After two decades of offshoring and plant shutdowns, North American manufacturing is making a comeback. The U.S. economy added approximately 500,000 manufacturing jobs from 2010 through 2013, and expects to see more growth this year. That still doesn't come close to making up for the 6 million manufacturing jobs lost in the 2000s, but it does show that there can be a future for the Made in the USA and Made in Canada labels.

But as IBEW members, our concern isn't just bringing back jobs—it's creating good jobs that provide workers with a solid spot in the middle class. And that means reviving union manufacturing.

Articles in this issue of the Electrical Worker highlight success stories from the IBEW's manufacturing branch, shooting down conventional wisdom that union plants can't compete in today's global economy. From actively promoting IBEW-made products to consumers and signatory contractors, to building links with manufacturing unions around the planet, to adopting the Code of Excellence in every IBEW-represented facility, local unions are taking the lead in renewing union manufacturing in the United States and Canada.

It continues to remain a rocky path to full recovery, but the articles in this and future issues of the Electrical Worker show that the IBEW is hard at work creating the blueprint for manufacturing success in the 21st century.
Cheap Knockoffs Increase 50% for Three Years in a Row, Jeopardize Safety

Counterfeiting. It’s a crime as old as money itself. In Colonial America, currency sometimes carried the warning, “to counterfeit is death.” The death sentence no longer is in effect for passing fake currency. But serious injury or death could still be the penalty for IBEW electricians and others who inadvertently install or depend upon counterfeit circuit breakers and other electrical equipment.

The flow of cheap electrical equipment knockoffs, mostly from China, is spiraling. In 2013, more than $270 million worth of consumer safety and critical technology was seized by U.S. Customs and Border Control, an 85 percent increase from 2012. This is the third year in a row this has increased by more than half.

“We’re fighting to keep a vibrant manufacturing plant in Beaver. We can’t tolerate counterfeit products that threaten our members’ jobs.”
—Eric Hoover, business manager, Beaver, Pa., Local 201

A full-page ad in trade magazines touting the effort warns that companies could be financially responsible for damage suffered from products purchased from unauthorized sources.

Counterfeiters prey on recognized brands with high volume and relatively low costs competing in markets for items such as control relays for industrial equipment, receptacles, ground fault circuit interrupters, power strips, surge suppressors, power cords and circuit breakers.

“Stopping the sale of counterfeit products is everyone’s responsibility—manufacturers, distributors, resellers and customers alike,” said Tom Grace, Eaton brand protection manager.

“We’re fighting to keep a vibrant manufacturing plant in Beaver. We’re competing for our product lines with brother and sister plants,” said Local 201 Business Manager Eric Hoover. “We can’t tolerate counterfeit products that threaten the jobs of members of IBEW Local 201.”

Counterfeiting electrical products creates grave dangers for electricians in the field,” says Hoover.

Everyone knows how common knockoffs are in handbags and watches,” says Grace. “But when you’re dealing with circuit breakers, we are talking about real safety risk.” Deception is heightened when counterfeiters stamp their products with fraudulent third-party testing labels. Eaton executives say counterfeiting has been a problem for responsible manufacturers for more than 20 years. But the rip-offs are now getting more recognition as the problem proliferates across industries. Pfizer Pharmaceuticals estimates that since 2004, the company has prevented almost 65 million doses of counterfeit medicines from reaching patients.

“Counterfeiters know it’s easier to buy low-cost, untested products from China and sell them for much higher prices,” says Hoover.

The company’s efforts are being applauded by International President Edwin D. Hill, who says Eaton’s clarion call will not only protect electricians, but also the jobs of 300 members of Beaver Local 201 who manufacture circuit breakers in Western Pennsylvania.

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The International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition projects that nearly $2 trillion in counterfeit and pirated goods will be trafficked globally in 2015, costing the electrical products industry $600 billion annually. Experts estimate that 750,000 jobs are lost every year worldwide because of counterfeiting.

And some of them are IBEW manufacturing jobs.

Counterfeit products look exactly like the real products but are made with inferior materials, inaccurate manufacturing processes and without functional or safety testing. They are part of a growing “gray market,” undermining responsible producers and employees in a number of North American industries.

Eaton Corporation, a manufacturer of electrical, hydraulic and mechanical products, is taking a leading role in sounding the alarm about the growing dangers of counterfeit items. They include faulty circuit breakers that can lead to overheated and short circuits, resulting in fires, shocks and even death.

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“We are trying to get people away from the mindset that if a product looks the same, it performs the same,” says Paul Cole, Eaton’s manufacturing manager at the Beaver plant. Cole also oversees the company’s breaker service centers in Beckley, W.Va., and Evansville, Ky.

Eaton stresses the need for contractors to turn to original equipment manufacturers or authorized distributors and resellers for purchase, service and repair of all electrical products and to notify manufacturers if they have any questions about a product’s authenticity. And the company is also lobbying for legislation that will help deter counterfeiting.

Supplementing the company’s public relations campaign, Eaton and other manufacturers are employing new technologies to authenticate their products, including covert laser markings, unique moldings, cartons and special serial numbers that can trace products through their complete life cycle. Having the right product in stock when the customer needs it is another critical piece of the company’s strategy, says Grace.

Numerous coalitions and organizations representing manufacturers and law enforcement agencies from more than 60 nations are focused on stemming the tide of counterfeit products.
IBEW-Made Website Showcases Excellence

IBEW pride and excellence. These qualities are packed into every lighting fixture, switch, transformer or circuit breaker produced by members of the union’s manufacturing branch.

But what happens when these devices hit the marketplace? Will signatory electrical contractors and utility companies buy union? Will they buy IBEW? Will they and thousands of members even know which items are made by their union brothers and sisters?

Finally, with the rollout of a new website, IBEW-Made (www.ibewmade.org), the answer is “Yes.”

Comprised of features unprecedented in the labor movement, the site, introduced in 2014, is already drawing widespread attention from other unions and employers in the U.S., Canada and overseas.

IBEW-Made enables contractors and individual members to go straight to the catalogues of signatory manufacturers to review the specifications of their products and find out which retailers carry them.

New orders will help improve the profitability of employers, enhance the job security of members who have been hard hit by outsourcing of production, and help to organize new unions in the manufacturing sector, says IBEW Manufacturing Department Director Randy Middleton.

This exciting new website combines synergy and union solidarity,” says Middleton. “It enables members in the construction and utility branch to stand by our manufacturing members while giving them quality products to work with.”

But, he says, “This tool is only effective if it is picked up and used.”

“IBEW-Made is long overdue. It is a tool that gives mainstream America the chance to see what our members make. And it gives our members pride in being able to say, ‘I made that,’” says Robby Evans, assistant business manager, Atlanta Local 615.

Evans is one of 13 local union members of the Product Identification Team that conceived the website, designed by the IBEW Information Technology Department.

“We’re excited,” says Anthony Espoenda, business representative, N.Y. Local 3, another member of the team who represents members in several plants producing lighting fixtures. “This website will promote our manufacturing Code of Excellence.”

Each product posted on the site will go through an extensive vetting process. Local union business managers will suggest items to be included. All products listed will be reviewed by the Manufacturing Department to ensure that they are made by members covered by active collective bargaining agreements. The site will also show which products were produced under the Code of Excellence or already carry union labels.

“IBEW-Made will help grow the IBEW,” says Ron Ingram, assistant business manager, Memphis, Tenn., Local 474. “After getting authorization cards signed in an organizing campaign, we can go to a company and show what we have to offer and counter the stereotypes they may have about unions.

All requests for products and information from the site’s users will be tracked. That’s another powerful tool, says Chelsea, Mass., Local 1499 Business Manager John Horak, who represents manufacturing members in a few New England states. “We can bring those requests to our employer and suggest that they begin to manufacture items at home in our shops that they have abandoned or outsourced.”

IBEW-Made is the main spoke of a larger effort to bolster the union’s manufacturing base, says Middleton. Discussions are taking place with employers about increasing the use of the union’s labels on products and “putting stickers right on the outside of cartons where every customer can see IBEW-Made merchandise while shopping.”

“We hope IBEW-Made will be a template and a model for other unions to follow,” Richard Kline, president of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, told attendees at the Broadcast Manufacturing and Telecommunications Department meeting in April.

Members of the Product Identification Team also include Eric Hoover, Beaver, Pa., Local 201; Doug McKay, Vancouver, B.C. Local 258; Bob Piest and Adrian Saez, Houston Local 716; Cruz Serna, Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245; Mike Bunening, Milwaukee Local 2505; Chad Donathan, Mt. Sterling, Ky., Local 2246 and Carven Thomas, Bloomington, Ind., Local 2249.

Small Chips Mean Big Jobs for Albany Local

Albany, N.Y., is perhaps best known as the lifelong home of George Crum, the inventor of the potato chip. With streets of modest homes beneath mature oak and maple trees, the small Hudson Valley town of 13,000 doesn’t look like it would also be the site of one of the largest construction projects in the United States.

“Maldon is where the world’s largest semiconductor manufacturer, GlobalFoundries, has been building its North American manufacturing campus. Since groundbreaking in July 2009, more than 3 million square feet of office, research and production facilities have been built, total capital investment by the company is near $8 billion. Production began less than 18 months later, and company officials have already announced plans for an additional $3-5 billion to expand the facility.”

The GlobalFoundries project is also the largest private project labor agreement in IBEW history, according to the IBEW’s business development office.

“We have averaged 2 million-plus man-hours every year since 2009. No less than 200 members have been on site since groundbreaking and we’ve had up to 800,” said Albany, N.Y., Local 2156 Business Manager Don Rahm. “If I had to guess, I think it will be another 10 to 15 years before things level out and they stop expanding. The future looks very bright.”

Third District International Vice President Donald C. Siegel said the project is notable not just for its size but for how smoothly the work has gone.

“Generally, when a project is this big, you expect to have problems and we haven’t heard anything like that, and that is a very good thing,” Siegel said. “That tells me this is a well-designed PLA and it says a lot about the workmanship and integrity of our people in Local 2156 and the influence of the Code of Excellence on us all.”

Company officials also said that construction has been notably free of drama.

“The campus has successfully hit all major construction, operations and customer milestones, and is fulfilling its mission to ramp on existing manufacturing production technology while in parallel developing advanced manufacturing technologies on future production nodes,” said a company spokesman.

Rahm says he and members of the building trades have been in conversation with GlobalFoundries about extending the PLA should the company build a second chip fabrication plant at the site. Siegel and Rahm are confident that the members of Local 2156 have proven their value over the last five years.

“Why would they change the formula when it has been working so well?” Siegel said.

There are only so many different ways to build a building, but Rahm says there is a very steep learning curve working in the heart of the plant, the 300,000-square-foot clean room where the chips are made. At big as six football fields, it must be kept entirely free of dust and contaminants. Workers have to wear special clean suits and masks, wash all parts, including conduit inside and out, and follow detailed instructions for installations.

“The protocols are specific—extremely specific—and while doing the work precisely is not specialized, doing it efficiently and precisely,” Rahm said.

Before Fab 8’s construction, semiconductor production was shrinking in the U.S. Nearly all chip engineering and design happens in the U.S., but for several decades, new factories were built in Europe and Asia, not in the U.S.

Nearly a decade ago, New York launched an aggressive campaign to turn that around. Generous subsidies were announced—GlobalFoundries has received significant tax incentives and grants over the last decade—and a former rocket and missile fuels testing ground was cleaned up and converted into the Luther Forest Technology Campus, 1,400 acres pre-approved for semiconductor and nanotechnology manufacturing.

“The IBEW and the state building trades have been important partners at every step of this project,” Rahm said. “For years our members were at every planning, zoning and community meeting because we knew what it would mean for our members.”
Wis. Local Sees Manufacturing Success

IBEW Local Helps Renew Union Manufacturing

Some of the biggest items found on the new IBEW-Made website are two-story tall transformers made by SPX Transformer Solutions Inc., formerly Waukesha Electric Systems. The transformers, which range from 2.5-2.000 megawatts, are produced by members of Milwaukee Local 250.

The plant, located 20 miles west of Milwaukee, is one of the rare success stories in the post-NAFTA manufacturing era, and it's a blueprint for how unions can play a leading role in winning back high-skilled manufacturing jobs to North America.

"There are plenty of IBEW-represented utilities who should be our customers, and IBEW-Made can help connect us."

– Mike Bruening, Local 250 Business Agent

"Things continue to head in the right direction," said Local 250 Business Agent Mike Bruening. The plant, owned by North Carolina-based SPX, was organized more than a decade ago by Local 250, a tough site to make the company thrive. Negotiating a first contract took more than 18 months of contentious bargaining.

But Local 250 members helped defray the critics. Their work and management invested $20 million in a 140,000-square-foot expansion of the Waukesha unit. Corporate officials said that the positive relationship they had with Local 250 was a major factor in selecting the Waukesha site for expansion. The job was completed two years ago.

Originally a unit of 320 members, Local 250 now represents more than 400 workers at the facility.

Business Manager Michael Follett credits the IBEW’s manufacturing success to the Code of Excellence and a new attitude on the part of both employers and employees. He says that there is a willingness to work together to efficiently produce high quality products the customer expects. The Code is an agreement between employers and the IBEW to increase labor-management cooperation and professionalism in the workplace.

Originally developed in the construction industry, the Code of Excellence has helped both the company and local grow in Waukesha.

Memorial was completed two years ago.

Pride and Generosity: RAFFLE NETS THOUSANDS FOR VETERANS GROUP

Members attending the 2014 Broadcasting, Manufacturing and Telecommunications Conference in Connecticut in late April loudly applauded after hearing from George Farrell, a retired fire chief who coordinates Rhode Island’s “honor flights” program.

Farrell encouraged attendees to purchase raffle tickets at the conference to help fund the program that provides free transportation to World War II veterans to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Thousands of veterans, many of whom suffer from terminal diseases and disabling conditions, have made the trip.

The raffle offered ticket purchasers the chance to win a large quilt—fabricated as T-shirts provided by manufacturing locals. The quilt was produced by Teresa Ekstein, a 41-year member of Lincoln, Neb., Local 2366. The “Tapestry of Solidarity” was the subject of a February story on www.ibew.org.

“I was speechless,” says IBEW Manufacturing Department Director Randy Middleton, who expected to pull a few thousand dollars to Farrell.

Conference attendees bought $31,000 worth of the $10 tickets. Then Hartford, Conn., Local 42 and Boston, Mass., Local 104 announced that they would donate $10,000 each to the proceeds.

“The generosity of our members,” says Middleton, “makes me so proud to be an IBEW member.”

Farrell, who attended the reception where the winning ticket was pulled, said: "You never know what to expect when you ask for support for Honor Flights. The IBEW’s participation was incredible. It was an overwhelming experience for me and Steve Hug, one of the Honor Flight organizers. We were inspired by the members who came up at the reception and supported not just our program, but America’s veterans.”
In Congress, where all progress seems to creep at a snail’s pace, an IBEW request has helped initiate a timely hearing to discuss how the shutdowns of coal-fired power plants will affect the nation’s electrical grid, especially during extreme weather emergencies.

On April 10, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee convened a hearing entitled, “Keeping the Lights On—Are We Doing Enough to Ensure the Reliability and Security of the U.S. Electrical Grid?”

The hearing was held in direct response to a March letter to the committee’s chair, Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) from the IBEW, the United Mineworkers, the Utility Workers and others.

The unions’ request for a hearing was supported by Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W. Va.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio).

“We [IBEW members] don’t have multimillion dollar models for predicting plant closures,” IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter told senators. “But we have common sense and practical knowledge of the system.”

Testifying as part of a panel that included Nicholas Akins, CEO of American Electric Power, Hunter recapped the union’s 2011 warning to the Environmental Protection Agency predicting that prematurely removing 56 gigawatts of coal-fired generation could cause blackouts during extreme weather emergencies. At the time, the EPA disputed the IBEW’s numbers. However, the agency now confirms the union’s predictions. The dismissals will lead to 50,000 direct job losses.

Hunter disagreed. “The electrical industry is still suffering the economic stress fractures caused by the partial deregulation of the industry in the 1990s,” he said, presenting senators with IBEW’s recommendations to help to prevent catastrophic losses of electrical power:

• Seasoned and knowledgeable commissioners on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission who can make changes to the market to ensure adequate supplies of energy;
• Better coordination between FERC, the EPA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and more flexibility in implementing new rules;
• An end to “double jeopardy” facing companies that could be ordered to restart shut-down coal-fired power plants by FERC or regional utility organizations, thus placing them in a position to be sued under the Clean Air Act.

“The IBEW wants clean water and clean air as much as anyone,” Hunter told the committee. While the EPA has extended some deadlines to comply with new environmental regulations, remaining problems, he said, “must now be solved by FERC and Congress.”

Senate Hearing Called in Response to Union Activism

In a hearing on the reliability of the power grid, Hunter told senators that he has not done any winter modeling in over 90 percent of the plants scheduled to close by 2020. During a panel discussion, Hunter cited the dramatic drop in prices for cleaner energy sources to replace coal, leaving enough supply to forestall any emergencies.

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IBEW Utility Director to Senators: Ensure Reliability of Grid

FairPoint Sale Could Put New England IBEW Jobs in Jeopardy

When telecom company FairPoint Communications first bid to take over Verizon’s New England landline service in 2008, there were both promises and worries.

The promises were the possibility of jobs. In addition to touting planned broadband Internet upgrades, FairPoint predicted nearly 700 new jobs would be created in New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine once it assumed control of the Verizon system.

The worries were that a small, regional company wouldn’t have the necessary technology or human power to maintain the three-state system. FairPoint’s $1 billion bid to purchase Verizon’s landline service was controversial.

IBEW Jobs in Jeopardy

That’s good news for four of the company’s top five shareholders, which are corporate hedge funds.

“Wall Street investors are not interested in growing the company for the long haul,” Erickson said. “They are interested in getting a quick return on their investment.”

None of which comes as a surprise to other IBEW leaders and activists close to the FairPoint workforce.

“Prior to the deal in 2008, we anticipated and predicted that the company would run into significant trouble, that the cutrate from Verizon would be disastrous,” said Martha Paltar, IBEW Broadcasting and Telecommunications Department Director. “Just about everything we said at the time turned out to be true.”

Lawmakers in Maine passed a bill in April to help ensure that any sale or merger of the state’s biggest telecom provider will result in a “net benefit” for citizens—but Gov. Paul LePage vetoed the legislation later that month.

The bill would have allowed the state’s Public Utilities Commission greater authority in deciding whether or not a potential deal with a new buyer goes through.

“This bill was an opportunity for us to raise that bar of approval for a new sale,” Augus-ta, Maine, Local 2327 Business Manager Peter McLaughlin told the Bangor Daily News.

“If a company buying FairPoint has an interest in investing in new technology and products, that could be a win-win for the consumers and the employees, as it would help ensure that our members continue to have steady work,” said Erickson.

The IBEW represents FairPoint workers out of Manchester, N.H., Local 2320; Montpelier, Vt., Local 2326; and Augusta, Maine, Local 2327.

Signs show that FairPoint Communications may be looking to sell to a new buyer.

Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Pluto user Bernard Pollack.
The price of solar panels has been falling precipitously in recent years—down 50 percent last year alone, according to the MIT Technology Review—and panels now make up only 20 percent of a solar system’s total cost. Solar leasing companies are now at the forefront of an effort to reduce installation costs by integrating panels, inverters and rack systems and then using unqualified electricians to snap them together.

“Cutting out high-skilled labor may increase a company’s profits, Sullivan said, but it comes at a high price down the road, one most often borne by the homeowners.”

Local 569 member Cesar Chaidez installs the final panel for Sullivan Solar’s project at Long Beach City College. Below, Daniel Sullivan, Founder and CEO of Sullivan Solar and former IBEW journeyman, in front of the 60 kilowatt solar project his company built on the Broadway Pier in the Port of San Diego.

“The skill of his workforce has been central to his marketing strategy as well. “Too many contractors think price is all that matters, but not everyone is a Walmart shopper. Really, most aren’t, but I knew that I would still need the most compelling presentation customers had ever seen to teach them what quality meant and why it was important,” Sullivan said. “I was using my knowledge as a journeyman inside wireman as a sign of quality.”

In many parts of the country, solar work has been dominated by nonunion contractors, many attached to new companies like Solar City and Sun Run that function primarily as financial operators, leasing cookie-cutter solar systems to homeowners, and then subcontracting installation.

“Something like 95 percent of all meter replacement has been nonunion, so we are extremely proud that this will be our work,” Local 267 Business Manager Neil Collins said. “Most importantly, the men and women doing it will be properly trained and supported so the job gets done safely.”

The new members will replace the traditional energy meters with automated ones across the service area of Saskatchewan Power. The job is expected to take two to three years.

More than 1,500 Local 267 members already work at SaskPower, but when the company decided to update the meters, it signed with GridOne, a nonunion contractor that was going to hire unqualified electrical workers to do the work.

“When a meter is removed, it exposes a live 250-volt, 300-amp connection which, under provincial law, only trained electrical workers can work on,” Collins said.

SaskPower needed an exemption from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Workplace Safety, an exemption it had granted to Saskatoon Light and Power and companies in Alberta and British Columbia had received similar exemptions from their provincial authorities. In Alberta, for example, meter replacement workers were contracted six months at a time, paid by the piece, had no benefits and supervisors had no electrical training.

“One supervisor I spoke to said he was normally a truck driver,” said First District Regional Organizing Coordinator Darrell Taylor. “They were sending them out, mostly young people, with no one looking out for their safety, and there wasn’t much we could do. It was almost impossible to even find them.”

Local 267 fought the exemption request.

“From the company’s perspective, it isn’t dangerous because untrained workers have done it in other places, but we had serious reservations about the potential for injury or property damage and the lack of qualified supervision,” Collins said. “They didn’t even have emergency plans in place. Unfortunately, it is difficult to make the case when so many meters have been replaced by non-experts.”

Despite the safety concerns, the exemption was issued in late 2013 and Local 267 appealed, but SaskPower moved forward with GridOne, a division of Asplundh, the international tree-trimming conglomerate.

However, as work was about to get underway, some electricians working at GridOne filed a petition to organize with the provincial labor relations board. It was accepted, and they began investigating who might be eligible for the bargaining unit.

The project looked like it would be held up by either the LRB application or our appeal,” Collins said. “Despite this disagreement, we have a good relationship with SaskPower, so the company came to us to see if we could find a solution that would protect the workers and keep the job moving forward.”

After only four days of discussions, a deal was announced March 1 that brought the meter replacement workers into Local 267, beelined up safety training and increased wages and benefits. The local also negotiated time to explain to the new members the benefits they will receive, including more time off, higher wages, medical and dental benefits and the ability to apply for jobs internally at SaskPower.

Taylor says the agreement also gives organizers a tool to go after this work in other parts of Canada. He said:

“It is really wonderful that these new members get a taste of union work, and the wages and benefits that come with it,” Taylor said. “We just want everyone doing electrical work to get the same chance.”
Ontario Tories Target Trades College

Ontario's highest regulatory body for the skilled trades could end up on the chopping block if Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak forms the next provincial government.

Hudak vowed to abolish the Ontario College of Trades in a speech earlier this year, saying it was a bureaucratic obstacle to young people getting jobs in construction.

"The College of Trades is Ontario's newest bureaucracy, which taxes both trades people and employers hundreds of dollars a year in 'membership fees' that are just another tax on businesses that form the backbone of local economies," according to the Tories' website.

Established last year by Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberal government, with support from the IBEW, the college is a self-regulating association that maintains professional standards for dozens of skilled trades, including electricians and pipe fitters.

"It's not any different from a medical college or bar association," said John Grimshaw, executive secretary treasurer of the IBEW Construction Council of Ontario, which represents 15,000 members throughout the province.

Ontario has required formal licensing for most trades since the 1960s, but these rules were often ignored by low-road contractors and employers who knowingly hired unqualified workers for construction projects.

"There was open flouting of the law," Grimshaw said. "The government wasn't doing anything about it." The IBEW, along with other unions, employers and public officials, lobbied for the college to ensure that every construction project in Ontario was staffed by trained professional workers.

"Customers should feel confident that the people they hire meet provincial standards when it comes to training," Grimshaw said. "It's a quality and safety issue.

"The College of Trades has the authority to declare a trade "compulsory," an individual must produce a certificate of qualification and pay a $120 annual fee. More than 20 trades are considered compulsory.

"Our members prefer to pay this $120 because they know it means the college is a self-regulating body for the skilled trades," said John Grimshaw, executive secretary treasurer of the IBEW Construction Council of Ontario, which represents 15,000 members throughout the province.

"We have seen too many low-road contractors use non-electricians to do electrical work." He says that he has seen too many low-road contractors use non-electricians to do electrical work.

"The college was gone, it would be devastating for the organized building trades," he said. "It would create an industry-wide race to the bottom."

A growing blue-collar skills shortage across Canada has many policymakers looking at different approaches to training and recruitment.

Grimshaw says that Hudak's is the wrong approach when it comes to construction recruitment.

"He thinks that throwing out all the rules and throwing as many workers into the industry regardless of the skills or training is the way to go," he said. "Flooding the market with unqualified workers feeds the underground economy and increases the chances of accidents."
IBEW Builds New 49ers Stadium

When the San Francisco 49ers needed a team to build their new stadium, they drafted the IBEW. Now, over 300 members of San Jose, Calif., Local 332 are constructing the new $1.3 billion facility. Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara opens in mid-2014 with a number of unique features: stadium-wide WiFi; two colossal HD scoreboards; and over 50,000 square feet of solar panels. The stadium will also host Super Bowl 50 in 2016.

Circuits

Press Play: IBEW Videos Come to Your Smartphone

Thousands have watched our wild IBEW videos on YouTube and Vimeo. Here’s an easy way to view them on your phone while you are on the go. Just scan the QR code, press play and enjoy the latest IBEW action from across the U.S. and Canada.

Next Gen. of IBEW Organizing

It’s a problem every union faces. How do you motivate and mobilize the younger generation of union members to grow the labor movement? Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245, is doing a bang-up job of it. Watch seasoned veterans and newly-minted organizers talk about their fresh strategies and string of victories since the Great Recession battered working families.

CLUW Helps Train Next Generation of Union Women

A popular button often seen at labor rallies and conferences reads, “A woman’s place is in her union.”

And as young activists go, Cody Beltrami is one member living out that sentiment.

The Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 member joined with fellow women trade unionists March 27-29 in Chicago for a conference marking the 40th anniversary of the Coalition of Labor Union Women. Beltrami was among 10 winners of the Berger-Marks Foundation scholarships, which provide monetary assistance to union activists seeking to organize more women into the movement. It is named for Edna Berger—the first female lead organizer for the Newspaper Guild-CWA—and her songwriting and activist husband Gerald Marks.

Beltrami speaks highly of the leadership training that CLUW offers budding change-makers in the labor community.

“CLUW does a wonderful job of arm- ing the attendees with the knowledge and tools to make a positive change in their unions, or at least get the ball rolling to get others involved in such a movement...” she said. “They gave us a way to learn and understand important information by providing classes on how to incorporate social media in organizing, community partnership and engagement, common-sense economics and more. Having these skills and knowledge are crucial if you want to help make a positive change.”

An IBEW member since she was 18, she started her career by working for a signatory contractor before becoming a shop steward. She now serves on the Local 1245 staff.

The daughter of Alaska AFL-CIO President Vince Beltrami, a member of Local 1547, Cody has worked to chart her forebears.

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As a young leader I am focusing on gaining support within the community and increasing participation among younger union members,” she said. “I also have hopes of working alongside the older generations and using their experiences to help us. We have a lot to learn and a lot to give. I am very honored and excited for the path I am on and for the opportunities I have been given. This is only the beginning.”

IBEW Director of Civic and Community Engagement Carolyn Williams said that the training and support offered by groups like CLUW are critical to help advance the needs of working families, especially at a time when younger workers are facing starker economic realities than in generations past.

“CLUW is a great resource to help inspire and educate women moving into leadership roles,” she said. “It has a lot to offer the younger generation.”

To learn more about the Coalition of Labor Union Women, visit www.cluw.org.

2014 IBEW Women’s Conference Sept. 17-20

Hundreds of IBEW sisters are expected in San Antonio Sept. 17-20 for the Seventh IBEW International Women’s Conference.

Items on the agenda include workshops on getting women involved in the political process, empowering women to become leaders in the IBEW and organizing skills building.

Pre-conference events include a session on grassroots lobbying and a labor film festival. There will also be branch and International Vice-Presiden
tial district meetings as well.

“2014 is shaping up to be a very important year in the fight for workers’ and women’s rights,” said Civic and Community Engagement Director Carolyn Williams. “The conference is great opportun
ty to show how women members can become more involved—at our workplace, union hall and community.”

All locals from across the IBEW in the United States and Canada are encour
ged to participate.

Local unions may register delegates for the conference online through “Local Connections” at https://secure.ibew.org. Registration is $75, for questions or additional information, call the Civic and Community Engagement Department at (202) 728-6204 or CivicCommEngage@ibew.org.
The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Chairman Pierson, on Monday, February 3, 2014, in Naples, Florida. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Riley, Walter, Lavin, Smith and Gabrath.

International President

International President Edward 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-Chiala

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

Legal Defense

The budget for 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, for the period January 1, 2014, to February 28, 2014, were read and approved.

Presented to the Council for consideration were reports submitted to the International Executive Council in accordance with the provisions of the IBEW Constitution.

Resolution Respecting Expenditure Authorization Under the Canada Act

A motion was made by Ross Galbraith, Eighth District International Executive Council, and the members of the council unanimously approved the resolution respecting expenditure authorization under the Canada Act. The Canada Act requires a group, including trade union, to register with Elections Canada if it exceeds $50 or more in election advertising expenses as defined by the Canada Act. Elections. This resolution is required to register with Elections Canada in accordance with the Canada Act.

Charges Filed with the International Council Against John Pryor, Retired Member of Local Union 38

On September 16, 2013, Brother James F. Embrescia, a business representative of Local Union 58 preferred charges against John W. Pryor, Card Number #67084, a retired member of Local Union 38, presently receiving IBEW Pension Benefits, allegedly violating Article XI, Section 11, of the IBEW Constitution.

After a thorough review of the facts presented in this case, the members of the executive council found Brother Pryor guilty as charged. The executive council has suspended Brother Pryor’s IBEW Pension Benefits for six months. In addition, Brother Pryor is ordered to pay retroactive Per Capita tax for the months he re-applies and is approved for pension.

IBEW Pension Fund Benefit Consolidated Statement of Net Assets, Financial Statements ending December 31, 2013

Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet

Financial Statements ending December 31, 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, City 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 other hand, the IBEW is not involved in any disputes arising under Article XXI of 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 Vice President

Ted C. Jensen, International Vice President, IBEW Eighth District Effective—March 1, 2014

Retirement of International Representative

Francis Maito, International Representative, IBEW Ninth District Effective—March 1, 2014

Retirement of International Office Employees

Jobeth Brown, Accounting Department Effective—April 7, 2014

The regular meeting was adjourned on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 12:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavan, Secretary

February 2014
**LOCAL LINES**

**Trades March in Unity**

L.U. 6 (LCSTk), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—San Francisco's 16th annual St. Patrick's Day parade was second to none. Hats off to our members who contributed their time and effort to create a float with that much character.

With the use of a pipe bender and math skills, our volunteers created beautiful shamrocks and leters to complete our float. The St. Patrick's Day parade has been a means of organizing against injustice and fighting for better conditions for working people. It has always been a great meeting place for workers from all the trades to gather and march in unity. Erin go Bragh!

Tom O'Rourke, A.B.M.

**IBEW Midwest Softball Tourney**

L.U. 8 (as,em,lnmar,mt,ts,&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Hello, brothers and sisters. As analysts continue to acknowledge our graduating apprentices from 2013.

**Promote Union Message**

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE—Many thanks to the Entertainment Committee and all who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt. Although it is a lot of work to gather the supplies, stuff thousands of eggs, make the arrangements and maintain a semblance of order with 100+ children and adults, their enjoyment makes it all worthwhile.

The Political Action Committee has been very active with a spring cornhole tournament and their annual golf scramble. These events, along with the pre-meeting cookouts, allow the local to raise funds to promote the union's message and help elect like-minded candidates. During this midterm election year, it would be advantageous to all working people if Indiana's anti-labor super majorities could be brought into balance.

Thanks to Rick Koressel for giving his time to attend the IBEW's school for election judges. The local's election is its opportunity to form one voice that will be heard, to decide the tone it will take with the contractors and the community, and to chart the future course for the membership. It is imperative that everyone accepts the responsibility to participate and support the Brotherhood.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

**Local 12 Bus. Mgr. Dean Grinstead (left), 55-year-pin recipient Chuck Trent, Main Electric contractor; Local 12 Pres. Kelly McGlamery; and Int. Rep. Guy Runco.**

**Anniversary & Awards Banquet**

L.U. 12 (Loc&es), PUEBLO, CO—We held our 114th Anniversary Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Feb. 22 and had a good turnout. We awarded service pins, and we had 11 new retirees who received watches. We also acknowledged our graduating apprentices from 2013. We hope the new apprentices enjoy a long and fulfilling career. We wish the retirees a long and well-deserved retirement and Congratulations to all.

At this writing, the work picture is still pretty slow since the few big jobs have ended in our area. We hope the warmer weather brings an improved work picture.

Susan J. Johnson, P.S.

**IBEW Presence in Nebraska—Work Outlook Is Strong**

L.U. 22 (Lrt&spa), OMAHA, NE—IBEW Local 22 has started a joint venture with fellow Nebraska IBEW Local 265 in an effort to expand the IBEW presence in outstate Nebraska. A new Greater Nebraska Collective Bargaining Agreement has been created that merges counties in Local 22’s Area B, with 50 Local 265 counties. The agreement creates a new Labor Management Cooperation Committee and Apprenticeship Trust and will have its own joint negotiations for contracts and wage packages. The IBEW presence in greater Nebraska is growing. This new agreement gives the IBEW members in that area their own identity and offers increased flexibility for contractors seeking work opportunities across the state.

At this writing, we are fortunate to have a lot of work in our area. We have more electricians currently working in our local than ever before. More than 2,000 inside wiremen are working, plus our residential and low voltage technicians. The Council Bluffs facility-South project accounts for a little under half of our currently employed manpower, and continues to grow. This project is designated a Code of Excellence Project. The work outlook for the jurisdiction looks good for the foreseeable future. We are working closely with general contractors and builders in the area to stay on top of projects as they emerge.

Chris Bayer, P.S.

**AFL-CIO/Building Trades Rally**

L.U. 24 (es,&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—Thank you to all the members who braved the cold on March 24 to attend the AFL-CIO/Building Trades rally in Annapolis. Congratulations to Dave Springfield, who won the March 29 run-off election for the fifth seat on the Executive Board. Thank you to all members who exercised their right to vote.

At this writing the weather seems to be breaking and, hopefully work will break as well.

The annual picnic is scheduled for Aug. 10 at Conrad’s Ruth Villa. I hope to see you there. Have an enjoyable and safe summer.

Gary R. Griffin, B.M.

**Fundraisers a Great Success**

L.U. 26 (es,es,es,gov,j&lm), WASHINGTON, D.C—Thanks to everyone who participated in the Poker Run for Special Love on May 3 and our Dollars Against Diabetes Golf Outing on June 2. These events were a huge success and we were able to make a generous donation to both of these worthy causes.

Also, local union officers and agents have been extremely busy. The Minority Coalition recently held its Annual Black History Month Luncheon; we attended the IBEW Construction Conference and the National Building Trades Conference downtown; and we attended the JATC graduation. Also, we have finalized plans for the Manassas, VA, picnic on June 21 and the Edgewater, MD, picnic on Aug. 2.

At this writing we are announcing the announcement of scholarship winners for this year. A total of 18 applications were submitted.

We mourn the loss of members who passed away since our previous article: Joseph F. Massey Jr., James M. Grof, Kenneth L. McCludy, Robert O. Hardesty, Charles E. Graham, B.M.

**Big Projects Coming Our Way**

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Our work outlook continues to improve because of several big projects coming our way. At the time of this writing, the new American Greetings building in Westlake has just gone out to bid for its $2 million electrical package. Work is scheduled to begin fall this year.

Construction has started on the new 600-room Hilton Hotel next to the convention center. Lake Erie Electric will be on-site soon.

Gateway Electric was awarded the site work for Phase 2, East Bank Flats, which recently broke ground. This phase includes 250 apartments, seven restaurants and music venues, a new office building.
and a new boardwalk along the Cuyahoga River. The accompanying photo shows a Local 36 crew on the jobite at the Maple Park Apartment project located in Maple Heights. This project is a three-story, 44-unit senior living residence being wired by Gateway Electric.

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

2014 Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 42 (cat.evm.gov,jltd&b), HARTFORD, CT—Local 42 held its Annual Dinner Dance & Apprenticeship Graduation on Saturday, April 26, at the Marriott Hartford Downtown. We congratulate all the Local 42 apprentices who graduated. The new journeyman linemen members are: Jesse Belanger, Michael Chemeka, Shera Ezzy, Gary Guyette, Michael Johnson, Justin Martin, Christopher Munday, Jacob Percy, David Williams, Andre Brown, Bronson Dean, William Fisher, Thomas Hoeffe, Michael Jurvaty, Gregory McNamee, Robert Oleksak and Frederick Sharpe Jr.

Reminder: dates for upcoming 2014 union functions are as follows. The Dinner Cruise is June 14; the Chartered Fishing Trip is July 12; the “B” Member Picnic is July 26; the “A” Member Picnic is Aug. 23; and the Fall Fishing Trip is Sept. 27.

Congratulations once again to our graduates. It truly is an honor to become a journeyman lineman. Most importantly, remember to always work hard and be safe out there.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

100th Anniversary Party & Political Education Meetings

L.U. 58 (em,tb,spak), DETROIT, MI—Local 58 wishes to thank Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson, Brian Baker, senior executive assistant to the International President and the International Secretary-Treasurer; and the many other distinguished guests for attending our local’s 100th Anniversary Party. This event could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of our great volunteer members. Copies of “100 Years of Brotherhoodhood” are for sale at the union hall. Don’t miss out on the chance to own this piece of Local 58 history.

We have been holding monthly political education meetings at the Port Huron Labor Temple. These are necessary to help facilitate educated political conversations with our members, families and friends. Michigan faces an uphill battle against the anti-labor movement. We will need as much help as we can get to return our state to the forefront of the labor movement. Our goal is to help members become comfortable talking to others about the issues that affect our communities. Being a part of the labor movement gives us a perspective that many others are unfamiliar with. Get involved. Stay involved. Fight back with PAC.

Andy E. Dunbar, Pres.

‘Calls Reach Book II Daily’

L.U. 68 (l), DENVER, CO—Greetings, brothers and sisters. Local 68 is still seeing calls reach Book II daily. Not much overtime showing up but if you are thinking about thinking about seeing Colorado, come by and check in with the dispatch office; or if you haven’t decided to visit yet, call our dispatcher at 303-297-0229 to check the call status.

Organizing efforts are going well for us, but we can still use apprentice applicants as well as CE/CW prospects. Anyone interested can call the DEATC at 303-955-1903 or Local 68 at 303-297-0229.

On March 15, Local 68’s WOF (Wagner’s Brotherhood Fund) bowling tournament was a great success. With a sellout crowd, more than $1,000 was raised to benefit sick and injured members, as well as Widows & Orphans at Christmas time. Everyone had a great time and brotherhood was in the house.

A political season is here again. We must get labor friendly politicians in office to promote jobs and fair wages. Please help out with election efforts at your local level and “Get Out to Vote.”

Stay safe out there and take care of your fellow members.

Jack Coox, Pres.

Work Picture Picking Up

L.U. 80 (l&b), NORFOLK, VA—Local 80 congratulates the brothers who retired in the last year. Bros. Thomas Bosiu, Edward Feebee, Glenn Fleming, Mark Fraizer Sr., Donald Jones, Lee Norton, Jon Traxler Jr., Cornelius Turner and William Wessels all put their tools down for the final time in 2013. Thank you for all your years of service in the local and enjoy your retirement, brothers.

Mark your calendars: On Aug. 16, our Annual Summer Picnic will be held at the Westminster Eks.

Stay safe out there and take care of your fellow members.

We extend deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased brothers: Edmund T. Harden, John R. Goldsworth, James H. Williams and Roger Keaton.

Several

Solar Energy Projects

L.U. 96 (l), WORCESTER, MA—Congratulations to Ekaterina “Kat” Pashevkikh, Local 96 journeyman electrician, for making it to the 2014 Winter Olympics Games in Sochi, Russia. Becoming a part of the Russian Women’s Olympic hockey team takes hard work and dedication and is a great accomplishment. Your participation. A steady flow of members and politicians streamed through our union hall including: the mayor, the speaker of the Illinois House, the Cook County Board president, various aldermen and local township office holders. These politicians know that Local 134 will get out the vote. The always entertaining dancers of the Dillon-Gavin School of Irish Dancing and the Shan- non Rivers marching band kept the mood festive.

Our local’s first ever “State of the Union” event was held Saturday, March 29. Nearly 1,000 members attended to hear the message of where we have been, where we are, and more importantly where we plan on going together in the future. The floor was then opened for discussions on comments and concerns. Overall, this was a very positive endeavor and favorable to the membership.

Also, it is projected that the City of Chicago will be releasing close to 30 permits for construction cranes this year. Here’s hoping that this turns out to be a very good sign of things to come for the entire area.

Frank Cunningham, B.R.

Union Solidarity & Pride

L.U. 124 (es,em,lm,mar,ts,se,spak), KANSAS CITY, MO—Local 124’s work outlook is good. We expect to stay busy in our local through the summer.

Organized labor is under attack from the right-wing ideologies elected to represent us. The “right-to-work” threat brought out organized labor for a rally on our Statehouse lawn. This was an incredible show of force by an estimated 2,000 people from all across Missouri. We heard inspiring speeches from the governor, state representatives including two IBEW members, and other speakers. This show of solidarity will make all members proud to be union. Thanks to all who participated.


Congratulations to recently retired members: Scott F. Bryant, Samuel T. Kelly, Kevin Kissinger, Steven W. Miller, Gerald L. Tilgh and Jerry S. Weimer.

Steve Morales, P.S.

Support for Proposed Plant & Power for Summer Festivities

L.U. 116 (es,lt,spak), DECATUR, IL—Congratulations to Galen Garrett, Rich Underwood, Dave Robinson, Kelly Robinson and Danny Weatherford on their recent retirement.

Several happenings are going on at Local 116. At press time, negotiations were ongoing for the inside agreement and the residential agreement, with an expiration date of May 31, 2014, for the current agreements.

We graduated apprentices on May 17. Congratulations to the graduates on their successful completion of apprenticeship training.

Several members and officers traveled to Champaign, IL, to show support for construction of a proposed $1.2 billion Cranus Fiberizer Plant in the region. It’s good to report that a related water agreement was passed by a district board and the Cranus project is still progressing.

We will once again be powering the party at the Decatur Celebration and the Macoupin County Fair this summer.

The work picture is still slow in the local; we are thankful for the sister locals that are able to put some of our members to work.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

Upcoming Events

L.U. 150 (es,lt,spak), WAUKEGAN, IL—Plans are proceeding nicely for the 100th anniversary banquet for Local 150. By now the icebreaker at the Lake County Fair Grounds has already been held and we are thankful for the sister locals that are able to put some of our members to work.

L.U. 150 (es,lt,spak), WAUKEGAN, IL—Plans are proceeding nicely for the 100th anniversary banquet for Local 150. By now the icebreaker at the Lake County Fair Grounds has already been held and we are thankful for the sister locals that are able to put some of our members to work.

We have been holding monthly political education meetings at the Port Huron Labor Temple. These are necessary to help facilitate educated political conversations with our members, families and friends. Michigan faces an uphill battle against the anti-labor movement. We will need as much help as we can get to return our state to the forefront of the labor movement. Our goal is to help members become comfortable talking to others about the issues that affect our communities. Being a part of the labor movement gives us a perspective that many others are unfamiliar with. Get involved. Stay involved. Fight back with PAC.

Andy E. Dunbar, Pres.

Solar Array Installed for Green Bay Boys & Girls Club

L.U. 538 (UI,em,mrt,spak), GREEN BAY, WI—The month of March was very rewarding for Local 538. At the IWBEW Construction and Maintenance Conference in Washington, D.C., in early March, our very own Marsha Rebek received the Hour Power (journeyman Mentor of the Year award. It was thrilling to see her receive this award and watch the video featuring her that was shown. She gave a moving acceptance speech and represented our local to the highest degree.

Also in March, our local received the 2014 AFI-

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Frank Cunningham, B.R.

WWW.IBEW.ORG
Strong Work Picture
L.U. 222 (Orlando, FL)—The work picture in Local 222 has been very good, and we are working quite a few travelers as of press time. We thank those brothers and sisters for coming down and helping out. As you read this, we are getting ready for the summer season. Please remember to work safe, everybody, and watch out for your pole-buddy and crew.

The 2014 meeting of Southeast LAMPAC (Labor and Management Public Affairs Committee) will be held in Florida in September. AAMPIC Executive Director Joseph S. Davis also serves as SE LAMPAC vice president and co-chair. Local 222 looks forward to the opportunity to help sponsor the meeting in our area and have a great summer!

Community Service Volunteers
L.U. 236 (Catskills, NY)—This spring, our Tri-City JATC Class of 2014 put down their books and pencils, left the classroom and spent three days volunteering on a project that we hope will make the lives of families with seriously ill children just a little bit easier. The Ronald McDonald House of the Capital Region—which provides rooms and meals for families with children who are being treated at nearby hospitals—recently acquired a home next to its original home in Albany, NY. This newly acquired home was totally gutted, and our fifth-year apprenticeship class installed a new 400-amp service and completely rewired the house. When completed, the home will provide an additional 10 rooms and a larger kitchen area to the existing 16 rooms, which are at full capacity most of the time.

The original Albany Ronald McDonald House, when renovated in the 1980s, was also wired by volunteers from our local union. It is great to see our members still giving back to the community! Thank you to Schenectady Hardware and Electric; JATC Director Rick Cataldo; JATC Instructors Sal Genovesi and Bob Fitzgerald, and the entire fifth-year apprenticeship class for all their hard work!

Eric Patrick, B.M.

Standing in Solidarity
L.U. 292 (Iowa City, IA)—MINNEAPOLIS, MN—During our IBEW Day on the Hill, members met with their state representatives and rallied in support of a responsible contractor bill, helping to move it out of committee.

“We are the Community” — Introducing the IBEW
L.U. 302 (Ithaca, NY), MARTINEZ, CA—We need to introduce our union to our community!

“We are a diverse, multicultural, well-trained—and continually trained—workforce. We are men, women, young and old. We are educated. Many are veterans. We build America’s future. We make buildings and manufacturing facilities out of steel and concrete. And when it rains, we get wet. When it is hot, we sweat. When it freezes, we shiver.

“We know our job so well that we are not just installers; we are often also on the front lines in quality control. In return, we demand a living wage, a family health plan, and safe working conditions. That makes us a productive tax-paying asset rather than a burden.

“We are local! Some large companies siphon capital away from a community. Not us. We live in the community. Not us. We live in the community. Not us. We live in the community. Not us. We live in the community.

“We live in the community. Not us. We live in the community. Not us. We live in the community. Not us. We live in the community.

“We are the Community.”

Carl Modsen, B.R.
We bring a lot to our cities and counties—and to America. Brothers and sisters, when you speak with your neighbor or local grocer, tell them what you do. I want them to know what a wireman looks like.

Bob Liley, P.S.

Important Election Year

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—By now the snow has finally melted and with the arrival of spring we hope the work outlook will have warmed up. Local 306 thanks the surrounding Ohio and Pennsylvania locals for the work opportunities during our slow season.

One thing that is heating up in Ohio is the upcoming election. If we are to fight the threat of job opportunities during our slow season.

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Around the same time. With that foresight, our Stew- ated large construction projects breaking ground knew the recession would one day end. We also knew years ago with the economy barely limping along, we do to us with SB-5. And if re-elected we know he will term. We in Ohio have not forgotten what he tried to Gov. John Kasich from being re-elected to a second work opportunities during our slow season.

L.U. 304 (i,ts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Our local recently held a Member to Member class conducted by IBEW Int. Reps. Tracy Prezegue and Craig Boyd along with IBEW State Organizing Coordinator Henry “Hank” Lewis. (See photo, above.)

Promoting union morale and volunteerism among IBEW members is a major focus of Member to Member classes. This was my first introduction to the class and as I sat there with 20 other IBEW Member- Development Volunteer Committee members, it hit me that this is exactly what Local 304 (and maybe other locals) need right now—members talking to other members in a positive way. For me, the class drove home the fact that even when the work picture slows down, we don’t have to be down! We can still show our union spirit and IBEW pride by staying involved in union events and in the communities where we live. It is good to promote our IBEW local union and let the public know we’re here to stay.

Part of this Member to Member class was for us to go knock on the doors of other brothers and sisters to both share ideas and hear their concerns. We dis- tributed a list of the many opportunities available to members who want to increase their participation with the local. I am happy to report that, as a result of the March 2014 Member to Member class, member involvement has definitely increased.

Tom Okumura, B.M./F.S.

Member to Member’ Class

L.U. 306 (i,ts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Our local recently held a Member to Member class conducted by IBEW Int. Reps. Tracy Prezegue and Craig Boyd along with IBEW State Organizing Coordinator Henry “Hank” Lewis. (See photo, above.)

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Tom Okumura, B.M./F.S.

Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 354 (i,ts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Local 354 held a graduation banquet for the 94 recent apprentice graduates. Congratulations to the new journeymen and to our new communication technicians.


The new communication technicians are: Tris- tan Bond, J.C. Flores, Tyler Janiszewski, Vincent Luce- ro and Shane Nielson.

Jeb Bruce, P.S.

L.U. 354 (i,ts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Local 354 held a graduation banquet for the 94 recent apprentice graduates. Congratulations to the new journeymen and to our new communication technicians.


The new communication technicians are: Tris- tran Bond, J.C. Flores, Tyler Janiszewski, Vincent Luce- ro and Shane Nielson.

Jeb Bruce, P.S.

Young Workers Group

L.U. 440 (i,ts&spa), RIVERSIDE, CA—At last year’s Ninth District Progress Meeting, all locals in atten- dance had one or more delegates present to repre- sent the new and upcoming generation of IBEW work- ers, union activists and labor leaders.

It was requested that on their return home, locals establish a Young Workers Group of members ages 18 to 35.

Here in River- side County, we established such a group and our mem- bership is enthusi- astic to help make the YWG successful. We elected a chair- man, co-chairman and recording secretary. We established a mission statement: “We will build on the optimism and energy of our younger brothers and sisters, to influence excellence within our craft and promote positive involvement within our community, in order to secure a brighter future for our Brotherhood.” We are finaliz- ing our logo for stickers and shirts. Group members agreed to monitor city councils, planning commis- sions and school boards.

YWG meetings are held at 4 p.m. the same day as our general membership meeting. Meetings are agenda based and goal oriented and will not run past 5:30 p.m.

Group members volunteer in their communities. They are leading the way in making the IBEW pres- ence known. Local 440 allows members of all ages to participate in our “Young Workers Group.” We wel- come any and all to help foster brotherhood and camaraderie—and to promote IBEW Local 440 as a positive community group.

Bernie J. Balland, Mbr. Dev.

‘Bringing the Union to You’

L.U. 494 (xmltrits,spa), MILWAUKEE, WI—It isn’t every day that a business manager and several business representatives visit a jobsite to say “thanks” and update members on recent efforts. Local 494 made the decision to start bringing infor- mation shared at the union meetings directly to the membership.

“Realize our members are busy at work and in life, so to keep them informed I felt I needed to go to them,” said Bus. Mgr. John Badzawka.

So far the officers have visited three projects and updated more than 70 members on the union’s current and future efforts, but at the same time growing their relationship with the contractors.

Badzawka is aware of what the officers’ presence means to members, and the jobsite visits also help to stay ahead of potential problems. Sixth District Int. Rep. Terry Roovers also attended one of the jobsite visits.

“The [union’s] future leadership as well as the entire union construction industry should take note of 494’s efforts,” Roovers said. “Seeing firsthand how important it is for members to have direct union lead- ership contact on the jobsite is paramount.”

The goals are simple: Connect with contractors, show members and contractors support by touring jobsites, thank members for their hard work, and inform them of important union information.

John Badzawka, B.M./F.S.

A Day of Remembrance

L.U. 530 (I,ts&spa), SARINA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Once again, Local 530 participated in the International Day of Mourning on April 28 at Centennial Park. This is an important day, as it is to remember all workers who have died on the job or through occupational illness.

While we still have many members unemployed at the time of this writing, we would like to thank Local 1687 (Sudbury), Local 105 (Hamilton) and Local 244 (Edmonton) for helping our members with jobs.

Local 530 is saddened to report the recent passing of Bro. Ron Best.

Al Byers, P.S.

Stewardship Committee— Participation Strengthens 332

Local 332 (Lees,Jk&ta), SAN JOSE, CA—About three years ago with the economy barely limping along, we knew the recession would one day end. We also knew a re-energized economy could mean a huge backlog of large construction projects breaking ground around the same time. With that foresight, our Stew- ardship Committee was formed to meet the coming challenge of on-site contract protection.

Now the large jobs are in progress and on the near horizon; the training and discussion in the Stewardship Committee are showing results. We have a pool of mem-
**A Legacy of Service—Former Apprenticeship Director**

L.U. 558 (cat,v,mt,osp,aw,ctv,ctt,atr,spa,ks), SHEFFIELD, AL—Greetings, brothers and sisters. At Local 558, we are in the final stages of our annual spring outage at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant as of this writing. We had a very successful outage and anxiously await the fall outage scheduled for this year. Work has been steady throughout the jurisdiction for the first quarter of 2014. It appears that 2014 will be a busy year with several projects in the making.

We wish to recognize the late Bro. William B. "Mickey" McGuire Jr., who passed away on Feb. 4, at the age of 91.

A World War II veteran, Bro. McGuire formerly served as Local 558 assistant business manager and as south regional director of NECA. Most notably, Bro. McGuire was our first apprenticeship director at Local 558. He was obligated by IBEW Local 558 on Jan. 18, 1946. Bro. McGuire faithfully served this great union for 68 years. His efforts and dedication have had a long-term impact on the lives of many. He deserves recognition and will be greatly missed by all of us.

James Thompson, P.S.

**IBEW Community Service**

L.U. 666 (l,mt), RICHMOND, VA—There has been a systematic campaign for decades to portray unions and union members in a bad light. Some people may forget that we are simply their neighbors and community members who simply want a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

The labor liaison to the United Way is gathering stories of union members in central Virginia who give back to their community. So many good things we do escape notice. Please call me at the hall if you are active in our community and tell me what you do.

We are looking for the stories of members who coach Little League, participate with the PTA, volunteer for scouting, etc.


Charles Skelly, P.S.

**Negotiations Underway**

L.U. 570 (Una,spa), TUCSON, AZ—Local 570's work picture is still slow for the inside group. Fortunately, some of our members have had the chance to work in outlying areas of the jurisdiction on mine projects at Freepoint McMoRan in Morenci, AZ. Others have traveled just northwest on I-10 to work out of Local 640 on the Cascade project in Mesa, AZ.

In the hope of more jobs, Local 570 has continued our support for the Rosemont Mine, proposed to be built southeast of Tucson.

As for our unit members, we have ratified the contract with the San Carlos Irrigation Project and are in negotiations with Exelon and ASARCO.

Scott W. Todt, Pres./Org.

**Local 570 Bro. Jay Kruger, Sikeston Unit chair, wins a Union Sportsman Alliance gun giveaway prize.**

**Looking Toward Summer**

L.U. 629 (l,mt,spa), BAY CITY, MI—Our members are starting their Code Update classes. Paul LeVassure, apprenticeship director/instructor, is conducting these classes for our members. We appreciate his taking time to do this for our membership.

We had a cold and snowy winter season in Michigan. It was a good winter for the great outdoor winter sports of Michigan. We thank our members who kept the jobs going, working with steadfast endurance through the very cold and snowy winter.

Let us all be ready to take some time to volunteer during this midterm election year. It is so important for all of us to be involved.

We are sad to report the passing of retired Bro. Gerhardt O. "Gary" Behm-lander and retired Bro. John "Clem" Johnroe. Our sympathy and prayers are with their families.

We thank our military men and women for serving and sacrificing for our great country! God bless America!

Be involved in our country and our union!

Tammy Gottliebe, P.S.

**Summer Construction Season**

L.U. 704 (cat,mt,ks), DUBUQUE, IA—After a long and brutal winter in the Midwest, Local 704 members welcome the change of seasons.

Thanks to all of our traveling brothers who worked with us on the Bentech Fertilizer Plant located in East Dubuque, IL. During this major expansion, it was great to know that when the need arose, we had IBEW brothers willing to travel in and assist in filling the calls.

We are proud to announce our recent apprenticeship graduates: Bros. Scott Diddesch, Mitch Haufe, Craig Marx and Tyler Kennedy. Congratulations on successfully completing this five-year commitment, brothers. It may seem like a long process when you are just a first-year apprentice, but now as you join the ranks of journeyman weirey you appreciate the accomplishments you have achieved. We wish you a long, fruitful career with the IBEW.

Local 704 also wishes to acknowledge the lifelong accomplishment of a group of journeymen who recently retired: Bros. Tom Ellwanger, Bob Wirzbach, Dave Meyers, Dan Dolter and Rick Ackley. It has been my pleasure to work alongside these brothers. Congratulations, gentlemen, and thank you for your longstanding dedicated service in the electrical industry.

Our local is on the second year of a three-year agreement. With no negotiations scheduled, we can concentrate on current projects and focus on keeping all our members actively employed.

Ron Heitzman, P.S.

**Line Clearance Agreements**

L.U. 702 (aw,cat,mt,es,et,govt,l,ctt,at,mpo,petl,ptb,ttv,sta,spa,at,ks), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—In February, we received a favorable decision from the Council on Industrial Relations (CRI) in Washington, D.C., for our Line Clearance Agreements covering Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The three-year agreements include a 3 percent wage increase each year of the agreement; meal stipends increased from $12 to $15; and an additional 25 cents for any Lineman increase during the three-year term.

**JACT Apprentice Graduates**

L.U. 776 (l,fs,spa), CHARLESTON, SC—Congratulations to our newest journeyman inside wiremen: Michael Harding, Carter Moore, Corey Morris and Demond Taylor. Kudos to these JACT apprenticeship graduates for putting in the long years that it took to be the finest electricians hands down.

Chuck Moore, B.M./P.S.

**Steward Training Class**

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH—On Saturday, April 5, Local 1466 held a steward training class at the union hall in Columbus. We wish to thank everyone who took the time to attend. Your dedication to helping your brothers and sisters, and to creating a more fair and equitable workplace, is invaluable and will ultimately strengthen our local for the future. We also thank the International for helping to put the training together and make it a success.

For other news, for those who have not heard, American Electric Power’s wage offer of a 2.5 percent increase has passed. This offer was approved by the members of Local 1466, as well as a majority of locals on Utility System Council U-05. As usual, for our local, our raise will go into effect in July. Thank you to all who voted and made their voices known.

If this coming summer’s heat is anything like last year’s, it could get pretty brutal. Please continue to look out for one another and stay safe.

Jim Jette, P.S.

**Workers Memorial Day**

L.U. 2324 (l), SPRINGFIELD, MA—On April 25 and April 26, IBEW Local 2324 members attended two ceremonies for the annual Workers Memorial Day put on by The Western Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health. [See photo, below] Workers Memorial Day is the day we set aside to remember the many workers who were seriously injured or killed on their jobs and to commemorate the signing of the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1970. Along with members of the Berkshire Central Labor Council and the Pioneer Valley Labor Council, our members attended an organizing seminar and ceremonies for our fallen brothers and sisters. Always remember we must mourn for the dead and fight for the living.

Christine Cosino, Exec. Brd.
**RETIREES**

**Annual Barbecue a Success**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH FLORIDA CHapter—Our chapter held its annual barbecue at the Delray Beach South Civic Center on March 14 and many Local 3 retirees attended.

Our meetings feature informative talks by invited, primarily about retirement. Currently we are having lively discussions about employment and the new contract benefits; and questions are answered about other union benefits.

The chapter meets on the second Friday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Delray Beach South County Civic Center, from October to May. Many of our members are “snowbirds” and we welcome all Local 3 retirees to our affairs and meetings.

**Christmas/Hanukkah & Annual Barbecue a Success**

Numerous desserts. Stands and flags were given away as gifts. As we entered this impressive dining and adjoining cocktail room, the holiday decorations appeared, beautifully arranged. Representing our adjoining cocktail room, the holiday decorations were “snowbirds” and we welcome all Local 3 retirees to our affairs and meetings.

WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—On Dec. 17, 2013, we had inclement weather, 94 members and guests appeared, beautifully arranged. Representing our adjoining cocktail room, the holiday decorations were “snowbirds” and we welcome all Local 3 retirees to our affairs and meetings.

Eight members, who had reached the golden year at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick, RI. We had a feast of family style soup, pasta, chicken, pot roast and salad.

Thanks to Guest Speakers

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA—Club members wish to thank our guest speakers for the March meeting, Local 11 Asst. Bus. Mgrs. Kevin Norton and Kim Craft, who gave an outstanding report. Though we’re no longer working with the tools, old habits die hard. Information about current and future jobs still gets us excited. Well continue to root for our active brothers and sisters, in the hope that they will have many opportunities to provide for their families and build for a secure future and retirement! [See photo, at top.]

Congratulations to Local 11 members, the negotiating committee and staff on the ratification of a new five-year Inside wireman’s Agreement.

On the topic of Social Security: The Los Angeles Times recently published two informative articles by Pullitzer Prize-winning business columnist Michael A. Hiltzik. Pass the knowledge on to the youngsters who are interested/uninformed. The articles by Hiltzik are as follows:

1) On the Reality of Social Security, She Tells It Like It Isn’t,” LA Times, Wednesday, March 19, 2014. (Details false “facts” on Social Security.)
2) “Don’t Let Paul Ryan Near Your Money,” LA Times, Sunday, April 6, 2014. (Describes Ryan’s designs on Social Security’s trust fund.)

Remember to RSVP for the Retirees Club’s Summer Lunch, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at the ETI, on Wednesday, June 11.

Harvey “Buck” Bachand, Pres.

2014 Meeting Schedule

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 42, HARTFORD, CT—The Retirees Club wishes to invite anyone who’s 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, then stop in and join them.

Club meetings are held bimonthly on a Tuesday at Local 42’s hall, this year’s schedule is listed below. Annual dues are $12. The Retirees Club meeting starts at 9 a.m. They start the meeting by discussing upcoming business and upcoming events. That is followed by talking about old times and sharing funny stories while relaxing and enjoying coffee and donuts. The Retiree’s Club would love to have you join them. If you’re interested call us at (360) 647-7197.

The Retiree’s Club wishes to thank all the ladies in Local 42’s office for all their hard work and for making everyone feel welcome. They work very hard putting all the events together and making them enjoyable. The ladies of Local 42 greet everyone with a warm smile and are always ready to help attendees with whatever is needed.

Scheduled upcoming meetings for 2014 are as follows: May 20, July 15, Sept. 16 and Nov. 18. The December meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

**Spirit of Brotherhood**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX—Over the past nine months, the club shared some really great fun and laughter, along with some really good food.

We regret the passing of friends and together we honor their memory.

It is summer time, time for our summer break (for June, July and August) from monthly meetings. Communication among members will still go on; the practice of brotherhood does not take a break. The purpose of this club shall be to carry out “the spirit of the Brotherhood, to aid and assist each other as necessary, and to promote the Social, Economic, Health and Political Welfare of its members.” Membership consists of any Local 60 retired member or honorary member, and/or spouse or widow/widower. Please join us the second Thursday of each month, starting in September, 12 noon, Plumbers and Pipe-fitters training building, 3630 Belgium Lane.

At the time of this writing, the club’s second annual golf tournament fundraiser is almost upon us. The results will be published in our next retirees article in the September publication. We hope this golf tournament is just as successful as the first one, since the tournament is the club’s only source of funding. Have a fun and safe summer, everyone — from our family of retirees to yours.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

**Holiday Party & Service Pins**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI—The Local 99 Retirees Christmas Party was Dec. 17 last year at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick, RI. We had a feast of family style soup, pasta, chicken, pot roast and salad.

Retirees Club Pres. Robert Pieri reminded us of brothers who passed away in 2013 and led a moment of silence in tribute.


We thank Bus. Mgr. Daley and Local 99 for their support in keeping our Retirees Club active. All the retirees of Local 99 wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2014.

Frank J. Colucci, P.S.

**Summer Month Meetings**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 113, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—At this time we are anxiously awaiting spring, after what seemed an unseasonably cold winter. Those of us who have lived very long in the Rocky Mountain region know that Mother Nature plays mind games with us during this season, 72 degrees one day, followed in a couple of days with yet another winter storm warning.

Some in our group were fortunate enough to enjoy the warmth of the Sonoran Desert for part of the winter, where they met for an “unofficial” retirees’ luncheon followed by a boat cruise on Saguaro Lake near Mesa, AZ.

Official business at home included nomination of officers for our club. Election results will follow in our next article.

Our Bro. Jim Polders has suffered a setback in his recovery from an accident of last fall. Please continue to remember him in your prayers as he fights to regain his health and mobility. He enjoys visitors. Please call the hall for his current location.

Remember, our monthly meetings continue through the summer months at 11:30 a.m. on the second Friday of the month. Meeting location is the Country Buffet at the Citrus Crossing shopping center.

Bill Campbell, P.S.

**Club Activities**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—On March 17, we had our monthly bus trip to the Silver Slipper Casino in Bay St. Louis, MS. We enjoyed coffee and donuts in the Alexander room before we loaded the bus. Everyone had a wonderful time, especially those who had the pleasure of winning.

Our quarterly meeting was March 24 and was catered by Hobnobbers Cafe. We had 48 retired members in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the meatball and spaghetti, with plenty of extra to take home. At the time of this early spring writing we were making preparations for our annual crawfish boil scheduled for May 22, 2014.
With deep regret we report the recent loss of several brothers: Frank I. Bauer, LeeRoy J. Breaux, Sebastian J. Guererra, Seymour J. Hirsch, Walter A. Johnson, Anthony V. Lamont, and Malcolm J. Rauquert and Junius Tate. May their souls rest in peace!

Until our next meeting, God bless America.

George Clesi, Pres.

Board Members Elected

RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 154, CHICAGO, Ill.—On March 22, we had nominations and elections of Local 213. Retirees Club officers; we also had a delicious catered luncheon. [See photo, at top left.] Unfortunately the weather was cold and snowy in Chicago that day and the turnout was approximately 50 members. We had plenty of extra food attendees could take home. On June 11 we will celebrate and honor all of our members who have 50-, 55-, 60-, 65-, and 70+ years of service. All members, if able, should attend; it will be a good opportunity to have a great time with members you may have lost touch with.

Let’s give a big thank-you to all the newly elected board members, who will serve and enhance our Retirees Club. Our new board members are: Pres. Mario Coletta, Vice Pres. Jim Fliris, Rich Connolly, Kevin Gibbons, and Jim Jennings.

Come to the meetings and remember: There are no strangers at Local 134, only friends you haven’t yet met! We welcome all Local 213 retirees. To join the club, call Mario Coletta at (773) 736-1480. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the union hall, 600 W. Washington Street. Noon to 1 p.m. is “greet & meet” time, and the regular meeting contin-ues until 2:30 p.m.

‘Rest in Peace, Brothers’

RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 257, CINCINNATI, OH—With deepest sorrow I report the passing of several members: William Day, IBEW member for 67 years; Phil Allen, a member for 65 years; Cecil Dickey, 53 years; Joseph Wolter, 44 years; Joseph Scott, 44 years; and Frank Frondorf, 33 years. Rest in peace, dear friends.

Welcome to new club members: Dale Brunner, Denny Dickerson, Jim Amend and Tom Babel.

A 212 Historical Committee has been formed, with a focus on honoring deceased members from throughout our local’s 113-year history. The goal is to create a permanent Wall of Honor with accurate information on each departed member, such as initiation date, date of death and years of service. Members making significant contributions—such as charter members, and those with long-time IBEW membership or military service, etc.—will also be recognized. Preliminary research has identified approximately 1,000 departed members from 1941 to the present; members from 1931 to 1940 are yet to be identified. Help is always welcome. We have boxes of photos to be identified, records and minutes to be researched, and artifacts to be cleaned. This information will eventually be displayed throughout the union hall.

The Retirees Club Picnic will be July 2 at Fernbank Park. The Local 212 Annual Family Picnic will be some time in August at Stricker’s Grove.

Bob Schoefer, P.S.

Monthly Luncheon Meetings

RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO—Although our winter season was very cold, the Retirees Club was able to have all of its monthly luncheons/meet- ings. Our Christmas luncheon was again hosted by Local 257, and we appreciated their doing this for us. Instead of exchanging gifts at our Christmas luncheon, a collection was taken with the proceeds sent to the St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. Our monthly luncheon/meetings for January, February, March and April were held at the Golden Corral, in Columbia, MO, the American Legion in Jefferson City, MO; the Knights of Columbus in Westphalia, MO; and the American Legion in Ashland, MO, respectively. [Photo, at bottom.] Although we took no trips over the winter, we do have a few in the planning stages for spring.

Volunteers again helped judge and grade the Skills USA Competition held at Linn State Technical College in April.

Many thanks to the warm Idaho spring weather.

Dawn Walsh and Mark Zaleski, from IBEW Local 291, attended the luncheon. Bus. Mgr. Zaleski reported that the local work is improving, but more work is necessary to bring home the traveling members.

Our lunches are the second Thursday of each month. Please feel welcome to join us if you are in the area. Contact the union hall for time and location.

Dave Wolff, Pres.

Service Awards Presentation

RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 270, OAK RIDGE, TN—Our latest meeting was combined with the December union meeting, and all members of Local 270 had refreshments and fellowship afterward. This combination of active members and retired members was a great success and everyone had fun. Years-of-service pins were presented to retired members who were celebrating 50 and 60 years of service. [Photo at right.] We invite all retirees to join us the next time we meet.

Regina Gay, P.S.

‘Welcome to Join Us’

RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 291, BOISE, ID—The March luncheon was held at The Great Wall Chinese restaurant in Meridian, with around 50 in attendance. We were patiently waiting, as of this writing, for the return migration of the snowbirds after the long cold winter. It is always a colorful and story filled event.

Club elections were held in January. Elected were: Pres. Dave Wolff, Vice Pres. Dave Barr and Sec- retary Janette Wolff. We extend a huge thank-you to Joe and Linda Sirani, who together held the position of president/secertary for the past four years. They will be a hard pair to follow.

We still have a few members who are in ill health and we continue to wish them well. The majority of the club members are well and looking forward to the warm Idaho spring weather.

Dawn Walsh and Mark Zaleski, from IBEW Local 291, attended the luncheon. Bus. Mgr. Zaleski reported that the local work is improving, but more work is necessary to bring home the traveling members.

Our luncheons are the second Thursday of each month. Please feel welcome to join us if you are in the area. Contact the union hall for time and location.

Dave Wolff, Pres.

Retirees Stay Involved

RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 306, AKRON, OH—Summer has finally returned and so have our “snowbirds.” But many of our retirees never leave and stay involved by helping with social and political events, volunteering their electrical knowledge and abilities for charitable causes, and staying active for the good of the union.

One such instance was the recent informational picket we set up on a nonunion project where we were joined by four of our retired officers (see photo, on Pg. 25). Thanks to these brothers and the many more who continue to give back to the IBEW long after they have retired from the trade.

The retirees wish to thank pension Bro. John Felber, who recently stepped down, for his many dedicated years as president of the Retirees Club. The retirees also wish to invite all Local 306 retirees to join their large group for a breakfast meeting at the Waterloo Restaurant on the third Friday of each month.

With deep sadness we report the passing of retired Bros. Marvin “Mickey” McHedron and Clifford Boggs. We send our condolences to their families.

Thomas Wright, Mbr. Dev.

Annual Pin Presentation

RETIREES CLUB OF L. U. 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—Our Retirees Club is enjoying its 29th year and wishes to welcome IBEW retirees from former Locals 894 (Oshawa) and 1799 (Barrie) as amalgamation is being finalized.
Local 306 retired members picket nonunion project. From left: George Manus (left), Bentley "Buzz" Hudson, Jim Betz and Vern Sayler.

This year, at our 41st Annual Pin Presentation Breakfast for members with 50 years of service or more, Local 353 will honour 58 members with pins. This brings Local 353 living pin recipients to more than 500 members.

We will present one 70-year pin (to Edwin Hoyle); eleven 65-year pins; eight 60-year pins; and fifty-five 50-year pins. Forty-eight 50-year members will receive pins and watches. Congratulations, brothers.

We will present one 70-year pin (to Edwin Hoyle); eleven 65-year pins; eight 60-year pins; and fifty-five 50-year pins. Forty-eight 50-year members will receive pins and watches. Congratulations, brothers.

At a Local 353 special called meeting in April, it was announced that both our pension plan and benefit plan performed well in 2013, and the votes gave comfort that Local 353 working members and retirees and their spouses will continue to enjoy pensions and health and welfare benefits. Thanks to TEIBAS (Toronto Electrical Industry Benefit Administrative Services) and our staff and Local 353 trustees.

The Local 353 Sports, Entertainment & Retirees Trust Fund also enjoyed some topping up through the benevolence of Mr. Fred Ponting, who donated $250.00.

We are now enjoying our summer hiatus, from June until October. Have a safe and healthy summer.

Robert Rynyk, P.S.

Retirees Spring Meeting

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 570, TUCSON, AZ—Retirees had the spring meeting in April before the summer break. See photo, at bottom left. We look forward to seeing many retirees at the meetings when they start back up Oct. 9. Have a safe and healthy summer.

Mark Gibson, Vice Chair

100th Anniversary Celebration

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—The Retirees Club, six years ago, took on a project of researching the history of Local 611 for its 100th anniversary. This involved searching through numerous minute books, IBEW archives, local records, library city directories and personal interviews from past members. The project paid off with the printing of a 100th anniversary book, and a wonderful 100th anniversary celebration.

To mark 100 years of service in New Mexico, on Feb. 17 the local held an open house display of local history dating from 1914 to the present; exhibits included tables set up to display plaques, charts, old IATC and agreement books, etc. Members and guests also enjoyed a video featuring almost 1,000 pictures from years past.

The actual celebration was Feb. 27 at the Isleta Fun Center and Hotel/Casino. The all-day family events included golf, fishing, bowling, billiards, laser tag and an arcade for all ages, along with plenty to eat. The celebration closed in the evening with a dinner/dance and free casino table games. The Isleta Hotel/Casino went all out to help make the occasion a success.

The 100th year anniversary celebration was a once-in-a-lifetime celebration! A special display case is being built to house the 100th year artifacts. Order the 100th anniversary book, read it and be proud to be an IBEW Local 611 member.

Tracy Hall, Pres.

Club’s 40th Anniversary Year

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 640, PHOENIX, AZ—This June is a special occasion for us “Golden Age Road Runners,” as we celebrate our 40th anniversary as an organization.

Through the benevolence of Mr. Fred Ponting, an electrical engineer and member of Local 640, a sum of money was donated to form and maintain a retirees group. This money was wisely invested and has helped sustain this changing group over the years. Fred has long since traveled to that “Big Bench” in the sky, but the Roadrunners continue to maintain a meeting post for Local 640 retirees.

We are now enjoying our summer hiatus, from June until October.

It was a good year for our club. We hosted some very interesting speakers at many of our meetings. We set up a booth at our union picnic in March, at which time a handmade rocking horse was donated and raffled off by our treasurer, Jim Weaver, for the benefit of the club. We also had our board member nomination meeting in March, and we held elections in April, along with a BBQ lunch. There will be some new smiling faces on the board when we reconvene in October.

It was a very good year!

Daryl Knopp, P.S.

2014 Retirees Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL—The 2014 Retirees Luncheon was Tuesday, April 22, at Rend Lake Resort Conference Center with approximately 180 in attendance. Local 702 Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughart opened with a welcome to all. He extended a thank-you to Jim Nolen, who retired as president of the Retirees Club, and introduced new club Pres. Gary King. (See photo, at right.)

The local office staff were introduced to the retirees and then Bus. Mgr. Hughart extended his appreciation to the members and their families for their continued dedication and loyalty to IBEW Local 702.

Retirees Club Pres. King read the names of those who departed in recent months and a moment of silence was held in their honor. Pres. King then encouraged all retired members to join the Retirees Club.

Door prize winners were: Loretta Deason (St. Louis Cardinals tickets, April 30 game); Alan Morgan and Bob Gott (Logan’s Roadhouse gift certificates); Howard Jarrells and Dave Clark (Cracker Barrel gift certificates); Steve Dailey and Martin Lee (Red Lobster gift certificates).

After a brief presentation by insurance representatives about post-retirement medical coverage, the luncheon was concluded.

To stay up on the latest Local 702 news and information, please visit us at www.ibewlocal702.org.

Mark Baker, P.S.

Luncheon Meetings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA—On March 2, the club held a lunch meeting at Drusilla Seafood. We had a good turnout and the food was super. At our regular meeting in April, we planned our June luncheon. This luncheon will include the wives and we all have to bring some type of dish. It will be held at the union hall on June 2 at 11:30 a.m. I hope to see all club members there.

W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.
members of IBEW’s manufacturing branch have survived and thrived, even in the face of the loss of 6 million U.S. manufacturing jobs over the past decade. This is no small achievement for workers like those workers at SPX Transformers in Waukesha, Wis., featured in this issue of The Electrical Worker.

Our members, our signatory contractors and employers in construction and utilities are often in the market for transformers, electrical components, tools and devices that our own manufacturing members produce. Too often, however, we have failed to make it easier for them to buy IBEW and buy union.

No more. Our new website www.ibewmade.com is live. The site allows purchasers to view products made by our members and review their specifications.

Please look to IBEW-Made first before ordering equipment. It’s part of union members looking out for each other. And it’s part of not giving up on the need to strengthen and grow our nation’s manufacturing sector, where too many bad trade deals and too many plant shutdowns have undermined our national economy.

While we continue to oppose trade deals like the Trans-Pacific partnership that have undermined our manufacturing base, we also know that a globalized economy is not going away. We need to build alliances with trade unionists overseas who are employed by the same corporations with whom we bargain at home.

That’s why we invited a representative of IG Metall, Germany’s largest metalworker’s union, along with representatives of the IUE-CWA to this year’s Broadcasting, Manufacturing and Telecom Conference. All of our unions represent members at Siemens, a global giant.

We pledged to work together to convince Siemens to stay neutral, rather than oppose organizing drives at their nonunion U.S. plants. And we traded notes with German unionists who have a major voice in their workplaces through workers’ councils.

We are putting all of our union’s resources behind supporting our manufacturing branch and reviving American manufacturing. We can start by buying IBEW-made products.

Messin’ With Texas

Corporate welfare takes many shapes, but few are as wasteful and counterproductive as state and local incentives to lure companies to relocate from another state.

The latest, but by no means the worst example, was Toyota North America’s April announcement that it was moving its headquarters to a suburb of Dallas. Texas Gov. Rick Perry said it was a combination of “employer-friendly” laws and $47 million in state and local incentives that lead to his state’s “victory.”

What do taxpayers get for their generosity? Some jobs will be lost in California, some will be gained in Texas, but even when construction jobs at the new sit are accounted for, economists have found that no new net jobs are created when companies move.

Last year, Toyota made $18 billion in profit, up 200 percent from five years ago. Profitable companies do not need this kind of money, but the people of Texas sure could use some help. According to the Texas Legislative Study Group’s 2013 report “Texas on the Brink,” the state ranks 40th in high school graduation rate and first in percentage of people without health insurance.

Creating jobs should be the No. 1 job of lawmakers, but strategies like Perry’s that focus on shuffling around jobs from other parts of the country using a race-to-the-bottom model is flat-out wrong.

Our communities don’t just need jobs—they need good jobs, the kind that give working people a solid spot in the middle class. Instead of spending money on TV ads and lobbyists to steal jobs from other states, Perry should be focusing on improving the jobs Texas already has.

Economists are in agreement that there is no evidence that tax breaks and subsidies create jobs or even influence where a company locates. But as you can read in this issue, investing in workers through training, good wages, benefits and a voice at work is a proven road to creating jobs and growing the middle class.
**State Lawmaker is Union Member First and Foremost**

Massachusetts State Rep. Paul Mark will tell you that climbing a telephone pole as a line technician comes first on his resume before “attorney” or “legislator.”

Without tuition reimbursement collectively bargained with his employer, Verizon, the member of Worcester, Mass., Local 2324, never would have been able to obtain five college degrees.

Without union members knocking on doors, Mark, age 32, might never have been elected to office in 2002 to represent an expansive district in the state’s northwest, encompassing 22 communities, rural and urban.

Without union roots, Mark might just have been another politician lacking the firsthand knowledge of the issues in his hearts and minds of his constituents, like proposing innovative ideas to make college more affordable. That’s one of his missions as the vice chairman of the Joint Committee on Higher Education.

His grandfather and father were union members. Young Paul had even worked bustling hotdogs at Fenway Park at age 16, paying dues to UNIT-E-HERE.

“Paul is a solid union man who went everywhere and anywhere when there was work to be done.”

– Bruce Lambert, a former Springfield, Mass., Local 2324 president

But it was on the picket line, six months after his hiring by newly-formed Verizon, where Mark says, “I learned why this union thing mattered.”

The company, formerly Bell Atlantic, was seeking major reductions in health insurance and pension benefits. Then 21 years old, he says he was inspired by “men and women older than me who were willing to go on strike and sacrifice everything they had to protect their health care benefits and job security.”

Mark, a Massachusetts native, made the rounds of telecom locals in Massachusetts and New Hampshire after being hired at age 20 as a temporary worker in Manchester, N.H., and completing his technician training in 2000.

In 2002, he threw himself into Manchester, N.H., Local 2320’s campaign opposing right-to-work legislation in the state and saw the true value of grassroots organizing. “We won a tangible victory,” he said. Later, Mark organized a robust political program as chairman of the COPE Committee of Local 2325.

While working full time, he earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Southern New Hampshire University in 2005, then a master’s degree in labor studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Figuring he could win more grievances as a shop steward if he had a law degree, Mark enrolled in the evening division of Suffolk University’s Law School, graduating in 2009. “I found winning wasn’t really that simple,” he says.

In 2010, Verizon instituted another reduction in force, and Mark, who had begun his run for legislative office, took a buy-out and left the company.

Mark’s interest in politics was first fueled at age 8 with a handshake from Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis during his run for the presidency. “I was so disappointed when he lost,” says Mark, who, at 32, volunteered for Bill Clinton’s re-election campaign.

“Paul is a solid union man who went everywhere and anywhere when there was work to be done,” says Bruce Lambert, a former Springfield, Mass., Local 2324 president.

It’s becoming clearer that tax cuts and corporate giveaways are simply not creating jobs,” he says.

Mark says he is encouraged by recent developments. The election of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, a union member, shows the promise of unions pulling together.

“It’s becoming clearer that tax cuts and corporate giveaways are simply not creating jobs,” he says.

Mark has co-sponsored a bill to require companies that are closing or merging operations to consider selling their businesses to employees.

“Paul is smart. He is also wise. He is loyal to his friends and brave in his votes. I am so proud to be his colleague and his friend,” says state Rep. Denise Garlick, a former president of the Massachusetts Nurses Association who is vice chair of the Joint Committee on Education.

Mark advises members who want to run for office to focus on issues wider than the immediate concerns of unions.

“We need to proudly display our unionism,” says Mark. “But it’s only one piece of who we are and what we should be concerned with.”
After Fatal Mudslide, Members Aid Recovery Effort

In the days and weeks after March's tragic and sudden mudslide that devastated the small Washington community of Oso, the nation watched as newscasters and reporters piled up grim figures.

Forty-one dead. Two missing. Nearly 50 homes destroyed. An entire square mile of rural country buried under thick mud and debris.

For Tim Harper, those numbers aren’t statistics. They’re people—sons and daughters, wives and husbands, who he’d known growing up in the logging community in the northern part of the Evergreen State.

“I’d say I knew about 95 percent of the people who lost their lives,” said Harper, 34, a married father of two.

The Seattle Local 77 member has since devoted countless hours to helping the relief effort. As a volunteer firefighter with Oso Fire District 25, he was on the scene within half an hour after an unstable hill collapsed March 22, channeling mud over the Stillaguamish River, blocking the highway and engulfing a neighborhood below.

“Told my crew to be there—be there,” said Harper, who is the lieutenant of Oso Fire District 25, an all-volunteer team instrumental in the relief efforts.

“Told my crew to be there—be there,” said Harper, who is the lieutenant of Oso Fire District 25, an all-volunteer team instrumental in the relief efforts.

“I was out in the field for 10 full days immediately after the mudslide,” said Harper, who is the lieutenant of the volunteer fire squad. His team—which includes Harper’s brother as chief—was instrumental in assessing the situation, helping plan the search and rescue procedures and paving the way for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Forest Service to assume control of the scene.

Now back at work as an operator foreman and project manager for specialty contractor Burke Electric in Bellevue, Harper continues to participate in nightly strategy meetings with representatives from local and federal relief teams.

“Told my crew to be there—be there,” said Harper, who is the lieutenant of Oso Fire District 25, an all-volunteer team instrumental in the relief efforts.

“My history is in logging,” Harper said. “When the accident happened, I called all my old cutting buddies. I said, ‘Get your saw, and if you don’t have one, come borrow one from me.’”

With uprooted and demolished trees scattered across the site, professional tree-trimming experience was vital. Fellow Local 77 member Paul Walsh—an arborist for the Snohomish County Public Utility District—volunteered with the search and rescue effort days after the event. He was joined by his son, Local 77 lineman John Walsh.

“We were out there with search dogs while clearing debris,” Paul Walsh said. “There were piles of trees, logs and brush.”

The Walshes also helped dismantle the rooftops of submerged houses to help look for casualties. “It was devastating,” Paul Walsh said. “The whole area looked like a war zone.”

In the aftermath, as the volunteers and recovery teams assist survivors and those who lost family members, Harper’s thoughts turn toward helping families attain some level of closure to begin the healing process, he said.

“I need to make sure the victims are taken care of,” he said. “Part of my project now is to make sure donations are going in to people who need them. I’m working with a handful of people looking to purchase some land in Oso to help build new homes. We found some property about a mile away, and we’re working with the county to get about 15 houses built.”

In a small community like Oso, the collective grief in the wake of the tragedy is widespread, Harper said.

“Someday it will probably sink in more for me, with all that’s happened,” he said. “But now I have to be there for my friends and my community. I have to be strong to give them someone to lean on right now.”

Seattle IBEW Locals 77 and 46 have donated money to help the relief effort. Harper expressed additional gratitude to Asplundh employee and volunteer Quin Nations, and to his own employer for its support.

“People in the electrical world—the IBEW, Burke Electric and our suppliers—have been generous,” Harper said.

“Which makes me proud because I’m a lifetime employee, I’m not going anywhere. So to see that support is great. You can’t fathom the help you get when you are in the middle of a situation like this and people have your back. That’s the overwhelming part for me.”

The staff at Burke Electric established an online donation page for anyone who would like to contribute to the relief effort. To make a donation, please visit www.gofundme.com/84v5y4.