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IBEW NEWS



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Who We Are

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16th Annual IBEW Photo Contest Winners Water Worlds, Weather & Wonder

Since the earliest days of the IBEW, images of linemen climbing poles have gone from common to iconic. And this year's photo contest winner offers a frigid take on a classic.

Levi Gossard of Casper, Wyo., Local 322 snapped this year's winning shot of two members performing emergency storm repair work in the icy hinterland of the Bighorn Mountains just south of the Montana border.

More than 500 entries sent from across the U.S. and Canada vied for honors in the 16th year of competition. After a team of judges narrowed the field to 15 finalists, thousands of IBEW members and the public picked their favorites in online voting at www.IBEW.org in January.

Miami Local 349 member Chris Zischka scored second place for his novel shot of Florida linemen performing repairs—from the deck of a small motorboat idled in the Gulf of Mexico under a utility pole.

By capturing the annual Sept. 11 memorial to victims of the 2001 attack, Long Island, N.Y., Local 25 member Tom Lawless' crystal-clear shot of searchlights beamed skyward earned third place honors.

This year's contest also featured many dynamic shots that would have made the final cut, if not for some representations of unsafe work practices. Next year, if you submit a photo for the competition, please make sure you are showcasing IBEW workmanship that exemplifies the high standards of safety we all should adhere to on the job. Portraying unsafe work practices isn't just a problem of image—proper safety gear and procedures exist to ensure that everyone gets home at the end of the day.



First Place Winner (\$200) Levi Gossard, Casper, Wyo., Local 322

Pulling an all-night shift is hard enough. Doing it in the midst of a cold snap that ruptured lines in the frostbitten Wyoming wilderness is even tougher.

But such determination is part of what makes Gossard's early-morning photo of Local 322 members Cory Jensen and Mike Bingham so great. As Jensen climbs an icy pole to repair a downed line, the rocky world around him looks encased in glass.

"I was getting ready to walk over and help my co-workers," said Gossard, a lineman at Powder River Energy since 2002. "Right away I thought, 'Wow, what I'm seeing would make a great photo.'" Pulling out his work-issued Samsung cell phone, Gossard quickly snapped the shot before joining the team to finish the job.

Days after the storm, the communications staff of the utility was looking for images that they could use to share on social media to promote the excellence of their IBEW employees. When Gossard offered his photo, the public relations team was so impressed that they used it for a poster and for an article in a newsletter that was mailed to customers.

While Gossard was flattered, he said it took a convincing push from a fellow member to get him to submit the image to the photo contest.

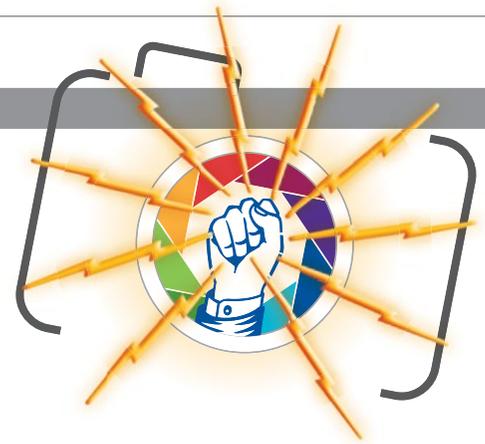
"I had looked at past years' winners before entering, and they were all such good shots," he said. "I thought, 'No way mine will win.'"

More than 1,300 votes later, Gossard said he was happily proven wrong.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS *continued on page 2*

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16th Annual IBEW Photo Contest Winners: Water Worlds, Weather & Wonder



2 Second Place Winner (\$150) Chris Zischka, Miami Local 349



As a lineman, Zischka knows what it's like to perform potentially risky work strapped into his safety gear at 120 feet above the earth.

But unlike many, he also knows what it's like to do that job hovering over the ocean, far from land.

"It's rougher up there over the water," said Zischka, a Florida native with nearly 15 years in the trade. "There's more wind, you have to yell down to the guys in the boat to send you your tools—it's really important to have a seasoned crew."

In Zischka's shot, two linemen man a 20-foot flat bottom skiff. Above them, two more linemen ascend the structure, preparing to make repairs.

"You have to go out in the boat, see what the problem is, go back to shore, put all your tools in the boat and then go fix the line," Zischka said.

As an employee of Florida Keys Electric Co-Op, Zischka and his co-workers maintain part of a string of power lines that stretch from the

southern tip of the mainland down through the archipelago leading to Key West. In order to get power to about 80,000 residents of the various islands, lines that are threaded over the water are held up by concrete towers and can only be accessed safely by boat.

Zischka got this shot late last winter when the normally high temperatures had dropped into the '50s. "It was nice working weather for us," said Zischka, who captured the crew on his Nikon from a nearby bridge.

The photo was a hit on sites like www.LinemanBarn.com, where linemen share and compare photos from the trade.



3 Third Place Winner (\$100) Tom Lawless, Long Island, N.Y., Local 25

Pride in one's union and pride in America go hand in hand.

So it's fitting that every Sept. 11, members of New York Local 3 assemble to help produce the Tribute in Light—an art installation of 88 searchlights near the site of the World Trade Center that shine toward the heavens to commemorate lives lost during the 2001 attacks.

Lawless, a photo enthusiast since childhood, took this image of the lights from across the East River in Brooklyn during last year's memorial.

"People can sometimes become complacent, but we really can't ever forget what happened to us and our country on that day," said Lawless, who scored an honorable mention in last year's contest with a shot of the George Washington Bridge leading into the Bronx, New York's northernmost borough.

The 20-year member and electrician with Gordon L. Seaman, Inc., got his first camera from his grandfather when he was just a boy. "Every year, I take a trip by myself just to take photos," he said.

Honorable Mentions (\$50 each) Dietrick Friesen, Windsor, Ont., Local 773



In Friesen's dizzying shot, a member pauses to take in the view atop the Ambassador Bridge, which connects Detroit to Windsor, Ontario.

Paul Windsor, Ventura, Calif., Local 952



As harnessed electricity courses through power lines, the ominous clouds above threaten to unleash some energy of their own in Windsor's dramatic photo.

In Calif., a New Breed of Union Activist

It's a challenge to organize workers when so many people think unions have outlived their usefulness. No wonder union members often shrink from the task of organizing.

So when a Northern California utility local racks up a string of winning organizing drives and door-to-door political campaigns, inspiring dozens of young members to volunteer, and has members lining up to fill innovative new "organizing steward" positions, it's time to take a deeper look at just what they're doing and how they're doing it.

Over the past five years, Vacaville Local 1245 has transformed its culture and awakened a new breed of hybrid union activists—part stewards, part community organizers, all action.

Tom Dalzell, Local 1245 business manager, will tell you that seven years ago, the local, halfway between San Francisco and Sacramento—while larger than average—wasn't that much different than hundreds of others.

Most of the 18,000 members worked for more than 50 employers like Pacific Gas and Electric or NV Energy, and some 200 signatory contractors. Local 1245, with a jurisdiction spreading into Nevada, had earned its reputation as a good "bread and butter" local union where stewards enforced the contract, business representatives led negotiations and members enjoyed solid wages and benefits and retirement security. The local had survived the energy crisis of the 1990s.

Then everything changed.

Recession Challenges 'Bread and Butter' Successes

The Great Recession of 2008 slammed down hard. Major employers tried to force furloughs, wage freezes and reductions in retiree medical benefits.

Dalzell knew that the local's playbook needed to change. Without a new strategy it would be difficult to defend members' jobs, let alone the local's legacy of accomplishment and progress.

"We marshaled our forces, drew on relationships, organized our base and managed to avoid draconian cuts and limit losses. It was exhausting but exhilarating," says Dalzell, a former United Farmworkers organizer who got his law degree and served as staff attorney to Local 1245 for 25 years before being elected business manager in 2006.

The economic and political offensive against unions, says Dalzell, underscored the "imperative to invest in organizing and to identify, recruit, educate and train young members—the present and future of the worker movement."

Young workers were given leadership training and meaningful roles on important



Local 1245 activists have learned and drawn inspiration from Walmart workers fighting for fair pay and from referendums like the winning campaign in Fresno to prevent the privatization of municipal services.



committees. They were recruited to be leaders of their local units.

These freshly-engaged activists were encouraged to recruit co-workers to participate in community service activities, organizing drives and door-to-door canvassing on critical state and municipal referendums.

Some were deployed out of state to defend union rights in Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida and Alaska, to stand up for better pay and benefits for Walmart workers at the company's annual board meeting in Arkansas, and to help organize Greenlee Tool Company workers in Illinois (See "Ill. Tool Plant Triumph Aided by Calif. Organizers," Electrical Worker, January 2014). "We send people out and they come back trained and experienced," Dalzell says.

Stacking Up Victories

After waste disposal workers, members of Stationary Engineers Local 39 in Fresno, were faced with a ballot measure last May to outsource their work to a private company, Local 1245 offered four young workers from PG&E's Fresno call center an opportunity to work on the "Vote No" campaign.

When Georgette Carrillo, Cruz Serna, Rey Mendoza and Valdemar Guzman arrived at the campaign's headquarters, they were surprised to learn that they were the only full-time canvassers.

They diligently made the case to the community that privatization would be a losing proposition for workers and taxpayers. One month later, Measure G was defeated by the narrowest of margins, with just 50.7 percent of the vote. Local newspapers suggested that the victory could mark a shift in Fresno politics, which

until that moment had been characterized by more conservative and upper-income voters dominating low-turnout elections.

"Our participation in the campaign allowed us to broaden our skills, so in the future we can utilize those skills when needed for IBEW Local 1245. We put our hearts and passion into our work and are proud to assist other union members, as we may need them in the future," Carillo says.

Carillo had not been active in the union before she attended a Local 1245 leadership conference in 2012. In only nine months, she had helped win in Fresno, worked on the Our Walmart campaign and chaired a workshop at the IBEW International RENEW young worker's conference.

The "No on G" campaign built on past successes. Just a year before, 31 Local 1245 member organizers helped lead the "No on 32" campaign, a statewide referendum that would have stripped California workers of collective bargaining rights.

The California Federation of Labor honored the local for mobilizing more relief staff and members than any other union in the state and awarded Jennifer Gray, now an IBEW lead organizer, the Young Trade Unionist of the Year award. Gray was one of the first member organizers, whose activism helped defend her PG&E clerical unit from concessions a few years back.

Multi-faceted Approach Stokes Volunteers

One of the trademarks of successful organizing is meeting folks where they are, being mindful of their lives.

In 2011, Local 1245 started hosting

Local 1245 At-A-Glance

Members:	18,345
Employers	
With current labor agreements:	52
Signatory contractors with labor agreements:	99
Bargaining Units	
Largest: Pacific Gas and Electric Co.:	12,000 members
Average unit size:	60
Representation	
Elected Business Manager:	1
Elected Executive Board members:	10
Elected Advisory Council members:	31
Elected Unit Chairs:	107
Elected Unit Recorders:	96
Shop Stewards:	942
Professional Staff:	57
Organizing Stewards:	30
Retiree Clubs with elected officers:	9

annual soccer tournaments for predominantly Latino line clearance tree trimmer crews, inviting young member organizers to step up as team captains. The volunteers became the nucleus of the "Yes Committee," which sought and won a master contract unifying workers from five different tree companies.

The same year, young members formed the Sacramento Organizing Committee to bring co-workers from different workplaces together to raise money for a yearly charity event that builds closer relationships with nonprofits in the region.

"We're establishing a volunteer culture," says Eileen Purcell, one of two veteran organizers hired in 2009 to create a leadership development, organizing and youth outreach program. She recalled a Saturday conference where all attendees were on their own dime. "When members commit their own time to a project, they own it."

Five young people have been hired as full-time staff members. One of the member organizers, Lorenzo Arciniega, serves on the AFL-CIO's advisory council on young workers and addressed the federation's last convention in Los Angeles.

Winning is contagious. Victories like the recent Sunoptics organizing campaign for 78 employees of a Sacramento skylight manufacturer—have awakened more senior members and even retirees whose own youthful activism had long been dormant.

Organizing Stewards—Protecting Labor's Future

In January, Local 1245 launched a new position, organizing steward, to institutionalize the member-to-member activism that has been grabbing attention across California, the AFL-CIO and the

pages of The Electrical Worker. The position was created by the local's executive board last May.

"Organizing stewards are going to stand and represent the union and say, 'This is why we fight, this is why we exist,'" says Fred Ross Jr., who was hired with Purcell. "We're going to protect our voice, and we're going to protect our wages, our benefits and our working conditions."

As the successes of its mobilization program stack up on and off the job sites—with the promise of more experimentation by organizing stewards—Local 1245's leaders hope that the skill and inspiration gained by Donchele Soper, a member organizer who worked on campaigns to protect working families in Wisconsin, Ohio and Florida, will spread.

"I didn't know how to talk to people, especially strangers. It was very new to me," says Soper. Overcoming her fears, she told Local 1245's Utility Reporter how she came to a new understanding. "You got a sense we're all the same, even if we come from different backgrounds. We all want success, we all want our fair share. We're not asking for too much, we just want to live, to have freedom." The campaigns offered a chance to be "engaged in the community," she said, "and I feel like when we left, a part of us was still there with them."

Putting the Movement Back in the Labor Movement

Local 1245 leaders say their capacity to mobilize members and craft a new culture was built upon a foundation of high standards of service. It wasn't "either organize or service." It was doing both better. Organizing stewards won't replace traditional shop stewards; they will complement and support them.

The local's leaders say they recognize that a healthy treasury has been instrumental in underwriting efforts that pull members out of workplaces and place them on temporary union assignment during campaigns near and far. But they stress that time, energy and focus, not money alone, are the fundamentals in aligning union culture to today's economic, social and political realities.

"The organizing steward program of IBEW Local 1245 is not only an exciting new initiative that promises to engage younger members in the union, but it is also a strategy for putting the movement back into the labor movement," says Elaine Bernard, executive director of the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law School. ■

See www.ibew.org for an extended version of this article.



A New Golden Age for Transmission Construction

A boom in transmission line construction not seen in more than half a century is underway in the United States.

Totals vary, but predictions from industry analysts, federal regulators and trade groups range from \$200-\$320 billion for transmission infrastructure projects by 2035. The bulk of new transmission construction will be within the broad arc from the desert Southwest through the Texas panhandle and then north across the Plains states to the Canadian border. Replacing aging high-voltage lines and substations lines is a national need and will happen in every region.

International President Edwin D. Hill said the construction boom is both an opportunity and a challenge for the IBEW.

"It's tempting to think these are the best of times: we have all the work we can handle and full employment in the outside branch, a claim that virtually no other trade can make," Hill said. "But that is not the whole picture. If we want to win the best part of this work, if we want to make sure we have the manpower to do it, we have to do more training and organizing than we've ever done before."

Behind the Boom

For the last 30 years, utilities invested, on average about \$2.3 billion, enough to keep up with maintenance and immediate reliability needs but little else, said Johannes Pfeifenberg, a transmission industry analyst.

But since 2010, annual investment has doubled every year, and he predicts annual spending will remain between \$12-\$20 billion for the next 12 to 15 years.

"More than half of the 280,000 miles of transmission infrastructure was built 40 to 50 years ago and is simply reaching the end of its service life," said Pfeifenberg, of the Brattle Group. "On top of that you also have a national need for new transmission capacity with different regions having different needs. This is not a five-year blip. We are just starting."

Transmission projects are enormously expensive, estimated at \$1 million a mile, and Pfeifenberg said labor costs make up between 24 and 36 percent of a transmission project's budget.

Ed Mings, International Representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department, said prophecies of a

transmission boom started more than a decade ago but he had learned to be skeptical when it didn't come.

"At the end of the year they always said they meant next year," Mings said.

Nevertheless, the outside branch has been growing for more than two decades, waiting for this day to come. The IBEW has tens of thousands of journeyman linemen and apprentices across the country, a mobile, experienced workforce that can handle the largest, most difficult projects, no matter where they are.

"No doubt, it's here. They're actually building instead of talking," Mings said. "And make no mistake, if we do this right, we can double the outside membership."

Using the Boom to Increase Market Share

Steve Anderson, director of outside curriculum for the NJATC, said he has never



In the U.S., more than \$300 billion could be spent on transmission upgrades by 2035.

seen anything close to this pace of new projects.

"The industry is going crazy. We are seeing not just explosive growth, but

continuing explosive growth," he said.

The challenge for the IBEW is making sure that membership expands fast enough to meet the rising demand.

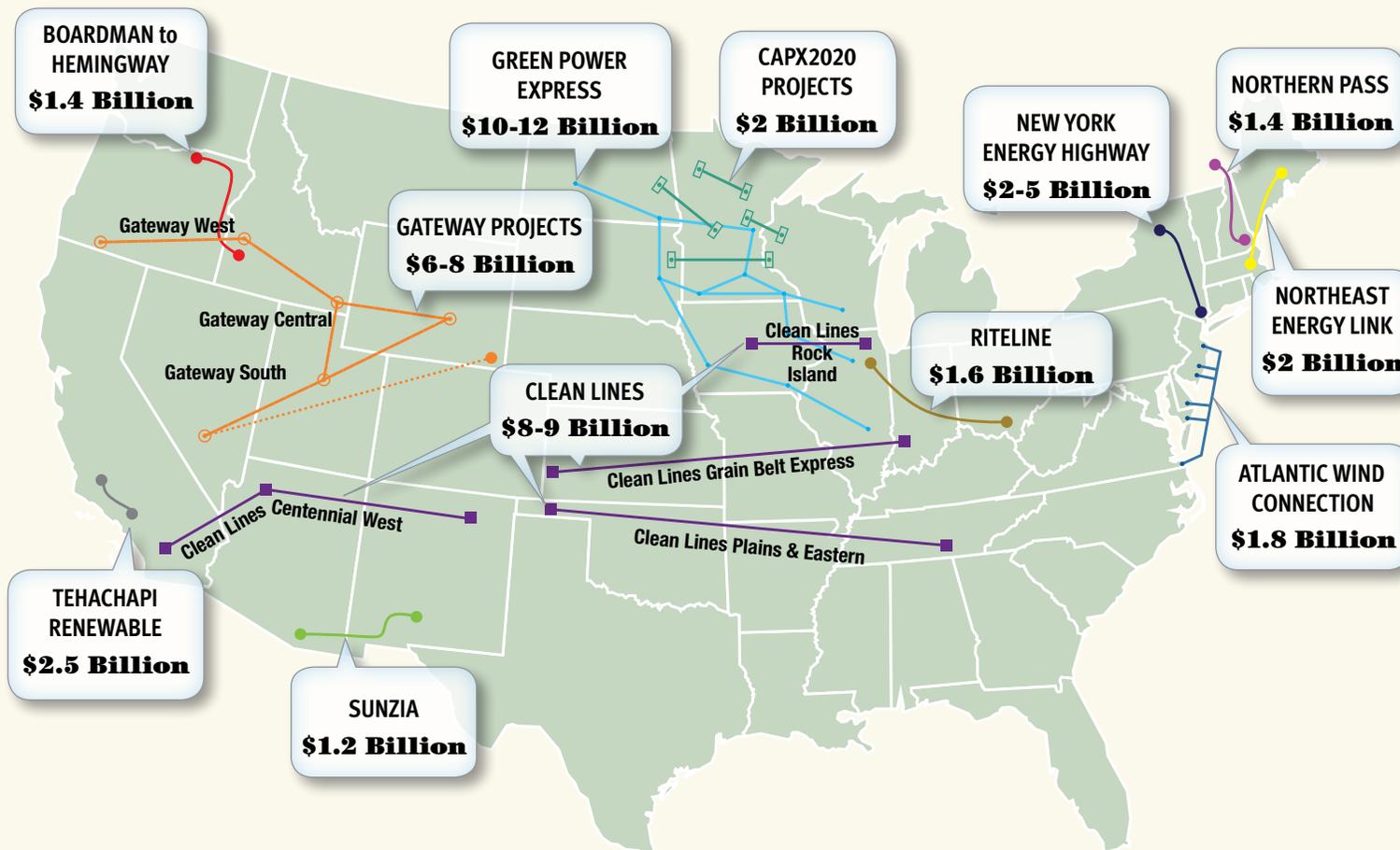
"Just about anyone who wants a job can get one," said Michael Brown, executive director of the Missouri Valley Line Constructors Apprenticeship and Training Program, which trains apprentices for 11 locals in Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Missouri.

Brown's program runs eight instruction sites in the center of the country where much of the new transmission work will be done. In 2009 the school started nine new apprentices. In 2013, it started more than 300. In 2009 the entire program had only about 400 apprentices. Now it has nearly 650.

"We don't start an apprentice until there is a specific job for them to fill, and we didn't have them in 2009," Brown said. "Now the pace is really picking up."

Anderson says that all nine outside apprenticeship programs are rapidly expanding. The largest growth has

Largest Planned Transmission Construction Projects



Out of hundreds of infrastructure projects planned across the country, these projects—worth between \$42-\$50 billion—are the primary targets of IBEW business development campaigns.

WANT TO BE A CONTRACTOR?

Sign up for IBEW's New Contracting Class



IBEW's new contractor training course has one purpose: to win in the marketplace by tapping innovative new methods and lessons and coaching from experienced shop owners.

IBEW members who become electrical contractors have the advantage of knowing not just a trade and an industry, but also how to unleash the powerful contributions of the men and women who work on their projects.

Today, there's a compelling need to better train and prepare new entrepreneurs—members who are starting their own contracting businesses and who are willing and able to respond to the major changes afoot in the electrical industry.

To fill that need, IBEW is launching a new program, Market-Driven Contracting. Delivered by a faculty comprising generations of experience in contracting, the program's two week-long sessions will not only offer the basics to get started in one's own business, but also ongoing coaching to avoid the potential pitfalls of new owners.

The first session, limited to 32 class members, will be offered on May 18–24 at the IUPAT Residence Suites and Conference Center in Hanover, Md.

Week 1 Curriculum

During Week 1 of on-campus instruction, students will gain in-depth exposure to accounting, financial and legal subjects encompassing business administration concepts that every contractor should know.

Return Home to Start the Business

Then, students will return home for six weeks to complete a rigorous set of take-home assignments to start their new businesses, including filing for incorporation, selecting accounting, legal and insurance firms, beginning a banking relationship and developing a business plan.

Week 2 Curriculum

Students come back to class, where instructors will concentrate on best practices in both pre-construction and construction activities, with an overarching theme of balancing well-planned material management with the effective use of multiple classifications of electricians.

Cost

The pilot program will start on Sunday evening and conclude on Saturday at noon. The cost per attendee is \$1,000 per week for a total of \$2,000. Included in the cost is food and lodging at the IUPAT Conference Center. Travel costs will be the responsibility of each attendee.

Application

Online registration will be set up soon. If you have questions, please contact IBEW Education Department Director Amanda Pacheco at (202) 728-6104 or at Amanda_Pacheco@ibew.org.

been at the American Line Builders Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee based in Midway, Ohio. Five years ago it had between 400 and 500 apprentices. Now it trains more than 1,000 apprentices.

"We are training as many people as we possibly can. We've brought in new trainers and built new facilities and they're working their tails off but we are still not meeting demand," Anderson said. "We are not holding projects up, but we will not be able to meet the need simply by graduating apprentices."

Anderson said nearly 1,500 plus apprentices top out each year. The Center for Energy Workforce Development, a nonprofit consortium of electric utilities and a partner of the IBEW, estimated that about 42 percent of all skilled transmission lineworkers will be eligible to retire by 2016.

Brown said there is room for 20 to 25 percent more workers than will top out of the apprenticeship.

"This means don't be afraid to hire," Mings said. "If a guy can climb a tower safely, clip in the wire and not get hurt, don't turn him away."

and substations from Wyoming to Nevada and Oregon.

Bellah and other members of the Eighth District staff have been meeting regularly with company officials to discuss manpower requirements for all parts of the project.



Outside linemen are in great demand as a result of the boom.

"I want them to see that IBEW members can also build the wind farms and then keep them up and running when construction is done," Bellah said.

So Bellah is developing relationships with technical schools like the Rawlins Higher Education Center in Wyoming to funnel students into the apprenticeship program. He is also deepening the connections between the IBEW and two community college based wind technology programs.

And as the projects wend their way through the complicated approval process, whenever there are public hearings, members of locals across Colorado, Wyoming and Utah show up to explain the importance of these jobs to the local community.

"We don't have an agreement signed yet, but we are throwing everything we have at this," Bellah said. "The locals I'm working with have doubled their organizing efforts and we are really making a powerful case to companies and communities that the IBEW is a partner they want to work with." ■

This article is the first in a series that will run in the Electrical Worker over the next several months exploring many aspects of the transmission line construction boom and how the IBEW plans to capture an increasing share of that work.

Organizing the Workers, Organizing the Work

Eighth District Vice President Jerry Bellah's father started out as a ground man during the last transmission boom in the '60s and then worked his way up through an apprenticeship with the IBEW. He said the strategy that brought and kept his father in the IBEW then is still the key to organizing success now.

"He joined because we had the work," Bellah said. "He stayed after the work began to slow down because we trained him."

Bellah said several projects in his district have been the focus of concerted business development and organizing campaigns involving local and international resources, and they have had some notable successes. There are project labor agreements in place for two of the three big transmission projects in the Eighth District. The Transwest Express and Zephyr projects will carry electricity generated by sprawling wind farms in Wyoming hundreds of miles to near Las Vegas where it can be sent into the Southern California and desert Southwest power grids. Both projects have budgets near \$3 billion and start dates expected within the next two to five years.

A third plan does not have an agreement yet. The \$6–\$8 billion Gateway project would erect lines, towers

Coaching, Collaboration Keys to New Business Training

The Electrical Worker spoke with Fred Sargent, who is helping to establish the program's curriculum. Fred is the retired president of Sargent Electric, a well-respected IBEW signatory contractor since 1907.

EW: *Why is a training program needed now when so many signatory contractors have learned the ropes without one?*

FS: The IBEW has provided plenty of tools for contractors, from new classifications to the Code of Excellence. But many traditional contractors have bypassed or stepped away from using the tools.

EW: *What about new classifications—construction electricians, construction wiremen?*

FS: Yes, that's an essential part of contractors figuring out how to succeed. Some members and contractors want to make this just a question of how these members are paid. If the mentality is just to bring costs down, the concept won't fly.

The point is to match people with the skills the job requires, to thoughtfully put crews together. Every profession in the world has an intermediate level. Doctors have physician's assistants. Lawyers have paralegals. And no doctor ever lost his or her job to a PA.

EW: *If a member is still skeptical about the training, what will you say to convince them it's worth the time and money?*

FS: Our instructors won't just teach and go home. They will be available to coach and assist new contractors. They have succeeded in business and they want other members to succeed. And the fact that students will come from all over North America, and are probably not in direct competition in their own markets, will create a network of IBEW entrepreneurs who can trade notes, ideas, experience and friendship. ■



Helmets to Hardhats Connects Vets with IBEW Careers

Starting a second career isn't easy. And it's even harder for military veterans who have to balance learning new skills and mailing out résumés with the challenges of returning to civilian life, particularly for combat vets like St. Catharines, Ontario, native Steve Krsnik.

An 11-year veteran of the Canadian Army, Master Cpl. Krsnik decided he wanted to spend more time with his new family.

“Our veterans do so much for us, and from a business standpoint, these are the most skilled workers you can find. They're skilled, they're disciplined, and we need those workers.”

— Russ Girling, TransCanada Corp. Chief Executive

“I was a stay-at-home dad for a while,” he said. It was a big change for the 32-year-old Krsnik, who spent his entire adult life in the armed forces, including 18 months with the Princess Patricia Light Infantry in Afghanistan.

His first post-military job was a year-long stint working as a nonunion heavy equipment operator in Alberta. But he didn't like the way the company treated its workers, citing a lack of respect from the boss. So he looked for a career change.

Modeled after the program in the United States, Helmets to Hardhats is a partnership between the building trades and employers offering apprenticeship opportunities for members of the Canadian military.

Launched in 2011, it has also been endorsed by provincial and federal officials who have provided \$500,000 in donations. Energy giant TransCanada Corp. also kicked in \$1 million.

“Our veterans do so much for us, and from a business standpoint, these are the most skilled workers you can find,” TransCanada Corp. Chief Executive Russ Girling said at the program's kick-off event in 2012. “They're skilled, they're disciplined, and we need those workers.”

The program comes at the right time for veterans. Canada began winding down its decade-long presence in Afghanistan in 2011, bringing to an end

the nation's largest military operation since World War II. More than 39,000 Canadians served in NATO's campaign against the Taliban.

“A lot of guys feel like they've done what they had to do and are looking for new challenges,” Krsnik said.

Through Helmets to Hardhats, he was introduced to Hamilton Local 105 Business Manager Lorne Newick, who encouraged Krsnik to apply for an apprenticeship spot.

“Steve came with some pretty good knowledge of operating equipment,” Newick said. “I was also impressed with his very positive attitude and his ambition to become an electrician.”

Today, Krsnik is a first-year apprentice. “Benefits are great,” he said. “And that's a big factor for a lot of my friends who are getting out of the army. They have families to take care of.”

Also attractive is the sense of brotherhood he gets from being a member of the IBEW, which reminds him of the camaraderie he experienced in the military. “IBEW members stick by each other and that is really appealing,” he said.

In its first 16 months, Helmets to Hardhats has registered more than 1,500 potential applicants and has placed more than 100 into apprenticeship programs in more than a dozen unions.

Executive Director Gregory Matte told the Toronto Star that he expects that number could double or even triple in the next couple years.

“We should have been doing this for years,” Newick said. “We need to give our returning vets the tools they need to adjust to the civilian world.”

For more information go to www.helmetstohardhats.ca. ■



Hamilton Local 105 member Steve Krsnik spent 11 years in the Canadian Army before getting involved in the electrical trade through the Helmets to Hardhats program.

La FIOE accueille les vétérans qui ont accédé à une carrière grâce au programme « Du régiment aux bâtiments »

Pas facile d'entreprendre une deuxième carrière. C'est encore plus vrai dans le cas d'anciens militaires qui doivent trouver un équilibre entre le développement de nouvelles compétences et l'envoi de leur curriculum vitae et le retour à la vie civile, en particulier pour les anciens combattants tels que Steve Krsnik, originaire de St. Catharines en Ontario.

Après 11 années de service dans les Forces canadiennes, le caporal-chef Krsnik a pris la décision de consacrer plus de temps à sa nouvelle famille.

« J'ai été père au foyer pendant un certain temps » dit-il. Ce fut tout un changement pour cet homme de 32 ans qui avait passé toute sa vie d'adulte dans les forces armées, en comptant les 18 mois en Afghanistan avec le régiment *Princess Patricia Light Infantry* ».

Après sa vie militaire, il a d'abord travaillé un an en Alberta où il occupait un poste non syndiqué d'opérateur d'équipement lourd. Mais il n'avait pas aimé la façon dont la compagnie traitait ses employés, insistant sur le manque de respect du patron. Alors il a envisagé de commencer une nouvelle carrière.

C'est à ce moment qu'il a entendu parler du programme *Du régiment aux bâtiments* (DRB). « Alors que j'effectuais

des travaux de peinture chez une amie, sa mère dont l'ami a travaillé pour le syndicat des Travailleurs canadiens de l'automobile, m'a informé qu'il y avait un programme pour aider les vétérans à trouver des possibilités de formation dans les métiers spécialisés ».

Inspiré du programme qui avait été lancé aux États-Unis, *Du régiment aux bâtiments* (DRB) est un partenariat qui a été conclu entre les syndicats des métiers de la construction et leurs employeurs et qui offre des possibilités de stage et d'apprentissage aux militaires canadiens.

Lancé au Canada en 2011, ce programme a aussi été endossé par les représentants des ministères fédéral et provinciaux qui ont contribué 500,000 \$ au soutien du programme. *TransCanada Corporation*, un des géants de l'industrie de l'énergie au Canada, a également injecté 1 million de dollars.

« Nos vétérans nous apportent beaucoup et, du point de vue des affaires, ce sont les travailleurs les plus qualifiés. Ils sont compétents et disciplinés, nous avons besoin de ces travailleurs » a déclaré Russ Girling, Président-directeur général de *TransCanada Corporation* lors de l'événement de lancement du programme en 2012.

Le programme arrive au bon moment pour les vétérans. Après une présence de plus de dix ans en Afghanistan, le Canada a commencé à réduire progressivement ses effectifs en 2011, mettant ainsi fin à la plus vaste opération militaire du pays depuis la Seconde guerre mondiale. Plus de 39,000 soldats canadiens ont servi en Afghanistan dans la campagne militaire de l'OTAN contre les Talibans.

« Beaucoup de gars estiment qu'ils ont fait ce qu'ils avaient à faire et sont à la recherche de nouveaux défis » dit le confrère Krsnik.

C'est en participant au programme *DRB* que le confrère Krsnik a pu rencontrer Lorne Newick, Gérant d'affaires de la section locale 105 de Hamilton, en Ontario qui l'a encouragé à faire une demande pour obtenir une place en apprentissage.

« Steve connaît très bien l'utilisation de l'équipement. J'ai aussi été impressionné par son attitude positive et son ambition de devenir électricien » affirme le confrère Newick.

Le confrère Krsnik est actuellement apprenti première année. « Les avantages sociaux sont excellents. C'est un facteur très important pour plusieurs de mes amis qui quittent l'armée et qui ont

une famille à faire vivre » poursuit le confrère Krsnik.

Le sentiment de fraternité qu'il a trouvé en devenant membre de la FIOE est également un élément très intéressant qui lui rappelle le sentiment de camaraderie qui existait au sein de l'armée. « Ce qui a suscité mon intérêt également, c'est de voir comment les membres de la FIOE se soutiennent mutuellement » ajoute-t-il.

Au cours des 16 premiers mois, plus de 1,500 candidats potentiels ont été enregistrés dans le programme *DRB* et plus de 100 candidats ont été inscrits dans un programme d'apprentissage dans une douzaine de syndicats.

Le directeur exécutif national du programme, M. Gregory Matte, a déclaré au Toronto Star qu'il prévoyait que ce nombre pourrait doubler ou tripler au cours des prochaines années.

« C'est ce qui aurait dû être fait il y a plusieurs années. Nous devons fournir à nos soldats qui rentrent au pays les outils dont ils ont besoin pour réintégrer la vie civile » conclut le Gérant d'affaires Newick.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, visitez le www.helmetstohardhats.ca/fr ■

Transitions

RETIRED Ted Jensen



Eighth District International Vice President Ted Jensen retired effective March 1 after nearly 45 years of dedicated service to the IBEW.

Brother Jensen was initiated into Pocatello, Idaho, Local 449 in 1970, when he began his inside apprenticeship working at Northwest Electric in nearby Idaho Falls.

After becoming a member of the executive board five years later, Jensen went on to serve as recording secretary, president, JATC instructor and as a member of the negotiations committee. The membership elected him business manager in 1989, a position he held for the next five years.

Then-IBEW International President J.J. Barry appointed Jensen to the Eighth District staff in 1994. In 2005, International President Edwin D. Hill tapped Jensen to lead the Eighth District as its International Vice President.

During his tenure with the Eighth District, Jensen was instrumental in helping develop and implement major initiatives, such as the IBEW-NECA Industry Awareness Program and the Code of Excellence program in the construction sector. He also worked with NECA on developing and implementing the Electrical Project Supervision program, which focused on improving the skill set and efficiency of existing or aspiring job site foremen.

"Ted's legacy is that he was always focused on improving the lives of members," said International Representative Rocky Clark, who worked with Jensen at the Eighth District office. "Everything he did, in his personal life or his IBEW life, was built on making things better for our members." Clark and Jensen first began working together in the 1980s.

Serving the IBEW as International Vice President was "the high point of my working career," Jensen said. "I will miss the friendships formed over a lifetime."

Brother Jensen served on many labor-related committees throughout his career, including as chairman for the Idaho Joint Apprenticeship and Training Trust and as Secretary of the Idaho building trades. He was a representative at a Department of Energy tripartite safety committee. Jensen attended Utah State University and Idaho State University.

He and his wife, Patt, are celebrating 45 years of marriage. They have five children and three grandchildren. Two of their sons have followed their father's footsteps into the IBEW.

In retirement, Jensen looks forward to serving his church through mission work, as well as enjoying more time with family and friends.

"The best days of the IBEW and our members lie ahead, not behind," he said.

On behalf of the entire union membership, the officers and staff wish Brother Jensen a happy, healthy and enjoyable retirement. ■

APPOINTED Jerry Bellah



IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill has appointed Jerry Bellah as Eighth District International Vice President, effective

March 1. He succeeds Ted C. Jensen, who retired.

Bellah was born in Grand Rapids, Mich. From 1985 to 1988 he was a U.S. Army cavalry reconnaissance scout and missile gunner in the 5th Infantry Division based at Fort Polk, La. He attended Central Michigan University, Grand Rapids Community College and graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in Labor Studies from the National Labor College.

In 1990, Bellah started the outside apprenticeship program in Grand Rapids Local 876, the same local as his father, Denny Bellah, who joined Local 876 in 1969 as a groundman and worked his way up to journeyman lineman before retiring in 2010. Jerry topped out in 1993 and worked as a contract lineman and Municipal Utility Line Foreman over the next seven years.

In 1999 Bellah left Michigan for Colorado, transferring his membership to Pueblo, Colo., Local 667. Within months, he was appointed shop steward.

When the utility employing Local 667 members was going through deregulation and later put up for sale, he was part of a group in the local that wanted to improve communications between the local union office and the membership. In 2002 Jerry won a contested election for business manager. He was re-elected without opposition in 2005, 2008 and 2011.

"I think we brought the energy needed to reconnect with those brothers and sisters who were drifting away from the IBEW," he said. "Keeping that connection strong is still the most important part of my job."

In addition to his duties as business manager, Bellah sat on the executive boards of the Colorado State Conference of Electrical Workers and the Southern Colorado Labor Council. He was also appointed to the Governor's

Task Force on Reliable Electricity Infrastructure and has coached football, volleyball and baseball teams for his children: Jace, Nicole and Samantha.

Bellah was appointed International Representative for the Eighth District in 2012, after 10 years as business manager. He ran business development outreach for transmission construction, helping secure labor agreements with several multibillion-dollar projects. He also ran organizing campaigns at regional rural electric associations, mainly in Colorado. He was the lead organizer for Denver Local 111's winning campaign at the San Miguel Power Association, which now has a successful first contract.

Bellah was also sent to Nashville in 2013 to oversee the implementation of a Code of Excellence program during the construction of a large hotel development.

As the new Eighth District Vice President, Bellah will oversee IBEW operations in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana.

"There are remarkable opportunities for the IBEW in the Eighth District today. I am honored to have been given this chance by President Hill," Bellah said.

The IBEW officers, staff and membership wish Brother Bellah great success in his new position. ■

DECEASED Doyle T. Burnett



We regret to report that retired Fifth District International Representative Doyle Burnett died on Jan. 22. He was 83.

A U.S. Air Force veteran and Florida native, he was initiated into Jacksonville Local 982 in 1956. Elected to the executive board two years later, he became president and business manager in 1965. He later moved his card to Selma, Ala., Local 2363 and finally to Cedar Springs, Ga., Local 1980.

Appointed by then International President Charles Pillard as International Representative in the Fifth District in 1970, he serviced construction and utility locals throughout the South.

He retired in 1994.

He enjoyed the outdoors, spending his retirement hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his companion Virginia Carmichael, son Allen, daughter Sarita, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the members and staff, the officers send our condolences to Brother Burnett's family and friends. ■

December International Executive Council Meeting Minutes and Report of The International Executive Council's Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m., by Chairman Pierson on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, in Washington, D.C. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Clark, Riley, Walter, Lavin, Smith and Galbraith.

International President Hill

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

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia

International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore (Sam) J. Chilia presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood—both in Canada and in the United States.

Legal Defense

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

Financial Reports

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

Amendment to the Pension Plan for Office Employees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

International Executive Council Secretary Lavin introduced, and the members of the council unanimously passed a resolution amending the Pension Plan for Office Employees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Local Union(s) Under International Office Supervision

The trusteeship of Local Union 1658, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, effective September 4, 2012, ended as of September 3, 2013. The International Executive Council reviewed and acknowledges the reports filed on December 3, 2013, with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Charges Filed with the International Executive Council Against Clayton C. Mayer, Retired Member of Local Union 714

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to the charges against Clayton C. Mayer, claim number 1259447, and it is the decision of the International Executive Council that the charges were without merit and dismissed.

Pension Plan for International Officers, Representatives and Assistants of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Financial Statements ending June 30, 2013

Reviewed and Filed

Pension Plan for Office Employees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Financial Statements ending June 30, 2013

Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Headquarters Building LLC Financial Statement, ending June 30, 2013

Reviewed and Filed

Trust for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Pension Benefit Fund and Subsidiaries Financial Statement, ending June 30, 2013

Reviewed and Filed

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' and Subsidiaries Financial Statement, ending June 30, 2013

Reviewed and Filed

Article XX and XXI Cases

The IBEW has been involved in two cases under Article XX of the AFL-CIO Constitution, Port of Portland and Port of Vancouver, (ILWU and IBEW Local Union 48) and Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Oakland, (ILWU and IBEW Local Unions 11 and 595, Iron Workers). On the day mediation was scheduled for the case for the Port of Portland, the ILWU announced its disaffiliation with the AFL-CIO, removing itself from under the AFL-CIO constitution. Article XX is therefore no longer an avenue for attempting to resolve this ongoing conflict.

The IBEW is not involved in any disputes arising under Article XXI of the AFL-CIO Constitution.

RETIREMENT OF INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

LeRoy Keith Edwards, International Representative, IBEW Ninth District Effective—November 1, 2013

Juanita Luiz, International Representative, Political & Legislative Affairs Department Effective—November 1, 2013

Paul Simon, International Representative, IBEW Third District Effective—January 1, 2014

Paul J. Ward, International Representative, IBEW Second District Effective—November 1, 2013

RETIREMENT OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICE EMPLOYEES

Beverly Daniels, Political and Legislative Department Effective—December 11, 2013

Darlene Johnson, Office Employee, IBEW Sixth District Effective—December 1, 2013

Vested Pension

Gary Milsom, International Office, Vested Effective—October 20, 2013

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, at 12:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, February 3, 2014, in Naples, Florida.

For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary
December 2013

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW Pension Fund. For a complete listing, consult www.ibew.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "About Us" page. ■

Local Lines

VDV Contract Ratified

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st &ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1 ratified a new Voice-Data-Video contract on Nov. 7 last year by a 3-1 margin. It included wage and benefit increases and returned all fringe benefits lost in the previous contract to our 469 VDV members. The negotiating team for Local 1 included Bus. Mgr. Frank Jacobs, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Rob Dussold, and Bus. Reps. Dave Roth and Paul Reinheimer.

As of this writing, pre-filed legislation makes it clear that working families will face another right-to-work-for-less battle in Missouri in 2014. Timothy Green, government affairs director of the St. Louis Electrical Connection, is working to coordinate the IBEW locals in Missouri in hopes that we can take on this critical fight together.

Local 1 thanked Missouri Atty. Gen. Chris Koster, when he visited in November, for his tireless efforts on behalf of working Missourians. Koster is a great champion of working families and we hope he'll continue to serve Missouri for many years.

In December, Local 1 chartered two buses and took 82 members to Kansas City to sign the Group 2 out-of-work list. Three days later all of those members had new opportunities. Thank you, Local 124, for putting our members to work.

We mourn the death of: members Melvin Stroff, Walter Tracy, Leonard Napier, William Lee, Dorothy Guinn, Grant Williams, Charles Mather, Arthur Koch Jr., William Martin Jr., Elmer Foerstel, Melvin Simpson, Donna Bearden, Tony Pagano, Richard Deimeke, James Thompson, Jack Robinson, Joseph Glover and Charles Harris.

John Moyle, P.S.



IBEW Local 1 Pres. Tom George (left), Missouri Atty. Gen. Chris Koster, Local 1 Bus. Mgr. Frank Jacobs, and Timothy Green, St. Louis Electrical Connection government affairs director.

Federal Courthouse Project

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—The long awaited 10-story federal courthouse project is underway in downtown Los Angeles. While the electrical work initially was awarded to nonunion contractor Helix Electric, this project was turned around and is now covered under a project labor agreement in which all electrical work will be performed by union contractors and IBEW members. We anticipate more manpower requests in March and April, up until the project's peak in early 2015 at around 270 electrical workers. The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2016. Thanks to all the members who helped to secure this work.

IBEW Local 11 and the Los Angeles NECA Chapter are committed to making certain that 50 percent of new incoming apprentices are military veterans. If you have any family, friends, or neighbors who are veterans interested in entering our apprenticeship program, please e-mail Uyen Le at Le@joinlocal11.org or Rennie Wilson at Wilson@joinlocal11.org. In the month of March, we will have a special day dedicated to applications and interviews for veterans only. Please notify any organizations or agencies that you are involved with to spread the word. [Editor's Note: To read more, see news story "L.A. Local Builds Dreams for Military Veterans," posted on IBEW website www.ibew.org, and published in *The Electrical Worker*, February 2014, pg. 3.]

Diana Limon, P.S.

Utility Local Update

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Our Midwest Generation (MWG) fossil plants, currently owned by Edison Mission Energy, are being sold to NRG while in bankruptcy proceedings. NRG hopes to close the sale the first quarter of 2014. Our collective bargaining agreement with MWG expired Dec. 31, 2013, and the membership ratified a one-year extension (to Dec. 31, 2014) that kept the CBA intact and included a ratification bonus and an improved incentive plan.

Our CBA with Exelon/ComEd expired in September 2013 and we have been working under a CBA extension through February 2014

while negotiations continue. Depressed power prices are also challenging our nuclear stations, with Quad Cities being closely watched by the company. A clerical pilot, initiated to more fully utilize clerical members by standardizing duties and transitioning additional duties to our members, has been successful and is being expanded from the north region to the west region.

Local 15 members recently attended an EPA listening session on proposed rule changes on carbon emissions for existing sources (generating stations). The event was held in Chicago and Local 15 spoke at the session in favor of fair and reasonable rules.

Local 15 Vice Pres. Terry McGoldrick was a panelist/speaker at the Illinois Smart Grid Policy Forum held in Chicago. Vice Pres. McGoldrick gave the union's perspective on the smart grid legislation.

Doug Vedas, P.S.



Local 21 member Desiree Lee Bass, City of Chicago 911 OEMC, volunteers with her daughter at Mercy Home.

'IBEW 21 Days of Giving'

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—From Dec. 1–21 last year, our membership participated in our first ever "IBEW 21 Days of Giving." We held a local-wide food drive in the hundreds of work locations we have throughout Illinois and northwest Indiana to benefit eight food banks associated with Feeding America. Our members and retirees were also able to participate by donating online. Throughout the drive we educated our membership on how hunger affects those in the

communities where we live and work. Our membership responded in a big way—they donated more than a ton of food. We also collected over \$5,000 to provide 30,000 meals for those in need.

During the "21 Days" our members also volunteered to brighten the holidays at a Christmas party for the children served by Mercy Home, a Chicago children's charity dedicated to helping kids in crisis.

The food drive and volunteering at Mercy Home are just the beginning of what we hope to accomplish in our community outreach initiative. We will continue to ask our members and retirees to help build our sense of community with one another by volunteering in the communities where we live and work.

In late January, 47 workers in Mokena, IL, employed by DirectSat USA, a subcontractor for DIRECTV, voted to join IBEW Local 21. Congratulations and welcome to our new brothers and sisters. For more news, visit www.ibew.org.

Bob Przybylinski, R.S./P.S.

Renewed Commitment to Safety

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Safety has always been a key part of the IBEW's fabric, and a core value that Local 37 shares with its largest employer, NB Power. However, this past summer when it became clear that safety performance at the utility had been declining, both IBEW Local 37 and NB Power agreed to renew their commitment to safety and take immediate action to stop the decline and ensure that safety is always the No. 1 priority for everyone.

After just a few months of collaboration and consultation, IBEW Local 37 and NB Power



At official signing of IBEW/NB Power Joint Safety Document are, from left: NB Power Vice Pres./CFO Darren Murphy, IBEW Local 37 Bus. Mgr. Ross Galbraith, NB Power Pres./CEO Gaëtan Thomas, and IBEW Local 37 Pres. Steve Hayes.

Submitting Local Lines Articles

Local Lines are printed monthly on an alternating even/odd schedule. They can be submitted by designated press secretaries or union officers via e-mail (locallines@ibew.org) or U.S. Mail. We have a 200-word limit. We make every effort to assist local unions in publishing useful and relevant local union news; however, all final content decisions are based on the editor's judgment. Our guidelines and deadlines are available at www.ibew.org/articles/journaldeadlines.htm. Please e-mail or call the Media Department at (202) 728-6291 with any questions.

Trade Classifications

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

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.

announced the launch of a Joint Safety Commitment Document and held an official signing of the document. The message is simple, but critically important: Safety is First. It also identifies five key responsibilities that must be upheld by everyone:

(1) Follow the Rules, (2) Refuse Unsafe Work, (3) Report Incidents, (4) Lead by Example, and (5) Have Courage.

For more information and to view the document, please visit www.ibew37.com.

Mary J. Williamson, A.B.M.

Drive for CNY Food Bank

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Throughout the school year, Local 43's first- and second-year apprentices conduct bottle and can drives to raise money for the less fortunate in our area. At holiday time, the money raised is used to buy food to donate to the Central New York Food Bank, as well as toys for area children in local hospitals. This season over 2,000 pounds of food was purchased and toys were distributed by the apprentices to five area hospitals.

Inspired by the apprentices, the Finger Lakes Chapter of NECA along with signatory contractors O'Connell Electric, Huen of New York and Scriba Electric combined to jointly contribute \$3,400+ for the CNY Food Bank. [Photo at bottom, left.]

Gene Townsend, P.S.

Strong Work Picture

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Happy St. Pat's Day! Work continues to be strong at Local 47.

Bus. Mgr. Patrick Lavin has signed an agreement with Southern California Edison in which all substation, transmission, distribution, line clearance tree trimming, and telecommunications work at SCE will be performed by IBEW signatory contractors under the appropriate IBEW Local 47 agreement. As a result Local 47 has signed many new contractors.

Our Annual Christmas Party was Dec. 13 last year. Santa and Mrs. Claus (the Whites) were on hand to distribute presents to all the children.

Successor three-year collective bargaining agreements with the City of Colton and Utility Tree Service were ratified.

Longtime E-Board member Dwight Morgan retired and was replaced by former recording secretary Chris Avila. Shane Sullivan was appointed

recording secretary. Congratulations to Bro. Morgan for his years of service.

Journeyman lineman Eddie Soto joined the staff as a representative for the Outside Construction Unit.

Local 47 extends best wishes and congratulations to retiring Ninth District Int. Rep. Frank Maio.

We are sad to report the passing of Bro. Harley Barnes and retired member Willie Stewart. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Work safe, live well, work union!

Stan Stosel, P.S.

IBEW Storm Restoration

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL—On Nov. 17, 2013, tornadoes ripped through the Midwest and hit Washington, Gifford, and several other towns in Illinois. Our members at Frontier have been boring in new cables and working diligently to get the system back up and running. The local union had an extra 752 IBEW line construction personnel travel in to help with storm restoration.

During October and November, Local 51 had a cancer fundraising drive and accepted donations for pink insulated beverage can holders. We are pleased to announce that Local 51 raised \$2,443 for the American Cancer Society.

The work outlook for construction (transmission and some substation work) is very good.

Robert Grabowski received his 70-year pin last year. Members receiving their 65-year pins at our December unit meetings were: Donald "Sadie" Hawkins (pictured), Robert Baughman, Edward Buerger, Floyd Freels, John Gooding, Earl Malson and Robert Thoms. Congratulations!

Karlene Knisley, B.R.



Local 51 Bus. Rep. Matt Moore (left) presents Donald "Sadie" Hawkins with his 65-year pin.

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO—Bus. Rep./ Organizer Steve White recently helped settle multi-year contract agreements with KMBC-Channel 9 and KCTV-Channel 5 (for members who work as broadcast engineers).

Congratulations: Jacob Hoesli finished in third place in the apprentice division at the 2013 International Lineman's Rodeo. Great job!

Growing in Strength: We signed up 21 new members in the freelance/broadcast industry through organizing efforts. We welcome these new members to the Local 53 family.

Monthly Meetings: The New Year is off to a great start and we can't do it without you. Be sure to attend your monthly union meetings. A lot of great things are going on and we want you to be informed. "There is Strength in Solidarity!"

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

Tracy A. Riley, V.P.



Local 57 member Murland Weaver (left) and retired senior assistant business manager Ron May.

50-Year Member

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Last December, IBEW member Murland Weaver celebrated 50 years in the IBEW. Murland took the oath on Dec. 6, 1963, at Local 357 in Las Vegas, NV, then later moved his ticket to Local 57. He started as a groundman then progressed through the positions of operator, mechanic, field mechanic, shop mechanic, shop lead man and shop supervisor to his current position as equipment manager, west. During this time, Murland repaired and maintained specialty tools and equipment. He also built specialized tools and holds a U.S. patent.

While with Interstate Electric, L.E. Myers and Sturgeon, Murland worked on transmission projects throughout the Rocky Mountain region, California and Alaska; those projects ranged from 69 kV to 500 kV. Congratulations on your success as a member of the IBEW, Murland.

Scott Long, P.S.

A Life of Union Service

L.U. 89 (catv,em,lctt,o&t), SEATTLE, WA—It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Gerald "Gerry" Nagel on Nov. 21, 2013.

Gerry was hired by West Coast Telephone Company in 1954, initiated into IBEW Local 77 as an equipment installer, and later became an equipment technician. In 1968 Local 89 was formed, comprising telephone members from then Locals 77, 125 and 659.

Gerry held various positions in Local 89. He served as president from 1971-'74; as shop steward, Unit 100/123, from 1975-'82; and as Southern Area Executive Board representative from July–November 1977. He served as Executive Board vice president from 1977-'78. From 1978-'82 he was Executive Board president. In 1982 Gerry was appointed as business representative, Southern Area, and held that post until his retirement in 1994.

Gerry was a personal friend, mentor and a true unionist throughout his life. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Raymond Egelhoff, B.M.

Annual Holiday Celebration

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—Family is an important part of celebrating the holiday season. This is why Local 103 has continued to host the Annual Children's Christmas Party. This gives the members a chance to introduce their immediate family to their fraternal brothers and sisters at Local 103. As we work alongside one another in the field, we get to know each other on a personal level learning about the great aspects and achievements that happen at home with our families. It's an opportunity for the members to put faces with those stories told by proud parents on the job. The children have a great time with all of the activities provided, from face painting to balloon animals. Santa, of course, was a hit, along with all of the other volunteers who suited up as well-known characters throughout the day for the children.

Thank you to all of the members who came out and donated their time. It is also important to thank all of the men and women in the office who work hard behind the scenes to plan this special day for all Local 103 families.

Kevin C. Molineaux, P.S.



At the Local 103 Annual Children's Christmas Party.

Union Volunteers—Helping Out in Community

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—As each year closes, many of our union brothers and sisters volunteer their time and resources to help the less fortunate. One of our yearly events is "Feed the Homeless," held in downtown Denver. Many of our



Local 43 contributes to CNY Food Bank. Back row (L-R): Instructor David Nichols; apprentices Connor Crooks, Matt Murphy, Rich Longo, Ron Majerus III, Chris Hadfield, Stephan Graf, Alicia Snow and Chuck Hornburg. Front row: apprentices Jason Redmond, Jeremy Myers, Ryan Oleyourryk, Greg Beasley, Jeremy Detor; and Lynn Hy, CNY Food Bank.

Local Lines

PSCO members, outside construction members, and the EWMC of Local 111 donate their time and monies to purchase undergarments, hats, gloves and socks—and they prepare food to feed hundreds of



Sherilyn Wright, Exec. Asst. to the International President, assists at a "Feed the Homeless" event in Denver.

less-fortunate individuals and families. This past year we were happily surprised to have our IBEW Sister Sherilyn Wright, Executive Assistant to the International President, join us and pitch in to spread good cheer and hope to our community.

PSCO also donates the use of its vehicles for power, as well as chairs and tables—and furnishes hot coffee, condiments, utensils, etc. This Feed the Homeless event has been conducted every year since approximately 1979, regardless of inclement weather, and is held outside in an empty parking lot.

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

Mike Kostelecky, P.S.

Awards Presentation

L.U. 153 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts,se,spa&st), SOUTH BEND, IN—At the December 2013 union meeting, Dan Corwin was recognized by the Apprenticeship Committee for his hard work. He was honored as "Apprentice of the Year" receiving the Byron Wayne Donoho Award; he also achieved "top academic honors" receiving the William Haase Jr. Award. Great work, Dan. As a result of these awards Dan also received two new sets of hand tools. Dan has chosen to give back to the apprenticeship program by becoming an instructor. He is currently instructing OSHA 10, OSHA 30, and the study group.

At the December meeting, the local also presented Distinguished Service Awards to three members: Sally Barber, Randy Foster and Jay Mummey. Thanks and congratulations to each of them on their impressive careers within the IBEW.

The work outlook for 2014 appears to be looking up. We are unsure if we will be putting out travelers in 2014. As a reminder, the next D.C. Cook out-age isn't until October 2014.

Stan Miles, Mbr. Dev.



At Local 153 meeting: John Taylor (left), Randy Foster, Robert Klein, Dan Corwin, William Haase III, Tye Noland and JATC Coordinator Steve Egyed.

New Unit Ratifies Contract

L.U. 177 (bo,ees,i,mo,o&pet), JACKSONVILLE, FL—We look forward to 2014 hoping it brings more prosperity to Local 177 and its members than did the previous year. Many of our brothers and sisters had to travel the country in 2013 for employment, and Local 177 thanks those locals that were able to employ our members.

The Local 177 Retirees Club recently held their Annual Christmas Luncheon at which they enjoyed good food and fellowship. That was followed by the Annual Children's Christmas Party, where around 250 kids sat on Santa's lap and received a gift. Retired Bro. Bill Gehm played Santa for the 38th year and still loves doing it.

Newly organized Unit 2, Duval County Public Schools Maintenance, overwhelmingly ratified their first Local 177 contract with the Duval County School Board on Dec. 4. Thanks go out to the negotiating team for Unit 2 (Ed Kicklighter, Bernadette Daigle and Brian Willis) for doing a great job.

Alan Jones, Pres./P.S.



Local 177 retired member Jerry Davis and fellow attendees enjoy Retirees Christmas Luncheon.

2014 Projects Anticipated

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—We hope all of our union brothers and sisters had a wonderful 2013 holiday season! We hope 2014 will be a great year for all of organized labor.

We look forward to the \$32 million project in Uptown Normal to get underway, and the project at DuPont to get started this year. We hope to get some of our brothers and sisters who have been working on the road back home to man these jobs. Thanks to the locals around the Midwest that are putting our members to work.

In December we held our Christmas Party and Service Pin Ceremony. Thanks to all who braved the weather to gather in fellowship. Good food and drinks were served, and some nice door prizes were awarded. Congratulations to the members who received service pins—your dedication to the IBEW is what this organization is about. For eligible service pin recipients who were unable to attend the ceremony, come to the hall to pick up your pin at your convenience.

Thanks to the retired members who helped electrify the Festival of Lights at the Interstate Center (look for



Local 197 awards service pins. From left: William Gillis (40 years' service), Larry Bartosik (35 yrs.), Bus. Mgr. Rich Veitengruber, Ramme Cooper (15 yrs.), Jake Knobloch (15 yrs.), Ernest Gordon (25 yrs.), Darin Rexroat (25 yrs.), and Pres. Mike Raikes.

a picture planned for the March issue). Remember to stay involved in the local union!

Mike Raikes, Pres.

'Brotherhood & Community'

L.U. 231 (i,rtb,spa&u), SIOUX CITY, IA—2013 marked the third year that members of Local 231 have sponsored the downtown Christmas parade. Our float committee was co-chaired by Bros. Dick "Rueben" Hinrichsen and Eric Harrison, along with much help from many members and a wonderful supporting cast from our members' families and numerous contractors.

Among those participating from Local 231 were: Bus. Mgr. James Kavanaugh, Mike Olhausen, Deb Spencer, Jason Kosiba, Les Zahnley, Bill Ferguson, Nick Lopez, Jerry Grimsley, Matt Hansen, Mike Burke, Galen Modlin, Jim Schulz, Dan "Hacksaw" Reynolds, Tim Card, Jerry Tomlinson, Jim Peterson, Joe Wych and Shawn Swanger. Participating contractors were: Nystrom Electric, Thompson Electric, Proefrock Electric, Kevin O'Dell Electric, Vakulskas Electric, and Schramm Electric. We also thank Jeanne Hinrichsen for everything!

Creating brotherhood in a positive light within our community! Way to go IBEW Local 231.

Jason Bowman, Mbr. Dev. Dir.



IBEW Local 231 teams up with the Downtown Partners to sponsor 2013 Christmas parade. From left are: Dan Reynolds, Eric Harrison, Larry Steinbrecker, Dick Hinrichsen, Jeanne Hinrichsen and Jerry Tomlinson.

New Offices & Training Center

L.U. 241 (i), ITHACA, NY—A new year brings us to new offices and a new state-of-the-art training facility.

The structure is 9,500 square feet, with 6,500 square feet for the training center and 3,000 square feet of leased office space for the local union. The training center is divided into three sections. The first section includes a classroom, apprentice lounge and kitchen area. The second is a computer lab. The third is a hands-on training area for

practical training and certification.

The facility uses LED technology extensively for interior as well as exterior lighting. Plans are under way to install a solar system with state-of-the-art graphics and an electric vehicle charging station. As technology improves, we shall improve with it.

Many thanks to all who donated time, material and products that made all this possible.

Work productively and safely.

Michael A. Creasy, P.S.

Festive Holiday Celebration

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—Now an annual event, Santa and his helpers visited our union hall and dispensed holiday cheer to the families of our brothers and sisters. Smiles and laughter were in no short supply as the children conveyed their Christmas wishes to Santa and his capable crew. Snacks and activities were provided by a support staff comprising members and our outstanding office staff. Special thanks go out to our official photographer, D. Brian Proctor. As usual, Brian went the extra mile by making all the photos available to our members via a link on our local's website www.ibew269.com. Also, we extend our appreciation to Santa and his helpers (whose identities remain a closely guarded secret) for their generosity and kindness. They truly embody the spirit of the holiday season.

Santa's sleigh had barely departed when it was time for the local's Christmas party. Members enjoyed great food and spirits and spent the evening catching up on the year's events. New socks and gently used winter coats were collected to benefit those in need. Once again, our deepest gratitude goes to all who volunteered their time and effort.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

Contract Agreements

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL—Local 309 and Frost Electric Supply have reached a first-time agreement after an 18

month effort by Organizer Chris Hankins and Bus. Mgr. Scott Hassall. This is the second successful organizing effort on behalf of warehousemen in the last year.

Frost Electric Supply, a St. Louis based company, now employs eight IBEW members on the Illinois side of the river.

Due to the continuing downturn in the construction labor market, the Inside Branch is still suffering unemployment. We hope to turn the corner in 2014.

Our new interactive website will be up and running by springtime.

Several agreements were settled at the end of last year, including the Outside Line Construction agreement and agreements with Nelson Tree, A&A Drilling and Diewald Utility Services.

Upcoming Local 309 events include the Annual Golf Tournament and the 2nd Annual Night at the Races.

Work safe.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

Coker Turnaround Project At Delaware City Refinery

L.U. 313 (i&spa), WILMINGTON, DE—IBEW Local 313 members employed by Furness Electric worked on the Delaware City Refinery Coker Turnaround project for 60,000 man-hours with zero loss-time accidents and zero injuries.

The work involved pre-turnaround work starting in March 2013 and ramping up with two shifts working six days a week for six weeks. The job consisted of between 30 and 90 brothers and sisters at the refinery working on upgrading the instrumentation and heater upgrades, in addition to installing new LED lighting on the Coker.

This project is another example of a quality, professional and injury free job performed by union labor done right the first time. Furness Electric continues to use union electricians to perform maintenance at the refinery and maintain craft support after the Coker Turnaround.

Robert MacLennan, P.S.

Storm Work Recognized

L.U. 317 (i,o,rts,t&u), HUNTINGTON, WV—As we head into spring, I would like to say thank-you on behalf of Local 317 to all of our outside brothers and sisters who have spent the last few months battling Mother Nature. Storm work is never-ending but the winter months are especially brutal. Thank you for your hard work and time away from your family.

While our outside work has been steady, inside work is still recovering more slowly than we would like. As I write this article there are still a lot of members either on the book or on the road. We hope that as we progress into 2014, our outlook will continue to improve.

I am happy to report that member involvement, especially among apprentices, has been steadily increasing. This is thanks to the effort put forth by the 317 RENEW committee and our JATC to encourage members to be active in the local. Now, perhaps more than ever, we must do all that we can to ensure the next generation of workers has the same passion for workers' rights as those who fought for them many years ago.

James Stacy, P.S.

'Promoting Our Craft'

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN—The Rochester area Construction Partnership Inc. predicts there are \$400 million worth of building projects slated over the next five years. The partnership works on behalf of 3,000+ area craftsmen and women of the construction trades. CPI is in its 21st year of helping to communicate the benefits of union construction, to the general public and buyers of

construction services.

The Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council has regional councils in our jurisdiction covering southeastern Minnesota and the Mankato area. This organization is the voice for unionized construction workers. It promotes growth in union membership, develops safe work practices and apprenticeship programs, encourages the use of project labor agreements, and maintains relationships with local and state governments.

Each one of us is also a promoter and protector of our trade and livelihood. It is our responsibility to follow the agreement and uphold past practices. The benefits gained years ago will be lost in the future if we are willing to trade them off for minor conveniences.

Remind your friends to buy American. The job they save may be their own. Want to dress "union made" from head to toe? Shop at www.unionlabel.com. Unions helping unions.

Tom Small, P.S.

Report on Organizing Effort

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA—Local 347 recently received the disappointing results of a two-year organizing campaign at TPI in Newton, Iowa. The company is a manufacturer of wind turbine blades. The volunteer organizing committee's efforts were thwarted by misinformation issued by the company regarding the number of employees. When the final list was boiled down, there were 33 percent more employees than on the previous list. The company also enlisted the support of a union busting law firm, Klein, Dub & Holleb of Chicago. Then came the insinuations of the union running the company and empty promises from the company to the employees, regarding bonuses. TPI made it clear that it would rather pay for the support of high-dollar lawyers than pay a decent wage to keep a committed, dedicated work force to produce its product.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

Children's Holiday Party

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ—On Sunday, Dec. 7, last year we had another successful Children's Christmas Party at the Knights Of Columbus Hall in Williamstown, NJ. Thanks to all the Christmas party committee members for all their hard work. Shown in the group photo below are, standing, Wayne Bumm (left), Bill Hosey, Ray



Local 351 Children's Christmas Party committee members.



Local 369 congratulates recent apprentice graduating class.

Listman, Joe Trumbetti, Chuck Della Vecchia, Kathy D'Alonzo, Ed Riser, Jim Bresh, Duke Collins, Dennis Kleiner, Sean Newlin and John Biondi; and in front row, Dan Cosner and "Santa" Jim Ruff.

Dan Cosner, P.S.

New Testing Facilities

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—As the spring season approaches, we are happy to announce our new testing facilities at our apprenticeship training center. These new testing grounds will give everyone from our CE/CWs to apprentices and journeymen a chance to showcase their skills in everything from conduit bending to transformer hookups. Looking forward to the Easter party for the kids and the warmer weather! Stay safe, brothers and sisters!

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.

Apprentice Graduating Class

L.U. 369 (em,es,i,lctt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), LOUISVILLE, KY—Congratulations to the recent Local 369 apprentice graduating class (photo at top, right). To these and all graduating apprentices we say:

You chose electric work as your profession; you are going to support yourself and your family by being an electrician. Treat all aspects of this profession as just that important.

On the back cover of the IBEW constitution are three words that were true in 1891 and still ring true today: "It Takes Courage." It takes courage to stand up when you see an injustice being done to a fellow member. It takes courage to speak up about issues that concern our members and our profession. It takes courage to do what's right, even if it's not popular. Have the courage."

Gene Holthouser, Pol. Dir./Org.

2013 Family Holiday Party

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA—IBEW Local 375 celebrated the Christmas season by hosting our annual Family Christmas Party on Dec. 8 last year. Approximately 140 members and their families attended the event. All children in attendance received a present from Santa (retired member Dale Clauser). Accompanying this article is a picture of

Santa and his special helper, granddaughter Kaida Heintzleman. She has volunteered to be his helper again next year but first must ask "Santa" for an Elf outfit. How could grandpa say no to that!

We wish everyone a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Dave Reichard, Pres./A.B.M.



At the Local 375 Family Christmas party are Santa and helper.

Four New Contractors

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—With 2013 come and gone, it is time to take a look back. To date we have had four new contractors sign letters of assent; on the Western side we have Eagle Mountain Electric and Larry's Electric & Heating, and on the Eastern side we have Evans Electric and BAHM Electric. With our existing, new and future contractors and the local's efforts, we will continue working to regain the market share in our jurisdiction. With organizing training sessions in Las Vegas as well as Pro Union Consulting classes at our JATC Training Center now behind us, it is time to put the training to use and start to make the difference.

Going forward, Local 449 and staff will keep working to strengthen and unite the local and keep everything moving in a positive direction.

With deepest regret we announce that several members have passed away: Bros. Boyd Weaver, Maynard Swisher, Willard Smith and Allen Weaver, and former Local 449 secretary Eva Packard. Our condolences go out to their families.

On a lighter note, we congratulate the following members on their retirement: Bros. Frank Rodriguez, Scot Schneider, David Rapp, Jeff Smith, Chris Jensen, Ken Peterson, Gary Gough and Kirk Later.

James Smith, Mbr. Dev. Rep.

Local Lines



Local 459 Bus. Mgr. Paul Cameron (left), Int. Rep. Michael Welsh, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Gregory Wolf, former business manager Joseph Sanna and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Brendan Wolf.

Longtime Leader/Mentor Announces Retirement

L.U. 459 (ees,em,govt,so&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—Gregory W. Wolf, assistant business manager of Local 459, recently announced his retirement. Greg is a second-generation IBEW member. His late father, Clifford E. Wolf, was a chief lineman for Penelec and a 58-year IBEW member.

In 1965, Greg was initiated into Local 1637 while employed at GTE in Erie, PA, as a lineman. In 1968, he became a member of then-Local 30 and soon afterward a lineman at Penelec in Erie, retiring as a lead lineman in 2004. Upon the amalgamation of Local 30 in 1993, he became a member of Local 459.

Greg has served the IBEW membership in various roles: as a steward of Local 1637; as a steward, president (1974-77) and business manager (1986-92) of former Local 30; and as a steward, Executive Board chairman, Utility Coordinating Council chairman, Education/Communications Committee chairman, business representative (1998-2003), and assistant business manager (2003-14) of Local 459.

Greg taught courses in economics and contract negotiations at Penn State's Union Leadership Academy. He has been active in area central labor council activities, local and national elections, and the IBEW Third District Utility Caucus. He attended six IBEW International Conventions and participated in national solidarity marches in Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, PA; Madison, WI; and elsewhere.

Brendan M. Wolf, A.B.M.

Career Forum for Students

L.U. 477 (i&rts), SAN BERNARDINO, CA—On Oct. 23 last year, the IBEW Local 477 Apprenticeship Program held a Career Forum at Reche Canyon Elementary School in Colton, CA.



Presenting Career Forum at elementary school are: Local 477 Apprenticeship Dir. Richard Purper (standing, at far back), Local 477 Instructor C.J. Hamilton (center, near table) and Chris Hamilton (far left).

Bro. Fernando Rodriguez, instructor, led the school program with a math relevancy lesson for the fifth- and sixth-graders. He emphasized the need for a good grasp of math fundamentals for the emerging economy and demonstrated how math can be fun.

Bro. C.J. Hamilton, instructor, presented a demonstration of electrical principles. With the use of his electrical equipment, C.J. was able to give the students a "hair-raising" experience the week before Halloween. Also participating was Chris Hamilton, who assists his father in presenting electrical safety classes to first responders in the geographical area covered by the San Bernardino and Riverside locals.

This program is part of a larger effort by our organizing staff at Local 477 to partner with the Colton Unified School District to ensure that new construction projects go to qualified, professional union electricians.

The Career Forum was a big hit with the students, thanks to the participation of all involved.

Rick Purper, Tr. Dir.

2014 Work Picture Strong

L.U. 479 (i&u), BEAUMONT, TX—The work picture for 2014 appears to mirror the good year we had in 2013, with full employment and many travelers working.

The only setbacks are that a few shutdowns which were originally scheduled for the first quarter of 2014 have now been moved to the third quarter of 2014; but they are still expected to happen.

Several projects are in the planning stages in our existing refineries, and there are plans for a new methane plant. The methane plant project will use around 2,000 construction trades workers and result in roughly 250 permanent jobs when complete.

Local 479 thanks all the traveling brothers and sisters for all their help in manning our work. Without their help it would have been extremely difficult to man all of the projects we had going in 2013.

The JATC has released its 2014 schedule for upcoming CE classes and Instrumentation courses available. For your convenience, a list of these classes has been posted at the union hall or on our website www.ibew479.com.

Our union meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. We would love to see more members attend and get involved in the future of Local 479.

Mark Jowell, Org.

Service Awards Presentation

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st), DUBLIN, CA—On Dec. 7 last year, 200+ celebrated at our annual "Old-Timers Night." Recognized were the local's "youngest" members who have years of service ranging from 25 years of service up to 65 years. Spouses

attended to stand with the person they have shared their life with and helped to reach this honor. Bus. Mgr. Victor Uno and Ninth District Int. Rep. John O'Rourke presented the service pins and scrolls. Three "old-timers" were honored for 65 years of service: Joe Eggers, Rich Redgrave and Fred Schaffer. Everyone had a grand time.

Larry Collins Sr. received the Business Managers Award at our December membership meeting. He was recognized for his outstanding leadership in building the Sound and Communication Unit and for his countless hours of volunteer work on behalf of the IBEW and Local 595. Dozens of Local 595 members were also recognized for their volunteer service throughout 2013.

We close this report noting the passing of George Dijeu. George received his 75-year IBEW pin in 2012, a remarkable achievement. Bro. Dijeu served in the Civil Air Patrol during World War II and was active in the patrol throughout his life. Because of his service, he was promoted to Honorary Colonel at Amelia Earhart Squadron 188 in 2009. Bro. Dijeu served our country and our IBEW with distinction.

Bob Tieman, B.R.



Local 595 congratulates 65-year award recipients. From left are: Joe Eggers, Rich Redgrave and Mike Schaffer, who accepted the award on behalf of his father, Fred Schaffer.

'Active in Our Communities'

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—At the April 2013 IBEW Construction and Maintenance Conference in Washington, D.C., AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Schuler presented "Eight Principals for Transforming the Way People See Us," listed as follows:

- 1) Show your community that unions are people who work.
- 2) Put values into action.
- 3) Be a real community partner.
- 4) Innovate.
- 5) Stand for the public good and high quality work.
- 6) Uphold high ethical standards (IBEW Code of Excellence).
- 7) Help workers advance and get trained for the work at hand.
- 8) Collaborate to solve problems.

Schuler called it "repositioning"—making the cultural and behavioral changes needed within to transform the way people see unions. Schuler is a former executive assistant to the IBEW International President.

As IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill stated in the January 2014 issue of The Electrical Worker: "The IBEW is one of the best unions in the world. Our members are leaders in their communities, leaders in their places of worship and the entire labor movement."

Get involved and active in some small way in your town. As you do, wear your local's shirt, jacket, pin, or bumper sticker with pride and show folks who you are.

We need to lead with values and what we stand for. And our neighbors need to know what it means to protect workers' rights, and how we need all of us to do it.

Dan Pasini, V.P.

Review of 2013 Events

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,it,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—Congratulations to members who recently completed their apprenticeship program and passed the Red Seal exam in December 2013: Bros. Colin Drysdale, Jarrett Campbell, Josh Stone and Antonio Spartinelli.

2013 recreational events went well and were well-attended. The Golf Tournament was enjoyed by 23 members. The Retirees Banquet saw 80 attendees. Spot dances were rewarded with IBEW belt buckles. The Children's Christmas Party at Hatfield Farms was attended by 74 adults, with Santa handing out 80 presents to happy kids. Attractions included pony rides, mechanical bull rides, zip line, numerous games, hot dogs and hamburgers. Over 100 members and guests attended the Christmas party downtown. Every member received a door prize, and terrific spot dance prizes were awarded. All members are encouraged to participate in events scheduled for 2014.

With a heavy heart, I must report the sudden passing of Bro. Derrick Maxwell, 46, on Dec. 28 last year.

Retiring in late 2013 were Bros. Gary Myles and Paul Carpenter. In all, 22 members retired last year. In the same period, 23 members received their journeyman status. The "looming skills shortage due to boomer retirements" has not yet materialized. I encourage all apprentices to stay on top of their hours and book a seat in Block Theory in the next available class. The pay and opportunities are far greater for journeymen than apprentices.

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.

Members in Action—Strength in Solidarity

L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL—The "Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful" program made a video of Local 627 members in action. The video can be seen at <http://youtu.be/v13-fHBzjCE>. This cleanup event happens every month; please ask for information at the next union meeting.

Congratulations to Bro. Pierre Heitfeld on his appointment to the E-Board. Also, Bro. David Drew was appointed as recording secretary to fill a vacancy for the unexpired term of office. Former recording secretary Bro. Ray Tingler retired last November.

Remember the strength we have in our solidarity and do not let that strength wane. On the political front, anti-labor forces need to be addressed in a strong manner and we need to make the voices of working people heard. Union membership is under attack from many different factions. Do not let any fracture affect our union solidarity and our spirit of brotherhood.

Ask your elected union officials what you can do to help.

Ray Vos, P.S.



Local 639 welcomes new first- and second-year apprentices into membership.

'Welcomed into Membership'

L.U. 639 (i&t&s), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—Local 639 welcomed new first- and second-year apprentices into membership during the fall of 2013. See group photo [above] of new brothers: Jack Johnson (left), Daniel Mounts, Chris VanHuss, Jason Heller, Brian Kimble, Tony Nasif, Jonathan Dotson, Jason Leyden, Kellen Wouters, Chris Behnke, Jacob Kalwitz and Jonathan Strohm. Not pictured is Bro. Brandon Howard.

Local 639 wishes all IBEW members a happy and prosperous 2014.

Kurt McClave, P.S.

2014 a Busy Year

L.U. 659 (c,catv,em,i,lctt,o,st,t&u), MEDFORD, OR—This year will be a busy one for the local. There are 10 contracts open including those with the City of Ashland, City of Bandon clerical, Eugene Water and Electric Board, City of Roseburg, and Tri-City.

This is also an election year for the local. Nominations will be held during April unit meetings. Voting will be in June. We will also be voting on proposed bylaws and dues structure changes. This change to the dues should make our local financially stable for many years to come.

2013 saw the passing of 22 members, active and retired: Elvin M. Adams, Frank W. Crouch, William L. Entler, Anthony Georgianna, Bobby R. Gilbert, Rich T. Kuster, Russell D. Laumeyer, Edward Leon, Raymond J. Marvin, Carroll McDaniel, Robert V. Mercier, Richard E. Muller, Lynn A. Peterson, Edward H. Pompe, Robert F. Queenin, Elvin R. Renfro, John Roll, Edward D. Seely, Ronnie Smith, Ernest W. Snyder, Anton F. Suttora, Charles A. Todd, and Harry W. Ward. Our condolences go out to their families. They will be missed by all who knew them.

The Annual Union Picnic will be June 21 at Richardson Park outside Eugene, OR. Please plan to attend this great fundraiser for our Brotherhood Fund.

Tom Legg, Pres.

'Outstanding Apprentices'

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH—At our December awards meeting, we gave out years-of-service pins to our members. We also acknowledged our graduating apprentice class and the outstanding apprentices for each year.

The top apprentice in each class is rewarded with a check equal to the cost of his books for that year. Fifth-year apprentice Dave Gaeta was also awarded a set of Klein tools for being the outstanding apprentice of the year. Dave has been the top apprentice in his class for the entire five years of his training. Congratulations to Dave for a job well-done and to all of our outstanding apprentices.

James Braunlich, Mbr. Dev.

Career of Dedicated Service

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—Executive Board member Doug Steward has retired after 12 years of dedicated service to our members. He has been a Local 683 member for 33 years. We know Bro. Stewart will be relaxing on a lake somewhere, fishing. Thank you for your longtime service, brother, and enjoy your retirement.

We welcome Bro. Mike McNeely to the Executive Board and congratulate him on his appointment to fill the unexpired term.

Spring is fast approaching, bringing a start to our community service efforts. Please volunteer and represent the IBEW as we give back to our neighbors.

Eric M. Evans, V.P./P.S.

BP Refinery Project Workers

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—Local 697 wishes to thank everyone who has worked in our jurisdiction the past three years while the BP Whiting Refinery Modernization Project was underway.

Thank you to all who worked to complete the project, especially our Local 697 members. Numerous IBEW members from all across the country brought their skills to the project—work that required instrumentation, skilled rigid conduit journeyman wiremen, welders, cable splicers, foremen and general foremen.

It took everyone from top to bottom to get it done. We all had to endure some unpleasant situations throughout the project, but our biggest accomplishment was a very good safety record, considering the vast number of workers and man-hours involved.

Also, a greatly deserved thank-you goes to those who manned the work outside of the BP Refinery. While many flocked to the overtime, you persevered and toiled on the work that is, and will continue to be, the backbone of our jurisdiction. Job well-done!

Now that spring is in the air, please remember to participate in our upcoming Local 697 Blood Drive and the annual March of Dimes Walk. Enjoy the warmer weather and be safe.

Dan Waldrop, B.M.



Local 673 outstanding apprentices David Mealy (left), Tim Rosier, Don Ziemak and Dave Gaeta.

Festivities & Fellowship

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—The warm weather may have felt like summer, but the Christmas spirit at our annual Local 915 Christmas party last year was alive and festive. With almost 300 in attendance, all enjoyed the fellowship and brotherhood. The visit by Santa and the bouncy balloons kept the children fully energized. The corn hole game kept the young at heart laughing and enjoying themselves. We had our famous Spanish dinner menu, and with the help of our members' baking, desserts were abundant.

There are so many people to thank for their hard work in making this event a success. Chairman Jonathon Dehmel and Mike Weeks did a great job accepting this task. Nancy VerEecke was instrumental in greeting all at the door. With all the donations for door prizes, Tom Bedwell spent his time behind the microphone calling the winners to "come on down!" There were too many volunteers to list, but each one's hard work was appreciated.

This event has become a great local tradition. Local 915 wishes all a healthy and prosperous 2014.

Theresa King, P.S.



Local 1393 Bus. Mgr. Robert C. Fox (left), apprentice lineman Joseph Hyrkas, and Pres. Mike Edwards.

Local's New Website

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—The new website for the local is up and running at www.ibewlocal1393.com. All members can log in to update personal information and receive items that affect them.

Congratulations to Bro. Joseph Hyrkas (pictured below), lineman apprentice at Duke Energy, for receiving first place in the Apprentice Best of the Best category at the 30th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo held Oct. 19, 2013, in Bonner Springs, KS. The Lineman's Rodeo attracts the best linemen from around the world to compete in events based on traditional linemen's tasks.

Robert C. Fox, B.M./F.S.



Local 915 Bus. Agent Michael Weeks (left), Secretary Nancy VerEecke and Bus. Agent Jonathon Dehmel.

Organizing Drive

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY—In June 2013, Local 1249 hired two new organizers to help reach those contractors and workers who are currently part of the nonunion sector.

Tim Daley and Gene Bailey have reached out to 50+ contractors and numerous employees who are performing work in our jurisdiction. Most of them have not been very receptive to the idea of organized labor, but our organizers will not give up. They have called upon our entire membership to help in this effort. The nonunion is already doing our work, so why not try to educate them about the benefits of becoming IBEW affiliated!

Thanks to Gene and Tim's hard work, we just recently signed Shupps's Line Construction, a small company based out of Albany that primarily performs teledata work.

We have seen what we are up against, but between our members' help and our organizers' coverage of our large jurisdiction, we feel we can once again become a driving force in the electric industry.

Jennifer Schneider, P.S.

Giving Back to the Community

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—Bro. Curtis Tunstall and members of the St. Louis chapter of the Electrical Worker Minority Caucus donated coats to local community centers and children's homes, adding another successful year to their annual coat drive.

The coat drive began about a decade ago when St. Louis Local 1 members Sylvester Taylor and Leon Arties noticed a need in the community and decided to take action. Since then the St. Louis EWMC has carried on the tradition of service to those in need. Congratulations and warm regards to our brothers and sisters of the St. Louis EWMC.

Recently elected Local 1439 officers are: Bus. Mgr. Mike Walter, Pres. Billy Howle, Vice Pres. Jeremy Pour, Treas. Cedric Childress, Rec. Sec. Matt Curry; and Executive Board members John Brennan, Kris Covert, Tim Diermann, Chad Fletcher, Lisa Fusco, Jeff Gottman, Kirk Kinnison, David Long, Richard Naes, Adam Peipert, Alex Reinhardt, C. R. Statler and John Wagner.

Our Gen-Up Committee has scheduled several events including a Trivia Night.

Matt Curry, P.S.



St. Louis EWMC annual coat drive volunteers assist community.

Local Lines



IBEW Local 1501 members employed by Qinetiq are working on NASA space telescope project.

NASA Space Telescope Project

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—Members of our local employed by Qinetiq at the Goddard Space Flight Center are working with NASA in building the James Webb Space Telescope. The proposed launch date is 2018 when it will speed through earth's atmosphere en route to its home at what is known as the second Lagrange Point, nearly a million miles away. The \$8 billion telescope is one of NASA's top three priorities, the other two being new vehicles for space travel and exploration. Some of the work is being done at the clean room at Goddard, roughly a 100-foot cube. The space agencies of Canada and Europe as well as private companies are collaborating in the telescope's construction.

The scope will be a three-story honeycomb array of 18 molded beryllium mirrors, coated in gold. They will sit atop a vast sun shield about the size of a Boeing 737 airplane. Utmost cleanliness is necessary, for once launched it will be 930,000 miles away, too far from earth to repair. It will enable scientists to look at formation of the earliest stars and the first galaxies in the universe.

All possible with the best our nation has to offer. The USA—still first in space.

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S./P.S.

Solidarity is Key

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—With the arrival of a new year, we have our new Westar and Sedgwick County rural electric cooperative (REC) contracts. Thank you to our officers, who spent their time and energy on behalf of our local.



Local 1523 fleet mechanics in Wichita, KS: Andy McCormick (left), Tim Grogan, Richard Stewart, Joe Mohr, Eric Sorenson, Ken Snow and Richard Taylor.

We are working harder than ever. Our members have been on several storm recovery efforts through the mutual aid program since the last report.

Changes are inevitable; so as we face challenges, let's reach out to lend a hand to our union brothers and sisters. Solidarity means a unity of "interests, sympathies or purposes among the members of a group"—union solidarity and fellowship.

As we go forward take heed of what the local does for us every day at work. The role it plays in our work area, our benefits, our wages—these are negotiated by our union officers for us.

Your attendance at the monthly meetings is very important. This is a place where your voice can be heard.

Also, a thank-you goes out to the garage mechanics (photo at bottom, left) who serve the Local 1523 fleet in Wichita, with a customer service base of 400,000. They have a combined 135 years of IBEW service with us. I say thanks for all you do.

Have a good, safe year.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.



U.S. Sen. Mark Begich (front row, center) visits the Local 1547 Tom Cashen Electrical Training Facility in Anchorage, AK.

Senator Visits Training Center

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—The photo below was shot during a Local 1547 fourth-year apprentice wireman class visit with U.S. Sen. Mark Begich at the Tom Cashen Electrical Training Facility in Anchorage. Pictured, from left, are: Kyle

Strong, Edward Barrows, Jeremy Schuberg, Allan Rusenstrom, Tierice Coleman, Chris Martino, Brice McDaniel, Sen. Mark Begich, Kyle Wilson, Cy Young, Dustin Hendricks, Johnathan Ross, Michael Atkinson, Erin Wood and Allan McLeod.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

Making Progress—Gaining Market Share

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—Just a decade ago, Local 1579 market share was very low in the Augusta metro area. There were various reasons for this loss of work, which IBEW members could not control, or could we?

First, we are constantly battling lawmakers who write bills that work against us. If we stay informed, we can vote for and elect more working family oriented candidates. Every IBEW local has a registrar and will answer your questions about your city, state and federal elected officials. In Local 1579, I am the registrar so don't hesitate to ask questions.

Second, we are not given work anymore because we are union members. We have to earn it by doing a great job and showing the customer that we are the best and worth every dime. We have done a good job improving our image and must continue to prove our critics wrong.

Today, I am happy to report that we have picked up work in the metro area that we have not had in years. We can further increase our market share if we keep doing what we are doing. We have members who have done work at Bridgestone, Kellogg, and Proctor & Gamble just to name a few. Thank you to our members who have gone into these plants and done a great job—that helps to lay the foundation which will enable us to get even more work.

Good job!

We still have a large amount of work on our large projects such as Savannah River Site and Plant Vogtle. That

work is steady and will get better throughout 2014.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

200 Years of Experience—Five Retired Members Honored

L.U. 1753 (mo), CHARLESTON, SC—At the November 2013 monthly meeting, five retired Local 1753 members were recognized for their many years of service.

Bus. Mgr./Pres. Ricky Whetsell presented each of the five retirees with an IBEW watch, a handshake and a smile as other members of the local looked on. Recognized were: Phillip Conlon, with 51 years of IBEW service;

William Frederick Jr., 48 years of service; Robert Campbell, 42 years; R. Glenn Butler, 41 years; and Prince Walton, 18 years.

Phillip Conlon and William Frederick Jr. worked out of the I/E Maintenance shop at the Kapstone paper mill in North Charleston. Robert Campbell, R. Glenn Butler and Prince Walton finished their careers with operations in the paper mill's co-generation facility.

Many thanks to these brothers and well wishes in their retirement.

David L. Himmel Jr., R.S.



Local 1753 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Ricky Whetsell (right) presents IBEW watch to retired member William Frederick Jr.

Ice Storm Restoration Work—IBEW Professionalism Lauded

L.U. 1837 (rtb&u), MANCHESTER, ME—Tens of thousands of people in Maine lost power in an ice storm that struck the state just before Christmas. For hundreds of IBEW Local 1837 members working at electric utilities in the state, that meant being away from their families for the holiday. IBEW members at Bangor Hydro, Central Maine Power and Maine Public Service worked around the clock on restoration work and earned near universal praise from Mainers for their dedication and professionalism. Many power customers greeted the workers with hot coffee, Christmas wreaths, and even a few hugs.

They were joined by other members of the IBEW from neighboring New Hampshire and other states in what one utility dubbed the "worst ice storm since 1998." IBEW Local 1837 members from Unital posed for a photo (below) during a break as the snow continued to fall.

Matthew Beck, Organizer



A Local 1837 storm recovery team: from Unital-Seacoast Unit 1, Bros. Donny Palmer (left), Brian Lajeunesse, Mark Dolloff and Ric Tobey; and from Unital-Capitol Unit 2, Bro. Mike Yurek.

Retirees

'A Year of Trips & Events'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU CHAPTER—Happy new year ... As we finish another year of trips, picnics, dinners and such we turn around and here comes a new year. At our first meeting in January, the itinerary for 2014 was read and it looks to be another year of fun ahead.

We honored the friends we lost in 2013. They will be sorely missed and always will be remembered.

This past winter on Long Island, the weather has been an off-and-on-again thing. Warm days then single-digit temperatures. The warm days are great—but snow, rain and then freezing makes for dangerous walking conditions for some of us retirees. Unfortunately, a few of our members had falls on the ice, and we hope for their speedy recovery from injuries; this is something our sister retirees in Florida don't have to worry about (lucky them).

So as we embark on another year with our retirement community, 460 members strong, we look forward to good health and clear skies.

Bob Cooper, P.S.

Community Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER—At our September and October meetings, we had two informative guest speakers: Judy Blades, wellness coordinator for our union; and Dr. Michael E. Makover, chief medical officer for the Joint Industry Board. They provided valuable information about ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Our end-of-summer BBQ was a great success, thanks to Ed Scalice and his committee.

The annual food drive was a great success, thanks to our members. The club donated 200+ pounds of food to Long Island Cares, which distributes to food pantries all over Long Island.

Thanks to John Schoenig, we had a Toys for Tots drive. John thanked everyone for their support.

Once again Olivia and Hank Schmidt organized a bus trip to Franklin D. Roosevelt's home, Val-Kill and the Vanderbilt House.

Our holiday party was a great success. We had raffles, door prizes and music. It was nice to see old and new friends. Thank you to Cathy and John Schoenig for all their hard work to make it happen.

Chapter Chmn. Jack Foley presented Marie and Fred Faas, Ed Scalice, Frank Roeselle, Jim Letsch and Nick Matoni plaques for their longtime service to the Suffolk Chapter. Marie was also presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers by John Schoenig. Jack and Ann Foley wished everyone happy holidays and a healthy new year.

Harvey Goldman, P.S.

Fall Golf Outing Fundraiser

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—Our annual fall outing was held Sept. 25 last year at Dunwoodie Golf Club, in Yonkers, NY. Thirty-seven golfers participated in this event.

The outing had a dual purpose—to bring our membership together for a day of golf and to raise money for our annual fundraiser in support of the Fisher House Foundation. As of press time, our goal



Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club golfers with sample tee box sign.

for the yearly fundraiser was \$10,000. With the cooperation of our sponsors, we were able to have professionally designed signs placed at designated tee boxes, identifying each individual sponsor.

We thank all the sponsors, chapter members, and all who have so graciously contributed to such a deserving cause.

Our sponsors included: Brazen Fox Restaurant & Bar, Mr. Kold Kuts, Maggie Spillane's, Ciao! Restaurant, Laura Stevens Physical Therapy & Athletic Training, Chuck & Oley's Rainbow Bar, Flynn Funeral & Cremation Center, Bronx Shore Kiwanis, Flags Unfurled Inc., Whalen & Ball Funeral Home, Redgrave Electric, and Flushing VFW 536. Sponsors also contributed in memory of Walter D. DePaola, and in memory of Mary B. Hogan and Martin Hogan.

*John Rich, P.S.
Bob Cuneo, P.S.*

Senior Sixes

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 6, SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The "Senior Sixes" retirees had a good year in 2013 and look forward to the year ahead. We meet monthly at our local union auditorium for our meetings and social lunches prepared by our retiree volunteers. Throughout the year we will have a crab feed; celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a corned beef and cabbage lunch; enjoy a summer barbecue; and of course celebrate at the Christmas holiday extravaganza.

The retirees join in on our local's events throughout the year: the motorcycle run up to the Sierra Mountains; the St. Patrick's Day parade; and a new event this past year, the family holiday Christmas party and toy run. These events and others raise funds for our local members' benevolent fund



Senior Sixes and guests at the Local 6 Retirees Club 2013 Christmas party.

and for the less fortunate in the community.

The retirees also staff and maintain our Industry Trust Electrical Museum. If you find yourself in San Francisco, check it out; it's sure to bring back memories.

Local 6 retirees, if you have moved away and occasionally return to San Francisco, come by on the third Thursday of the month for our meeting and lunch, and to renew old acquaintances.

Steve Walsh, P.S.



Local 26 Retirees Club group visits IBEW International Office headquarters.

Active Retirees Group

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC—For retired members time moves at a different pace. We regret the passing of friends over the past year. One such loss was that of retired Bro. Donald Imlay, who died Oct. 13, 2013. Sadly, he became ill while traveling to join us in Maryland for our Annual October Crab Feast. He and Nancy were traveling, as they always did, from California to be with us!

This reminds us to do the things we can do, while we can do them!

In October, 58 of our group took a cruise to Maine and Canada. What a great sharing of our union family!

Over the holidays we shared some great fun and laughter. Whether we gather with all our Local 26 brothers and sisters, or just the retired members and their families, we have many blessings to be thankful for, including good health and active lives.

Last year we took a group to visit our IBEW International Office headquarters. We toured the wonderful museum of artifacts from our trade. If you have a chance to come to Washington, D.C., be sure to see this sight.

Our next cruise starts in England in June 2014 and travels to Eastern Europe. Call Bro. Warner at (240) 472-0438 to see if he still has space, or to place your name on a future trip list!

Susan Flashman, P.S.

News from the Great Lakes

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 38, CLEVELAND, OH—Greetings from the Great Lakes! Welcome to all our new young retirees—glad to have you in the club.

Our president, Bob Wollen Jr., and the Executive Board have a variety of events planned for

each month. So, you'll want to stay informed. This past season's activities included a Polka Party, Clambake, Chicken Dinner, Reverse Raffle, Picnic, and Brunch; good times were had by all! Many thanks go to our brothers and their wives for their hard work in put-

ting these activities together.

I feel we are so blessed to live in America—a country where we have freedom and can be what we want to be. I am so grateful to have been an IBEW electrician. I hope and pray my grandkids have the same opportunity.

Our area has seen an increase in construction jobs and I understand a lot of work is on the books for the near future. I pray every day for full employment for all of our IBEW brothers and sisters.

Till next time, God bless America, our departed members and family. God bless our troops wherever they might be.

Arthur Lesjak, P.S.

Welcome to Quarterly Meetings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 42, HARTFORD, CT—The Retiree's Club invites anyone who is a retired member of Local 42 to come and join them. If you would like to get out of the house or take some time out of your busy life for a couple of hours, come and join them. Club meetings are held quarterly throughout the year, on Tuesdays, at Local 42's hall. Annual dues are \$12. Meetings start at 9 a.m. sharp.

The retirees start the meeting by discussing

Retirees

upcoming business and upcoming events. They end the meeting by talking about old times and sharing funny stories while they relax and enjoy coffee and donuts. The Retiree's Club would love to have you. If you're interested call us at (860) 646-7297 for further information.

The Retiree's Club thanks all of the ladies in Local 42's office for their hard work and for making everyone feel welcomed. They work hard putting all the events together to make them enjoyable. They greet everyone with a smile and are always ready to help with whatever may be needed.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

Labor History Project & April 12 Gala Celebration

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI—Greetings from the Local 58 Association of Retirees, Wives and Widows.

This January found us in an arctic vortex. While staying warm, we are continuing work on a very exciting milestone, the 100th Anniversary Labor History Project, underway for the past four years.

Our retirees have worked tirelessly collecting our history to create a book, to be distributed at a gala dinner celebration on April 12, 2014, at Cobo Hall. Invitations/ticket information has been shared with all locals and our International Officers.

Terre Haute, IN, Local 725 sent regrets from their officers and with it a \$500 gift to purchase tickets for our member retirees to attend the celebration. In January, our Association was also very grateful to receive a generous gift from the Estate of Betty LaPlante, widow of deceased former Local 58 business manager Joseph LaPlante.

April 26 this year will also find us celebrating our retirees with our Annual Pin Party.

Our Annual Christmas Luncheon last year was well attended, and in the "spirit of the season," our members gave generously to the five charities that our Association supports, and to Local 58's Benevolent Fund. Thank you to our members for their continued support.

Pat Nuznov, P.S.

Wounded Warriors Project

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX—In a room decorated for the holidays, club members enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch at their December 2013 meeting.

Club Pres. Gene Chamberlain presented Janice Caldwell with a plaque of appreciation for the outstanding service she has performed for the club for years. As well as sending out countless cards



Local 60 Retirees Club Rec. Sec. Betty Cannon (left), Janice Caldwell and club Pres. Gene Chamberlain.

on behalf of the club, Janice was also the media person, keeping information on the club flowing through the articles she wrote monthly for the local's newsletters and e-mails. She stated that it was her time to step down. Taking over the cards will be Marilyn Chamberlain and newsletter articles/e-mails, Sandy Rogers.

Following a three-month collection campaign for the Wounded Warriors Christmas project, a generous load of personal items was delivered to the WW headquarters at Fort Sam Houston by club Pres. Gene Chamberlain and his wife, Marilyn.

Last spring's golf tournament was such a huge success as a fundraiser that the Retirees Club will host another on April 26 this year. For more information, please contact Gene Chamberlain at (210) 262-1927.

Local 60 retirees, please join us the second Thursday of each month at the Plumbers & Pipefitters training building, 12 noon, 3630 Belgium Lane.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

'Stop By & Join Us'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 82, DAYTON, OH—Greetings from the Retirees Club and best wishes for a happy 2014. We are anxiously awaiting the return of warm weather and our traveling retirees who head south in the winter. Bad weather resulted in the cancellation of several activities over the winter. Local 82 hosted the annual Retirees Christmas Party in December. Reservations were received for around 200 people, but fewer than 80 were able to brave the ice and snow to attend.

The Local 82 Retirees Club is open to all retired members of Local 82, their spouses, and spouses of deceased members. We meet at 12 noon the first Wednesday of each month at the union hall. We usually have a catered lunch and make plans for future activities. A few members always have interesting stories about the "old days." Stop by and join us.

On a sad note, we extend our sympathies to the friends and family of Lenny Reinert. Lenny was a former president of the Retirees Club and passed away in December 2013. We all miss him.

Best wishes to all and God bless the IBEW.

Denny Wells, Pres.

2013 Annual Retirees Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 110, ST. PAUL, MN—The Annual Retirees Luncheon was Oct. 3 last year with 412 retirees, widows and guests attending. Bus Mgr. Jamie McNamara addressed the group and thanked the retirees for their years of service. Thank you, April Lyons, for the great job you did in planning the annual luncheon.

Awarded 50-year pins were: Jon Buchal, Robert Clauson, John Distler, Gerald Hagen, Robert Harbek, Clarence Horwath, Roger Kindseth, Kenneth Lamb, Gary Thoms and James Waxberg. Awarded 55-year pins: Robert R. Brown, William F. Brown, Richard Clemen, George Fahey, Gerald Forga, Michael Hafner, Walter Hagberg, Gerald Hanson, George Kramlinger, Earl Mahowald, Jerome Prokop, Russel Rau, Gary Rudiger, Stanley Sayre, William Stoppel, James Vadnais, and a brother I forgot to mention last year, Warren "Mick" Huntress.

A 60-year pin was awarded to Erwin Utech. And a 70-year pin was awarded to Edward Stewart.

The Local 110 Retirees Club is a very active group with monthly meetings. Pres. John Heuer



At 2013 Retirees Luncheon, Local 110 service award recipients are honored.

presides at and keeps the meeting going. The retirees help with the annual picnic, the Christmas party for the kids, and anything they are asked to do.

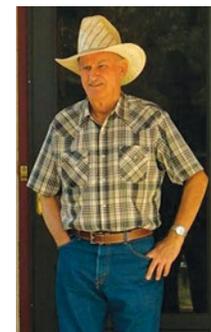
Brian Winkelaar, B.R.

Well Wishes to a Brother

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 113, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—Our Retirees Club celebrated Christmas last year with a well-attended party at our regularly scheduled luncheon in December. The Executive Board took on the role of Santa, providing a Christmas gift for everyone in attendance.

The club thanks our Local 113 Credit Union for its donation for our monthly door-prize drawing.

We were saddened in November to learn that our Executive Board Chmn. Jim Polders and his wife, Barbara, were involved in a car crash that took Barbara's life and left Jim critically injured. We are happy to report that Jim has fought hard and is making gains in what will likely be a long recovery. Please continue to remember Jim in your prayers concerning his journey to recovery and the loss of his lovely wife, Barbara. A special fund has been set up at the credit union for those who may wish to contribute to help with expenses not covered by insurance. As of this writing, Jim was being transferred from the hospital to a care facility. Jim enjoys visitors. Please call the hall for his current location.



Local 113 Retirees Club E-Board Chmn. Jim Polders.

Bill Campbell, P. S.

New Orleans Retirees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—On Dec. 5, 2013, we had our annual Christmas party. Everyone had a wonderful time. We had the party catered and a D.J. for our entertainment. The D.J. played plenty of 1950s, '60s, '70s and '80s music.

On Jan. 16, 2014, we took a bus trip to the Hollywood Casino in Bay St. Louis, MS. We provided coffee and donuts before the bus left. On the bus

we played bingo to pass the time.

Our Retirees Club is open to any member who is retired. We have four quarterly meetings a year, monthly casino trips and a Christmas party; food and refreshments are provided.

With deep regret we lost the following brothers: Edward H. Arnold Jr. (honorary member), Henry J. Daries and Arthur H. Wallace Sr. May their souls rest in peace!

Until our next meeting, God bless America.

George Clesj, Pres.

Holiday Party a Success

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—Our Christmas party was on Dec. 11 at the Irish American Heritage Center. Dinner was delicious as always, with corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and apple pie. A lot of holiday cheer made the event festive with 100+ who celebrated with us. Many gift certificates were raffled off. Also the guests received pillboxes and pens. Space does not permit me to mention all the people involved in making this party a wonderful time for everyone. Thank you all for your contributions to making this club the success it is.

In upcoming newsletters, notice will be given to alert members of different locations for some of our club meetings.

Let's all hope that this new year will bring jobs and prosperity to all our brothers and sisters, especially for those who continue to be unemployed. Best wishes to all for a better 2014!

To join us, call Mario Coletta at (773) 736-1480. We meet from noon to 2:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at the union hall, 600 W. Washington St.

Louis Rodriguez, P.S.

Holiday Party & Service Pins

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 164, JERSEY CITY, NJ—Local 164 Retirees Association Pres. Rich Dougherty presided over our Annual Holiday Party on Dec. 18, 2013. The 100+ in attendance had a wonderful



Local 164 congratulates 50-year service award recipients.

catered lunch planned by Fin. Sec. Tom Barry. Music was provided by member "Disco" Dan Swinney, filling the air with holiday tunes and dance favorites. Local 164 Pres. Tom Sullivan and Bus. Mgr. Dan Gamble presented 50-year pins to devoted IBEW Local 164 members).

Future plans for our members include: a trip to Yankee Stadium, our annual Golf League, Child/Grandchild Scholarship Fund, fresh and saltwater fishing trips, a fundraising Golf Outing, Atlantic City bus trip, and much more.

Our monthly luncheons bring out many retirees, who enjoy an afternoon of stories exchanged of former jobs and current family events. We have discussions on our Welfare Plan, financial investments, and a few jokes.

David Judovin, P.S.

Retired Members Volunteer

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 197, BLOOMINGTON, IL—We wish all the retirees a happy new year! We want to remind all of our retirees that we meet at the hall on the third Tuesday of every month, at 9 a.m., for coffee, donuts, and to solve the world's problems. Also, every quarter we meet at a local establishment for a hot breakfast. All retirees are welcome to attend; please call the hall with any questions.

Over the holidays we had many retirees volunteering at various charitable events. Lighting up the Festival of Lights were: Don Armstrong, Bob Branom, Ken McLean, Tom Willen, Dan Uhlir, Terri Spencer, Dennis Nolan and Norm Phillips.

At the Annual Christmas Party for the under-employed and unemployed, Santa had an IBEW card in his red suit. Acting as Santa, Don Armstrong brought great joy to the children.

We are proud of our retirees, who are an asset to our local and our community. We welcome all to become involved in political activities this year. We will be phone-banking and knocking on doors throughout the election cycle.

Mike Raikes, Pres.



Local 197 volunteers for Festival of Lights event: Don Armstrong (left), Bob Branom, Ken McLean, Tom Willen and Dan Uhlir.

R.I.P., Bros. Warman and Rice

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH—I am sorry to report that a longtime friend and club E-Board officer, Bro. Richard Warman, passed away suddenly Oct. 19, 2013. Dick, avid about sports and poker, was a devoted family man and a proud 52-year IBEW member. He had experienced health issues for several years. Dick will be deeply missed by wife, La Verne, and their family and by all who knew him. Well

done, dear friend; rest in peace. Dick also served as club treasurer for many years. Dick Holstegge was appointed to fill his E-Board position.

Sadly, on Nov. 22, 2013, club member Bro. Adron Rice passed away. A 59-year IBEW member, Adron was also a World War II Army veteran. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Wanda, and their family. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

In November, we welcomed new members: Ted Babel, Larry Brockhoff, Dan Holthaus and Joe Wellman. The club now numbers 113 "sparkies."

In early December, 147 club members and guests enjoyed a day of Christmas spirit at The Meadows in Addyston. A delicious catered meal, drinks, door prizes and partying with old friends (no pun intended) were all part of a wonderful day.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

continued support of the working Local 353 members and contributions to the "Sports, Entertainment & Retirees Trust Fund."

Our annual Pin Presentation Breakfast, for members with 50 years of service or more, will take place in May.

Robert Rynyk, P.S.

Welcome to New Members

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Our Retirees Club ended the year 2013 with our Annual Christmas Dinner, which was well-attended and enjoyed by all.

As of this early January writing, we have experienced the deep cold that most of Ontario has felt. We have several members who spend the winter in the south and they escaped some mighty frigid

weather here in Sarnia.

After our meeting in January, the membership went to Wagg's for lunch and some quality time together. February sees us attending the local Sting hockey game, enjoying our dinner before play starts.

The face of our membership has changed over the last several years. Many members have passed away and some are dealing with health issues. We recently lost, through death, one of our founding members, Vince Gerber. We miss these men and their wives, who worked hard and contributed much to our Retirees Club.

Happily, newly retired members have been coming out and contributing their time and talents to our club. We appreciate these people who have helped us carry on our successful organization, including: Brenda Barnes, wife of Doug; Kathy Coates, wife of Tom; George Mathieson; and Ken King, to name just a few.

Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.



39th Annual Luncheon

The Albany, NY, Local 236 Retirees Club's 39th Annual Luncheon held at Treviso on Oct. 15 last year was a great success. [See article in December 2013 issue of The Electrical Worker.]



Conveners of Local 530 Retirees Club Annual Golf Tournament: Herb Burdett and Bob Friedrich.

RETIREES continued on page 20

Highlights of 2013

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—Our Retirees Club celebrated its 28th year of service; the club holds monthly luncheon meetings for members on the first Tuesday of each month.

Highlights of 2013 included numerous trips and events, two to be emphasized.

First, Local 353's annual Remembrance Day Service & Ceremony held at our hall with staff and members, as well as our veterans, piped in by retiree piper John Cameron. The service includes readings by local union officers and music by bugler Rev. Seli—as well as a laying of wreaths by local politicians, our veterans and children from a local school. A hot meal is served in our hall afterward.

Second, our Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance, which last year was attended by Local 353 executive officers and 630 retirees including guests from: Locals 105-Hamilton; 120-London; 303-St. Catharines; 586-Ottawa; and 804-Kitchener. Our locals enjoy exchange events each year.

Our club successes are due to an active retirees executive, as well as co-operation and support from Local 353 staff and officers, along with the

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\$ 11.25

Camouflage Hat

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



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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HOW TO REACH US

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

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

Collective Bargaining is the Answer



Edwin D. Hill
International President

Last month, I was honored to address a group of leaders of unions, business, the professions and the academic world gathered to talk about ways to improve labor-management relations.

I spoke about a subject that has been on the minds of hundreds of thousands of our members for a long, long time, but one that has just recently busted open into the wider world—the growth of income inequality in the U.S.

The fact that it took so long is testimony to the sway that the arguments of our ideological opponents have held in the public debate. Income inequality is not a subject for a dry academic discussion. It has a real impact on the lives of real people.

The income gap between the 99 percent and the 1 percent is greater than it has been since the 1920s.

Between 1979 and 2012, the median worker saw an increase of just 5 percent in wages despite productivity growth of nearly 75 percent.

Research by Washington University and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis published in 2012 shows that since 2009, inflation-adjusted spending by the top 5 percent has risen 17 percent, compared to just 1 percent for the other 95.

Wealth inequality is not just bad for workers. In a consumer-driven economy, it's bad for business.

The real answer is not going to come from government. The solution to income inequality is right in front of us—collective bargaining. It's time to recapture the broad acceptance of the labor-management relationship where both sides bring not only power, but intelligence, good will and perseverance to the table.

I believe the pendulum is swinging. A recent article in the *Guardian* noted that 61 percent of workers aged 18–24 support unions, with even higher numbers among women and minorities. The rise of so-called alt-labor groups such as the taxi drivers, car wash workers and home care workers are spontaneous movements for dignity and economic justice not formally connected with the more traditional unions.

The debate over income inequality can be the linchpin for a new era. We can achieve it if we focus not on redistributing wealth but redistributing power. Put it in the hands of working people in all occupations, and watch our economy and our society take off. ■

Saying No to Fast-Track

It's the biggest trade agreement you've never heard of. The wide-ranging Trans-Pacific Partnership would govern trade between the United States, Canada and 11 other Pacific-rim nations, affecting not only millions of jobs worldwide, but the future of workers' rights here and abroad.

The problem: the fine print of the TPP remains a secret. Lawmakers and citizens are being kept in the dark about the details, while more than 600 corporate lobbyists have been inside the discussions from the beginning.

What we do know comes from leaked documents. And they paint a picture, not of a free trade agreement, but a series of pro-corporate regulations that would enhance investors' ability to sue national and local governments over regulations in areas like food and workplace safety, while banning policies like "Buy American" that prioritize the use of domestically manufactured goods in taxpayer-financed projects.

In essence, the TPP, like NAFTA, takes power out of the hands of average citizens and their elected representatives and hands it over to global multinational corporations.

Now TPP supporters want to give President Obama fast-track authority, leaving Congress only the authority to take an up or down vote on the trade deal.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a TPP backer, is also pushing members of parliament to sign off on Canada's biggest trade agreement in decades, while remaining tightlipped on the details.

Forcing a vote on an agreement this big and complex without knowing any of the details is bad for democracy and bad for the economy.

Luckily we're seeing some movement against the rush to fast-track, including from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who said he will vote no on fast-track authorization.

But we need to bring even more pressure. I urge our U.S. members to contact their member of Congress and our Canadian members to contact their member of Parliament. Upholding transparency and national sovereignty should have full bipartisan support. ■



Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

Get on the Bus

I'm dismayed by the uninformed opinion of some of those who choose to write to you. In response to the letter "No Work, No Workers?" (December) submitted by Newark, Ohio, Local 1105 member Dana Herrell, his idea to gain more work is to "lean on our contractors to bid more work." Has Brother Herrell attended COMET training? Has he participated in member-to-member training? Has he attended J.W. upgrade classes? Has he personally adopted "The Code of Excellence?" Has he participated in any meaningful way in organizing efforts sponsored by his L.U.? If there was no other pool of workers available in his area other than the IBEW, then we'd have all of the work and no competition. He says he is a member in good standing, but being current in his dues does nothing to advance the goals of the IBEW or enhance work opportunities in his local's jurisdiction. My suggestion to this brother is get on the bus, find a seat and be a participant rather than watch the bus go by. This is an exciting time to be an IBEW member and there are opportunities for everyone to be a participant.

*Charles Headington, Local 639 training director
San Luis Obispo, Calif.*

Classes for Contractors

After reading the January 2014 Electrical Worker interview with Ed Hill ("Recovery Agreements: Winning Members, Customers and Market Share"), I was thinking about other alternatives for expanding our work share. Are we training our apprentices with any skills that may help them to start their own contracting business? We are very heavy on theory and practically nothing on business practices. St. Louis Local 1 has started such a program. Wouldn't it help the entire Brotherhood if more small shops could be started with the help of classes that focus on starting your own business? Maybe some of these future contractors would focus on small commercial/service type business that we are not doing now.

*John J. Vikara, Local 569 member
San Diego*

Editor's Note: *It was in response to many similar suggestions that the IBEW decided to launch a training program, Market-Driven Contracting, to better accomplish the goal of increasing market share in sectors where the union is weak. A story on this program and how to register for classes that will begin in May is included on page 5.*

Yours in Brotherhood

My friend and partner, Local 134 journeyman wireman Gary Beno, fell from a structure and died as a result of his injuries. Shortly after the accident, although I have no knowledge of how our union hall was notified, Business Agent Michael Gogola and Safety Officer Anthony LaPorte were out on the scene. They didn't know my partner, they didn't ask what happened or why the accident occurred, nor did they grill me about safety or liability issues. Instead, they consoled and assured me they were there for me, and more importantly, for the family of our fallen brother. Now I know many of you reading this are saying to yourselves, "That's their job." I agree, they should be on the scene of events of this magnitude, but what I learned and witnessed firsthand was more than the fulfillment of an obligation. I had not met them prior to this accident, but they stayed by my side and provided a sense of support beyond words. More importantly, they were there for my partner's children when they learned of the loss of their father, but they took a step back until the time was right to console and reassure them. They also provided contact information and emphasized they were only a phone call away, and their support did not stop there. The officers were present at the funeral services. And afterward, they continued to assist his family with matters pertaining to benefits and financial obligations. They promised and they delivered on the true meaning of "Yours in Brotherhood."

As devastating and unfortunate as this accident was, I learned a few things about Local 134 on that day and those that followed. Although it was an experience I would never wish on anyone, I am truly grateful for the support I received. Next time you read the words "Yours in Brotherhood," know there is truth in those words! In memory of my good friend and partner Gary P. Beno, loyal member of IBEW Local 134.

*John R. Menton, Local 134 member
Chicago*

Correction: *Due to an editing error, a letter in the February issue ("A Winning Play") from 40-year member Andy Mihok, of Syracuse, N.Y., Local 1249, incorrectly listed the year of his retirement as 1985. He in fact retired in 1995. We regret the error.*

Who We Are

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

Mo. IBEW Activists Fight Right-to-Work Push

Is the Show-Me State about to get a new motto? As in, "Show me a smaller paycheck?"

That could be the case if anti-worker lawmakers in Missouri get their way by passing a highly contentious right-to-work bill this year.

In the first few days of the 2014 legislative session, GOP representatives proposed making Missouri the 25th state to have the law on the books.

But St. Louis Local 1 members are gearing up to stop the bill in its tracks, just as a new analysis finds that right-to-work states score low in overall quality of life.

"We're already mobilizing our members," said John Moyle, press secretary for the 5,700-member flagship IBEW local. "Education is the first step—making sure that our brothers and sisters have all they need to know about the bill. That way, when people ask questions, they can answer honestly and illustrate the economic impact this could have on our state."

You Have the Right to Work ... For Less

Right-to-work laws allow workers to opt out of paying union dues while still benefiting from collective bargaining agreements—weakening unions' negotiating power. Such laws are enforced in nearly half the states, mostly in the South or in the western part of the U.S., where workers have a diminished voice on the job and face more dangers at their work sites.

Indiana and Michigan became the latest right-to-work states in 2012, following coordinated anti-worker efforts by Republican lawmakers, the Chamber of Commerce and the American Legislative Exchange Council—a corporate lobbying group that writes model legislation to promote big-business interests in statehouses across the nation.

Supporters of the law argue that employees should not be obligated to pay dues. Labor leaders and progressive economists say this creates a "free rider" problem. Workers benefit from the protection of a collective bargaining agreement without contributing to the union responsible for negotiating their contracts, which include higher wages than most nonunion employers offer.

With Missouri in the crosshairs, Local 1 has also reached out to the broader labor community. Moyle penned an article for the Labor Tribune, a regional publication with wide circulation among



St. Louis Local 1 member Tim Green offers a presentation at Kansas City Local 124's hall about right-to-work legislation, which reduces wages by an average of \$1,500 a year for all workers in states with the law.

activists in the state. "IBEW Local 1 wants Missouri's working families to know that right-to-work has nothing to do with guaranteeing anyone a job. In fact, it's likely to cost good jobs," he writes.

Local 1 member Tim Green, a former state representative, has been giving presentations on the negative effects of right-to-work several times a week at the local, as well as at Kansas City Local 124 and to other working family groups across the state.

Are Right-To-Work States Failing Citizens?

"Right-to-work." It conjures an image of the kind of economic freedom that better allows hardworking families the chance to obtain the American dream.

But in states with so-called right-to-work laws on the books, a recent investigation by Politico Magazine paints a bleaker picture when it comes to education, household income, crime and even life expectancy.

In a Jan. 24 article titled "The States of Our Union ... Are Not All Strong," reporter Margaret Slattery analyzes data compiled from government research to create a ranking of which states fare better for the overall health of their citizens—and which ones are failing residents.

Here's how it worked, according to Slattery: "Politico Magazine rounded up 14 different rankings from reputable sources like the Census Bureau, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the FBI, and ranked high school graduation rates, per capita income, life expectancy and crime rates. Then we averaged out each state's 14 rankings to come up with a master list."

Northeastern states like New

Hampshire—which ranked highest—tended toward the top, while Southern states ranked near the bottom.

States with better quality of life tend to have a higher union density, while those near the bottom of the list are almost all right-to-work states, where union density is critically lower.

"Studies show that right-to-work laws drive down wages for all workers by an average of \$1,500 a year, whether they are in a union or not," International President Edwin D. Hill said. "And despite the claims of right-to-work boosters, there is no evidence that weakening unions will make states more competitive or create jobs. What it will do is 'Walmartize' the economy, making the state a haven for low-wage jobs that barely lift the average worker out of poverty."

A Springtime Vote?

Moyle estimates that the Missouri legislature could vote in spring to put right-to-work on a statewide ballot this year. The GOP majority doesn't appear to have the numbers to overturn a likely veto from Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon, leaving a referendum vote as an expected approach.

In the meantime, Local 1 will keep highlighting the good-paying union jobs that have recently come to the state. Both Ford and GM have invested nearly \$2 billion in factory upgrades to their plants in western Missouri, employing IBEW members and helping shore up construction market share in the wake of the Great Recession.

"We have to get the message out far and wide," Moyle said. "We have to stand strong against anti-worker lawmakers in our state who are colluding with big business to further undermine Missouri's middle class families." ■

Retirees continued from page 17



Years of Service Awards are presented at Local 570 Retirees Club meeting.

Honored for Years of Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 570, TUCSON, AZ—Retirees had their first meeting after the 2013 summer break with a ceremony awarding Years of Service pins. Shown in the photo above, from left, are: Bill Turner, former business manager; 50-year members Andrew “AC” Atkisson and John Duffy; 55-year member Donald E. Sowle; 60-year member Joseph Martin; 65-year member Carlos Vasquez; along with Mark Gibson and Dale Simpson.

Congratulations and thanks, brothers, for “paving the way.”

Scott Toot, P.S.

Recognizing a Veteran

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 640, PHOENIX, AZ—Often we “younger” retired hands focus our club activities on ourselves and tend to forget those who got us here. In the next few articles, I will try to shift somewhat to our senior members.

Bernarr Broeder is a 67-year veteran of Local 640, and our oldest club member. At 91 years young, Bernarr and his wife, Charlotte, can be found in attendance at most of our meetings.

Bernarr is a U.S. Navy veteran, who served in the South Pacific aboard the USS Enterprise from



Local 640 Retirees Club members Bernarr and Charlotte Broeder.

1943 to 1946. After seeing much battle action, he returned to Phoenix not knowing what career he might pursue. Fortunately, he found his way to the union hall, becoming an indentured apprentice with a scale of 97 cents an hour. After many years, and many jobs, he retired in 1984, and soon after joined G.A.R.R.

In interviewing Bernarr, I found his exploits in the trade extremely interesting, but would take more space to embellish upon than allotted here. I encourage all of our members to spend some time with the Broeders and discover what it really was like in the “good” old days. Our Retirees Club meets at 9:30 a.m. on the third Friday of each month.

Daryl Knupp, P.S.

Annual Luncheon in April 2014

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL—A meeting of the Retirees Club was held Dec. 5, 2013, in Marion, IL, with 25 members and guests in attendance.

Pres. Jim Nolen informed the group that Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughart had been contacted by a representative from the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans to see if the Retiree Club would consider being a part of that organization. A motion was made for the club to invite them to speak at a future meeting; it was seconded and carried.

The 50/50 and raffle drawing winners were: Maynard Doty, John Skaggs, Dick Smith, Junior Marlow, Gary King, Joe Smith and Janet Smith.

Special recognition was given to Kip Mandrell, who is serving in the military; Kip is the son of Erroll Mandrell. Pres. Nolen thanked him on behalf of the club for his service to our country. The meeting was then adjourned.

At this writing, a meeting was scheduled for Feb. 6, at Golden Corral in Carbondale, IL, at noon.

The annual Retiree Luncheon will be held Tuesday, April 22, at Rend Lake; doors will open at 11 a.m. and the meal served at noon. To make reservations, please contact Dixie at the union hall.

Mark Baker, P.S.

Plaque Presentation

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Welcome! We look forward to a happy, healthy 2014. Our November 2013 meeting was very well-attended. Our past president Jimmy Warren was presented with a well-deserved plaque to thank him for his many years of dedication and service and for a job well-done. Thank you, Jimmy!

Our December meeting also had a great crowd. The food, as usual, was excellent. We are thankful to Greg Stone for preparing the ham, and to everyone else who brings food, helps set up and cleans up the hall before and after each meeting—we are most grateful!

Our Annual Chili Cook-off this January featured many delicious entries. Congratulations to our cook-off winner, Greg Stone—great job! We were also honored to have Marvin Panch, one of NASCAR’s top 50 drivers join us for our luncheon.

As always, we wish to invite any retired and unemployed brothers and sisters and their spouses who are in the area to come and join us. Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month, 11:30 a.m., at the Local 756 union hall, Port Orange, FL.

Diane Gibbs, P.S.



Local 756 Retirees Club former president Jimmy Warren (left) receives a plaque presented by current club Pres. Steve Gibbs.

‘We Invite You to Join Us’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA—Our latest activity was a combined Christmas dinner and dance with all the members of Local 995. The hall was well-decorated for the occasion. The music was provided by a group completely made up of our local brothers and was led by Clifford Zylks, one of our local union assistant business agents.

Since our last article, we have lost one of our newest retirees following his long battle with cancer. Bro. Ricky Dutsch was well-liked and will be missed.

If you are a retired IBEW member in the Baton Rouge area, we invite you to join our club. Our meetings are the first Monday of every even month at 9 a.m. in the union hall.

W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.

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