International President Edwin D. Hill Retires

In 14 years of strong governance, Hill reshaped the IBEW, extended its influence.

He never asked any leader to work any harder than he did. Growing the Brotherhood was his passion. Whether Ed Hill was pushing for more technical tools to track contractors or launching sharp, modern initiatives to align the IBEW with today’s markets, he never, ever wavered from that passion.

A thoroughly practical man, he was also a courageous leader who promoted excellence in all IBEW branches and demanded the same from IBEW’s employers. Making the lives of workers better. That is what Ed says was his greatest pride looking back over his nearly 60 years in the labor movement. And he did.

The 16th member to serve as international president of the IBEW, Hill announced his retirement effective
Eighteen inside wiremen volunteered to help these veteran homeowners. RENEW has taken the lead on logistics, material and management of volunteers for the past three years. This has been good experience for young workers active with RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) efforts.

Many volunteers expressed great joy in helping those in need and said the opportunity to serve is priceless. Our Labor Management Cooperation Committee also donated $5,000 to RTO to strengthen our partnership and commitment to helping working families.

While we build physical buildings, it is also our duty to build up our communities through transformative engagement and to do all we can to help not just our own families, but all working families. Thank you to Rachel Bryan, Local 595 community liaison, for providing this information for this article.

Bob Tieman, B.R.

**Grants Awarded — ‘A Great Teaching Tool’**

L.U. 601 (8ktb), CHICAGO-URBANA, IL—With the assistance of financial grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, we had the opportunity to install a power regeneration system. The system consists of a roof array of 22 solar panels, a wall array of 10 solar panels, ground array of 122 panels and a dual axis tracker of 20 solar panels, as well as a wind turbine that produces 100 kilowatts of power. The total power available for generation is 51 kilowatts.

This will prove to be a great teaching tool for the JATC. The apprentices will have the opportunity to monitor just how much electricity is being generated from a panel inside their classrooms. They will also be able to disassemble and reassemble a number of the panels themselves.

**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 (Sep. 2014), and at www.njatc.org.

Our local offers many journeyman wiremen classes throughout the year, thanks to our dedicated instructors: Bob Withers, Brent Stull, John Mingee, Al Halberstadt, Richard Mingee, Michael Aper, Dana Nichols, John Allen, Todd Nicholas, Rob Misler and Randy Lustz. Work in our local is good currently, and for the next few years we anticipate a great deal of work. At this writing, we have seven on Book 1 and 17 on Book 2.

Daniel Hatter, P.S.

**‘Stand Together & Vote’**

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,lt,markml), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—The work picture in Halifax is still better than usual with 297 members working at the shipyard as of May 1. It is still slow in Unit #2 with only 59 at the Pulp Mill Precipitator. Upcoming work will include the Aberdeen Hospital project in New Glasgow and the Fish Oil Plant expansion in Guysborough County. We hope this will improve the employment levels in Unit #2 later in the year.

Canadian unions and their members are under a full frontal attack by the federal Conservative majority government. The Conservatives have strong support from the business community and are spending millions of taxpayer dollars convincing the people to keep them in office. All labour activists and union members need to wake up, stand together and vote in numbers in the upcoming federal election to remove this anti-union government before it achieves a third term and succeeds in destroying the union movement and the middle class. “To read more, see “North of 49: First District Remarks for Federal Election,” The Electrical Worker, March 2013.”

Successful in completing their apprenticeship program and becoming journeypersons are: Matt Andrea, Vincent Forsyth, Shane MacArthur, James “Craig” Christison, Trevor MacKay, Angela Duquette, Ashley Currie, Jason MacKinnon and Jody Corkum. Congratulations to all!

Recently retired are: Bros. Les Sheffield, Gary Williams, Eric Grant, Arthur “Reg” Marryott, Derrick Robinson and Stan Riley.

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.

**Volunteers Recognized**

L.U. 627 (q), FORT PIERCE, FL—Headed north to cooler climates for a break from the heat? Please ensure safety is stressed, as always, at the jobsite and when you are on the road. One moment of inattention is all that is needed for a life-changing event.

Pres. Mark MacNichol reported that the apprenticeship program for transmission and distribution is going great.

Our local received recognition from the City of Port St. Lucie for our continuing effort to “Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful” with our road-cleanup crews. Congratulations go out to Bro. Jon Celebak’s family on the arrival of a new baby girl.

Stay informed and stay safe. See you at the union hall.

Raymond Vos, P.S.

**‘Train the Trainer’ Class**

L.U. 639 (bkt), SAN LUIS OBSIPCO, CA—The JATC recently purchased a Smart Bender from Greenlee. Two representatives from the company came to the hall to put on a “Train the Trainer” class for the instructors. The second-year apprenticeship class was also given hands-on training.

Training Dir. Chuck Headington plans to retire at school year’s end. Over the years Chuck has developed countless partnerships with vendors in the electrical industry to provide the JATC with state-of-the-art training aids and instruction. Thank you, Chuck Headington, for all your hard work and years of dedication to Local 639.

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**‘Stay Involved & Informed’**

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—Since this is not an election year, we might be tempted not to pay attention to politics. That would be a mistake. It may not be happening in your state or ours yet, but the anti-worker push for so-called “right-to-work” measures harmful to working people will still affect us. Please be aware of issues that affect union labor and working people—and be sure to vote in every election.

Our work outlook continues to improve. Upcoming jobs in our area include projects at two hospitals, an outlet mall and a remodel of the convention center. Our organizers recently were successful in organizing a residential contractor that is currently working on a retirement facility.

Everyone have a safe and fun summer.

Tracy Starcher, V.P./P.S.

**‘Hoops for Clarence’ Tourney; Labor Rally at Statehouse**

L.U. 697 (c,es,lim&tke), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—Hoops for Clarence: Eight teams of Local 697 members competed in a basketball tournament fundraiser for Clarence Link, son of Local 697 member Jacob Link. Clarence is in a courageous battle with cancer for Clarence Link, son of Local 697 member Jacob Link. Clarence is in a courageous battle with cancer.

The team of T. Coope, T. Janke and D. Crammion won the double elimination tournament and everyone nursed sore muscles the following day. Rally at the Statehouse. Local members joined thousands of Indiana Building Trades members to voice our displeasure with the Indiana Assembly and Gov. Mike Pence’s attack on working Hoosiers. While the “aristocrats” ignored the efforts of Hoosier busi...
June 1. He did so only after enthusiastically recommending his successor, Sixth District Vice President Lonnie R. Stephenson, to the International Executive Committee.

Simultaneously, the IEC confirmed the appointment of David J. Rumkhoff to fill the remainder of Stephenson’s term as vice president of the Sixth District, covering Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota.

In a brief email to his International Office staff, Hill said, “I came to this decision after much thought and reflection, concluding it was the right time for the next generation of IBEW leadership to come to the fore.”

From his roots as a second-generation journeyman electrician and member of Beaver, Pa., Local 712, Hill rose to regional prominence as the local’s business manager and vice president of IBEW’s Third District covering New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey. Appointed international secretary in 1993, Hill assumed the newly created position of secretary-treasurer one year later and the office of international president in 2001.

In a message to members upon his appointment as international president, Hill said, “Some leaders in Washington revel in hobnobbing with the powerful. I recognize the importance of a strong presence in the halls of power, but I know that any power we wield comes from our strength in numbers and our solidarity as working people.”

Hill’s tenure as international president during times of economic crisis for the North American construction industry and attacks on organized labor has been notable for landmark initiatives that flow from that understanding of power.

The IBEW is growing due to innovative organizing and membership development initiatives and a commitment to excellence in training and on the job, both championed by Hill. Under his leadership, the IBEW has harnessed an array of technological tools to better prepare IBEW organizers, servicing staff and local unions to confront dynamic changes in the vast jurisdictions covered by the IBEW—electrical construction, utilities, railroads, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing and government.

“One source of President Hill’s success is his belief that the Brotherhood best serves its members when it best serves its customers.”

“Anti-union propaganda had created a perception that hiring union workers was bad for business, but we knew better,” Hill says. “We just had to remind our customers, and truth be told, some of our members, that high standards of craftsmanship and productivity are hallmarks of the IBEW and the foundation of a profitable business.”

One of the highest profile campaigns is that message out was the extension of the Code of Excellence program from a few locals in the Eighth District into the basic language in every contract signed with National Electrical Contractors Association partners. The program proved so successful with customers, signatory contractors and local unions that it was expanded to other classifications including manufacturing, utilities and broadcasting.

Another signature initiative of Hill’s tenure is the implementation of a market recovery program that established alternative job classifications in electrical construction. The effort has helped boost man-hours and market share that were lost by the union’s signatory contractors during the recent recession, while getting idled journeymen back on the job.

Market recovery efforts have been recently bolstered by an effort focused on business development that is already setting a standard for the building trades. The establishment of a business development department is the product of resolutions passed at the 2011 IBEW convention in Vancouver, introduced by the union’s officers.

While membership development focuses on organizing workers and contractors, Hill’s enhanced focus on business development seeks out the owners of large construction projects well before any contracts are written. These relationship-building efforts are supplemented by a well-received national advertising campaign, more organizers and a new training program to get the rank-and-file into the heart of organizing campaigns.

“I always think of Ed as a pioneer, always looking for new ways to help IBEW members in this changing economic environment. He wakes up every day thinking about workers but he is also an ambassador for the entire labor movement,” says AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, who formerly served as one of Hill’s senior executive assistants. “He believes strongly in innovation and trying new, cutting edge ideas. He often said, ‘Making mistakes is good. It’s better to try something and fail, than not to try at all—because if you’re not failing once in a while, it means you’re not doing anything new.’”

Sam Chilia, IBEW’s Secretary-Treasurer will continue to serve in that capacity. Hill said, ”I have been lucky to have Sam as my working partner and I thank him for all that he does for the IBEW. From overseeing health care to planning for the 2016 convention, Brother Chilia plays an invaluable role in our union and will continue to do so.”

THE OUTSIDE VIEW of Hill’s Presidency

Richard L. Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO
With President Hill’s retirement, the labor movement is losing a giant. Our labor movement is growing today, thanks in large part to his outstanding leadership. Ed fights every day to improve the lives of working families. He understands that to achieve a strong economy, the U.S. must invest in the hardworking men and women whose work keeps this country running. I am proud and honored to have stood with such a strong worker and principled leader.

Liz Shuler, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO and former assistant to President Hill
Ed embodies the type of leader we all want to follow—visionary, hard working, passionate about the mission, cares about people to the core, and humble. He led by example and never asked anyone to do an assignment he wouldn’t do himself. Ed is a pioneer, always looking for new ways to help IBEW members in this changing economic environment. He woke up every day thinking about workers but he was also an ambassador for the entire labor movement. Solidarity and working together was one of his hallmarks and a signature part of his leadership.

He believed strongly in innovation and trying new, cutting edge ideas and technology. He often said, “Making mistakes is good. It’s better to try something and fail, than not to try at all—because if you’re not failing once in a while, it means you’re not doing anything new.”

Rep. Nancy Pelosi of Calif., House minority leader
When it comes the health and economic security of working America, few leaders have stood taller or spoken louder for our families than IBEW President Ed Hill. President Hill’s strong and consistent vision guided the IBEW into the 21st century, and he retires with a towering legacy of leadership on behalf of all America’s hard working men and women.

Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio
Under President Hill’s leadership, the IBEW has fought for a better trade policy, a strong U.S. manufacturing sector, and critical infrastructure investment, among other important policies. His commitment to American families and our middle class will last beyond his tenure at IBEW.

I congratulate him on his many years of distinguished service and wish him the best in his retirement.
‘Making the Lives of Working People Better’

EW: Looking back on your career from the time you entered your apprenticeship, how has the appreciation for the union’s role and legacy changed?

EDH: I think the desire to be more active in the trade union movement was more prevalent among my peers than among today’s new members. When I was a young man coming up through the ranks in Pennsylvania, every town had two or three union halls. Weddings, community meetings and other affairs would be held there. Union meetings were a place one went for camaraderie, not just to discuss the problems of the day. Along with the union halls were clubs of all types. Today, too many union halls are closed down. The remaining ones often turn out only a few members for meetings. And clubs are dwindling. But the need to be our brother’s and sister’s keeper is still there.

I don’t know whether the labor movement is destined to grow stronger as globalization and changes take place in our national economies and priorities. I do know that tomorrow’s labor movement will be different from that of the past or even the present. Strength will come in different forms. Some companies, for instance, are trying to bring over a European model of trade unionism where we co-manage workplaces. I’m not sure it will work here. But I know new forms of organization will develop. You have had an extraordinary level of energy—constantly traveling and spending long hours on meeting the needs of IBEW members. How will you spend your time in retirement?

EW: How do the skills and priorities of today’s union leaders compare to those that were required when you first entered union office?

EDH: The thing that makes me most proud is that I believe the industry will survive many years into the future. But too many of our members don’t give much thought to what it really means to be a member of a union or to support its operation. We need to protect the ideals of the labor movement. Too often, we care about each other as IBEW members, but don’t see ourselves as part of a movement. The potential is there. I can see it in the response to the Unity Fund we set up for members in trouble. It’s flourishing.

I’m concerned about our members and others in the trade union movement falling for the nonsense that was spread so thickly during the Reagan era that everyone can make it on their own, that you don’t need anyone, that it doesn’t take a community. You will survive on individualism, the idea that if we privatized Social Security and Medicare, for instance, young folks will be better off in their later years. If we do that, and, if the divide between the wealthiest among us and working people continues to grow, we will see more people fall into poverty.

I’ll never forget my grandfather saying, “Don’t send me down to the poor farm.” There actually was such a place across the river from my hometown. It was a farm that grew vegetables and cattle for large workplaces where they had cafeterias. People lived, worked and died there. We can never let our society go back to that kind of society.

EW: How will you spend your time in retirement?

EDH: Lonnie is the right person for the time going forward. He has the right disposition and the right attitude about the things that need to be done. Today, we are seeing different types of business managers elected in many locals. They have a whole different kind of attitude. They didn’t live through the glory days. People never told them what they can’t do, making them more accepting of the necessary changes that are bound to come.

Lonnie understands the need for all of us to be leaders in our community, not just people who stand on the sidelines and complain. The new business managers and members coming up need to mobilize to be partners with others in the community, not just people who appear to be looking for a handout. I know Lonnie Stephenson shares that desire and will work hard to promote those kinds of partnerships.

EW: What are your concerns about the future of the IBEW?

EDH: Apathy is my biggest concern. The IBEW will survive many years into the future. But too many of our members are looking for a handout. I think people care. I just think sometimes they need to be reminded of the work that needs to be done and their ability to help.

I hope to be able to participate in any kind of effort on behalf of workers. I hope to be more active in Electicians Without Borders and in the efforts to help electrical workers establish themselves anywhere that I can. I will assist wherever I can to stop the erosion of the industrial base that built the United States and Canada and to fight for policies in energy and manufacturing that will help to bring back the dwindling middle class. I hope to help electrical workers establish themselves anywhere that I can. I will assist wherever I can to stop the erosion of the industrial base that built the United States and Canada and to fight for policies in energy and manufacturing that will help to bring back the dwindling middle class.

EW: What are you most proud of in your career?

EDH: What I would do it for the betterment of IBEW members. I hope to be more active in helping workers establish themselves anywhere that I can. I will assist wherever I can to stop the erosion of the industrial base that built the United States and Canada and to fight for policies in energy and manufacturing that will help to bring back the dwindling middle class.
International Executive Council Resolution of Commendation for International President Edwin D. Hill

WHEREAS, Edwin D. Hill, a visionary leader of the IBEW, deeply respected by both his peers in the labor movement and the union’s signatory employers, is retiring from the presidency of the Brotherhood after a 15-year tenure; and

WHEREAS, Edwin D. Hill has been a loyal and dedicated IBEW brother since his initiation into the apprenticeship program of Local 712 in his native Beaver, Pa., in 1966, and his subsequent service as a local officer, business manager, international representative, third district president, secretary and secretary-treasurer, international president; and

WHEREAS, during an era of economic and political challenge, Edwin D. Hill exhibited the courage to promote a Code of Excellence, restoring and reshaping the reputation of the union as the best source of quality and diligence across the organization’s branches; and

WHEREAS, that same courage was instrumental in developing a market recovery program that aligned the union’s membership with the realities of the construction marketplace; and

WHEREAS, the IBEW, under President Edwin D. Hill’s tenure, has encouraged open discussion and debate on the future of the organization; and

WHEREAS, under International President Hill’s guidance, the union developed new tools to bolster the accountability of those entrusted to grow the Brotherhood; and

WHEREAS, under Edwin D. Hill’s leadership, the IBEW has modernized its communications tools, including the establishment of The Electrical Worker and the wide use of video and social media to spread the union’s message; and

WHEREAS, Edwin D. Hill spearheaded the broadest, most sophisticated effort in the North American labor movement to promote the IBEW’s reputation and brand; and

WHEREAS, under International President Hill’s inspiration and personal involvement, the IBEW has extended its political influence by challenging adversaries and friends alike to stand beside North America’s working families; and

WHEREAS, that direct involvement has included defending public unions against assaults on collective bargaining by right-wing governors as well as walking picket lines with workers standing up to union busting; and

WHEREAS, International President Edwin D. Hill has been honored by trade unionists in other nations, including Italy and Australia; and

WHEREAS, under International President Edwin D. Hill’s leadership, IBEW launched both a diversity training program and RENEW, an unprecedented effort to mentor a new generation of union members and leaders; and

WHEREAS, International President Edwin D. Hill’s work ethic has set a standard for all international and local leaders to follow; and

WHEREAS, under International President Edwin D. Hill’s strong governance, the IBEW’s financial base has been strengthened and secured; and

WHEREAS, in all his actions and throughout his career, Edwin D. Hill has brought honor to the IBEW and earned respect for himself and his union; and

WHEREAS, International President Edwin D. Hill has offered his ongoing support and activism to International President Lonnie R. Stephenson and the IBEW’s other leaders; and

WHEREAS, International President Edwin D. Hill’s personal mission to better the lives of working families has been fulfilled many times over; and

WHEREAS, we are proud and truly blessed to call Edwin D. Hill our brother;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Executive Council does hereby convey upon Edwin D. Hill the honorary title of International President Emeritus, IBEW, coincident with his retirement.
“I’ve known Lonnie for years. He is a very effective leader, a good manager who values input and listens to what you have to say before making a decision. He knows our trade, from the apprenticeship to the top.”

Jim Bailey, business manager, Danville, Ill., Local 538

“I’ve always found Lonnie to be a reasonable person who listens well. He’s a progressive person and was one of the vice presidents most supportive of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus.”

Russell Ponder, Local 134 retiree, former vice president of The Electrical Workers Minority Caucus

“Lonnie is a very generous and open leader. From the beginning of my term as a new business manager, Lonnie was amazing. I didn’t realize that business managers don’t call VP’s four or five times a week. But he would answer every call. Lonnie was the best mentor I could have had. I was in shock and really happy for the Brotherhood when I heard about his appointment. I’m very excited about the prospects for the IBEW. Now the entire union will be enjoying the benefits of working under Lonnie’s leadership. It’s a proud and historic day for the Sixth District.”

Mike Richard, business manager, Detroit Local 58

“I couldn’t be happier at Lonnie’s appointment. All of us who know him feel the IEC made a good decision. He’s approachable, he listens and then makes decisions. His door is always open. I couldn’t be more satisfied with the direction the IBEW is headed.”

Charles Yancey, business manager, Altion, Ill., Local 649

“Lonnie is a great leader, a down-to-earth, people-oriented person. He relates well to everyone, the members, to the business managers and representatives. I’ve been very comfortable dealing with Lonnie over the years.”

Bruce Getts, business manager, Fort Wayne, Ind., Local 723

“I worked with Lonnie as business manager for the Bricklayers. He did an excellent job. He’s a friend of all the building trades here. When we went to meet with owners and developers, Lonnie represented himself with a well-rounded approach to the whole construction industry.”

Bob Carlson, retired secretary-treasurer, Tri-City Building and Construction Trades Council, Rock Island, Ill.

“Lonnie is one of my favorite people. He’s an approachable guy with a warmth about him that makes him easy to talk to. I understand there’s protocol in the IBEW, but it’s never been hard to talk to Lonnie. He’s a hands-on leader. When I was looking for someone to reach out to for the ice bucket challenge, he was the first person I thought of because he has so many people who respect him. I’m excited to see where the IBEW goes under Lonnie’s leadership. He’s a big believer in the Code of Excellence and he will hold people accountable.”

Leo Sokolik, business manager, Janesville, Wis., Local 890

“Lonnie is a very caring, compassionate leader who is everything the IBEW stands for, working to the very best of his ability to perpetuate the industry for us.”

Scott Verschoore, business manager, Rock Island, Ill., Local 145

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Ruhmkorff Named Sixth District Vice President

Former Sixth District International Representative David J. Ruhmkorff is the new Sixth District vice president, following Lonnie R. Stephenson’s appointment as international president.

The appointment is effective June 1.

A native of Indiana, Ind., Brother Ruhmkorff was initiated into Local 481 in 1979. During his apprenticeship, he wired and laid conduit for high-rises as an employee of Commonwealth Electric.

He began serving on Local 481’s apprenticeship committee in the early 1980s and was elected business manager in 1990, serving until his appointment as international representative in 1994.

“I was one of seven children,” Ruhmkorff said. “My dad was an IBEW union member and a strong role model for me. He introduced me to the trade and I have always been grateful for that.”

Brother Ruhmkorff cited as a mentor former Sixth District Vice President Jeff Lohman, who hired him as an organizer and business representative when Lohman was Local 481 business manager.

“He gave me the opportunity to grow beyond construction,” Ruhmkorff said, adding that Local 481 has a diverse membership, in manufacturing, telecommunications and working in motor and sign shops. “He brought me in and I served the non-construction side, which he told me would help me in the long run, to learn the different branches. It expanded my knowledge.”

As international representative, Ruhmkorff initially worked under then-Vice President James P. Conway, serving local unions in every branch of the Brotherhood. “He thought it would be best for me and best for the IBEW to get more exposure to the different branches. In my years I have done negotiated contracts in every sector.”

From the late 1980s through the early 1990s, Ruhmkorff served as an appointee to the Indianapolis Labor Advisory Committee, composed of labor leaders from different local unions who met monthly with the mayor to discuss issues of concern.

He was a charter member of the Labor Institute for Training, an organization of the state labor federation that worked to assist displaced workers find training and education for new careers following plant closings.

“My dad was an IBEW member and a strong role model for me … I have always been grateful for that.”

Ruhmkorff sat on the executive board of the Indiana State Building Trades and was secretary-treasurer of the IBEW’s Indiana state conference.

He has served the IBEW on the international level as secretary to the finance committee at the 34th convention in 1995 in St. Louis as well as a panel member of the Council on Industrial Relations. He was a delegate to the 29th constitutional convention of the AFL-CIO.

Ruhmkorff expressed gratitude for International President Stephenson’s confidence.

“I owe him a lot,” Ruhmkorff said. “Because he had enough confidence in my abilities, I was able to grow and gain a larger understanding of what IBEW leadership involves. I am deeply honored to be given the opportunity to serve as the Sixth District vice president.”

On behalf of the officers, the staff and members of the IBEW wish Brother Ruhmkorff much success in his new position.

February International Executive Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m., by Chairman Pierson, on Monday, February 2, 2015, in Naples, Florida. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Walter, Wagner, Lavin, and Gabraith.

International President Hill

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

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia

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

Legal Defense

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

Financial Reports

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

Article XX and XXI Cases

In 2014, the IBEW was involved in two Article XX disputes, one dispute under the AFL-CIO Executive Council’s “Dispute Resolution Procedure for Raids Involving Unions with Solidarity Clauses,” and no disputes under Article XXI.

IBEW charged the Iron Workers with violating Article XX, section 2, by interfering with Local Union 134’s established collective bargaining relationship with Stanley Access. After mediation, the Iron Workers withdrew their Article XX charges.

IBEW Local Union 47 and Local Union 440 and the Southern California District Council of Laborers all have collective bargaining agreements with International Line Builders (ILB). The Laborers have filed an election petition for a unit defined as all laborers performing work for ILB under the Laborers’ master multi-employer agreement; both Local Unions 47 and 440 have intervened in the election proceeding. The Laborers have filed Article XX charges against the IBEW. It is the position of the IBEW that ILB is engaged in construction, which is excluded from Article XX. Mediation is being scheduled.

The IBEW was involved in one dispute under the AFL-CIO Executive Council’s “Dispute Resolution Procedure for Raids Involving Unions with Solidarity Clauses,” which the AFL-CIO Executive Council adopted in February 2014. The dispute was filed by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, charging the IBEW, LIUNA and IATSE with agreement to perform work the Teamsters had traditionally performed at the Philadelphia Convention Center. The Teamsters acknowledge that its main dispute is with LIUNA, the only union to which the Convention Center has assigned Teamsters’ work. At the request of the Teamsters the complaint has been postponed by the AFL-CIO while the Teamsters and LIUNA attempt to resolve the problem.

Review of Pension Benefit Fund Claim of Henry Shearin, Retired Member of 1002

Brother Henry Shearin, Retired Member of 1002 notified the Pension Department of the International Office during an email communication that he was currently employed in the electrical industry. After an investigation it was determined that his employment in the electrical industry was in violation of the IBEW Constitution. International-Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore (Sam) J. Chilia informed Brother Shearin of such, requiring that he contact his local union requesting a Return to Trade status and resume paying dues, additionally notifying him that his pension would be suspended. In addition to failing to notify his local union and tender dues, it was determined that Brother Shearin was employed in the electrical industry while collecting twenty-seven (27) months of Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) payments.

After a thorough review of the facts, the members of the executive council have determined that Brother Shearin is ordered to make payment of $3,847.50, a balance of $1,620.00 remains in PBF overpayment. Thereafter, there is a balance of $1,227.00 in dues with no PBF credit. In addition, after receipt of the check Mr. Shearin has already submitted in the amount of $4,847.50, a balance of $1,620.00 remains in PBF overpayment. Therefore, future PBF payments will be withheld from August 2014 through March 2015 to reimburse the overpayment of PBF payments.

IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets/Changes in Net Assets

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW pension fund. For a complete listing, consult www.ibew.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the “About Us” page.
Alberta Election Rocks Canada

D eath of a Dynasty!” That’s how Maclean’s Magazine described the May election in Alberta that brought down almost 44 years of government by the province’s Progressive Conservative Party. It was, in part, a battle crowned by some-what less right wing than Alberta native and federal Prime Minister Stephen Har-der’s Conservative Party of Canada.

Fed up with the arrogance of a con-servative leadership that blamed citizens for its own failings, voters turned to the New Democratic Party, strongly support-ed by organized labour, and premier Rachel Notley to lead them, home to the oil sands energy boom.

A recently initiated Edmonton Local 424, apprentices, 23-year-old Jon Carson, was elected to the provincial legislature as part of the New Democratic wave. Local 424 is a group of elected members of the legislative assembly that included an increased number of women and more closely represent the demographics of Alberta, where the average age is between 36 and 37 years.

“This will be a new and better Alber-ta,” says Local 424 Business Agent Ken MacKenzie. The conservatives, says MacKenzie, were a party of big oil and big business and had initiated the most anti-labour legislation in Canada.

In 2010, only a last-minute push by labour activists helped narrowly defeat a resolution at a Progressive Conservative convention that would have ended giving workers covered by a collective bar -ing agreements the right to vote in referenda. But, with support from across the province and “the push from working Albertans,” he says, Notley can use the electoral mandate to win a fairer deal and more cooperation from the energy sector to help the province meet its needs.

The new provincial NDP MLAs also include two activists from the United Food and Commercial Workers.

“This election shows there’s a place for progressive politics anywhere,” says Chris O’Halloran, Canadian national repre-sentative of the UFCW, representing 30,000 members from retail clerks on the oil patch to others in slaughterhouses, pri-vate schools and assisted living facilities.

“You have to keep an eye on opportunities and allies and the partnerships you need to build,” O’Halloran said. “When you have a good plan, a solid idea and a solid platform, you can win a public that has an appetite for change to support a new agenda.”

The UFCW, says O’Halloran, decided five years ago to become more fully engaged in politics, fielding members for office in NDP party organization and selecting can-didates who would run for public office. One member, Chris Nelson, was selected to run for parliament. The union’s strategies expected that Nielsom might lose the first time, but would have won enough recogni-tion to be elected four years later. “You need a lot of time to knock on doors and build relationships,” says O’Halloran. Instead, Nielsom was elected in the NDP wave.

“I congratulate our members and leaders in Alberta for fully engaging in the political process and turning back labour’s adversaries,” says International President Ronnie Stephenson. “The lessons of political activism are important south of the 49th parallel where, for instance, the state of Texas has been under conserva-tive rule for only half as long as Alberta. Grassroots politics works.”

The elections en Alberta assurent le Canada

À la toute dernière minute en 2010, « Cela fait trop longtemps que nous avons une bataille offensive. Nous avons fait un gouvernement avec lequel nous pouvons collaborer, un gouvernement engagé à écouter les travailleurs de l’Alberta, » dit MacKenzie. Le local 424 représente plus de 8 000 membres où plusieurs d’entre eux travaillent dans la région des sables bitumineux.

Le comité d’action politique du local a choisi 15 candidats et a engagé du personnel dans les centres téléphoniques en vue de contacter les membres dans 11 circonscriptions électorales provinciales pour les inciter à aller voter. Tous sauf un des candidats choisis ont remporté l’élection.

« Le vote de non-convenance envers le gouvernement conservateur doit maintenant être transformé en un soutien solide pour ce dernier. Nous avons voulu une démocratie participative et maintenant nous en avons l’occasion, » dit MacKenzie.

Le comité d’action politique a été reconstitué par le local et cherche à faire de nouveaux gains aux élections fédérales en octobre. Il sera assisté par tous les efforts nécessaires provenant du bureau du Premier District et le Congrès du travail du Canada.

Alors que plusieurs membres appuient l’ordre du jour des Nouveaux Démocrates, dit MacKenzie, plusieurs électeurs voulent laisser tomber les conservateurs, dirigés par le premier ministre Jim Prentice lorsque questionné pendant le débat sur la taille de la dette de la province malgré les énormes réductions gérées par les sociétés pétrolières, il a répondu que : « Nous devons seulement nous regarder dans le miroir. »


Le nouveau député néo-démocrate comprend deux activités de Travailleurs Unis de l’alimentation et du Commerce – TUAC (United Food and Commercial Workers - UFCW).

« Cette élection démontre qu’il y a de la place n’importe où pour qui est un citoyen progressiste, » mentionne Chris O’Halloran, le représentant national de la TUAC au Canada. Il représente 30 000 membres allant d’employés de magasins au détail dans le secteur pétrolier à d’autres dans les abattoirs, des écoles privées ainsi que dans les installations de vie assistées.

« Il faut rechercher les occasions et alliés et partenariats nécessaires dans le but de bâtir. Lorsque vous avez un bon projet, une idée et une plate-forme solide, vous pouvez gagner la confiance du public qui souhaite le changement afin d’appuyer un nouveau régime politique, » O’Halloran mentionne que depuis cinq années la TUAC a décidé de s’engager pleinement dans la politique, à déployer des membres pour se présenter au parti néo-démocrate et à choisir des candidats pour poser leur candidature à la fonction publique. Un membre, Chris Neilson, a été choisi pour siéger au Parlement. Les stratégies syndicales ont prévu que Neilson pourrait perdre la première fois, mais qu’il aurait gagné assez de reconnaissance pour être élu dans quatre ans. « Il faut beaucoup de temps pour rencontrer les gens afin de créer des liens, » mentionne O’Halloran.

Au lieu de tout cela, Neilson a été élu lors de la vague du NPD.

« Je tiens à féliciter nos membres et leaders en Alberta de s’être pleinement engagés dans le processus politique et d’avoir freiné les adversaires du syndicat, » dit le président international Ronnie Stephenson. « Les leçons de l’activité politique sont importantes au sud du 49e parallèle où à titre d’exemple, l’État du Texas a été sous la domination conservatrice depuis la moitié moins longtemps que l’Alberta. La politique d’inspiration populaire fonctionne. »
CIRCUITS

General Motors Goes Greener with Help from Ohio IBEW

New car buyers are more concerned than ever with gas mileage and emissions. But if you want to go truly green, it helps not just to look at the car’s carbon footprint, but also the factory where it’s built.

In Lordstown, Ohio, General Motors has assembled more than 35 million cars over nearly 50 years. Now, IBEW members have upgraded the company’s manufacturing facility with two massive renewable energy projects, just the latest in GM’s growing commitment to renewables.

A new 6,5-acre solar array supplies more than 2 megawatts of clean power to the plant, where members of the United Auto Workers Local 1122 build the Chevrolet Cruze sedan, one of the company’s consistently popular compact cars. Beginning last November, eighth IBEW members worked demanding schedules during the harsh winter to install nearly 5,000 solar panels. The upgrade is the largest solar array for GM in the Western Hemisphere.

“We worked six and seven days a week, 10 hours per day, braving the cold wind, 10 hours per day, braving the cold, and their entire team,” said Mary Walker, Local 1122 business agent. “Their entire team was working through the worst weather conditions.”

Members of the 8th IBEW worked long hours and days to ensure the solar array was ready for installation. “Everyone was working hard to make sure the project was completed on schedule,” said Walker.

With the installation complete, the solar array will provide about 2 megawatts of clean energy, enough to power nearly 2,000 homes. The project will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 1,700 metric tons per year.

The IBEW installed a massive solar array to help power GM’s Chevy Cruze factory in Lordstown, Ohio.

RETIRED

Carol L. Fitzgerald

After 43 years in the IBEW, Second District International Representative Carol Fitzgerald has retired, effective March 1.

Sister Fitzgerald started at New England Telephone in 1959 during her senior year in high school. Fitzgerald set up Yellow Pages ads as a printer’s clerk for nearly six years before transferring to the operators department. When the IBEW took over from the Federation of Telephone Workers in 1971, Fitzger-
ald became a member of Boston Local 2222, and was selected shop steward the next year.

In 1974, Fitzgerald transferred to Braintrit, Mass., Local 2313 and two years later was elected business manager. She held the position until 1997.

“I stayed on the job because I enjoyed it. All of it,” Fitzgerald said. “I felt it was an honor and I liked the bargaining. I always found it an interesting challenge to convince the other side of our way of thinking. That doesn’t mean it worked all the time, but I enjoyed trying.”

The telecommunications industry was radically transformed over the years Fitzgerald oversaw Local 2313, often in very difficult ways.

“In 1971 there were 40,000 organized workers, mostly women, working in telematics in New England. It is down around 6,200 or 7,000 now,” Fitzgerald said. “When I started out it was the old card board manual making connections and by the time I left automation was everywhere.”

As the telecommunications industry consolidated, broke apart and consolidated again, Fitzgerald was consistently called on to represent the IBEW in negotiations. She chaired the New England Telephone bargaining committee from 1978 until 1997 as well as the AT&T bargaining committee from 1978 to 1994.

In 1989, former International President Larry Downey appointed Fitzgerald for membership in the YWCA of the City of New York’s Academy of Women Leaders as a “trailblazer” in recognition of her leadership, achievement and contributions to the IBEW.

Fitzgerald later served her part on the resolution committee at the 54th convention in 1996 and she served again at the 57th convention five years later.

After eight consecutive terms as business manager of Local 2313, Barry appointed Fitzgerald to be an international representative in the Second District in 1997 to help multiple New England telecom locals navigate the ever-changing industry.

After years of traveling where all she saw “was the inside of hotels,” in retirement Fitzgerald said she intends “to see the rest of the country.”

Please join us in honoring Sister Fitzgerald for her path-breaking career and tireless service to her brothers and sisters. We wish her a long, healthy and adventurous retirement.

DECEASED

Orley Welker Jr.

We regret to report that retired Sixth District International Representative Orley Welker Jr. died on April 25 at the age of 87.

A native of Havana, Ill., Brother Welker attended the University of Illinois and Western Illinois University.

He taught elementary school for two years, then went to work at Illinois Power Co. for 18 years. He was initiated into Springfield Local 51 in 1949, where he served on the executive board and the negotiating committee. He was assistant business manager from 1966 to 1971 and business manager and financial secretary from 1971 to 1979.

He served on the Fourth and Sixth District Joint American Line Builders Apprenticeship Training Committee and as a member of the University of Illinois Labor Advisory Committee. Welker was an international representative in 1979.

From 1951 to 1953 he served on active duty with the U.S. Air Force and then remained a member of the Air Force Reserves and the 183rd Tactical Fighter Squadron until 1970, when he retired as a colonel.

He served as officer in charge of the military honor guard at the 1966 funeral of prominent Demo- crat, diplomat, three-time presidential candidate and former Illinois governor, Adlai Stevenson II. He retired from the IBEW in 1993.

Welker and his wife Verla enjoyed nature and traveling. They visited all 50 states, Mexico and Can-
ada and traveled Europe several times.

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

N.J. Young Workers Give to Neighbors in Need

Talk to a member of the Cranbury, N.J., Local 94 NxtUp young worker committee, and you’ll quickly get the sense that the future of the trade union movement is in good hands.

“We try to be engaged,” said Adam Neuman, the recording secretary for the NxtUp group and chair of the state’s AFL-CIO youth caucus. “We’ve been active in opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership and right-to-work, and we do what we can to get other young workers involved.”

But while Neuman and his fellow members have the big picture in mind, sometimes what’s closer to home matters the most.

This spring, the committee sponsored a donation drive for the Rite Food Pantry, which shares the same street as Local 94’s hall in central New Jersey. Over five weeks, the 14-member group raised about $6,000 worth of non-perishable items for the food bank.

“Our group just wants to give back,” said Neuman, “Sometimes when you drive in to the hall, you have to stop in the road to make way for our neighbors who are carrying food.”

This was the second year that the NxtUp group has collected donations for the pantry. Neuman said that young worker activists spoke with the organization’s leaders and representatives of the nearby St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, to get a sense of the best way to help the neighborhood.

“Around the holidays, food pantries are pretty stocked,” Neuman said. “We told them, give us a time when there’s a lull, when you really need donations.”

Cranbury, N.J., Local 94’s young worker committee raised $6,000 in non-perishable items for an area food bank.

The IBEW installed a massive solar array to help power GM’s Chevy Cruze factory in Lordstown, Ohio.
Rebuking Ill. Gov., Pro-Worker Lawmakers
Go on Right-To-Work Offensive

As a self-described member of “the 1 percent of the 1 percent,” Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner doesn’t exactly have his finger on the pulse of working people, his critics say. Not to his fans of unions, having spent the past few months pushing for so-called “right-to-work zones” in the state.

“What’s happening today … is a disservice to this body, to this chamber and to this state,” Evans said.

Instead of going for a statewide bill, Rauner is looking to curry influence with local groups to move right-to-work from the bottom up, rather than from the top down, Evans said. But instead of waiting for a scenario like what happened in March in Wisconsin—where Gov. Scott Walker signed into law a right-to-work bill that was a near copy of model legislation drafted by the secretive American Legislative Executive Council—some of Illinois’ pro-worker state representatives got clever.

The Democratic majority introduced a right-to-work bill of their own, just to vote it down. The result? After fiery debate on the House floor, it was brutally defeated: 79 against, 0 for. Most Republicans simply voted “present” or didn’t vote at all.

“Impassioned is the word,” Drummond said. “It’s the union’s job to go out and organize.”

Democratic lawmakers in Delaware’s state Senate voted down a recent right-to-work bill.

Joe Checkley, who chairs the NextUp group, said his fellow members wanted to be able to do the most good at the right time. “They told us that following the holidays and coming around April—that was a time when the donations would be especially helpful,” he said. The 34-year-old radiation protection worker for PSEG Nuclear, a branch of Public Service Electric and Gas.

Local 94 represents about 4,000 members who work in tree trimming, utilities and as members. As members are spread out across the state, the young workers coordinated the donation effort at numerous worksites by engaging stewards to reach out to the broader membership. Many brought canned and boxed food, and others donated money so that the coordinators could purchase food at a local grocery store that offered a charity discount on their purchase. NextUp members donated the items on April 27.

Local 94’s president, Michael Martin, has also been focusing on food at a local grocery store that offered a charity discount on their purchase. NextUp members donated the items on April 27.

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Fighting ‘Raunerism’

L.U. 21 (catv, govt & it), DOWNS GROVE, IL—Illinois union members are fighting back the punches being thrown at them by “the billionaire” Gov. Bruce Rauner. The governor is being taught a lesson—we refuse to be treated like his employees. We have voices and we are making them heard.

While the attorney general and courts have ruled his plans illegal, the CEO governor continues to demand support of his so-called Turnaround Agenda. Raunerism (which includes proposals to repeal union rights, prevailing wages, social programs and local government funding, along with a basic business approach of “do it my way or the highway”) has been met with strong opposition. Time after time when Rauner’s resolutions are discussed by government bodies, they are either rejected or tabled indefinitely.

IBEW members are helping to defeat the governor’s proposed anti-worker measures. When IBEW members get involved, they make a strong impact. We are very proud of our members, who are fighting like never before. IBEW Local 21 members not only work hard, but they also make a difference in the communities where we live and work.

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

IBEW Local 21 members Mark Moffitt (left), Steve Bauer, Chuck Queen and Drew Moffitt stand up for the rights of union members in Jefferson County, IL.

Local 25 Pipes and Drums

L.U. 25 (catv, govt & it), LONG ISLAND, NY—In 1980 our Pipe and Drum band was started by Bro. Ed McGilly and was the first Pipe and Drum band to be recognized by the IBEW International. Bro. McGilly had a passion to start a band after being taught by the Suf- nized by the IBEW International. Bro. McGilly had a passion to start a band after being taught by the Suf-

This tradition continues today, 35 years later, with Bro. John Martin now running the band with many very talented brothers and sisters.

This year the band won a trophy at the Saint Patrick’s Day parade for “Best Band” in Patchouge, NY. They really do a tremendous job, and we are all very proud of them.

Tom Lawless, P.S.

Local 25 Pipe & Drum band appears for St. Patrick’s Day parade.

The Time is Now — Time for Political Action

L.U. 37 (es, cr, p), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—With the Federal election on the horizon, candidates are working hard to get our votes. Each one has his or her own ideas about shaping our country, the future of organized labour, spending our tax dollars, etc. Decisions and commitments that will affect us, and the generations to follow. Make sure to choose your candidate by asking the questions that matter to you, your family, and your community. Ask candidates questions about jobs, the economy, education, healthcare, the energy sector, retirement, the environment, local issues, etc. Whatever is important to you, is important. You can find your answers by scheduling meetings, sending emails, making phone calls, reading campaign mate-

Local 25 members and their families at 2015 Easter Egg Hunt.

rials, and following the media coverage. If you’re satisfied with a particular candidate’s answers, it’s time for political action. And there are lots of ways to help your candidate get the votes that he or she needs to get elected. Here are some suggestions:

• Go door to door with candidate.
• Do survey phone calls.
• Put up signs.
• Make a financial contribution.
• Volunteer at campaign related events.

• Encourage others to vote.
• Drive voters to the polls.
• Invite candidates to events in your community.

But the single most important thing you can do is vote! It’s your right, make it count!

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

Active RENEW Volunteers

L.U. 41 (es, cr, p, tm), BUFALLO, NY—A lot has happened since our last article. We negotiated new agreements for inside wires, with Volland Electric, SE-MAR Electric, Niagara Transformer, and our Motor Shop. At press time, we also have ongoing negotiations with the Buffalo News and ICS Telecom.

In early April, Local 41 held its first Easter Egg Hunt, which the local plans to make an annual event. Many eggs were found and ice-cream sundaes eaten. An “extreme” balloon artist was there, all the kids had fun, and even the Easter Bunny found his way to our party. We are booked for next year and have already passed the date on to the rabbit.

With the leadership of Ken Scheffla and Matt Gaiser, our RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) group continues to volunteer in the community. More brothers and sisters show up at these projects to participate and to find out what means it to be part of the IBEW. We are not just union electricians; we are a part of the fabric of our community. We are not union thugs—we care about others and are willing to give to those less fortunate. We are not greedy or lazy or selfish—we are willing to spend our own time and efforts to make our communities better. Thank you to the brothers and sisters who take the time to show others we are the rising tide, and we want to raise all.

Gregory R. Inglat, A.B.M.

Volunteers Serve Community

L.U. 43 (cs), SYRACUSE, NY—In March, Local 43 members participated in America’s Greatest Heart/Run Walk in Utica and the American Heart Walk in Syracuse. Combined, 40 members and family bravely braked wins and the cold to raise $10,398 for the American Heart Association. This was a significant increase from last year thanks to the hard work of those participating.

At the April local union meeting, third-year apprentices were acknowledged for their work in motor control class. Instructor Scot Garland led the class through 25 weeks devoted to motors, motor con-

trols, variable frequency drives and programmable logic controls. Ten lab projects performed during that time involved wiring control cabinets based on ladder diagrams drawn by the students. The students’ work was evaluated based on functionality and craftsman-

ship. David Graves, Joseph Merritt, Kirk Phillips and Adam Santamour were each awarded Fluke multime-

ters by the JATC for their outstanding work in the lab.

Gene Townsend, P.S.

Local 43 third-year apprentices Adam Santamour (left), Kirk Phillips, David Graves and Joseph Merritt receive Fluke meters presented by Instructor Scot Garland (far right) for outstanding lab work.

SCE Negotiations

L.U. 47 (cr, lpt, rtm), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Happy birthday America! Thank a veteran for 239 years of independence.

At press time, we remain at loggerheads in negoti-

ations with Southern California Edison. Demonstrations and rallies continue at SCE events, including its annual stockholders meeting. We are applying pressure in the state legislature and at the Public Utilities Commission. The U.S. Sen-

ate is investigating the company’s abuse of the H-1B visa program as a result of the layoff of several hundred non-represented American workers, who were replaced with workers from India. The U.S. Supreme Court unani-

mously ruled against SCE’s misman-

agement of its 401(k) program.

Local 42 members and their families at 2015 Easter Egg Hunt.

Trade Classifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade Classification</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Job Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(ae) Alarm &amp; Signal</td>
<td>Electronic Technicians</td>
<td>(mps) Motion Picture Studios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ars) Atomic Research Service</td>
<td>Fixture Manufacturing</td>
<td>(nt) Nuclear Service Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(bo) Bridge Operators</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>(o) Outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cs) Cable Splicers</td>
<td>Inside</td>
<td>(p) Powerhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cbl) Cable Television</td>
<td>Instrument Technicians</td>
<td>(pc) Professional, Engineers &amp; Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cm) Communications</td>
<td>Line Clearance Tree Trimming</td>
<td>(pet) Professional, Technical &amp; Clenical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(crn) Cranemen</td>
<td>Lighting Protection Technicians</td>
<td>(p) Professional, Technical &amp; Cheniclal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(eem) Electrical Equipment</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>(rr) Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(eei) Electrical Inspection</td>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Operation</td>
<td>(ru) Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(emm) Electrical Manufacturing</td>
<td>Manufacturing Office Workers</td>
<td>(rtb) Radio-Television Broadcasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(es) Electric Signs</td>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Efforts are made to list the trade as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.
The Electrical Worker  | July 2015

Policy Committee Meeting; EWMC Car Show & Poker Run
L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mrt,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—The Local 111 Policy Committee meeting was held the weekend of April 17. We did experience a good turn-out, even though a spring storm was thrown into the mix, making travel for some difficult. The purpose of the Policy Committee is to meet and discuss the business of the local union and to update the local’s executive board and business manager on the business carried on by the Local 111 units.

I sincerely thank everyone who made the trip. Those who attended graciously gave up their weekends to participate and help set policy for the local. This is also a great opportunity for unit representatives to mingle with other unit participants, get to know their fellow union members, and experience firsthand what issues are affecting other units. Again, my extreme gratitude to those who participated and made this meeting a success.

Our new webpage is up and running. Construction members can now pay union dues online and re-sign the books. Please register at www.ibew111.com and see what is happening around your local.

On another note, the Local 111 EWMC 3rd Annual Car Show & Poker Run is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, at the Belle Creek Center in Henderson. Information is available on the Local 111 webpage.

Local 125 members conduct informational picketing.
Contract Negotiations — Members Stand in Solidarity
L.U. 125 (lctt,rtb), PORTLAND, OR—As of this writing, Local 125 continues negotiations with Pacific Power. The membership has rallied behind their brothers and sisters employed at the utility. In March, members who work at a variety of utilities—including Portland General Electric, Clark County PUD, Salem Electric, and Bonneville Power Administration—participated to show their support. Construction members also joined the informational picketing. Pacific Power in Bend, OR, organized a three-day informational picketing effort as well.

“Thank you to all our members and their families who have stood up in support of this effort,” said Local 125 Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri. “This is not about Pacific Power only. Many utilities use Pacific Power as part of their comparison toward overall compensation, so these negotiations affect more than these members.”

The union simultaneously seeks a fair total compensation package that is based on comparative utilities in the Pacific Northwest.

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.

90th Anniversary Celebration
L.U. 145 (em,lctt,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL—April 2015 marked the 90th anniversary of Local 145! As documented by the IBEW, former Local 465, charted in Rock Island, IL, in 1915, and former Local 635 (chartered in Davenport, Iowa, in 1917) merged in Rock Island, IL, on March 27, 1926, to become IBEW Local 145. We plan to continue our year-long 90th Anniversary celebration with special events and commemorative items throughout the year. A big celebration for our members and retirees is being planned for October.

At press time, we are busy planning the finishing touches for our annual picnic, scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 1. Our Picnic Committee is working diligently to organize another successful picnic. Each year our members, retirees and their families gather in the hundreds for this casual and family-friendly event and this year will be no exception! The new location at Sunset Lakes Resort promises to have something for everyone with new activities and plenty of space to enjoy a day of solidarity—and we can’t wait! Plan to attend!

We acknowledge the loss of our recently deceased members and retirees. Their contributions to our industry were instrumental in the success of Local 145.

Don Larson, P.S.

New Building & Training Center
L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Earlier this year, in the face of broad opposition, Wisconsin became a so-called “right-to-work” state. Shortly after Gov. Scott Walker was sworn in for his second term, the Republican-dominated state legislature wasted little time fast-tracking a RTW bill to his desk. We rallied alongside thousands of others, but the voices of the thousands who registered and spoke out against RTW were quashed by the voices and dollars of a powerful few. We are grateful to all who turned out, particularly fellow IBEW members from around Wisconsin, adjacent states and beyond.

We purchased our own building in late 2014 and moved in at the end of January. This summer we’ll try to show our support. Construction members also joined the informational picketing. Pacific Power in Bend, OR, organized a three-day informational picketing effort as well.

“Thank you to all our members and their families who have stood up in support of this effort,” said Local 125 Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri. “This is not about Pacific Power only. Many utilities use Pacific Power as part of their comparison toward overall compensation, so these negotiations affect more than these members.”

The union simultaneously seeks a fair total compensation package that is based on comparative utilities in the Pacific Northwest.

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.
Local 197 members on the jobsite at the new Hyatt Hotel project in Uptown Normal, IL: Wes Kolb (left), Josh Roig, Aaron Liming, Ben Walker and Brian Tay.

Members Ratify Contract

L.U. 193 (L.U.,lts,rts,spa&k), SPRINGFIELD, IL—The contract for the Sangamon County Central Dispatch System members was ratified; it is a four-year agreement. At this writing, the State of Illinois Central Management Services agreements and the Secretary of State agreement are pending.

Local 193 organized a new contractor, Bledsoe Electric, out of Mechanicsburg-Springfield. Welcome aboard!

The work scene remains slow with eight small jobs on the Dodge Reports. City Water Light & Power is doing a transmission line, in-house, along Wabash Avenue. A water purification project by Springfield Sanitary District (Metro) is ongoing.

Habitat for Humanity is now doing its 100th housing project in Springfield. A big IBEW Local 193 “thank you” to all the hard-working, skilled journeymen and apprentices on their selfless contribution to Abraham Lincoln’s hometown! Congratulations to our new Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder on his recent election.

We urge all IBEW members to contact your state representatives and senators as well as Gov. Bruce Rauner’s office and tell them you feel about the 112 project labor agreements (PLAs) the newly elected governor chose to dismiss throughout Illinois.

I would be remiss if I did not encourage all Cardinals, White Sox and Cubs fans to follow baseball for another exciting year in Major League Baseball.

Donald Hudson, P.S.

Standing Up for Workers

L.U. 197 (emk), BLOOMINGTON, IL—At this writing, work in our jurisdiction remains slow. Thank you to fellow locals that are able to provide work for our brothers and sisters, allowing them to receive a paycheck and bolster their Health and Welfare accounts. We hope we will be able to return the favor.

We have been busy fighting off government efforts to pass Gov. Bruce Rauner’s anti-union agenda. Thank you to our members who have showed up to support the cause of workers. Member activism is important for a couple of reasons. First, when we save our jobs, the employer and with each other.

Adam Van Steinburg, B.M./P.S.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 245 (govt.,lts,rtf&k), TOLEDO, OH—Local 245 has been busy with negotiations. At this writing, first contracts for newly organized Lake Township workers and S&N Communications are in progress. All other contracts for newly organized Lake Township workers and all members to follow in the years ahead.

Bus. Mgr. Don Brummer wishes to thank Bro. Phillippe for his devotion to Local 257 and his long-time service. Congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Phillippe for a long and happy retirement.

In another news, Bus. Mgr. Brummer reports that the Local 257 work outlook for the spring and summer of 2015 appears very promising.

Joel Vanderslice, P.S.

New Members Sworn In


Stewards training courses held recently were well-attended. These brothers/sisters who participated are to be congratulated. Stewards play a very important role within our Brotherhood. They will better our work relationship and communications with the employer and with each other.

Adam Van Steinburg, B.M./P.S.

Longtime Career of Service

L.U. 257 (em, lrtb,rs,spa&k), JEFFFERTON CITY, MO—Greg Phillippe, longtime president of the Local 257 Telephone Workers Unit, has retired.

Bro. Phillippe has been an IBEW member since 1977 and has served as president of the Local 257 Telephone Workers Unit since 1992. A devoted member, Greg has always had an open ear for any member who needed to discuss an issue. He negotiated numerous contracts through the years and worked hand-in-hand with the members to ensure a bright future for the telephone workers and all members to follow in the years ahead.

Bus. Mgr. Don Brummer wishes to thank Bro. Phillippe for his devotion to Local 257 and his long-time service.

In other news, Bus. Mgr. Brummer reports that the Local 257 work outlook for the spring and summer of 2015 appears very promising.

Joel Vanderslice, P.S.

Local 257 Bus. Mgr. Don Brummer (left), Bro. Greg Phillippe (center), and Robert Blake, current president of Local 257 Telephone Workers Unit.

‘Summer on the Job’ School Projects Get Underway

L.U. 269 (lko), TRENTON, NJ—While the kids enjoy a summer off, members look forward to a summer on the job. As local schools empty their classrooms, local brothers and sisters move in with their tools and their know-how, providing the skilled labor needed to make much-needed improvements in learning facilities throughout our communities.

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.

New and existing construction projects are some of the most tangible examples of our tax dollars at work. Funding for these projects is usually provided through taxpayer referendums. These referendum questions appear on your local ballot through the efforts of elected city and town officials.

Having a local union brother or sister on a school board or town council certainly gives us an advantage when the time comes to hammer out project labor agreements (PLAs) and award contracts.

Summer always provides an uptick of employment that can be attributed to work on our schools. Without the hard work of our members who are involved in local government, much of this work would never reach our hiring halls. Surely, some view politics as a necessary evil to be avoided if possible. Others see political engagement as a challenge and an opportunity to prove the quality of all our lives—and they deserve our support.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

‘See You at the Picnic’

L.U. 343 (spa&k), LE SUEUR, MN—Don’t throw away the flyer! Instead, be sure to RSVP to attend the summer picnic scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 8. This year the picnic will be in the Winona area. See the Local 343 eletter or website www.ibewlocal343.org for details.

The 1895 Preamble to the IBEW Constitution stated: “We earnestly invite all workers belonging to our trade to come forward, join our ranks and help increase our numbers…” That statement defines organizing.

Since the earliest days of the IBEW’s founding, organizing has been a fundamental priority of the Brotherhood. The IBEW Constitution lists as a first object, “To organize all workers in the entire electrical industry in the United States and Canada, including all those in public utilities and electrical manufacturing, into local unions.” As organized labor faces continued obstacles today, organizing and educational outreach are still of utmost importance to our union. The more we grow our ranks, the stronger we will be. We were not born union—we got educated.

Tom Small, P.S.

2015 Apprentice Graduates


Thank you to all who participated in the blood drive and Health Fair. And a big shout-out to the 2015 Chili Contest participants! Kenyon Couch took first place, John Elkai came in second, and James Zakoysky came in third. Great job, guys!

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.

For details.

‘Local 257 swears in new journeymen and apprentices. Thanks to those who attended the Workers Memorial Day ceremony at White Oak Park: Don Armstrong, Tom Willian, Mike Russert, Jack Roberts, Robin Roberts, Jake Goar, Carson Copley, Matt Wall, Brian Stuffelbeam and Dan Uhril. Work safe, get involved in the local, and stay involved!’

Mike Roikos, Pres.

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.

Note: For more detail, see pg. 9.
**'Give a Day' Volunteers**

L.U. 369 (i,mt,rts,spa&u), LOUISVILLE, KY—Local 369 members and staff volunteered at a local television station for the 2015 Mayor's Give a Day week of service telethon. The IBEW members along with local celebrities manned the phone lines to recruit volunteers for acts of compassion.

The Louisville community service projects included over 50,000 meals packaged by volunteers for Kids Against Hunger; the participation of over 12,000 Brightside volunteers who helped clean up Louisville neighborhoods; and 1,200 stuffed animals donated for kids in crisis by Kosair Charities and its Bears on Patrol program, just to name a few.

In all, there were more than 266,000 volunteers and acts of compassion, breaking last year’s record of 150,000. This was the fourth year for Louisville’s Give A Day of service event. Mayor Greg Fischer notified a quest to make Louisville the most compassionate city and said the volunteers’ service was inspiring. IBEW Local 369 is proud to be affiliated with this annual event and we look forward to participating again in the future.

**'Union Build Day' Volunteers**

L.U. 481 (i,mt,rts&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—In April, IBEW Local 481 teamed up with Rebuilding Together for the 15th annual Union Build Day. This event provides the opportunity for our membership to give back to the community. Many members donated their time and supplies to help maintain and restore a total of 24 homes around the Indianapolis area.

Thank you to all the volunteers! I would like to recognize a member who went above and beyond his normal day-to-day responsibilities as a journeyman wireman and acted to save the life of a fellow journeyman, Bro. Ben Jacobs was working alongside journeyman Jeff Hubble, who suddenly went into cardiac arrest. While another employee on the jobsite ran to call for help, Ben jumped in and started administering CPR and continued to do so until the EMTs arrived on site to take over. I am happy to report that due to Ben’s quick thinking and actions, Jeff is home and on the road to a full recovery. Incident such as this serve as a reminder to us all to stay up to date on our jobsite safety practices. Thank you to Ben, and best wishes to Jeff on his recovery.

Blake Andrews, R.S.

**Brighter Work Picture**

L.U. 449 (atl,em,em,mt,rtts,spa&u), POCKETTONE, ID—The work picture seems to be looking up. We have a couple of good projects around the local. It has been a long time since we’ve been able to tell our members that the work picture is improving and has been a long time since we’ve been able to tell our members that the work picture is improving and has been a long time since we’ve been able to tell our members that the work picture is improving and has been a long time since we’ve been able to tell our members that the work picture is improving and has been a long time since we’ve been able to tell our members that the work picture is improving and has been a long time since we’ve been able to tell our members that the work picture is improving and has been a long time since we’ve been able to tell our members that the work picture is improving and has been a long time since we’ve been able to tell our members that the work picture is improving and has been a long time since we’ve been able to tell our members that the work picture is improving and has been a long time since we’ve been able to tell our members that the work picture is improving.

As we move forward all IBEW members should ask themselves what they do each day to make their local union better. Consider what improvements can be made to show the customer that the IBEW does have the most highly trained, most efficient and productive workers in the industry. Supervision shares the responsibility to ensure that members have the tools, material and information to be that worker. We are professionals. We have responsibilities to our family, friends and our community. Do not take lightly that responsibility.

**Purpose is Powerful**

John E. Monson Jr., P.S.

**Work Picture Improves**

L.U. 527 (Lmt,rtts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Work has remained at a slow rate in our local. Although there were slow here throughout the winter and spring.

With warmer weather now here, our summer projects are starting and should create some work throughout the summertime. We congratulate John and Dana Bishop on the birth of their son Paul Frederick, born Feb. 28. Also, congratulations to Rich and Sara Metiva on the birth of their son Reed Mitchell on April 1.

Following contract negotiations, Local 527 members ratified a new three-year contract with the Saginaw Division Michigan Chapter NECA. Ratification took place at the May’s membership meeting. The new contract is effective June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2018.

We also recently finished with interviews for our new first-year apprenticeship class. We will soon notify the selected apprentices and put them out to work shortly.

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

Howard Reward, P.S.

**Local 569 Takes Action**

L.U. 569 (unar,rtts,spa&u), SAN DIEGO, CA—We recently partnered with Rebuilding Together San Diego to build a new house for a wounded veteran and to fix up half a dozen homes for families in need. Over 125 members from IBEW Locals 569 and 456 volunteered for this effort. Our members contributed approximately 500 hours of labor valued at $20,000 to install the electrical systems at the homes. Many thanks to all of our volunteers, contractor partners and employers! [Photo, top].

Local 569 took action to stop proposed “fast track” authority to negotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership. This trade proposal threatens our jobs, democracy, and the environment! We participated in “Flash the TPP” rallies, educated community members at the Earth Day Fair, and joined other pro-worker delegations to the U.S. Congress. We hope that by the time you read this, fast-track authority will have been defeated. If not, take action today to protect American jobs. [http://bit.ly/SCBIBLE]

We ask our brothers and sisters to please donate to help Bro. Zach Squire, who was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident. Donations may be made online at [http://bit.ly/ZachSquire2]. Zach will need multiple surgeries to repair the damage. Our support during this difficult time will be appreciated.

Gretchen Newcom, P.S.

**Summer Projects Starting**

L.U. 557 (Lmt,rtts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Work has remained at a slow rate in our local. Although there were slow here throughout the winter and spring.

With warmer weather now here, our summer projects are starting and should create some work throughout the summertime. We congratulate John and Dana Bishop on the birth of their son Paul Frederick, born Feb. 28. Also, congratulations to Rich and Sara Metiva on the birth of their son Reed Mitchell on April 1.

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**Rebuilding Together—San Diego**

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Gretchen Newcom, P.S.

**Rebuilding Together—Oakland**

L.U. 595 (cs,sw,em,ltm,rtts,spa&u), DUBLIN, CA—For over a decade, IBEW Local 595 has worked with Rebuilding Together Oakland to improve the living conditions of veterans, elderly and disabled residents by providing electrical repairs at no cost. This year we focused on the needs of veterans and their widows. This underserved and vulnerable population has sacrificed so much for our families and the freedoms we enjoy. Eight homeowners were selected, one of whom had four service people in her immediate family. Another survived multiple tours of duty in Vietnam. Improving their living conditions by installing interior and exterior lighting, ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and new circuit breakers was a true honor and privilege.
Eighteen inside wiremen volunteered to help these veteran homeowners. RENEW has taken the lead on logistics, material and management of volunteers for the past three years. This has been good experience for young workers active with RENEW (reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) efforts.

Many volunteers expressed great joy in helping those in need and said the opportunity to serve is priceless. Our Labor Management Cooperation Committee also donated $5,000 to RTO to strengthen our partnership and commitment to helping working families. While we build physical buildings, it is also our duty to build up our communities through transformative engagement and to do all we can to help not just our own family, but all working families. Thank you to Rachel Bryan, Local 595 community liaison, for providing information for this article.

Bob Tieman, B.R.

Grants Awarded — ‘A Great Teaching Tool’

L.U. 601 (t&lb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—With the assistance of financial grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, we had the opportunity to install a power regeneration system. The system consists of a roof array of 22 solar panels, a wall array of 10 solar panels, ground array of 32 panels and a dual axis tracker of 20 solar panels, as well as a wind turbine that produces 10 kilowatts of power. The total power available for generation is 51 kilowatts.

This will prove to be a great teaching tool for the IATC. The apprentices will have the opportunity to monitor just how much electricity is being generated from a panel inside their classrooms. They will also be able to disassemble and reassemble a number of the panels themselves.

[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.]

Our local offers many journeyman wireman classes throughout the year, thanks to our dedicated instructors: Bob Withers, Brent Stull, John Mingee, Al Halberstadt, Richard Minge, Michael Aper, Dana Nichols, John Allen, Todd Nicholas, Rob Misler and Randy Lustz.

Work in our local is good currently, and for the next few weeks we anticipate a great deal of work. At this writing, we have seven on Book I and 17 on Book II.

Daniel Hatter, P.S.

‘Train the Trainer’ Class

L.U. 639 (b&ts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—The JATC recently purchased a Smart Bender from Greenlee. Two representatives from the company came to the hall to put on a “Train the Trainer” class for the instructors. The second-year apprenticeship class was also given hands-on training.

Training Dir. Chuck Headington plans to retire at school year’s end. One year Chuck has developed countless partnerships with vendors in the electrical industry to provide the JATC with state-of-the-art training aids and instruction. Thank you, Chuck Headington, for all your hard work and years of dedication to Local 639.

[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.]

‘Stand Together & Vote’

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,lt,markml), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—The work picture in Halifax is better than usual with 207 members working at the shipyard as of May 1. It is still slow in Unit #2 with only 19 at the Pulp Mill Precipitator. Upcoming work will include the Aberdeen Hospital project in New Glasgow and the Fish Oil Plant expansion in Guysborough County.

Canadian unions and their members are under a full frontal attack by the federal Conservative majority government. The Conservatives have strong support from the business community and are spending millions of taxpayer dollars convincing the people to keep them in office. All labour activists and union members need to wake up, stand together and vote in numbers in the upcoming federal election to remove this anti-union government before it achieves a third term and succeeds in destroying the union movement and the middle class. To read more, see “North of 49: First District Readies for Federal Election,” The Electrical Worker, March 2015.

Successful in completing their apprenticeship program and becoming journeymenpersons are: Matt Andrea, Vincent Forsyth, Shane MacArthur, James “Craig” Christie, Trevor Mackay, Angela Duquette, Ashley Currie, Jason MacInnis and Jody Corkum.

Congratulations to all!

Recently retired are: Bros. Les Sheffield, Gary Williams, Eric Grant, Arthur “Reg” Marruy, Derrick Robinson and Stan Riley.

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.

Volunteers Recognized

L.U. 627 (c,fl), FORT PIERCE, FL—Headed north to cooler climates for a break from the heat! Please ensure safety is stressed, as always, at the jobsite and when you are on the road. One moment of inattention is all that is needed for a life-changing event.

Pres. Mark MacNichol reported that the apprenticeship program for transmission and distribution is going great.

Our local received recognition from the City of Port St. Lucie for our continuing effort to “Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful” with our road-clean-up crews.

Congratulations go out to Bro. Jon Celebak’s family on the arrival of a new baby girl.

Stay informed and stay safe. See you at the union hall.

Raymond Vos, P.S.

‘Stay Involved & Informed’

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—Since this is not an election year, we might be tempted not to pay attention to politics. That would be a mistake.

It may not be happening in your state or ours yet, but the anti-worker push for so-called “right-to-work” measures harmful to working people will still affect us. Please be aware of issues that affect union labor. Many parts of this project went to nonunion shops, but the electrical portion went to one of our contractors.

Valley Electric was awarded this project and at press time the hiring has begun. Bros. Dave Phillips and Dan Cirebie went out as foreman and steward, respectively, to get this project started. We expect this job to ramp up quickly, putting many members to work to meet the very aggressive schedule. Good luck to everyone on this project. Work safe!

Jim Braunlich, P.S.

‘Hoops for Clarence’ Tourney; Labor Rally at Statehouse

L.U. 673 (c,es,limit&sk), PAINESVILLE, OH—Last year it was announced that Cristal Global, the largest manufacturing facility in Ashtabula County, planned to build a $64, million Air Separation Plant. This project would provide the company with the ability to manufacture its own oxygen, nitrogen and argon for its processing needs. What you see in the photo (at top, right) is the cold box, which acts as a giant distiller to separate these gases.

At a Local 673 training session conducted by Greenlee industrial and electrical tool company.

Cristal Global Project

L.U. 673 (c,es,limit&sk), PAINESVILLE, OH—Since this is not an election year, we might be tempted not to pay attention to politics. That would be a mistake.

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The Electrical Worker, March 2015.

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Jim Braunlich, P.S.

‘Hoops for Clarence’ Tourney; Labor Rally at Statehouse

L.U. 673 (c,es,limit&sk), PAINESVILLE, OH—Last year it was announced that Cristal Global, the largest manufacturing facility in Ashtabula County, planned to build a $64, million Air Separation Plant. This project would provide the company with the ability to manufacture its own oxygen, nitrogen and argon for its processing needs. What you see in the photo (at top, right) is the cold box, which acts as a giant distiller to separate these gases.

At a Local 673 training session conducted by Greenlee industrial and electrical tool company.

Cristal Global Project

L.U. 673 (c,es,limit&sk), PAINESVILLE, OH—Since this is not an election year, we might be tempted not to pay attention to politics. That would be a mistake.

It may not be happening in your state or ours yet, but the anti-worker push for so-called “right-to-work” measures harmful to working people will still affect us. Please be aware of issues that affect union labor. Many parts of this project went to nonunion shops, but the electrical portion went to one of our contractors.

Valley Electric was awarded this project and at press time the hiring has begun. Bros. Dave Phillips and Dan Cirebie went out as foreman and steward, respectively, to get this project started. We expect this job to ramp up quickly, putting many members to work to meet the very aggressive schedule. Good luck to everyone on this project. Work safe!
The Electrical Worker  | July 2015

ness owners and employees, we utilized every strategy and resource available in an attempt to educate the citizens of Indiana about the potential impact that the repeal of the common construction wage law will have on Indiana communities. We must strive to get all of our families and friends to the polls and to vote with us in the fight for justice for working families. Our picnic is scheduled for Sept. 12. Also, Build-Ing Trades Night at the RailCats will be Aug. 28. Enjoy the summer and be safe!

Don Woldrop, B.M.

Four-Megawatt Solar Array

L.U. 743 (em&i), READING, PA—Over 50 IBEW Local 743 journeymen and apprentices recently finished installing what is reportedly the largest roof-top mounted solar photovoltaic array in the state of Pennsylvania.

The four-megawatt array, installed for electrical distribution center in Gap, PA, consists of 13,364 modules, 5,000 feet of cable, and 64 miles of wire.

Congratulations to all involved on completing the project on time and on budget with no lost-time injuries.

Mark Pinkasavage, Training Dir.

ACCLS Training Seminar

L.U. 827 (catv&lctt), EAST WINDSOR, NJ—In April, the Advisory Council on Career and Life Strategies (ACCLS), a joint IBEW/Verizon committee, sponsored a three-day training seminar in Atlantic City, NJ, for approximately 45 ACCLS advocates. (Photo, at bottom)

The ACCLS is a bargained benefit, funded by Verizon to offer programs on employee career development, skill enhancement and family support, as well as other educational programs, to bargaining unit employees.

The advocates from New Jersey and Pennsylvania attended workshops on: elder care, public speaking, growing from change, staying motivated and positive, understanding communication styles, enhancing customer service skills, and planning for a successful retirement. Keynote speakers spoke about Verizon’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP), dealing with such issues as stress and identity theft.

After long days of workshops, the advocates participated in a team-building exercise that was both fun and rewarding. Participants formed teams and learned quickly how to work together, while having fun and helping others. The goal of the exercise was to put care packages together for Operation Yellow Ribbon for our soldiers deployed overseas.

Suzanne Wolin, R.S.

Military Service

L.U. 777 (u), READING, PA—Local 777 is happy to announce the safe return of our Bro. Joshua Harris from his tour of duty in the Middle East. He served honorably with the Air Force, Air National Guard, 201st Red Horse Squadron out of Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. He is currently working at our Lebanon, PA, line shop training for a journeyman lineman position.

We are proud of Joshua and his service to our great country, as we are of all the active duty and veterans both in the IBEW and across the world. A sincere thank-you from Local 777 to Joshua Harris and all who have served our country. Also a shout-out to our allies, and brothers and sisters of Canada.

Mark Power, P.S.

Brotherhood & Service Awards

L.U. 915 (&mt), TAMPA, FL—It was a great night of brotherhood at our annual Service Pin and Brother of the Year Awards presentation and cookout. We were honored to have members with up to 60 years of service, as well as six new members being sworn in to our Local 915 family.

Congratulations to the following brothers on their longtime service: 60-year member James Cole; 55-year members James Almens and Philip Humphrey; 50-year member Larry Whitlent; 45-year members Earnest Baggett, Kenneth Brewer, Robert Lowe, Victor Moore and Ernest Riske; and 40-year members Eugene Brito, James Snuggs, Manuel Tamargo and Leon Ward.

The Local 915 James H. Phillips Brother of the Year Award went to a brother who helps coordinate and has put in many hours helping to promote the true spirit brotherhood in this local. We are honored to name Bro. Roberto Rosa as this year’s Brother of the Year Award recipient.

Kudos to Bro. Leon Ward on the 8th Annual Fishing Tournament and his dedication each year to unite our members with this event.

Theresa King, P.S.

Celebrating Summer — Brighter Work Picture

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY—The snow is finally gone! It was a rough winter... but the nice weather is finally here and I hope everyone takes advantage of every minute they can.

Local 1249 celebrates summer annually with the Bobby Shutter Memorial Golf Tournament, followed by the Active Retiree Club Pig Roast, and then the 1249 Clambake at the end of the summer. At the time of this writing we were also hoping to send a team to the NSU-L’s 2015 Fallen Line-men Benefit Rodeo, and to make it an annual event for Local 1249. The National Sisterhood for Journeymen Linemen is an organization dedicated to assisting families of fallen or injured IBEW linemen. The extra cold and snowy winter that New York experienced resulted in a late start. Work is now picking back up, and we expect the summer to bring full employment and even the need for travelers.

Stay safe, and have fun!

Jennifer Schneider, P.S.

Lineman’s Apprenticeship Class

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—Ameren Missouri held lineman evaluations during the last week of April to select candidates for a Lineman’s Apprenticeship class that, as of this writing, was scheduled to begin June 1 this year. This was welcome news considering it’s been more than five years since the last lineman apprenticeship. We look forward to the possibility that Ameren will continue much-needed apprenticeships in other departments in order to replace the aging workforce.

Local 1439 held a pre-apprentice training class on March 21 to prepare potential candidates for the Lineman’s Apprenticeship. Thanks go out to Local 1439 Bus. Mgr. Mike Walter, Pres. Billy Howie, Bus. Rep. Doug Mueller, and Bros. Marty Pollette, Steve Rettig and Russ McCreey for giving up their Saturday to provide instruction and support for the members in attendance.

A special thank-you to Angie Lallemont for providing information for this article.

Rick Oakes, B.M./F.S.

Kudos to Bro. Leon Ward on the 8th Annual Fishing Tournament and his dedication each year to unite our members with this event.

Theresa King, P.S.

'Touch a Truck' Day

L.U. 949 (em&i), BURNsville, MN—On May 16, Local 949 members Luke Lallemont and Matt Hazleton participated in Touch-A-Truck day, a free event where families could view and explore all kinds of parked trucks on display in parking lots located throughout downtown Winona. Trucks displayed included: fire trucks, low trucks, semitrailers, pickup trucks, utility trucks and more.

Approximately 3,000 visited downtown Winona during the event and had the opportunity to see an Xcel Energy bucket truck and digger truck up close. As IBEW members, Bros. Lallemont and Hazleton explained the job of a lineman to the young boys and girls in attendance.

The Local 997 “Hoops for Clarence” basketball tournament fundraiser was a great success.

Congratulations to all involved on completing the project on time and on budget with no lost-time injuries.

Mark Pinkasavage, Training Dir.

A few of the Local 743 crew members at solar installation jobsite: Bill Bryson (left), Andrew Petersen, James Sturdivant, C. Rappenecker, Larry Burkett, Don Snyder and Tom Martin.

Military Service

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We are proud of Joshua and his service to

New EV Quick-Charge Station Installed at University

L.U. 1501, (Jill) AUGUSTA, GA—Georgia Regents University recently made history in Augusta when a quick-charge station for electric and hybrid vehicles was installed.

Local 1579 members, working for BESCO Electric, were responsible for installing the electrical portion of this job. Thanks to our members and BESCO for the good work you are doing at Georgia Regents University. BESCO also was awarded contracts to install similar charging stations for Georgia Power in Athens, Augusta and Savannah, GA.

In Local 1579 our work situation is still very good and will continue to do well throughout the rest of the year. In addition to our major work in the area, we have been in contact with contractors that are bidding on pipeline work as part of a project that will be coming through this area.

The Apprenticeship Graduation was on May 29. Congratulations to these new journeymen on their achievement. A thank-you goes out to the graduates for all their hard work over the last five years.

As we have been very busy and will continue to be, stay focused on your job. With all the overtime that is being made, save up for the future.

Will Salters, A.B.M.


in Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in May 2015

Local 1579 Bro. Nathan Lindsey, on electricity for USBR Mt. Elbert Power Plant, removes grounds from Unit 2 main transformer following maintenance inspection.

‘All Hands Meeting’ New Members Signing Up

L.U. 1579 (Jill), CASPER, WY—Greetings to all. I hope this article finds everyone well.

Local 1579 congratulates Bro. Kermit Kupper on his retirement. Bro. Kupper is a 37-year IBEW member and the local will surely miss him.

At the time of this writing, Local 1579 was preparing for the “All Hands Meeting” scheduled for May 9 in Casper, WY. Since our local is spread out over four states, it is nice to see the other brothers travel in for the meeting and get to talk face-to-face rather than over the phone or by email.

I am also proud to report that the shop stewards are doing an excellent job of getting new members signed up and into the local. It is through their persistence and knowledge that we are able to keep the local strong. Great job, brothers!

We also welcomed new journeymen. Andrew Dendinger has turned out and is now a journeymen lineman, and Jesse Marr is now a journeyman electrician and relay craftsman. Congratulations, brothers—you earned it.

Jason Mengowski, F.S.
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In addition to your monthly issue of The Electrical Worker, check out the wealth of IBEW-related information available online.

www.ibew.org

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

And read The Electrical Worker online!

YouTube

Watch our heartfelt tribute to President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill, who retired on June 1 after more than 14 years of service in the union's highest office. "We're the champions of working men and women," Hill says, over a career-spanning montage featuring images from his early days of leadership and activism, to recent events like 2012's Workers Stand For America rally and more.

TheElectricalWorker.com

Vimeo

The IBEW is on Vimeo. Watch, download and share your favorite IBEW videos in crystal clear HD. Vimeo.com/IBEW

HourPower

Want to hear what the owners have to say about the IBEW? They tell us what we're doing right and what we need to work on. Go to IBEHOURpower.com to see more.

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.

In our June profile on Baltimore Local 24 member Cary McCray, we stated that Del. McCray had sponsored a bipartisan bill that successfully restored full voting rights for some ex-offenders who had paid their debt to society. Unfortunately, the bill was vetoed by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan.

www.ibew.org
A Legacy of Achievement

It is difficult to imagine the IBEW without Ed Hill.
He has been a towering force in our union and in the American labor movement for longer than many of our members have been alive.
But I don’t mean it is hard to imagine the IBEW moving forward without President Hill’s presence. I mean that it takes effort to remember what the IBEW was before Ed took over and pushed us to become what we are today. He guided and, at times, cajoled us through one of the worst economic crises in our nation’s history while fighting an onslaught of anti-worker policies and propaganda.

It is a testament to his leadership that while the labor movement has been shrinking across the country, the IBEW under President Hill welcomed thousands of new members. A culture of complacency had infected the labor movement. Building on the efforts of his predecessor, J.J. Barry, President Hill launched dozens of initiatives to put the movement back in labor movement. His goal in every case was to increase membership and support the growth of the industries we rely on.

By now, we are all familiar with member-to-member organizing, alternative construction classifications, business development and the Code of Excellence, but it bears repeating what they really are: tools that will keep the IBEW strong.

Although I have a very big pair of boots to fill, President Emeritus Hill left us what we need to fight on for the dignity of working people. I am humbled by the challenge, optimistic about our future, grateful for the chance and ready to get to it.

But not before one final word of gratitude to my friend and colleague International Secretary-Treasurer Sam Chilia. President Hill relied on Sam’s steady hand and sound advice. I know I will too. He has been an excellent steward of our retirement and health funds in these difficult years and a wise source of counsel. My job would be a great deal more difficult without him at my side.

Forging Our Future

It’s a time of transition in our Brotherhood.
As my colleague and friend Ed Hill retires, I wish him a wonderful next chapter and appreciate all that he has done for the working men and women of the IBEW. And I have nothing but high praise for our new International President Lonnie Stephenson, whom I am honored to serve with.

We face challenging and changing times, not to mention numerous and well-funded enemies who want to drive us off the map. There is a lot at stake with no room for error.
That’s why we are lucky to have Brother Stephenson at the helm. Ask anyone who’s ever worked with him. I have full confidence in him, his abilities and his deep commitment to our Brotherhood and its success.

Now, as excited as I am to work with Lonnie, I feel somewhat bittersweet about it. Ed Hill has been my working partner for so many years now.
I first heard about Ed decades ago. I was working as a wireman out of Cleveland Local 38. He was already business manager of Local 712 in Beaver, Pa. I never made it out there, but a lot of Local 38 members traveled there for work. They always came back with the highest praise for Local 712—and its business manager.

Let me tell you, my time with President Hill has been some of the finest years of my working life in the IBEW.

He’s left a solid legacy of positive growth—from helping spearhead new trainings for business managers and representatives, to tapping the resources of the younger generation who will one day be our successors. He wasn’t afraid to wade into challenging waters to do the best for the membership, and he always, always had the best interests of the IBEW at heart.

As we embrace these new changes, we recognize that there remains a lot of work to be done in the political sphere.
In the last five years, three more states have gone right-to-work. Others have abolished the right of public workers to collectively bargain, tried to weaken health and safety regulations and done away with caps on corporate spending in elections.
If 2016 looks anything like 2014, we could be in big trouble. We can’t afford any more right-to-work states or attacks on collective bargaining. And with elections in Canada coming up in October, we are going to have to go big on the international stage to make gains for working families.

Change is inevitable—but progress is not. With Brother Stephenson at the helm, we’re poised to make great strides. Let’s get out there and make it happen.

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer
70 Years of Service
Frank Higgins began his 43-year career at Commonwealth Edison when he was hired as a switchboy on August 29, 1933. His uncle and an acquaintance strongly encouraged his application earlier that summer.

After initially working part time, Frank decided he wanted to further his career and landed a full-time job in the service and repair department. Eventually he became one of the original IBEW union members at Commonwealth Edison in 1945. As a member of Local 1399, he worked as a dispatcher in appliance and wiring. In 1958, Frank was transferred to Chicago central headquarters. He was then transferred again to Local 1577, working in load dispatching. In February of 1976, after 43 years of service, Frank Higgins decided to retire and spend more time with his wife Alice and their two children, Jim and Mildred.

Brother Higgins became a retired member of IBEW Local 15 after the 1994 amalgamation of the original 17 locals into one—Downers Grove Local 15.

In March of 2015, Local 15 President/Business Manager Dean Apple and his staff began searching for Brother Higgins to award him with his 70-year pin after IBEW International President Ed Hill informed Apple of this milestone.

On March 9, Local 25 staff was able to contact an eager Jim Higgins, Frank’s son. In the past, Frank had expressed an interest in “re-creating” his history as a ComEd employee. Before he got started on the task, his health had begun to fail and Frank was under hospice care.

On March 11, President Apple planned to present Frank with his 70-year pin, as well as his company records. Unfortunately, Local 15 received word from Frank’s family that he had passed away the Tuesday prior. Jim accepted Frank’s 70-year service pin, certificate and ComEd records on his late father’s behalf. In addition, he was presented with an IBEW watch from Local 15. Jim told President Apple how proud Frank was to be a union member for 70 years.

“He lived a good life,” Jim stated. As an “A” member, Frank also received a small pension from the international office. Frank was married to 72 years Alice. In addition to children Jim and Mildred, the couple also had two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Frank loved baseball and volleyball, playing well into his 80s. Frank’s nickname, not surprisingly, was Happy. Frank was 101 years old.

Doug Vedas, Local 15 press secretary Downers Grove, Ill.

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

Ed Hill: ‘The Definition of Leadership’
On behalf of Local 229, our best wishes for a long, healthy, and happy retirement. Thank you, President Hill, for your gutsy leadership and your willingness to institute policies that are necessary but unpopular. It’s always been evident that you have the best interest of the IBEW at heart and made the tough decisions when necessary. That is the true definition of leadership.

Matthew Paules, Local 229 member York, Pa.

Thank you, President Hill, for your leadership in the IBEW and for supporting the FEMALE wrenmen. I remember the day you said to me, “The glass ceiling, Kathy? What is that?” many, many years ago when I co-chaired the Women’s Caucus. I am so proud I had the opportunity to work with you when you were Third District VP.

Kathy Buhala, Local 308 member (now 98) Philadelphia, Pa.

Thank you, President Hill, for all that you have done. We at Local 2136 wish you nothing but the best in your retirement.

Randy Moos, Local 2136 member Lincoln, Neb.

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

Los Angeles Local 11 organizer Mike Kufchak left the 1st Marine Infantry Division after 31 years to become director of veterans’ affairs for Los Angeles Local 11.

“I always thought my job was looking out for my brothers and sisters, and I still consider that to be my job,” Kufchak said. “I am helping all my brothers and sisters in the armed forces find careers, good careers, and they will recognize the camaraderie in the union embrace.”

Kropke, an army veteran who was wounded in Vietnam, met Kufchak during the preparation for a fundraiser to benefit wounded veterans.

“He is the real deal. The selection process to become the senior enlisted in one of three Marine infantry divisions speaks for itself,” Kropke said. “I told him, I don’t know what you have planned for after you retire, but I have a plan to help people coming home from these wars in a way my generation did not.”

Kropke had an idea for a program that would recruit the best candidates and give them the support to get them into the apprenticeship. What he needed was a recruiter welcome on any military installation with a reputation for always leading his troops to safety, opportunity and, ultimately, success.

It was not the only offer Kufchak received. But it was the one that he came back to because, he said, it was the opportunity with the most challenge and the most reward. For Kufchak, the prize is taking the veterans who returned home safe and giving them the opportunity to thrive.

“What I tell them is that if they are looking for a career where you feel the same charge to look after one another, the same challenge, physical and mental, and the opportunity to make a difference, you will find it in the IBEW,” Kufchak said. “You will make a good living, but I am not looking for the people who just ask about money. I am looking for the men and women who want to be part of something bigger.”

Kufchak found his champion and in less than a year on the job, Kufchak has become more than the chief military recruiter.

“He destroys every [inaccurate] stereotype of unions there is. Our contractors, elected officials, nonunion workers, they look at him and see that’s all that’s in this nation and how Local 15 connects to it,” Kropke said. “He is affecting the perception of what a union is. We are about jobs, but also community and mission.”

It is still early days at Local 11 for Kufchak, and the local is still about 10 percent short of the 50 percent goal. But Kufchak said he feels like has found a new place to call home.

“One of the reasons I joined is because it aligns with my moral compass,” he said. “These young men and women transitioning from the military are really looking to kick their lives off, moving in a forward progression, and really, what better way to do that than to embrace a trade such as the electrical trades that will carry them through for the rest of their lives?”

Retired Sgt. Maj. Mike Kufchak left the 1st Marine Infantry Division after 31 years to become director of veterans’ affairs for Los Angeles Local 11. (Photo: United States Marine Corps)
Aging workforce needs as much attention as aging infrastructure in energy reform bill

It has been nearly a decade since comprehensive energy policy was passed in the U.S. Since then, efforts to update federal law foundered on the wide divide between the parties.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee started a new effort to get a comprehensive new energy policy through the Senate in May and the IBEW was on Capitol Hill to make sure that apprenticeships for future utility workers were part of the conversation.

The IBEW was invited to testify on a panel of energy policy experts as part of the roll-out of the comprehensive energy reform plan put together by Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, chair of the Energy Committee.

Most of the witnesses testifying before the committee were concerned with the transformation of the laws covering the infrastructure used to generate and distribute power. IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter was the only witness primarily concerned with making sure the U.S. has a qualified workforce to run the new technologies and replace the huge number of utility workers that will be retiring in the near future.

"Over the next 10 years, 55 percent of the industry will need to be replaced," Hunter said during his testimony. "My point in talking about the large number of people leaving the industry is to talk about how we replace and train those new employees. The joint apprenticeship model works." Hunter asked the committee to include support for joint apprenticeship programs, like the ones run by the National Utility Industry Training Fund, in any comprehensive energy policy. The NUITF is a joint project of the IBEW and utility companies across the U.S. Apprentices in NUITF programs work alongside master craftsmen to learn their trade, while getting paid. The NUITF also runs six-week and longer boot-camp style programs to identify promising candidates for apprenticeships.

'Joint apprenticeships create good opportunities and keep utilities profitable at the same time.'

—Utility Department Director Jim Hunter

The energy committee is considering more than 20 energy-related infrastructure bills covering a variety of areas including the siting, permitting and approval of high-voltage transmission lines, the export of natural gas, grid modernization and a host of reforms to the way wholesale energy prices are determined.

"The vast majority of the energy infrastructure is privately owned," Murkowski said. "The question is what is the proper role of government and how will our laws influence the $500 billion to $500 billion of private investment we need over the next 20 years?"

Sen. Maria Cantwell of Oregon, the ranking Democrat on the panel, said the need to focus on the workforce was paramount.

"The utility industry will have to add 1.5 million workers in the next 15 years," Cantwell said. "This definitely has my attention."

Other witnesses on the panel discussed the need for market reforms, the need to accelerate the integration of distributed solar rooftop generation and a more efficient permitting process for new gas pipelines and power lines. All agreed on the need for the federal government to increase its involvement in making the grid more reliable and resilient.

"Between 2000 and 2014, weather related disruptions have doubled, and that is likely to get worse in the future as extreme weather increases," said Amy Ericson, president of Alstom, the company that created the software that runs on nearly half of the updated, smart grid systems in the country. "Strong federal leadership and support for grid modernization R&D through public-private partnerships involving utilities, technology suppliers, national labs, and universities is crucial."

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, however, said parts of West Virginia that have been losing residents for decades as coal mines and steel mills have shut down are now seeing an increase in jobs because of the rapidly growing natural gas hydraulic fracturing. But Capito lamented that many of the people getting those jobs are not from West Virginia.

"We see a lot of cars with Texas and Oklahoma license plates," she said. After thanking Hunter for his testimony last year on the negative impacts of the closure of dozens of coal plants because of emissions regulations, Capito asked Hunter if a joint apprenticeship program like the NUITF could make sure new jobs went to local workers.

"We don’t like seeing those foreign plates either, Senator: most of them are non-union," Hunter said. "The utility industry is hiring right now. We have partnership with AEP in West Virginia and we are hiring."

Hunter said DTE Energy in Detroit has been offering successful boot camp programs that are bringing in primarily long term unemployed workers—50 percent of them veterans—that led to dozens of coal plants because of extreme weather increases," said Amy Ericson, president of Alstom, the company that created the software that runs on nearly half of the updated, smart grid systems in the country. "Strong federal leadership and support for grid modernization R&D through public-private partnerships involving utilities, technology suppliers, national labs, and universities is crucial."

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