For the rest of the country, NSA means the National Security Agency, home of the code warriors and digital spies on the front lines of cyber warfare. For Salt Lake City Local 354, NSA means No Sitting Anymore and a once in a lifetime job putting an entire union back in their boots.

In the desert 25 miles south of Salt Lake City, the NSA is building the $2 billion Utah Data Center. More than a dozen buildings sit on a flat desert plain outside Salt Lake City on an enormous military base, Camp Williams.

James Bamford, author of The Shadow Factory: The Ultra-Secret NSA from 9/11 to the Eavesdropping on America, says the facility will be the central repository for all the electronic intercepts made by the American intelligence community, and Bamford says it is enormous.

“This is the second largest data center in the U.S., maybe in the world,” Bamford said. The 100,000-square-foot server warehouse will be cooled by 60,000 tons of HVAC equipment. On-site, there will be a 65-megawatt substation that will use $40 million per year in energy.

And Local 354 is stringing it all together.

Boom Times

Business Manager Rich Kingery expects that by the time the job is finished in 18 months, the data center will represent over a million man-hours. They will be hooking up thousands of servers, enough to store by Bamford’s estimate the equivalent of 50 quintillion pages of text. That’s 500,000,000,000,000,000,000 pages.

“It will collect information from listening posts, antennas, satellites. The NSA has intercept equipment all over the world looking for any kind of electronic signal, even non-communication signals like radar,” Bamford said. “Anything from a cell phone used in Benghazi to a Chinese radar installation.”

Bamford says that it isn’t just overseas communication that will be stored. Global Internet traffic often goes through the United States. Bamford calls the facility the capstone to a decades long restructuring of the infrastructure of the NSA, what he calls the largest, most expensive and most secret intelligence agency on the face of the earth. Its budget is a secret and no one from the

continued on page 2
agency has publicly said how the data center will ultimately be used. At one point in its history, even the name of the NSA was secret.

‘Resurgence Agreements’

For Local 354, the data center has meant an end to lean times. “In 2009, 28 percent of our members were out of work. Some members were laid off for 18 months,” said Kingery. “Three-hundred and twenty-five journeymen and 80 apprentices sitting, unemployed, waiting for a call to work.”

Now, 18 months into the project, nearly a third of the local is working 50 to 60 hours a week. Approximately 390 journeymen, 100 apprentices and, depending on the stage of construction, between 30 and 100 construction electricians and construction wiresmen are on-site. With the recession, Local 354 saw the average number of bids on the commercial and industrial contracts they were trying to win jump from four or five offers to 30 or more.

“All the pressure was coming from the lower end,” said Kingery. Prior to the contract for the data center coming up for bid, Kingery went to visit a National Electrical Contractors Association partner and together they decided to use the recovery agreement—Kingery calls it the “resurgence agreement”—and bid using composite crews including construction electricians and construction wiresmen with journeymen and apprentices.

Kingery says the CEIs are mainly used in the early stages of construction, installing conduit. When the building gets close to commissioning, the crew composition switches.

“With the data center project, we signed a PLA to allow CEIs on the job and lock in wage and benefit rates for the full duration of the job. We negotiated a dollar an hour higher than the going inside rate at the time because we were able to get the materials handlers and CEIs to reduce crew costs,” said Kingery.

Since the beginning of the project, 17 CEIs have tested and advanced to journeymen and a large number of the CWs have become apprentices.

“We reached lows of as few as 32 apprentices in 2011. We now have roughly 400 apprentices, 153 in the first year alone. Twenty-five percent of the first-year apprentices came in as CWs or materials handlers.”

Kingery gives much of the credit to the recovery agreement.

“Since we started this project and our recovery agreement, our membership is up by 300 people. We have 200 travelers working on-site. We can and have captured more work. In addition to the data center, we’ve won smaller projects: a Taco Bell, a Petsmart. Small buildings we’ve never done before. If we had not used these classifications, I would suspect we would have a serious problem.”

Using the CEI/CW classifications for an industrial project, not as part of a bid for small commercial or residential projects, was controversial at first, says Kingery.

“We try to be transparent. It was controversial but (after) many education-type meetings as to how we use them and how it works, it’s clear. Most every concern or controversial issue that arises is from a lack of understanding,” Kingery said.

‘No work and a big union is a big problem’

Kingery knows that it won’t always be this good. The local has been severely burned after big projects ended, most recently when a large power plant project left the local with a large number of unemployed electricians.

“No work and a big union is a big problem. The next two years are good, but we are aggressively acquiring work and utilizing variances for these classifications outside of the scope of the recovery agreement to win new projects. We continue to meet with NECA to make sure we don’t rely solely on the Utah Data Center job.”

They have two years before the last member walks off the job site. They’ll be left with good wages, a strong union and some amazing stories. None of which they can tell you.

For more on the data center, watch this video: www.vimeo.com/ibew/nsa

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The January issue of The Electrical Worker will feature an article about a struggle by workers at an IBEW-represented municipal water treatment plant in Nebraska to stop the city’s mayor and city council from privatizing the plant by selling management of the facility to Veolia Environmental, American Water’s largest competitor.
IBEW Verizon Employees Ratify New Agreement After Year in Contract Limbo

Following intense contract negotiations that came on the heels of a two-week strike in August 2011, IBEW members working for Verizon in the Northeast ratified a new contract Oct. 19. The employees maintain the company’s landline infrastructure, the backbone of customers’ traditional telephone service, fiber-optic television and Internet.

The agreement guarantees the 12,000-strong IBEW Verizon workforce an 8.2 percent wage increase compounded over the next three years of the contract, which expires Aug. 1, 2015. The agreement was made retroactive to Aug. 1, 2011, with no wage increases for that year. Members were also awarded an immediate $800 ratification bonus, and the negotiating committee was able to stave off many of the more austere health care proposals the company put on the table during talks.

“The ratification vote shows that our members listened to the union’s leadership when we told them that this was the best contract we could negotiate with Verizon at this point in time,” said East Windsor, N.J. Local 827 Business Manager Bill Huber, who helped helm the negotiating committee. “They understood that we were facing a perfect storm of negative economic circumstances. Although this was not the best contract we had hoped to achieve, it was one that will allow us to live to continue to fight for our members and the customers they serve.” Local 827 represents 5,500 Verizon employees statewide.

IBEW members joined about 35,000 Communication Workers of America members working at Verizon for a strike last year after the company and the work force failed to reach accord on a new collective bargaining agreement. Members returned to work after parties agreed to extend negotiations.

Members of the negotiating team said the company wanted drastic concessions from their workers’ pension position that played out over the next three months as contract talks turned increasingly arduous, prompting the parties to seek federal mediation in July. A tentative agreement was finally reached in September.

Boston Local 2-22 Business Manager Myles Calvey said that the company—which continues to make record profits—was seeking to take advantage of the economic downturn in its efforts to force concessions from members.

“What we were facing was simply a typical American corporation in 2011 wanting to pursue profits at all cost over reasonable requests of its work force,” said Calvey, whose local represents about 2,000 Verizon workers. Calvey is also the International Executive Council representative for the Second District.

“Young people are reading and understanding this situation is a case study in why you need unions to be strong in this country if the middle class is going to survive,” he said.

IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill said that the process reflected the challenges workers are facing in the telecommunications industry nationwide.

“This is what this is over, our members are going to continue doing what they do every day: providing outstanding service for Verizon customers,” Hill said.

“Our members faced hard choices, but in the end united to protect the integrity of the collective bargaining process and our ability to fight for good, middle-class jobs at the company.”

The contract covers members of 12 IBEW locals in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, upstate New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Members Urged to Join the ‘A’ Team

Henry Miller, the first President of the IBEW, died in 1896 without enough money for a decent burial.

Miller was not alone. In the early part of the 20th century, accidental electrocution among people employed in the electrical industry occurred with such frequency that many insurance companies refused to insure the lives of electrical workers. Others set the premiums so high that the typical electrical worker could not afford to maintain life insurance for his or her surviving family. In response to this dilemma, members of the IBEW established a fraternal death benefit association in 1912 whose essential purpose was to provide the named beneficiary of a deceased member a sum that might permit our members to be inured to a dignified manner.

That fraternal death benefit association (The Electrical Workers Benefit Association) was later merged in January 1992 with the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund. Those retired “A” members who meet the qualifications of an applicant for pension may receive a monthly benefit from the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund. Currently, when “A” members submit due to their local unions, $14 of that payment represents their participation in the fund. “A” members (for example who reach age 65 and successfully apply for pension after 20 years of participation in the fund will receive a monthly benefit in the amount of $90 for the remainder of their life.

Many members, how ever, acquire far more than 20 years of participation by the time they reach retirement age. Plan trustees have reported that after three- and-a-half years, “A” members receiving a pension benefit from the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund have already surpassed their total contributions to the fund during their years as active “A” members.

For “A” members with 20 years or more, those who meet the qualifications of an applicant for pension may apply for early retirement between the ages of 62-64, but will experience a 6.66% reduction in monthly payments for each year or part thereof that they are under the age of 65 at the time they begin to receive a benefit.

As with many pension plans, the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund faces challenges; and at the 2011 IBEW International Convention in Vancouver, Canada, action was taken to strengthen the plan. As noted at the convention, one of the best ways to strengthen the fund was to increase “A” membership in the IBEW.

A description of the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund is contained within Article XI of the IBEW Constitution, available online at www.ibew.org/members/pensionbenefitfund/ArtXI_041207.pdf.
Greening the Kodiak State: IBEW Builds Alaska’s Biggest Wind Farm

For a state awash in oil and gas, filling up your car in Alaska can sure be pricey. Drivers spend an average $4.25 a gallon, and heating a home in -50°F weather will shrink your bank account faster than the receding daylight hours of an Arctic winter.

Energy prices are even higher in the more remote interior part of the state.

“We’re always feeling an energy crunch in this town,” says Anchorage union’s Fairbanks office.

For Alaskans fed up with being at the mercy of global oil prices, diversifying the Kodiak State’s energy portfolio and going green isn’t just about helping the environment—it is about financial relief. The use of carbon fuels has been one top priority for some time. In 2009 then-Gov. Sarah Palin announced the most ambitious renewable energy plan in the nation, calling for half of the state’s power supply to come from renewable geothermal and tidal energy.

And last fall, Alaska took one step closer to meeting this benchmark with the completion of the state’s largest wind farm.

The Eva Creek Wind Farm lies in the midst of Alaska’s interior wilderness, just outside Denali National Park in the shadow of Mt. McKinley, the tallest peak in North America. With 12 turbines in place, it will generate 25 megawatts of power, eventually providing 20 percent of Golden Valley Electric Association’s peak load. The association serves Fairbanks and large rural swaths of the Interior.

Running at full peak, Eva Creek is expected to save customers $13.6 million over the next 20 years.

“We’re always feeling an energy crunch in this town,” says Anchorage union’s Fairbanks office.

“For a project of this size that is so important to Alaska residents, not to hire those same residents is pretty outrageous,” says Local 547 Business Representative Dave Reaves.

“The site is basically in the middle of nowhere,” Singh says. The only way to get equipment to the location was by rail or plane—the closest approximation to a road being an old dirt mining trail that hadn’t been used in decades.

“The other challenge they faced was a common one for anyone drilling a hole or digging a ditch in Alaska: hard, frozen soil known as permafrost.

“Mud would also become a problem after drillers discovered that the site sat atop an underground spring, turning trench digging efforts into a battle against the mud. Frequent cold rains didn’t help the situation.

“It turned into one big, muddy hole,” says Singh.

It wasn’t an easy job, but workers for three signatory contractors—Michels, Redi Electric and Diamond Electric—finished the project on time and under budget, with Eva Creek going online last October.

Signatory contractor Alaska Linebuilders was called in at the last minute, and despite the delay caused by the System 3 fiasco, got it done on time.

“Running at full peak, Eva Creek is expected to save customers $13.6 million over the next 20 years.

Running at full peak, Eva Creek is expected to save customers $13.6 million over the next 20 years.
IBEW Shines Light on Minnesota’s Solar Future

When Minneapolis Local 292 instructor Darryl Thayer began preaching the good word about solar energy more than 40 years ago, he didn’t have much of an audience. The 66-year member started a solar thermal business in the 1960s, back when oil was cheap and plentiful and most Americans assumed it would always be that way. Still, that didn’t stop him from talking up the importance of renewable energy to elected officials and union members. But, as he told the Electrical Worker in 2009, many of his fellow workers “thought I was nuts.”

No more. Thanks to the groundwork laid by Thayer, 18 Local 292 electricians went to work this summer installing the state’s largest solar project. The 1-megawatt solar array on the roof of the Twin Cities’ Ikea furniture store can produce enough energy to light up 100 homes. And that will go a long way to powering the 142,000 lest enrollees in Local 292’s photovoltaic trainee program—found in part by Thayer, who members refer to as “the grandfather of solar.”

The Ikea furniture store in Bloomington, Minn., is now site to the largest solar array in the state.

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan, #52-613272, for the year ended December 31, 2011. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic Financial Statement
Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust. Plan expenses were $135,572,866. These expenses included $104,445,959 in administrative expenses and $25,122,897 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 81,408 people were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these people had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was $1,395,987,412 as of December 31, 2011, compared to $2,410,974,368 as of January 1, 2011. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of $290,466,044. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan’s assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of $26,316,841,910, including employer contributions of $285,733,483,

2011 Summary Annual Report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan

Notice to Participants in the National Electrical Annuity Plan: Explanation of Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit

If you are married and die before retirement, NEAP will provide your spouse with a Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. Your spouse will receive this benefit: (1) if you have satisfied the minimum eligibility requirement of 160 hours of service; (2) if you leave a balance in your Individual Account; (3) if you are receiving a pension benefit; and (4) if you are married, and (5) if you have not previously declined the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit.

If you are entitled to a Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, NEAP will purchase an annuity contract from an insurance company for your spouse. The annuity contract will pay your surviving spouse a monthly benefit for life.

Lump Sum
If you decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, your Individual Account balance will be paid to your designated surviving beneficiary in a lump sum. If your designated surviving beneficiary is not your spouse, your spouse must also consent to that as well, in order for it to be valid. If you have not designated a beneficiary (or your designated beneficiary is not living at the time of your death), the balance will be paid to the following persons, if living, in the following order of priority: (1) your spouse, (2) your children, (3) your parents, or (4) your estate. The total amount of money received as a lump sum may ultimately be different (either greater or lesser) than the total amount of money your spouse would have received under the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit.

Elections/Consents
If you are under age 55, your spouse will automatically receive the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit upon your death (unless your spouse selects a lump sum payment instead of the annuity). You may not decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit unless you have permanently stopped working in Covered Employment.

However, beginning the year you reach age 55 and at any time thereafter, you may decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. Your spouse must consent in writing and the consent must be witnessed by a representative of NEAP or by a notary public. Consent given by a spouse is not effective as to a subsequent spouse.

You may revoke your election to decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit at any time. You may again decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit at any time by executing the appropriate form and obtaining your spouse’s consent. Your spouse may also revoke his/her consent at any time. Contact the Plan Administrator’s Office for the appropriate forms.
For more than 30 years, the CCGS Amundsen has kept the St. Lawrence River open for commercial shipping, clearing ice from the main route between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. In the summer, the icebreaker heads north, escorting cargo ships to isolated Arctic communities and assisting scientific expeditions.

The ship’s storied history even won it a spot on the back of Canada’s newly designed $50 bill.

And now the Amundsen, put out of commission last year because of cracks in its engines, will soon be back on the water, thanks to the Port Worker Dry Docks in St. Catharines, Ontario.

“This work not only supports Canada’s future research priorities in the Arctic, but also supports job creation, economic growth and long-term prosperity right here in St. Catharines,” said MP Rick Dykstra, who represents the city, at a press conference announcing the coast guard contract.

For members of St. Catharines Local 303, the Amundsen project is another big boost for good shipyard jobs. It comes on the heels of last February’s announcement of a $224.7 million federal contract to refurbish the Canadian naval destroyer HMCS Athabaskan.

“We’re seeing a real revitalization of the docks,” says Local 303 Business Representative Mark Cherney.

Renovations on the Athabaskan are expected to be completed before the end of the year. Once the destructor returns to service, the Amundsen will take its place at the docks.

The St. Catharines shipbuilding industry had been in a downward slump for more than seven years—the most recent blow being the loss of a $35 billion federal shipbuilding contract last year. The work ended up going to shipyards in Nova Scotia and British Columbia. (See “From Coast to Coast, Canadian Shipbuilding Contracts Mean IBEW Jobs,” the Electrical Worker, December 2011.)

“The situation was real slow,” says shipyard employee Brent Gustyn.

“A lot of the big projects were outsourced to China,” adds the Local 303 executive board member.

But the Port Worker docks—silent for so long—are now alive with the sound of electricians, painters, and sheet metal workers hard at work.

“When I used to come down to the dock, parking was never a problem,” Cherney says. “Now you have to stack the cars to find a space.”

Workers will be doing repairs to Amundsen’s communication and navigation system, as well as upgrades to its heating and water system.

Cherney says that the recent work is generating more interest in bringing more shipyard jobs back to St. Catharines.

“We’re telling elected officials and business leaders that the docks are still a viable option here,” he says.

The famous icebreaker CCGS Amundsen will soon be back on the water, thanks to the IBEW.

Grâce aux membres de la FIOE, le célèbre brise-glace NGCC Amundsen reprendra sa mer bientôt!
DECEASED

W. Lance Blackstock

We are sorry to report that W. Lance Blackstock, Fourth District International Executive Council member from 1991 to 2001, died on Oct. 28.

A journeyman inside wireman, Brother Blackstock served for 24 years as business manager and financial secretary of Sheffield, Ala., Local 558.

Brother Blackstock served the IBEW in a wide range of capacities. He was a trustee of the Southern Electrical Retirement Fund and the NECA-IBEW Health and Welfare Fund, a member of the Council on Industrial Relations and a board member of the Pension Benefit Fund.

A well-respected labor activist, Blackstock served as president of the Shoals Central Labor Council and the Northwest Shoals Technical College Advisory Board.

On behalf of the entire membership and staff of the IBEW, the officers send our condolences to Brother Blackstock’s family.

DECEASED

Stanley Hubbard

With sadness, the IBEW announces the death of former International Representative Stanley Hubbard on Oct. 24.

Brother Hubbard, who served on the staff of the Construction and Maintenance Department, retired in 2002. Hubbard began his IBEW career in 1963, becoming the union’s first African-American apprentice in Texas. A native of San Marcos, he was a graduate of San Antonio Community College. A member of San Antonio Local 60, he joined the executive board in 1968.

After 16 years of service to Local 60, Brother Hubbard was appointed an International Representative by then-International President Charles Pillard in 1983. His first appointment was in the Agreement Approval Department. He also served in the Special Projects and Human Services Departments before joining the Construction and Maintenance Department.

In addition to his service to the IBEW, Hubbard was also active in the A. Philip Randolph Institute, a national organization of African-American trade unionists. He served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1962.

“Stanley always had a positive attitude and a smile on his face,” says retired Special Assistant to the International President for Membership Development Buddy Satterfield, who worked with Hubbard. “He loved the IBEW, believed in our cause and never forgot where he came from.”

A widower, Brother Hubbard is survived by six children, 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The IBEW extends sincerest sympathy to Brother Hubbard’s family and friends.

RETIRED

Dmytro Halyn

Per Capita Department Director Dmytro Halyn retired effective Dec. 1. Initiated into Chicago Local 885 in 1972, Brother Halyn entered training as an electrician on the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. He was assigned to service air conditioning and communication equipment.

Concerned that local union members were insufficiently encouraged to become involved in his local, Halyn ran for and was elected recording secretary, financial secretary and treasurer and executive board member. He assumed leadership of System Council 8 in 1976, serving for eight years.

“I was 25 years old. My predecessors and most of the railroad local leaders were in their 50s,” says Halyn, whose father was a member of the Machinists working on the Chicago Northwest Railroad. “Most of the leaders of the so-called councils were looking toward retirement,” says Halyn. “I was looking to improve conditions for the members as we faced the turmoil of railroad industry deregulation.”

Service to smaller towns was eliminated. Tracks were being sold or removed and his employer pared the work force of 25,000 in half. While other unions agreed to concessions on wages, under Halyn’s leadership, the IBEW and Sheet Metal Workers refused.

“Pay cuts didn’t stop the loss of jobs,” says Halyn. Halyn, who graduated with a math degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1972, served as president of the system federation of AFL-CIO railway labor shops and crafts.

He says, “The job enabled me to exercise influence with railroad companies and better represent our members in national contract negotiations.”

Appointed International Representative in 1984, Halyn, an Illinois National Guard veteran, took on the task of automating the Per Capita Department’s operation at the International Office. The turnaround in reports for payrolls was improved three weeks to five days. Payments that were submitted manually were electronically processed.

“The right people came along at the right time. Great leaders like Jack Moore and Ed Hill encouraged us to modernize our operation and we are still working on new processes,” says Halyn. U.S. Department of Labor auditors, says Halyn, always are impressed by the accuracy of IBEW per capita reports.

Years of reviewing membership records, says Halyn, gave him a window into the success of IBEW’s organizing efforts. He says, “I am confident that the Brotherhood will continue to seize opportunities to grow, especially in electrical construction,” he says. “Over the last 30 years, I have watched the IBEW evolve and act proactively while other unions lagged behind. I believe our future is good.”

Brother Halyn, who has served as secretary-treasurer of his homeowner’s association in Tysons Corner, Va., is looking forward to a move south to Williamsburg. He plans to revive dormant interests in art and music. A skilled accordion player who took classes for eight years, he plans to enroll in classes to learn piano. Signing up for art classes, too, will renew an interest in painting that goes back to days in grammar school when he attended an arts institute. “Painting is therapeutic,” says Halyn, a recent survivor of prostate cancer.

“I want to thank our members and my co-workers at the International Office for their friendship and support,” says Halyn. “Working for the IBEW has been a wonderful experience.”

On behalf of the entire membership and staff, the officers wish our very best to Brother Halyn in health and happiness during retirement.

Circuits

Sandy’s Toll

As were going to press, cleanup from Hurricane Sandy was still unfinished and we received tragic news. Mike Leach, a veteran lineman from Simia, Ontario, Local 1802, died on Oct. 31.

Mike was killed while on the job, tending to a downed power line.

Mike joined the IBEW 25 years ago, first in Halfax, Nova Scotia, local 1928, then moving to Toronto, Ontario, Local 335 in 1999, and in the past three years he has been in Simia. It is a terrible loss for all of us and our hearts go out to Mike’s wife, Ewes, their daughters, Jessica and Miranda, and his granddaughters, Bridge and Charlotte.

The hardest hit part of the U.S. was also the scene of a terrible injury suffered by another brother. Imad Ghandour from Cranbury, N.J., Local 725, was severely burned, and owes his life to the members of his crew who performed CPR until emergency medical personnel arrived. We all pray for Imad’s full and swift recovery.

Solar Backpacks Light Up Ind. Youth

If you are searching for it, the path to a teenager’s heart is through their smartphone. When Terre Haute, Ind., Local 725 ran its first youth electrical camp for disadvantaged high schoolers, they figured what better way to show them the power of the job than by teaching them to power their phones.

Each kid wired up a backpack armored like an armadillo with solar panels called a solar backpack.

“They took it home and charged up their iPhones,” said Tom Szymanski. “That was great, a big hit.”

Local 725 had never been asked to run a summer camp by the local workforce development agency, WorkOne. Other trades and other unions had been invited to run WorkOne-sponsored camps in the past. Szymanski said this year was different because a consortium community outreach effort led by Business Manager Todd Thacker had successfully raised Local 725’s profile in Terre Haute, bringing attention to the IBEW apprenticeship program.

Local 725 received a $20,000 grant from WorkOne and nearby Vincennes University along with the invitation.

They bought hand tools, solar experimentation and the solar backpack kits for the 15 students.

Classes were taught by retired members Norm Cheesman and John McMullen. They took the students to construction sites. They bent conduit and linemen members of sister Local 1393 did a presentation on high voltage safety. Retirees David Walls taught a class on knots and rope tying and Jerry Hooper presented a class on Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety standards.

Cheesman and McMullen even tried to make up for the glaring lack of labor history in the students education with a trip to the house of Terre Haute native son Eugene V. Debs, pioneering union organizer and five-time Socialist Party candidate for U.S. president between 1900 and 1920.

Szymanski says there are already plans to double the number of students next summer and, with luck, run two sessions.

“This was a great way to reach out to a part of the community we need to reach out for and haven’t, for whatever reason,” Szymanski said. “We have to do a better job reaching these kids, and convincing their parents. It was showcase of what we can do.”
Work Picture Picks Up

L.U. 8 (es,em,un,rt,ts&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Hello, brothers and sisters. Work in our jurisdiction builds handicap-accessible, accessible homes. This organization builds handicap-accessible, accessible homes.

L.U. 22 (i,rt,ts&spa), OMAHA, NE—On Aug. 16, Local 22 held our first Industry Night.

L. U. 34 (em,i,rt,ts&spa), PEO RIA, IL—Happy holidays to all! Hopefully, this finds everyone working.

Local Lines

Trade Classifications

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New Contractor Training Course

L.U. 24 (es,em,rt,ts&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—Maryland Chapter NECA and IBEW Local 24 sponsored a New Contractor Training course Aug. 23-25. The course was presented by IBEW Local 212 member Matt Kolbinski, owner of Pro Union Consulting, who has presented this course to IBEW locals and NECA chapters across the country.

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.

Industry Night a Success

At Local 8’s park and shelter house dedication in tribute to Dennis Duffy (center) are, from left: Executive Board Chmn. Shawn Roboschkievicz, Duffy, Ohio State Rep. Matt Scalliss, and Bus. Mgr. Joe Cousino.

Homes for Our Troops’ Project

L.U. 16 () EVANSVILLE, IN—Larry Stofeth and the crew of Completely Wired Electric recently established the new company’s character by donating their skills to electrify Indiana’s first Homes for Our Troops house. This organization builds handicap-accessible, no-cost housing for disabled American veterans. Because of their efforts, Sgt. Kenneth Harker, a double amputee who served in Iraq, will now be able to more easily parent his young daughter. Thanks to

Holiday Parties/Meetings

L. U. 26 (es,em,es,govt,um&nt), WASHINGTON, DC—I’m sure everyone is busy getting ready for the holidays. I do hope, however, that you plan to take an evening out for some brotherhood and holiday cheer by attending one of our Local 26 Christmas parties/meetings: the D.C. area party is Dec. 7 at 8 p.m.; Front Royal’s will be Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.; and Roanoke’s will be Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

Congratulations to the Local 26 softball team for bringing home second place from the Long Island IBEW tournament held in August.

On behalf of the officers and staff, I’d like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday.

We mourn the passing of several members since our last article: Robert C. Allen, Francis A. Griffin Jr., Bernard J. Smith, Stephen T. McNally, Jimmie Miles and Philip A. Dornberger.


At the Industry Night itself, eight of our largest signatory contractors participated, along with representatives from our Apprenticeship Training Center, the Local 22 Exam Board, and Milwaukee Electrical Tool Corp.

Nearly 75 nonunion electricians and low-voltage technicians submitted resumes or came to the career fair wanting to learn more about opportunities in the area. By the end of the week, three residential electricians, 13 construction electricians/contruction wrerners, and three low voltage technicians with experience were immediately hired. The rest were able to visit with our contractors and representatives and learn more about who we are and what we do. Additionally, word of the Industry Night put our nonunion competition on notice that we are actively organizing our jurisdiction and want to help all workers in our trade enjoy our benefits and security.

In all, it was a successful night and we hope to have more such events in the future.

Chris Bayer, P.S.


Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Attend Union Meetings

L.U. 34 (es,em,rt,ts&spa), PEDRO, WA—Happy holidays to all! Hopefully, this finds everyone working.

Unfortunately, around here construction slows around Christmas and layoffs occur. We are hopeful that 2013 will be a better year for us.

2013 is a union election year for Local 34. If you want to know what is going on, if you have ideas, if you want to be part of the solution—then monthly union meetings are an excellent place to start. To all of our members: please attend a union
meeting on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in Peoria; or unit meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month in Galesburg, or the fourth Wednesday of every month in Quincy. The election is on a Saturday in June. Nominations for officers, Executive Board members and Examining Board members are made at the May union meeting. See you there!

Mark McCarthy, Sec.-Treas.

Work Picture Strong: Projects Coming Our Way

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Work is the best that it has been in several years. We expect the trend to continue with all the projects that are coming our way, although we don’t expect to get into Book 2. The downtown projects like the Medical Mart/Convention Center and East Bank Flats will have a lot of our members working through summer of next year. The hospital work continues to be strong for the next year, including the upcoming Southwest Hospital Job. The contracts for American Greetings Co. and Crocker Park should be let soon. Work on more downtown housing has started with the conversion of the Hanna Annex Building in the Playhouse District into 82 apartments. Shown in the photo below are Local 38 members Don Juan Shelton, job steward Joe Haivity and Steve Edmonds, who are all working at the new Medical Mart/Cleveland Convention Center project, which is a $50 million electrical job that will produce over 300,000 man-hours for Local 38 members.

Remember that union meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. At the meetings, we get you all the important information and usually have you on your way by 5:30 p.m. So come on down and find out what’s going on in your local union.

Dennis Meaney, B.M./P.S.

IBEW Local 38 members Don Shelton (left), job steward Joe Haivity and Steve Edmonds, working at the Medical Mart/Cleveland Convention Center project.

Annual Golf Tournament Benefit

L.U. 40 (em, kmps), HOLLYWOOD, CA—On May 5, Local 40 held our annual golf tournament and luncheon at DeBell Golf Course in Burbank. It was a beautiful day to golf and it was an honor to see so many union brothers and sisters show their support to Local 40 by spending their day benefiting many causes. This year’s golf tournament focused on raising funds and awareness for the Korean War Museum, The Wounded Warrior Project, and St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. We raised $1,000 for the National Korean War Museum; $4,242 for The Wounded Warrior Project; and donated a truck load of toys as well as gift certificates and cash donations to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.

Local 40 also appreciates the support we have received to raise these funds and raise awareness for these important causes. United as a team we can achieve and accomplish many things! We also thank our many sponsors who contributed to this cause. Without all your support, we could not accomplish these goals to help others. We look forward to next year’s tournament, for which we will select other causes to contribute to.

Marc Flynn, Pres.

Work Picture Report

L.U. 42 (catv, government, pctb, rtsk), HARTFORD, CT—Our membership has increased to 437 “A” members and 493 “BA” members as of September 2012. This does not include the travelers who are currently working on our property.

At press time, we are hoping the utility agreement between Northeast Utilities and IBEW Locals 420 and 437 will be settled soon. We will be able to work on the property again, and then distribution work should pick up for all of us. At press time, the work picture is strong and steady for the substation, hightline and the railroad work. We are down to about 40 journeymen linemen on Book 1. Local 42 has been working very hard to keep trying to work steady for all the members. For the future, the work picture for Local 42 is slow and steady.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

Local 42 linemen and apprentices pose for a photo. They are working on a substation addition, as well as regular maintenance of the substation, in New Haven, CT.

IBEW Local 40 donates contributions to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.

GE Service Technicians Ratify New Contract

L.U. 38 (em, pctb, rtsk), DETROIT, MI—Twenty-two service technicians of southeastern Michigan have again used collective bargaining to negotiate a mutually beneficial contract agreement with GE. This marks the eleventh consecutive year that Local 38 has ratified a contract with GE. The technicians were assisted in contract negotiations by Business Agent Grace Trudell. The contract was ratified by a unanimous vote and everyone walked away happy. This stand-alone contract has been in force since the 1960s, and we are proud to represent these strong union members who work for GE. Jon Reno, steward, points out “GE manufactures the last appliances that are factory serviced.”

The technicians have weathered through tough times in GE’s appliance division, which was actually on the auction block four years ago. A large portion of the manufacturing had been exported overseas to China, and the servicing of foreign-made appliances became a quality control issue. In order to rectify the problem, GE has invested a billion dollars in its Louisville, KY, Appliance Park manufacturing facility. With the improvements they were able to bring back the manufacturing of several of their appliances, doubling the size of their work force and ensuring the need for service technicians wherever GE appliances are sold.

Cyndy Rusu, P.S.

Congratulations to Graduates

L.U. 76 (l, rtsk), TACOMA, WA—On Aug. 24, the SW Washington JATC met and held graduation ceremonies at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, WA. With a total of 52 inside construction and two low voltage apprentices, the class of 2012 is the second largest class to graduate in the last five years. [See photo on pg. 10, at top left.] On behalf of the IBEW Local 76 membership and staff, we congratulate the entire class on this accomplishment. Graduates, you now possess the knowledge and training that will enable you to have a career not just a job. We wish you all great success.

Mac McCallan, P.S.
Retirement Dinner & Summer Gathering

Local 76 congratulates the 2012 JATC apprentice graduating class.

{\textit{Visit Our Web Site}}

L.U. 94 (ct,ri,nt\&ct), CRANBURY, NJ—Congratulations to the Local 94 officers and Executive Board members for being re-elected to their current positions unopposed. Only one position would have required that an election be held, which was the Executive Board At Large. There were three nominations made; two of them were incumbents. The third nomination was for Bro. Walter Pavlick, who offered to withdraw his nomination, so no election was required. On behalf of the membership, we thank Walter.

Local 222 draws a close

L.U. 222 (fl,or\&ga), ORLANDO, FL—As you read this, the rains of the summer storm season and tropical storm Isaac are months in the rearview mirror. But for one of our L.E. Myers crews working in south Florida, it is still a soggy memory. The job to rebuild...
Thanks to Union Volunteers

L.U. 270 (i& o), OAK RIDGE, TN—As of this writing our work picture remains very slow. Upcoming work will be affected by the outcome of the November elections and whether labor friendly candidates were elected. We have several members working in other jurisdictions and we thank those locals for helping our members go to work.

William “Bill” Hitt, Pres.

Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 270 (i& o), OAK RIDGE, TN—As of this writing our work picture remains very slow. Upcoming work will be affected by the outcome of the November elections and whether labor friendly candidates were elected. We have several members working in other jurisdictions and we thank those locals for helping our members go to work.

Michael Torres, P.S.

We congratulate our most recent apprentice class for their years of hard work. Recent graduates are: Justin Aslinger, Justin Eubanks, Josh Hawes, Melton Hawn, Jared Iwin, Aaron Blake King, Travis Lamb, Charles Maples, Stephen McNutt, Mark Murphy, Travis Peters, Bryan Ross, David Singleton, Michael Wampler and Jeffrey Wilson. Bro. Josh Hawes was named “outstanding apprentice of the year,” and Bro. Bryan Ross was recognized for maintaining the highest grade point average throughout his five-year apprenticeship.

Also, we congratulate Sister Nora Tweed, who recently retired. In special recognition, she was presented with an IBEW watch at a recent union meeting. Sister Tweed was Local 270’s first female officer ever elected and served on the Executive Board until her retirement. She dedicated her career to the IBEW and Local 270, not only with her work in the trade, but also by starting a mentoring program for young sisters starting in the trade.

Please attend your union meetings to keep up with upcoming events. You can find us now on Facebook.

Regina Guy, R.S.

A Move to New Office Space

L.U. 292 (em,gx,4l,rb,tsksp), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—We are moving into the new office space that was recently remodeled. We are proud to have used union contractors throughout this job, and as many “Made-in-America” furnishings and materials as available. All of the chairs and most of the furniture were built by the Marvel Group, a union furniture company represented by the Teamsters. The conference room table and all of the cabinetry were built by Aaron Carlson, a union millwright company here in Minneapolis.

On Aug. 27, Local 292 members in the western 12-county area of our jurisdiction voted on a new agreement. Since this area has historically had low union density and minimal union market share, an agreement was negotiated to give Local 292 and our contractors better tools to regain market share. The agreement passed with 92 percent voting yes. The work picture is improving; as of this writing we have 573 members on Book 1. We thank all the locals that are providing work for our members, and we look forward to a busy 2013.

Bob Lilley, P.S.

Brotherhood in Action

L.U. 306 (i), AkrOvn, OH—Sometimes it seems that politicians in this country don’t really listen to what we have to say. One such example was the decision to hold the Democratic National Convention in a “right-to-work” state, with little regard to the concerns of organized labor. So IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and other leaders from organized labor decided to hold a rally to voice our concerns and make what we think should be included in the Democratic platform.

On Aug. 11, the Workers Stand for America rally was held in Philadelphia, PA. An estimated 1000 people spoke at the rally.

With its move to a newly-remodeled office space, Local 292 utilized union contractors and “Made-in-America” materials.

Regina Guy, R.S.

“Officers Welcome Input”

L.U. 280 (c,es,em,es,i,m,mo,mt,tsk&l), SALEM, OR—We enjoyed such a great picnic at Timber-Linn Park this summer! Attendance was excellent and everyone had a great time, with good weather and fantastic football games by the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. Mike Sittziel did his usual delicious barbecue and everyone walked away with a full stomach and a big smile.

Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew and Pros. John Clouse are also looking for volunteers for a “By-Laws Committee” for updating our current by-laws. Also an “Agreement Committee” will be organized to craft some language for our agreement that ends at the end of 2013. Please give the hall a call to contact Bro. John or Bro. Tim to see how you can make a better local and union.

Our work picture has improved with projects on substations and Apple starting to hire and we even dipped into Book II already. The Facebook project is still going strong and should last until this spring.

The offices and staff wish all of you a merry Christmas and happy holidays. Please work safe and have a happy 2013!

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.

Local 236 volunteers at the Schenectady City Mission: Jon Hess (left), Letendre and Ed Knott. Not pictured: D.J. Myer and Louis Smith.

Local 270 Oak Ridge JATC apprentice graduates of 2012, joined by JATC Training Dir. A. J. Pearson (seated, at front).

Local 272 held their annual holiday party Dec. 15 at the union hall in Reddick, FL. We hope everyone can attend. Be safe, have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. William “Bill” Hitt, Pres.

A Move to New Office Space

L.U. 292 (em,gx,4l,rb,tsksp), MARTINEZ, CA—Our local has been very involved with the International’s outreach project known as the “Member to Member” program.

Several of our members received training on how to reach out to our local members who may have gotten away from local union involvement. We visit these members at their homes to see how they are doing, it gives us an opportunity to get to know them all over again. It is a way of saying: “Hello, brother—welcome back!”

Local unions are more than just hiring halls, and their members are much more than workers. We are also family members, parents, students and citizens. We share more than a vocation; we share the common experience of belonging to a community. We not only care about jobs, we care about quality of life outside the workplace as well—and the one we share with our families and neighbors.

The Member to Member project not only brings our brothers back to our local union, but it also puts our local union in touch with its members and their families—and the part of their lives that happens outside the workplace.

Brothers and sisters are part of a family, and our Brotherhood is our family in the community. Welcome back!

Bob Lilley, P.S.

"Member to Member" Project
turnout of 40,000 was in attendance, and that total it appeared that the IBEW was the majority of attendees. Local 306 was well represented along with many members from sister Local 540, who shared the long bus trip with us. What a great example of brotherhood in action!

On Aug. 4 the Annual Local 306 Family Picnic was held at Sluggers and Putters. With a turnout of nearly 600, it was a huge success. We thank Cindy Collins, Mike Kamm, Sharon Huddleston and Carole Jackson for all their hard work.

With sadness we report the loss of retired Bros. David Haught and George Cooley. We send our condolences to their families.

Thomas Wright, P.S.

Solar-Powered Charging Station

L.U. 332 (i&es,ilks), SAN JOSE, CA—Several years ago the rooftop solar installation on the IBEW Local 332 solar powered charging station for electric vehicle.

IBEW Local 332 solar-powered charging station for electric vehicle.

2013 Work Lookout

L.U. 356 (i&es,ems,es,Lmt,rcs,kpa), ROCKFORD, IL—Our annual Local 356 Christmas party for the children and grandchildren of members is planned for Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those who attend will have lots of holiday food and fun and a visit from Santa Clause, portrayed once again by apprentice instructor Ty Hillman. Kids will also receive a gift from “San-Ty” Claus.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Local 356 had much to be thankful for with a decent amount of work for our members this year. Next year in 2013 it appears the work outlook will increase for the better compared to this year. If all goes as planned, a four-unit combined cycle power plant, two wind farms, a new factory and a regularly scheduled nuclear power plant refuel outage should help put most of our local members to work.

Congratulations to Local 364 Bus. Mgr. Darrin Golden, who was elected to a full two-year term as one of the Illinois AFL-CIO’s vice presidents and executive board members. He was elected by assembled delegates from the Illinois labor community at the recently convened Illinois AFL-CIO Convention held in Rosemont, IL, a suburb of Chicago.

Charles R. Laskonis, B.A.

2012 Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 380 (il,es,J&J), NORRISTOWN, PA—The Local 380 JATC held its 2012 apprentice graduation banquet at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia, PA. We celebrated the accomplishments of the graduates, who just five years ago entered the electrical field with little or no electrical background. First, the new apprentices learned that they had signed up for more than just a job. They had signed up for a true apprenticeship. They would work on the job 40 hours a week, learning the craft from highly skilled journeymen. They would also attend school two evenings a week, maintain the required grade average, study and complete all homework assignments. Additionally, there were some Saturday classes such as CPR/First Aid and Comet, and community service projects. Through all this, they succeeded with the support from their families, friends and the dedicated JATC staff and instructors.

Each year the graduating class votes for one of their classmates to receive the leadership award. This year the Stephen Malinowski Leadership Award went to Vincent T. Barone.

An award for fifth-year perfect attendance went to Joseph P. Mastrangelo. Perfect attendance awards for all five years of apprenticeship went to Vincent T. Barone and Dan J. Betz. Overall achievement awards went to Joseph P. Mastrangelo, for third place; Stephen Giumar, second place and for first place, the James W. Mayall Award went to Vincent T. Barone.

Scott R. Sheldon, P.S.

Golf Outing Benefit

L.U. 466 (m), COVINGTON, VA—On June 2, IBEW Local 466 held a golf outing at Golf View Golf Club to benefit a couple of area residents who are battling cancer.

Approximately 60 enthusiasts participated in this Captain’s Choice event. Numerous local businesses as well as vendors for the Covington Paper Mill sponsored holes. Alleghany Motors, an area car dealership, donated a car to be given away in the event of a hole-in-one.

All in all, $2,600 was raised for the two area citizens fighting cancer. No one involved with this event left empty handed as there were door prizes, donated gifts, or just a wonderful time with friends ... all received something.

Cliff Persinger, P.S.

Report from Austin

L.U. 520 (i&&ska), AUSTIN, TX—On Oct. 2, Local 520 celebrated 106 years of service to Austin and central Texas. We thank all those members and founders who went before us so that we could be here today.

Bro. Ben Brennan was selected to fill the office of vice president. Congratulations, Ben.

At this writing, we were preparing to hold our annual Local 520 picnic in late October and looking forward to a great time of fun and fellowship.

Also at press time, we had stepped up our political activities with phone banks for U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, who ran for re-election, and other candidates. We look forward to a great success of seeing candidates who are supportive of organized labor and recognize the importance of a strong working middle class for a strong America. We are America, we are union, and we are the IBEW.

Lane Price, Pres./P.S.

‘Thanks Go to Fellow Locals’

L.U. 530 (i&krb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Again at the time of this writing Sarnia has very little work, but some projects are on the horizon. Because of this we would like to thank Regina Local 2038 and Sudbury Local 163 for continuing to employ our members during these difficult times.

Local 530 is saddened by the recent passing of Bro. Ed Franz.

Ali Byers, P.S.

Auto Manufacturing Facility Expansion

L.U. 596 (i&es), CLARSBURG, WV—With a heavy heart, Local 596 announces that former business manager Darwin L. Snyder passed away Oct. 10. Darwin owned his own businesses, completed an apprenticeship program and worked as an electrician before being organized into Local 596 in 1980. As a union master electrician, he worked at the U.S. Capitol, the White House and at the U.S. Embassies in Ethiopia and Algeria.

In 1993, he was elected Local 596 business manager and served for 18 years. He served on the NAT, and was secretary/treasurer of the West Virginia State Electrical Worker’s Association. He was a trustee and president of the North Central West Virginia Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO; and West Virginia State Building Trades Council vice president.

Dainel was dedicated to training and was
the driving force in construction of the Clarksburg JATC Training Center.

Darwin leaves behind his wife, Judy Crawford Snyder; daughter Natalie and her husband Jonathan, both IBEW Local 566 members; and granddaughter, Caitlyn Rae. Local 566 officers, staff and members will miss his “great big personality.” We extend our sympathies to Bro. Snyder’s family.

Shane Ferguson, B.M.

Member Appointed to Phoenix Advisory Board

L.U. 640 (em,gt,lo,mi,mt,ts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ—Retired Bro. Earl Pierce was recently sworn in to his appointed position with the City of Phoenix Development Advisory Board (see photo below). Vice Mayor Michael Johnson conducted the meeting as he swore in all the newly appointed boards and commissions. Bro. Pierce’s position on the Board is a priority for the electrical contracting industry and IBEW Local 640, as this committee provides oversight and recommendations to the city council on construction-related issues and standards. We appreciate the time and effort Bro. Pierce has committed to this effort. Special thanks go to Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton and Councilman Daniel Valenzuela for his appointment to the board.

The arbitrator’s decision for the 2022 - 2034 collective bargaining agreement awarded Local 640 inside wiremen 2.5% percent increases on wages per year of the contract, plus 0.5 percent increases in the H&W (Health & Welfare) each year, in addition to a 3 percent increase in the foreman premium beginning in 2013.

Recognizing Members

L.U. 692 (m,mtkia), BAY CITY, MI—As mentioned in our last article, Local 692 held a joint 75th Anniversary and Retirement Celebration earlier this year. We wish to thank the Retirement Committee—Brian Klele, Karl Shwai, Mike Hasskin, Jeremy Kiley, Rich Rytkowski and Ryan Chamney—for putting on this wonderful celebration for our local.

We also thank special guests for attending the Local 692 celebration: thank you to: Robert Redman, Bay County financial analyst; Kurt Asbury, Bay County prosecuting attorney; John Miller, Bay County sheriff; Michigan state Rep. Charles Brunner (68th House District); Richard C. “Dusty” Houser, staff member for U.S. Sen. Carl Levin; IBEW Sixth District Int. Rep. John Briston; Local 908 Bus. Mgr. Wayne Carlson; Local 445 Bus. Mgr. Steve Claywell; and Local 577 Bus. Mgr. Dave Small.

We congratulate Michael L. Provoost, Adrian J. Kennard and Christopher W. Dicke on passing the State of Michigan electrical journeyman’s examination with a score of 100 percent.

Our sympathy goes out to the families of the following members who passed away: Ken Schabel, Donald Pfauender, Richard Ramdien, James Burley, Francis Blescher, Ivan Kerberlin and Jim Stupp Sr.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2013.

Tammy Gottleber, P.S., B.K.

Labor Day Parade at State Fair

L.U. 704 (cat,em,il), DUBUQUE, IA—As the summer of 2012 has passed quickly, I will catch you up by reporting here on recent events in Dubuque.

Shown in the picture below are some of our retired members enjoying the Local 704 summer picnic.

Congratulations to Local 704’s five newest journeyman electricians: Sister Callie Gronen, Sister Stephanie Millman, and Bros. Chad Kaiser, Spencer Pinner and Kurt Weinschek. This five-year commitment to the apprenticeship program involves much hard work both in the classroom and on-the-job training. We welcome these members to the journeyman ranks! We hope this training will lead to long and fruitful careers.

Local 704 members extend condolences to the families of recently deceased Bros. Carl Oppelt and Paul Shurtet. Carl Oppelt was a strong supporter of our IBEW throughout his lifetime. Initiated in 1963, he was a member for 49 years and retired in 1998.

State Fair. We set a new record in members and their families walking in the parade. On Labor Day, we celebrated with our union brothers and sisters from the Egyptian Building Trades with a barbeque, music, and free arm bands for the kids to enjoy the carnival rides. This event is enjoyed tremendously by our members and always draws a crowd.

As this article goes to press we are still in negotiations with Frontier, and Ameren members are voting on a proposed contract.

Also at press time, everyone was gearing up for the final push in this election year. Our members have been going door to door, phone banking and doing everything in our power to re-elect President Obama and the other candidates who support working families. It is always of utmost importance to make sure our own brothers and sisters get out and vote!

Marsha Steele, P.S.

‘704 Recent Events’

L.U. 704 (cat,em,il), DUBUQUE, IA—As the summer of 2012 has passed quickly, I will catch you up by reporting here on recent events in Dubuque.

We topped out a new crop of journeymen in August: Michael Leggins, Ryan Morgan, Mathew Bradshaw, Mark Cymbolina, James Donaldson, Bryan Bial, Kevin Williams and Donald Harris.

Congratulations to the class of 2012?

Apprenticeship Dir. Scott Janvis and the committee have interviewed and seated a new first-year apprentice class. Good luck to all.

Local 706 wired a Habitat for Humanity house in the city of New Smyrna Beach in September. Thanks to all who participated.

Also in September, the retirees fired up their monthly meetings after a summer break. All enjoyed an afternoon of brotherhood, fried fish and refreshing refreshments. Retires Club Pres. Jimm Graham presented Dow Graham with his 55-year membership pin. Congratulations to Bro. Graham. [See photo, below.]

Unfortunately, the work picture in Daytona has been very slow. Members have been traveling on the road, and many have taught classes at neighboring Local 606 in Orlando. Thanks to all those locals that have put our members to work.

Local 756 staff and officers wish a merry Christmas to all IBEW members and their families. May the New Year bring prosperity to our great union and our great country.

Daniel R. Hunt, B.M.
Annual Labor Day Family Picnic
L.U. 776 (L.U.776/CSA), CHARLESTON, SC—Our Annual Labor Day Family Picnic was enjoyed by all who came. Our special T-shirt this year was a hit with everyone. We proudly presented Bro. John Knith with his 65-year pin and Bro. Dennis Easterling with his 40-year pin for all of the families to witness. Thank you to these brothers for their long service to the IBEW and Local 776. We pray everyone had a safe and happy Labor Day.
We look forward to the coming years of solidarity for the IBEW and the union way of life.
Chuck Moore, B.M.

A Stand for Workers’ Rights
L.U. 824 (t), TAMPA, FL—Standing up for workers’ rights is nothing new for the IBEW and with the continual purge of workers’ rights, our members have stood up once again.
On Aug. 11, eight of our Local 824 members were on hand for the workers’ rally in Philadelphia. Those members included our Bus. Mgr. Robert Prumm, Pres. Erik Jones, Greg Flick, Norwood O’Rrck, Christina Regalado, Grace Smith, Mary Bourland and Jim Carruba. The rally drew 44,000 people. Our membership was proud to be represented at this rally and proud to once again stand up for workers’ rights and America’s Second Bill of Rights.
Then again on Aug. 29, during the Republican National Convention in Tampa, our members, along with members from IBEW Locals 908 and 995, answered the bell once again. We called on all candidates for public office to support the middle class and hardworking Americans everywhere. During the RNC, our IBEW brothers and sisters passed out America’s Second Bill of Rights and urged government leaders to stand with us.
Keith LaPlant, P.S.

Wrapping Up 2012
L.U. 116 (em,tctkku), TUCSON, AZ—Our TEP Tucson/Springville membership recently ratified a new three-year contract to take effect January 2013. We completed negotiations on our three Southwest Energy Services contracts and will be working on the Asplundh Tree Timmers contracts.
Our members participated in the annual Labor Day picnic hosted by the Pima Area Labor Federation. We also assisted many armed service veterans with some yard and home maintenance during a United Way Days of Caring event. Congratulations to our two first Designer Journeyman graduates, Bros. Chuck Leon and Stephanie Garcia.
Our October Local 116 picnic was a great success. Picnic Chmn. Sister Susan Tumbull and her volunteer committee did a great job. Thanks to all of you!
Also, eight of our local linemen competed and showed off their skills (despite the rain), at this year’s Linemen’s Rodeo in Kansas City. As of this writing, the final results were not available.
The local extends our deepest sympathy to the families of 32-year member Bro. John Clark and seven-year member Bro. Steve Long, both of whom passed away.
K. Cavalletto, P.S.

Annual Fall Family Picnic
L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH—On Saturday, Sept. 29, Local 1466 held our annual Fall Family Picnic. We were glad to see many members in attendance, and more families joining in the festivities. There were door prizes, great food and lots of fun. Two 51-inch big screen TVs were the grand prizes, won by Judson Gutlip, a meter reader from Columbus, and Pete Harvey, an underground lines worker. They also had a successful COPE raffle, which allowed us to make a donation on behalf of the local.
Aaron Cross, a line mechanic from Columbus Northwest, won the COPE raffle for a Remington 870 Express shotgun. Everyone had a great time. Hope to see you at next year’s event!
We welcome Jasan Wright, meter servicer from Columbus, as our newest officer. Jasan was appointed by the Executive Board to fill the vacant Columbus E-Board spot, after Jimie Jette stepped down to take a position as recording secretary for the local. Jasan has been the workers’ comp rep as well as a shop steward for Local 1466 for the last few years. We are excited to have him on board to represent Columbus as our newest E-Board member.

A Career of Union Service
L.U. 2286 (em,mar,rothkku), BEAUMONT, TX—On Aug. 1, our local union came to the end of an era. Our longtime Bro. Johnny Wilson retired after 46 years of service. He began as a ground man in 1966, worked his way up to journeyman. Two 51-inch big screen TVs were the grand prizes, won by Judson Gutlip, a meter reader from Columbus, and Pete Harvey, an underground lines worker. They also had a successful COPE raffle, which allowed us to make a donation on behalf of the local.
Aaron Cross, a line mechanic from Columbus Northwest, won the COPE raffle for a Remington 870 Express shotgun. Everyone had a great time. Hope to see you at next year’s event!
We welcome Jasan Wright, meter servicer from Columbus, as our newest officer. Jasan was appointed by the Executive Board to fill the vacant Columbus E-Board spot, after Jimie Jette stepped down to take a position as recording secretary for the local. Jasan has been the workers’ comp rep as well as a shop steward for Local 1466 for the last few years. We are excited to have him on board to represent Columbus as our newest E-Board member.

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday season and a happy new year!
Jimie Jette, P.S.

A Legacy of IBEW Service
L.U. 2166 (i), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Local 2166 mourns the passing of Local 2166 Executive Board member Jim McCormack. Jim was a long-serving member; he was our instructor on various courses within the local, serving on our Executive Board, Training Trust, and Entertainment committees. Jim was a forever on projects within the local over the years and affectionately called his co-workers “jimmie’s babies.” Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.
Local 2166 wishes office administrator Nancy Colpitts a happy retirement. Nancy is leaving the office after 35 years on the job. Nancy will be missed for dedication to duty and being the go-to person on Health and Welfare issues.
On behalf of our membership, I would like to thank the locals that have employed our members in the past year: Local 502, St. John, NB; Local 529, Saskatoon, SK; Local 2038, Regina, SK; Local 424, AJ; Local 230, St. John’s, NT; and Local 586, Ottawa, ON.

Retirees
‘Join Us for 2013 Meetings’
RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—The retirees of Local 1 express to wish to express condolences to the family and loved ones of business manager Greg Booth, who died Aug. 26. He succumbed after a courageous fight with cancer. We will pray for his soul in heaven. He will be missed by all.
The retirees meeting of July 18 was informative and enjoyed by all. A guest expert spoke on handling finances after retirement.
The annual luncheon was Sept. 19. A very good buffet meal was well received, with a large attendance on hand. Many old friends were reunited and a good time was enjoyed by retirees and their families. The ladies auxiliary as usual were raising funds for the welfare committee with their beautiful quilts. Frank Jacobs was appointed business manager of Local 1, and the retirees wish him the best in his endeavors to lead the local forward. Recent signs of improvement in the economy have raised hopes for increased employment for our members. Meetings for 2013 are as follows: March 20, May 19, July 17, Sept. 18 (luncheon), and Nov. 20. Please mark your new calendar and join us.
Don Appelbaum, P.S.

Evening at the Races
Retiree Events
RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER—The Central Florida Chapter of the Retirees Association of IBEW Local 3 held an “Evening at the Races” at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club in Daytona Beach, FL, on Aug. 8. (Photo, pg. 12, top left.) The chapter, which normally does not meet over the summer months, decided to hold the event to keep members in contact with each other in a social atmosphere with all spouses and friends invited. The occasion was organized by Vice Chmn. and Social Committee Chair Harvey Czudzik.
The Aug. 8 event started at 6 p.m. with first a dinner (pomme rib was the special) followed by a 25 race card for greyhound racing; or attendees could try their luck in the poker room. The racing started at 7:30 p.m. as we continued to enjoy refreshments in the dining room. It was rumored that Jim Eckardt (see photo, third clockwise from left), was the big winner betting the dogs—but due to the family theme of this article, we cannot reveal his betting strategy.
The Central Florida Chapter also maintains their club’s web site at www.1u3cf-retirees.com. Additional photos from this and other events and information can be found on the site.
Joe Golan, P.S./Treas.

2012 Retiree Events
Retirees CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU CHAPTER—As we approach the start of another year and 2012 comes to an end, we look back and remember all the places we visited and things we did as a club over this past year. 2012 club activities included an inspiring trip to Ground Zero. We also made a trip to “Sign and Sound” to see the production of “Jonah.” Our annual picnic was again a success; we enjoyed good weather, good food and lots of fun, and we
look forward to next year’s picnic. Our October Fest was also a success and well attended.

At this writing, club members were looking forward to our Thanksgiving dinner and the annual Christmas/Hanukkah celebration, both of which are always well attended.

The club (the largest in the New York City area) has many things to keep us busy, and soon the 2013 itinerary will be out with different places for us to see.

Amid all the smiles and laughter, we mourn the loss of our brothers and sisters who have passed this year. They will be remembered.

Bob Cooper, P.S.

Long Island Educational Center

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 1, NEW YORK, N.Y. SUFFOLK CHAPTER—Our chapter was invited for a three-day stay at the Long Island Educational and Cultural Center in Cutchogue, Long Island. When we arrived at the center, we were greeted by Pension Dir. Thomas Gallager. He spoke about how important it is that the retirees stay active.

We had a busy schedule while there. We enjoyed swimming, water aerobics, tai chi, a barbeque and ice cream sundae. In the evenings we played card games, left right center and our own horse racing game. The trip also gave us a chance to meet with old friends. We enjoyed a tour of the new center and our members were impressed with the state-of-the-art decor. I personally liked the memorial-billa section, which tells some of the history of Local 3.

We thank the entire staff at the Educational Center for all their hard work to help make our stay fun and safe.

Our chairman, Jack Foley, discussed all the events that were coming up, which at this writing included: plans to hire a bus for the Labor Day parade, the Holiday Party, the end-of-the-year barbeque and our Annual Food Drive to help those less fortunate. The chapter was happy to march and support the NYC Labor Day parade.

The club thanks John Kroemer, our longtime treasurer, for all his hard work and dedication to the chapter. We wish him a happy 93rd birthday.

Harvey Goldman, P.S.

Fisher House Foundation

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, N.Y. WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—The Fisher House Foundation located in Rockville, MD, builds housing on military bases to house families of wounded service men and women, free of charge. Donations to this cause have been implemented with a goal to raise $2,000; this goal has been surpassed and we’re still receiving donations. Thanks to all chapter members for their generous donations. Thanks also to our sister chapters for their donations and support.

Our trip to the Long Island Educational Center in Cutchogue, NY, was received with a warm reception. Pension Dir. Thomas Gallager addressed our group with helpful information concerning upcoming events. Special thanks to Stephanie Saladino and her staff for going to great lengths to ensure our stay was enjoyable.

Our personal tour of the newly constructed Meeting House was especially informative, with so much attention to detail, historical artifacts, pictures and a beautiful view from the upper patio of Long Island Sound.

John Rich, P.S.

Bob Gaines, P.S.

A Tribute for Club Service

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 22, OMAHA, NE—Louis Masters took office as club president six years ago and has served the club with dedication during that time. In September, Pres. Masters decided to step down and spend more time with his wife, kids and grandchildren. Lou has kept our group going through some hard economic times. Next time you see him, give him a pat on the back for a job well done. Press Sec. Chris Bayer has volunteered to finish out the term, which expires Dec. 31, 2013.

During the upcoming holiday season, our retired members will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, as they have done for many years. Bro. Leo Huse is in charge of organizing this event. Thanks, Leo! It is a great way for our retired members to get out and do a little for our community. We will also deliver holiday fruit baskets to our members who are disabled and can’t make it to meetings.

Since the last time reported, Local 22 has lost 10 members. Let their names not be forgotten: Gary Hoffman, Tony Vajig, Don Jorgensen, James Martin, Ken Voss, Cary Phalen, Clarence Johnson, Mark Gall, Jorge Cervantes and Thomas Harvey. God rest their souls.

Chris Bayer, P.S.

The Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club enjoyed a trip to the Long Island Educational Center. From left are: Dominic Malandro, Dominic Pironti, Thomas Gallagher, Jack Sarich, Stephanie Saladino and Dick Mills.

‘Invitation to Join Retirees’

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 42, HARTFORD, CT—The Retirees Club invites anyone who is a retired member of Local 42 to come and join them. The club meets several times a year at Local 42’s hall. The retirees get together and talk about old times; they share funny stories, enjoy each other’s company and have coffee and donuts.

The retirees also thank all the ladies in the office for their hard work planning all the events that we have and also for their help and warm smiles. If you like to get out of the house for a couple of hours, come and join them; the club would love to have you. If you are interested give us a call at 860-646-7297.

Local 42 held their annual family picnic in August and it was a great success—as well as the Retirees raffle. The winner was nice enough to give a donation back to us. We thank that winner. Also Local 42 held their second dinner cruise, which was a great time as well. The next event will be an annual smoker, which will be held at the December union meeting. Everyone has a safe and healthy holiday season.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

‘Club Back in Full Swing’

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX—After a short break for the summer, the club is back in full swing. At the September meeting, club Pres. Gene Chamberlain awarded Bro. Bill Wurzbach his 65-year pin. Bro. Wurzbach was initiated in 1947. Imagine all the changes in the construction trade that Bro. Wurzbach has witnessed during those 65 years.

After many years of hard work and dedication, Peggy Schulz (president of the Ladies Auxiliary) and Maxine Meyer (decoration) decided it was their time to step down and pass the torch to Sandy Rogers and Jenny Hall. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Peggy and Maxine by club Pres. Gene Chamberlain with a hefty round of applause from the club’s members.

Once again for this year’s Christmas project, the club will be honoring our American heroes, the Wounded Warriors, with donations of personal items collected by the retirees. After the December meeting the items will be transported to Fort Sam Houston to be distributed.

To all Local 60 retirees, please come and join us the second Thursday of each month, 12 noon, at the Plumbers and Pipefitters training building, 3630 Belgium Lane. Hope to see you there.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Look forward to next year’s picnic. Our October Fest was also a success and well attended.

At this writing, club members were looking forward to our Thanksgiving dinner and the annual Christmas/Hanukkah celebration, both of which are always well attended.

The club (the largest in the New York City area) has many things to keep us busy, and soon the 2013 itinerary will be out with different places for us to see.

Amid all the smiles and laughter, we mourn the loss of our brothers and sisters who have passed this year. They will be remembered.

Bob Cooper, P.S.
New Haven Retirees’ Report

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 90, NEW HAVEN, CT—Since the passing of club president Jerry Esposito, we have elected a new club president, Robert Mantovani, with Fred Ciatkowksi remaining as vice president and Hugh McGuire as secretary. Still undecided is treasurer, with the stepping down of Bob Gallager. Thanks to Bob for many years of service and thanks to Hugh McGuire, who volunteered to handle both jobs until a treasurer can be found.

On Oct. 9, Local 90 held its annual retirement dinner at the Gorton Motor Inn. Those honored were: James Falter, Louis Piano, Kenneth Palmer (in memoriam), Craig Rogers, Eugene Schlebach, Dale Leger, Stephen Macclaren, Daniel Prindle and Robert Phillips. Congratulations and good luck to all. Hope to see you at our club meetings.

Our club will hold its annual Christmas holiday luncheon on Dec. 4, at Fantasia in North Haven. This is always an enjoyable event with great food and friends.

We wish all IBEW members and their families, both active and retired, a joyful holiday season and a safe, healthy and prosperous new year.

Richard Laundre, P.S.

2012 Annual Retirement Party

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 103, BOSTON, MA—The 30th Annual Retirement Party was held Saturday, Sept. 29. We are happy to report that 103 members took advantage of our great retirement program and many were in attendance with friends and family to enjoy the fine dinner, dancing, cocktails, door prizes, complimentary gifts and fellowship of the members.

Bus Mgr. Mike Monahan gave a quick address to all and reminded everyone how fortunate we, as members of Local 103, are to have a defined benefit pension in the green zone and defined contribution plans. The programs we enjoy are due to the foresight of past leaders, the membership and the continuing vigilance of our current administrator, Rich Gambino, and trustees. Our funds and programs remain some of the finest in the IBEW and we all should be proud of this fact.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and healthy holiday season and New Year.

Rich Laundre, P.S.

Retiree Get-Together Dec. 20

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 104, BOSTON, MA—We had another successful retiree get-together at the famous Doyle’s Cafe in Boston on Oct. 18. With over 800 years of combined IBEW experience represented at the table, the stories were priceless. In attendance were: Roy Davis, Jack Riccio, Peter Dyer, Ray Brady, Dick Hayes, Richie Rock, Freddie Tompson, Armond Cabral, Mickey Rooney, Frannie Fitzgerald, Jim Flynn, Hugh Boyd Jr., Bob Ward, Hugh Boyd, Dave Mattisiano and Jim Stone. Our next get-together will be Dec. 20 at Raffel’s in Walpole, MA, at 5:30 p.m. Please come and help us celebrate the longtime service of several 55- and 60-year members. Hank Barry, Paul Cleveland and Wally McCann have 55 years of service; and Hugh Boyd and AL Lefrancois have 60 years of IBEW Local 104 service.

We are also planning a get-together in April 2013. If you know of someone who is not on our retiree mailing list, please call the hall in Walpole or New Hampshire to get them on the list.

Hugh Boyd, B.R./Treas., Local 104

Welcome to Retirees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—Greetings, Local 134 retirees. Our club’s 25th anniversary will be celebrated in June 2013. Look forward to seeing all retirees at our celebration! Check our local newsletter for more details.

What a wonderful luncheon our retirees had at September’s meeting. Speakers from E.I.T. (Electrical Insurance Trustees) answered questions and explained past and present coverage by representatives from the Cook County Tax Review Board provided useful information about property taxes.

On Sept. 29 the annual Local 134 Benefit Fair was held at our union hall. Many E.I.T. representatives attended; nurses gave flu shots; and state of Illinois driver’s license and ID cards were processed. Also provided were: financial advice, retiree information, and advice from attorneys. Attendees enjoyed popcorn and beverages, and many other booths provided additional valuable information.


Club’s 40th Anniversary

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH—The Local 212 Retirees Club, chartered in August 1972, is now 40 years old. Many members have volunteered to serve our club over the years. Most of these members are no longer with us, but the fruit of their effort still remains. We salute and thank these devoted members.

Our current officers are: Pres. Elwood Schneider, Vice Pres. Bud Brown, Sec. Klaus Grimsayer, Treas. Dick Warman, and E-Board members Bob Simon, Kurt Kube, Ralph Stall and Dennis Methven. Kurt Kube also serves on the H&W Committee, keeping our members well informed about changes in health-care coverage, new features, and solving billing and payment problems. This information is very helpful, especially when used with Medicare.

A hearty “Thank-you” goes to our club officers, Local 212 and staff for all the support given to the Retirees Club. All retired 212 members are invited to participate.

The annual holiday party for members and guests is scheduled for Dec. 5, 11 a.m., at “The Meadows” near Addyston. Drinks, a catered meal and old friends make for a fun time. Be sure to bring a door prize.

Several of our members are having health problems. Please remember them in your prayers. Best wishes for a joyous holiday season.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

Holiday Luncheon, Dec. 11

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO—The Retirees Club met Sept. 25 for our monthly luncheon meeting at Donita’s in Jefferson City. Our Oct. 30 luncheon was at the Clayville Restaurant in Clayville, MO, the restaurant is owned by Local 257 member Mark Hoobrink and his wife, Laura. We had a family-style dinner of fried chicken and country ham, always a favorite with our group. Local 257 had their annual picnic in Jefferson City on Sept. 15 and, as always, the food and activities were great and enjoyed by everyone. Two of our members were recognized with 60-year service pins: Herb Bruemmer and John Taggart.

Sadly we lost member Dwayne Manley, on Aug. 11. Our prayers go out to his family. There was no meeting in November, but on Nov. 5 some of our members went to a play at the Lyceum Theater in Arrow Rock, MO. We thank Juanita Fischer for making all the arrangements for this event. We will meet on Dec. 11 for our annual Christmas luncheon, hosted by Local 257.

Delores Melloway, P.S.
Retirees Club Luncheons

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 292, BOISE, ID—The October luncheon was held in Meridian at The Great Wall of China Restaurant. There were 13 members and guests and all enjoyed a great meal. We had so many in attendance that we overflowed outside the meeting room. It was a beautiful fall day with a very bright sun! We enjoyed the company of the retirees and Staff. There were 53 members and guests and all enjoyed a great meal. We had so many in attendance that we overflowed outside the room. It was a beautiful fall day with a very bright sun!

China Restaurant. There were 53 members and guests and all enjoyed a great meal. We had so many in attendance that we overflowed outside the meeting room. It was a beautiful fall day with a very bright sun!

George Brown, Mont Anderson, Danny Hill, Jud Howard and Clyde Landis Sr.

Nancy Stinson Phibun, P.S.

Fish Fry at Sept. Meeting

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 292, DAYTONA BEACH, FL—At the monthly meeting of the IBEW Local 756 Retirees Club held Thursday, Sept. 13, we had 53 brothers and sisters in attendance. The menu was a fish fry with hush puppies and a covered dish. Without Bro. Greg Stone, our cook, we could not have made it happen. Thanks to him and all the brothers who helped him out!

Bro. Dow Graham was also presented with his 55-year pin at this meeting. Congratulations to him on this very important milestone!

We would like to invite any retired brothers and sisters and their spouses to come to our meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Our meetings are held at the Local 756 union hall in Port Orange, FL.

Diane Gibbs, P.S.

Two Retirees Honored

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 464, COVINGTON, VA—On May 17, 2013, Local 464 celebrated the retirement of two distinguished instrument journeymen. Daniel “Danny” Taylor and William “Bill” Baith, who worked with MedWestKavo, were honored with a dinner at the Best Western in Covington, VA, for their years of IBEW service. Danny retired in September 2011 with 35 years. Bill, who retired in March 2011, served a total of 26 years. Danny’s tenure was all with the Covington Mill. Bill, however, saw 26 years at the Tyone, PA, facility prior to finishing his last 10 years in Covington.

Attending the celebration were numerous former co-workers of Bro. Taylor and Bro. Baith, along with family members. Following the dinner, Local 464 Pres. Rodney Bell read a brief history of each honoree and then presented the retiree with a very nice watch. After the dinner the attendees posed for group, family, and retiree pictures. Everyone had a great time. See group picture (below) of retirees in attendance.

Griff Persinger, P.S.

Sarnia Happenings

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Our Retirees Club had a busy summer. We attended an event every month followed by dinner. Our entertainment outings came about due to the planning by members who step forward and do what needs to be done. Some volunteers are:

Our IBEW 702 members want to thank all the retirees for their years of service to our local and for their commitment to be engaged politically in this election year.

At this writing, the Nov. 6 election was fast approaching. At press time, we did not yet know the election results. The outcome of this year’s election will affect the way of life not only for our current and retired members, but also our future members. Members have been politically active and all were encouraged to vote for everyone’s quality of life. We hope we had a strong turnout to “Vote Obama!” Let’s protect what we have for the years to come.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

Appreciation for Retirees

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL—We thank all our retirees for manning the IBEW booth at the Labor Pavilion during the DuQuoin State Fair.

Our IBEW 702 members want to thank all the retirees for their years of service to our local and for their commitment to be engaged politically in this election year.

At this writing, the Nov. 6 election was fast approaching. At press time, we did not yet know the election results. The outcome of this year’s election will affect the way of life not only for our current and retired members, but also our future members. Members have been politically active and all were encouraged to vote for everyone’s quality of life. We hope we had a strong turnout to “Vote Obama!” Let’s protect what we have for the years to come.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

Trophy winners at the 2012 Local 530 Retirees Golf Tournament included: Ann Randall (left), Tim Swales, Reg Lamoureux and Bo Kohut.

Three Club Members Mourned

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 804, KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA—It has been another busy year for Local 804 Retirees Club members. We volunteered for many worthwhile causes, attended social events with other clubs in southern Ontario and enjoyed theater events. Bro. Frank “The Arranger” Ische lined up two great shows—a musical, “All Shook Up,” with an Elvis theme at Stage West in March, and the “Walters Family” in June.

Our hard working crew wired Habitat for Humanity Homes, generating publicity for the local; Review, with tributes to the IBEW. Congratulations and thanks also go to Joey Watterton, our president, and to Kermit Ames Jr., our treasurer, for the great job they do.

The following clubs received their service pins: for 50 years of service—Kermitt Ames Jr., for 55 years—Leo Barbou, Glenn Hollisfeld, Carl Murphy, and for 65 years—W. Irvin Guilford and Edward Crosby.

We enjoyed The Electrical Worker and catching up on our brothers from around the country and what is happening nationwide.

Edward Crosby, P.S.

Volunteer & Social Activities

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 804, KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA—It has been another busy year for Local 804 Retirees Club members. We volunteered for many worthwhile causes, attended social events with other clubs in southern Ontario and enjoyed theater events. Bro. Frank “The Arranger” Ische lined up two great shows—a musical, “All Shook Up,” with an Elvis theme at Stage West in March, and the “Walters Family” in June.

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We enjoyed The Electrical Worker and catching up on our brothers from around the country and what is happening nationwide.

Edward Crosby, P.S.

Sarnia Happenings

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Our Retirees Club had a busy summer. We attended an event every month followed by dinner. Our entertainment outings came about due to the planning by members who step forward and do what needs to be done. Some volunteers are:

George Mathieson, Brenda Barnes, Cathy Coates and our Sec. Treas. Ed McCormack. There are others whom I will mention later.

On Sept. 5 we held our Annual Golf Tournament. This year, again, thanks to the work and organizational skills of Herb Burdett and Bob Friedrich, it was a runaway success. We had 47 retirees and their spouses sit down together for dinner following the tournament. A sincere thank-you goes to Pete Schenk and Tom Randall for their assistance with arranging for prizes. Winners for low score this year were: Ann Randall, Tim Swales, Reg Lamoureux and Bo Kohut.

Closest to the Line (female) - Jackie McLellan; Closest to the Line (male) - Jack McLellan; and Closest to the Pin - Gord Neely. We had eight teams in competition and many newer retirees came out.

Again, our club success is due to the participation of those offering their talents to make things happen.

George Mathieson, Brenda Barnes, Cathy Coates and our Sec. Treas. Ed McCormack. There are others whom I will mention later.

One of our members has been sick and we ask for your prayers. The majority of club members are enjoying good health.

Congratulations to Joe and Linda Sirani on the birth of their ninth grandchild, Karsen, who was born Aug. 25.

We hope everyone made it a priority to vote in the November election. Defend and protect the rights for us to be union members, always! Continue to pray for our troops, country leaders, and the struggling economy.

Our luncheons are held the second Thursday of each month. Please contact any club member or the union hall for times and locations.

Joe Sirani, Pres.
Let’s Get to Work

Edwin D. Hill
International President

I there are any politicians who doubt the power of an energized, educated union membership, 2012 is a reminder that, as one political newspaper put it in its postmortem of the election: “Labor ain’t dead.”

To all of you who knocked on doors, made phone calls, handed out leaflets, talked to your friends and family, I say thank you. You really did make a difference.

This election posed two visions of America. One of shared prosperity, opportunity for all and pro-middle class economics; the other of anti-government obstructionism, a shredded social safety net and a shift of even more of the nation’s wealth to those at the top.

Mitt Romney and his party ran on one of the most radical platforms in recent history, calling for the dismantling of Social Security and Medicare, the elimination of the most basic workplace protections, and more tax breaks for the rich. He and running mate Paul Ryan even criticized the Obama administration for investing in education and saving the domestic auto industry.

The American people got a good look at what the GOP was selling and said, “No, thanks.” Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell famously said early in Obama’s first term that his No. 1 goal was to make him a one-term president. The only thing he and his colleagues have to show for their obstructionism are dozens of jobs bills dead on arrival, a damaged credit rating for the federal government and a popularity rate lower than Richard Nixon during Watergate.

No doubt some in the congressional GOP continue to preach obstructionism at all costs, that bipartisan cooperation is a sell-out and that their job is to prevent this president from getting anything done in the next four years. We saw how that turned out—for the GOP and the country. Let me suggest an alternative. How about finding common ground on issues like infrastructure investment, support for education and training, and job creation? And on bipartisan energy legislation to boost clean coal use and domestic production of both natural gas and renewables like wind and solar?

Voters made clear Nov. 6 that they want Washington to help grow the middle class, not hurt it. We’re on the road to recovery, but we’ve still got a long way to go. Let’s reject short-sighted partisan bickering, and get to work keeping this great nation the land of opportunity.

Our First Job

T he elections this year were important for us, as a union and as a country, and it is our job to be an unstoppable advocate for the rights and dignity of working men and women. Yet, as we went to the polls, we were reminded that our first, most important job, is to get home at the end of the day.

Hurricane Sandy’s devastation to hundreds of miles of the East Coast. Thousands of homes were washed away or buried to the ground. Lights went out. Phones went dead. Trains stopped running. More than a 100 people died during the storm. As I write this, at least half a million people are still in the dark and the cold.

But because of the hard, dirty, dangerous and often hidden work of the men and women of the IBEW, we do know that millions of people can light their homes, get to work and begin rebuilding their lives.

Tragically we also know that at least one of our brothers won’t be going home. Mike Leach, a veteran lineman from Sarnia, Ontario, died on the job, cleaning up the wreckage left in Sandy’s wake.

When we held our 38th IBEW Convention last year in Vancouver, our slogan was Brotherhood Beyond Borders. This is not a slogan, it’s a creed we live by, and I know all of our hearts are with Mike’s family. I urge you to read more about Mike, and another, severely injured member on page 7.

There will be other times to talk about the great strides we’ve made to make our jobs safer and other times to talk about what is left to be done. Today I have a simpler and sadder message. Be careful out there. Take care of each other, and remember your first job is always, always to get home safe.
I was very surprised watching football when an IBEW commercial appeared. Then another. It made me more proud seeing our IBEW logo on national TV. Keep up the great work. The commercial was beautiful!

William Fadgyas, Local 420 member Waterbury, Conn.

Letters to the Editor

A Diversity of Views

I am new to the IBEW, having joined Local 103 through my job at AT&T last year. One thing I am surprised at is how many members of our union are Republicans. The GOP has managed to weaken the middle class starting with Reagan by dividing us on social issues and causing some to vote against their own economic interests. I don't agree with everything the Democrats stand for, but I choose to vote with my wallet as my guide. Thank you for all that you in the IBEW do to help us.

Bob Walton, Local 103 member Boston

Politics and the Working Class

It would seem that ignorance knows no social, political or geographic boundaries. Working class people who support governments that exist primarily to further the interests of the wealthy elite are ignorant. The wealthy elite and those choosing to lavish more benefits upon the wealthy elite to the detriment of working class people are ignorant.

Working class people need elected representatives who will support working class people.

Paul C. Wickene, Local 242 member Edmonton, Alberta

No More Scott Walkers, Please

To Steve Nelson of Salt Lake City Local 57 (October 2012 Letters to the Editor), certainly hope your kids or grandkids can attend private school so they don't have to be taught by those public sector union teachers that want decent wages and working conditions like you. I hope you never have to have one of those public sector union firemen come to your burning house—or one of those public sector union policemen. They don't need decent wages and working conditions like you. Just because they work for some leg of the government doesn't mean they don't need the same type of protections that your union provides you.

You have no clue about what happened in Wisconsin. Yes there were some out-of-state union hooligans present—Ed Mill marched around the Capitol right beside me. There were SOME out-of-state union members that came to show their support. Illinois was represented—some local 8 brothers were there from Detroit—there was a group from California, Nebraska and Iowa. They weren't shipped in, but came to show their support for union brothers and sisters. A big shout out to them for coming up to support us.

Let me give you some facts. The protest wasn't only about collective bargaining. It was about taking people off Badgercare and taking money meant for public schools and giving it to private schools, among many other things. It was a peaceful protest, as the biggest troublemakers were the tea party—not as a whole, but a small group. The numbers you heard—10,000—50,000—100,000 were light. That was the number at the Capitol square at one time. There was a steady stream of people leaving, with just as many coming to take their place. Over 90 percent were from Wisconsin—pastors from churches—small business owners, nonunion workers and medical staff were there with the union members because they felt it was wrong what our governor and legislature were pulling. Some people's wages were cut by 30 percent and you think that is OK?

You won't understand this statement, but belonging to the union doesn't make you a good brother or sister. It takes more than that.

Tim Coger, Local 190 member Madison, Wis.

... and Now, a Word from Our Sponsors

I was very surprised watching football when an IBEW commercial appeared. Then another. It made me more proud seeing our IBEW logo on national TV. Keep up the great work. The commercial was beautiful!

William Fadgyas, Local 420 member Waterbury, Conn.

Aspiring Wireman Apprentice Brings a Veteran’s ‘Sense of Duty’ to the Job Site

It's a story unconscionably all too common. A courageous young person serves tours of duty overseas in hostile environments—only to come home to a dismal job market and the prospect of years of backtracking, low-wage work just to survive.

Christine Mason was one of many workers who, having suffered this stark reality in 2002, after nearly a decade in the Army—which saw her serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo and numerous other theaters—the Leavenworth, Kan., native encountered a new battlefield in her quest for work to support herself and her son.

“After Kansas became a right-to-work state in the ’70s, a lot of good-paying jobs became nonexistent,” said Mason, the daughter of career military parents. “A lot of people now can only get work in retail, as a cashier or at a grocery store. Many programs to help veterans have ceased in the past few decades, too. We have a large population of homeless veterans in Leavenworth,” a historic army post in the state’s northeast nestling the Missouri border.

But now, the 22-year-old is an energetic apprentice and rising star in Kansas City Local 124, after joining as a construction wireman in March. Because of Christine’s prior experience and education, she was able to test into the local’s two-year accelerated program.

Last winter, after Mason had posted her résumé to the online community site Craigslist, she received an invitation to join a job fair/industry night hosted by Local 124, which with its signatory contractors, were looking to bring nonunion electricians onto union market.

While working out of Arkansas in 2007, a chance encounter with a manager on a construction site piqued her curiosity about electrical work. “I was delivering a forklift and the guy I was talking to at the site said, ‘You must be military, because that’s the only way folks learn how to do this job correctly.’”

“I drove a flatbed and hauled tractors, lumber, you name it,” she said. “Soon I was delivering equipment for large scale construction jobs, like 100-foot boom lifts and other heavy machinery.”

When she transferred back to civil work, Mason said, “They are already doing ‘our work,’ and I want them to bring that work to a signatory contractor.”

IBEW leaders say that one of the aims of the CE/CW program is to help nurture the kind of drive exhibited by newer members like Mason. “There are a lot of people—whether from the military like Christine, or who are involved in the construction industry right now—who have some genuine skills developed on the job,” said Scott Hudson, director of construction organizing for the Membership Development Department. “These skills are further enriched through the CE/CW program. It’s clear that this (program) is yielding results for our members and the union overall.”

Mason said the IBEW has also inspired her forward thinking. On Election Day she volunteered with the Leavenworth County Democratic Party to help get out the vote for President Obama and pro-working family candidates.

Now, as she takes confident steps closer toward her final year in the apprenticeship, “I’ve never been so motivated,” she said. “My chosen career fields are considered male-dominated, but I did not see that as a challenge or barrier and continued in these fields because I like to remain active. I feel that this is where I need to be and I enjoy the constant learning and innovation that this career has to offer.”

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to media@ibew.org.

Who We Are

WWW.IBEW.ORG
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