The Telescope That Will See the First Stars

NASA is betting nearly $8 billion on the skill and competence of nearly 250 members of Baltimore Local 1501, the engineers and technicians working on the James Webb Space Telescope at the Goddard Space Flight Center. The Webb telescope is one of NASA's largest, most expensive missions ever, the successor to the path-breaking Hubble Telescope. Components for the telescope have been under construction in 27 states and 14 countries for nearly a decade, but in recent months, many of those components have come to Goddard, and assembly for the October 2018 launch has begun.

Using an array of infrared sensors and a mirror nearly six times larger than Hubble's, the Webb telescope is designed to find and study the oldest, farthest, faintest objects in the universe to answer some of the most basic questions about how stars ignited, galaxies formed and planets coalesced out of the echo of the Big Bang.

"Its purpose is to address the deepest questions we have—Where did we come from? Are we alone?" said Amber Straughn, deputy project scientist at Goddard.

"But for the telescope's four sensors to see into the early life of the universe, they will need to be cooled to only a few degrees above absolute zero, which is only possible far away from the heat emitted by the sun, the Earth or even the moon. Hubble orbits 375 miles up; the Webb telescope will be sent more than 1 million miles away, four times farther than the moon. So far that if anything goes wrong, if something on the telescope breaks, doesn't line up or unfold correctly, if none of the systems on board can fix it, no rescue or repair mission will be possible.

"We only have one chance to get it right," said Delaney Burkhart, mechanical integration specialist, steward and member of Local 1501's executive board.

"Our job is to test, and retest and test again until we are confident that one is all we need."
The IBEW members at Goddard all work in the environmental test and integration facility, the largest building on the wooded campus just outside of Washington, D.C. Most of the buildings look they were dropped in from a run-of-the-mill ’50s office park. But from the massive storage tanks to the circular annex with a domed roof, it is very clear that this building is different. Most impressive, rising from the green trees and red brick buildings, is the stark white shell of the facility’s heart: the world’s largest clean room.

This is Local 1501 member Colette Lepage’s world, the space systems development and integration facility, a 32,500 square-foot, nine-story clean room kept 1,000 times cleaner than a hospital operating room. Satellites have to be extremely resilient, strong and flexible at the same time, yet very small things can wreak havoc when satellites are sent where no one can follow. Dust in electronics can cause shorts and atmospheric hydrocarbons and silicone gels found in many kinds of makeup can cause disastrous condensation to form on the mirrors and lenses.

“A smudge on a camera lens is annoying, but dust or condensation on a space telescope can mean mission failure,” Lepage said.

Lepage helps design and implement the contamination protocols that are followed by every person in the building throughout testing and integration.

“Every action that involves moving the flight equipment is methodically planned out and vetted before anything happens,” Burkhart says. “We will build specialized tools and support equipment that will only be used once because everything must be in precisely the right place and there are few—if any—replicates for components that will go into space.”

And nothing is routine when every part is both irreplaceable and, especially for Webb, unlike anything done before.

### The New Hubble

A telescope the size of a school bus, orbiting 375 miles above the earth, Hubble was one of the most extraordinary scientific instruments ever created. But Hubble was in many ways familiar. It shared the basic tube and mirror design with many other space and ground-based telescopes. However, the design and materials used for Webb are far larger than any existing rocket could carry. So instead of a single-piece mirror like Hubble and most ground-based optical telescopes, Webb’s mirror is made of 18 gold-plated hexagonal mirrors, each thinner than a hair.

The golden dish is the more than 24-foot diameter mirror and the kite is the tennis-court sized sunshield that will protect the instruments from the heat and light of the sun, Earth and moon.

Both the mirror and the sunshield are far larger than any existing rocket could carry. So instead of a single-piece mirror like Hubble and most ground-based optical telescopes, Webb’s mirror is made of 18 gold-plated beryllium hexagonal sections, six of which will tuck away like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon.

Paula Cain and her colleagues in the “blanket shop” handcraft the multilayered thermal insulation that will protect the parts of the telescope that must stay (relatively) warm from the extremes of space and they will isolate the equipment that must stay extremely cold, safe from the heat of the telescope itself.

Like many Local 1501 members, Cain did not originally think about a career in the space program. Her college degree is in fashion design.

“It is not what I pictured, but really there’s a lot of overlap,” she said. With material that can cost north of $500 a yard, precise and judicious cutting and sewing, all done by hand, is paramount.

“If I tell people I make garments for satellites instead of people,” Cain said.

### Seeing the Light from the Cold and Dark

Building a mirror so large it must fold up to fit in the launch capsule introduces enormous additional risks and costs, but mission scientists say the calculus was simple: bigger is always better for telescopes. All that extra real estate will allow the scientists to resolve images hundreds of millions of light-years deeper in the universe than Hubble could see.

A light-year is a measure of distance, but it also indicates how long light we see took to reach us. The speed of light is fast, but it isn’t infinite. Light from the sun takes nearly eight minutes to reach the Earth, so what we see is not the sun as it is now, but eight minutes before. When Webb picks up images of objects billions of light-years away, it is seeing not only far in the distance, but far in the past.

It is very possible that Webb will record images of the earliest objects that can actually be seen; the first stars to ignite after the universe cooled down from the Big Bang. Future telescopes may well refine this picture and see things we can only imagine, but the last blank spot on the map will be filled in, even if only roughly.

Objects that far and that dim are only perceptible by traces of infrared radiation. Invisible to human eyes, infrared radiation is what we feel on our hands as we hold them up to a campfire. But to feel the tiny bit of heat from a star formed soon after the beginning of the universe, the sensor has to be extremely cold.

One sensor on the Webb, the “middle infrared camera,” is designed to analyze the faintest objects in the universe, 10 billion times dimmer than the darkest object the naked eye can see in the night sky. To work, the cold of space at 50 degrees above absolute zero (370 degrees Fahrenheit) is not nearly cold enough. A liquid helium cooling system will bring it down to a mere 7 degrees above absolute zero (-447 degrees Fahrenheit.)

Marc Sansebastian is designing and building the cooling system’s hundreds of small parts, from the gold-plated clamps the size of grains of rice to the cat’s cradle suspension system built from wisps of Kevlar thread thinner than a hair.

Sansebastian, who has built components for dozens of satellites since he started at Goddard more than 20 years ago, says he tells people his job is “proudly reducing the mass of the Earth.”

### The Satellite Torture Chamber

Seeing how the earliest galaxies formed and why there are black holes at their heart… peeling back the fog of time and dust to… peel back the fog of time and dust to watch the very first planets coalesce… finding a planet orbiting a distant star with an atmosphere with unmistakable signs of life. This is what is possible with the James Webb telescope if it works.

While many members in the environmental test and integration facility are busy building Webb, the majority try to break it. Local 1501 members run a satellite torture chamber, with a multitude of tools that can zap, cook, freeze and spin satellites and their components. The goal is to replicate the chaos of launch and the extremes of space so that anything that can fail will fail where it can be fixed.

“This is tricky. Deployment cannot possibly be tested in exactly the same conditions it will see in space, zero gravity, cold, vacuum. We don’t get that here.”
said John Mather, the Nobel-Prize winning chief scientist for the telescope. “So we do everything we can here to get as close as possible so we can sleep at night.”

For engineering technician Nate Allen, that means mounting components to hydraulic actuators to push, bend and pull on components. Goddard’s enormous centrifuge can accelerate 2-ton payloads up to 30 times the force of gravity.

The most imposing tool in the torturer’s dungeon is the five-story space environment simulator. It is a hulking steel globe that looks like a cross between an antique pressure cooker and the spherical submarines that carry marine biologists to the bottom of the ocean’s darkest trenches. Local 305 members lower satellites down into its well and nearly recreate the vacuum and frigid temperatures of space.

“We can’t get rid of gravity, but in every other way we can, it’s like there in space,” Burkhart said.

In late May, the framework housing the four sensors was lowered into the chamber. Massive vacuum pumps remove the air, down to 1 billionth of Earth’s normal atmospheric pressure. Then liquid helium less than 0.10° Fahrenheit is pumped into the chamber. It takes nearly a month for the temperature to stop falling. Then sensors will undergo weeks of testing. Bring it all back to room temperature and pressure requires another full month.
Nick Webster, one of 450 Hartford, Conn., Local 42 tree trimmers, removes a limb from white pine for Lewis Tree Co.

Nick Webster faces toward the 60-foot white pine with the anticipation and caution of a mixed martial artist as the bell is rung. After slipping the orange plastic mufflers that straddle his white hard hat over his ears, he straightens the hat that carries the colors of Manchester, Conn., Local 42 and the logo of his employer, Lewis Tree Co. Webster leans into the tree, wrapping his backstrap around the pine’s trunk, clips it onto his harness and then thrusts the sharp spike of his climbers, strapped tightly to his calves, into the wood.

Arching his back, he throws a green lanyard over the limb above him with a cowboy’s precision, catching its end as it loops back down and inserts it into the mechanical jack hitched to his harness, the lock and load reverberating.

On this spring afternoon in Bozrah, Conn., Nick Webster—former nonunion tree trimmer, now proud IBEW member—is doing his part to keep electricity flowing to his neighbors.

Clearing Connecticut Light and Power’s right of way, Webster is leaving an open path for the company’s service vehicles and personnel to go to work during storms and other outages that have, over the past few years, left consumers without power for weeks on end.

He begins to spike and muscle his way up the pine, simultaneously attacking small branches, breaking them, while sharply kicking or sawing others with a hand saw drawn swiftly from the sheath on his belt.

Webster pulls his way 45 feet up, then over to his target: a large limb stretching into the right of way. He snaps back the rope on his power saw. The machine barely changes its position on the ground. Cross-armed, he continues his work.

The Union Advantage: Safer Working Conditions in Trees

On a hard-packed dirt road in Dudley, Mass., Nate Julian, a 15-year tree trimmer and member of Manchester, Conn., Local 42, tucks a clipboard under his arm. His bucket truck is parked behind him on the road’s shoulder above a ravine, beneath a white pine that will be pruned back to protect the power lines of National Grid.

A crew leader for Lewis Tree Company, Julian, 35, is looking for all potential hazards that could put him or Ulises Vega, drop zone manager, standing by his side, in jeopardy.

For Julian, who coaches football, wrestling and baseball, sometimes seven nights a week, the assessment is another playbook. Winning is going home healthy and whole. Julian is lucky. His sole teammate, Vega, 23, who will stay on the ground as Julian ascends in the bucket, has been climbing trees for a year. The father of a newborn son, Vega is safety-conscious and vigilant. A sticker on his hardhat reverberates.

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Nick Webster, one of 450 Hartford, Conn., Local 42 tree trimmers, removes a limb from white pine for Lewis Tree Co.
Workers across the country are struggling to make ends meet, and one cause is state and local government outsourcing.

Report Highlights Increasing Danger of Outsourcing

Privatization is creating a gap of inequality that is slashing the middle class altogether.

But the private companies the governments outsource to seem to provide no such opportunities for growth, the report states: “All too often, taxpayers are inadvertently contributing to growing income inequality and the erosion of the middle class by turning middle class jobs into poverty-level jobs.”

The consequences of this phenomenon far extend the workers it directly affects—the community as a whole will bear the brunt of this burden, according to researchers.

State and local governments say that the outsourcing of labor saves taxpayers money, and provides faster, more efficient specialized services. The report authors find otherwise. Although governments may be cutting costs in wages, these private companies pay employees so little that they have high turnover rates, which result in insufficient training and poor performance reliability that cost taxpayers even more.

“While workers are paid wages with no room for growth, taxpayers will only see them give a basic performance,” Sparrow explains.

And ultimately, the taxpayers split the difference with hidden costs. The study states: “Low wages often mean that the number of Americans on public assistance rolls increases and these supplemental income and healthcare costs, instead of becoming the contractor employer’s responsibility, are merely shifted onto other parts of the government’s budget.”

Outsourcing also has a ripple effect that changes the quality of the working community at large, not just the employees whose positions have been replaced. This, in turn, generates more families living on low-income wages, and perpetuates a cycle of poverty, widening the gap between middle and low-income classes even further.

“This affects all workers, because it changes the standards for wages and benefits,” says Daphne Greenwood, professor of economics at the University of Colorado. Greenwood’s research demonstrates that without adequate wages, families are less likely to spend money on retail, food services, or other establishments in the local economy, resulting in poor economic growth for the entire community.

The big picture, according to the study, is that outsourcing hurts more than it helps.

“Governments are helping to create inequality. It is not happening by itself,” it said.
First District Launches National Marketing Campaign

More than 65,000 skilled IBEW members help keep the lights on and the economy moving forward in Canada—and the First District wants every Canadian to know.

A new national marketing campaign—“We’re There for You!”—highlights the highly-skilled Canadians who belong to the IBEW.

“We’re showing the public how IBEW members support their communities right across this country,” said First District Vice-President Bill Daniels.

The campaign highlights the tipping point when organized labour has come under increased attack from right-wing politicians, pushing anti-union legislation traditionally found south of the border.

One of the biggest obstacles to growing the Brotherhood is the lack of awareness by the public about who the IBEW is, said First District International Representative Mike LeBlanc.

“We needed some brand awareness,” he said.

The marketing campaign has several elements. One is a specialty website, www.ibewcanada.ca, which introduces visitors to the kinds of jobs IBEW members do every day, from wiring local hockey rinks to maintaining power stations and cable lines.

It also features local stories about IBEW members doing their part to help their community. Called “Local Heroes,” it profiles members who give their time and effort to charity and national service. It also lets readers post their own stories recognizing good deeds.

“Our locals are doing great things in their communities, and we wanted a way to highlight it,” said Kate Walsh, strategic coordinator for the First District’s young worker outreach campaign, NextGen.

“Rather than the picture painted by the right-wing about union bozos, we wanted to get out the real story about the people who make up the IBEW.”

The second part of the campaign is a 30-second television spot highlighting the wide range of sectors the IBEW works in.

“When disaster strikes or blackouts hit, we’re there,” says the spot’s narrator.

“When things break down or need repair, we’re there.”

Bridging the language gap, the First District also put up billboards in Quebec to reach Canada’s French-speaking population. Print ads—including billboards and newspaper ads—were also created for local unions to advertise in their own communities.

Walsh says the feedback they’ve gotten from members is overwhelmingly positive.

“When the website and social media, members have been telling us how proud the commercial makes them feel,” she said. “We’re also educating our members on who the IBEW is, because we had members doing all those different kinds of jobs.”

Go to www.ibewcanada.ca to read more about the campaign, and to watch the 30-second commercial.

Why Spanish Train-Maker Is Leaving Wis.

Sad news out of Milwaukee. Spanish train-maker Talgo is vacating its factory in the city, leaving 1,100 workers unemployed. Scott Walker rejected millions in federal stimulus monies to create a Milwaukee-to-Madison commuter line.

The funding, part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was meant to create high-speed rail links across the country, which would have modernized America’s industrial infrastructure, creating good jobs in the process.

Soon after taking office in 2010, Walker turned down the $80 million in federal rail funds. The monies, already budgeted for the state, went to Illinois instead.

Talgo set up its North American headquarters in Milwaukee shortly before Walker’s election, with plans to help rail manufacturing in the Midwest. The project was expected to create hundreds of thousands of construction and manufacturing jobs.

“Walker turned his back on a lot of jobs,” said Milwaukee Local 44 Business Manager John Bzdawka. “Not just for electricians, but all the trades, plus manufacturing jobs at the Talgo plant.”

The IBEW’s new app

A new website and commercials spotlight IBEW members.

IBEW members are usually on the go. Many depend on their phones or tablets to check the latest news and keep in contact.

Now you can get the latest from the IBEW Media team wherever you are with the latest version of the IBEW app.

The new app brings readers news and commentaries including articles from IBEW.org and the Electrical Worker newspaper.

Users will also be able to access officers’ editorials as well as letters to the editors and Local Lines.

It replaces the old app, which premiered in 2012.

“We know how important mobile communications is for our members these days,” said IBEW President Edwin D. Hill. “We want people to stay plugged in with the IBEW wherever they go.”

The new app—developed in-house by the IBEW Media Department—features a clean and easy-to-navigate interface, making it simple for users to find what they are looking for.

And it’s free.

You can get it at the Google App store or on iTunes, just search for “IBEW EW.”

Unique 65,000 workers, qualified members of the FIOE, contribute to the functioning and maintenance of the system of electrification in the country, in order to provide an improvement in the quality of life of the populations and communities.

The campaign deems it necessary to highlight the work of FIOE members across the country’s biggest programs.

The FIOE’s message is to show Canadians how the union helps them daily and the important role the union continues to play in the development of the country.

The campaign was launched on television and radio, and on the FIOE’s website. The FIOE members are shown in different sectors, such as the construction industry, the telecommunications sector, and more.

The campaign aims to increase the visibility of the FIOE and to highlight its important role in the development of the country. The FIOE contributes to the well-being of their communities, and they are recognized as skilled and dedicated workers.

The campaign also features local stories about FIOE members doing their part to help their community. Called “Local Heroes,” it profiles members who give their time and effort to charity and national service. It also lets readers post their own stories recognizing good deeds.

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Obama Appoints Presidential
Emergency Board

President Barack Obama announced the
creation of a presidential emergency board June 15 to help end four years of
stalled contract negotiations with the
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and
Trainmen, the IBEW and the Southeastern
Pennsylvania Transportation Authority.

More than 400 workers engaged in
a one-day strike June 14, which came at
the end of a 30-day cooling period kicked
off by SEPTA’s decline of the National
Mediation Board’s offer of binding arbi-
tration. The offer was accepted uncondi-
tionally by both unions.

Obama’s action was in response to a
request earlier in the day by Pennsylva-
nia Gov. Tom Corbett.

The workers have been without a
new contract since 2009. SEPTA
stonewalled negotiations early on,
refusing to offer both unions an
agreement similar to the one they
reached with the Transit Workers
Union Local 234, which represents
city subway and bus workers.

VIDEO ON THE GO: ‘Trimming the
Competition’

Tree-trimming is one of the most danger-
ous occupations out there, so having a
voice on the job is vital. Hear from some
New England tree-trimmers who found
their voice by joining Hartford, Conn., Local
42. Our stunning video shows why IBEW-
trained professionals are a cut above.

Bill Would Create Jobs, Save Energy

When it comes to renewable energy, Rhode
Island lags far behind its neighbor-
New England states.

“Massachusetts and Connecticut
have been booming when it comes to solar
for a few years now,” said Providence, R.I.,
Local 99 Business Manager Michael Daley.

“Now it’s time for us to catch up.”

A bill sitting in the Rhode Island leg-
islature would do just that, creating 250
new jobs and increasing eco-
nomic output by upward of a half-a-billion dollars—
all while cutting down on energy costs—by incen-
tivizing renewable power.

Under the Distrib-
uted Generation Growth Program Bill, small-e-
nergy generators—often powered by solar panels or
wind turbines—can plug into the grid, allow-
ing them to sell power to the state’s main utility,
National Grid.

An earlier version of the program was
passed by the General Assembly in 2011, and the results have
been significant, write Daley, New
England Clean Energy Council President
Peter Rothstein and Rhode Island Build-
ers Association Executive Director in an
editorial in the Providence Journal.

Approximately 175 jobs were created in
the first 18 months of the program alone.

“Renewable energy companies from
within and outside of Rhode Island’s bor-
ders lined up in droves to vie for the wind,
solar, anaerobic digestion and small-
scale hydro projects awarded through
the 2011 program,” they write.

Daley says some of that renew-
able work has translated into jobs for
his members, including solar installa-
tion projects on landfills and commer-
cial rooftops.

He says the current bill could help
kickstart the industry, helping to bring
solar companies to the state.

“We’re working closely with state
officials to bring the work here,” he said.

Three Generations Strong

Ferrell Flynn, a retired 50-year member of Bogalusa, La., Local 1077, with
his family of fellow IBEW members, including sons Rickey and Roger Flynn
of Baton Rouge, La., Local 915, and grandson Jimmy ‘Big Shot’ Flynn, Local
1077 organizer, pictured with International President Edwin D. Hill,
International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore “Sam” Chilia and Fifth District
Vice President Joe Davis at the Fifth District Progress Meeting in New
Orleans last August. From left are Chilia, Rickey Flynn, Ferrell Flynn, Hill,
Roger Flynn, Davis and Jimmy Flynn.

New legislation could help get Rhode Island IBEW
members back to work. President Obama appointed a presidential
emergency board June 15 to settle contentious
contract negotiations between labor and SEPTA.

Bill Would Create Jobs, Save Energy

When it comes to renewable energy, Rhode
Island lags far behind its neighbor-
New England states.

“I think we are proposing an acceptable hourly wage plan,” Novitske said.

“but the company is so far saying ‘no.’ We want to move forward. We’re all hard workers, we
help make the company successful, and we’re just looking for a fair deal.”

Florida-based ADT is the largest security company in North America with nearly 7
million customers. ADT posted $5.97 billion in revenue for the second quarter of the cur-
rent fiscal year—up nearly 2 percent since 2013, according to a company press release.

With the piecework, these guys got a chance to really go out there to sell and ser-
vice the equipment,” Bergfeld said. “If you hustled and put in the time, you could make
good wages. But ADT is saying that they don’t think pay should be tied to their perfor-
ance. If that’s the case, what’s the motivator for these guys to try to do a good job?”

While Novitske says the road to their contract is tough at the moment, he encour-
ages other ADT employees in similar positions to stand up for their rights on the job.

“The only way you are going to accomplish anything is through numbers,” he said.

“one person won’t make a difference. It’s much easier to get a company as big as ADT to listen to you when you can say, ‘Look, all these people feel the same way.’ When it’s thousands of employees raising their voices together, it’s a different story.”

Check back with www.ibew.org for more reporting on organizing and negoti-
eting efforts at ADT.

II. ADT Techs Negotiating First Contract

Nearly 2,000 ADT employees across the
U.S. and Canada enjoy better job securi-
fty, fair wages and other benefits of an
IBEW contract.

But getting there can often be a
taxing long-distance race, as Dan
Novitske is learning.

After a dynamic organizing camp-
aign that tapped the initiative and skill
of service and installation techs, Novitske
and six of his co-workers voted over-
whelmingly to join Rock Island, Ill., Local
145, last summer. The employees install and service home and small business security
systems over a 2,000-mile region from southern Illinois all the way north to Minneapolis
and Wisconsin.

Novitske, a three-year employee with nearly a decade in the industry, says there
have been genuine perks to his job. “The pay opportunity has been good,” he said.

“We have been on a piecework plan, where you get paid for how hard you work and
how much quality service you provide.”

But that appears to be changing, he said, as the company looks to move toward
an hourly pay plan that could drive down wages and dampen workers’ initiative.

“The setup that they want to move to would slash pay by about 30 percent across
the board,” Novitske said.

Newer problems persist, too. Many techs are currently working 10-hour days but
only getting paid for eight hours, as the company frequently doesn’t pay for travel time
to and from certain assignments. “We’re basically working for free part of every day,”
Novitske said. “That’s one of the reasons we contacted the IBEW.”

IBEW Local 145 Assistant Business Manager Cory Bergfeld was the lead organizer
on last year’s campaign and is now helping with negotiations. “The volunteer organizing
committee has been solid,” he said. “They have a very clear vision for how they want to improve
their quality of life on the job, and they are taking the high road in these first contract talks.”

Bergfeld said that assistance from outside locals has been valuable. He thanked
activists from St. Louis Local 1; Peoria, Ill., Local 345; Minneapolis Local 292; and Rock-
ford, Ill., Local 294, Illinois State Organizing Coordinator Dave Burns has also lent
support and expertise, Bergfeld said.

Both Novitske and Bergfeld say that they are focusing on trying to ensure that
there is a sense of back-and-forth dialogue when meeting with ADT representatives.

“it think we are proposing an acceptable hourly wage plan,” Novitske said. “But
the company is so far saying ‘no.’ We want to move forward. We’re all hard workers, we
help make the company successful, and we’re just looking for a fair deal.”

Several renewable energy projects mean
more green jobs we can create to support those
struggling with unemployment,” said state Sen. Susan Sosnoski.

Check back with www.ibew.org for more reporting on organizing and negotiat-
eting efforts at ADT.
Local Lines

Promoting Our Trades

L.U. 1 (catv,et,cr,es,et,em,gn,pt,ct,es,et,ct,es,et,ct), ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1 actively promotes our trades through the St. Louis Electrical Connection, our partnership with NECA in St. Louis. Volunteers promoted our expertise to thousands of potential customers at the St. Louis Home and Garden Show, the St. Charles County Electrical Expo, the Spirit of St. Louis Air Show and more.

We also took our positive message to school superintendents at the Missouri School Administrators Convention. Our volunteers spoke to numerous attendees about the value and professionalism we bring to projects. Additionally, St. Louis Electrical Connection’s government affairs director, Timothy Green, gave a presentation on prevailing wage and its positive impact on tax revenues, which benefit school districts across the state, especially in rural areas.

Local 1 volunteered with Rebuilding Together’s efforts 11 years ago. Donations of materials from local supply houses and volunteers for this one-day event supported by 16 area homeowners. Approximately 100 members volunteered for the day, helping improve 26 homes for families in need of assistance.

Local 1 has helped improve 400 homes since joining Rebuilding Together’s efforts 11 years ago. We mourn the deaths of members Charles White, Edwin Kamp, Michael Smith, Jack Groeckler, James Willing, Norman Erder, John Hill Jr., Ronald Hinz, Donald Reese, Glen Andrews, John Buschart, James Wilfong, Normal Erder, John Hill Jr., Ronald Hinz, and John Moyle, P.S.

L.A. Water & Power Project

L.U. 11 (rt,es&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—Twenty-three women from Local 11 participated in a historical gathering of 850+ tradeswomen from throughout California, the U.S., Canada and Australia at the 4th Annual Women Building California & the Nation Conference in Sacramento, CA, the weekend of April 26.

The annual conference enables tradeswomen to network and hone skills to develop strategies for recruiting, retaining and advancing women into leadership positions to excel in our industry.

The Scattered Unit 1 Regenerating Project in El Segundo is well underway. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is overhauling its power supply for a cleaner, more efficient power plant. The majority of the electrical work on this $950 million project will be performed by Mass Electric with smaller portions being done by Rosendin Electric and Cherry. We anticipate manning up to around 165 electricians at its peak. This project is expected to be completed in 2025.

Members present were proud to see Rec. Sec. Larry Caldwell receive his 40-year service pin, presented by Pres. Richard “Dick” Reed at our general membership meeting on April 17. Congratulations, Larry, and thanks for your dedication to the IBEW and our local union!

Diana Limon, P.S.

AMI Agreement with ComEd

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Pres./Bus. Mgr. Dean Apple proudly announced that the Executive Board approved increasing our Local 15 Scholarship Award to $1,000, up from the previous $500. We are still offering 10 individual scholarship awards to Local 15 members and their immediate families.

On the 2014 Scholarship Committee are: Sue Wydra (Oakbrook Call Center), Christine Watkins (Commercial Center), Tara Blake (Will County Station), Victor Hughes (Byron), Tony Lewis (Maywood) and Casey Hauen (Highland Park).

We signed an Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) Agreement with ComEd that defines a process to install the smart meters and adds positions for Local 15 members and officers volunteered with Rebuilding Together’s St. Louis Chapter on May 4.

Trade Classifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(ae) Alarm &amp; Signal</th>
<th>(ef) Electronic Technicians</th>
<th>(mp) Motion Picture Studios</th>
<th>(rta) Radio-Television Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(ars) Atomic Research Service</td>
<td>(fm) Fixture Manufacturing</td>
<td>(n) Nuclear Service Technicians</td>
<td>(sa) Service Occupations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(bo) Bridge Operators</td>
<td>(gov) Government</td>
<td>(o) Outside</td>
<td>(s) Shopmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cs) Cable Splicers</td>
<td>(i) Inside</td>
<td>(p) Powerhouse</td>
<td>(sa) Sign Erector</td>
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<tr>
<td>(cab) Cable Television</td>
<td>(il) Instrument Technicians</td>
<td>(pe) Professional, Engineers &amp; Technicians</td>
<td>(sp) Sound &amp; Public Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) Communications</td>
<td>(lct) Line Clearance Tree Trimming</td>
<td>(t) Telephone</td>
<td>(at) Sound Technicians</td>
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<td>(cr) Crane Operators</td>
<td>(lbp) Lighting Protection Technicians</td>
<td>(pte) Professional, Technical &amp; Clerical</td>
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<td>(ees) Electrical Equipment Service</td>
<td>(mb) Maintenance</td>
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<td>(e) Electrical Inspection</td>
<td>(ma) Maintenance &amp; Operation</td>
<td>(r) Railroad</td>
<td>(u) Utility</td>
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<td>(em) Electrical Manufacturing</td>
<td>(mt) Manufacturing Office Workers</td>
<td>(rtb) Radio-Television Broadcasting</td>
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<tr>
<td>(es) Electric Signs</td>
<td>(mar) Marine</td>
<td>(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing</td>
<td>(uw) Utility Office Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(sm) Electrical Service</td>
<td>(mt) Maintenance</td>
<td>(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing</td>
<td>(w) Warehouse and Supply</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.

Local 11 delegates attend Women Building California & the Nation Conference. Photo courtesy Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades Council.

Mary Beth Kozmazek, P.S.

Local 9 honored retirees at the 2014 “Old Timers” Dinner: front row, Joseph Gonzales (left), John Shipley, Dave Moslowicz, Norma Ruggio, Thomas Mclaughlin; back row, Gerald Atelia, Pierce Williams, Edward Olson, Alex Moreno, Joseph Gogolak and John Holmgren.

Local 9 honored retirees at the 2014 “Old Timers” Dinner: front row, Joseph Gonzales (left), John Shipley, Dave Moslowicz, Norma Ruggio, Thomas Mclaughlin; back row, Gerald Atelia, Pierce Williams, Edward Olson, Alex Moreno, Joseph Gogolak and John Holmgren.
The company’s goal is to install the smart meters by the end of 2018 instead of the original target of 2021. The transfer of the fossil stations from Edison Mission Energy to NRG Energy took effect April 1. This transfer was the end result of the EME bankruptcy. NRG bought substantially all of EME’s assets, which included the four fossil stations (Waukegan, Will County, Joliet and Powerton).

Our Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EUMC) held a 50/50 raffle and awarded $628 to the winning member.

We held a stewards school in April to train 18 new stewards.

Doug Vedes, P.S.

2014 Scholarship Committee at Local 37.
women from all across the country came together at the CLUW events to acknowledge the achievements accomplished and recognize what is yet to be done. Labor women, we encourage you to “get a CLUW...” Visit website www.cluw.org. See how your local can get involved.


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

Tracy A. Riley, V.P.

LOCAL LINES

**IBEW Service Awards**

L.U. 71 (lctt,orltb), COLUMBUS, OH—Local 71 is honored to present years-of-service awards. Award recipients this year include: 50-year members—Tommy Douglas, William Howard, John McClung, Wallace Miller, Troy Binehart, Howard Buehler, Danie Sacic, Robert Wine and John Zuccola; 55-year members—Jackie Bowman, Robert Krepps and Herman Napier; and 60-year member—Roy Howlett. Congratulations to all on your long service and thank you for all that you have contributed to this local.

Our work remains strong in all areas. If interested in work here, give Larry a call at the hall.

Have a safe summer and remember: Buy American made products!

Byron Stange, B.M./P.S.

**Linemen Working Together — For a Brighter World**

L.U. 77 (lc,i,mo,lt,rd), SEATTLE, WA—Brady Hansen is a Local 77 journeyman lineman for Avista Utilities, a midsize utility company based out of Spokane, WA. Last spring, Brady was working as a temporary instructor for the Avista Lineworker Program and was asked to lead a tour of visitors from Energie Bedrijven Suriname (EBS), a power company in the Republic of Suriname. During the tour, EBS managers shared that they had no training program for the linemen in Suriname, and while they realized they needed one it would be a large undertaking.

When the tour ended, Bro. Brady thought about the situation the visitors expressed regarding lack of training and was compelled to do something about it. He volunteered to visit Suriname to help create a comprehensive training program, later named the “Suriname American Brotherhood Initiative.”

Bro. Hansen has not stopped there; helping to institute Recycling for Linemen, a grassroots project that recycles functioning safety gear for linemen in developing nations, who would otherwise not have it, by sending them the PPE (personal protective equipment) that will no longer be used when the new OSHA rules come into effect. The first initiative was in Haiti to help repair and upgrade the infrastructure damaged by the earthquake in 2010.

Bro. Brady Hansen challenges the IBEW to think local and act globally.

Pat Darling, P.S.

Lynne Moore, P.S.

**20th Anniversary Celebrated**

L.U. 97 (lctt,orltb), SYRACUSE, NY—In April this year, Local 97 proudly celebrated its 20th year anniversary. Prior to our 1994 amalgamation into Local 97, we consisted of 12 local unions from upstate New York affiliated with former System Council U-11. Each former SCU-11 local had its own president, vice president, recording secretary and treasurer, and represented the workers of Niagara Mohawk. Our former officers fought and won many battles with the company and established a better life for our members.

Today we represent workers from 10 different companies across New York state with significantly less staff but continue the honor and tradition of upholding the highest standards, job protection, wages and benefits for our members.

In order to continue going forward, we must find ways to engage new members of our local. In April 2014, we established a New Member Orientation Class. This class will be given by our staff and cover many topics regarding the IBEW and Local 97.

The goal is to teach new members about the importance of being part of a union and all the benefits of a bargaining unit. We want new members to feel the power that comes from our union, with the hope that they will want to become tomorrow’s leaders.

James Zabinski, V.P.

**Sports Night & Wellness Event**

L.U. 103 ( lc,i,mo,mt,or), BOSTON, MA—Local 103’s 3rd Annual Wellness & Education Event was held in April. The goal of get 200 donors was a success. Filling Local 103’s lobby, individual stations with trained professionals were there to help educate local union members, along with blood from the community, on healthy eating and physical and preventive screenings. To further educate our members on wellness, a monthly lecture will be started in September at the union hall.

The 3rd Annual Sports Night was held again at UMass Boston, where journeymen and apprentices faced off on the basketball court and in the hockey rink. The basketball game went into overtime, where the journeymen won with a final score of 45-38; journeymen Mike Paulson was awarded MVP in hockey. The journeymen also won by 15-11; Journeyman John Rafferty was awarded MVP. After the games, members and their families were all invited back to the union hall for refreshments, prizes and music—giving the kids a chance to play, and friends an opportunity to catch up with one another.

Kevin C. Molinieux, P.S.

**IBEW/EWMC Events in July: Car, Bike & Truck Show**

L.U. 111 ( em,gov,lc,i,mo,nt,orltb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—The Outside Construction Unit has a new assistant business manager, Nate Gutierrez. He attended the Eighth District Progress Meeting in May this year and will be getting acclimated to his new duties representing the membership of Local 111. Nate brings 14 years’ experience and knowledge to his new position with the local. We happily welcome him aboard.

Other happenings around the local: Two Xcel Energy contractors, NPL Construction Co. and KS Energy Services, are leaving the Denver area, which opens a window of opportunity for IBEW Local 111 as other union contractors increase their work load.

Spring 2014 is shaping up to be very promising for Local 111; we have been very busy on the Outside construction side. Just in the months of March and April, our “A” membership increased by nearly 70 new members covering the board for all of the classifications. There was a Voluntary Organizing Committee (VOC) meeting on organizing; at present we have three campaigns in progress (Asplundh, W.I. Contractors, and Highline Electric).

The Outside Construction Unit held a Stewart’s Class; it was well-attended and everyone was very positive. Negotiations began in May with Northwestern Electric.

Don’t forget: Our 2nd Annual IBEW/EWMC Car, Bike & Truck Show and Motorcycle Poker Run will be Saturday, July 26. Everyone is welcome. More information is available at Local 111 website www.ibew111.com.

Mike Kostelecky, P.S.

**Shop Steward Training**

L.U. 125 (lctt,orltb), PORTLAND, OR—The local offered shop steward training to current and prospective shop stewards, Representing members employed by investor-owned utilities, government, cooperatives, PUDs, and NGA, participants were exposed to labor law, Local 125 expectations, and overall responsibilities of investor-owned utilities, government, cooperative shop stewards. Representing members employed by investor-owned utilities, government, cooperative shop stewards. Representing members employed by investor-owned utilities, government, cooperative shop stewards. Representing members employed by investor-owned utilities, government, cooperative shop stewards. Representing members employed by investor-owned utilities, government, cooperative shop stewards.

Facilitated by Local 125 Bus. Reps. Adam Armas and Marcia Grail, with assistance from Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri, attendees, many with less than six months in their role, were able to interact with other business representatives and Local 125 staff present at the training.

“This is a great opportunity to share information not only from the local but peer to peer as union members,” said Chris. The local plans to offer the basic class again this fall in Pendleton. Member interest will determine the location of the Advanced Shop Steward course that will be offered as well.

Summer Activities: This year’s Northwest Line- man’s Rodeo will be held July 26 in Gresham, OR. The local’s annual fundraisers for the Oregon Burn Center will be held in August. Our golf tournament is Aug. 15, and our 2015 Trivia Night is Aug. 23. Everyone is welcome. More information is available at Local 111 website www.ibew111.com.

**Video Board Installation**

L.U. 177 (b,ems,nl,orltb), JACKSONVILLE, FL—The work picture in the Jacksonville area has picked up some but is still a long way from where it needs to be. Most projects in our area seem to be only a few months in duration.

New video boards, reportedly the world’s larg- est of their kind, are currently being installed at Ever- bank Field by Local 177 and Miller Electric.

Everyone who attended the Easter Egg Hunt had a great time. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it happen.

Unit 1 has entered negotiations for a new con- tract to begin on July 1.

Alan Jones, Pres., P.S.

**IBEW Community Service**

L.U. 131 (lctt,orltb), SPRINGFIELD, IL—IBEW Local 131 congratulates Bro. Bill Lunt, the local’s longtime employee, for being named Business Manager of the Year for 2013.

Kudos go out to the IBEW for contributing $2,000, and to our members who volunteered their time and labor, to help a couple of charities. Members volunteered to work on a tripleplex for homeless families in Ferndale and a Senior Center in Mt. Lake Terrace.

Thank you also to PowerTel, VECA and All-Phase Electrical Supply in Burlington for helping with manpower and material.

Our local elections are over, and I wish to thank all those who stepped forward to run for office and congratulate those who won.

Plans for our summer activities are underway. The local will hold picnics for our members on both sides of the mountains, as well as our annual golf tournaments. Contact the hall for details of these and other activities the local is planning.

Tim Silsbee, P.S.

**IBEW Electrician & Awardee**

L.U. 193 (lctt,orltb), SPRINGFIELD, IL—IBEW Local 193 congratulates Bro. Silas Johnson of the Nehe- miah Project on Springfield’s east side. Silas is recog- nized as a community leader and utilizes IBEW labor on all worthy projects. Outstanding, the Johnsons Local 193 electrician Terry Agans received an Employee of the Month Award presented by Illinois Sec. of State Jesse White at a special ceremony (see photo, pg. 3). Congratulations to Terry!

The Electrical Division of the USA Skills Competition was judged by Bros. Mike Conklin and Joe Brunk. The competition was for Illinois high school students. Thank you, brothers.

The upcoming Illinois governor’s race offers drastic contrast between the candi- dates, incumbent Gov. Pat Quinn and multimil- lionaire Bruce Rannier. If elected, Rannier would...
take the state down the anti-worker road of Wisconsin and Indiana, adopting corporate ways that reverse hard-fought labor achievements. Please vote your paycheck/benefit in this election.

Judge Ann Callis is a great candidate to represent the Illinois 13th District in the U.S. Congress—and she’s a great friend of union labor.

Have a safe and patriotic 4th of July.

Aaron Liming, Ahmad Manns; Instructor Rod Parker; graduate Cody Mike Raikes, IBEW; Seth Zeller, NECA; graduates Alan McKimmy, Local 197’s newest journeymen. A nice graduation.

Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—Congratulations to our most recent apprentice graduates, who are standing at the apprentice level, demonstrates their commitment to those who worked so hard so that we might have it just a little bit easier than they did.

Brian Jacopos, P.S.

Work remains slow in our jurisdiction. The Hy-Vee project should get underway this summer, and we look forward to the Hyatt Place Hotel project getting started as well. Thanks to all the locals putting our brothers and sisters to work; we hope to be able to return the favor one day.

Some upcoming events for the summer include: the election of officers (June 21); Walk With Me (June 25); and then Labor Day. In solidarity.

Ed Huskey, Organizer

Media Campaign Highlights

L.U. 309 (Lктт,mo,mt,rs,т,sp) & UOLLINSVILLE, IL—Local 309 has put the finishing touch on our media campaign to market what our members do for a living. In addition to highway billboards and radio spots, we are now doing television commercials during St. Louis Cardinals baseball games. The ads feature several branches of our industry while also highlighting our training. Work is still slow for the inside branch. Outside line construction is a walk-through and looks to be that way for the near future. Our new website will be up and running by the time this is published.

On April 12, a group of family, friends and IBEW Local 309 Linemen gathered to celebrate the retirement of Journeyman Lineman Bob Bailey. Bob was initiated into Local 309 in 1972. With 40 years in the trade, Bob’s knowledge and influence have helped shape Local 309’s apprentice linemen and journeymen as well. Bob is well-respected as a mentor, a top-notch journeymen and a strong union brother. We wish you well in your retirement, Bob ... from everyone at IBEW Local 309.

Work safe and attend your local union meetings.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

Iowa Labor Hall of Fame

L.U. 347 (em,nt,tt,tt&sp), DES MOINES, IA—New wind turbine projects are coming to Local 347’s jurisdiction. This is another step forward for the renewable energy sector. We will be watching for more developments.

On May 3, the Iowa Federation of Labor inducted Sen. Tom Harkin into the Iowa Labor Hall of Fame. Sen. Harkin is the first person ever to receive that honor without having been a member of a union. IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill enjoyed the privilege of presenting Sen. Harkin with an honorary membership into the IBEW at the May 3 event. The ceremony was held at Veterans Memorial Hall in Des Moines. On hand were many colleagues of the senator including: U.S. Reps. Dave Loebsack and Bruce Braley; former U.S. Reps. Neal Smith and Dave Nagle; and state Sen. Jack Hatch. Also present were IBEW Eleventh District Int. Vice Pres. Curtis E. Henke. Local 347 attendees including Political Registrar Matt Marchese, Pres. Scott Fawbush, Bus. Agent Al DeFeere and Bus. Mgr. Pat Wells; and many others.

Local 347 will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Oct. 11 this year. Call (515) 243-9104 for more information.

‘Time to Get Involved & Support the Union Cause’

L.U. 363 (т,#,em,г,двш,л,л,л,л,л), NEW CITY, NY—Today the climate for organized labor is very similar to the beginning of the last century-everything is a struggle and there are many forces against labor. What is different now is that working people today have much more at their disposal than our grandparents did, such as: the Internet, Twitter, text messaging, e-mails and cell phones. Our grandparents didn’t have those communications tools. It is amazing that they accomplished what they did when they did it. What they gained was won by sheer determination and grit.

It is our turn now and our struggle. We just have to be smart enough to realize that our modern-day challenges are real and that working people can lose today in the blink of an eye if we don’t stay actively engaged and pay attention. We need to become the new and active labor movement of this century and there is no time to waste. It’s time to get involved and support the union cause.

Sam Fratto, B.M.

2014 Bowling Tournaments

L.U. 369 (em,es,т,tt,tt&sp), LOUISVILLE, KY—Local 369 traveled to Franklin, IN, in April this year to participate in the 40th Annual Indiana State Bowling Tournament. Eleven of our finest athletes attend the bowling tournament, which is aimed at reinforcing the idea that the IBEW is a strong union and a great place to work.

Honoree Sen. Tom Harkin (at podium) speaks at Iowa Labor Hall of Fame ceremony. Among attendees are IBEW International Officers including Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill (seated at dais, fifth from left), Local 347 officers and others.
made the 90-mile trek northward for the two-day event. Unfortunately, attendance for the Indiana tour-
nament had declined compared to years past. So, to increase participation, the committee decided to
open the tournament to all local unions in the states bordering Indiana, along with the participating locals that have jurisdiction in the state.

By the time anyone reads this, we should have results from the 70th Annual IBEW International Bowling Tournament, hosted this year by IBEW Local 1, which has always put on a great tournament. At the
time of this early spring writing, the tournament was scheduled for June 6-8, 2014, in St. Louis. I am sure some of our stellar athletes will have attended.

If you wish to participate in future tournaments or would like additional information on either of these tournaments, please visit websites www.ibew-
bowlinindiana.com or www.ibewbowl.com.

John E. Morrison Jr., P.S.
Quick Action to Aid a Brother

L.U. 596 (i,c,gov), DUBLIN, CA—After 37 years with the IBEW, Bus. Rep. Tony Bertolucci has retired. Bro. Bertolucci was born in Italy and moved with his family to Canada when he was a child. In the 1970s, while many Americans were moving north of the border, Tony’s family moved to Stockton, CA. After graduating high school, he volunteered to serve our country and joined the Army. After fulfilling his military obligation, he returned to Stockton and entered into then-Locals 591’s apprenticeship in 1976. Soon after, he used his new skills as a general foreman and served as president of then-Locals 596 and 591’s benefits trust. In 2014, Tony was moved to tears when expressing how grateful he is to stockton and his community. He is looking forward to a new chapter of his life after retirement. Joe Guglielmo, A.B.M.

A Career of IBEW Service

Scott Wein, new Local 617 Executive Board member.

• AirTrain workers at San Francisco International Airport ratified a new three-year contract with Bombardier, thanks to the sterling team of Mark Leach, Chuck Vela and the AirTrain Negotiations Committee.
• The local’s Benefits Education Seminar in February provided members with information regarding their entire compensation package from health care to retirement.
• The Annual Bin Party brought 200 members together to recognize and honor members with 20 to 75 years of IBEW service.
• The Local 617 Journeymen Motorcycle Club is off and running with its year of events, including so far a day at the gun range, dirt bike riding at Hollister Hills, and a weekend run to the Avenue of the Giants through Humboldt Redwoods State Park.
• We celebrated the Apprenticeship Class of 2014 graduation (photo and graduates’ names are planned for the September issue).

Dan Pasini, Pres.

Next Gen Committee

L.U. 617 (c,lm,om), SAN MATEO, CA—It has been a very busy and productive year thus far in San Mateo:
• New leadership took the local’s reins in January with the departure of former business manager Dominic Nolan for a Ninth District International Representative position. New officers include: Bus. Mgr. Mark Leach, Dist. Rep. Dan Pasini and Executive Board member Scott Wein. Thank you, Dominic, and congratulations to Mark, Dan and Scotty.
• Inside construction journeymen and apprentices met at a January Special Call meeting to hear early results from the inside wire negotiations committee and responded with a near unanimous ratification vote.

Darrell J. Blais, P.S.

Productive & Event-Filled Year

L.U. 617 (c,lm,om), SAN MATEO, CA—It has been a very busy and productive year thus far in San Mateo:

Divot Tool/Ball Marker • $6.00

Combination divot tool and ball marker with IBEW logo.

Clip-2-Me Ball Marker • $4.50

Strong magnetic golf ball marker with 1” diameter IBEW logo. Easily clips to shirt or hat

IBEW Personal Cooler Bag • $16.00

Personal cooler bag holds up to 6 cans and contains a thermal lining to keep beverages cold. Measures 15" x 6" x 3.5", embroidered with IBEW initials, fist and lightning bolts.
Local 673 Bro. Mike Diven at work with Harrington Electric at a Zoup franchise project.

Local 1245 Bus. Mgr. Dollzell (in back) congratulates 50-year service award recipients: Bros. Steve Granlees (left); Perry Zimmerman, former business manager; and Ed Lenior.

Local 1245 builds solidarity through community events. The 4th Annual Soccer Tournament attracted 200+ members and their families to Merced in April. (A second tournament for Fairfield was rained out and is rescheduled for Oct. 4.) Local 1245 and sister locals hosted two Clay Shoots, raising $27,000 for Boys and Girls Clubs. The local’s Annual Charity Bowl in Sacramento raised $2,800 for local charity Fishes and Loaves. The Executive Board helped bag produce at the Sonoma/Contra Costa Food Bank. The annual Howard Stidler Bike Rally also benefits charity. An upcoming rodeo in Reno seeks to benefit veterans by referrals for employment opportunities and VA services. Members also launched the IBEW 1245 Veterans Group, which assists veterans in readjusting to civilian life. The Veterans Group sponsored a food drive in northern California and a clothing drive in the Fresno area. Visit www.ibew1245events.com.

The work is strong in outside construction. Members approved extending the outside line contract, with 93 percent voting in favor—providing a 6.5 percent increase in total compensation over 2015 and 2016. The local bid farewell in May to Senior Asst. Bus. Mgr. Ron Cochran, who presided over our outside construction operations for the past eight years—a period of robust work opportunities and phenomenal growth in signatory contractors.

Brian S. Pro Tem.
Wind Energy in Indiana

L.U. 1393 (catv,clct,ct,ttkl), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—The state of Indiana is presently ranked at No. 13 for installed wind generation capacity in the United States, and the capacity continues to increase every year since the first wind farms were constructed by IBEW Local 1393 members in 2008. Indiana presently has 1,744 megawatts of installed wind generation capacity, with the vast majority of it being constructed by IBEW Local 1393 members. The demand for wind energy continues to grow in Indiana. With each 1,000 megawatts of wind generation installed in Indiana, our members assist with facilitating an estimated savings of 2,834 million gallons of water each year, along with an estimated infusion of $188.5 million to local economies during the construction phase.

Our RENEW committee is hard at work with a variety of community involvement projects that the members have been excited to help out with. A point of pride was assisting an injured brother, journeyman linemen Paul Mulvehill. Bro. Chuck Beaver, a 6th step lineman apprentice, and journeyman lineman Bros. Jason Dipert and Kenny Duncan completed a variety of outdoor property maintenance projects for our injured brother during their free time.

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

Belmont & Pimlico Racetracks

L.U. 1547 (ct,em,u,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—IBEW Local 1547 Bus. Mgr. Mike Hodsdon recently presented IBEW 50-year service pins to Daryl Hansen and Jimmy Smith.

We salute Bros. Hansen and Smith for their longtime IBEW service.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

50-Year Service Awards

L.U. 1547 (ct,em,u,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—IBEW Local 1547 Bus. Mgr. Mike Hodsdon recently presented IBEW 50-year service pins to Daryl Hansen and Jimmy Smith.

2014 Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 1579 (lka), AUGUSTA, GA—Local 1579’s apprenticeship graduation was May 30. Thanks to the apprenticeship graduates for all their hard work, and thanks to all the contractors and journeymen who helped train them.

At this year’s graduation, our guest speaker was Dennis Murphy, former Local 1 financial secretary and current electrical construction manager for Albeci Constructors. Dennis is a great motivational speaker and is able to connect with these new journeymen. We appreciate his taking time out of his busy schedule to speak to our new journeymen.

Congratulations to the new journeymen:


When you see these new journeymen, remind them that they are the future of the IBEW and thank them for all their hard work.

Until next time, God bless.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

New CMP Contract Ratified

L.U. 1837 (ftb&l), MANCHESTER, ME—On May 6, IBEW Local 1837 members in Central Maine Power Company’s largest bargaining unit ratified a new three-year, 12-month contract. In total, 92 percent of the membership cast ballots.

The contract includes wage increases of 2.75 percent, 3 percent, 3 percent and 3.25 percent. It maintains the current health care plan for existing and future hires. It increases the funds that an employee contributes to his or her 401(k) account when working overtime, while maintaining the company’s match on the first 40 hours worked. The agreement guarantees continuation of the annual employee bonus program. The new contract expires Feb. 28, 2018.

The agreement ratified maintains the current health plan coverage for all employees.

“It was clear that health care was very important to our members,” said Local 1837 Bus. Mgr. Dick Rogers. “They didn’t want a different health plan for new employees to divide us. It’s great that they’re looking out not just for themselves, but for the next generation of CMP workers as well.”

In addition to Rogers and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Bill Dunn, the union negotiating team was joined at the final bargaining sessions by IBEW Int. Rep. Ed Collins and Federal Mediator Joe Kelliher. Also on the team were Doug Ames, Lisa Bartell, Lisa Bean, Mark Bedard, Greg Fortin, Mark Henderson, Ryan Wilson and Becky Ragan.

“We’re grateful for all the hard work our team put into these negotiations,” Dunn said. “… Their input has been invaluable.”

Matthew Beck, Organizer

Local 1393 RENEW Committee members help out on a community service project.

Local 1547 Bus. Mgr. Mike Hodsdon (center) presents service awards to Daryl Hansen (left) and Jimmy Smith.

Our RENEW committee is hard at work with a variety of community involvement projects that the members have been excited to help out with. A point of pride was assisting an injured brother, journeyman linemen Paul Mulvehill. Bro. Chuck Beaver, a 6th step lineman apprentice, and journeyman lineman Bros. Jason Dipert and Kenny Duncan completed a variety of outdoor property maintenance projects for our injured brother during their free time.

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), BALTIMORE, MD—IBEW members have been excited to help out with. A point of pride was assisting an injured brother, journeyman linemen Paul Mulvehill. Bro. Chuck Beaver, a 6th step lineman apprentice, and journeyman lineman Bros. Jason Dipert and Kenny Duncan completed a variety of outdoor property maintenance projects for our injured brother during their free time.

Robert C. Fox, B.M./F.S.
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**The Electrical Worker | July 2014**
The Electrical Worker was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union’s members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

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Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:
Letters to the Editor, The Electrical Worker, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
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FROM THE OFFICERS

‘All of Us Are Necessary

Strong unions are built on two pillars. First is the willingness of the membership to stand together. If there is no unity of purpose and no confidence in the courage and fortitude of the members, there is no union.

Second is a broad membership representing a variety of backgrounds, but also—and this is often forgotten—a wide variety of jobs and industries. The most obvious reason is that a union in only one industry can be devastated by a recession. A labor movement that does not represent the full diversity of jobs and people in our two countries also opens itself up to political attacks—however unfair—that it is an elitist club that only looks out for its own.

From the beginning, the labor movement has committed itself to winning respect, a voice and a dignified living for every worker. At times, I believe some people in the labor movement have seen these two sources of strength as mutually exclusive. They say you cannot be both wide and deep.

I have never believed that to be true and offer our membership as a rebuke to those who do.

In recent months, we’ve welcomed to our ranks scores of tree trimmers, the men and women keeping rights of way passable for utility linemen as well as several hundred attorneys general from New Jersey. We have members building a coal fired power plant with revolutionary carbon sequestration technology, we have members just beginning careers as helpers on construction projects and others building a space telescope that will see into the very farthest reaches of time and space.

Cameramen and railworkers, wiemen and telephone operators and so many, many more. The IBEW is hundreds of thousands of hard-working, creative folk who rarely make news outside of our pages, but they represent the very best of North America and its labor movement.

I think Baltimore Local 1501 member Colette Legape put it remarkably well in this month’s story about the James Webb Space Telescope when she said, “Everything we do here is bigger than anyone of us, but all of us are necessary for it to succeed.”

We’re Spreading the News

Google the term “marketing.” If you wanted to, you could spend a month reading about how different businesses sell their image, their reputation and their products. Or, if you desired, you could apply to enter a college or university to receive a degree in the field.

For several generations, the IBEW and other unions looked at marketing as a businessman’s game. In electrical construction, we figured that our skills, the buildings we constructed and the plants we maintained spoke for themselves. We did our jobs. We let our employers speak for their businesses.

Those days are gone. And, in my mind, it’s about time. The experience of the First District shows why.

We mustn’t mistake the willingness to cooperate with our employers to protect our jobs and our businesses with a willingness to be led or led around.

We’ve been very effective in getting our messages out to our customers and potential customers. We’ve made our message clear and we’ve got our message out.

In our consumer-driven economies, brands are important. With our marketing campaigns, millions are expressing the unique value their union brings to these two sources of strength as mutually exclusive. They say you cannot be both wide and deep.

I have never believed that to be true and offer our membership as a rebuke to those who do.

In recent months, we’ve welcomed to our ranks scores of tree trimmers, the men and women keeping rights of way passable for utility linemen as well as several hundred attorneys general from New Jersey. We have members building a coal fired power plant with revolutionary carbon sequestration technology, we have members just beginning careers as helpers on construction projects and others building a space telescope that will see into the very farthest reaches of time and space.

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I think Baltimore Local 1501 member Colette Legape put it remarkably well in this month’s story about the James Webb Space Telescope when she said, “Everything we do here is bigger than anyone of us, but all of us are necessary for it to succeed.”

Our brothers and sisters north of 49 realized that most of their sig-

natory contractors’ nonunion competitors advertise broadly. And they also knew that, with more Canadian political leaders following the path of union adversaries in the U.S., they just couldn’t let unfurth about unions and our values go unchallenged. So they aired national ads featuring IBEW members at work and launched a website profiling members and local unions who reach out and support their neighbors.

These efforts mirror those in the U.S., where, for the last couple of years, we have been airing national

ads during football season and on news networks introducing viewers to our union members at work.

Some locals have been airing ads for years, and many others are now getting into the act. National advertising is absolutely necessary. But it’s expensive. Targeting local media markets is not only cheaper. Local union marketing is a way to zero in on particular projects, to stack up our skills against the competition and win new work.

In our consumer-driven economies, brands are important. With our marketing campaigns, millions are being exposed for the first time to the proud IBEW brand. Our members truly deserve the recognition. And our future members and customers are coming around to check out what we have to offer. All of our advertising—in national and local markets on both sides of the border—helps support our efforts at business and membership development.

I urge our locals to help spread these efforts until every household knows the heart and soul of the IBEW.

Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

Edwin D. Hill
International President
"LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR"

A Mandate for Single Payer?

How can the No. 2 IBEW officer write about the future of U.S. health care (“Fix It, Don’t Repeal It,” May 2014 Electrical Worker) without once mentioning single payer or contrasting the abomination of our “uniquely American” system with that enjoyed by our Canadian brothers and sisters? 

HR 676, Improved and Expanded Medicare for All, was introduced by Rep. John Conyers in 2003. To date, 63 labor organizations, including 147 central labor councils and area labor federations and 44 state AFL-CIOs have endorsed it. Rank-and-file members did most of the work during the Affordable Care Act buildup. Many labor leaders at that time, including the IBEW, joined an advocacy group called “Health Care for America Now” (HCAN), a name intentionally designed to mislead supporters of “Healthcare—Now,” an existing single payer advocacy group. HCAN’s objective of securing a “robust public option” was never in the cards; we were played for fools.

Secretary-Treasurer Chilla correctly states the ACA threatens our multipayer plans but then says “our political/legislative team is working with officials ... from both sides of the aisle to help fix some of these problems.” While ACA officials accommodate requests by business and insurance interests for relief, they continue to shut out labor.

A single payer resolution at our last convention passed unanimously; single payer support is now the official policy of both the IBEW and the AFL-CIO. I remind the IBEW leadership of this and ask that they respect the mandate given to them. We should start by heeding members’ wishes and devoting time, energy and funds to organizing for the single payer solution we so desperately need.

Oregon is finally taking the first step toward Vermont-style, universal single payer care, the HB 3260 study (see www.OregonStudy.org). But this step will go nowhere without broad support from labor. Our leaders and our members should solidly support this study to demonstrate our commitment to single payer health care in Oregon.

Ray Kenny, Local 63 member
Portland, Ore.

Why Vote Republican?

After years of arguing with family and debating friends, I’ve come up with an analogy of Republican propaganda. Republican propaganda is like a train. This train rides on two rails; one is fear and the other is hate. Like all trains, riders get on and off at stations along these rails. If you buy their T.I.L-cut-your-taxes or the people-need-to-keep-more-of-their-own-money lines, then you are using the station whose name is greed. If you agree with them that teachers, firemen and police are paid too much, have too many days off or have too lavish pensions and benefits, then your station is envy. Pride is the station that I have the most problem with, because this one kills not only our loved ones, but also the loved ones in countries with the bad luck of having resources that others want.

Many people and most all Christians know the Ten Commandments but seem to forget about the Seven Deadly Sins, flaws in our character that we all have to guard against every day. I can make an argument for most all of the seven sins and how the Republican Propaganda Train uses them, but space here is limited.

As a thereof, you need to be an emotional voter; by tweaking your sins they hope you will be that greedy, vain, envious voter that they need and love. They will take your pride and their hubris, ingratiate their friends and tally up bills that our children will have to pay.

Mitchell Garrett, Local 146 member
Decatur, Ill.

Labor Education Starts at Home

My husband, Local 103 member Mike, and 8-month-old daughter, Elizabeth, reading the May 2014 issue of The Electrical Worker.

Heather Fernandes, wife of Local 103 member Mike Fernandes
Boston

WHO WE ARE

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

‘It’s Poorer Than You Can Imagine’ Solar Entrepreneur to Power Up Nigerian Orphanage

With more than 2 million barrels of crude oil produced each day, Nigeria is one of the most steady energy suppliers in the world.

But in remote enclaves of the African nation, electricity is scarce. In the small town of Eku, where an orphanage and hospital serve the needs of malnourished children and impoverished citizens, getting even four hours of sporadic electrical service can seem like a good day.

Montana Busch is trying to help improve that. At 26 years old, the Atlanta Local 631 member and his company Alternative Energy Southeast are preparing a project to install solar panels on Eku’s Shepherd Care Orphanage, located in the western Delta State region near the Gulf of Guinea. It’s a first step in what he hopes will be a larger effort to provide power to the entire complex, which includes the Eku Baptist Hospital. The facility offers physicians and nurse training for specialists who work with leprosy, trauma, pediatrics and other issues facing local residents.

It’s “poorer than you can imagine. The poverty in Nigeria is much more extreme and devastating than what I’ve ever seen,” said Busch, who traveled to Eku last spring to inspect the site, get a sense for what his team could feasibly do with available resources, and scope out the possibilities for further energy development. Another activist on site was Kathy Davison, an anesthetist and nursing student teaching aide whose father, Ed Davison, is a retired member of Springfield, Ill., Local 135.

But with great challenge comes great opportunity, and Busch said that he and his team are up for it.

“Our first step is to build a 7-kilowatt solar array that will power the orphanage,” he said. “It’s a tricky job that will be completely custom, utilizing about 28 photovoltaic panels and spanning more than 400 square feet. Busch plans to bring one of his company’s electricians with him when he returns to Nigeria, then team up with a local electrician who has logged hours on other projects at the facility.

Funding for the array will come from Walking in Love Ministries, a Baptist group that has overseen the hospital and orphanage since the 1940s. The orphanage project is the first of a proposed five-step plan to power the entire complex using nothing but harnessed energy from the sun—which is plentiful in Nigeria’s tropical climate, situated just a few hundred miles north of the equator.

But to make further progress, Busch’s team will need about $100,000 in funds for the hospital job. “It’s going to be a challenge, which is why the hospital project remains a ‘maybe’ here, but we are optimistic,” said Busch. A solution could be to combine funds from private donors with any assistance they might procure from the regional government, Busch said.

The Eku job is one of the first large-scale endeavors that Alternative Energy Southeast is tackling as part of the company’s philanthropic efforts. The goal is “Making enough profit to freely give our services to people in developing countries,” the company’s website, www.altenergysource.com states. Lives are changed drastically by having something as simple as electric refrigeration. Most people don’t realize how many ways electricity makes life easier for us. Imagine your life without it.”

Despite his relative youth, Busch has had a passion for green energy since before most of his peers knew what they wanted to do for a career. “I got interested in solar before it was financially feasible, when I was a teen,” he said. “I wanted to do something valuable, something that could be a career while doing good for the planet.”

“There was an assignment in a high school class where the teacher had us write about where we wanted to be in 10 years,” he said. “So I came up with my early plan to be the owner of a renewable energy company.”

To achieve his dream, Busch earned his electrical service can seem like a good day.

Atlanta Local 631 member Montana Busch, left, is volunteering to install a solar array that will power an orphanage in rural Nigeria.

Ray Kenny, Local 631 member
Portland, Ore.
The U.S. was better off when unions were stronger'

— Dirk Linder, Siemens employee and member of German union IG Metall

In April, Linder, representing the IBEW's Global Union Network, traveled to the United States to meet with members and leaders of the IBEW's manufacturing branch at the Broadcasting, Manufacturing and Telecommunications Conference. The IBEW invited members of the IUE, who have developed relationships with German unions, to the meeting to help welcome Linder.

The meeting was attended by IBEW Secretary-Treasurer Sam Chilia, five district vice presidents and local union members and representatives who work at North American Siemens plants. IBEW Manufacturing Department Director Randy Middleton met Linder two years ago at an international Siemens corporate meeting attended by members of the IUE. Impressed by the amount of respect German unionists received from Siemens, Middleton said he wanted to deepen ties with them and learn from their experience.

"In Germany, we have a large amount of influence over Siemens' decisions," Linder told attendees. The need to broaden union influence at other Siemens locations, he said, was underscored by the corporation's rapidly-advancing global reach. In 1980, 47 percent of Siemens' operations were located in Germany. That number has dropped to 32 percent, with the company establishing operations in Asia, South America and other regions. To create a more level playing field for workers at the company, in 2012, IG Metall teamed with IndustriALL, a global union representing 50 million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing, to negotiate and sign an international framework agreement reaffirming the company's commitment to fundamental workers' rights. Those rights include equal opportunity, freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Also signing the agreement were representatives of the Siemens Central Works Council, composed of union members and company executives elected by their peers. Work councils are mandatory under law for all German businesses with more than 1,000 employees. Unions sit on the councils' boards of supervisors and exercise decision-making authority on subjects like layoffs and the distribution of work within companies, adapting national collective bargaining agreements to local conditions.

"Works councils are where our discussions on Siemens' long-term business developments happen," said Linder.

The international framework agreement is a step forward, but it's "a piece of paper," said Linder. "To make it real, unionists have to fight for it and make use of it." He said he's hopeful that Siemens will listen and respond to concerns of workers. The Siemens Global Union Network is proposing meetings and ongoing dialogue between Siemens-based unionists divided into regional "clusters" in Asia, South America, North America, Europe and China.

Phyllis Goines is an executive board member of Arlington, Texas, Local 220, an eight-year employee of a Siemens plant that produces electrical switch gears and power panels. "There's room for improvement in our local's relationship with Siemens and I'm hoping the company lets changes manifest," she said. Two nearby Siemens plants are unorganized, and she expresses hope that the company will remain neutral during any organizing campaigns.

Wayne Cupp, president of IUE-CWA Local 84765 in Norwood, Ohio, whose plant produces large Siemens induction motors, said, "Whenever there's an issue at Norwood, I feel very comfortable reaching across the waters to our counterparts in Germany and getting their advice."

In a 2013 article in the CWA News, Cupp reported on a trip to Germany that included a visit to Siemens' apprentice school in Nuremberg. "They not only teach workers machining and welding skills, they take the opportunity to teach these same workers how important organized labor is for the future," said Cupp.

The IUE and IBEW are developing a strategic organizing campaign for Siemens' plants that will be a subject for future global dialogue.

Middleton says he hopes to see an even more progressive relationship with German unions that will encompass all unions in the U.S. representing workers at the company.

The day after Linder's visit, Siemens' Senior Director of Human Resources Lee Vickers addressed conference attendees with an overview of the company's global holdings, then praised IBEW's record on training, promoting safe practices and the Code of Excellence. "We can never compete on price, alone," said Vickers. "We have to rely on quality and 50 years of service."

Historic Ties Underscore IBEW/German Union Partnership

Nazis Germany was defeated. German industry was in shambles. As he negotiated with Russia over the future of the German state after World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt looked toward rebuilding an agrarian economy, reducing the size and importance of Germany's powerful industrial sector.

Gen. Lucius D. Clay, deputy commander of the U.S. occupation forces, had a different idea. Because many countries in Europe had depended upon German tools and machinery, he reasoned, wouldn't it make more sense to help Germany rebuild its industry and ensure that its workers are represented by trade unions that are democratic, opposed to both Nazism and communism?

Roosevelt finally agreed. And Clay didn't have to look far for a leader who had the background, understanding and ability to begin reaching out to German unionists, many of whom had gone into hiding after World War II began.

That man was Joseph D. Keenan, a Chicago electrician who, in 1954, was elected International Secretary of the IBEW, holding the job until 1974. Clay already knew Keenan through his service on the War Production Board where he helped marshal construction labor for the war effort.

"The reestablishment of trade unions along democratic lines had to come from within," Clay said. "That this almost impossible reform did occur came about in a large part, if not entirely, from the work of Joe Keenan."

In his book, "Joseph D. Keenan, Labor's Ambassador in War and Peace," Francis X. Gannon described how Keenan's intervention helped break through bureaucratic hurdles to return former union halls to their rightful owners. At Keenan's urging, a large building occupied by the U.S. Army was turned over to a union, giving German unions a general headquarters. Keenan's advocacy helped restore typewriters, paper, autos and other essential tools to the unions.

Keenan reported in the AFL Weekly News what he first saw after arriving in Germany at the war's end.

"I found no unions functioning," he said. "Hitler had wiped them all out as his first step after seizing power. We searched in hiding places and in concentration camps until we found some of the surviving trade union activists to support their American counterparts. He says, "Our courageous brothers and sisters in Germany showed us after WW II that the bonds of democratic trade unionism are indestructible. We welcome every single chance to work together on behalf of working families in both our nations."