from the look on his face how much you guys, his brothers, meant to him.

On a personal note, when I got the call that I was accepted into the apprenticeship program, it was Charlie Patton on the other end of the phone. He was the IBEW to me through my career. I will always be grateful to have had Charlie Patton as my leader, my friend and my brother.

*Ernie Hartman, B.M.*



Local 139 former business manager Charlie Patton (right), joined by former Int. Sec. Jack F. Moore (left) and Third District Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel.

## 'True Union Spirit'

L.U. 145 (em,i,o,rts,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL—The winter holiday season was a busy one with many of our members working feverishly on several community service projects. Our largest holiday lighting project every year is at Eagle Point Park in Clinton, Iowa. After the initial display was completed, the park experienced vandalism but thanks to our hard working volunteers, the great annual lighting display was up and running again proving the great holiday spirit within the community.

Our members showed their true union spirit on a chilly December Saturday morning on an "informational picket" at a local car dealership. After several attempts by our local union to convince the dealership that union craftsman would be the better alternative, the dealership chose to use a nonsigna-



Local 145 members assemble to conduct an informational picket.



Local 197 service pin recipients and officers. Front row, from left: Bus. Mgr. Lance Reece, and pin recipients Renee Riddle, Stephanie Ashenbremer, Matt Strupp, Dale Glasscock, Scott Schunke, Mike Russell and George Kletz Jr. Back row: Pres. Rich Veitengruber and pin recipients Keith Ashenbremer, Greg Geshwilm, Rob Strasser, Mike Cavitt, Bill Day and Dennis Nolan.

tory contractor for a lighting project. The picket was well-attended in a very busy locale with a great response from people driving by honking and giving the pickets a "thumbs up" show of approval.

We send our condolences to the families of our deceased members and to those who have lost a loved one. To our injured and ill, we wish you a speedy recovery to health.

Please attend your union meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

*Justin M. Giem, P.S.*

## 100 Year Anniversary

L.U. 175 (c,em,i,lctt,mt,o&u), CHATTANOOGA, TN—The December 2011 "Eating Meeting" was a tremendous success. Bro. T.J. Wehunt did a wonderful job supplying all the food for more than 200 members and guests.

2012 marks the 100 year anniversary for Local 175. The January pancake breakfast was the start of many events planned for the year. The main event will be in June. More information will be available in our article for the May issue.

Support your local union. Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m.

*Keith Owensby, P.S.*

## Work Outlook More Promising

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—Happy new year. The work outlook in our jurisdiction looks more promising than 2011. We hope Bridgestone-Firestone gets the tax incentives it needs to invest in new equipment at its plant, which will provide work for our members. Work at Mitsubishi Motors is winding down as the UAW gets close to starting production. Our members have done a great job getting a new line up and running. The work provided much-needed employment for our members and they responded to the challenge very well.

In 2012 we enter an election year. We look to our borders and witness state governments trying to weaken unions. At press time, workers in Indiana

are fighting an anti-union "right-to-work" bill, and Wisconsin workers continue to fight anti-union legislators. We can't get complacent at home. Be aware that lawmakers will try to do the same here if given the chance; we cannot allow this to happen. We need to get out and support those who will support us. Local 51 member Julie Brandt will run for the McLean County Board in the upcoming election to provide a voice for working families and she will need our votes.

Over the holidays, a pin ceremony honored members who reached a milestone in the IBEW. Thanks to those who participated in festivities at the hall and congratulations to pin recipients. Remember to stay involved in your local!

*Mike Raikes, P.S.*

## Success in Numbers

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA—The economic environment has given rise to numbers like "99 percent" and "1 percent." Voices of an economically damaged work force in turmoil struggle to express their outrage over a system in chaos.

But here at home and in locals across America and Canada, IBEW union electricians have another number to become familiar with, one that's just as striking: 11 percent. What's the deal with 11 percent you might ask? Well listen up!

Brothers and sisters, 11 percent represents our market share of electrical work. The numbers say that of all electrical work being done in the USA, only 29 percent of it is by IBEW members! Are we going to be satisfied with that? What if we saw a 4 percent or greater increase to our contractor list and in the number of jobs our current contractors win? Where would this put us? Is it possible?

The answers lie in organizing and workmanship. New members mean new work. We are worth more than 11 percent! We have to be the example of excellence in our profession! If not us, then who? Problems have solutions. We must regain our share! Our future depends on it!

Thanks go to Membership Developer Steven Selby for his efforts in 2011. A big welcome also goes to our new partner contractors, Purdy Communications Inc. and T.E.S Electrical Services LLC.

*Tony Palermo, P.S.*

## Deck the Hall!

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—Lack of snow and unseasonably warm temperatures couldn't keep Santa from making his yearly visit to Local 269's union hall last year to spread goodwill and holiday cheer. All official business was suspended while Santa and his helpers gathered Christmas wishes from members' children and grandchildren alike.

Santa handed out presents and everyone was treated to hot chocolate and holiday snacks. Special thanks go to Santa's helpers including: Sean Cullen (code name, "Big Red"), Terri (code name, "Mrs. S."), and Eddie Stackhouse (code name, "Ears"), the business office staff, and Santa's official photographer, Senior Press Sec. D. Brian Proctor. Their hard work showed in the smiling faces of the kids and parents. Events like this remind us all of how truly fortunate we are to be part of an organization in which members care and families matter.

Solar projects throughout the state are still demanding manpower and are in danger of being usurped by a number of trades seeking to make the work their own. Our resolve is being tested every day by those who would seek to do our work.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

## 'Recovery Agreement'—Market Share Gains

L.U. 295 (em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), LITTLE ROCK, AR—Miller Electric, using the "Recovery Agreement," was able to secure a data center project in our jurisdiction. A prominent nonunion company already had temporarily started on the job making it a pleasure to see them load it up and remove it from the site as our members were starting to install underground on the project. As of this writing, the local has 10 journeymen, 12 apprentices, five CEs and six CW's on the project, with a good shot at the next phase and future maintenance at the facility.

The local has also signed a project labor agreement with a well-established nonsignatory contractor that will employ 20-25 members for approximately a year at one of our National Guard facilities where we had not been successful in securing work in a long time. We are proud of the way our members have welcomed these new members and worked with them as a team, to ensure both projects are a success. While there are challenges that come with change, we would not have this opportunity without the new tools that have been put in place, along with the willingness of our members and contractors to step up to the plate to regain our market share.

David Stephens, A.B.M.



Market recovery successes are reported at Local 295.

## 'A Fight for Workers'

L.U. 305 (i&spa), FORT WAYNE, IN—As I write this, we are in a fight for our lives to stop the so-called "right-to-work" anti-labor legislation at the Indiana Statehouse. Gov. Mitch Daniels announced new 2012 "security policies" to keep union members out of the State Capitol Building so we couldn't talk to our representatives during the session. We will not be detoured by this unscrupulous disregard of our rights as

Indiana citizens. We will speak out against this anti-union legislative session as we did March 10, 2011.

*[Editor's Note: On Feb. 1, the Indiana state Senate passed a "right-to-work" (for less) bill, which Gov. Mitch Daniels (R) signed. Working families will continue the fight against such anti-worker agenda.]*

We have been blessed with work opportunities for our members and others. We are working on organizing contractors from within and outside to meet the small commercial needs of our jurisdiction. We don't want to potentially miss out on projects available with the current signatory contractors we now have.

To assist in this endeavor we built a new JATC hands-on training center next to our IBEW Office. The additional 7,000 square-feet of space, with the existing 6,000 square-feet, now opens up many opportunities for our instructors and students to keep our contractors competitive in any market. To help with materials and equipment, our contractors increased their hourly contributions to the program. A special thanks to the apprenticeship administrator and instructors, who have gone above and beyond taking our program to the next level.

Joseph Langmeyer, B.M.

## Projects Slated for 2012

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA—It's been a long, hard slog. I've had a hard time finding good things to write about. The economy has everyone on pins and needles. The right-wing power brokers try to blame organized labor for every ill known to mankind. The American public now expresses the least amount of confidence in elected leadership ever.

Yet, pockets of humanity are revealing the goodness of people of this great land. Local 347 members again supplied manpower to provide the Make-A-Wish Foundation with electrical pedestals to put on a Christmas Light Show as a fundraiser. Kudos to all the brothers who made this possible. Local 347 is also very involved in promoting Toys for Tots. The union hall is a drop-off site for toys, and Bus. Mgr. Kevin Clark is featured on TV spots for the promotion.

The last time I wrote of boom employment in this local, the economy was in a nose dive by the end of that year and projects were either being downsized or outright canceled. So, it is with much caution that I report the work outlook for 2012 looks promising in central Iowa. Sizable projects are slated for West Des Moines, Ankeny, Mitchellville and just west of Fort Dodge.

Pin Party/Recognition Night will be held March 3. At this writing, 115 are on Book I, and 75 are on Book II.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

## Solar Installations

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ—Local 351 has been very busy with solar installations throughout the area during the past year. We have done a wide variety of installations. We've installed rooftop mounts, canopy mounts and some very large ground mount arrays. Some of our larger projects were as big as 135 acres and produced as much as 18 megawatts of power.

This particular project pictured is the Medford Solar Inverter installation. The project was completed on time in December 2011. All work was performed 100 percent by IBEW members. The project maxed out at 85 members and was completed in about 14 weeks. The solar array produces approxi-



Medford Solar Inverter installation, an IBEW Local 351 project completed in December 2011.

mately six megawatts of power. The plan in 2012 is to double the size of this site. This means more work for the IBEW and our members.

Daniel Cosner, P.S.

## Consumer Electronics Show

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—With the month of March comes the end of the convention "season" for Local 357. Las Vegas is host to many corporate events year around but most of the events start in the fall and go through the early spring. Though a convention may last for less than a week, it takes much planning and labor to put in a show in the weeks preceding it and the same goes for tearing it out and preparing for the next one.

The Consumer Electronics Show is our most demanding. Taking place the second week in January, the CES covers 1.8 million square feet of exhibit space and has 150,000 attendees. More than 500 wiremen were dispatched to support the event this year. These tradeshow give us the unique opportunity to work one-on-one with our customer and give our visitors a positive experience. Our stewards stay busy with ever-changing faces and securing our work with the plethora of activity and changing exhibits. *[Editor's Note: To view a video on the CES, visit IBEW Web site [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).]*

Our Instructors Renee Jones, Raquel Dexter, Samantha Masten and Bobby Baumgardner teach orientation classes for this unique environment. Monitor mounting and hoisting and rigging classes are also encouraged. Our members having these skills ensure that we are the most qualified on the job and we control the work.

Aaron L. Jones, P.S.

## New JATC Building Dedicated

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—As of this writing, we have an agreement in principle with InteGrow Malt, LLC, formerly GModelo. It has taken more than two years to get to this point. The certification of the vote to become union took more than a year and negotiations took about nine months. Thank you to all the employees and their negotiating team for their perseverance and determination. We are looking forward to creating a good relationship with them.

Our new JATC building was dedicated to retired Int. Sec.-Treas.

Emeritus Jon F. Walters. Among those in attendance for the celebration were: Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia, Eighth District Int. Vice Pres. Ted C. Jensen and Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey. There was a big turnout of members, retirees and other guests. The new building will allow our JATC to expand the classes that they are able to offer to our apprentices and journeymen.

Our Building Trades Council has hired a lobbyist to keep us apprised of what is going on in the state legislature. We hope this will help us be more proactive in the fight for workers' rights.

Chris Lochridge, A.B.M.

## 'A Great Brotherhood'

L.U. 455 (em&u), SPRINGFIELD, MA—At our Dec. 13 Unit Meeting last year we honored Bros. Barry Smith, Lyle Augusto, John Anastasio Jr., Jim Hanson and Shawn Hunt for their heroic efforts in rescuing Bro. Steve Perry, who was injured when making electrical contact while climbing a 23 kV riser. We thank all of the brothers and sisters of the Second District for their support for Steve and his family. It truly shows what a great Brotherhood we have. *[Photo, below.]*

James P. DiBernardo, Pres.

## Two New Service Contracts

L.U. 543 (mo&t), SAN BERNARDINO, CA—Organizing in tough economic times is not the easiest job. However, with the assistance of Organizer Ray Nichols, we were able to organize Rome Research employees located at the Point Mugu Naval Station, and to secure their first contract in the fall of 2010.



From left: Local 455 member Barry Smith, Int. Rep. Edward W. Collins Jr., Local 455 Bus. Mgr. Brian Kenney and Local 455 members Steve Perry, John Anastasio Jr. and Lyle Augusto.

## Local Lines

A few employees who transferred to Rome's other defense contract location in Colorado Springs, CO, at Schriever Air Force Base, subsequently contacted me and asked if Local 543 could represent them in Colorado. Another employee located at Rome's Prospect Harbor, Maine, location asked Local 543 to represent them as well. Many thanks to Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey for clearing the path with the Second and Eighth Districts, along with Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill's approval of Local 543's organizing these two contracts that were outside of the local's jurisdiction in the Ninth District. I sincerely appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping to grow our union!

Welcome to our newest members employed by Rome Research located in Colorado Springs, CO, and Prospect Harbor, Maine. A thank-you goes to Karen Irish and Samantha Dolecki of Colorado Springs, who assisted me in developing the contract language and also accepted steward appointments. Thanks as well to Denny Ihle and Rene Wiesner of Prospect Harbor, who assisted me in developing the contract language and also accepted steward appointments.

*Jerry Koger, B.M.*

## Organizing & 2012 Projects

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—IBEW Local 569's jurisdiction includes both San Diego and Imperial Counties. Imperial is approximately 120 miles east of San Diego and is a farming community in a desert environment. A few years ago, our local decided to commit more organizing resources to Imperial County, especially because of the emerging renewable energy industries there, so we purchased a 5,000 square-foot building and opened an Imperial County office and training center. The "Grand Opening" of that facility in 2009 kicked off the real work—organizing this rural area with the highest unemployment in California.

Now, two years later, we are proud to announce several significant achievements. The JATC just took in our largest apprenticeship class to date in Imperial County. We have built new community alliances and strengthened existing ones, particularly at the influential Imperial Irrigation District. We've also built strategic relationships with area elected public officials, school districts, Imperial Valley College and San Diego State University.

And, saving the best for last, Bus. Mgr. Johnny Simpson has signed project labor agreements for more than 1,000 MW of solar PV work and several proposed geothermal plants. We expect the first project to break ground in spring 2012 and look forward to putting members to work!

*David Taylor, P.S.*



*At the Local 611 Christmas party, Bus. Mgr. Chris Frentzel (center) takes photos of the kids with Santa.*

## Business Manager Honored

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—The annual Rank-and-File Banquet put on by the Central New Mexico Labor Council was held recently at the Marriott Hotel. The labor council recognizes people who have made contributions to the labor movement and among those honored at the recent banquet was Local 611 Bus. Mgr. Chris Frentzel.

Tracy Hall has taken a number of old photos by our union hall and would like some help identifying some of our members from the 1950s and '60s. If you get a chance please drop by and view the pictures to see if you recognize any past members.

Our annual Christmas party last year was once again a huge success, as always. Thanks to all of you who volunteered to make this annual event so enjoyable.

On Nov. 5, 2011, O.L. Davis was presented with a 70-year pin, and Robert Atencio received a 50-year pin. Congratulations, guys.

Local 1 sends condolences to families of the following members, who recently passed away: Estal Brown, Bill P. Wilson, Eddie A. Cuesta, Ralph R. Cunnar and Napoleon "Nap" Duran.

*Darrell J. Blair, P.S.*

## Holiday Spirit & Solidarity

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—The holiday party for the children of IBEW Local 617 is a long-standing tradition and its popularity continues to grow. Last year more parents and children came to the hall on that sunny Saturday morning in December than ever before. Families enjoyed music, model trains and snacks while waiting for the most important visitor this local sees every year. Elves and staff helped Santa pose for photographs as he visited with each child and listened to their

wish lists. Some local families had three generations in the room but it was clear the youngest were more interested in Santa than talking shop. The local thanks all the great volunteers and parents for making this a wonderful event every year.

The 617 Journeymen Motorcycle Club was recognized by the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation as the Second Place Fundraising Club for the Northern California Ride for Kids event bringing in a total of \$9,485. The hard work of club members and the generosity of

IBEW brothers and sisters and their families and friends made it possible. The club also joined Local 6 once again for their Annual Toy Run in support of the San Francisco Firefighters' commitment to bringing Christmas to the city's many needy children.

*Dan Pasini, V.P.*



*Three generations of the Griggi family celebrate Christmas at Local 617's hall.*

## Tribute to Union Brothers

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—I regret to inform the members of the loss of Bro. James Mattatall, 23, who died tragically on Dec. 17, 2011. The local is also mourning the loss of Bro. Garnet Dodge, 57, who passed suddenly on Jan. 3, 2012. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families of those two members.

Earlier in 2011 we lost two retired members. Bro. Chester Williams, 81, died July 26 last year; and Bro. James Delaney, 66, died Aug. 6. Bro. Williams had four sons in IBEW Local 625.

In 2011 we had six retirements: Bro. Reginald Robicheau retired in January; Bros. Gary Cunningham, Darrell Lawlor, Mike Armstrong and Jim Tidgwell in September; and Bro. David Bremner in August. Bro. Cunningham was a trustee on Local 625's Health and Welfare Committee as well as our Pension Plan Committee for over three decades. Thank you, Gary, for all your time and effort.

Congratulations to our newly certified journeyman construction electricians: Bros. Greg Campbell, Michel Gauthier, Chris Laundry and Jeff Campbell. Well done.

The Local 625 Christmas Dinner and Dance last year was well-attended. Thank you to Dave and Deb Rudolph for all their work to make sure it went well.

*Tom Griffiths, Pres.*

## Improving Work Picture

L.U. 659 (c,catv,em,i,lctt,o,st,t&u), MEDFORD, OR—The work this year should continue to pick up as the year goes along. 2011 ended slightly better than 2010 did. Any improvement is a step in the right direction. The reps are all staying busy with 10 contracts open this year. Organizer John Hutter is also continuing his member-to-member campaign.

The following members, some of whom were retired, passed away in 2011: Charles D. Bolerjack, Robert D. Cart, Clarence V. Childers, Charles Curtis, Sarah N. DeLeon, Ronald D. Erickson, John B. Foster, Lloyd Gallop, Christine A. Gamble, Richard M. Gosney, Duane Hanneman, Jim Henderson, James Tucker, Todd Kennedy, Richard T. Rosemus, Perry Skeeters, Orville L. Smith, Gordon O. Sundby, Norman Svensen and Henry Tucker.

How long are we going to have to hear about the "Bush tax cuts." Time and again it has been shown that tax cuts for the wealthy do not do much for the middle class. If we must always go back to something, why not the "Clinton tax code." This tax rate along with the idea of a smaller military had the budget balanced and the economy rolling.

*Tom Legg, Pres./P.S.*

## Officer Transitions

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH—On Dec. 12, 2011, the Local 673 executive board appointed Dan Lastoria our new business manager. Former business manager Dave Thomas was appointed by the International as a Professional and Industrial lead organizer in this area. Good luck to both Dan and Dave!

One of Bus. Mgr. Lastoria's goals is to open up lines of communications with the membership. With that goal in mind you can expect more information posted on our Web page, and sent out directly via mass e-mails. Please get your e-mail information to the hall. If you would like your information delivered on a more personal level, please come to our next union meeting!

At our December union meeting, years-of-service awards were handed out. A big round of applause was given to: 40-year member Ron Giangiacomo, 50-year member William Davies, and 55-year members Art Greenwald and Roger Freeman. Their years of service are greatly appreciated.

Also at our meeting, outstanding apprentices were recognized. The top apprentice for each class was given a check equal to the cost of their books for the year. While these apprentices were excited about their awards, we are equally as excited that the quality of apprentices who will fill our ranks continues to be outstanding.

*Jim Braunlich, P.S.*

## Members Celebrated for Service

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—In the closing months of 2011, Local 683 celebrated many members for reaching milestone years of service ranging from five years to 70 years. We thank our brothers and sisters for their dedication. Special thanks to Bros. Stephen Lipster, Jeff Deckard and William Maloney for hosting our 53rd Annual 25-Year Club Dinner Dance, at which we honored several members who reached this milestone, as well as newly retired members.

Local 683 also assisted in the defeat of a union busting effort presented to the Ohio voters on the November ballot last year. This issue was



*IBEW Local 569 members and Imperial Irrigation District board members gather at the El Centro Unit 3 Repower Project site. Dynalectric is signatory contractor on the job.*

watched nationwide and gave the politicians in the country a reality check: An attack on one union is an attack on all unions. Thanks to everyone who helped in this effort and to those who voted.

A big thank-you to all the members who participated in the "Rhodes Family" Extreme Makeover House, which aired in December. Many hours were donated to a great home, for a well deserving family. Let's continue to do great things in 2012 and strengthen Local 683.

*Eric M. Evans, V.P., R.S.*

## Fighting Assault on Workers

L.U. 725 (i,rt&spa), TERRE HAUTE, IN—At this writing, our local is fighting against big money lobbyists, the Chamber of Commerce, the National Right to Work Committee, and anti-worker Republicans who are unyielding on passing the deceptively named "right-to-work" (for less) legislation. We have been working with our brothers and sisters in the Building Trades and AFL-CIO affiliates, community activists, and friendly elected representatives to stop the assault on workers' rights and the attempt to silence our union voice.

Indiana Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels rescinded his decision to limit the crowd size allowed into our Statehouse for lobbying after public outrage criticized his actions as a political ploy, and not a safety issue as originally announced. Daniels and other R's continue to deceive the public claiming RTW will create jobs, instead of telling the truth—they want to bust unions! [Editor's Note: On Feb. 1, the Indiana state Senate passed a "right-to-work" (for less) bill, which Gov. Mitch Daniels (R) signed. Working families will continue the fight against such anti-worker agenda.]

Bus. Mgr. R. Todd Thacker, a member of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance, appeared in a January episode of Brotherhood Outdoors, a TV series on the Sportsman Channel, for a turkey hunt. Check out the Web site [www.unionsportsmen.org](http://www.unionsportsmen.org) for details and pictures.

We congratulate dispatcher and inside journeyman wireman Norman Cheesman on his retirement in December. Thank you for a great job in the office and 36-plus years as a union member!

*Tom Szymanski, P.S.*

## Apprentice Offers Aid

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Our local's 5th Annual Christmas Party was once again a huge success, with our chairman Bro. Roberto Rosa and his family and volunteers going way above the bar to provide holiday cheer to Local 915 members and their fami-



*The 2011 Christmas party for Local 915 members and their families.*

lies. This annual event brings together a brotherhood in fellowship with renewed enthusiasm among our union brothers and sisters. It is truly a pleasure to be a part of such a caring group of united union members.

Recently we had a fourth-year apprentice go above and beyond the call. Bro. Jonathan Dzaidaszek had witnessed a terrible accident in which a grandmother with two grandchildren in the car was hit by another driver. Jonathan rushed to the scene to help pull the children out of the car as the grandmother was too injured to be moved until the first responders could make it to the scene. Jonathan was instrumental in giving aid where needed and continued to be a service to the first responders after their arrival. Local 915 would like to recognize Bro. Dzaidaszek for his unselfish act to help others in their time of need.

*Theresa King, P.S.*

## Success in Organizing

L.U. 965 (em.govt,ptc&u), MADISON, WI—We have had some success in organizing efforts at the old Mid-American Stoneman power plant in Cassville, WI. A well-attended informational meeting was held with several people ready to sign cards to trigger an election. The 24 workers overwhelmingly voted in favor of being represented by the IBEW through Local 965. We are now beginning negotiations with DTE Energy, the owners of the plant.

As reported by Local 965 Unit 6 Chairperson Kent Schumann in the local's newsletter:

*"First off, I need to give a shout out to our Brothers and Sisters at the Richland Center Public Utility, a majority of whom will remain 965 members. They stood up and said no to (Governor) Scott Walker and his corporate handlers who thought busting unions in Wisconsin would be easy. The members who have elected to stay with 965 will have to mail a check every month to cover their dues, but they know that workers in this state are under attack and if they wish to be in this fight they need to be union members. Solidarity is a word that gets tossed around quite a bit and these people are showing us how it works. If you meet one of them, give them a pat on the back and say thank you."*

*Kurt Roberts, P.S.*

## A Union Career of Service

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uw), LONG ISLAND, NY—After 38 years of dedicated service, Bus. Mgr. Robert Shand has decided to retire. There is not enough space here to convey the hard work and commitment that Bob has shown for his country, his community, the

IBEW and Local 1049. Bob has always been a soldier, coach, leader, mentor, entertainer and most importantly, a friend to many. It has been an honor to know and work with Bob. The entire local wishes Bob and his family all the best that life has to offer.

After Bob's announcement, the Executive Board met and unanimously elected then-assistant business manager Don Daley to the position of business manager. During his 30-year membership, Don has held numerous leadership positions within the IBEW. Prior to the amalgamation of Locals 1049 and 1381, Don was business manager of Local 1381.

The Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) has awarded the new Operations Service Agreement (OSA) to PSE&G. For many of our utility members, this will not be their first transition from one employer to another. PSE&G has committed to recognizing our current Utility Collective Bargaining Agreements. We look forward to forging a relationship with our newest partner. The transition naturally leads to questions. I encourage the membership to attend the general meetings to have those questions addressed.

*Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.*



*Retired Int. Rep. and former Local 1307 president Tom Willey claims a door prize at the local's Christmas party.*

## Christmas Party Celebration

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—On Dec. 8 last year, Local 1307 held its Christmas party for members. After a brief union meeting the party began. There was a buffet Christmas dinner and door prizes were given as Christmas gifts. It was well-attended and all had a good time. A special guest, Bro. Tom Willey, was presented his 65-year membership pin. Tom is a retired International Rep and former Local 1307 president. Tom has long been a great friend of our local.

Bro. George F. "Hoot" Pruitt started work with A&N Electric Co-op in 1984 as a plant operator. Bro. Pruitt was born on Tangier Island, VA, and

has lived there his whole life and worked on Tangier Island his entire career with A&N. Hoot retired Oct. 30, 2011, as district coordinator. Here's wishing Bro. Pruitt a happy retirement.

As this is an important election year, it's time for us as the working middle-class to get involved and to contribute to COPE (Committee on Political Education). Most of the companies Local 1307 represents offer payroll deduction for COPE. Deductions would be about \$1.20 per week. This money goes to help candidates with favorable views toward workers. As you see benefits erode, this is a way to try and change the tides. Please contact the union hall or your steward to contribute and help elect candidates who look out for your interest.

*E.D. Sparks, P.S.*

## Workers Locked Out at Holidays

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Corporate scrooge locks out Indiana workers a week before Christmas: More than 260 Indiana workers were facing an uncertain holiday season after their employer, Vectren Energy Delivery, locked them out Dec. 16, 2011. The company made its move after the workers overwhelmingly rejected the utility's latest contract offer. [Photo, pg. 16.]

Last March, the company closed 16 of its 29 field offices across the state—a move that not only inconveniences employees but raises serious safety concerns.

*Timothy G. Bickford, P.S.*



*A wheelbarrow containing 1,000 postcards was delivered to the office of Maine Gov. Paul LePage on Labor Lobby Day.*

[Photo by Tom Farkas, Maine State Employees Association, SEIU 1989.]

## Ongoing Training

L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—The local was proud to award a number of plaques and service pins to retired members. Reginald Dumont, Daniel Morang Jr. and Simon Thibeau were recognized for 60 years of service. Edmond Brissette, Donald Dupont, Sheldon Leighton, Frederick Schuerman, Dwight Wheeler and the late Robert George received 55-year awards. Richard Neville, William Potter Jr. and Allen Simmons received 50-year awards.

Recent training offered by the JATC includes Health Care Facilities and First Aid/CPR. Upcoming courses include NFPA70E 2012 Edition, Code of Excellence, PLC's /Lighting Design and Electrical Project Supervision. For the latest offerings check out the training calendar on our Web site [www.ibew1253.org/JATCCalendar.htm](http://www.ibew1253.org/JATCCalendar.htm) or call the JATC office to enroll.

The first quarter 2012 AMPS meeting of all Maine IBEW locals was held at the Local 1253 hall on Jan. 18.

The first Labor Lobby Day for 2012, sponsored by the Maine AFL-CIO, was held Jan. 4 at the statehouse. It provided an opportunity for our members to speak with their representatives about current legislation including workers' compensation, so-called "right-to-work" and unemployment compensation. [Photo, above.]

We mourn the loss of retired members Quentin Smith and Milliard Pinkham and extend our sympathy to their families.

## Local Lines



Local 1393 Bro. Dallas Swafford, who works at Vectren in the Bloomington, IN, location, posts signs in response to the earlier lockout.

Both IBEW and the United Steelworkers, along with 14 mayors, fire chiefs and customers, filed a complaint with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission over the closings. At this writing, hearings were scheduled to begin in February; for more information, go to Web site [www.ibewusw.com](http://www.ibewusw.com). The unions are also critical of new work rules that require technicians to be on call 24 hours a day and respond to calls at least 50 percent of the time or face discipline.

After a five-day lockout the union and company reached an agreement with the help of a federal mediator; members were back to work on Dec. 23, 2011.

At this writing, the fight continues on the "right-to-work" (for less) bill in Indiana. Hundreds of members protested at the Indiana State Capitol in January 2012.

*[Editor's Note: On Feb. 1, the Indiana state Senate passed a "right-to-work" (for less) bill, which Gov. Mitch Daniels (R) signed. Working families will continue the fight against such anti-worker agenda.]*

Robert C. Fox, B.A.

### Local 'Adopts' Families

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—With the help of every work group and every garage, Local 1439 members collected approximately \$9,000 for laid-off brothers and sisters in Locals 1 and 2 in St. Louis.

This averaged about \$355 per family. Christmas is a time for giving and our members stepped up to help those brothers and sisters going

through tough economic times. This is a further example of what our International stands for in reaching out and extending a hand to others. A presentation was made to both locals in the shape of a box with all donors' names listed.

We regret to announce that the right wing in Missouri has formally announced a bill, as well as a petition, to make Missouri a so-called "right-to-work" state.

Mike Walter, B.M.



Gov. Martin O'Malley (standing, at right, behind dais) addresses the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO Conference regarding keeping jobs in Maryland, keeping the racetracks functioning, and working to get slots.

### 'Brotherhood Beyond Borders'

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—The theme for the IBEW 38th International Convention was "Brotherhood Beyond Borders," which was fitting since our Brotherhood is truly an international one that includes Canadian and American members across the North American continent. This is also true in Local 1501. We have members employed by Amtote International, which makes and services equipment used in the wagering industry in Canada and the USA. As delegates at the convention, Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie and I both agreed that there was an air of optimism among those present, though we all are aware of the economic problems facing our two great nations.

One of the greatest U.S. presidents, Franklin D. Roosevelt, once said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." America came out of a great depression and entered decades of prosperity. Many people in subsequent generations never knew hard times. Some became corporate officials, turned greedy and moved American industry overseas to increase profits. Sorry to say, American greed has changed the American way of life.

Congress must work to enact policies that will help our jobs stay in North America.

Horse racing in Maryland will continue to suffer as the Maryland Jockey Club, breeders and state regulators continue to hold discussions on how to save the business. Amtote reports a loss on revenue and jobs. *[Photo, above.]*

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.



From left are: Local 1439 Bus. Rep. Mark Staffne, Local 1 Bus. Mgr. Greg Booth, Local 1439 Bus. Mgr. Mike Walter and Local 1439 Executive Board member Rick Deters.

### Report from Anchorage

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—Journeyman wireman Larry Bell tendered his resignation as business manager of Local 1547 effective Dec. 30, 2011. Under his invaluable stewardship, IBEW experienced successful organizing campaigns and an increase in the local's visibility. Bro. Bell will join the National Electrical Contractors Association as manager of the Alaska Chapter.

Journeyman lineman and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mike Hodsdon was appointed by our Executive Board to fill the position as business manager. Bro. Hodsdon has been an assistant business manager for six years and a member of our union for more than 30 years. Bro. Hodsdon brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new position.

Local 1547 recently issued awards at our Shop Steward and Leadership Conference in Anchorage. The following awards were presented: Outstanding Business—Temptel; Retiree of the Year—Laura Bonner (retired journeyman, CO PBX I/R); Volunteer of the Year Unit 101—Jean Sauget,

analyst programmer; Volunteer of the Year Unit 102—Michael Nicholson, journeyman wireman; Volunteer of the Year Unit 103—"Bing" Carrillo, journeyman wireman; Volunteer of the Year Unit 104—Danny Smith, mechanic; Organizing Shop Steward of the Year—Garret VanEck, newly organized; Rookie Shop Steward of the Year—Scott Magnus, mechanic; Shop Steward of the Year—Jesse Carter, journeyman I/R; Political Volunteer of the Year—Tim Evans, journeyman I&R; and IBEW Safety Award—Skip Boomershine, journeyman wireman.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

### Business Mgr. Meets with DOE

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—Bus. Mgr. Ken Ward has been meeting with U.S. Department of Energy officials. His objective is the long-range mission of the Savannah River Site. Bus. Mgr. Ward has shown the DOE facts and figures on the safety and the quality work that IBEW members have done at the site and over the next few months will secure a commitment with DOE to partner with us on future missions for the site.

It is recognized that our area will have work for the next several years but you have to ask yourself, what are we going to have after that? We appreciate the leadership's ability to look down the road to pursue future work for our members.

Our work situation is good. We currently have many sisters and brothers working here from other locals and we thank you for all your help.

Remember, our union meetings are held the third Monday of each month with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 8 p.m. Let's all make a commitment to attend our union meetings.

Until next time, God bless.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

### Work Picture Good

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—Pictured in the photo below is longtime member Walter Tricco receiving his retiree's watch from Bus. Mgr. Tom Leduc. We thank Walter for his contributions to the local.

The work picture in our area is good with several large projects on the go and full employment in the local. We are presently able to assist some of our sister locals with jobs and we thank all those members for their efforts.

Local 1739 is looking forward to the 49th OPC Hockey Tournament in Kingston on April 13-14 this year.

Frank Kastle, P.S.



Local 1739 Bus. Mgr. Tom Leduc (left) presents retirement watch to member Walter Tricco.

### 50-Year Membership Awarded

L.U. 1959 (u), HURON, SD—Retired substation electrician Robert "Bob" Coyle recently received a certificate and pin for his 50-year membership in the IBEW.

Bob became a member of Local 426 in Sioux Falls, SD, in 1961 at the age of 19. He first worked as a groundman on the construction of a steel double-circuit transmission line that would run between Watertown and Fort Thompson, SD, and later on to Fort Randall Dam. In 1985 Bob accepted a position with Western Area Power Administration as a substation electrician in Phillip, SD, where he moved his ticket to Local 1959. Less than three years later, Bob transferred to Watertown, SD, where he worked until retiring in December 2005. Bob continues to live in Watertown with his wife, Judy.

Paul T. Eiler, B.M./F.S.

### IBEW Local Heroes

L.U. 2321 (t), MIDDLETON, MA—On Oct. 10, 2010, Lynn police officer Patrick McGuire was brutally attacked at a Verizon work site in front of the Lynn, MA, City Hall.

IBEW Local 2321 members Richard Weir and James Hart were working for Verizon in City Hall Square when Officer McGuire was attacked. It was reported that: "The officer attempted to protect himself, and at one point, one of the utility workers attempted to assist the officer. At some point during the struggle, the suspect was able to wrestle the officer's service weapon out of its holster. The suspect then shot himself with the officer's weapon."

Brothers Weir and Hart acted selflessly putting their own lives in danger to assist the Lynn police officer against a deranged attacker. Weir, Hart and Officer McGuire were honored at the Lynn Policeman's Ball in November 2011.

Bryan Lindgren, Pres.

# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in January 2012

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	Byrd, C.	12/16/11	42	Procyk, S. J.	11/12/11	120	Regan, L.	12/9/11	311	Underwood, G. T.	12/8/11	494	Rehm, R.	12/12/11	889	Liska, G. J.	12/1/11
1	Pfingsten, W. F.	1/5/12	47	Wilkins, C. R.	7/4/11	125	Campbell, R. J.	5/25/11	317	Dzienia, T. C.	12/5/11	494	Sumpter, H. H.	11/17/11	898	Corder, D. W.	11/11/11
1	Stegall, A. M.	12/22/11	48	Hansen, G. A.	12/5/11	125	Clarkson, H. H.	11/17/11	322	Thompson, F. L.	11/28/11	495	Hutton, N. H.	12/1/11	910	Woods, S. G.	12/25/11
2	Alman, R. E.	11/24/11	48	McCall, H. E.	7/30/11	125	Lewis, D. O.	4/7/11	332	Codaghenko, J. A.	11/24/09	495	Wood, T. B.	12/6/11	949	Hokanson, A. D.	12/16/11
2	Hardgrove, H. F.	11/4/11	48	Riback, G. E.	8/18/11	125	Taylor, W. B.	12/19/11	332	Conway, R. R.	12/2/11	502	Cormier, M. P.	12/5/11	965	Goodrich, R. D.	12/15/11
3	Antetomaso, T. M.	12/11/11	51	Anderson, M. W.	11/13/09	134	Bartocci, A.	11/24/11	332	Hammond, T. S.	10/4/11	508	Boondry, A.	12/17/11	969	Erwin, B. C.	12/6/11
3	Baziotis, I. L.	9/8/11	53	Cook, G.	11/16/11	134	Barton, T. P.	10/17/11	332	Hartman, S.	4/29/11	520	Hammack, B. J.	9/30/11	970	Shine, A. C.	1/9/11
3	Daniel, R. N.	12/12/11	57	Hall, K. A.	11/26/11	134	Bostrom, H. J.	12/11/10	343	Arnold, D. D.	11/23/11	531	Weller, R. E.	12/18/11	985	Whitten, A. M.	12/4/11
3	Froh, R. W.	12/22/11	57	Mecham, D. G.	10/11/11	134	D'Alberti, A. F.	12/5/11	343	Bell, H. I.	11/30/11	532	Lowe, C. M.	12/22/11	995	Southwick, G. H.	10/28/11
3	Galea, J.	12/11/11	57	Perry, D. J.	10/31/11	134	Deering, M. J.	11/14/11	347	Boot, R. L.	12/5/11	545	Welborn, L. A.	11/28/11	1116	Amburgey, S.	12/4/11
3	Greig, R. A.	8/12/09	58	Conti, L.	10/18/11	134	Dybala, R.	11/27/11	349	Long, R. F.	11/23/11	558	Phillips, N.	11/30/10	1206	Moyer, A. L.	12/3/11
3	Harrell, H. R.	10/25/11	58	Girimont, L.	11/24/11	134	Mann, J. B.	12/1/11	349	Morrison, D. W.	11/27/11	558	Sledge, D. W.	11/20/11	1228	Bushnell, R. R.	12/17/11
3	Helfer, J.	10/19/11	58	Hinsberger, C. L.	12/15/11	134	Meissner, K. H.	11/8/11	351	Farkas, A. E.	12/16/11	558	Willingham, R. M.	12/5/11	1245	Rhoads, S.	10/10/11
3	Hoffman, D. C.	10/25/11	58	Korner, B. J.	9/29/09	134	Mertes, H. C.	12/4/11	353	Camp, G.	12/12/11	569	Evans, H. N.	11/13/11	1245	Smotherman, M. C.	11/9/11
3	Jaffe, K.	12/7/10	58	Kuzel, E.	10/31/11	134	Morano, M.	12/2/11	353	Kennah, P. M.	10/26/11	569	Howell, M.	12/9/11	1340	Wilkerson, J. W.	11/14/11
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7	Pieropan, A. W.	9/8/11	77	Gross, E. G.	12/18/11	191	Cannon, H. F.	10/10/11	379	Harrison, J.	11/13/11	625	Langley, C.	9/24/09	Pens. (I.O.)	Ackerman, M. C.	8/15/11
8	Burcewicz, M. F.	12/25/11	77	Shepard, R. L.	11/25/11	191	Spofford, E. A.	9/5/11	380	Davis, E. R.	10/13/11	639	Kahler, A.	11/30/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Adams, C. J.	12/12/11
8	Hecklinger, R. J.	11/22/11	77	Steele, M. A.	10/5/11	193	Herrin, A. L.	10/17/11	380	Pellak, R. J.	11/1/11	647	Ross, B. J.	11/7/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Almira, A. O.	7/21/09
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18	Archer, R. W.	11/20/11	99	Grattage, H. J.	12/3/11	226	Crawshaw, R. L.	11/20/11	429	Hutcherson, W. M.	12/15/11	697	Petroff, C. D.	12/24/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Kondub, J. J.	9/26/08
18	Buckles, J. C.	9/3/09	99	Jones, W. E.	11/25/11	226	Logsdon, P. F.	12/11/11	429	Tidwell, J. R.	10/6/11	701	Butler, K. J.	10/19/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Lerum, B. J.	11/11/11
18	Rock, F. A.	10/13/11	102	Dickson, R. G.	10/24/11	234	Monclova, L. G.	12/9/11	440	Mahan, R. A.	12/7/11	701	Wayne, W. L.	11/4/11	Pens. (I.O.)	McCurdy, D. D.	12/2/11
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24	Tep, R.	8/22/09	102	Stout, F. R.	8/5/11	258	Wear, D. G.	11/30/11	456	Cutter, A. F.	10/30/11	731	Laidlaw, D. L.	8/15/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Peck, G. H.	10/10/11
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25	Jaecel, J.	12/5/11	103	Bisson, A. J.	10/1/08	270	Duggan, C. W.	11/17/11	474	Abbott, D. R.	11/29/11	756	Purnell, H.	12/15/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Raffetto, J. E.	11/22/11
25	Kinney, H. D.	3/25/09	103	Bonanno, R. F.	11/1/11	271	Wade, E. E.	11/17/11	479	McNeely, M. P.	11/1/11	757	Bertucci, J. P.	10/29/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Roberge, L.	11/20/11
25	Pausel, A. L.	12/7/11	103	Crimmings, P. F.	11/6/11	275	Watters, D. A.	2/5/11	479	Savant, W. E.	12/6/11	768	Kienas, R. A.	11/21/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Sanderson, B.	10/16/11
26	Duby, L. G.	11/22/11	103	Gricus, A. B.	9/23/11	278	Cooper, P. R.	12/12/11	479	Webb, D. A.	10/25/11	769	Strasser, A. H.	10/14/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Spears, R. O.	12/20/11
26	Mang, M. B.	5/26/10	103	Logan, J. M.	12/1/11	280	Trissel, T. D.	11/15/11	480	Freeman, M. G.	11/20/11	773	Oneil, B. E.	11/5/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Streeter, C. O.	10/19/11
26	Sims, B. F.	11/26/11	103	Lombardi, E. P.	11/26/11	302	Stater, D. R.	12/31/08	480	Watts, H. E.	11/14/10	813	Brower, H. W.	12/10/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Thornton, B. O.	1/4/12
26	Varron, A. J.	12/17/11	103	Vincent, R. W.	11/22/11	302	Stewart, R. G.	11/15/11	481	McCullough, J. T.	8/16/11	852	Allen, T.	11/24/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Troutner, E. A.	11/15/11
29	Sepp, R. E.	11/5/11	103	Wilkins, E.	2/1/11	303	Dodman, E. A.	12/6/11	486	Murphy, T. J.	7/2/11	852	Reaves, K. P.	8/24/09	Pens. (I.O.)	Turner, M. W.	9/26/11
34	Dalpia, L. W.	9/23/11	104	Parkman, S.	12/27/11	303	Jones, W. E.	5/30/11	494	Allen, R. J.	11/11/11	861	Marietta, L. L.	12/9/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Twardy, H. J.	12/16/11
34	Flaiz, J.	8/27/11	110	Dow, D.	11/30/11	303	Koopman, E. H.	11/21/11	494	Batzler, J. J.	9/6/09	861	Ross, J. G.	11/21/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Urry, D. W.	12/12/11
38	Bulkowski, J. G.	12/10/10	110	Leasure, D. C.	7/21/11	303	Labonte, J. J.	12/13/11	494	Greiner, R. F.	10/11/11	861	Schexnider, A. J.	12/22/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Vanprooyen, H.	11/7/11
38	Okin, B. J.	12/27/11	111	Flageolle, A.	11/25/11	304	O'Neil, F. G.	11/15/11	494	Klein, K. W.	12/3/11	873	Hunt, A. J.	11/30/11			
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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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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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**FROM THE OFFICERS****Imported from North America?**

**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President

**T**he downward spiral of the North American manufacturing base is not a new story, but it does have new legs. From President Obama's State of the Union address, to assertions in the debates among Republican presidential candidates, to Clint Eastwood's memorable Super Bowl ad for Chrysler, powerful players have rediscovered what has been the daily topic of conversation at dinner tables, bars or coffee shops in industrial towns.

For many communities and families across the breadth of this continent, this attention comes too late. So much has been lost through technological changes, suicidal trade policies and outright corporate greed that many working people have moved on, sometimes literally, to make a living. The story of North American manufacturing cuts across so many narratives: the ability to sustain a middle class, the need to promote research and development, the ripple effect on small businesses, the role of manufacturing in national security, the correlation between family values and economic security. We've been trying to speak this truth to power for decades.

Maybe now they're listening. If President Obama means what he says, then perhaps his administration now understands why workers in Germany, Japan and South Korea are continuing to manufacture machine tools and equipment—which their employers export to China and other booming economies—while the U.S. runs a massive trade deficit, leaving many workers unemployed or languishing in low-paid service jobs. It is because those nations have competitive, comprehensive national industrial policies that promote strong links between government, the education sector and manufacturers.

While I applaud the president's efforts, I am extremely concerned by two recent reports from the Economic Policy Institute and a trade-focused law firm that detail how more than 1.6 million American and Canadian jobs in auto parts—including some held by IBEW members—are at risk unless China's illegal trade practices are curtailed. In the past 10 years, China's auto parts exports to the U.S. have increased by 850 percent, while jobs in the parts industry declined by more than 400,000.

Meanwhile, some of the U.S. trade negotiators and some of the administration's corporate advisors still oppose Buy America rules so that we can "open up" trade with low-wage nations. The free trade song has drowned out all other music for too long. It's time to change that broken record.

We will be asking our members to write letters, send e-mails and speak out on these and other issues that are so critical to truly saving the spirit and muscle of U.S. and Canadian manufacturing, not just for the companies, but for thousands who want to share in the pride and benefits of making things once again. ■

**Keeping Our Commitment**

**A**s we battle rising premium costs and corporate America's attacks on employment-based benefits, the fight to preserve access to our hard-won health benefits is one of my top jobs.

And while the trend toward reduced or nonexistent benefits in the private sector continues, the IBEW has been bucking the trend, leveraging the power of our numbers to increase coverage and reduce costs.

By bringing together dozens of smaller plans, the IBEW-NECA Family Medical Care Plan gives us the power to negotiate lower prices for our members and employers nationwide. And interest in the plan continues to grow.

More than 30 IBEW local unions and their NECA chapters and 16 single employers have joined the FMCP since it started in 2005, representing over 14,000 participants and their families.

And as of today, more than 40 local unions and their affiliated NECA chapters are debating joining. We are now in the process of merging five local funds into the plan, while several others are very close to a merger decision.

It also is attracting new members and non-traditional employers to the IBEW, including the city of Potosi, Mo., which, as we reported in the January issue of the *Electrical Worker*, saved thousands of dollars in health insurance costs after the city placed its workers under the plan.

To meet the challenges posed by this surge of interest, we've made some important changes over the last year.

We've brought on Larry Bradley as executive director to oversee and administer all of the plan's operations. As you might know, Larry also administers the National Electrical Benefit Fund and National Electrical Annuity Plan. The steady and prudent hand that has guaranteed your retirement security will also be helping to protect your health care.

We've also retained a new lead counsel—David Potts-Dupre—who is also general counsel for the NEBF and NEAP.

And we've made it easier than ever to gain initial eligibility by adding another option for coverage. Effective this year, an individual who works 200 hours over two consecutive months—as opposed to 140 hours per month as previously required—is eligible for coverage.

Our commitment to ensuring quality health care coverage has never wavered, even in these exceedingly tough economic times. Providing good benefits has been a bedrock principle of this union since 1891, and the growing strength of the FMCP ensures that we will continue to uphold this commitment for generations to come. ■



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

## Letters to the Editor

### Success in Missouri, continued

I just read the article in the Electrical Worker (January 2012 Electrical Worker) about the Potosi group and their challenge to become union members. What a great story! I am so impressed with the diligence and commitment that these people have given to their community.

It seems that unions have been given such a bad rap over the years, and they did an amazing job of winning over their city. They care about where they live and it shows in a very positive way. It is nice to see how much time and effort they put into the seniors in Potosi. Nice article, nice story line. Tell them that Minnesota is very impressed, and proud to call them union brothers!

*Wendy O'Neil, Local 160 member  
Minneapolis*

The article "Big Lessons for Labor/Community Alliances in Small Missouri City" and sidebar, "NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan Key to Potosi Success" stated, "The city's savings under the FMCP helped convince more bargaining unit members to become dues payers and persuaded the city to sign the strongest type of agreement possible in **right-to-work Missouri.**"

Unless those sneaky Republicans that control the state legislature ran one by Governor Nixon and the citizens of Missouri, I believe Missouri is NOT a right to work state, yet!

*Jim Lacy, Local 124 retiree  
Kansas City, Mo.*

[Editor's Note: Brother Lacy is right indeed. Our mistake. Thanks for calling us on it, Brother Lacy and the others who also wrote in about this error. Please make sure to watch our video on the subject, at [www.YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](http://www.YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker).]

### Words of Caution

If you vote for the Republican Party because you agree with one issue, then you get the Republican Party's whole agenda. If you think the rich 1 percent job creators deserve a big fat tax break, then ask yourself, "Where are the jobs?" Overseas! Do you think the job creators would work in those sweatshops for lower wages?

Do you think our rich Republican representatives need to get paid for serving us? Do they need big fat pensions and lifetime health care? They don't want unions or the 99 percent to have a voice in America!

It's alright for big business to take millions in corporate profits or dividends and lobby for certain politicians. But if a union mispends one nickel, then red flags and sirens go off. They want to cut our Social Security and Medicare.

It's not my fault that our politicians spent our entitlement money. They want to privatize them, too! Trust in Wall Street and they will invest your Social Security money for you. They want to take away our voting rights with voter ID cards. Bush already bankrupted our country. The Republican Party wants to start more wars. So buy those defense stocks because they will pay big dividends. The Republican Party seems to have a bunch of hypocrites. Management deserves raises, not its workers. Is that the American dream? My mother used to say, "The Republicans are for the rich." They need to get rid of that elephant and replace it with a big fat pig.

*George O. Curry  
Local 126 member, Philadelphia*

### Growing Strong Together

If we don't strive for greatness, growth and better market share, then the possibility remains that we can fail, and be overtaken by the ones who fight so hard to make us extinct.

The labor movement needs help and can't afford to not get it. With the creation of our gun club, the appointment of our VOC chair and vice chair, the appointment of our 440 golf club chair and vice chair, the start of a domino tournament at our picnic, the first annual poker tournament in January, we have the chance to have great times, build solidarity and represent the word "brotherhood" in the International BROTHERHOOD of Electrical Workers!

With the occupy movement, the state of our current economy and the amount of good solid work about to finally break, we have the chance to grow and to grow strong. But we need dedicated, educated and willing members to participate. Our founding fathers called us to progress the movement for the betterment of ALL ELECTRICAL WORKERS, and our quality of life as well as the quality of our communities and families. I heard this phrase at the Membership Development conference: "It is not our motivation that will produce results, it's OUR ACTIONS!"

*Bernie J. Bolland, Local 440 organizer  
Riverside, Calif.*

## 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).

# IBEW Electrician Sets New Bar for Off-Road Racing Excellence



*Everett, Wash., Local 191 member Maria Forsberg has become one of the top female off-road racers in the world—all while working full-time as an electrician.*



**F**ans of off-road motorcycle racing know the name Maria Forsberg. In her nine-year racing career, she has become one of the most successful women off-roaders in the world, with numerous awards to her name: two Grand National Cross Country and World Off-Road Championship Series Women's titles, along with an X-Games Women's EnduroCross Gold Medal. And in 2011, she was named the American Motorcycle Association's Racing Female Athlete of the Year for a second time.

And last December, the Everett, Wash., Local 191 member signed on to KTM Motorsports' racing team—one of the world's main manufacturers of off-road motorcycles—becoming the first woman to ride under the company's banner.

"With Maria's success over her pro career and most recently this last season, it was an easy decision to move her to our factory team," said KTM Team Manager Antti Kallonen in a statement. "We are very excited to have her under the tent and to provide her with the support she has worked hard to earn."

The 25-year-old Washington state native has arrived at the top of her sport. And while she has inspired thousands of fans across the world, her biggest supporters continue to be her co-workers at Boeing's airplane assembly plant in Everett.

Forsberg still puts in a full-time schedule as an inside wireman at the plant, punching the clock in between her intense practice schedule and crisscrossing the world for the next race. A proud six-year member of Local 191, she credits her IBEW training for her success—both on the

job and the racecourse.

Off-road racers compete on nearly every kind of rough terrain imaginable, from rocky hills to muddy roads, and are responsible for servicing their own bikes. "My

training has helped me be mentally aware of what could happen next," Forsberg says. "In my job and in racing you have to stay focused so you don't get hurt."

As much as she loves the sport, she knew the importance of investing in a full-time career. Forsberg says she was inspired by her father, a Seattle Local 46 member who repairs heating and cooling systems.

Her father, who still competes in local off-road racing contests, is also the inspiration for her racing passion. "My mom and dad actually met at an off-road race," Forsberg says.

Learning to ride before reaching the age of five, Forsberg began competing professionally at 12.

It didn't take long for her to make a splash in the racing world, winning her first Northwest Motorcycle Association competition at the age of 15. It has been uphill from there.

As a woman, Forsberg stands out in a sport largely dominated by men, but her victories in the field have won her

big respect from fans and racers alike.

In off-road racing, endurance and strength are often more important than speed, so Forsberg gets in at least two hours of cross training every day.

Balancing two careers is tricky, but Forsberg says she is lucky to have the sup-

port of her employer, the construction contractor Kiewit.

And at the height of the racing season, it can be a killer routine. Forsberg goes straight to the airport each Friday after work, flying out to get to the racing site—often on the East Coast—by the next day. If she is lucky, she catches six hours of sleep before going into work Monday morning.

And 2012 is looking to be one of her busiest seasons ever. She is already training for this summer's X-Games, and will be riding under KTM's banner in this year's GNCC contests—the world's premier off-roading competition.

"I can't wait," Forsberg says. "I'm very lucky to have the support of my workplace and my union in my endeavors."

"Maria is a great asset to the IBEW and we couldn't be prouder watching her make sporting history," says Ninth District International Vice President Michael Mowrey.

You can follow her racing exploits on her Web site, [www.mariaforsberg.com](http://www.mariaforsberg.com). ■

## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

### www.ibew.org

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

### YouTube

Two new videos highlight the IBEW's efforts to organize and gain market share in North Carolina. See how the IBEW won the work to build a Facebook data center project, building the union in the state with the nation's lowest union density. Watch at [www.youtube.com/user/TheElectricalWorker](http://www.youtube.com/user/TheElectricalWorker).

### HourPower

In our latest edition of News Briefs, we talk about some of the biggest stars in the IBEW.



Fly around North America with us in a few short minutes on IBEW Hour Power News Briefs! [www.IBEWHourPower.com](http://www.IBEWHourPower.com).

### ElectricTV

On Electric TV, we sit down with John Grau and NECA President Dennis Quebe to hear about their vision for NECA contractors and their IBEW work force in 2012. Check it out at [electricTV.net](http://electricTV.net).



# IT'S BACK!

It's the determination in a lineman's face when he climbs to vertigo-inducing heights. It's the glint of sunshine reflecting off an icy transmission tower. It's in the images all around you, that you see in your day both on and off the job. And we want you to share them.

The popular competition is back after last year's hiatus when leaders, members and staff were gearing up for the 38th International Convention in Vancouver, B.C. This year's event will be the 15th contest since its kickoff in 1997.

So grab your camera and see what develops. Because excellence in the trade yields more than just a job well done—it can be a work of art.

**DEADLINE: OCT. 31, 2012**

## CONTEST ENTRY FORM

### PRIZES

<b>1</b>	<b>FIRST PLACE</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>SECOND PLACE</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>THIRD PLACE</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>HONORABLE MENTIONS</b>	<b>\$50</b>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and state \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Local union number \_\_\_\_\_

IBEW card number \_\_\_\_\_

Photo description \_\_\_\_\_

### PHOTO CONTEST RULES:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter more than one photo.
2. International Officers and staff are not eligible.
3. Photos can be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, in color or black and white, on slides or prints. The preferred print size is 8x10.
4. All submissions become the property of the IBEW Media Department.
5. Photo entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
6. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g. a safety committee, a linemen's rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
7. Photos previously published in IBEW publications or the Web site are not eligible for submission.
8. All entries must include a completed contest entry form. Please note that photo entries may be submitted through the IBEW Web site at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).
9. Please fill out the contest entry form and affix it to each photo you submit for the contest and mail it to the **IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001**.
10. Fifteen finalists will be selected and posted on [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org) for final judging by the public. The winners will be featured in the January 2013 issue of the Electrical Worker.