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★★★ A CALL TO SERVE ★★★

IBEW'S MEMBERS *in* PUBLIC OFFICE

★ IBEW Public
★ Officials,
By the Numbers

IBEW stands near the top of the labor movement in numbers of members who hold public office.

- 1** Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
- 15** State legislators
- 20** County legislators
- 14** Mayors
- 87** City council members, aldermen, town supervisors
- 23** School Board members
- 71** Members of appointed commissions/councils/boards
- 1** Director of the Federal Reserve

"I regularly ask our members to get involved in the community outside of the workplace," says South Bend, Ind., Local 153 Business Manager Mike Compton. Compton says his creed of "leading by example" pushed him into a successful campaign in 2006 for a seat on the South Bend City Council.

"I found out after my election that my fellow Democrats do not understand organized labor, especially the building trades," Compton says. And some Republicans, he says, have never had a discussion with a union representative. "My seat on the council

"ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU ... ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY." - JOHN F. KENNEDY

gives me the opportunity to educate everyone I work with on the positives of organized labor and to put a friendly face on labor."

Compton is not alone. Dozens of IBEW members serve in public office. At the top of the list is newly elected U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (D-N.J.). But dozens more serve their communities and states on zoning and school boards, city councils and state legislatures.

Many of these members balance the responsibilities of public office with the pressures and time constraints of jobs, union leadership and family responsibilities. But, like Compton, they say their efforts are essential to winning more influence and respect for working families in places of power and policy. Many say they have established decent relationships across partisan lines. And they urge others to join them.

Even when they lose their campaigns, union members who contest for public office often come away with a sharper understanding of the importance of entering the political arena.

In a blog post on AFL-CIO Now, F.X. Crowley, a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees summarizes the lessons learned in his unsuccessful campaign for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors where he lost by 132 votes out of more than 35,000 cast.

A CALL TO SERVE *continued on page 2*

Continued from page 1

A Call to Serve: IBEW's Members in Public Office

"Running for office takes you from behind the curtain to center stage," Crowley says. Even in San Francisco, a city friendly to labor, he says, stereotypes prevail. "One voter said to me, 'You're not like a union guy. You're like the police and firemen I know.' Stereotype or ignorance, the voter's comment shows we had work to do," he adds. Without having members in public office, says Crowley, "It's like having your negotiation go into arbitration. You are at the mercy of the arbitrator. The same goes for politics. You are at the

mercy of the elected."

Last November, Cory McCray, a Baltimore, Local 24 membership development representative, won a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates after an extensive grassroots campaign which engaged dozens of young workers. McCray, a Democrat, who had run afoul of the law as a youth, immediately established relationships with Republican representatives. In short measure, he became the lead House sponsor of a successful bill that restored full voting

rights for some ex-offenders who had paid their debt to society.

"I learned how to organize [in the union] which helped me to develop and communicate a simple, effective message to my community and my fellow legislators," McCray says.

Crowley amplifies the qualifications union members bring to the political process. "As negotiators, we are conditioned to find common ground and forge solutions. We bring a special skill set to democracy, which includes team building

and meeting management. As active members of government, labor union leaders would build many more bridges, expand our opportunities to grow, and create an environment of mutual respect and trust," he says.

Perspectives developed during union membership can be important for public officeholders even if they no longer belong to the union or share labor's agenda. During the recent vote in Wisconsin approving right-to-work legislation, the sole Republican to vote against the bill was

state Sen. Jerry Petrowski, a former member of Wausau Local 1791.

What can we learn from IBEW members who serve in public office? How do you win and make a difference? These are the questions we hope to answer.

Next month, we will discuss the experience of IBEW members in public office in Canada, where two members are campaigning for federal positions north of 49.

We invite all members in public office to contact media@ibew.org to discuss your experiences. ■

Cory McCray

Baltimore Local 24
Maryland House of Delegates



A member of Baltimore, Md., Local 24, Cory McCray was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates last November. He has been working hard to promote healing and understanding in his inner city community after the tragic events following the death of Freddie Gray, who died while in police custody.

Issues: "The main issues in my district are poverty, education and sanitation. Due to low incomes in some of the neighborhoods, we have food deserts, a lack of dining options, and a decreasing population. This can be resolved by bringing middle class jobs to the neighborhood, jobs which create disposable income to help grow our communities."

Inspiration: "I am dedicated to creating opportunities for others to succeed. I have been successful. But the true measure of success is not just being successful, it's how many people you can bring along with you. When legislation and budgets include public employees and their working conditions, I am sitting in the room. As workers fight for pay equity, collective bargaining, or prevailing wages, they know they have at least one voice speaking up for them."

Mike Compton

South Bend, Ind., Local 153
South Bend City Council



Mike Compton, business manager of South Bend, Ind., Local 153 has served for nine years as a city councilman, population 100,000.

His mission: "When I am representing the citizens of my community, I try to keep a couple things in mind: How will my actions affect middle-class taxpayers and how will they affect retirees living on fixed incomes? When I am representing union members, I have the same line of thought except instead of thinking of taxpayers, I think of members."

Reaching across the aisle: "I reach out to Republicans and invite them to tour our Electrical Training Alliance. I have found education and apprenticeships are an area that nearly everyone feels is important. It usually helps break the ice a bit and opens the door for further conversation."

Peter Murray

Martinez, Calif., Local 302
Pinole City Council



Peter Murray, a member of Martinez, Calif., Local 302, began his political career as a planning commissioner and has served on the city council of Pinole, Calif., a bedroom community east of San Francisco, for 23 years. Murray, who has been mayor six times, has increased his percentage of the vote in every succeeding election in the city of 18,000.

Keys to success: "I do things by the book. That makes it harder for anyone to question my choices. Communities like Pinole define a budget and live within it. My goal is to help maintain a balance so individuals can have a living wage. That means negotiating project labor agreements like we did for our water treatment plant."

What union members bring to public office: "A lot of members think political offices are out of their reach. But we, the workers, are the ones who make things work. When you're on the job as an electrician, you're a problem-solver. You compete to get things done on time and on budget. You do the job right the first time. Sometimes you have to get into intricate detail and then make fast, but competent decisions. My job as a legislator is to make those competent decisions."

Nick Segura

San Diego Local 569
Sweetwater District School Board



Nick Segura, assistant business manager, San Diego Local 569, has a son in high school and a daughter who is almost there. His children were at the core of his motivation to run a winning campaign last year for a seat on the board of education for their high school district, the state's largest, with more than 40,000 students and 5,000 employees spread over 30 sites.

But Segura also knew winning a board seat would help him familiarize other members and his entire district with the excellent training offered by the IBEW and help the union give back to the surrounding community.

His campaign: "I had knocked on doors for other candidates and had to reach out to 90,000 eligible voters. I made the commitment to run, in part, because one of the five candidates was an opponent of unions. Despite the large number of contenders, I won by a 33 percent margin with a lot of help from unions, including the teachers union."

His experience so far: "I have worked with other board members and the Sweetwater Education Association to help students in a positive way. The administration's Common Core curriculum is controversial. But part of the plan is to focus on 'career-ready' curriculums. I have helped facilitate collaboration between public high schools and the electrical training center to prepare students to go to work on electrical, sound and 'smart' transportation projects. My fellow board members say they are amazed at what the IBEW has to offer and ask why they are just hearing about our training for the first time."



Public Officeholders Profiled

Over the years, IBEW's Media Department has profiled numerous members who continue to serve their states and communities in public office. Visit www.ibew.org to read about:

N.J. U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross
(*The Electrical Worker*, October 2014)

Massachusetts State Rep. Paul Mark
(*The Electrical Worker*, June 2014)

Missouri State Reps. Keith English, Jacob Hummel, Joe Runions
(*The Electrical Worker*, February 2013)

Alaska State Rep. Chris Tuck
(*The Electrical Worker*, May 2009)

Kentucky State Sen. Larry Clark
(*IBEW Journal*, April 2006)

New York (Tompkins County) Legislator Kathy Luz Herrera
(*IBEW Journal*, March 2006)

New Jersey State Sen. Joe Egan
(*IBEW Journal*, January/February 2006)



NLRB to Verizon: UNION SIGNS FINE

The National Labor Relations Board has ruled that Verizon New England management violated its workers' rights when they ordered members of Springfield, Mass., Local 2324 to stop displaying pro-union signs in their cars while on company property.

"This is a huge win and it could not have come at a better time," said Local 2324 Business Manager John Rowley. "We are on the precipice of a new round of bargaining and now we have a clear idea of what we can do."

The board's decision reversed an arbitration board finding about the 2008 action, when signs reading "Verizon, Honor Our Existing Contract" and "Honor Our Contract" were visible in the windshields of their cars parked at three Verizon facilities in Massachusetts. The collective bargaining agreement with Verizon prohibited strikes and pickets, and the company said the unattended signs were the equivalent of a picket line, and ordered them removed.

"We disagreed, but when they threatened suspensions, my attitude was to comply and complain," Rowley said. He filed a complaint with the NLRB.

But the NLRB initially deferred the complaint to the grievance and arbitration process in Local 2324's agreement with Verizon, forcing the local to go to arbitration. A three-member arbitration panel ruled against the IBEW, writing that a "picket does not have to be a sign on a stick."

The local then returned to the NLRB, asking the board to reverse the arbitration panel's decision. Nearly seven years after Local 2324 filed its initial charge, the board agreed with Local 2324's position: this was not picketing.

"A necessary element of picketing is personal confrontation," the board wrote in their decision. "The signs here were merely posted in unattended vehicles ... no one was stationed by the picket signs, and there is no evidence of any coercion or intimidation... the employees' conduct was not picketing."

Lucas Aubrey, an attorney at Sherman, Dunn, Cohen, Leifer & Yellig, the general counsel for the IBEW, said the decision was an important expansion of workers' protections by the Obama board and a reversal from years of anti-worker Bush appointees.

"This is an important win we would not have gotten from a Republican board," Aubrey said.

Picketing is limited under the National Labor Relations Act in a way that free speech is not. But where free speech

ends and picketing begins has shifted over time depending on the composition of the board, Aubrey said. Over the past few decades, when there have been more Republican appointees on the board, more organizing and solidarity activities get grouped with picketing and are restricted by employers.

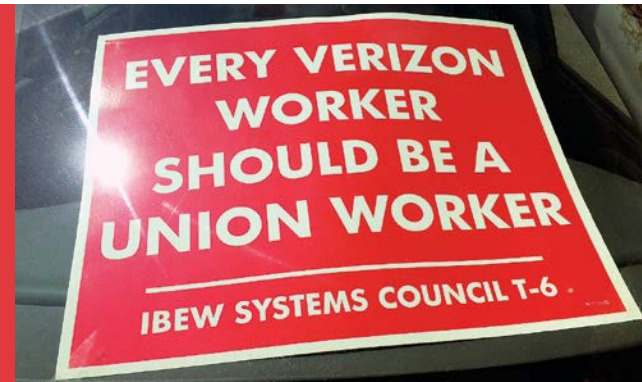
"There are very few restrictions allowed on speech, but the courts have decided that picketing is more than just speech, it is coercive," Aubrey said. "At issue in this case was how much control companies will have over employee actions."

Putting limits on arbitration?

Aubrey said that almost as important as the content of the decision is that the

'This is a huge win and it could not have come at a better time.'

— Local 2324 Business Manager John Rowley



board made it at all. NLRB rules existing at the time the local filed its initial charge didn't allow an arbitrator's decision to be ignored simply because members of the NLRB wouldn't have reached the same conclusion. To decide in a dispute that had already been submitted to an arbitrator, the board had to conclude that the arbitrator's decision was clearly repugnant to the National Labor Relations Act.

In this case, Verizon New England argued the arbitrator's ruling—that signs in parked cars constituted picketing—was based on a reasonable interpretation of prior NLRB rulings, particularly recent rulings made by a majority

Republican board. But the current NLRB dismissed that March 9, writing that the order to remove the signs was "clearly repugnant" to the NLRA.

"This is not a huge change, but it is a part of a trend," Aubrey said.

Last year, for example, the NLRB announced new rules that should result in fewer discrimination cases being deferred to contractual grievance and arbitration processes. But the board has not expanded that heightened review to all arbitration decisions.

Yet.

"The board is in flux about when it defers and when it steps in. It has made changes for some kinds of cases, but not

for cases like this one," Aubrey said. "I hope this was a signal that the board will answer the important questions about workers' freedoms and not leave them to private arbitrators."

Verizon filed an appeal in federal court April 21. Hearings have not been scheduled, but Rowley is adamant that the IBEW will fight Verizon.

"What the court will do only time will tell, but we will continue to fight," Rowley said. "The lesson is that the board may be slow and it may be frustrating, but persistence and consistency make a difference for our members, and workers everywhere." ■



The five-year project labor agreement means thousands of good, local jobs for Long Beach-area residents (photo used under a Creative Commons License courtesy D. Ramey Logan)

The Long Beach, Calif., City Council unanimously approved a project labor agreement that guarantees prevailing wages on all projects over \$500,000 for the next five years. Three weeks after the citywide agreement on April 7, the independent Long Beach Harbor Department also ratified a \$700 million PLA.

The citywide PLA with the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council was the result of months of negotiations and years of political action by Los Angeles Local 11. Nearly 400 members of Local 11 were at the Long Beach City Council chambers the night of the vote, so many that an overflow room had to be opened.

"This will affect hundreds of our members," said Los Angeles Local 11 Business Manager Marvin Kropke. "We have over \$100 billion worth of work done under PLAs in Los Angeles County in the last 10 years and we have always been on time and on budget. That is a remarkable record of success, and Long Beach elected officials understand it is built on PLAs."

Long Beach is the second largest city in Los Angeles County and the seventh largest city in the state. It is home to one of the world's largest ports and harbors large aerospace and petroleum industries. The PLA does not cover

the multi-billion dollar improvements at the port, but negotiations continue with the multi-jurisdiction Port Authority, and Kropke said they are on schedule and going well.

'[We have] a remarkable record of success and it ... is built on PLAs.'

— Local 11 Business Manager Marvin Kropke

Project labor agreements are compacts between project owners and workers ensuring the payment of prevailing wages and the creation of grievance procedures in exchange for no-strike and no-lockout agreements from unions and contractors.

PLAs are most commonly signed for specific, usually large, construction projects, but Long Beach follows Los Angeles and Berkeley in signing an agreement that covers all municipal projects. Like those agreements, the Long Beach PLA has local, veteran and disadvantaged resident hiring requirements.

The ultimate value of the projects covered by the PLA is unknown, but will easily rise into hundreds of mil-

lions, said Local 11 Assistant Business Manager Kevin Norton. Long Beach has control over services that are regularly ceded to the county or state by many California municipalities. The PLA covers city offices and housing, transportation and sanitation, but also the large gas and oil department, which manages the distribution of natural gas within the city as well as a substantial crude oil extraction infrastructure.

The target for local hires is 40 percent. Norton said the same target was used in the Los Angeles PLA and the trades council nearly doubled that, with 74 percent of all hours going to Los Angeles residents.

Local 11 should also have a head start on the veterans target because of its veteran recruitment campaign. Last year, Local 11 unveiled a plan to recruit new apprenticeship classes including at least 50 percent former military veterans. And the local has been working with pre-apprenticeship programs at nearby community colleges to create a pipeline of qualified disadvantaged applicants.

"Elected officials realize that we are the home team," Norton said. "We do right by the community and have an unassailable record of delivering value for our customers."

Local 11 produced a video about the historic agreement that can be seen at www.bit.ly/PLA-video. ■

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IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

www.ibew.org

The IBEW's website has a new look, with improved layout and easier navigation. The new www.ibew.org is a one-stop shop for union information.

YouTube

On May 22, 2011, an F5 tornado ripped through Joplin, Mo., killing 161 and destroying hundreds of homes and businesses. Over the last four years, IBEW Local 95 has helped rebuild the town. YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker

Vimeo

Hear the story of Toronto Local 636 members working at Windsor Regional Hospital in Windsor, Ontario. From payroll to the cancer center, the employees may not work with electricity, but their spark keeps the hospital and its patients in prime shape. Vimeo.com/IBEW.



HourPower

Right now on IBEWHourPower.com, we're at the 2015 Construction and Maintenance Conference, where the winners of the HourPower Awards were announced. Check out who won!



ElectricTV

Take a ride with ElectricTV.net, and see how getting around the Twin Cities just got cleaner and greener thanks to the IBEW/NECA team's work on the new Metro Green Line light rail project.



NORTH OF 49°

Organizing Win at Windsor Hospital Reaps Gains

An IBEW office and clerical bargaining unit at Windsor Regional Hospital in Ontario was put to the test in October 2013 when the hospital initiated a merger with Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board mandated a representation vote between several unions, IBEW, CUPE and OPSEU vs. Unifor as Unifor represented these three groups at its Ouellette Campus (formerly Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital) and the other unions represented the members at its Met campus (which is Windsor Regional Hospital).

The Nov. 13 election pitted Toronto Local 636 against Unifor, Canada's largest private sector union, itself a product of the 2013 merger of the Canadian Auto Workers and the Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union.

"We were there to answer any and all questions Unifor members had," says Local 636 Business Representative Linda Georgiu, who worked as an office and clerical worker at Windsor Regional Hospital for 21 years alongside an overwhelmingly female workforce.

Local 636 represents office workers in a broad number of classifications from health records to admitting and payroll, with 35 different classifications.

IBEW's member-to-member plan worked, as former Unifor members opted for IBEW representation, boosting the 350-member Local 636 bargaining unit to 600 and leading to successful negotiations culminating in a March 26 contract that raised the wages and benefits for former Unifor workers. Local 636 hosted luncheons, distributed newsletters and held two meet-and-greets at each location, sanctioned by the labour board and the hospital for all competing unions.

Georgiu recruited retiree Karen Morrison, a former unit chair at Windsor Regional Hospital and was assisted by an active member and former chief steward, Janet Johnson. Along with Georgiu they took charge of contacting every Unifor member by phone.

The personal contact helped swing the vote toward the IBEW. While Unifor organizers regularly staffed tables in the lobbies of hospital units, their phone contact was limited to a Sunday night robocall from their leading health care representative in Toronto. IBEW and Unifor members, says Georgiu, contrasted the unions' methods of contact and put their trust in the IBEW.

Local 636 members' wages and benefits outpaced those of Unifor office and clerical workers, with superior coverage for vision care, maternity leave and sick leave payouts. But Unifor pitched the message that its status as Canada's largest union would better advance the workers' interests.

Our motto, from the beginning of

the campaign, says Georgiu, was, "It isn't about the size of the union; it is about the representation you receive in your workplace. IBEW is good for you, good for your family and good for your future."

"We had the trust of our members and they formed the solid, unwavering core of our campaign," says Georgiu, crediting Local 636 Business Manager-Financial Secretary Barry Brown with focusing all necessary resources on the win.

"We continue to build a strong foundation of trust and fairness along with communication to ensure that our

members are up-to-date on important issues that affect them," says Georgiu.

Visit IBEW's Vimeo channel to view a video about the Windsor hospital organizing campaign, at <http://vimeo.com/126122188>.



'Our members formed the solid, unwavering core of our campaign,' says Toronto Local 636 Business Representative Linda Georgiu after a successful organizing campaign at Windsor Regional Hospital.

AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

L'organisation pour la victoire syndicale à l'hôpital de Windsor récolte les gains

Un bureau de la FIOE ainsi que les commis du comité de négociation à l'hôpital régional de Windsor en Ontario ont été mis à l'épreuve en octobre 2013 lorsque l'hôpital a fusionné avec l'Hôpital Hôtel Dieu Grace.

La Commission des relations de travail de l'Ontario a ordonné de tenir un scrutin de représentation parmi plusieurs syndicats notamment la FIOE et Unifor, qui représentaient ces trois groupes sur le campus Ouellette (anciennement l'hôpital Hôtel Dieu Grace). Les autres syndicats représentaient les membres sur le campus Met (qui est effectivement l'hôpital régional de Windsor).

L'élection de novembre 2013 a opposé la section locale 636 de Toronto contre Unifor, qui représente un des plus grands syndicats du secteur privé au Canada. Unifor a été fondé en 2013 à la suite de la fusion des travailleurs canadiens de l'automobile, le Syndicat canadien des communications, de l'énergie et du papier.

« Nous étions sur place pour répondre à toutes les questions posées des membres de Unifor », dit la représentante d'affaires Linda Georgiu, ayant travaillé à titre de commis et employée de bureau pendant vingt et un ans à l'hôpital régional de Windsor aux côtés d'une main-d'œuvre essentiellement féminine.

La section locale 636 représente des travailleurs provenant de 35 classifications différentes couvrant des

postes très variés allant d'archives médicales en passant par l'admission ainsi que les services de la paie.

L'initiative de membre à membre entrepris par la FIOE a fonctionné, car les anciens membres de Unifor ont opté pour se faire représenter par la FIOE ce qui a augmenté le nombre des membres de la section locale 636 de 350 à 600. Cette réussite a mené à une négociation fructueuse où le 26 mars un contrat a été signé qui a rehaussé les salaires et les avantages sociaux des membres.

Le local 636 a organisé des déjeuners, a distribué des bulletins d'informations et ont tenu deux rencontres à chaque emplacement, ces initiatives étaient approuvées par la Commission des relations du travail et l'hôpital pour tous les syndicats concurrents.

Georgiu a recruté la retraitée Karen Morrison, ancienne membre de l'exécutif à l'hôpital régional de Windsor qui était assistée par un membre actif et ancienne chef déléguée, Janet Johnson. Ces dernières accompagnées par Georgiu, ont pris en charge de contacter tous les membres de Unifor par voie téléphonique.

Le contact personnel a aidé à basculer les votes vers la FIOE. Alors que les organisateurs de Unifor disposaient des tables de rencontres dans les couloirs des unités de l'hôpital, leur contact téléphonique était limité à un appel robotisé le dimanche soir provenant de leur représentant principal en soins et santé situé à Toronto. Le contraste en

matière de moyens de communication entre la FIOE et Unifor a accordé la confiance des membres en la FIOE, mentionne Georgiu.

Les salaires et les avantages sociaux de la section locale 636 ont surpassé ceux des commis et employés de bureau de Unifor, avec une couverture supérieure pour les soins de la vue, un congé de maternité bonifié et en paiements de congés de maladie. Cependant, Unifor mettait l'emphase sur son statut de grand syndicat au Canada mentionnant qu'ils pourraient mieux défendre les intérêts des travailleurs vu leur grande taille.

Dès le début de la campagne de syndicalisation, notre devise était : « ce n'est pas la taille du syndicat qui importe, il s'agit de la représentation dont vous recevez à votre lieu de travail. C'est une bonne chose d'adhérer à la FIOE, elle assure un avenir meilleur pour vous et pour votre famille. »

« Nous avons eu la confiance de nos membres et ils ont formé le noyau solide et inébranlable de notre campagne », dit Georgiu, en félicitant l'agent d'affaire et secrétaire-trésorier Barry Brown qui a fait la mise au point de toutes les ressources nécessaires pour la victoire.

« Nous continuons de nouer des liens solides de confiance et d'équité ainsi qu'une bonne communication afin de nous assurer que nos membres sont à jour sur les questions importantes qui les préoccupent », dit Georgiu. ■

THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

With Wis. Prevailing Wage under Attack, New Report Cites Law's Benefits

Anyone watching the political landscape in Wisconsin knows how easy it is to see the ill effects of Gov. Scott Walker's policies on working families.

Now some lawmakers, urged on by the American Legislative Exchange Council and other anti-worker groups, are putting the state's prevailing wage law in the crosshairs.

Republican state Rep. Rob Hutton introduced legislation on Feb. 17 to repeal the law that upholds fair compensation and benefits for the state's construction workforce. In an interview with The Cap Times, Hutton said the bill aligns with other anti-labor actions that have been embraced by the GOP during Walker's tenure.

"We just passed right-to-work—is it our time now to continue to tackle these major labor reforms? I think one camp says we've got the momentum moving, we've got the forces on our side, let's go ahead and get it done," Hutton said.

But in a new report analyzing the law's fiscal impact, University of Utah economics professor Peter Philips highlights the critical role prevailing wages play in job training, retaining a skilled workforce and more in the Badger State.

"In states with prevailing wage laws, workers are more productive both on public works and across the entire construction industry," Philips writes. "On average, Wisconsin's public works productivity advantage ranges between 25 percent to 75 percent higher than the 18 states that do not have prevailing wage regulations. Because of enhanced and more widespread apprenticeship training and a greater retention of experienced workers, this increased productivity on public works spills over into the overall construction industry."

Philips' research shows that the while nonunion groups like the Associated Builders & Contractors invest scant resources in apprenticeship and training, Wisconsin's union contractors provide 95 percent of the funding to hire, train and retain a skilled workforce.

"This difference in quality and quantity plays out in higher productivity on the union side of the Wisconsin construction industry, higher construction worker incomes, greater health insurance coverage and more secure retirements for Wisconsin construction workers," Philips writes.

State Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, a Democrat, said that lawmakers like Hutton are ignoring the opinions of hundreds of state businesses in the rush to scuttle the law.

"Repealing prevailing wage would be another huge hit against the middle class and small businesses in Wisconsin," Barca said. "Over the last decade, Wisconsin has been the worst state in the nation for the middle class. Wisconsin's road and bridge construction workers are some of the most productive in the nation—with low costs per mile and excellent training. The bottom line is that Wisconsin has a system that works, and Republicans want to dismantle it knowing that it will drive down wages."

The law is also being pushed by Americans for Prosperity, a group funded by billionaire brothers David and Charles Koch. AFP has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in secret cash—or so-called "dark money"—to endorse political candidates who support right-to-work laws, rolling back workplace protections and other policies that hurt middle-class families.

"Lawmakers need to continue working for the state in order to make Wisconsin a better place to do business, to attract more companies and create jobs,"



Anti-worker Wisconsin legislators are targeting the state's prevailing wage law.

Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Flickr user edward stojakovic.

writes AFP deputy state director Annette Olson in an April 5 op-ed in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "Wisconsin needs to become a destination for the innovators, the game-changers and those who are willing to do things a little differently. Repealing Wisconsin's prevailing wage law would be the next great step."

Read Philips' report, "Wisconsin's Prevailing Wage Law: An Economic Impact Analysis," at www.wisconsininfrastructure.com. ■

New Union Election Rules Take Effect

New rules governing how workers petition and vote for union representation took effect April 14.

The National Labor Relations Board implemented changes that the agency says will streamline the election process and keep pace with advances in technology. Instead of waiting nearly a month—and usually longer—to vote, workers could cast ballots in as few as two weeks.

"Unions historically have been at the forefront of establishing things like the 40-hour work week, the weekend, child labor laws, fair benefits and decent wages," Obama said last month after vetoing a congressional measure passed by anti-worker lawmakers that would have scrapped the new rules.



New National Labor Relations Board rules could help accelerate union elections. Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Wikimedia user Geraldshields11.

Other new procedures allow organizers to electronically submit petitions, speeding up the filing time. Employers are also now required to provide the NLRB and the union with an alphabetized list of employees in the voting unit by job classification, shift and work site location within one week of the petition's filing and must post an election petition notice within two business days.

Several GOP lawmakers and business groups, including the Chamber of Commerce, called the

NLRB's reforms "ambush election rules" that would hamper employers' abilities to stop organizing drives.

A 2009 study by labor expert and Cornell University professor Kate Bronfenbrenner shows that large numbers of employers fire union supporters and threaten to close work sites or cut wages and benefits during campaigns. Even workers who do win organizing drives face more opposition down the road, with more than half still lacking a contract in the first year after a campaign.

"One of the freedoms of folks here in the United States is that if they choose to join a union, they should be able to do so," Obama said in a recent New York Times article. Obama also plans to host an event at the White House this fall to explore ways of helping middle-income families who fared worse than the wealthy during and after the Great Recession, the paper reported.

Read a comprehensive list of the new NLRB rules at www.bit.ly/NLRBrules. ■

White House Calls for Greener Grid

President Obama's administration released a report April 21 that calls for billions in funding that will move the nation's aging energy infrastructure into the 21st century.

The advent of more solar, wind and other renewables—along with the nation's increased domestic oil and natural gas production—signals a sea change in how power is generated, transmitted, stored and consumed, the administration said in its report.

"The United States has the most advanced energy systems in the world, supplying the reliable, affordable and increasingly clean power and fuels that underpin every facet of our nation's economy," the White House said, according to an article in The Hill. "But our energy landscape is changing dramatically. Solar electricity generation has increased 20-fold since 2008, and electricity generation from wind energy has more than tripled. During that period, the United States has also become the world's leading producer of oil and natural gas combined."

To make these grid upgrades, lawmakers would need to approve as much as \$3.5 billion over the next decade to replace natural gas lines and improve maintenance procedures. It would take another \$4 billion to both modernize the electrical grid and improve its "resilience, reliability, safety and security," the administration said.

The administration said that it will look for ways to work with Congress on the plans outlined in the report, many of which were included in Obama's 2016 budget request, The Hill reported.

IBEW in the Mix

The IBEW has been at the forefront of some of the world's largest solar projects, including the 392-megawatt Ivanpah plants in California's Mojave Desert, built by San Bernardino Local 477 members. Further west, electricians from San Luis Obispo are building the 500-megawatt Topaz projects.

The Electrical Worker reported in March 2014 about a resurgence in transmission construction, with about a dozen billion-dollar projects on the horizon. International President Edwin D. Hill said that the construction boom is both an opportunity and a challenge for the IBEW.

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

The union estimates that by 2024, more than 76,000 members of U.S. locals performing inside construction will be eligible to retire.



The president is calling for upgrades to the nation's aging electrical grid.

'A Balanced Approach'

At the same time, IBEW leaders have called for caution and a balanced approach when moving newer technologies into the nation's energy mix. As the Environmental Protection Agency tightens its regulations on carbon emissions, the agency said last winter that almost 50 coal plants would close, in addition to the 60 to 70 plants that will likely be shuttered due to recent regulations cutting mercury emissions.

Almost 50,000 jobs would be lost at those plants and nearly twice that number in surrounding communities. Together, the plants represent more than 40 percent of the nation's coal power capacity, around 125 gigawatts.

Moving Forward

The April 21 report is the first in what the energy department said will be a "quadrennial review," which the agency plans to produce every four years, The Hill reports.

"The United States' energy system is going through dramatic changes," said U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, The Washington Post reported. "This places a high premium on investing wisely in the energy infrastructure we need to move energy supplies to energy consumers." ■

TRANSITIONS

APPOINTED

Jerry Westerholm



IBEW Construction and Maintenance Department Director Jerry Westerholm has been promoted to Special Assistant to the International

President for construction, maintenance and business development, effective April 1.

A native of Hutchinson, Minn., Westerholm entered Minneapolis Local 292's apprenticeship program in 1980 and served on the COPE committee and executive board.

"I had great jobsite mentors," says Westerholm, who joined Local 292's efforts to build political influence in surrounding towns and counties.

Appointed business representative in 1989, Westerholm assisted grassroots efforts in support of Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton and the late Sen. Paul Wellstone and helped elect county commissioners and school board members who supported union labor.

Westerholm was appointed Local 292 business manager in 1997 and was elected to the position in 1998. He helped negotiate a project labor agreement covering all work performed for the Minneapolis school district, a pact that is still in effect.

In 2000, Brother Westerholm was assigned to help administer national agreements and process disputes over craft jurisdiction as an international representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department in Washington, D.C.

He became director of the department seven years later after his predecessor, Mark Ayers, became president of the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO.

"We need to keep growing our membership to make up for the large numbers of baby boomers who are getting ready to retire," Westerholm says.

Eight thousand members in the branch will qualify for pension this year. By 2024, the number of eligible retirees will spike to 77,000.

"I'm looking forward to helping to administer an added focus on business development in my new position," says Westerholm, who has attended the University of Minnesota and the University of Illinois as well as dozens of seminars focusing on arbitration, construction law, research and safety.

Westerholm emphasized the need to continue practicing the Code of Excellence while reaching out to customers well in advance of projects and cooperating with them to keep rates competitive. "That means fully utilizing construction wiremen and construction electricians where practicable. It's all about building productive relationships with our signatory contractors that work for both of us."

On behalf of the entire membership and staff, the IBEW wishes Brother Westerholm great success in his new position. ■

APPOINTED

Denise Johnson



International Representative Denise Johnson was appointed director of the newly established Agreement Approval Department,

effective April 1.

A member of Houston Local 716, Sister Johnson was initiated into the IBEW in 1995, completing her inside journeyman wireman apprenticeship in 1999.

Johnson became the first woman to hold elected office in the local, serving as chairman of the examining board along with membership on the negotiating committee, several other committees and in the Houston chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. She participated in Watt Women, founded by members of Local 716.

In 2004, Johnson, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., from a family of electricians, became the first woman electrical inspector for the City of Houston.

Appointed international representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department in 2006, Johnson was assigned to work on contract compliance. A year later, Johnson was assigned to supervise the work of agreement approval analysts at the International Office.

Agreement approval analysts review from 100 to 200 agreements per month. They ensure that contracts are compliant with the IBEW's established procedures and requirements and federal law.

Challenges by employers to collective bargaining precedents have intensi-

fied in several IBEW branches, says Johnson. To face those challenges, business managers and international representatives need more information. During her tenure, new databases have been put in place to help leaders prepare for negotiations by collecting data about wage increases and other subjects.

"Armed with an even stronger focus, our new department will work even harder to help our local unions achieve success in collective bargaining," Johnson says.

Johnson is a former member of the Democratic National Committee and a member of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

She is also an accomplished equestrian who enjoys hunting, diving and snow skiing.

On behalf of the entire membership, the officers wish Sister Johnson great success in her new position. ■

APPOINTED

Ray Kasmak



IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill has appointed Ray Kasmak director of the new Business Development Department, effective

May 1. Once part of the Construction and Maintenance Department, it was created to develop relationships with construction project owners in the early stages of development to find areas of possible cooperation that increase the chances of signatory contractors winning new work.

"There is always someone out there

who says no to every construction project," Kasmak said. "We are able here to help provide the people who will say yes, and will work to back that yes up."

Kasmak came on as Gary and Hammond, Ind., Local 697's staff organizer in 1996 and became business manager in 2004. He said Local 697 has a culture that emphasizes selling the benefits of working with the IBEW directly to project owners. It is an attitude Kasmak traced back to Harold Hagberg, business manager from 1950-1978, who served as president of the Gary Chamber of Commerce.

"Our culture was to organize the work, because a job is the best advertisement for the union there is," Kasmak said. "When they ask 'Have you got a job for me?' saying 'I got a job for you Monday' will get anyone's attention."

Kasmak was appointed business development international representative by President Hill in 2013 where he has been responsible for the Sixth District: Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Kasmak has worked closely with the owners of many projects including Energy Transfer Partners, which is building a pipeline from the Utica shale in Ohio into Michigan, and Clean Lines, which is building several multibillion dollar transmission line projects across the American heartland.

"In exchange for help in the regulatory process and public meetings, we have commitments from them on two of the projects and there are a few others we are working on," Kasmak said.

Brother Kasmak is a third generation member of Local 697. His maternal grandfather, Clay Maupin, was initiated into Glasgow, Ky., Local 463 in 1920 and worked as a railroad and utility lineman and joined

Local 697 in February 1951, retiring a year after receiving his 50-year pin. His father, Raymond Kasmak Sr., was also a member of Local 697. He has two sons also in Local 697: Chauncey Kasmak, an inside journeyman wireman, and Taylor Kimes, who is an inside apprentice wireman.

The officers and members wish Brother Kasmak great success in his new position. ■

APPOINTED

Jim Ross



International Representative Jim Ross was appointed director of the IBEW Construction and Maintenance Department, effective

April 1. Ross replaces Jerry Westerholm, now Assistant to the International President for construction, maintenance and business development.

Ross was assigned to the Construction and Maintenance Department in 2007, and he served as director of the Political and Legislative Affairs Department from 2013-2014.

"Being back in construction feels like home," said Ross, who has done electrical work since he was a junior in high school. He worked nonunion until he was accepted into an IBEW apprenticeship with Parkersburg, W.Va., Local 968 in 1976. "I went to college for a year, but I just felt more comfortable working with my hands. At the end of the day, you see what you've accomplished. It's one of the

ORGANIZING WIRE

Kan. Asplundh Campaign Takes Inside Track

They work side by side with IBEW members, but they don't belong to the union. Delegates to the Membership Development Conference pledged last September to reach out to approximately 27,000 of these nonmembers in right-to-work states and convince them of the benefits of standing under the union's umbrella.

In March, that's just what happened as dozens of line clearance tree trimmers who maintain rights of way for Westar Energy Corp. and work alongside 1,300 IBEW members signed authorization cards to join IBEW.

The trimmers will now enjoy the benefits of December Asplundh-IBEW contract negotiations covering members of Topeka Local 304 and Wichita Local 1523, which share jurisdiction at Westar, the largest energy provider in Kansas. And they join hundreds of Asplundh workers who have voted for representation over the past several months in elections held in Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia.

Lead Organizer Chad Manspeaker says Local 304's collective bargaining agreement with Westar mandates that onsite contractors must agree with the terms and conditions of the local unions. But, before negotiations on a new contract in December, neither local had more than 30 percent of the tree trimmers signed as members.

"We advised Asplundh's nonmembers that by joining the IBEW they would make gains in retirement benefits and also in health insurance coverage through the Line Construction Benefit Fund [LineCo]," Manspeaker says.

Without a solid and growing bargaining unit, he told prospective trimmers, retirement, healthcare benefits and other gains would be more vulnerable to cuts.

The unprecedented string of successful organizing campaigns to the east, says Manspeaker, made the IBEW's invitations to membership even more persuasive. "I told them they would become part of a bigger sphere. If they work on a utility right-of-way, they belong in the IBEW."

Sixty-four new members signed up. They doubled the size of Local 304's trimmer unit and brought new strength into Local 1523.

While IBEW's pact with Westar to employ union contractors is a plus for organizing, says Manspeaker, signing tree trimmers can sometimes be nearly as difficult in locals without similar agreements because Kansas crews are often rotated between different job assignments across the state, instead of working consistently out of one location.

"I'm so impressed with the work that Chad Manspeaker and Mark McCubbin, Local 304 business representative, did to develop contact lists and follow up on tree trimmers as Asplundh moved them around," says Local 304 Business Manager John Garretson II.

Garretson and Local 1523 Business Manager Duane Nordick cooperated in keeping concerns over jurisdictional placement of new members from interfering with signing as many tree trimmers as possible.

"Our line clearance members really appreciated our efforts to communicate with them during contract negotiations," Garretson says. Unprecedented outreach in person, by text and social media were essential, he says, because Asplundh was pushing for concessions, claiming that the Affordable Care Act was putting their LineCo benefit in jeopardy.

"We knew we had to do a better job contacting existing members of the bargaining unit and unsigned trimmers," says Garretson. The issue was resolved with no added costs to members, but not without a fight.

"I told Asplundh's personnel director the company actually helped us organize more members by arbitrarily moving trimmers from one show-up location to another to frustrate efforts to sign them and also by refusing to permit workers to speak to organizers during working hours," Garretson says.

Those tactics, he says, forced the locals to work even harder to build solidarity and union density.

Membership Development Department International Representative Alan Freeman says organizing at Asplundh's locations is continuing across the country. ■

most fulfilling jobs—to start a project, finish it and be able to turn the lights on.”

Ross brings eight years of experience at the International Office to his new job, which came on the eve of the 2015 Construction and Maintenance Department conference. Ross said the event’s theme, “Don’t Settle for Survival,” couldn’t be more appropriate or timely.

“In some cases, locals are at full employment, and you can get in a comfort zone because everyone is working,” Ross said. “But we should never settle for just that. There are a lot of other work opportunities out there that we need to go after.”

From the recent recession to the tentative comeback the construction sector is experiencing, Ross said that the IBEW has been in the forefront of developing new programs to get members back to work. Initiatives such as the construction electrician and construction wireman classifications and the recent business development initiative are reaping rewards.

“Speaking in terms of the Fourth District, where I am from and most familiar, I can tell you that from talking with the business managers, CE/CW is definitely working,” Ross said. “It’s helping gain man-hours, and we’re growing membership and market share. It’s proven to work and to capture work we were not doing.”

Ross praised International President Edwin D. Hill for spearheading the program. “I don’t think anyone’s going to stop until we get back to where we should be, like in the ‘60s when we had 75-80 percent market share. The only way to get that is to use all the tools to get it back.”

One way to do that, Ross said, is to continue efforts to work with lawmakers across the current party divide. “We have help from a lot of Democrats, and we are trying to get more Republicans to work with us on issues like project labor agreements and Davis-Bacon.” During the Building and Construction Trades 2015 Legislative Conference in April, BCTD President Sean McGarvey said that about 50 Republicans in the House of Representatives are engaging in productive dialogue with union leaders on federal prevailing wage protections, among other pro-worker issues.

“We’re certainly going to have to build these coalitions to get something done,” Ross said.

In his free time, Ross enjoys golf and woodworking. He expressed gratitude to his wife, Valerie, and their three sons for continued support.

On behalf of the entire staff and membership, the officers wish Brother Ross great success in his new position. ■

RETIRED

Eddie Dedmon



After a 44-year career in the IBEW, International Representative Eddie Dedmon retired March 1.

Brother Dedmon, born and

raised in Jacksonville, Fla., said labor activism was in his blood.

“My dad was the business manager for the brickmasons,” he said. “He showed me that with the union, you could always make a living. He pointed me to it.”

He was initiated into Jacksonville Local 177 in 1971. Prior to joining the IBEW, Dedmon served in the U.S. Navy, stationed in San Diego.

Trained as an inside wireman, Brother Dedmon held a variety of positions in Local 177. He served as president and assistant business manager in the 1990s before serving as business manager-financial secretary from 1998 to 2005.

Dedmon served on numerous committees including: pension, health care, negotiating, labor management, apprenticeship and organizing. He studied labor relations at the George Meany Center, later known as the National Labor College.

Membership at Local 177 grew significantly during Dedmon’s tenure as business manager, from roughly 490 members in 1990 to more than 1,800 in 2005.

In 2005, International President Edwin Hill appointed him to serve as Fifth District international organizing coordinator.

“Organizing was my passion and No. 1 objective,” he said. “In the early days, the union structures were not set up as they are today and it was an uphill battle in Florida. There was a lot of work involved to organize effectively. I created membership orientations and gave video presentations to get it done.”

During his career, the homebuilders in Florida were notoriously nonunion. “I got to be so well known they had a cheat sheet prepared: ‘How to deal with this man.’”

Brother Dedmon also served as president of the North Florida Building Trades Council and president of the North Florida Labor Council.

On behalf of the entire membership and staff of the IBEW, the officers wish Brother Dedmon a long and healthy retirement. ■

DECEASED

William J. Moore



We regret to report that retired First District International Representative William J. Moore died on April 6. He was 77.

A native of Windsor, Ontario, Brother Moore initiated into Local 911 in 1957. The local was later merged with Local 636, and Moore continued his membership there. A lineman by trade working for the Windsor Public Utilities Commission, Moore served on the executive board and as financial secretary before becoming business manager in 1969.

Brother Moore was appointed to the International staff in 1974 and mainly serviced locals in the utility branch and the public sector. Among numerous career highlights, the Canadian government

invited him to lend his expertise to many panels addressing lineman certification, safety, utility training and more.

“Bill will be remembered for being a lineman’s lineman,” said retired First District International Vice President Ken Woods. “That was his life, next to his family. He was dedicat-

ed—IBEW from head to toe. And he was especially gung-ho for linemen and their safety. He thought there was no trade like it.”

A member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Moore served on various labor/management committees throughout his career. He retired in 1998.

In retirement, Moore enjoyed golf, bowling and hockey, and was a coach for young skaters learning skills in the rink.

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

In the IBEW, Membership has Its Privileges

“A” members in good standing receive pension, death benefits and eligibility for elected office

The following has been prepared to assist our members with decisions regarding per capita dues payments and their rights as well as to clarify IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) requirements for future benefit payments.

The IBEW has a long tradition of assisting members at the local and international level with benefits. As a result of convention action, the IBEW created and maintains pension and death benefits for all “A” members. Although this applies primarily to members working in the construction branch of the brotherhood, this program is and has always been available to all IBEW members who elect “A” membership status, and they are encouraged to participate.

Advantages of maintaining IBEW “A” membership and continuous good standing include:

Pension and death benefits that are only payable to members who remain in good standing. Any member who retires prior to age 62 from a local union plan or local company plan, other than by disability, is required to maintain continuous good standing by paying dues to his or her local union until becoming eligible, approved and placed into active payment status to begin collecting PBF benefit. For disability pension, dues payment must continue until being placed onto PBF pension payment status. Dues payments made after the date of disability would be refunded after the PBF pension has been approved. Retirees maintaining continuous good standing after being placed onto pension are not required to continue dues payments.

Eligibility for a Normal PBF Pension

Per the IBEW Constitution (Article XI, Sec. 1), an “A” member of the IBEW in continuous good standing with five or more years immediately preceding his retirement application, who has attained the age of 65, shall receive pension benefits computed on the basis of \$4.50 per month for each full year of such continuous “A” membership.

Eligibility for Optional Early Retirement Pension

An “A” member of the IBEW in continuous good standing with 20 or more years immediately preceding his application, who has attained the age of 62, may elect to receive reduced pension benefits as long as he lives, computed on the basis of \$4.50 per month for each full year of such continuous “A” membership, reduced by

6 2/3 percent for each year or part thereof the said “A” member was under the age of 65 at the date of his retirement.

Eligibility for Disability Pension

An “A” member of the IBEW who is totally disabled and has continuous good standing of 20 or more years immediately preceding his application shall receive disability pension benefits, if such application is approved after December 31, 2006, computed on the basis of \$4.50 per month for each full year of such continuous “A” membership. The applicant must maintain his membership in continuous good standing until the application is approved by the I.E.C.

Eligibility for Local Union Participation

In addition to the above PBF pension benefits, the Constitution provides additional rights to active members of the IBEW. These include attending union meetings, voting on local union issues, holding office and participating in the IBEW International Convention.

IBEW Constitutional Requirements for Continuous Good Standing

The following is reprinted from the IBEW Constitution for your consideration:

- **Article XXI, Sec. 3.** Any member indebted to his L.U. for three months’ dues, or having any past due indebtedness to the I.B.E.W. for dues or assessments, shall stand suspended, and the L.U. may refuse to accept dues from any member who is indebted to it. Such member cannot be reinstated until all indebtedness has been paid, unless waived by the L.U. However, dues cannot be waived.
- **Article XXI, Sec. 6.** Members who are suspended forfeit all rights and previous standing in the I.B.E.W., including any pension or death benefits payable from the Pension Benefit Fund.

Article XI provides the rules and benefits for IBEW Pension Benefit Fund payments which members, or their beneficiary, who maintain their good standing are eligible to receive. The IBEW currently has over 100,000 members collecting a PBF pension benefit and for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, paid over \$122 million in pension benefits to retired IBEW members. In the same time period over \$17.6 million in death benefits were paid to IBEW members’ beneficiaries.

Many local unions provide reminders to

members who are delinquent in paying dues and this office encourages local unions to assist members with this service to help in timely payment of dues. However there is no requirement for local unions to provide notice and ultimately the responsibility for timely dues payment is up to the member.

Eligibility to run for Delegate to the International Convention

Per Article II, Sec. 10 of the IBEW Constitution, no member shall be nominated as a delegate or alternate unless in continuous good standing in his L.U. at least 24 months immediately prior to nomination, provided his L.U. has been in existence that long.

*** The two-year membership requirement shall not be applicable to members of L.U.s affiliated with System Councils, who are employed by a single employer and who transfer between L.U.s within a System Council, provided however that such member must have been a member in continuous good standing for two years in at least one of the L.U.’s affiliated with the System Council involved.

Eligibility to Run for International Office

No one shall be eligible as an officer except a member having five years continuous good standing in the IBEW immediately prior to nomination. (Article III, Sec. 2)

Eligibility to Run for Local Union Office

No member shall be eligible for any office unless he has been a member in continuous good standing at least two years in the L.U. immediately prior to nomination, provided his L.U. has been in existence for that length of time. (Article XVI, Sec. 10)

*** The two-year membership requirement shall not be applicable to members of L.U.s affiliated with System Councils, who are employed by a single employer and who transfer between L.U.s within a System Council, provided, however that such member must have been a member in continuous good standing for two years in at least one of the L.U.s affiliated with the System Council involved.

“BA” members shall not participate in the funds or benefits established and maintained under Article XI. (Article XIII, Sec. 10) ■

CIRCUITS



Detroit Local 58 members were honored by the city's Habitat for Humanity group.

Detroit Local Honored for Volunteer Efforts

One new house built—from start to finish—every day.

That's the ambitious goal set by Detroit's Habitat for Humanity for the charity's annual "blitz build," a weeklong event that sees thousands of construction workers, faith leaders, community activists and everyday citizens roll up their sleeves, grab tools and raise roofs throughout the city.

Members of Detroit Local 58 played a key role in last summer's blitz build, where they helped wire and power up seven new homes in the eastern part of the city.

For their efforts, IBEW brothers and sisters received the group's Community Partner of the Year award at a gala event in downtown Detroit.

Local 58 Business Manager Michael Richard called the February honor "a source of great pride."

"I can't think of a better or more deserving group than our men and women who go out there year after year and do this great work," he said.

Detroit's union electricians have helped build over 100 Habitat homes in southeastern Michigan over the last 15 years.

"IBEW Local 58 has been with us for a number of years now, and I can't tell you how important that is," said Vincent Tilford, executive director of Habitat Detroit. "We're very grateful for their help and resources."

Watch Local 58 members in action: www.bit.ly/detroit-habitat-award. ■



Portland, Ore., Local 125 members picket in March for a fair contract.

Portland, Ore., Local Pickets for Fair Contract

We do the challenging work providing your power—and we deserve a decent contract.

That's the message that was sent by members of Portland, Ore., Local 125 who held informational pickets outside employer Pacific Power's company headquarters in March.

The workers began bargaining for a new contract last September with PacifiCorp, Pacific Power's parent company. The local represents 316 Pacific Power employees, including linemen, service coordinators, meter readers, substation wiremen and more.

After tough rounds of bargaining, the two parties sought assistance from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service early this year. PacifiCorp put forth its most recent offer March 4, which workers say offers lower wages and benefits compared to other energy companies in the region.

"We're here today because we're committed to providing safe, reliable power for our customers—and sometimes that means working 40 feet in the air on a utility pole in the middle of a snow storm," said Local 125 Business Manager Travis Eri. "We take pride in our work and love serving our communities."

Local 125's activism was covered by an area news station on April 29. Watch video at www.bit.ly/LU125picket.

PacifiCorp operates as Pacific Power in California, Oregon and Washington, and as Rocky Mountain Power in Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. The company earned

nearly \$3.5 billion in gross profits during 2014. PacifiCorp provides power to 1.8 million customers, according to its company website.

For more information, visit Local 125's Facebook page: www.bit.ly/LU125Facebook. ■



American Water donated thousands for the Union Sportsmen's Alliance conservation efforts in Charleston, W.Va.

American Water Donates Thousands for Union Conservation Efforts

At a time when much of the U.S. is experiencing record levels of drought, good environmental stewardship is needed.

That's why American Water, the largest water and wastewater utility company in the U.S., recently donated two grants totaling \$35,000 to the Union Sportsmen's Alliance to further the organization's ongoing conservation efforts.

The grants, which were announced at the USA's Second Annual West Virginia AFL-CIO Conservation Dinner on April 18, will fund USA's Work Boots on the Ground volunteer efforts in Illinois, Tennessee and West Virginia. American Water's national arm donated \$25,000 to the projects, and the company's West Virginia office kicked in an additional \$10,000 for the Charleston-area conservation initiative.

Volunteers will help improve public access to water-based recreational opportunities and enhance the environmental sustainability of existing recreational areas.

"American Water employees are

proud members of the communities we serve," company President and CEO Susan Story said. "Our employees who are in union-represented jobs are among the most talented and skilled professionals in the nation, and we are very excited to provide financial and staff support to Work Boots on the Ground projects that will enhance the outdoor experience of our customers, our employees and their families." Story has been credited with improving labor/management relations at the company since her hiring last year.

Launched in 2010, Work Boots on the Ground offers union members the chance to help conserve wildlife habitat, mentor youth, improve public access to the outdoors and restore America's parks.

IBEW volunteers have built a youth archery range in Florida, constructed a storage facility for kayaks near a Georgia lake, improved a Texas state park and more.

"To every conservation project union members take on through Work

Learn more about Work Boots on the Ground at www.unionsportsmen.org. ■

Sixth District Activist RENEWing a Family Tradition

No one had to persuade Adam Hentschel to join the IBEW. He's a fourth generation union member.

"My dad is IBEW, my grandfather and great-grandfather worked in the automobile industry and my brother is also in the trade. I applied, waited two years and was accepted as a telecommunications apprentice," Hentschel said.

A 29-year-old member of Detroit Local 58, Hentschel is spreading the word among his peers about the advantages of an IBEW career. The recruiting effort, called Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers, is a major initiative throughout the IBEW to attract young members to replace the retiring older generation of workers.

Hentschel said Local 58 is building a strong RENEW program. "We were ringing doorbells during the recent election for governor and phone banking with the AFL-CIO. In our PAC committee, Next Gen members outnumber the seniors."

Upholding the IBEW tradition of community service is also a high priority for Hentschel and his RENEW brothers and sisters. They recently teamed with their counterparts at Detroit Local 17 to support a food bank and a shelter for women and children.

Hentschel said he was encouraged by the success of the young worker movement in the IBEW. The IBEW's RENEW conference in Chicago in March included 430 members, which more than doubled the previous gathering in 2013, said Tarn Goelling, international representative in the Civic and Community Engagement Department. The feedback on how RENEW is progressing is positive and a lot of younger members are taking that energy back to their locals, Hentschel said.

Local 58 is promoting RENEW through local and IBEW Facebook pages, an online newsletter, and monthly conference calls. ■



RENEW team members from Detroit Local 17 and Local 58 join forces to upgrade a shelter for women and children.

LOCAL LINES

Annual Awards Banquet

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO—Local 12 celebrated 115 years at our Annual Awards Banquet on Feb. 28. The evening's activities began with drinks and a delicious dinner, followed by the presentation of service pins.

Attendees included recipients of five-year pins all the way to a 65-year pin recipient, Bro. Art Lazzarini, who unfortunately passed away on March 19 at age 91. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Our 50-year members are Russell Hylton, Darrell Mull and John Nieto. Kenneth Fowler received a 55-year pin.

This year seven recent retirees received their watches: Lawrence Ahlin, Louis DeNiro, Robert D. Grinstead Jr., Rick Hill, Douglas McCurry (pictured), Terry Stice and William Van Valkenburg.

The Apprentice Awards were presented by Apprenticeship Dir. Brian Miller. Nicholas Anderson received the Apprentice of the Year Award and Matt Melster was the runner-up. The Outstanding New Apprentice was Joshua Albers. The graduates of 2014 were also recognized: Trent Smith and Matthew Juarez. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to our next event.

Susan Johnson, P.S.



At Local 12 awards banquet, from left: Bus. Mgr. Dean Grinstead; former business manager Darwin McCurry (father of Douglas McCurry); Organizer Albert Herrera; recent retiree Douglas McCurry; journeyman wiremen James Mihelich and Shane Clark (Doug's sons-in-law); and Executive Board member James McGinnis.

June 12 Golf Scramble

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—This year's annual Easter Egg Hunt was again a resounding success. Thousands of eggs were stuffed and carefully placed on the hillside in front of the hall. These hidden treasures were then gathered by the children and grandchildren of the membership. The Easter Bunny was on hand to greet everyone on this beautiful spring day. Thanks to the Entertainment Committee for a great time, and to Bro. John Parker for donning the big white suit, ears and all.

Local 16's Political Action Committee recently held another great Cornhole Tournament and Chicken

Dinner. The committee also continues to serve tasty meals for sale before regular union meetings, and will be hosting the 4th Annual Golf Scramble on June 12, 2015. Proceeds from these events are used to help fund pro-labor candidates in future elections.

The membership also would like to thank Mayor Lloyd Winnecke for his continued support of skilled labor in the Evansville area. During his term in office he has promoted project labor agreements, worked adamantly for building a downtown convention hotel as well as the IU Medical Center, and stood firmly against any weakening of statewide Common Construction Laws.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Members Rally in Annapolis

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—On Monday, March 23, two buses, loaded with IBEW Local 24 members from all classifications and walks of life, descended on the Statehouse in Annapolis.

We joined the ranks of other labor unions both blue and white collar to send a message to our new Republican governor that we will stand together and defend the rights of working families to have access to good wages, health care and pensions. We are pleased to announce that, once again, we have defeated another attempt at passing "right to work" legislation in our state. With our membership behind us we will continue to fight legislation and legislators that attempt to do harm to our members' livelihoods and how they provide for their families.

On Wednesday, March 25, Local 24 hosted an Industry Night at our union hall. The meeting was sponsored by the Maryland Elec-

trical Industry Labor Management Cooperative Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Recovery Agreement. The meeting was attended by 75 people consisting of local union officers and agents, representatives from the IBEW's Fourth District, NECA representatives and contractors.

Have a safe spring and summer.

Gary R. Griffin, B.M.

IBEW Local 24 members march to Statehouse in Annapolis, MD.



Zenith crew on Local 38 First Energy Stadium project: first row, Phil Turner (left), Joe Rolinc, Don Sullivan, Larry Day, Darryl Francis, Joe Ozello, Matt Carroll, Mike Meyer and Dennis Carlin; second row, Eric Thomas, Ed Hallis, Mark Hoztrager, Scott Malek, Joe Hlavaty, Mike Wharton and Eric Timko.

Upcoming Union Picnics

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—All plans have been finalized for our Manassas, VA, picnic on Saturday, June 20 and our Edgewater, MD, picnic on Saturday, Aug. 1. Be sure to order your tickets so you don't miss out on this day of brotherhood, health awareness and fun!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 4th Annual Poker Run on May 2 and our Dollars Against Diabetes Golf Outing on June 1. These events were a huge success, and we were able to make a generous donation to worthy causes.

Two of our business representatives have retired and are looking forward to starting the next chapter in their lives. Congratulations to Michael Hoyt and Steve Zimmerman.

The following members passed away since our last article: William M. Ward III, Maurice O. Peed Jr., Lawrence F. Middleton, William Granberry, Kenneth C. Karsten, Gary W. Stone, Juan A. Richards and Franklin D. Golladay. They will be missed.

Best wishes to new retirees: Don E. Gray, Michael D. Peterson, Dennis G. Pratt, William A. Stuckwisch, Michael H. Jeffra, Rene Gonzalez, John E. Faris, Antoine Hart, Daniel J. Peake, William S. Crain and Michael E. Novitski.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Big Renovation Projects At Cleveland Sports Venues

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Local 38 members continue to work on Phase 2 of the two-year, \$120 million renovation to FirstEnergy Stadium for the Cleveland Browns football team.

Local 38 members working with Zenith Systems on the FirstEnergy Stadium project are currently working on the \$50 million second phase, which includes: new club seats, renovated club and hospitality sections, the addition of a new club located across from the Browns' locker room on the service level, renovated suites, updated concourses, new concession stands and updates to the facade with team graphics and murals.

At this writing, a lot of work also was going on at Progressive Field for the Cleveland Indians baseball team, with many Local 38 members working there for Einheit Electric and Lake Erie Electric. At press time, the rush was on to get the work done before the start of the Indians' season. Einheit Electric was installing several systems including networks systems, broadcasting, Wi-Fi system, sound system, television and cabling for Major League Baseball upgrades. Lake Erie Electric had the "Remake the Gate C Entrance" job off East Ninth Street. The Indians project also includes: building a two-story, indoor-outdoor bar in right field; moving the bullpens up to give fans a better view of the players during warm-ups; expanding the Kids Clubhouse; and incorporating five neighborhood-themed vending areas.

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

Winter Storms

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT—During the winter of 2014 and continuing into 2015, New England has had a very long and hard winter with excessive amounts of snowfall and frigid temperatures. This

Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

Trade Classifications

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

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

has made the work picture for the local very slow and difficult. At this early spring writing we expect that once the snow melts and dries out, work should pick up.

As a reminder, the CDLA (commercial driver's license-A) test for Connecticut will be changing very soon. If you don't have your CDLA, we strongly advise you to sign up for the training through the OSHE Department. For any journeyman lineman and equipment operator, if you don't have your Massachusetts Hoisting License, please see the OSHE Department as well. With the amount of future work in the state of Massachusetts, we'll need a lot of qualified workers.

Make sure to put the upcoming 2015 events on your calendars: June 6 – Annual Bike Run; June 27 – Dinner Cruise; July 11 – Chartered Fishing Trip; July 25 – Annual "BA" Picnic; Aug. 29 – Annual "A" Picnic; Sept. 12 – Cod Fishing Trip; Oct. 3 – Trap Shoot; and Dec. 10. – Union Meeting/Smoker buffet.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

Lobby Day

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA—On Friday, Feb. 20, nearly 100 members of the IBEW Local 46 boarded buses and headed to the state Capitol in Olympia for a labor-wide Lobby Day. Members gathered into groups based on legislative districts and met with their legislators to discuss Shared Prosperity bills.

The Shared Prosperity bills included a raise in the minimum wage and addressed the issues of wage theft and anti-retaliation, as well as several other measures aimed at helping working class families.

After visiting with legislators, members of several labor unions gathered on the steps of the Capitol in solidarity to show support for workers and the labor movement. Speakers from the union building trades, the Washington State Labor Council and several state representatives also showed their support for the Shared Prosperity bills and the labor movement, and conveyed their vision for the future. Together, we sent the state leaders a message that labor stands united.

Thank you to Wendy Brown for her contributions to this article.

Angela Marshall, Rep.



IBEW Local 46 members and other trade unionists rally at Lobby Day event.

'Talk To the Union' — Proposed Construction Projects

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts,st&tm), PORTLAND, OR—When you want a project done in Local 48's jurisdiction the first step is "Talk to the Union." Bus. Mgr. Gary Young has his staff fighting for the approval of critical construction projects. Local 48 Bus. Rep. Mike Bridges is president of the Longview-Kelso Building & Construction Trades Council, and is fighting for projects that will put IBEW members and other building trades folks to work through project labor agreements (PLAs).

"It's crucial that we secure these projects prior to bidding," Bridges said. "Every PLA on the front side saves union resources on the back side, and puts us and our signatory contractors in the driver's seat," he added. "These projects are also key and

timely to training the next generation of journeymen through apprenticeship."

Here are a couple of the projects currently being supported that will be built union if they receive permits:

- Millennium Bulk Terminals is a \$600 million coal export facility in Longview, WA.
- Northwest Innovation Works (NWIW) plans to build two \$1.8 billion methanol plants. One at the Port of Kalama, WA, and another at Port Westward, OR. These facilities will take natural gas from pipeline to the proposed facilities where it will be converted to methanol.

Unions thrive on demand for labor. Gary Young and Mike Bridges are making sure that when you want a large project approved in Local 48, you should "Talk to the Union."

Bob Blair, P.S.



IBEW Local 48 members support construction of Millennium Bulk Terminals project.

Unit Officers

L.U. 50 (u), RICHMOND, VA—After a vacancy occurred, it was determined in April of 2015 that the chairman and other positions at the Norfolk Unit needed to be filled. After the nomination and election, Local 50 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Brad Stevens, administered the oath to Norfolk Unit officers: Ryan Gettier, chairman; Steve Patterson, vice chairman; and Jared Seeloff, recorder.

Members from the Chesapeake, Chuckatuck, Norfolk, Virginia Beach and VNG-Southern locations report to the Norfolk Unit meeting monthly.

Local 50 represents over 3,000 employees of Dominion, BARC Electric Cooperative, Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, Monongahela Power (First Energy), and Virginia Natural Gas (Atlanta Gas-Light Resources).

John Albert, Treas./Sr. Bus. Rep.



Local 50 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Brad Stevens (far right) swears in Norfolk Unit officers: from left, Chmn. Ryan Gettier, Vice Chmn. Steve Patterson and Recorder Jerod Seeloff.

IBEW's Highly Skilled Splicers & Cable Installers

L.U. 70 (lctt&o), WASHINGTON, DC—W.A. Chester, LLC, an IBEW contractor, is one of the leading electrical contractors for underground transmission and distribution cable systems installation, maintenance and repair for the nation's electric utilities and independent power producers. A few Local 70 members



Local 70 members demonstrated state-of-the-art equipment. Front row, kneeling: Gen. Foreman Emory Kelley (left), Local 70 Pres. Paul Carter, Pete Petrusek, Mark Brynteson. Back row: Randy Scheidt, Clifford Walker, Preston Murray, Raman Simms, Timothy Myers, Joseph Helton, Travis Agee, Lawrence Verrett, Bruce Huffstickler Jr., Gregory Ward, Jimmy Bush, Anthony Minter, Tyrone Brooks and Justin Shipley.

recently took time to demonstrate the latest state-of-the-art equipment—a 25,000-pound continuous pull winch truck with recording capabilities, and a dynamically positioning cable reel truck, for use during underground distribution cable installation operations in the Washington, D.C., area.

Utilizing the state-of-the-art equipment are the members out of Local 70, who work long hours and weekends in D.C., around the country and around the world. The IBEW members install, splice and terminate paper lead and high voltage

cable, exhibiting their vast knowledge of the network systems that help keep our lights on. Thanks, guys, for all your hard work and sacrifices.

We mourn the passing of Bro. Dennis Porter. He will be greatly missed.

Jimmy Horton, B.R.

Work Picture Strong

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA—As winter gave way to spring, work throughout our jurisdiction has improved greatly. We currently have significant work, with many traveling brothers able to get to work here. Thanks to all the locals that have assisted in providing manpower to these projects. Work should continue to be strong through the summer and into the fall.

Congratulations to the following brothers who retired within the past year: Leonard Cressman, Richard Dailey, Lawrence Johnson, Ronald Ricks and Darrell Waters. Best wishes to each of these brothers for a long and enjoyable retirement.

W. Dennis Floyd, A.B.M.

Negotiations

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,rts&st), FRESNO, CA—Work continues to be good. Local 100 expects full employment through 2016. At this writing we are in contract negotiations with the National Electrical Contractors Association for a three-year contract.

In early May, Local 100 was proud to send Brianna Nelson to the fifth National Conference for Women in the Trades, "Women Building the Nation 2015," held by the State Building & Construction Trades of California.

Michael Caglia, P.S.

George Meany Award Recipient

L.U. 102 (em,govt,i,mt,o&ws), PATERSON, NJ—George Meany, the AFL-CIO's first president, was a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. In 1974 the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO established the George Meany Award. This move provided an opportunity for labor to recognize members whose contributions to today's youth, through volunteer efforts with the Boy Scouts of America, went above and beyond.

Labor has always been a vital part of our local community efforts; the brothers and sisters who are recipients of the George Meany Award not only contribute to their communities, but they also help shape the future of America—our children.

All of us at Local 102 our proud to salute Bro. Peter Dubicki, a recipient of this year's George Meany Award. Bro. Dubicki's volunteer efforts were recognized at our March membership meeting. In his statement to the membership, he took no credit for his service to scouting. Instead, Bro. Dubicki thanked the labor movement for providing him with a good salary and good benefits, thereby enabling him to do community work. Well said, Bro. Dubicki, and congratulations!

Bernard T. Corrigan, Pres.



Local 102 Pres. Bernard T. Corrigan (left), award recipient Pete Dubicki and Bus. Mgr. Patrick Delle Cava.



Working on the North Star Project are D/C feeder crew members from Local 100: general foreman Bob Grimes, foreman John Stevens, Darryl Stokes, Mike Chacon and Ellis Howard. They are joined by travelers from Locals 440 and 357.

LOCAL LINES

Trailblazing Sister Retires — Journeyman Lineman Career

L.U. 104 (lctt,o&u), BOSTON, MA—Twenty-nine years ago, a mother of two dared to apply to become a journeyman lineman and is now retiring as the first woman to become a JL in Local 104's 115-year history.

Judy McAndrew was asked an interesting question in her interview. Someone asked: "The dangers of line work could leave your children without a mother. What would that do to your children?" She replied, "What would it do if my husband was killed driving to work? Give me a chance, I won't let you down." Her direct nature and determination followed throughout her career.

With names like Lavey, Miller, Mackie and Cabral guiding Judy throughout her apprenticeship, becoming a JL was a year away although work in New England dried up. Her end goal would be met on the road. With two small children and the support of her best friend/husband, Richard, Judy headed to New York to complete her apprenticeship. A year later, she became a JL.

Judy worked for many companies, but for the past 21 years she worked for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). Judy led by example as an Executive Board member, steward, contract negotiator and most importantly, a true sister/friend. We all miss her already and hope she enjoys her retirement. She earned it!

Hugh A. Boyd, A.B.M.



At Local 104 retirement party for Judy McAndrew are (from left, clockwise): Bill Saunders, Mike Gautreau, Tom Reid, Hugh Boyd, Judy McAndrew and Richard McAndrew.

\$4.45 Billion Cerner Project Breaks Ground in Kansas City

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rts,se,spa&t), KANSAS CITY, MO—The long-awaited Cerner Corp. project has broken ground on the former Bannister Mall property. The project will have a \$4.45 billion price tag and will be built over a 10-year period. The company's new Trails Campus calls for 4.7 million square feet of construction in 16 buildings on 290 acres and will be complete in 2025. The Kansas City Council and the Missouri General Assembly generously approved various incentives.

Meanwhile, in our state Capitol the anti-labor legislators continue their attack on Missouri working families. Their bills include: elimination of prevailing wage, cutting unemployment compensation, paycheck deception, and of course "right to work" (for less). The IBEW's pushback effort is of the three-prong variety. IBEW members Joe Runions (Local 124), Jacob Hummel (Local 1) and Keith English (Local 1) are serving as ground troops on the floor of the Missouri General Assembly. These three representatives are assisted by an effective lobbying firm and a legislative education team led by Local 1 and Local 124 Presidents Tom George and Rudy Chavez. The fight is far from over, but we must prevail or the blood, sweat and tears of generations past will have been in vain. May God bless the IBEW.

We remember the following deceased members: Charles A. Burton, Frederick T. Brunker, Albert H. Champ, Dory D. Craig, Paul Crossland, Frederick V. Kornis, Eugene Silvers and Wesley K. Stites.

Congratulations to the recently retired members: Peter J. Asta, Mike D. Bedell, Tim S. Hawley Sr.,

Roy B. Miller III and Timothy Zeigler.

Steve Morales, P.S.

RENEW Conference

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rts,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL—Fifteen Local 134 young members attended the RENEW—Reach out and Engage Next-Gen Electrical Workers—Conference held here in Chicago in March. Attending were 450 brothers and sisters from across the U.S. and Canada. Local 134's RENEW Committee hosted a tour of our school in Alsip for over 100 attendees along with IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill. Guests saw first-hand all the classrooms and the new renewable energy facility. Local 134's Patrick Lando and Harry Ohde made informative tour presentations and our guests were very impressed.

The RENEW conference aimed to hone leadership skills in the young IBEW members. Discussions included ways to: move our union into the future, positively rebrand the union worker through organizing, increase member participation, and change the negative message spread by union busters.

Breakout sessions focused on the history of IBEW, the labor movement, furthering IBEW's positive image in the workforce, and more.

Many Local 134 members made special presentations at the conference, including Anthony Scorzo, Chantel Moore, John Felke and Harrys Buttons.

Our apprentices and young journeymen learned a great deal through their collaboration with fellow IBEW members. The camaraderie, networking, stories and fresh ideas will strengthen our local! A special thanks to all our Local 134 participants.

Frank Cunningham, R.S.

The Fight for Working People

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—At this writing we are continuing our fight against new Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, as he is advocating "right to work" through so-called Employee Empowerment Zones. Our new governor is also attacking prevailing wage, project labor agreements (PLAs), workers' compensation, and unemployment benefits. He is a prime example of why it is so important for union people to vote for labor-friendly candidates.

The Clinton Power Station outage was recently completed. Thank you to all the traveling brothers and sisters who helped to make this a successful outage. The Cronus Fertilizer project is a few months behind schedule and we look forward to its start sometime this summer. Other projects in the local have been delayed by the winter weather.

Our hardest congratulations to recent retirees Dan Cooper, Bob Atkinson Sr. and Gary Jones. Thank you to all for your years of service and knowledge.

Condolences go out to the families of several Local 146 brothers who recently passed away: Bros. James Birge, Robert Garecht Sr. and Starlin Snodgrass.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

'Hot Fun in the Summertime'

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—There will be several fun activities this summer for the membership. We will be having our annual picnic for members and their families at Lakewood Forest Preserve in Wauconda on June 20 from 12 noon until dusk. We will be at Shelter E. If you would like to help out with cleanup, setup, etc. please sign up at the hall. Bring your family and come enjoy a day of family fun with

your union brothers and sisters.

We will also have our annual golf outing on Aug. 7 at the Fox Lake Country Club. The cost is \$55 per golfer. There will be a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Registration that day begins at 7:30 a.m. Sign up at the Hall. After Aug. 7 the cost is \$60 per golfer. There will be food, prizes and beverages. Come on out for some fun and camaraderie!

It certainly hasn't taken our new Republican governor long to start enacting "right to work" zones. Don't ever think that your vote doesn't count. Look at what we have now leading this state. A very sad day in Illinois. Voting is more than a civic duty; it is a privilege of citizenship. Don't ever throw that privilege away.

Work seems to be on a slight uptick. Maybe some brighter days for all of us are ahead.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

Busy Summer Workwise; Workers Rally at State Capitol

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Wisconsin in two weeks' time became the 25th state to become a so-called "right-to-work" state. We joined our fellow Sixth District states Indiana and Michigan in having right-to-work shoved down our throats. On Feb. 24 the measure was introduced in the state Senate by the Republicans when they called for an extraordinary session to fast track this bill without much debate.

Thousands of people showed up at the Capitol in Madison to protest and try to give testimonials to the Senate committee, but it was to no avail. Over a dozen Local 158 members as well as myself attended the rally in Madison along with several thousand other IBEW brothers and sisters. Thanks to all who participated. The following week the State Assembly followed the same strategy with little debate and passed the bill. The governor signed it into law on March 9. Now that's democracy.

Our local is looking at having a busy summer workwise. Many projects are waiting to take off and there are many existing projects continuing to move along.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

'Our Traditions Carry On'

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—As we all know, the great recession took its toll on everyone, and our local was no different. We all had to take steps to tighten our belts in order to weather the storm. Thankfully, the economy has begun to rebound and the work picture looks bright for the foreseeable future.

Bus Mgr. Dan Gumble and Pres. Tom Sullivan are proud to announce that after a five-year hiatus, we will once again be holding our Annual Local Outing and our Annual Dinner Dance in honor of our retirees. Our Local Outing will be held at Forest Lodge in Warren, NJ, on Saturday, Sept. 12, this year. Our Dinner Dance will be at the Sheraton in Mahwah, NJ, on Saturday, Dec. 12.

Our members know these are treasured traditions that are close to our hearts and we are so very pleased to be able to continue them this year. Whether you've attended in the past or have not had the opportunity to attend previously, don't miss the events this year; they will be fantastic.

Please come out and share in the fun and help us make memories that will last a lifetime.

Warren Becker, V.P.

Beneficial Training Session

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA—We are pleased to report on a recent visit of 3M representative Randall Momota, who presented a two-hour electrical tape training to a packed house of journeymen and apprentices. It is truly eye-opening to learn firsthand

how the materials we use, and may take for granted in our daily work, have changed. They also have very specific manufacturer's instructions for proper application. A material's given listing and the NEC both require that the material be installed correctly according to the manufacturer's specifications.

The training session provided instruction on the correct way to apply 3M lined rubber tape. Learning proper taping techniques directly from the manufacturer was a great exercise and beneficial to all involved.

We look forward to more onsite manufacturer trainings to improve our field performance. A very grateful thank-you to our vendors and we enthusiastically welcome them to continue.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

A Farewell Tribute

L.U. 254 (ees,em,mo,o,rts&u), CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA—Sadly we say "farewell, our brother," to former Local 254 business manager Harold Taylor, who passed away this year.

Harold was Local 254 business manager/financial secretary during the 1970s, '80s and early '90s. While he was president of Local 254 and a working electrician, the local went on strike to get paid statutory holidays. The strike ended when the Alberta government agreed to bring in legislation for paid statutory holidays. Everybody who gets paid for statutory holidays now has this group of striking electricians to thank for paving the way.

Harold devoted his life to improving things for the union and the industry that he was so proud of. He also served as president of the Alberta Building & Construction Trades Council.

One of Harold's most important accomplishments was being part of a small group of industry leaders who brought to the electrical construction industry in Alberta its first Health & Welfare Plan and its first Pension Plan. These plans still exist today, but without the push by Harold and a few others, these plans might not have happened. Harold was a plan trustee at the beginning and right up to the day he died, serving as trustee from 1969 to 2015.

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



IBEW Local 292 safety sticker.

Safety Campaign

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—As the work picture continues to improve, it's great to see many of our traveling brothers and sisters return home. Local 292 would like to thank the local unions across the country that took good care of our members over the last 10 years.

With summer road construction getting into full swing, we must never forget those members who have lost their lives working on the side of the road. Just a few years ago, Local 292 lost two members to a distracted driver. Local 292 is working with one of our employers (Egan Company) to help strengthen the enforcement of driving laws. Don't be distracted while driving.

Carl Madsen, B.R./P.S.

'Governor's Wellness Award'

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—Congratulations to Danielle Bombardier, Jazmine Thompson and Carmel Kelley, three inside wireman apprentices, for their time and efforts put forth that earned them the Governor's Wellness Award this spring. As well, congratulations to the four members at Vermont Electric Co-op for their time and efforts fostering an energized environment at their place of employment, which also earned them the Governor's Wellness Award—cheers! It's not every day IBEW members get recognized for their awareness and commitment to a healthier and happier work area—kudos!

Stay tuned for updates regarding the motorcycle rally this (late) summer, as well as the Relay for Life event (June), and of course, the Dragon Boat competition in August. The members of the Dragon Boat team (Solar Dragons) are attempting to reclaim their first-place position they earned a few years ago. Come by and cheer them on. We need your support so that we can support those in need.

Spring has finally sprung in Vermont and New England, and the construction season is off to a fast start. Local 300 wishes everyone a safe and prosperous construction season.

Have an outstanding summer and enjoy the family time.

Jeffrey C. Wimetete, B.M./F.S.



IBEW Local 300 members from the construction unit, as well as the Vermont Electric Coop (utility), receive Governor's Wellness Award for their participation in member wellness.

Big Solar Project & Community Partnership

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA—The IBEW stands for quality, efficiency and professionalism. Our members in the local community build that community and promote the opportunities in electrical construction and the IBEW.

Recently—working with a Richmond-based training and education center—we were able to place nine men and women into jobs on a large 34.5 kV solar project in our county. Seventy IBEW workers cleared from our hall placed 85,000 solar panels on land that had previously sat idle. The nine RichmondBUILD cohorts distinguished themselves and our local by showing the kind of professionalism and work ethic that we are known for. The pre-training they received at RichmondBUILD was a perfect segue into our own CE/CW (construction electrician/construction wireman) program, creating a wonderful partnership.

Working under the new CE/CW designation, their scope of work was limited. But their opportunities in the IBEW and the electrical construction industry are limitless!

This new addition to our local has resulted in many journeymen being employed as well, and has encouraged this contractor and others to bid and secure work in the cutting-edge solar installation industry in our area.

We offer the community a handshake as an equal partner, helping its men and women find careers building the future around us.

Bob Lilley, A.B.M.



Local 304 hosts a Code of Excellence training session.

Newly Elected Officers & Code of Excellence Training

L.U. 304 (lctt,o&u), TOPEKA, KS—We are eight months into new leadership here and have hit the ground running. Bus. Mgr. John Garretson, Asst. Bus. Mgrs. Gene Sicard and Brad Miller, and Organizer/Dispatcher Mark McCubbin will represent each and every member. Newly elected officers also include: Pres. Anthony Lira, Vice Pres. Doug Counsellor, Treas. Jenny Rohr, Rec. Sec. Ginger Smoot; and Executive Board members Larry Anderson, Linda Avery-Brown, Tania McNeive, Steve Short, Jacob Simon and Kevin Welch.

Organizing drives, negotiations, and membership trainings along with Code of Excellence are just a few things that Local 304 will be hitting members with. We hosted a two-day COE Training, which was conducted by IBEW Seventh District Int. Reps. Gary Buresh, Larry Chamberlain and Todd Newkirk. Representatives from four IBEW Locals (66, 769, 1002 and 304) and NECA, as well as Southwestern Line Constructors Apprentice Training directors all attended. Local 304 is now officially trained to conduct COE Training. Different seminars have

been arranged and will be held in various locations throughout Kansas. Members make all local unions thrive and with each member's involvement our organizing drives will be successful.

We are also proud of all our retired members. We recently acknowledged retired Bro. Robert Warthen, who received his 70-year service pin.

John Garretson, B.M.

Annual Kids Egg Hunt

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—On March 28 we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Uniontown Community Park. Although the weather was still a little chilly, the kids didn't seem to mind one bit. We had a great turnout, and "Mr. Cottontail" even made a surprise visit. Thanks once again to our Social Committee and regular core of officers and retirees who made this all possible.

Speaking of retirees, Local 306 congratulates retired Bro. Bentley "Buz" Hudson. Buz was recently honored with the Janice Humanitarian Award, presented by the Happy Trails Farm Animal Rescue & Sanctuary, for his longtime volunteer work with abused and neglected farm animals. In addition to assisting in the care of the animals, his years in the construction trade have served him well in the building and rebuilding of the many farm structures needed as the sanctuary continues to grow. Upon receiving the award I'm told that, for the first time ever, Buz was completely speechless!

A reminder to all: Please mark your calendars for the many upcoming social events this summer. Events include: the golf outing in June, the family pic-

nic in August, the car show in September, and the COPE members pig roast in October.

With sadness we report the loss of retired Bros. Herbert Freyman and Garry Sickie. We send our condolences to their families.

Thomas Wright,
Mbr. Dev.

Electric Utility Vehicle Displays IBEW L.U. 340 Logo

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Work is picking up here in Local 340's jurisdiction after a very long drought and I couldn't be happier. That being said, I can't stress enough the importance of safety on the job especially with those members who have not worked in a while. Employers are obligated to ensure safe working environments, but it is up to the worker to take steps to reduce the risk of work-related injuries or illnesses. As union members, you've all had the safety training both in the classroom and on the jobsite and know what needs to be done to keep yourself healthy and working. Get good sleep to be at your best and when you do have to lift something on the job, be sure to do so correctly to avoid back injuries. Stay in touch with your Safety Committee and report on-the-job injuries immediately.

To promote more positive exposure for IBEW Local 340 in the communities where we live, we now have a custom designed, street-legal, four passenger electrical utility vehicle (purchased by our LMCC). It prominently displays the IBEW Local 340 logo and will enable us to show our colors at community events such as political drives, parades, picnics, etc.

Rest in peace, Bro. Boyd Atkin. A 59-year member, Bro. Atkin passed away at age 91.

Tom Okumura, B.M.



Local 340 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Bob Ward donates his weekends customizing the local's new EUV.

Northwestern Illinois Building Trades Career Expo

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—Over four days in March, Local 364 participated in the fifth annual Northwestern Illinois Building Trades

Career Expo held at the Carpenter's Training Center in Rockford, IL. Students from all of the area junior high schools and a few high schools attended. Altogether, 650 students participated in the hands-on experience.

The Northwestern Illinois Building Trades is an alliance of craft unions, including: Boilermakers, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Electrical Workers, Ironworkers, Painters & Glaziers, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Sprinkler Fitters, Teamsters, Operating Engineers, Cement Masons, Elevator Constructors, Heat & Frost Insulators, Laborers, Sheet Metal Workers, and Roofers & Waterproofers. We work together to improve the quality of life and create job opportunities for 15,000 members in an eight-county region in northern Illinois.

The Career Expo showcased the building trades as another option to secondary education and presented information on potential career opportunities. We helped these students with many hands-on activities, demonstrated various aspects of the electrical trade and provided them with details about the apprenticeship program.

The Apprenticeship Committee thanks Bros. Greg Cote, Ty Hillman, Jeff Schnaiter, Tom Felder, Chad Eckman, Tyrone Bell, Ryan Stevens and Sister Theresa Fernbaugh for helping out with this event.

Chris Molander, P.S.



At the Northwestern Illinois Building Trades Career Expo, IBEW Local 364 was among the labor-wide participants.

RENEW Conference; Local Chapter Rebrands

L.U. 440 (i,rts&spa), RIVERSIDE, CA—In December of 2013, Local 440 created our "Young Workers" group. We had a strong start with over 50 members participating, holding our monthly meetings one hour prior to our general membership meeting. For various reasons, in time the group lost steam and eventually our monthly meeting seemed nonexistent.

In March 2016, Local 440 Executive Board members Kasey Wooldridge and Bryan Fromdahl along with myself attended the second annual IBEW RENEW (Reach out & Engage Next-Gen Electrical Workers) Conference in Chicago, and I think we came back fired up and ready to go! The RENEW Conference allowed us to see what other locals are doing across the nation, and also reminded us just how important our involvement is to our survival and success!



Local 440 had strong participation at its April 2015 RENEW meeting.

LOCAL LINES

On April 3 this year we came together to rebrand our “Young Workers” as the Local 440 chapter of RENEW. Over 30 members attended and we even had some brothers volunteer to cook for the night. We hope to see this group grow and thrive, taking ownership of the legacy that we as this next generation plan to leave behind. All ideas are welcome and we look forward to working together to make them happen.

Bernie Ballard, Mbr. Dev.

‘Thanks to Fellow Locals’

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—At this writing, our jurisdiction is experiencing a small work boom, and we would like to thank our brothers and sisters from surrounding locals for helping us to man jobs during this time.

That being said we’d like to take this opportunity to thank Locals 424 (Edmonton), 993 (Kamloops) and 773 (Windsor, Ontario) for employing our members who choose to work on the road.

Local 530 is saddened to report the passing of Bro. Jim Wright.

Al Byers, P.S.

Celebrating Camaraderie

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—Greetings, brothers and sisters. At the time of this writing, Local 558 has successfully completed the spring outage project at the TVA Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Athens, AL. We thank all of our members and the travelers who assisted in this endeavor. Work has still been very steady, and several contracts were ratified. We are pleased to announce that the Florence Electric Department and URS Facility Technicians contracts have been negotiated and ratified, along with the Russellville Utilities’ annual wage increases.

We celebrated our 6th Annual Spring Picnic at Spring Park in Tuscumbia, AL, on May 16. We are encouraged that each year our annual spring picnic has grown in size, fellowship and activities. This annual tradition provides much enjoyment and camaraderie for all members, young and old, and their families. It is our hope, that with our membership’s support and participation, the spring picnic will definitely continue to grow and unite our Brotherhood for many years to come.

Tony Quillen, Pres./A.B.M.

Kudos to New Journeymen

L.U. 570 (i,mo,spa&u), TUCSON, AZ—The work picture remains slow in southern Arizona.

The local held its annual picnic in March this year. We had a good turnout and everyone had a good

time. Thank you to all the brothers and sisters who volunteered their time. This was one of the best years for member participation.

Our units are going through contract negotiations and elections this year.

Thanks to the efforts of Asst. Bus. Mgr. Pete Sabin and our stewards, the unit membership has increased.

Congratulations to all of the 2015 graduating apprentices on passing the Apprentice of the Year exam.

Scott W. Toot, Pres.



Local 606 delegation to the Florida State Capitol: Organizer Larry Kidd (left), Bro. Jason Richards and JATC Dir. Jim Sullivan. [See “Editor’s Note” in article.]

‘Activists Lead the Way’

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—Local 606 has a long history of activism by its members. Recently, a delegation made up of Sister Janet Skipper and Bros. Larry Kidd, Jim Sullivan and Jason Richards travelled to the state Capitol in Tallahassee to lobby elected representatives on a number of important issues. Some of the major issues discussed were stopping a proposed ban on project labor agreements, and continued funding of certified apprenticeship programs.

Bro. Richards and Local 606 Pres. Clay McNeely represented the local at the recent RENEW—Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers—Conference in Chicago. Workshop topics included: labor law, political candidates, parliamentary procedure, leadership training, and opposition to so-called “fast-tracking” of trade policies. Jason and Clay agreed that the training was outstanding, and they came home with many ideas to expand the RENEW program in Local 606. I encourage everyone to follow the lead of activists like Jason and Clay. We can make our locals and the IBEW stronger by attending local union meetings, getting involved and becoming activists.

With great sadness we report the death of 38-year member Rick Merriam. Rick was also a Local



Local 640 conducts a Foremen Development Series class.

606 JATC instructor for 27 years. He trained countless apprentices over those years and his contribution to Local 606 cannot be measured. Rick will be sorely missed by everyone.

[Editor’s Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. See “NJATC Transitions into the Electrical Training Alliance,” *The Electrical Worker* (Sept. 2014), and at www.ibew.org.]

Fernando Rendon, R.S./P.S.

Foremen Development Series

L.U. 640 (em,govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ—Local 640 wishes to recognize the members who have stepped up and enrolled in the Foremen Development Series. Recently we’ve had our largest classes ever with 23 journeyman wiremen attending. We wish to show them our support and thanks for helping our union to succeed in this highly competitive market. [Photo, at top.]

Enrolled in the FDS class at the time of this writing are: Chris Beloit, Tim Bobbin, Coner Donovan, Samuel Gladden, Jeff Goergen, Anthony Imperiale Sr., Thomas Macewicz, Rudy Mariscal, Phillip Maron, William Martinez, Byron K. Mitchell, Robert Montoya, Brandon Noble, Luis Puente, Theodore Rinehart, Wesley Rhodes, Eric Rice, Lawrence Rodriguez, David Santiago, Stefan Tomoiaga, Jose Valdez, David Weston and Juan Yepez. Instructors are: Roy Hamilton Sr., Mike Lambert, Jay Randall and Ed Parra.

We also extend our best wishes to Bus. Agent Roy Hamilton Sr. on his retirement. Roy has over 40 years of service covering about every position here in Local 640 including foreman, organizer, Executive Board chairman, and business agent. Roy’s experience and personality will be dearly missed here in Local 640 but his retirement is definitely well-deserved. Good luck, Roy, in your future endeavors.

Our work outlook is still slow but looks to be picking up soon. Thanks to all the other locals that have been able to help keep our members employed in our slow times.

Jeff Sears, Mbr. Dev./P.S.

Volunteers Recognized

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—Local 654 apprentices and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Kevin Hassett were honored by the borough of Marcus Hook commissioners for their volunteer work repairing and re-lamping the borough’s Christmas light display last year. Thanks go out to all the volunteers for a job well done. We plan to work with the borough to make this year’s display even bigger and better. Volunteering in the community is a great way to present ourselves in a positive light, while helping others.

As of this writing, we are blessed to be experiencing near full employment, with many ongoing and future projects planned. To preserve our future, please remember to attend union meetings, be

involved, and purchase American made products.

James Thompson Jr., P.S.

‘Welcome to New Contractor’

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—We extend a warm welcome to our newest IBEW contractor, Commercial One Electrical. The company became signatory in January.

The Solar PV training classes being held at the Richmond JATC are underway. The first 10-week session was well-attended. **[Editor’s Note:** The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. See “NJATC Transitions into the Electrical Training Alliance,” *The Electrical Worker* (Sept. 2014), and at www.ibew.org.]

Please welcome our newest organizer, David Small, to the Local 666 staff. We are expecting great things from him! Check in and ask him if you can help with an ongoing effort. It takes staff and volunteers to make the biggest changes in our jurisdiction!

Congratulations to recent retirees: James Carter Jr., Charles B. Sweeney, William Eddleton, Steven T. King, Lionel W. Viar, Jerry Harris and Michael Powell.

As of press time, with the data center job in full swing, work is good in our jurisdiction. Thanks to all the travelling brothers and sisters who have helped us man our work!

Charles Skelly, P.S.



At the Local 684 SunPower Quinto project jobsite.

Solar Projects & Promising Work Picture

L.U. 684 (c,i,rt&st), MODESTO, CA—The SunPower Quinto project in Gustine, CA, is in full swing. This job has all but cleared our books and has become a huge boon to our area. We would like to say thank-you to all of the traveling brothers and sisters and to Local 440 apprentices who have come out to this job to help us man it up.

We are eagerly anticipating the start of the 200-megawatt Wright Solar project slated to start in the same area. Our work picture seems to be very promising over the next couple of years and our organizers are working very hard to ensure that this trend continues. Good job, guys!

Dave Jones, P.S.



Local 570 apprenticeship graduating class of 2015: Greg Buckley (left), Christopher Parisot, Ted Bolding, David Wallis, Richard Campbell, Carlos Garcia, Marco Guzman and Brandon Harrell.



At a Local 760 Code of Excellence class.

'Let Our Voices Be Heard'

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—At this writing, our Negotiating Committee is hard at work in negotiations with our contractors. At press time, our contract was scheduled to expire on May 31 this year.

Please call your state senator or state representative to oppose repeal of the state's prevailing wage. We have talking points on our website www.ibew692.org; or you can call the union hall for information on how you can help.

There is a planned fall outage at the Karn-Weadock Power House in Essexville. This should put a few brothers and sisters to work. We are picking up work in the northern area. Thank you to Travis Brady, Membership Development coordinator, who has been going to job fairs and working on our non-signatory competition. Thank you also to Rich Rytlewski, Business Development, for visiting businesses and numerous general contractors.

Our Retirees Monthly Luncheon is usually the third Thursday of each month. This is a great chance to get together with members you've not seen in a while. Come and enjoy stories of the past and catch up with retired members. Watch for details in the Building Tradesman Paper.

We are sad to report the passing of retired Bros. John A. Dilloway and Oscar Ranke. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Speak your voice—to senators, members of the House of Representatives, friends, family and neighbors. We need to stand up and let them hear our voice. We need to stand together, union strong!

Tammy Gottleber, P.S.

Elections Have Consequences

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t&u), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—It is often said that elections have consequences. We are experiencing exactly that in all three states within our jurisdiction. In Illinois, Gov. Bruce Rauner continues his attack on working families with his anti-labor agenda. In Indiana, the Republican-led Legislature passed a "religious freedom" bill that laid the foundation for sanctioned discrimination. In Missouri, as of press time, a right-to-work-for-less bill has passed from the Republican House to the Republican Senate, where it has been passed out of committee and could be taken up on the floor for consideration. Members must remain engaged and vigilant in the political process and realize that a certain party campaigns on a particular platform that sounds appealing, but then attempts to enact an alternative set of policies aimed at hurting those who work for a living, especially those in organized labor. Public pressure and action at the polls will be the only course to counter and rebuff these efforts. Please talk to your co-workers, family members and friends before every election.

Our Outside Construction and Line Clearance work is steady and looks promising. As of this writing, our referral books are as follows: Inside Construction – 54, Outside Construction – 12, and Line Clearance – 1.

Mark Baker, B.R./P.S.

Code of Excellence Classes

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Over the last six months, Local 760 has held Code of Excellence classes and over 120 proud IBEW members have attended. Members have shared their work experiences on the job and gotten to know each other a little better in the process. IBEW principles have always stood for quality workmanship, safety, a strong work ethic, and a pride in being part of something bigger than one's self. The class makes sure that IBEW members maintain a high standard and professionalism that has no comparison. IBEW's first president, Henry Miller, and all of the brothers and sisters who stood up for workers' rights would be proud of our young members today. When there is a good and healthy exchange of ideas in the workplace success will always take care of itself, and quality is doing something right when no one is looking.

Jason Leary, Organizer

RENEW Program 'Come & Get Involved'

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH—In late March, Local 1466 had the opportunity to attend the IBEW RENEW—Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers—Conference, as well as the AFL-CIO Next Up Young Workers Summit. It was very inspiring to see such a young, diverse group in attendance from all across the United States, as well as Canada. We are also in the midst of ramping the RENEW program in Local 1466, and would like to encourage members of all ages to come and get involved in the local. If you have not traditionally been involved in the union, we would love to have you become a more active member of the IBEW, and there has never been a better time than right now.

The Executive Board has also begun planning our annual Fall Family Picnic, held the last weekend in September. As always, this will be a family friendly event, with kids activities, door prizes, food and fellowship. Flyers with more details will be sent to the union stewards in the coming months. Please make plans to attend. We would love to see you there!

Jimi Jette, P.S.

'A Heartfelt Goodbye'

L.U. 2324 (t), SPRINGFIELD, MA—We recently said goodbye to longtime Asst. Bus. Mgr. Kathy Collins, who retired in March. Kathy was instrumental in helping our members deal with their daily issues on the job. She also had a hand in helping people with at-home issues by being our representative on the Work and Family Committee. Kathy will be missed and we wish her a happy, healthy retirement. We also welcome our new Assist. Bus. Mgr. Jeremy Dillensneider. Best of luck with the new job, Jeremy.

Christine Casino, P.S.

RETIREES

Club Officer Transitions

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—Greetings from St. Louis. At this early spring writing, warm weather has returned to our area. February seemed much colder than usual this year. I "had" to escape to southern Florida a couple of times in February.

At the retirees meeting in March, Dick Weller announced that he was stepping down as president of our Retirees Club. He was president for 13 years. Larry Bausola will fill the position as president. He has big shoes to fill.

At press time, our May 20 club meeting was approaching. Our next Retirees Club meeting will be July 15. I hope everyone can get outside and enjoy the nice weather before it gets too hot.

Neal McCormack, R.S.

'Welcome to Meetings'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER—Our chapter held its annual Christmas/Hanukkah holiday party in Delray Beach South Civic Center on Jan. 7. Attendance was great with an overflow group of many Local 3 retirees attending.

Our meetings feature informative talks aided by invitees, with topics primarily about retirement. Currently we are having lively discussions about employment, legislation that affects us, and questions regarding 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 "snow birds" and we welcome all Local 3 retirees to our affairs and meetings.

As shown in the photo (below) members enjoyed dancing after a delicious luncheon and fabulous entertainment at our party.

Dick Dickman, P.S.

'Snow Birds' Welcomed Back

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER—At this writing in early spring, happily, our long winter is finally over. I know this because all of our "snow birds" are coming home.

At our March meeting, Richie Duva acted as chapter chairman and was in charge of running our meeting. I gave a report on our Retirees 52nd Annual Luncheon, which was held at the Sheraton Hotel in New York City. It was great to see many new and old friends.

Allan Eimer read an email from Olivia and Hank Schmidt about our upcoming trip to the Rockefeller Estate in Westchester County.

At our April meeting Thomas Gallagher, Local 3 pension director, was our guest speaker. He spoke about employment and job opportunities within our industry. He urged that all members and their families register to vote. Gallagher also provided information about how to sign up to become an IBEW Political E-Activist and encouraged retirees to stay involved politically and in the union. Olivia Schmidt asked those interested in going on the trip to the Rockefeller Estate to please sign the reservation sheet.

John Schoenig reported on our upcoming December 2015 Holiday Party. He told us about the new entertainment planned, which will help make it a great success. Please see John to make your reservation for the party.

Our Chapter Chmn. Jack Foley spoke about our upcoming stay at the Long Island Educational Center.

Harvey Goldman, P.S.



Fisher House Foundation CEO Ken Fisher displays check presented by Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club Rec. Sec. Marty Hogan (left), Treas. Dick Mills (second from left) and Fin. Sec. Dominic Malandro.

Fisher House Presentation

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—On Feb. 18 this year, chapter Fin. Sec. Dominic Malandro, Treas. Dick Mills and Rec. Sec. Marty Hogan had the honor of presenting a check for \$12,000 to Fisher House Foundation CEO Ken Fisher at Fisher Brothers headquarters in midtown Manhattan.

The Fisher House Foundation provides lodging and, in many cases, transportation to the families of our wounded servicemen and women to enable them to be with their love ones during their recovery.

This money was raised, mainly, through donations from the members of the Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Local 3 Retirees Club, and with the cooperation of the Brooklyn Chapter, the Queens Chapter, the Square Club of Local 3, the Bronx Acorn Club, and our Golf Outing sponsors. This is the third year that, through the generosity of our members and friends, we were able to contribute to this worthy cause. We do not consider this a charitable donation; we see it as a debt that we, as Americans, can never fully repay.

Dick Mills, Treas.



Local 3, North Florida Chapter, Retirees Club members dance at party.

RETIREES

Travel Adventures

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC—When you retire, you think, “Oh, I’ll have plenty of time to do so many things I always wanted to do.” But watch out ... a vacuum is just waiting to suck up your time. If you identify with that, join one of our travels to escape!

In our Retired Members Club, we are always on the move. We recently enjoyed a cruise around the Hawaiian Islands, cruised to Vancouver (to visit our Canadian sisters and brothers) and flew back home!

To join our 2016 cruise, contact retired Bro. Rick Warner, our travel coordinator, at 240-472-0438. Our start point is sometimes Washington, D.C., and sometimes Baltimore Harbor. Any of our IBEW family (working or retired) as well as their families are welcome to join us!

In May we helped as volunteers at the 4th Annual Local 26 Motorcycle Poker Run. Proceeds benefit the “Special Love” program, a camp for children battling cancer. Helping with such projects keeps retirees involved. Of course, the elections for 2016 are approaching—a good time to help with telephone banks.

At our June meeting, we will present service pins, plaques, etc. to retired members with 50 or more years of service!

The club will begin selling our annual raffle tickets at the union picnics in June and August, and continue before regular union meetings—until our drawing at the RMC November meeting.

Stay safe and have a good summer.

Susan Flashman, P.S.



Local 26 retired members receive service awards, from left: Bros. Winston Wright, 40 years of service; Noe Flores, 25 years’ service; and Dwight Daniels, 45 years of service. Retirees Club Vice Pres. Richard Warner (far right) extends congratulations.

Retiree Awarded Medals

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT—Spring has finally arrived in Connecticut—we hope.

On March 30 our members were invited along with other Connecticut Building Trades to the AFSCME headquarters in New Britain, CT, by the Alliance for Retired Americans in reference to the future of Social Security. In attendance were U.S. Rep. John Larson and Sen. Chris Murphy. Rep. Larson is introducing The Social Security 2100 Act, which would expand benefits for all current and future Social Security recipients, cuts taxes for over 10 million seniors, ensures the system remains solvent for the rest of century, and addresses the projected shortfall of the Disability Insurance program. The meeting was very informative.

Retired Local 35 member John Ekenbarger of New Hampshire was recently awarded medals earned during his service in the Korean War. At age 19, he was held captive as a prisoner of war in North Korea for more than two years. U.S. Rep. Ann Kuster, D-N.H. said, “Rather than wilt under the grueling stress of being held as a POW, John remained resolute. He remained true to himself and his brothers-in-arms.” Now at age 84 and surrounded by family, he was awarded the medals he earned.

On Memorial Day in May we remember the men and women who have served in the military and sacrificed for our country.

Kenneth R. White, P.S.

News from the Great Lakes

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 38, CLEVELAND, OH—it has been awhile since I last wrote with news from the Retirees Club.

We all hear a lot of talk about global climate change. Here in Cleveland, February broke all records for cold!

From what I hear Cleveland has a pretty good employment picture with all the construction planned for the 2016 IBEW Convention. I hope that continues after the convention. I pray that all our members will be working this spring. Wired by IBEW Local 38 is the way to go.

Our club has many trips planned in addition to all our special lunches and parties. The Christmas party was a big success last year. Some of you younger retirees, please come and join us.

We are very blessed with members and their spouses who put these club events on. It doesn’t matter to them, spring or winter, they get the job done. I love it!

Please remember to pray for our military and America as we go through a time of world unrest. God bless our departed members and their families.

Until next time be happy and don’t forget to stand up for America, home of the free and the brave!

Arthur Lesjak, P.S.

2015 Events Scheduled

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 want to get out of the house or take some time out of your busy life for a few hours, then come on down and join them.

Club meetings are held bimonthly on Tuesdays at the local union hall. Annual dues are \$12. The meeting starts at 9 a.m. sharp. They start the meeting out with a discussion of upcoming business and events. They end the meeting sharing stories of old times over donuts and coffee. The Retirees

Club would love to have you. If you’re interested give us a call at 860-646-7297 for more information.

The Retirees Club thanks all the ladies in Local 42’s office for all their hard work and for making everyone feel welcome. They work hard putting all the events together to make them enjoyable.

Save the following 2015 dates: June 6 - Annual Bike Run; June 27 - Dinner Cruise; July 11 - Chartered Fishing Trip; Aug. 29 - Annual “A” Picnic; Sept. 12 - Cod Fishing Trip; and Dec. 10 - Union Meeting/Christmas Party.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

‘Unique Retirees Group’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX—Our club members like to think of themselves as a very unique group of family and friends. We get together once a month, at noontime, for nine months of the year. Our meetings are held at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Training Bldg., 3630 Belgium Lane. We take care of club business and share a theme lunch furnished by the members, including a covered dish or dessert. At times the club will order lunch to be delivered to give the ladies a break from the kitchen. The theme is based on a holiday or event for that month. And it’s no ordinary room for this unique group; ours is always decorated to complement the theme. After lunch the group cuts loose with their bingo skills—picking the right card is so important.

Since the club is self-supporting, our main

source of funding comes from the annual golf tournament held in April. At the time of this writing, we were looking forward to this year’s April 25 tournament and the outcome was pending. As of press time, the outstanding amount of support and donations the club has received for the fundraiser thus far indicates a huge success.

To all retired members of Local 60, please come and add your uniqueness to this group.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Winter Retirees Luncheon; April Blood Drive

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 103, BOSTON, MA—Local 103 held its Second Annual Winter Retirees Luncheon at the Naples Beach and Country Club in Naples, FL, on Tuesday, Feb. 24. More than 220 retirees, spouses and guests attended. Bus. Mgr. John Dumas welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of Local 103’s status and its various funds. Bus. Mgr. Dumas introduced our newly appointed IBEW Second District Int. Vice Pres. Michael P. Monahan, as the guest speaker. Recently retired Int. Vice Pres. Frank J. Carroll also attended. The Retirees Luncheon was certainly enjoyed by all attendees. The occasion was an opportunity for friends and past tool partners to catch up and reminisce.

Local 103 held its Fourth Annual Blood Drive on April 14 at the union hall. Also, a number of vendors were in attendance for the event. They provided blood donors with screening for blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose. Nutrition was also a focus that day, and a nutritional counseling session was available to those interested. Also, tobacco cessation information was available to anyone looking to kick the habit.

Kevin C. Molineaux, P.S.

New Meeting Location

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—As of April 8, 2015, our Retirees Club has permanently moved all regular Retirees Club Wednesday meetings to the Apprentice School at 115th & Ridgeland in Alsip, IL. The school has free ample parking. Meetings start at 12 noon for greet-and-meet time, with coffee and coffee provided. At 1 p.m., our regular meeting begins with guest speakers who discuss issues of special interest to retirees. If club members have any suggestions or ideas regarding speakers for our meetings, please speak to any board member.

Thank you to all retirees who are participating members. If you are not a regular club member, you’re welcome to come to any of the meetings and get acquainted and reconnect with some of the people you worked with in the past.

Come and see for yourself what our Retirees Club has to offer: theater outings, golf outings, tours, lake and riverboat outings, and many other activities and events too numerous to list in this article.

See our monthly newsletter for more information on all outings in upcoming months. On June 10, we will still have our catered luncheon at the Local

134 union hall, starting at 12 noon. Come early for greet-and-meet with like-minded folks.

Louis Rodriguez, P.S.

‘The End of An Era’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH—On Nov. 17, 1928, Howard Kaufman Sr. was obligated into IBEW Local 212. His sons, Glenn, Fred, Howard and Bob, would also follow him as Local 212 electricians. On Jan. 29, 2014, Fred’s son Kent died suddenly leaving a deep heartache that could not be healed. Fred died in his home on Jan. 24, 2015, joining Kent, his father, and his brothers in eternity ending the Kaufman era in Local 212—representing 196 years of faithful IBEW membership. Fred was age 83. We extend our deepest sympathy to Fred’s wife, Marietta, and his family, especially Kathy Painter, Local 212 office manager.

With deepest sorrow, we also report that six additional Local 212 members passed on from this life into the next. We honor these departed brothers: Richard Louis - 69 years of service; Elmer Henderer - 58 years’ service; John Mueller - 47 years; David Fox - 46 years; Joseph Boeing - 36 years; and Raymond Ober Jr. - 27 years. All together, these six men represent 283 years of faithful IBEW membership. Our prayers extend to the families of these dear friends. May God comfort them.

Welcome to new members: James Hausfeld, John Lupp and George Weil. George is a third-generation Local 212 member.

FYI: The Retirees Club picnic will take place at Fernbank Park, 11 a.m., on July 1. A big shout-out to the “sparkies” in Florida.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

March Luncheon Meeting

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO—Our Retirees Club enjoyed the luncheon/meeting at the Knights of Columbus site in Westphalia, MO, on March 31. Everyone is glad winter is finally over, our snowbirds are back home and we are in the process of spring cleaning and getting gardens ready.

Guests at our luncheon were Local 257 Bus. Mgr. Don Bruemmer, Organizer Mike Fanning, and Apprenticeship Training Dir. Rick Stokes.

Bus. Mgr. Bruemmer answered questions about our insurance and introduced Bro. Fanning. Bro. Stokes thanked the volunteers who again helped this year to judge and grade at the Skills USA Competition held March 27 at Linn State Technical College. This makes 12 years our members have volunteered for the event. Volunteers were: Jerry Rehagen, Emil Fischer, Herman Grothoff, Kenny Schulte, Bob Kauffman, Steve Klepel, Ron Holzhouer, Dan Schroeder, Larry Jones, Roger Stokes, Dan Linderbusch and Jim Breid.

We are saddened to report that we lost two members this year. John Gilmore, a member for 64 years, passed away Jan. 26. Leonard Steinman, a 65-year member, passed away March 2. Our prayers go out to their families.

Delores Melloway, P.S.



Local 134 Retirees Club members attend April meeting held at the Apprenticeship School auditorium.

Next-Gen Retirees Challenge — Drive for Kidney Foundation

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—The Local 353 Next-Gen committee was looking for a project, so they took on our Retirees Club for a clothing drive that would benefit two Ontario Kidney Foundation camps, one for kids who had a kidney transplant, and one for families of dialysis patients.

The retirees' drive was Tuesday, April 6, at their monthly meeting/luncheon, attended by approximately 120 retirees.

The Next-Gen committee chose the Sunday, April 12, Annual Benefits/Wages Members Meeting for their drive. It was anticipated that approximately 600 working members would attend, each with one bag of clothing for this worthy cause. Guess who won the challenge?

Sometimes it's easy to forget that retirees in our local suffered some of the worst unemployment years in our history, but sacrificed and created most of the benefits enjoyed by Local 353 members today. These include: a shorter work week, a Pension Plan, Health & Welfare Plan, a Sports, Entertainment & Retirees Trust Fund, a Building Fund and an Education Fund, just to mention a few!

All of those early officers, trustees and plan administrators are now retired or passed on. We thank current officers and members for their continued support of retirees' and widows' concerns. Retirees are a founding pillar of the IBEW.

Robert Rynyk, P.S.

Sarnia Happenings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Local 530 IBEW held its 73rd Annual Dinner Dance Banquet on Friday, Nov. 21, last year. Service pins were awarded to all eligible members including many journeymen from our Retirees Club.

Service Pins awarded to our Retirees Club members were as follows: for 35 years of service—Herb Burdett Sr. and Tom Holmes; 40 years—Eric Lawton; 45 years—Fred Sterling; 50 years—Bob Chapdelaine and Al Wetering; 55 years—Jim Hodgins, Bohdan Kohut, Edward McCormack, John Mentanski and Tony Neuhauser; and for 60 years—Jim Foster. Congratulations to all these members, who enjoyed a wonderful "work life" and now have been able to enjoy many healthy and productive years of retirement.

We continue to enjoy monthly events together, our latest being our annual trip to the Point Edward Casino on St. Patrick's Day.

We lost a faithful member of our club recently. Jim Wright passed away March 17. He had the distinction of being one of our founding club members. We will miss his cheerful smile and gentle personality. We send our condolences to his family.

To all our fellow retirees, we wish you a wonderful, safe and healthy summer.

Nancy P. Philbin, P.S.

Summer Break

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 570, TUCSON, AZ—The Local 570 Retirees Club recently took a field trip and held their last meeting before the club's summer break started. The March meeting was held at the Tucson JATC facility.

[Editor's Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. See "NJATC Transitions into the Electrical Training Alliance," The Electrical Worker (Sept. 2014), and at www.ibew.org.]

Retirees Club meetings will start back up in October. We hope all have a safe and wonderful summer.

Scott W. Toot, P.S.

'Top News'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Top news: The "right-to-work" bill proposed in the New Mexico legislature is dead, at least for 2015. It was the most bitter and contentious anti-worker measure on record. For the first time in 60 years Republicans controlled the state House, but Democrats controlled the state Senate. The House voted to pass RTW in the recent legislative session, but the Senate tabled the bill. Because of the partisan divide, the bill was never brought up again on the floor. However, it is obvious that the bill will reappear in 2016.

Local 611 bookkeeper and office manager Angela Horchheimer recently retired. Angela is the wife of Local 611 retired journeyman wireman and former training instructor Steve Horchheimer. We wish them both the best in retirement.

Local 611 member Pat Armstrong has closed Armstrong Electric. His manager, Bro. Jimmy Carlisle, has chosen to continue the business, now Carlisle Electric. We wish both Bro. Armstrong and Bro. Carlisle all the best. They both have our best wishes, prayers and support.

We extend condolences to the families of recently deceased retirees: James O. Wood, Percy Kirk, Jerry D. Turner, Franklin D. Mize and Arthur Velarde.

The local still has plenty of 100th anniversary books left, so call and reserve your copy.

Tracy Hall, Pres.



Steve and Angela Horchheimer, Local 611 retirees.

'Road Runners' Report

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 640, PHOENIX, AZ—We are now at that time of year when we Golden Age Road Runners enjoy a few months off from meetings. The recent season passed quickly.

Unfortunately we lost some members from our ranks, one being Lucille Decker, a board member, and wife of past president Jim Decker, whom we lost just over a year ago. Both were extremely active in our club activities and will be missed dearly.

Our board is working closely with the Apprenticeship Committee on details pertaining to a new scholarship program that G.A.R.R. is reestablishing for apprentices demonstrating both skill and volunteerism in their activities. The hope is the changes we are instituting will promote more activism in the young folks following in our footsteps.

Our local union picnic and pin event, usually held in April, was deferred this year until Oct. 3, when there will be a gathering of all seven Arizona IBEW locals in Tempe at the SRP Pera Club for festivities from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. You must RSVP by July 1.

We wish everyone an enjoyable summer of relaxation. We hope all of the Local 640 retirees will join us at the union hall at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 16 for our first breakfast meeting of the 2015-'16 season.

Daryl Knupp, P.S.



Retirees at the 2015 IBEW Local 702 Retiree Luncheon enjoy a great meal while catching up with old friends.

2015 Retiree Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL—The 2015 IBEW Local 702 Retiree Luncheon was Tuesday, April 7, at the Rend Lake Resort Conference Center with over 150 in attendance. Local 702 Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughart welcomed everyone and blessed the gathering and meal with a prayer. Local Pres. Jimmy Sanchez and the current office staff were introduced to the retirees. Former officers and staff in attendance were also recognized.

The retirees and their families were thanked for their years of service and loyalty to IBEW Local 702.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to suspend the reading of the minutes, financial report and deaths until the next regular meeting. It was announced such meeting would take place on June 4 at the Golden Corral in Carbondale, IL, at 11:30 a.m.

Door prize winners were George Phillips, for oldest retiree (age 92), and Larry Brooke, for longest distance traveled to the luncheon. St. Louis Cardinal Baseball tickets were won by Carl Lowry and gift certificates were won by Dave Emery, Don Mull, Ritchie Glenn and Jimmy Lipe.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, retirees were given a final show of appreciation, and invited to come back next year and to bring more retirees with them.

Mark Baker, P.S.

'Have a Wonderful Summer'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL—By the time you read this we will have completed all our meetings before our summer break. We wish you all a happy and healthy summer and safe travels. We have had some great meetings with our ever-popular Low Country Boil in February, Awesome BBQ in March, Fried Chicken Feast in April and our very popular Fish Fry in May. We were also happy to welcome some out-of-town union members at our meetings; we love having you visit.

With sadness, we pay our respects to the members who have recently passed.

We send our condolences to the family and friends of late Bros. George H. Vaughn, Claude C. Vaughn, Leslie E. Kash and Charles C. Card. Our brothers will be missed.

We wish to invite any retired or unemployed brothers and sisters and their spouses who are in the area to come and join us. Our meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, 11:30 a.m., at the Local 756 Union Hall, Port Orange, FL.

Diane Gibbs, P.S.

June Luncheon Meeting

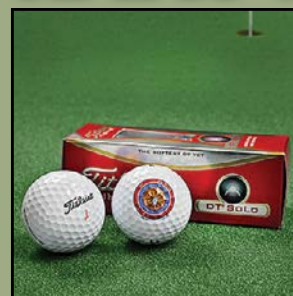
RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA—We had our luncheon at Drussilla Restaurant on the first Monday in March. The seafood there was good and the service was excellent. Approximately 26 members attended.

At our regular bi-monthly meeting on April 6, we made plans for our combined luncheon with the wives. It is to take place at the union hall on the first Monday in June at 11:30 a.m. Every couple or single is to bring a covered dish.

It is with deep regret that I report the recent loss of several of our retirees: Lynwood Browning, Joseph B. Boneventure, Charles F. Bond, Alvin L. Stephens and Gillie Crumholt. They all will be missed.

W. Roland Goetzman, P.S.

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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Taking Out the Trash



Edwin D. Hill
International President

It's one thing to feel disrespected on the job. It's quite another for a company to tell its employees that they are completely disposable.

That's the situation at Southern California Edison, where the utility giant is laying off American workers to bring in lower-paid employees of two India-based outsourcing firms, Tata and Infosys.

Since last summer, SCE has laid off hundreds of American information technology specialists whose salaries ranged between \$80,000 and \$160,000, according to records acquired by the Los Angeles Times. The workers from the outsourcing firms earn a top rate of \$71,000.

SCE is doing this by exploiting an immigration law regarding H-1B visas, which grant guest worker status to foreign nationals who come to the U.S. to fill so-called specialty occupations—usually in science, technology, math and engineering.

The H-1B program was designed with one thing in mind: To bring in foreign workers to do jobs that Americans could not.

At tech companies like Google and Microsoft, managers say that they are having a hard time finding enough American software engineers, so the corporations have lobbied hard for the expansion of the program to help shore up their workforce.

But that's not the case at SCE. These IT professionals can—and do—perform their jobs admirably. But like a lot of corporations, SCE is taking the low road and casting off their skilled American workforce simply to save cash.

In a February Los Angeles Times article, writer Michael Hiltzik interviewed some of SCE's workers who were laid off. "They told us they could replace one of us with three, four or five Indian personnel and still save money," one former employee told Hiltzik. "They said, 'We can get four Indian guys for cheaper than the price of you.'"

"When you are referred to as a commodity or cost, not even treated as a human being, it's pretty degrading," another worker said.

Not that any of these guest workers appear to be treated any better. In 2013, Tata paid nearly \$30 million to settle a class action lawsuit filed by former employees. They accused the company of cheating them out of wages and stealing tax refund checks.

The Brotherhood is taking action. Leaders like Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 Business Manager Pat Lavin are asking the U.S. Department of Labor to investigate the abuses. The program is also taking heat from a bipartisan coalition in Congress including Sens. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.).

"Congress has a responsibility to ensure that the law does not permit employers to abuse our visa programs to undercut domestic wages and workers," Durbin and Sessions said in a joint statement.

So, memo to SCE: In America, we don't throw away people. We throw away bad policies. And the current setup of the H-1B program fits that bill.

I urge the U.S. Department of Labor to take the broken parts of the law and do what any of us would do with something in the kitchen that smells rotten: throw it in the trash. ■

Run, IBEW Members, Run

"If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." That kernel of wisdom seems closest to the hearts and minds of IBEW members who run for public office, including those profiled in this issue of *The Electrical Worker*.

It's not hard to understand why good folks veer away from politics, leaving unions and workers with too few members at the table where decisions are made.

That's why it's so important to listen to the voices and experiences of the public officials profiled in this issue of *The Electrical Worker* and dozens of others who have decided to enter the fray and run for office.

Yes, a poisonous polarization of politics at the federal level in Washington and Ottawa is driven by a small class of wealthy and, too often, greedy players who dominate decision-making. Major party candidates for national office frequently seem to live in another world from average people.

But back in the hometowns of the U.S. and Canada, politics is more personal. We want our garbage picked up and we don't want our public buildings erected by nonunion contractors from hundreds of miles away. We want recreational programs for our children and grandchildren.

Improving schools and public safety, treating workers with dignity—these priorities come instinctively to union members.

So, too, do some of the skills and values that make good leaders, like building consensus and staying focused on the tasks at hand. We can't construct buildings, maintain vital utilities or manufacture quality products if we're bickering with each other when there's work to be done.

The grassroots spirit of trade unionism is exactly what's missing in our politics at the federal, state and local levels. We can't fill every position, but union members in office, like those profiled in this issue, are making a difference larger than our numbers.

We must never give up our commitment to elect friends of labor to federal office. But a serious effort to win sustained, progressive leadership at the top needs to come from below.

I urge more members to make plans to run for public office. And I invite those who have already made that commitment to share their experiences and lessons learned. ■



Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

**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

Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

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“LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

The Work/Life Balance

As I am finishing my senior year of high school and preparing to enter college, I have been thinking about my childhood and all the memories that I have with my family. I realized that there was something common in nearly all of these memories: my father was in them.

I am fortunate that my dad is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, because it allows him to earn a living and also to spend time with his family. I have always had a hectic schedule with sports, school and extracurriculars, and my dad has been able to play a significant role. He can do this because his job as a journeyman electrician allows him to balance his commitments to both work and family.

Granted, the work he performs is very demanding physically, but having a fair, eight-hour workday gives him the time to pick me up after school, attend my baseball games, take me to practice and just spend time hanging out.

Seeing my dad manage his roles as both a worker and a father has made me reflect on what my priorities will be when I have a career and family of my own. I hope I can find the same balance that my father has and never lose the appreciation that he has instilled in me for hard work.

*Daniel Blackburn, son of Local 400 member Laurence E. Blackburn
Asbury Park, N.J.*

In Praise of the Movement

My family would not be the same without the labor movement. My relatives have been part of America's labor unions for generations, starting with my grandfather in 1955, then my father's two uncles, and now my father, who has been a member for 35 years. If it had not been for the labor movement, they would not have been able to care for their families in the same way as they have for so many years.

The 40-hour work week helps members of labor unions spend quality time with loved ones in between their work schedules while pensions and health benefits allow them to retire at a reasonable age. If the labor movement did not exist, employers would be able to take advantage of their employees, making them work longer hours, under harsh and possibly unsafe conditions and without break times, benefits, or just compensation.

Our society has the labor movement to thank for setting standards for fair wages, safe working conditions and for protecting employees from being fired without just cause. It has raised the bar for labor practices for the whole nation, even outside of labor unions. Members are able to balance their time between work and home, and they give back to the community by hosting donation drives for the military, rebuilding homes with Habitat for Humanity and other charitable endeavors. The goals and values of the labor movement have revolutionized the labor system, and America has not looked back since.

*Emily Kazenmayer, daughter of Local 400 member James Kazenmayer
Asbury Park, N.J.*



From Facebook: Every month the IBEW Facebook page receives thousands of comments from our dynamic and engaged community of members and friends.

The New Generation

I'm the instructor for the Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085 Code of Excellence Training Centre and just passed 21 amazing apprentices out of our pre-employment program. Hardworking and union to the core.

*Steven Jerome Sprange, Local 2085 member
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

WHO WE ARE

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

Motorcycle Clubs Fly the IBEW Flag, One Vest at a Time

Winter's grip is now a distant memory for most people in North America and with it comes the greatest season of all for many IBEW members. For some people that may be the season of summer sun and swimming pools, or the springtime return of the robin from lands to the south and the smell of flowers on the breeze.

But for others, the greatest season of the year begins with the return of black leather from darkened closets and rises with the smell of 10,000 tiny explosions rumbling out of the beating heart of mechanical freedom, the twin-cylinder "V-for-victory" motor at the heart of the American motorcycle.

Every week, more of those Harleys, Indians and the odd (very odd really) BMW or Honda, head out on the highway flying another sign of freedom and possibility, the rising electric fist of the IBEW. Across the nation, nearly 30 locals have formed official motorcycle clubs.

There is nothing in the IBEW Constitution about motorcycle clubs. Nothing in the bylaws either. Clubs vary in their level of organization from just a few guys wearing leather vests with a patch on the back to the unquestioned colossus of roads, the Local 3 Motorcycle Club in New York City, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Many locals looking to start their own clubs have turned to Local 3, said Stan Stade, a retired Local 3 member and the self-described IBEW leather haberdasher. Stan is the man who holds the key to the cuts, the black leather vest and patch that separates a couple of dudes out on a ride and a chrome-covered organizing drive broadcasting the benefits of membership to everyone they pass.

There are clubs with their own vest designs, like Pittsburgh Local 5, which sports a bold "5" in a circle. But the Local 3 design, with that iconic fist haloed by 10 silver bolts, "Electrical Workers" arched above and the hometown bending underneath like a smile, something about that design seems to call to the newer clubs.

"I get calls all the time from everywhere and I tell them the same thing. There is nothing like going down the road and seeing a line of those rising fists in front of you and the glow of headlights in the mirror," Stade said.

There are big city inside clubs outside of New York in Boston, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Rich Kremser is working hard to get one started up at Chicago Local 134. The local already has charity fundraising rides, including one to raise money for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, but Kremser says there is nothing organized. Yet.

"I'm going to get a chapter going here. Even if you have six guys, it'll start



Hundreds of motorcycle riding IBEW members now ride with their local's motorcycle club and — like President Hill — wear their membership for all to see.

rolling," Kremser said. "I'm not sure if people are aware of the brotherhood you see on these rides. You get to a ride [with a local motorcycle club] and think, 'Man look at all these guys. They all do what I do. And that guy, he's cool. He knows what it is all about.'"

Of course, it isn't just wiremen. Boston Local 104 has jurisdiction over nearly all of New England, and has rides all over the Northeast once the mud clears each spring.

"We couldn't leave it to just the narrowbacks," said Local 104 member Brad Curley, using the lineman's gently disparaging nickname for wiremen. "They wouldn't have any fun without us there."

Smaller city locals are well represented, especially in the northeast, from York, Pa., Local 229 to Hartford, Conn., Local 42. But in recent years, new clubs are popping up all over, from Shreveport, La., Local 194 to Las Vegas, Local 357.

"I went through the business agent and made sure he was onboard, then put out feelers in the newsletter," said Gary Oneida, president of the Pocatello, Idaho, Local 449 motorcycle club, membership: five.

Oneida said they ordered their vests and patches through Stade.

"Everything is set up and they use a union shop for everything," he said. "It made more sense than winging it out here."

Randy Stainbrook and Dallas Deranleau started a club at Rapid City, S.D., Local 1250.

"You work every day and do your job, and the union sometimes doesn't feel as real as it is," Deranleau said at the annual IBEW motorcycle rally last year. "Then you come here and see all this and it is absolutely amazing."

This year's IBEW ride is July 17 and 18 and all money raised will go to support cystic fibrosis research and awareness. More than 400 members from all over the country are expected to meet up in the Canaan Valley, in West Virginia for a weekend of tall tales, loud bikes and good times. For more information, check out www.ibew.org/Ride4CF

"It's always amazing how many of the people I see I know," Deranleau said. "Some I know from years past and jobs I've done."

Patch or not, everyone is welcome. All it takes is a union card and a motorcycle. ■

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‘The moral of the story is to never give up’

Texas Utility Workers Win Contract

For Steve Stone, the wide open spaces, vast skies and rolling plains of the Lone Star State offer some of the best reasons to get up in the morning and go to work as a lineman for Texas New Mexico Power.

“For me, it’s the freedom of getting to be outside, doing something different every day for a job I love,” said the 30-year-old father of two, who works out of TNMP’s site in Emory—about 45 miles east of Dallas. “I feel like we get a lot of respect for helping keep the power on.”

It’s a massive job in a power-hungry area. TNMP—which, despite its name, now only services Texas—has 375 employees in more than 20 cities and towns across the state.

But for the past few years, work has been difficult for Stone and his fellow employees. Lack of managerial consistency among different sites meant that crews working storm duty had different wage rates, different perks like paid lunches and different sets of expectations, depending on who was running the job.

Also, favoritism, irregular disciplinary procedures and a gradual eroding of benefits had employees like Stone working harder each year for less.

“The company would take something every few years from the workers,” he said. “They turned our retirement benefits into a company-run 401(k)—earning pennies when we should be making more.” TNMP also sought to slash paid time off benefits, a major point of contention for the workforce.

This wasn’t the first time that workers were to the point of saying “enough.” Some employees had mounted an organizing drive with the IBEW in 2008 that failed. But activists like Seventh District Lead Organizer Craig Parkman knew the terrain. He and other IBEW leaders had spoken with TNMP workers in far-flung locations and still had employee contacts.

Many workers had also been burned by the company before. “Six years ago, when we tried to organize, managers came in and said they would fix the pay scale,” Stone said, adding that some linemen doing the same work for the same amount of time had as much as a \$10 difference in their hourly pay. “We ended up not going union, but nothing changed. They made promises that never turned out.”

In January 2013, several workers reached out to the IBEW again. Parkman and other leaders helped coordinate a robust campaign that went deep into the employees’ issues and cast a wide geographical net.

“The largest construction group, stationed in Texas City, is more than 600 miles from the Pecos construction yard,” Parkman said of the diverse unit composed of linemen, construction workers, substation operators and more. “And Pecos is over 400 miles from the company headquarters in Lewisville. It was clear

that careful communication would have to be of the highest priority.”

Building Support

The campaign brought together more than 180 workers, many of whom had never even exchanged a “hello.”

“The fact that these guys are scattered throughout the state—that’s the hardest part,” said Local 66 Business Manager Greg Lucero. While organizers employed both shoe leather and tire rubber in great supply, constant communication through cell phones, texts and email helped spread the word.

The organizing team also invited the workers at each site to select representatives to serve as spokes of the communications hub.

“We held elections with all the workers—we went to every site,” Parkman said. Two coalitions were formed—one for the northern part of the state surrounding Dallas, and one for the south near Galveston, close to the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the Pecos group out west toward El Paso. “We said to the employees, we’re letting you guys choose. This is your campaign.”



‘At the end of the day, it’s about good jobs for Americans who work hard.’

—Houston Local 66 member Steve Stone

Workers with decades of experience brought a seasoned perspective to the campaign. “I have seen many things change over the years, some good and some not so good,” said distribution lineman Jeffrey Hall, a 26-year employee. “I have been through bad times, buyouts and restructures. Having representation in the workplace is one reason for me to support the union. The other is the idea of bringing workers together to unify and build strength in members.”

The company hired a union-busting attorney, who used many tactics easily anticipated by the organizers.

“TNMP said if we wanted a union in, everything is going to be starting from scratch—everything you have now, throw it out the window,” Stone said. “The IBEW was honest with us from the get-go. Everything they said was right on the money, and they were good at predicting what the company would throw at us.”

Still, it wasn’t enough to sway everyone. “Some of those who were against it, I never really got a straight answer why,” Stone said. “Some said, ‘Man, I already make enough, and they treat me good.’”

For others, Stone said, the term

“union” came with heavy political baggage—a turnoff to many in this deeply red state where union density is less than 5 percent.

“I grew up straight across-the-board Republican, so I know what some people were thinking,” Stone said. “But I even got my dad behind me, supporting our effort.”

“At the end of the day, it’s about good jobs for Americans who work hard,” Stone said.

May 21, 2013, union supporters squeaked out a victory in an NLRB-sponsored election: 88 yeas, 87 nays.

“It was a narrow victory, but it was a victory,” Parkman said.

‘We Became the Minority’

While the organizing campaign was relatively quick and energetic, the following months dragged on as the company delayed first contract negotiations and gradually ramped up their anti-union tactics.

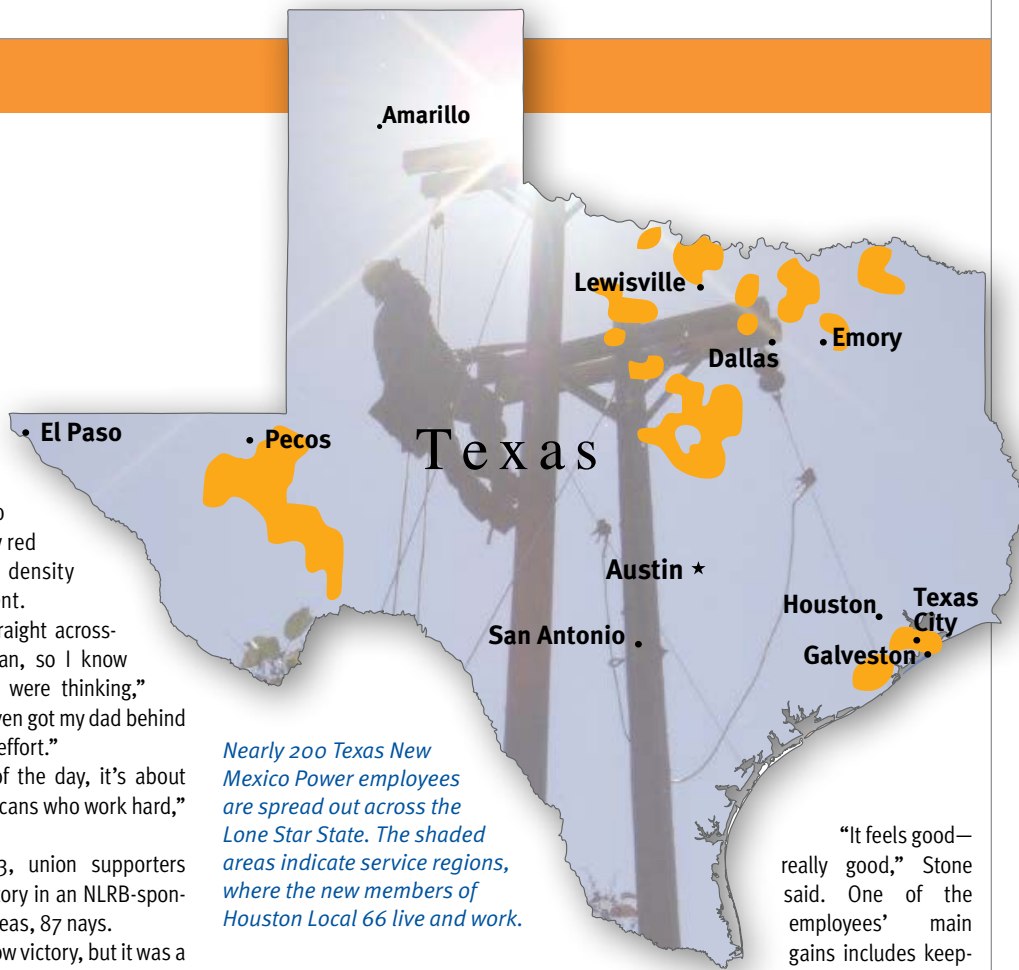
Workers were barred from wearing

their IBEW stickers on their hardhats. Union supporters were singled out, and four were fired. With the loss of about 10 more workers due to retirements and resignations, “We became the minority,” Parkman said. IBEW leaders filed unfair labor practice charges against the company on behalf of the terminated supporters.

At the same time, the rest of the group continued mobilizing. Due to the sprawl, workers lobbied successfully to have two negotiating groups: one for the northern sites and one for the south.

“Local Union 66 and I wanted to show complete transparency to the employees,” Parkman said. “We opened up the steward training to all bargaining unit employees and held classes at all the major service yards. We took our time to explain Weingarten rights, why it’s important to use your steward, and we showed examples of situations where stewards are helpful.” Each elected steward was given a disk that included information on legal rights and strategies for working as a unit, Parkman said.

Workers were able to challenge false information from the company and build momentum during contract talks.



Nearly 200 Texas New Mexico Power employees are spread out across the Lone Star State. The shaded areas indicate service regions, where the new members of Houston Local 66 live and work.

“It feels good—really good,” Stone said. One of the employees’ main gains includes keeping all their paid time off. A new pay structure

The NLRB eventually ruled in favor of the terminated workers.

A ‘Decert’ and a Deception

Last May, nearly one year to the day of the 2013 vote, an anti-union employee filed a decertification petition. “We had expected it,” Stone said. “We knew people were talking about it.”

TNMP then presented a proposal to the negotiating committee to eliminate the employees’ paid time off plan and shift to a different system that would have cost workers vacation and sick days that they had already earned. As the decertification vote loomed, TNMP made an effort to cast the IBEW as a third party and told its workers that the union, not the company, had made the proposal to eliminate paid time off.

The move backfired—badly.

The negotiating committee moved to a full-court communications press, as stewards and other employee activists made sure their co-workers knew that the company was misrepresenting the union’s position.

Late last year, the employees again voted whether or not to be unionized. This time, the yeas were more forceful: 115-62.

“The vote count in this election clearly showed the dedication we gave to this campaign,” Parkman said.

‘Never Give Up’

The next few weeks moved fast. TNMP agreed to mediation procedures through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service at the union’s request. A deal was reached Feb. 5.

About two months after not even knowing whether he and his fellow employees would have a union anymore, Stone voted “yes” for his first collective bargaining agreement. The contract was ratified by about two-thirds of the unit.

has also been established that will help accelerate wages for those at the lower end of the scale.

“There’s also the plain, common-sense benefits of being union,” Stone said, “like just cause and Weingarten rights,” which grant workers the right to union representation in front of management. “They can’t lay guys off or fire them for no reason.”

At the same time, TNMP has continued to see solid financial success. Its Albuquerque-based parent company, PNM, increased its net earnings to \$116.3 million in 2014—a \$16 million jump from the previous year. TNMP was the largest contributor to the corporation’s success, posting a whopping 30 percent increase in net earnings since last year. Union leaders said they are still trying to find win-win ways to work with the company under the new contract.

“Getting employees the agreement was the best part, but we still have to train our guys in how to work underneath the contract, and how to get management accustomed to it,” Lucero said. Due to the geographical challenges of the unit, Lucero said that stewards will be vital primary representatives for the unit on issues like grievances, with the local office adding support when needed. “The stewards will be the ‘go to’ guys, and we’ll be the final step,” he said.

IBEW leaders say that while this campaign was long and winding, it’s a symbol of the kind of tenacity organizers and workers need to maintain to ensure victory where long distances are factors.

“The moral of the story is to never give up,” Parkman said. “We had a narrow, one-vote victory. We had key supporters who were terminated and never returned to work. We had a company that stalled at every opportunity. We also had many positives. The most important reason that this campaign became a success was the constant communication we had with employees. When we told workers something, they could take it to the bank. Honesty, transparency and communication were the keys to victory.” ■