More than 2.6 million people call Toronto home, and every year, lots of them get sick.

If they need to go to a hospital, they have dozens of choices, but like most large North American cities, their hospitals have barely kept up with the furious pace of technological advances and are often run using paper-based systems that would be familiar to a doctor 30 or 40 years ago.

So when the Government of Ontario began planning the consolidation of the three-campus Humber Regional Hospital in 2005, health officials weren’t interested in building a state-of-the-art teaching hospital. Far more was needed.

On Oct. 18, doors will open at the new CA$1.7 billion Humber River Regional Hospital, North America’s first 100 percent digital hospital when it opens next month.

The project also boasted a remarkable safety record: 5 million man-hours without time lost due to injury.

“The general contractor, PCL, had never reached that marker on a project before,” said Ted Szvec, Local 353 business representative. “They were very impressed.”

A permanent testament to the work done by Local 353 will be marked on the wall honoring hospital sponsors. Martin negotiated a deal with the hospital that if all the electrical work was union, the local would give back a dollar for every hour on the job.

“The deadline: Nov. 30

See page 16 for details

Humber River Regional Hospital will be North America’s first 100 percent digital hospital when it opens next month.

Photos courtesy: Plan Group

IBEW Helps Build Hospital of the Future in Toronto

21ST CENTURY DIGITAL CARE

IBEW’s 2015 PHOTO Contest Deadline: Nov. 30
See page 16 for details

FULLY DIGITAL HOSPITAL continued on page 2

WWW.IBEW.ORG
IBEW Builds First Fully Digital Hospital in Toronto

‘The benchmark of what hospitals aspire to be’

The Paperless Hospital

Even the most advanced hospitals in North America are built on overlapping and disconnected systems throwing out hundreds of thousands of pages of paper each year. Highly advanced diagnostic machines go unused while nurses hunt down missing wheelchairs. Patient status is written down with pen and paper, separate from medical histories—also paper files—while test results are on other pieces of paper and prescriptions are written on still other pieces of paper.

Not at Humber.

“The only paper trail in that whole building is the band around the patient’s wrist. Everything else goes through antennas or wires,” said Dave Lonsdale, project manager for the electrical and data contractor Plan Group and a 35-year member of Local 353.

Paper-based records simply can’t keep up with the organizational demands of a 21st century urban hospital.

“When we talked to our staff, the amount of time they spent looking for wheelchairs and stretchers is inordinate,” said Humber River Hospital CEO Dr. Rebek Devlin. “You’d think it would be easy in a hospital, but in a busy hospital, at the beginning of the day they’re all in one place. At the end of the day, they are all over the place.”

Obviously the technology exists to separately solve the piles of paper, the missing wheelchairs, test results sitting in out baskets and getting the right pills to the right patient at the right time. The job at Humber was to solve all the problems at the same time, seamlessly.

It starts with very simple ideas. When a patient is lying in bed, all of the monitoring equipment sends a continuous stream of data to a secure hospital-wide wireless system. The radio frequency ID chip on the patient’s wristband, nurse’s ID badge, and the sticker on the wheelchair are constantly monitored by the real-time locating system. All tests are ordered from handheld devices carried by hospital staff and transmitted over the extensive Wi-Fi and distributed cellular antenna network.

As soon as a test is run, the results are sent out to the doctors who ordered them, and automatically added to a patient’s file, which they can access from bedside tablets that also control the temperature in the room, identify a doctor or nurse when they enter the room and even allow access to movies and video calls with family and friends.

“You really have to see inside the ceilings,” Lonsdale said. “The most technically complicated part of the job was making sure all the antennas were able to communicate effectively without interfering with one another.”

And the schematics for each floor simply weren’t detailed enough to be blindly followed.

“No design is perfect and our guys had to be aware of a lot of variables in every room so that errors were not integrated,” Lonsdale said.

There is even a self-guided delivery system more often seen in auto plants than hospitals. The wheeled carts will deliver nearly three-quarters of the hospital’s supplies through the facility support corridors that thread throughout the hospital. Unlike older automated delivery systems that could only travel along copper strips embedded in the floor, Humber’s robots use the Wi-Fi antennas in the ceiling to triangulate their location, allowing them to ride in the elevators, go around obstacles or call for help if they get stuck.

“All of this had to be future-proofed,” Lonsdale said. “The backbone has 60 percent more fiber than we need today and 60 percent more space on the cable trays running through the building. The racks in the server rooms also have 60 percent additional space to allow new technologies to slot in as they come along.”

By putting all files, insurance information, prescriptions, status reports and diagnoses on a single network available instantly to everyone through tablets and other mobile devices, Humber River is reducing patient and staff travel distances 16 percent and building energy consumption 40 percent.

There are simpler ideas as well. In nearly every hospital room in nearly every hospital, a nurse walks past the bathroom before they get to the patient. Not at Humber.

“The washroom is on the far side of the room,” Lonsdale said. “Reduces steps.”

It’s a simple thing that eliminates thousands of wasted minutes every year, Devlin said.

‘You really have to see inside the ceilings.’

– Dave Lonsdale, project manager and Local 353 member

But this seemingly simple idea led to something quite radical. Each of the 653 bathrooms was built entirely offsite in a multi-trade assembly line.

“In 12 years, this is the first time I have seen anything on this scale,” Szwec said. “PCL is not bound to us. They could have gone nonunion. I think doing it this way will keep us competitive.”

Making a Hospital Digital

Humber is the first, but it won’t be the last. According to industry analysts at the Dorenfest Group, North American hospitals will spend $30.5 billion on information technology next year.

The reason is simple. Hospital errors killed between 100,000 and 120,000 people last year in the U.S. and Canada, according to studies by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine and the Canadian Institute for Health Information. Just under 10 percent of them were from missed drug interactions alone.

Evidence shows that even partial digitizing patient information can yield remarkable improvements in patient outcomes. At Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey, the digital drug-order system has prevented dozens of potentially dangerous combinations before the prescription is even filled, according to a report in Businessweek magazine. Hospital officials attribute much of the 16 percent reduction in patient mortality to their digital initiatives.

Humber is going much further.

“This will be the benchmark of what a hospital aspires to be,” Lonsdale said. “Every hospital built in North America will be compared to it.”

continues from page 1

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<QR Code>
Canadian Senate Approves Anti-Worker Bill

Conservative senators approved anti-union bill C-377 in June, forcing labor unions to publicly disclose all their financial transactions to the federal government—everything from office supply purchases to salaries—creating onerous reporting requirements for union leaders and staff.

Exempt from the bill are Conservative-aligned membership organizations, such as the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses and Merit Canada, the country’s largest open-shop contractor association.

“This bill, whatever may have been its laudable transparency goals, is really an expression of statutory contempt for the working men and women in our trade unions,” said former Conservative Sen. Hugh Segal.

C-377 was first introduced by Conservative MP Russ Hiebert more than three years ago. While ostensibly a private-member bill introduced without official support of the prime minister’s office, it received wide support from Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s Conservative government.

In fact, the Senate rushed a vote on the bill without a public hearing, a rarity for a private-member bill.

“People were interested in making things better for everybody... They were committed and it was where I wanted to be.”

- Alan Goddard

“We got to cut down the same thing, it’s helping mobilize our members,” said Goddard.

“I got the call on April 1 and wasn’t sure if someone was having a joke on me,” Goddard said.

“It was a job that seemed challenging, and would give me a trade and pay well, so I applied there, rather than UPS or a manufacturing plant,” Goddard said. “I wanted to deal with these monsters and stick up for the members. You can’t present a united front any other way,” he said.

“People are interested in stopping it.”

A lot of people over the years struggled mightily to represent our workers,” he said. “Now we think they are a model for the industry. The IBEW is one of the best friends they have and I think AEP management gladly recognizes that. They figured out they would do better when they stopped trying to kill the crap out of their workers.”

“Goddard, brother to a brother in UAW Local 220, was an officer of the union until his retirement in 2008.”

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“You rarely ever see the Senate cut short debate on anything besides a government bill,” said First District Public Action/Media Strategist Matt Wayland. “This is unprecedented.”

It was opposed by all the chamber’s Liberal members, as well as three Conservatives and two independents.

“This is an unconstitutional bill to begin with and it does not comply with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms,” Conservative Sen. Diane Battersmore told Blacklock’s Reporter earlier this year.

In many ways, C-377’s reporting requirements are even more stringent than those in the United States.

“Unlike the U.S. financial disclosure laws, Canada’s C-377 requires the same reporting standards for all labor organizations, regardless of their size,” wrote Ella Bedard at rabble.ca. “(U)nited Steelworkers President Leo Gerard said that his union’s accountants have estimated that it takes the equivalent of roughly three or four people working full-time to file their financial disclosure reports to the U.S. government. That’s time and money that smaller locals just cannot afford.”

Despite this setback, Wayland says that he is hopeful that it will be overturned at the ballot box.

“The best way we can get rid of C-377 is to throw out Harper and his government,” he said.

Federal elections are scheduled for Oct. 19. Leaders of the Liberal and New Democratic parties—both of which are running closely with the Conservatives in the polls—have vowed to repeal the bill if they take power.

“In it’s helping mobilize our members to unseat the Conservatives in the fall,” said Wayland.

On June 19, 2015, the Senate passed the bill, mandating strict financial reporting requirements for unions.

Le Sénat canadien adopte le projet de loi d’intrigué privé (présenté sans soutien de nos syndicats, » mentionne l’ancien président du parti libéral de la Chambre ainsi que des droits et libertés », mentionne la sénatrice Diane Battersmore.

À bien des égards, les exigences en termes de déclarations du C-377 sont encore plus sévères que celles des États-Unis.

“C’est sans précédent. »

“Ce projet de loi est anticonstitutionnel. « Ce projet de loi, quels que soient les intérêts qui le soutiennent, » mentionne l’ancien président du parti conservateur Diane Battersmore.

Il a été opposé par tous les membres du parti libéral de la Chambre ainsi que deux conservateurs et deux indépendants.

“Ce projet de loi est anticonstitutionnel et ne respecte pas la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés », mentionne la sénatrice Diane Battersmore.

Les syndicats ont donc dépêché le vote sur le projet de loi sans débat public, ce qui est très rare pour un projet de loi d’intérêt privé.

“On voit rarement le sénat court-circuiter un débat sur tout sauf un projet de loi du gouvernement, » mentionne Matt Wayland, directeur de l’action publique de la Grève.

Le président Leo Gerard des United Steelworkers oppose le projet de loi. «les comptes de son syndicat ont estimé qu’ils faisaient environ 100 000 $ par année à l’union, » dit le président. « Ce projet de loi est anticonstitutionnel, » dit le président. « Il est à la fois inconstitutionnel et non respect de la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés », mentionne la sénatrice Diane Battersmore.

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Canadian Government, Industry Join IBEW to Promote Women in Trades

Go to any IBEW conference, rally or gathering of activists, and you’ll frequently see a popular slogan on T-shirts and bumper stickers: “A woman’s place is in her union.”

In Canada, that sentiment is growing stronger, thanks to a new nationwide initiative.

The IBEW has joined a coalition of government, industry and academic partners to launch Connected Women—a mentorship program tailored to women looking to enter or advance in the trades and other non-traditional occupations. Women make up less than one-quarter of the electrical workforce, and less than 5 percent of those are in trade occupations. Connected Women will help address this gap, especially at a time when the utility industry is facing down looming retirements and will need to shore up its ranks.

“Connected Women” aims to boost the number of Canadian women working in the trades.

The new program takes its cues from a recently-completed research project called Bridging the Gap. The project’s contributors examined the reasons why women say they feel successful in the profession and identified roadblocks to career advancement. The final Bridging the Gap report states that having mentors in the trade can make the difference for female electrical workers.

“There are significant barriers to the recruitment and retention of women in the trade, including isolation, physical demands and the challenge of working in an all-male environment,” said Halifax, Nova Scotia, Local 1952 Assistant Business Manager Andrea McQuillan, who is a power line technician. “Over time, this project will provide significant benefits and training opportunities for women.”

Connected Women is funded by Status of Women Canada, a government initiative focusing on issues such as career advancement, leadership and economic security. Connected Women’s first cohort features graduates of Algonquin College’s Women in Electrical Engineering Technology program in Ottawa.

As the pilot group of mentees, the graduates will partner with women who are already established in their careers. Over time, the mentees will become the new mentors, ushering in a larger wave of talent, said Michelle Branigan of Electric Human Resources Canada, the group that spearheaded Connected Women. Local 1952’s McQuillan also serves on EHRC’s Connected Women steering committee.

“We always have to remember there are two challenges to getting more women in the industry: first of all, we have to attract them to the sector and, then, once we get them in, we have to make sure that we keep them,” Branigan said.

Learn more about Connected Women at the EHRC website: www.electricity.yhc.ca.

U.S.A. Union Members Restore N.Y. Presidential Birthplace Cabin

A little known tourist attraction in New York’s Finger Lakes region is the birthplace of the 39th U.S. president, Millard Fillmore, born on Jan. 7, 1800, in Moravia. The replica house sits in the namesake park Fillmore Glen four miles from the family log cabin that is no longer standing. But the imitation house was failing into disrepair until the members of the Union Sportsmen Alliance went to work last spring.

Syra- cuse, N.Y., Local 43 Business Manager Donald Morgan and more than 20 other volunteers helped restore the 50-year-old log cabin about 50 miles south of Syracuse. In nearly 350 man-hours, they replaced the cedar shake shingles, installed new floorboards, and put in new logs at the bottom of the cabin—while maintaining the style of a 19th century home.

“We had roofers, sheet metal work- ers, masons, insulators, guys from (Unit- ed Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters), electrical workers... It was a team effort for sure,” Morgan said.

The Union Sportsmen Alliance’s Work Boots on the Ground, including the North and Central N.Y. Building and Con- struction Trades Council volunteers, coor- dinated the project. U.S.A. is a nonprofit conservation organization seeking to unite the union community through con- servation to preserve North America’s outdoor heritage.

“We really appreciate our communi- ties, so we love the chance to give back to them and it helps us paint a picture of who union members really are,” Morgan said. “We really hit a homerun. It was just what we were hoping for.”

Even President Fillmore is known to be among the least influential U.S. presidents, the replica cabin is a hot spot for patrons of the state park. When visitors aren’t camping, swimming, or enjoying the many other amenities of Fillmore Glen, they can be found taking a stroll through the look-a-like cabin.

Donations Boost Lineman Safety in South American Country

With free trunks sometimes serving as utility poles, the small South American country of Suriname is largely in need of critical energy infrastructure upgrades. Fortunately, rigorous efforts by electricians in the nation of 540,000 are continuing to get a boost from the IBEW.

For more than a year, linemen with several locals on the West Coast have volunteered time and training with the Suriname American Brotherhood Initiative, spearheaded by Seattle Local 77 member Brady Hansen. Now, members of Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 are stepping up their commitment, donating materials via Recy- cling for Linemen, a nonprofit that provides pre-owned but still perfectly func- tional safety gear to the growing number of electricians in the developing world.

Hansen spoke at a safety summit for utility provider NV Energy in early 2019, inspiring management and IBEW employ- ees to participate.

“Both NV Energy and Local 1245 provide the necessary equipment, training and opportunities to do our job to the best of our abilities,” Local 1245 Business Representative Pat Waite told Reno, Nev., KRNV Channel 4. “Sharing supplies and knowledge with the Surinamese linemen is the right thing to do. I’m really proud we have partnered with this program.”

Members and management donated harnesses, tool belts, climbing gaffs, flashlights, first aid kits and traffic signs and cones. “At NV Energy, safety is such an important part of our culture,” said Pat Wyen, the company’s lines and construction management supervisor. “When we learned about the dangerous and unsafe conditions of linemen in devel- oping countries, we were immediately moved to become a part of this program. The materials we are sending to Suriname may very well save someone’s life.”

IBEW.org reported on a 2014 service trip that brought Hansen and members from Local 77 and Portland, Ore., Local 125 to the country to instruct local electricians in pole top rescue, conductor integrity and more.

“It was almost like we went back in time over 80 years when apprentice- ships were just being established,” said Local 125’s Inman Kurt Shriver. “The trip was one of the high points of my career. It was awesome to know that we were sharing skills of the trade and helping linemen stay safe at work and at home and be hus- bands and fathers.”

Ninth District RENEW Activists Keep up Momentum

If there’s one word that defines young workers’ efforts in the IBEW’s Ninth District, it’s action.

From holding fundraiser bowling events and baseball games to hosting trainings to learn from veteran activists, members in the district’s RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) initiative are fusing the best of tradition with the spirit of enthusiastic young leaders.

Georgette Carrillo is one of those activists. By day, the five-year member is a customer service representative at Pacific Gas & Electric and a Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 organizing steward.

Outside of the office, Carrillo is helping bring fellow young workers into the movement as the district’s RENEW Advisory Committee representative.

“Being in this role makes me feel like I am doing the greatest work in my career, helping to grow the labor movement,” she said. “I no longer feel like just a call center employee—I feel like a true IBEW leader in the making.”

Carrillo joined fellow young work- ers in July at the Ninth District Progress Meeting in San Diego. There, she had the chance to work with International Representative Harold Dias in planning the Young Volunteers Caucus. One of the workshop’s goals was to improve orga- nizing and skill sharing between young- er members, via email, social media and in-person.

“Every local has its own challenges and strategies of how they get young mem- bers involved,” Carrillo said.

Those efforts are paying off. Seattle Local 7 recently hosted a meet and greet to educate young workers about taking more of a role in their union. San Diego Locals 569 and 169 volunteered time and energy for the annual Letter Carriers’ “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive. River- side, Calif., Local 440 has hosted cookout fundraisers, and Las Vegas Local 357’s recent Texas Hold’em poker fundraiser was a success, Carrillo said.
Cleveland Members Build Hotel Complex

Cleveland, Ohio, Local 38 members have been hard at work with the expansion of Legacy Village, a popular shopping center in Northeast Ohio.

Run Ullman, chief operating officer of Ullman Electric, said that as the Hyatt Place hotel and parking garage project progresses, there could be up to 15 Local 38 members on site through early 2016.

About 20 miles east of Cleveland, Legacy Village’s new additions are expected to open next June, in time for the 2016 Republican National Convention at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. The project, which includes restaurant and retail, is being funded by a $35 million National Electrical Benefit Fund loan.

“It means a lot to us that they’re employing members from Local 38,” said Local 38 Business Manager Dennis Meaney. “This job will produce tens of thousands of man-hours for Local 38 and for the other union tradesmen in our jurisdiction. Financing by using the NEBF Real Estate Funds is a great way to circulate dollars by creating union jobs, which in turn provide more pension hours and dollars to our members.”

Local 38 members John Braderick, Jack Sparrico, Patrick Kunc and first year apprentice Mitch Bear, helped install wires for the two new buildings at Legacy Village complex.

Organizing Drive

In the parched expanse of California’s Mojave Desert, there’s little escape from the scorching heat.

The abundant sunshine is good news for the 91,000 households that rely on the Abengoa Mojave Solar facility, a 280-megawatt plant about two hours northeast of Los Angeles that provides clean energy to a power-hungry state.

But for the nearly 60 employees maintaining day-to-day operations at the site, it can be a grueling job. Extreme temperatures, safety concerns, favoritism and nepotism had been weighing on the workers. And recent murmurs of the Spain-based multinational company bringing in foreign replacements didn’t help.

“That was a big fear,” said organizer Bob Oedy. “The workers wanted the protections of a collective bargaining agreement.”

Last October, employees reached out to Diamond Bar Local 47 for representation. A three-month campaign resulted in a decisive victory for workers, who voted “yes” by a 4-1 margin in an NLRB-certified election.

Extreme temperatures, safety concerns and favoritism prompt Mojave Desert solar maintenance workers to join the IBEW by a 4-1 margin.

The meetings were fantastic,” said Oedy, who, along with other leaders, spent many nights after the workers’ shifts answering questions and building solidarity among members within our district,” Carrillo said. “I am a very small part of this movement, and there are so many people who believe in RENEW as I do and are determined to keep building this.”

Connect with the Ninth District’s RENEW group on Facebook: www.bit.ly/RENEW-ninth-district. (The link is case-sensitive.)

Sun Shines on Calif. Solar Workers’ Organizing Drive

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The change has come with both risks and rewards, said Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21 Business Manager Paul Wright.

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Bonham thanked Gary and Hammond, Ind., Local 697 leaders for their time and resources and said that both the area carpenters local and the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor are helping ensure a win-win process for the workers and the county. “Because of everyone’s efforts, there was no negative campaigning and everyone was positive. The county has said how much they respect organized labor—not just the IBEW, but everybody."

Local 21 Business Manager Paul Wright said he looks forward to contract negotiations. “The dispatchers protect the county’s citizens every day,” he said. “We look forward to working with county representatives to negotiate a contract that rewards them for their service to the residents of Lake County.”

Lake County, Ind., emergency dispatchers organized with little opposition from management.
Advanced Foremanship Course; 'Net Zero Plus' Retrofit at ETI

L.U. 11 (Lrts $857p4), LOS ANGELES, CA—Local 11 held elections in June for our units, officers of the local union, the executive board, the examining board, and convention delegates. Congratulations to re-elected Bus. Mgr. Marvin Kropek and all the elected officers and delegates. Thanks to the members who voted, the volunteers who served as election tellers, and election judge Robert Corona. [Photo at bottom, left.]

Our Local Wide Picnic was June 20, once again at the Rose Bowl. Approximately 3,200 members and guests attended, despite searching heat! Thanks to the PICC Committee, the volunteers and all who made donations to help make the event a great success.

Effective July 28 this year, foremen dispatched out of the hiring hall must have completed the 40-hour Advanced Foremanship course through the Electrical Training Institute. After a long history of the wage percentage for foremen and general foremen remaining the same, the Inside Wireman and Intelligent Transportation Systems foremen percentage has increased. Our hard-working supervision deserves this raise! The Sound & Communication Unit also received historical wage increases in their agreement.

Take a look at www.nzp-eti.com to learn about the groundbreaking of our Net Zero Plus retrofit at the ETI.

Enjoy your Labor Day and Join us for our annual concert, NighthShift LA 205, in conjunction with Working Californians.

Diana Limon, P.S.

Meritorious Award Recipients


Congratulations also to newly appointed Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. David J. Ruhmkorf. Local 15 looks forward to working with him.

In April, Local 15 members Ryan Lawrence and Kyle Lawrence, who are siblings, had their house destroyed by a tornado. The brothers are liners for Commonwealth Edison. Donations were collected at our monthly local unit meetings to assist them. Local 15 Pres./Bus. Mgr. Dean Apple also requested help from the Int. President's Unity Fund, to which our local contributes, and the fund provided some assistance for Ryan and Kyle during their trying time.

Midwest Energy Assoc. presented an award to 11 Local 25 members this year, for performing service above and beyond the call of duty, by saving a life or preventing a serious injury. Local 15 recipients of the Meritorious Award are: William Clark, Kevin Fitzgerald, Nicholas Barnes, Scott Condon, Andrew Wierdak, Salvador Rangel, Terrence Schultz, Brian Combs, Scott Vierck, Todd Earhardt and Brady Kaisner. Great job, brothers!

Doug Vedas, P.S.

A Triple Crown Win & IBEW Crew at Belmont Stakes

L.U. 25 (ca/ntts), LONG ISLAND, NY—In a historic victory, American Pharoah recently won the Triple Crown. The group provides installation and repair services, communication construction services, and project management and support services to various customers. The group specializes in fibre optical as well as traditional copper infrastructure.

The 65 IBEW members working in this operations group are based in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, but have worked in all four Atlantic Provinces over the four years, racking up over 9 million kilometres of driving and working on nearly 500,000 job sites. During those four years the group had to navigate through 12 metres of snow and slug through more than 2 metres of rain.

Congratualtions to the entire group. Great job! Ross Galbraith, B.M./P.S.

Safety Milestone Achieved

L.U. 215 (em,es), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—IBEW Local 27 members employed with the Emera Utility Services’ Telecommunications group recently achieved a remarkable safety milestone of 1,500 days without a lost time incident. That is four years, one month and eight days. This accomplishment is extremely significant to this group as they work in all weather conditions—seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The Telecommunications group provides installation and repair services, communication construction services, and project management and support services to various customers. The group specializes in fibre optical as well as traditional copper infrastructure.

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The Electrical Worker | September 2015

Trade Classifications

| (as) Alarm & Signal | (et) Electronic Technicians | (mps) Motion Picture Studios | (rte) Radio-Television Service |
| (ars) Atomic Research Service | (fm) Fixture Manufacturing | (nst) Nuclear Service Technicians | (sco) Service Occupations |
| (bo) Bridge Operators | (gov) Government | (o) Outside | (so) Shopmen |
| (cs) Cable Splicers | (i) Inside | (p) Powerhouse | (se) Sign Erector |
| (catv) Cable Television | (ii) Instrument Technicians | (pet) Professional, Engineers & Technicians | (sp) Sound & Public Address |
| (c) Communications | (lct) Line Clearance Tree Trimming | (st) Sound Technicians | | |
| (cr) Crane Operators | (lp) Lightning Protection Technicians | (ptc) Professional, Technical & Clerical | (t) Telephone |
| (ees) Electrical Equipment Service | (mb) Maintenance | (tm) Transportation Manufacturing | (u) Utility |
| (ei) Electrical Inspection | (mo) Maintenance & Operation | (rr) Railroad | (uw) Utility Office Workers |
| (em) Electrical Manufacturing | (mo) Maintenance & Operation | (rtb) Radio-Television Broadcasting | (ws) Warehouse and Supply |
| (es) Electric Signs | (mar) Marine | (rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing | | |

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

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

Local 12 election judge and tellers gather for local union election day on June 6.

Some of the IBEW members who attended the 2015 3DYC/RENEW Tour.
day, all returned for morning seminars. At a closing segment, Local 43 Bus. Mgr. Mike Gaiser congratulated attendees for completing the weekend and taking an active role in becoming the future of the IBEW.

Seeing the weekend participation and enthusiasm firsthand renewed my faith that the IBEW and our brotherhood will continue to grow and help build our country’s future in the years ahead. Thank you to all who attended … “Two Days, Four Cities, Growing the Movement, One Person at a Time.”

Gregory R. Inglot, A.B.M.

A Night at the Ball Game & Charity for Kids Fundraiser

L.U. 43 (em,i&kts), SYRACUSE, NY—On Friday, June 19, Local 43 members and their families enjoyed an evening of Syracuse Chiefs baseball. Early arrivals were entertained by a pre-game concert by the band “Mini Kiss,” advertised as the world’s hottest, littlest tribute band! The nightly 50/50 raffle was co-sponsored by Local 43 and raised over $2,000 for Charity for Children. The night wrapped up with a spectacular fireworks display.

Even though the hometown Chiefs lost to the Buffalo Bisons by a score of 8-6, it was a pleasant evening to spend with Local 43’s brothers and sisters.

Gene Townsend, P.S.

Solidarity & Success

L.U. 47 (ktt,o,wu&kow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Local 47 extends greetings to all IBEW members.

Solidarity was in full force when IBEW members employed by Southern California Edison (SCE) voted overwhelmingly to ratify the General Benefits Agreement. Local 47 members also overwhelmingly ratified the: General Wages & Working Conditions Agreement; the Air/Ops Agreement; and the Surveyors Agreement. A special thank you to the bargaining and ballot committees for their time and efforts in what was a long and difficult process.

Local 47 rolls out the welcome mat and congratulates our newest members working with Pacific Coast Tree. They ratified their first contract by a vote of 71-5.

The Local held its 53rd Annual Memorial Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the event are used to fund the local’s Injured Workers Fund. The tournament is a good time for a good cause.

We are saddened by the passing of members Leno Sancy, Brian Thomas, Christopher Kelly and Chris Parazoo. May they rest in peace.


Stan Stosel, P.S.

Seminars held throughout the year. Planned outings, charity fundraisers, membership picnics and other activities were the focus of the meeting.

All who attended … “Two Days, Four Cities, Growing the Movement, One Person at a Time.”

New Executive Board Member

L.U. 111 (em,govt,tkt,mt,ctb,spa&k), DENVER, CO—We welcome Bro. John Martinez, who was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Local 111 Executive Board; he was appointed March 6 and in April was sworn in. John strongly believes in the need to have a union within company workplaces in our industrialized world.

John became a Local 111 member in 1987, as an apprentice at Port St. Vrain Power Plant for Public Service Company of Colorado. However, in May 1993 he took a nonunion position as an instrument technician at Cherokee Power Plant. But, John couldn’t stay away and subsequently returned as a Local 111 member. He took the lead along with Bros. Tim Lester and Patrick Gulick in organizing the Instrument and Control (I&C) technicians at PSCO in Colorado by starting discussions and dialogue about unionizing at his plant, followed by visiting the other PSCO plants and speaking to technicians, acquiring the necessary signed authorizations for certification. These efforts resulted in unionization of the I&C technicians. John served on the negotiating committee during the long, drawn-out process of getting this group “armour global” into the current collective bargaining agreement.

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.

The EMWC 3rd Annual Car Show & Poker Run on June 27 was a great success. Thank you to everyone who turned out and participated in the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus event.

Mike Kastelecky, P.S.

Lineman Hall of Fame

L.U. 125 (ktt,o,us), PORTLAND, OR—On May 16 this year, Harvey Haven was inducted into the International Lineman Hall of Fame. Known throughout the industry as a teaching legend, Harvey was celebrated for his contribution to the safety and education of apprentices and journeymen. Bonneville Power Administration journeyman lineman Tiny Anderson nominated him.

“Harvey has dedicated himself to safety and has selflessly shared his knowledge and passion with anyone who wants to accept it,” said Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri. “He’s a great mentor, friend and leader without ever sacrificing his commitment to excellence.”

“Thank you to Mrs. Debbie Haven for sharing her husband with all.”

Mike Kastelecky, P.S.

Boston Shines Project

L.U. 103 (cs&b), BOSTON, MA—On May 2, the Annual Boston Shines Project took place. Over 30 members of Local 103 and its young worker group, RENEW103, volunteered by cleaning up the neighborhood that surrounds our union hall, hitting the sidewalk armed with brooms, shovels and trash bags. Our members spent the morning making the Dorchester neighborhood shine. Thanks again to the members who gave us their Saturday morning to help out.

Local 103 held its 38th Annual Pin Night on June 23. Pin Night is an occasion to recognize our working and retired members for their years of IBEW service. The ceremony commences as members have their names announced and are often presented with an IBEW pin identifying their number of years served as an IBEW member. Congratulations to Robert W. Baker on receiving his 73-year pin. The night, as always, was special for Local 103, its members and families. Congratulations and thank you to all of the pin recipients for their dedication to the IBEW.

Kevin C. Molineaux, P.S.

Fundraisers, Picnics & Parades

L.U. 99 (govt), PROVIDENCE, RI—Contract negotiations, charity fundraisers, membership picnics and patriotic parades—we had a busy spring in some respects. At this writing, as we eased into summer we were hoping for the job calls to begin.

Our first Local 99 Bike Run was successfully launched on May 17, thanks to the efforts of event organizer Joe Walsh. The local plans to make the Bike Run an annual event. There was a big turnout, with over 250 folks participating, 147 of whom were motorcycle riders, raising money for cancer research. Once the final tally on the monies raised for the charity Pink Heals is in, we will report on the numbers and the check presentation.

Our 49th Annual Family Picnic was held at Goddess Park on June 7. Picnic committee chairman Mike Dami- co presided over the day, having ordered sunshine and tents weeks in advance. Close to 100 members and their families participated in games and raffles.

The Local 99 Marching Color Guard, led by Bus. Mgr. Mike Daley in Ben Franklin garb, walked and wowed the normally subdued Gaspee Days Parade crowd on June 13, as the Local 99 minibus crawled along behind the marchers.

Last year, contract negotiations were unresolvable at the local level and consequently moved to Washington, D.C., for Council on Industrial Relations (CIR) mediation.

William Smith, P.S.

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“Thank you to Mrs. Debbie Haven for sharing her husband with all.”

Members employed at Portland General Electric’s Gresham yard organized a “pass the hat” campaign to purchase a United States flag that measures 24 feet by 36 feet. Local 125 members and other PGE employees donated approximately $1,300 for the flag, which will be stored at the Local 125 business office. Executive Board member Randy Bryson said, “This flag can be used to honor the memory of any IBEW Local 125 member during a memorial or celebration of life ceremony. By having our own flag, we aren’t dependent on anyone else to recognize our own.”

Marcy Goel, A.B.M.

Scholarships Awarded; Sept. 12 Picnic/Fish Fry

L.U. 52 (atv,ltt,o,ptc,rtb,ltk&kow), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Our annual golf scholarship outing was another success and we were able to award eight $500 scholarships. Congratulations to scholarship recipients: Michael Beardsley, Phillip Cook, Kelsei Gottsner, Andrea Hettinger, Adriannna King, Jessica Leimbach, Coby Mumm and Kate Wildman. This year’s winning golf team consisted of Kyle Smith, Caleb Smith, Kyle Buchman and Justin Scherbring. Also a hearty congratulations to our special DL team: Tom Hocking, Dennis Hocking, Jeff Rivara and Dan Schmitz.

Two of our long-term executive board members are retiring, Tom Kane and Roger Beran. These brothers have supported our local union through the years and served on many contract negotiation committees. We thank them for their dedication to the IBEW and wish them the very best retirement.

Our annual picnic/fish fry is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12, at the local union. Please plan to attend and bring your family. At the time of this writing, our work picture is slow.

Kathleen Kinsley, B.R.
Work Picture Update
L.U. 141 (res,LosAl, WHEELING, WV—As of this writing, our work picture continues to hold steady, keeping the majority of our members employed.

There recently was a major announcement that a large fraction plant might be built in our jurisdiction, in Belmont County, Ohio. PTT Global Chemical has reportedly narrowed its search for a site to Belmont County, which would be a huge boost to our possible work outlook and local economy. The project is projected to cost an estimated $5 billion, and the final decision for the location should come sometime in 2016.

As this article went to press, we were busy planning our local picnic and golf scramble which were scheduled for Aug. 15, as well as a motorcycle club ride. Congratulations to retired member Stan Jasinski on receiving his pin for 60 years of IBEW service.

Michael Parker, P.S.

Local Lines

February is Love Month
L.U. 191 (c,lmr,rtb,bs), EVERETT, WA—Greetings from IBEW Local 191. We are experiencing a very good work picture and we thank our members and travelers for helping us.

At this writing, many Local 191 summertime social events for members and their families were planned, including golf and picnics on both the Westside and Eastside. The members and their families always enjoy such occasions to get together for fun and fellowship. We appreciate the participants and volunteers who help make these events a great success.

Our inside agreement was recently extended for three years, with package increases of $5.99 for the Westside and $5.39 for the Eastside. The membership overwhelmingly approved the package. Thanks go to Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Joseph Lorenzo and his negotiating team.

The local is upgrading its phone system to better link our four office locations. It will also allow us to do broadcast text to members for important events and issues.

Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Lorenzo has instituted an intern program to train young leaders on how our locals operate. Currently, Bros. Tim Kornelis and Gary Kemp are learning organizing, dispatch and representation. Welcome, brothers!

Lastly, we had a busy legislative session at our state Capitol, trying to advance positive bills and block anti-labor proposals. Thank you to all the members who assisted in these efforts.

Bill Mirand, P.S.

Leadership & Solidarity
L.U. 145 (em,lt,se,598us), ROCK ISLAND, IL—Officers and members of Local 145 congratulate IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson on his recent appointment. We are very proud of Int. Pres. Stephenson, who in earlier years served as Local 145 business manager, and we stand shoulder to shoulder with all fellow brothers and sisters in supporting him in his leadership of this great union! We also extend our best wishes to Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill for a wonderful retirement.

Labor Day... a time to reflect, to be thankful and to celebrate the great men and women, current and past, for all their efforts in the labor movement. A labor union is an association of workers that promotes and protects the welfare and rights of its members. We are grateful to be where we are today because of the sacrifices of so many people who care about the labor movement.

Our work outlook for the fall season is anticipated to pick up. Two land-casino and related hotel projects are underway. Work at the ALCOA Plant (Davenport Works) is expected to help keep our members busy during the fall/winter months.

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

Dan Larson, P.S.

New Training Center Update
L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—As of this mid-summer writing, the Wisconsin Legislature was still working on the state budget. At this writing, a prevailing-wage bill was also still up in the air, as Republicans sought to repeal prevailing-wage statutes.

In other news, this is an exciting time at the Local 159 office as construction moves along on our New Training Center and we work to prepare for fall classes. We are also planning the Training Center Grand Opening celebration scheduled for Oct. 10.

With this new facility, we want to focus on our training more intensively on emerging technologies like BAS (Building Automation Systems) and other low-voltage systems. Our future depends upon our ability to innovate.

Please note our new address, 4903 Commerce Ct., McFarland, WI 53558. Our other contact information remains the same.

Lisa Goodman, B.A.

Work Picture is Good
L.U. 191 (c,lmr,rtb,bs), EVERETT, WA—Greetings from IBEW Local 191. We are experiencing a very good work picture and we thank our members and travelers for helping us.

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Bill Mirand, P.S.

September Activities
L.U. 297 (em,lt,rtb,bs), BLOOMINGTON, IL—During the summer our work picture picked up with a few small projects at Nestle Beich, Kongskilde, and Cargill. However, that uptick in our work picture doesn't appear long-term as of now. The work outlook for our sister locals looks positive, so we encourage our out-of-office members to sign a few books. Thank you to those locals that are putting our members to work.

In September, we will march in the McLean County Labor Day parade once again, with a picnic at the hall afterward. The hall sent communications about when and where to line up if there are questions, please call. Please attend and invite family and friends. It will be a good day to celebrate with brothers and sisters.

On Sept. 12, the Illinois State Redbirds Football team open up at home, and the McLean County Building Trades are holding a Union Day for the occasion. We do a lot of work at Illinois State University and have members employed by ISU, so it’s fitting that we support the school’s programs and also join fellow union members for fun and comradeship. Discounted tickets are available for $22, which includes a tailgate with food, beverages and activities before the game. Tickets are available to union members and family; please check our website www.ibew197.org for details.

Work safe and get involved in the local and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, Pres.

"INPO Excellent Rating"
L.U. 245 (gov,kt11,rtb,bs), TOLEDO, OH—On the utility side, congratulations to Davis Besse and Beaver Valley nuclear power plants—both plants received an Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) excellent rating. Nuclear power plants are graded every two years by the INPO. This is the third consecutive excellent rating for Davis Besse and the fourth for Beaver Valley. Both are INPO plants in the First Energy Fleet.

On the broadcast side, congratulations and thanks to Jack Schell, a longtime steward at public broadcast station WGBG Channel 30. Jack became a Local 245 member in 1973 and served on the Executive Board for 23 years. Jack retired June 30 this year.

On politics... it seems that everybody wants to run for president, especially in the Republican Party. At press time, there are 16 Republican candidates for president. Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who announced his candidacy July 21, became the 16th announced Republican candidate for president as of this writing. These candidates offer us an array of anti-worker, anti-union and anti-immigrant platforms. It seems they are anti-everything, but that shouldn’t surprise us—after the last eight years, they proved that in the U.S. Congress. I mean, how many times can you vote on the Affordable Care Act with the same results before you get the picture?

On a more pleasant note, football season is upon us and this will be an exciting year for us Buckeye fans. Work safe, come home the way you left ... and “Go Bucks.”

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.

Paint the Town Project
L.U. 297 (em,lt,rtb,bs), BOISE, ID—Greetings from the Gem State! Local 297 has been very busy these last couple of months with our inside negotiations, the Idaho State AFL-CIO Convention, and a community service project called Paint the Town.

Negotiations for our inside collective bargaining agreement went well very well. We were able to agree to a raise and a longevity contract. A very big thank-you goes out to our negotiating committee and especially to those who sat at the table with the contractors.

The state AFL-CIO Convention is always a great opportunity to network with other unions and friends of labor. Congratulations to all the newly elected officials including one of our own brothers, Aaron White, who was re-elected as president of the Idaho State AFL-CIO.

Local 291 participated with the Boise Central Trades & Labor Council in a community service project called Paint the Town. This program sends out volunteers to people who own houses that need a little touching up but are unable to do the work themselves due to disabilities. We are proud to give back to the community and help out those in need.

Keep calm, stay strong and work union.

Nick Baumann, P.S.

Stay Informed & Involved
L.U. 399 (lt,ltm,mt,art,spak), COLUMBUS, OH—The inside Wireman’s agreement was recently bargained. Attentive settlement was reached June 30. The four-year agreement was ratified by members on July 14.

Gov. Bruce Rauner has been going to various cities and counties and talking about his so-called “turnaround agenda.” Our Local 399 officers and members have been joining forces with other trade unions to show the governor our displeasure with his relentless attacks on the working class.

Stay informed by giving the local union your e-mail address or mobile phone number to receive a mass text.


Local 257 members volunteered to help local charity Clare House update its wiring. From left: Jason Bohm, Ken McLean, Tina Spula (from Clare House), Matt Strupp and Dennis Nolan.


Local 141 Bus. Mgr. Thomas Connor (left) awards 60-year pin to retiree Stan Jasinski.
Welcome to New Members

L.U. 317 (i,o,rls,1,k), HUNTINGTON, WV—Welcome to our new brothers and sisters from Asplundh Tree Experts!

For the past several months our organizers, our business manager and the entire office staff have been busy working on the Asplundh Tree Experts organizing campaign. While the hard work is far from being finished, the campaign has been a huge success to date. So far 22 Asplundh lots have elected to have Local 317 represent them. That translates to more than 600 hard-working men and women who stood up and exercised their right to organize and join a union. Their fight is far from over, as they now work to secure a fair contract. If you see these new brothers and sisters out working just in the community, take a minute to welcome them to the IBEW family.

I’d also like to remind everyone to “like” our Local 317 Facebook pages, www.facebook.com/ibew317 and www.facebook.com/317news, to keep up to date on what’s going on with the local and our community. It is important to stay informed on the issues that affect our livelihoods, and social media is one way we are able to do that.

James Stacy, P.S.

‘Annual Fish Tales’

L.U. 343 (i,spakst), LE SUEUR, MN—Rainy weather did not discourage the group of approximately 15 members and sisters out working or just in the community, take a minute to welcome them to the IBEW family.

L.U. 375 (cavers,8), ALENTOWN, PA—IBEW Local 375 celebrated Memorial Day by holding its annual picnic on Saturday, May 23, at Dorney Park and Wild Water Kingdom. Approximately 624 members and their families attended the fun day featuring food, beverages and rides.

We welcome our newest journeypersons, who graduated this June. Congratulations to: Rodney Fritchman, Eric Keck, Jean Mascornick, Alexander Reich, Anthony Smith, Neil Trestok and Steven Wehr.

Our IBEW Local 375 Night at the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs was Monday, July 20. This was our second promotional night with our Triple A affiliate baseball team, the Iron Pigs. That date also happened to be June 21 — the summer solstice. To his surprise, Mike landed a 57-inch sturgeon weighing 17 pounds. To his delight, he scooped it out of the water. To his net. “He spotted something floating. Swinging his net,” he said.

“Home Electrical Safety” as well as information on our apprenticeship training.

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

Strong Work Picture

L.U. 479 (em,1,ktct,ogt,rlb,k), NASHVILLE, TN—Greetings, brothers and sisters.

Our work picture looks strong. At this summer writing, we are going into Book 2 at times. Our signatory contractors are winning work that was once handled by nonunion contractors. Customers are seeing the value of skilled organized workers thanks to our membership development. Jobsites hiring electricians here include tire plants, a tile plant, the Bank Bowl-a-Thon Fundraiser. This Labor-Management Cooperation Committee community service project was again a great success. Over 151 pounds of canned goods were collected and we raised over $2,200.

Bowling score results were as follows: highest scoring individual—Shane Sanchez; highest overall scoring team—the “Lindsey Lebowski’s” of Lindsey Watters, Shane Sanchez, Damian Sanchez and Steven Keys; highest scoring apprentice team—the “Gutter Gang 415” of Ryan McCormick, Wayne Ito, Shaun Griffin and Clarence Caldwell; lowest scoring team—the “Concentric Knock-outs” team of Sam Wellford, Kyle Sousa, Eric Perez and Juan Salcedo.

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


L.U. 317 (c,rls,1,k), TOLEDO, OH—At a recent general meeting, Local 317 officers and members celebrated newly elected U.S. Rep. Donald Nor-
Volunteers & Graduates

L.U. 483 (eis,em,unrtts&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Congratulations to newly appointed IBEW Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. David J. Ruhmkorff, a fellow Local 483 member. We wish him the best of luck in his new leadership role with the IBEW.

In May, Local 483 was proud to welcome the latest class of journeyman welders, as 14 apprentices passed their final exams. Congratulations, graduates! This is an accomplishment you all should be very proud of. I encourage you to stay active in the local. Good luck in your careers as journeymen.

Also in May, many Local 483 volunteers joined Bro. Ruhmkorff to come together to revive a house for a Hearts and Hands project. It was an opportunity for our members to once again give back to the community. It is always great to see our members take advantage of opportunities to represent IBEW Local 483 in such a positive way. Thanks to all the volunteers for doing a great job completing the project.

Blake Andrews, R.S.

Making a Difference: IBEW Community Service

L.U. 483 (at), TACOMA, WA—Annually for the past four years, IBEW Local 483 has participated in Pierce County Central Labor Council’s Annual Peanut Butter Drive to assist Pierce County’s Emergency Food Network.

At our first drive four years ago, we raised 483 jars, and each year since then our members have more than doubled the amount raised in the previous year.

This year, Bus. Mgr. Alice Phillips challenged the Local 483 members to raise 3,483 jars of peanut butter. She said if they were successful, she would wear a Batman suit for a day. Not only did the members exceed the challenge and raise 4,028 jars of peanut butter, but they also formed a human chain to deliver the six tons of peanut butter over a block away to the Pierce County Central Labor Council office. The peanut butter was then transferred to the Emergency Food Network for distribution to area Pierce County food banks to provide lunch to children throughout the summer.

Bus. Mgr. Phillips extends a sincere thank-you to those involved in the food drive to help provide Pierce County with a nutritional source of food for area children.

Alice Phillips, B.M./F.S.

‘Greetings from the North Bay’

L.U. 557 (l.,rtts&spa), SAN RAFAEL, CA—Congratulations to our class of 2015, apprenticeship graduates! The new inside wiremen are: Artur Jagoda, Ben Souza, Cornelius Bacy-Cruz, Chris Clinton, Simon Geddes, Arthur Cader, Bud Glick and William Leeming. The new Sound & Communications installers are: Peter Finney, Adrian Hardesty, Angelo Scalise and Wainui Jean-Pierre. We wish you all the very best in your new careers in our great trade profession. Stay busy and work safe! The books are cooking here with everyone working. We had a three-week spell in June with open calls; thankfully, they were filled within 48 hours. We appreciate the travelers coming in to fill these needs. Travelers, please be advised that you will need California State Certification to take a call from this hall.

Our project-labor-arrangement (PLA) Marin General Hospital project broke ground in June. The general contractor for the Casino Hotel project, also a PLA job, was awarded in June and as of this writing we anticipate that work to start in September.

We remove our hardhats for three members who recently passed away: Bro. Ralph Tweddel, who was a 43-year member; Bro. Allan Muggin, 47-year member; and Bro. Bob Barnes, 53-year member. They will be remembered.

Local 557 members at the Caro Center job site in Caro, MI.

Standing up for Workers

L.U. 557 (l.,rtts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Things have been very busy in our state. With work being at a moderate rate in our local, many of our members have been able to remain close to home and work in surrounding localities. We secured a three-year contract in April.

Workers in our state have been under attack with attempts to repeal of the prevailing wage law. Many people throughout our communities and the state are working tirelessly to increase awareness about the issue, and as of this writing we have seen some success. Although the state Senate voted in May for repeal of the prevailing wage law, as of press time no further action has been taken in the state House. The governor has shown no interest in repeal of the prevailing wage law, however, as of press time opponents of working people are attempting to gain signatures for a ballot measure to repeal prevailing wage law. We continue our fight to defend the interests of working people in Michigan.

Local 557 congratulates IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson on his recent appointment. Also, we thank Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill for his dedicated service and we wish him a happy retirement.

We encourage members to remain active in their communities. There are many volunteer opportunities, and helping the community is a great way for union members to make a positive impact.

Howard Reardon, P.S.

Veteran of the Year

L.U. 569 (l.unrtts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—IBEW Local 569 member Ramon Castro was named as the 48th Assembly District’s “2015 Veteran of the Year” by California Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia. “Ramon has valiantly fought for our country while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, and has continued to dedicate his life by helping local veterans in Imperial County,” Assembly Member Garcia said. “I applaud his honorable and faithful service.” Through his many collaborative efforts, Ramon has improved the quality of life for veterans in Imperial County.

We wish to also congratulate our recent apprenticeship graduates.

Our new inside wiremen graduates are: Chase Beck, Dominic Cardenas, Luke Else, Kevin Frederikc, Francisco Jimenez, Timothy Leisch, Jose Magana, Ronrie Maynard, Timothy Ram, Daniel Riley, Ben Rackle, Christopher Sanchez, Joseph Schmidt, John Sherrill, Devin Wilcox and Jesse Williams.

Our new sound technician graduates are: Angel Bernal, Nicholas English, Jeremy Graham, David Korn and Hector Murieta. Graduates, your work and success in our apprentice- ship program and union make us proud!

Finally, we extend our thanks to the hundreds of IBEW Local 569 members, families and volunteers who attended our annual picnic for a full day of fun, food and sun! Together, we’re strengthening our union and advocating for working families and good jobs.

Gretchen K. Newsam, P.S./Organizer

Belmont Park Train Station Renovation Project a Success

L.U. 59 (t), JAMAI- CA, CA—The 14th running of the Bel- mont Stakes took place Saturday, June 6. Members of Local 59 and other crafts on the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) worked very hard and against the clock to have the newly reno- vated Belmont Park train station up and running for the race.

The platforms were remodeled, and our electricians installed new, efficient lighting and power through- out the station. Additionally, our third-rail members ensured that the trains would have the power to transport the 20,000-plus fans to and from this small station.

On the big day, thousands of fans came to see if American Pharaoh would seize the Triple Crown (which he did, by the way). The electric train fleet of the LIRR transported 9,000 passengers in the first half-hour; by the time the race was over, more than 24,000 passengers had passed through our new station platforms. Local 59 thanks all of our members involved in this very important project. They “stepped up” and got the job done.

Bob Tieman, B.R.

California Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia (left) named IBEW Local 569 member Ramon Castro (center) as a 2015 Veteran of the Year. Bro. Castro was joined by family members at the awards presentation.

Big Projects Ongoing

L.U. 601 (i&rk), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—At this summer writing, work in our local is great. Our Book I is clear and there are currently 265 on Book II. We have been putting Book II out for over a month as of this writing, with the prospect of more jobs for our traveling brothers and sisters in the near future as we anticipate about two years of new commercial con- struction in the area.

We have several big jobs that are ongoing.

IBEW Specialized Training— Evolving Construction Industry

L.U. 595 (c,go,mt,ts&etks), DUBUQ, IA—Will there be a need for tape measures in the future? Of course, we will always have one in our tool box. Today’s industry has evolved utilizing 3D modeling and GPS or laser-guided navigation for underground and above-ground structures. Local 595’s own Susan Bowron has developed a class and instructs begin- ning and advanced journeyman training using Auto- CAD’s MEP 3D Modeling and NAVIS Manage, starting with basic 2D designs and progressing to advanced 3D modeling. After nearly one year of training, Susan’s students receive a certificate of completion from Autodesk. Bowron graduated from the Inside Wieman apprentice program in 2011 and immediate- ly joined the 3D modeling team with one of the Bay Area’s largest contractors, using her skills to design hospitals and high-tech facilities.

Once layout points are created within the 3D model, they can be easily exported to a field layout instrument such as Trimble and Total Station, also cov- ered with hands-on training, for easy stake-out in the field without the need of strings and tape measure.

Construction has become increasingly complex, with tighter schedules and budgets. Use of Building Information Modeling (BIM) software on-site and in the office has helped to streamline workflows, main- tain more accurate information and avoid conflicts with other crafts before construction even starts.

Susan’s class is training our members in this emerging technology. It’s a demanding class, but with her expertise, preparation and patience it remains one of our most sought-after courses in our journeyman training program.

Auggie Macaronne, R.S.
Apprentice Graduates; Election Time in Canada

L.U. 625 (c,es,em,Jt,mark,m), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—A big congratulations goes out to the members who recently completed their apprenticeship programs. They are: Donald L. LeBlanc, Donald Chisholm, Brad Wood, Jon Enslow, Blaine Hamilton, Joseph Allen, Derick Hudson and Phil MacCormack. We are on track to graduate 50 percent more journeyman wiremen this year than in 2014 and 100 percent more than in 2013. When we start delivering our own Block Training in 2016, we will accelerate apprenticeship completions even more.

A couple of members retired in the last three months: Bros. Peter Citlalkisi and Robert Langille. I missed mentioning Bernie Machel, who retired in June 2014. My apologies, Bernie. Remember to put your name in for the 125th Annual Retirees Banquet this fall. It is always a great meal with a dance and prizes.

This fall is election time in Canada. Hopefully union members in Canada will show Harper’s Conservatives that we don’t stand for attacks on our way of life. If the middle class is to survive in this country, we need to elect progressive representation. Vote for real change and give the New Democratic Party (NDP) a chance to make Canada the country it should be: democratic, respectful and responsible.

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.

September & School Season

L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL—Brothers and sisters, in our daily travels let’s please remember that children and school buses are on the road after the summer lull. Drive as if the children are yours.

Congratulations to newly appointed INT. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson. Also, best wishes to recently retired INT. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill. There is not enough space to recall here all that Pres. Emeritus Hill has done for our members.

The Ironman Tournament has replenished our teams on the roster; this is always a great occasion to support our team and have a meal and a beverage!

Daniel Hatter, P.S.

Training & Mentorship

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH—One of our longtime contractors, Goulder Electric, has faced some of the same challenges that our local is facing. Just as the local’s membership is aging, so are many of the employees of Goulder. Over the past few years Goulder has begun adding some fine young journeymen to its crew. It is only a matter of time before these talented brothers will be running major projects for this company as other members retire.

One of the assets that both Goulder and our local are fortunate to have are foremen like Roy Breedlove (photo, pg. 12) who are willing to spend time with young journeymen such as Nate Balaban (pictured). We are grateful.

Local 649 apprentice graduates, from left: outstanding apprentice award recipient Tibor Pasti, Matt Flores, Kevin Grimes, Tom Drudge, Robert Knightes, Jesse Campos, Nick Cooper, Robert Martell and Taylor McKeever.

Leonard Ellis, B.M./F.S.
not born with an innate sense of how to run a job properly. Only through education and encouragement from qualified electricians is that accomplished. Over the years we’ve seen this process (changing of the guard), I can’t help but acknowledge what a great institution we have in the JATC. Our method of developing electricians is something that should make us all proud. Good luck to all our new journeyman wiremen.

Editor’s Note: The National Joint Apprentice-ship 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.ibew697.org for voting and election details. Registration and polling info is available at www.Indi-anaWorkersVote.com.

Jim Brounhilch, P.S.

Stand Up for Working People

L.U. 725 (Lts&Spa), TERRE HAUTE, IN—Congratulations to the Terre Haute Electric-al JATC Class of 2015! We have 11 new inside journeyman wiremen and one new residential wireman. Justin Hedden was recognized as the Outstanding Apprentice. Great job to all of you, graduates! We look forward to your continued participation in the local’s activities and keeping our union strong.

[Editor’s Note: The National Joint Apprentice-ship 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.ibew697.org for voting and election details. Registration and polling info is available at www.Indi-anaWorkersVote.com.]

We hope that anyone who has not registered to vote takes the time to do so now for next year’s elections. If you haven’t voted lately, you may want to reconsider doing so at this juncture. As Indiana has lost every pro-worker and pro-union law on the books in the last few elections as a result of actions by our state Republi-can legislators, Illinois now faces a similar battle.

Please think about how important your vote is, how important it is to educate your family and friends, and especially how important it is to talk with your co-workers about your paycheck, your livelihood, and your work opportunities. With our worker rights won over a 100-year period, we are now having all of those benefits taken away in a flash, in large part because we voted against our own economic interests or because we think our vote doesn’t matter. Vote your paycheck!

Tom Szymanski, P.S.

Some of the IBEW Local 773 electricians and travellers who worked on the Fiat Chrysler plant project in Windsor, Ontario.

Fiat Chrysler Plant Project

L.U. 773 (Lts,m,em,i), WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA—The Fiat Chrysler Windsor Assembly Plant (formerly known as Chrysler Minivan Plant) located in Windsor, Ontario, recently completed a major retooling, which included the Metal/Body, Paint and Trim Shops. The Body Shop retooling included a Pulse conveyor, which uses linear synchronous motor technol-ogy to move a parts carrier through the robot line weld stations. The FCA plant also features a “Skillet” platform assembly system with the capability of height adjustment for personnel working on the line. Both of these new technologies involved increased electrical content, which resulted in a great-er number of electrical man-hours for our membership during the shutdown. The plant will once again be able to build different vehicle models on the same assem-bly line. At press time, another scheduled summer shutdown of the FCA plant was underway to finish off needed changes required for a new vehicle launch.

Local 773 thanks all the members, union stewards and 300 IBEW travellers it took to complete this project. As we have done in the past, under tight time lines and schedules, the project was finished on time—and we delivered another “IBEW quality” project.

David Spencer, P.S.

Tribute to Union Brother

L.U. 827 (cat,bk), EAST WINDSOR, ON—On Sunday, May 24, this year Local 827 joined together with the De Pinho family to celebrate the life of deceased member John A. De Pinho at a Red Bulls soccer game and pregame tailgate in Harrison, NJ. [See photo at bottom, right.] Brother John passed away suddenly in January after surgery at the young age of 32.

Local 827 will always remember John as a dedicated union steward, Bartian Unit chairman, ACCSL (Advisory Council on Career and Life Strategies) advo-cate, and dear friend to all who knew him. John was always in attendance at all union functions and will be deeply missed by all.

Suzanne M. Wollin, R.S.

Election of Officers

L.U. 1015 (em,i), WESLACO, TX—Things are alive and well in Local 1015.

Elections got underway Thursday, June 11, in the south Texas region as dedicated union members flood-ed the hall to show their support for their local union.

With the final vote count in, the following officers won re-election for a three-year term: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Sergio Salinas, Pres. Angel Castilllos, Sec. Rec. Pablo Puente and Treas. Wenceslao Castaneda. Paul Sly also won re-election as an Executive Board mem-ber and is now joined by newly elected E-Board mem-bers Oscar Villagomez and Ray Duran. Local 1015 also

Co-writer: Suzanne M. Wollin, R.S.

IBEW Union Pride — Power Line Extension Project

L.U. 777 (b,p,read,cn), PA—IBEW Local 777 was tasked with running a power line extension to part of Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P.’s project Mariner East. Mariner East is a natural gas pipeline that will run from Delmont Station in Westmoreland County in central Pennsylvania to Marcus Hook on the Dela-ware River just outside of Philadelphia.

The $2.5 billion project will deliver natural gas liq-uids from the shale regions to Sunoco Logistics’ Marcus Hook Industrial Complex where it will be processed, stored and distributed locally and internationally.

Local 777 within two weeks helped organize and stock a remote staging area from which line men and crew leaders worked. The job involved the installation of 42 poles, 6.5 miles of wire, re-closers, regulators, a capacitor bank and overhead switches. Also, extensive support work was required from the substation, meter and relay departments.

Forty-seven days into the project, the three-phase primary feed for the Beckersville Station went into service. The crews finished the assignment two weeks ahead of schedule and well under budget.

Mark Power, P.S.

IBEW Local 827 members join the De Pinho family at soccer game to celebrate the life of the late Bro. John A. De Pinho.
Welcome to New Graduates

L.U. 1105, (i), NEWARK, OH—On May 27 at our annual banquet, we celebrated the graduation of the apprenticeship class of 2015. Our local’s newest graduates from the Newark JATC all received their completion certificates. The 2015 graduates are: Christopher Barker, Dale Brown, Travis Eddlebithe and Christopher Barker. Not pictured: Dale Brown.

[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.]

We are proud of all of these outstanding graduates. This year’s Outstanding Apprentice Award recipient was Christopher Barker. Congratulations to all! We wish you all a long and wonderful career with the IBEW!

On May 13, our local held our first blood drive in association with the American Red Cross. Turnout was good and we hope to hold many future blood drives. At this writing a second drive was scheduled for July 14 and we hope to improve on the turnout.

It is with great sadness that we extend condolences to the families of our recently deceased retirees: David Kuster and Joseph Paul.

William Hamilton, B.M.

Business Manager Retires

L.U. 1245 (catv,ctt,lctt,o,p&t,o,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—We mourn the recent loss of Rec. Sec. Chris Habeker. Chris was more than an officer, activist and leader; she was a sister and a friend to all. Chris played a significant role in keeping the union financially sound, and in expanding the union’s power through the creation of safety stewards and organizing stewards.

Congratulations to members from Modesto Irrigation District (MID)—Matt McCurdy, Sean Coulson, Brian Szuggar and James Boere—for taking first place in this year’s American Public Power Association Rodeo. Journeymen and apprentices from Sacramento Municipal Utility District, which hosted the rodeo, also took several awards, as did apprentices from the City of Roseville and MID. Also participating were members from Turlock Irrigation District, City of Lodi and City of Healthburg.

PG&E workers competed in a local rodeo for the chance to participate in the upcoming national gas rodeos in Colorado Springs. Apprentices from Pacific Gas & Electric and NV Energy participated in a line workers rodeo in Reno that raised over $12,000 for charity.

We salute Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill for his leadership and wish him well in retirement. We are excited at the prospect of working with our new Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson.

The work picture remains steady in outside construction, with various projects across California and Nevada. We are working to secure a project labor agreement for the CalTrain project, the 54-mile electrification of CalTrain through San Francisco, San Mateo and San Jose.

Local 1245 recently piloted a day-long orientation program for new members, immersing them in local union history and opportunities for participation.

Eric Wolf, P.S.

Tribute to a Life of Service; IBEW Rodeo Champions

L.U. 1245, (catem,ctt,ctt,ctt,ctt,ctt,ctt), VACAVILLE, CA—We mourn the recent loss of Rec. Sec. Chris Habeker. Chris was more than an officer, activist and leader; she was a sister and a friend to all. Chris played a significant role in keeping the union financially sound, and in expanding the union’s power through the creation of safety stewards and organizing stewards.

Congratulations to members from Modesto Irrigation District (MID)—Matt McCurdy, Sean Coulson, Brian Szuggar and James Boere.

IBEW RENEW Volunteers

L.U. 1393 (catv,ctt,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—The RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) committee of IBEW Local 1393 has been busy! In recent months, RENEW volunteers participated in several community service activities. These included volunteering at a food pantry in Indianapolis, the Cupboard of Lawrence Township, as well as running a charity golf scramble in Sullivan, IN, to benefit the Riley Children’s Foundation. The foundation supports research and family resources at the Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis. Children visit RCH more than 300,000 times each year. As one of the nation’s leading hospitals, RCH reportedly treats over 80 percent of the children in Indiana diagnosed with cancer, and is home to a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center.

The RENEW committee will be involved in several Labor Day festivities where we will focus on showing union pride as well as recruitment for our apprenticeship training opportunities. We'll be involved in celebrations throughout the state, in Petersburg, Terre Haute and Indianapolis.

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

IBEW 50-Year Pins Awarded

Anchorage, AK, Local 1547 Bus. Mgr. Mike Hodkinson (left) presents IBEW 50-year service awards to retired journeyman wiremen Alan Dickson (center) and Donald Cox (right). The awards presentation took place at a recent Unit 101 general meeting in Anchorage.

Local Leadership Transitions; 2015 Election of Officers

L.U. 5759 (i&u), AUGUSTA, GA—Former Bus. Mgr. Ken Ward and Pres. Raymond Hawkinberry retired at the end of their term in July. A big thank you to both of these leaders for their service and dedication to the IBEW. Local 5759 held its scheduled election of officers in June. Officers elected for the three-year term are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Will Sallters, Pres. Rick Dubose, Vice Pres. Chuck Anderson, Rec. Sec. Betty Griffin, Treas. Jason Allen and Executive Board members Lee Bussy, Chris Byrd, Tim Crabb, Tommie Crabb, Ken Green, Wayne Iby and Wes Young. Delegates to the IBEW Convention are: Rick Dubose and Brian Mcgowan.

Congratulations to all fellow Local 5759 officers, and thank you to all who participated in the democratic process.

Until next time, God bless.

Will Sallters, B.M./F.S.

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

www.ibew.org

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

YouTube

For the past four years, Local 95 members have worked to restore the town of Joplin, Mo. after an F-5 tornado killed 161 people and destroyed the city on May 22, 2011. YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker

Vimeo

With a 99 percent female bargaining unit, Toronto, Ontario, Local 636 members work to keep the Windsor Regional Hospital moving forward. Vimeo.com/IBEW.

HourPower

The IBEW is about more than the work done on the job. In this edition of Hour Power, we go along for the annual IBEW Motorcycle Ride to see the fun, camaraderie and brotherhood firsthand. IBEWHourPower.com

ElectricTV

In the latest feature from ElectricTV.net, take a closer look at the clean, sustainable, renewable energy produced by Copper Mountain Solar 3, a project made possible by the NECA/IBEW team.
Club Activities & Trips

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU CHAPTER—“How we can live to be 100 years old and remain active” was the topic of a seminar at the new state-of-the-art Education Center in Cutchogue, Long Island. We also learned how, in a seated position, we can exercise at any age. We learned how to watch what we eat to be able to live longer and healthier. The weather for the three days was spectacular as was the Wednesday night barbecue provided by our members. Who would ever thought an electrician could be a culinary artist?

Nassau chapter is a very active club. So far this year we have had a Saint Patrick’s Day luncheon and a 9/11 Memorial & Museum trip. We enjoyed a Broadway show and dinner afterward, as well as a spring luncheon hosted by the Wives & Widows group. At the June luncheon, we presented the Sam Misceti Good Guy Award to Bob Cooper. The annual fishing trip was also a great outing, and we actually caught fish. At this writing, we were looking forward to our Annual Picnic in August, where everyone always enjoys the food, fun and games. At press time, we were also getting ready for a September Labor Day tribute to the IBEW and all New York City workers. Hope everyone has enjoyed a great and safe summer. Looking forward to a seeing everyone in September.

John Milligan, P.S.

Suffolk Chapter Activities

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER—At our June meeting, a report was given on our scheduled upcoming events. These included: the Labor Day parade, a bus trip to the Rockefeller Estate, and our stay at the Long Island Educational Center.

We also will have a barbecue in September as well as our holiday party in December.

When we arrived at the Long Island Educational Center, we were greeted by Thomas Gallager, Local 3 pension director. Mr. Gallager reported on what is happening in our industry. He stressed how important it is for us to stay involved politically and encouraged us to attend the Labor Day parade.

Stephanie Salaldino, Educational Center director, welcomed us to the facility and said the staff was there to help make our stay safe and enjoyable. We attended two informative lectures. The first was given by Judy Blades, wellness director for our local, who spoke about portion control and diet. Erica Vinas, nutritionist and dietician, spoke about maintaining a healthy lifestyle and provided nutrition tips for good health.

It was great to see so many of our members. The barbecue committee did a great job and everyone had a fun time. We also enjoyed a make-your-own ice cream sundae party.

John Rich, P.S.

Panama Canal Cruise

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WEST FLORIDA CHAPTER—This past spring, seven members of our Retirees Club and their wives took an 11-day cruise to the Panama Canal aboard the “Coral Princess” of Princess Cruise Line.

This was our seventh retirees cruise. We also took a ship tour of the new section of the canal, which is still under construction and is due to be opened in February 2016.

Ben Costa, P.S.

Observing Labor Day

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT—On this Labor Day holiday, let us remember all the men and women before who became IBEW members in order to seek a higher standard of living for themselves, their families and fellow workers in the trade among other worthy goals. I look out at the Hartford skyline and reminisce about all the jobsites we have worked on. Local 35 members should be so proud! As retirees, we are grateful for all the improvements made in our medical, pension, and annuity plans. These accomplishments have made our retirement more comfortable.

We join our brothers and sisters in Local 30 in grieving the loss of their business manager, Frank J. Hallowais. Frank was a dedicated, hard-working man with a vibrant personality. He will be sorely missed.

We would like to wish Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill a healthy and prosperous retirement. We thank him for his dedicated IBEW service.

Kenneth R. White, P.S.

September Fishing Trip

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 42, HARTFORD, CT—The Retirees Club invites anyone who is a retired member of Local 42 to come and join them. If you would like to get out of the house or take some time out of your busy life for a couple of hours, then come on down and join them.

Club meetings are held bimonthly on Tuesdays at 12 noon, at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Members Club meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Association of Retirees, Wives and Widows, 15300 E. 14 Mile Rd., Warren, MI. The Retired Members Club meets the second Thursday of the month at 12 noon, at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Training Bldg., 3630 Belgium Lane. Please join us.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Travel, Picnic & Pin Party

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI—April 25 was the date of our Association of Retirees, Wives and Widows annual Pin Party. This year Teese, Ray Owen received his 70-year pin. Congratulations to all who were honored.

Our Annual Picnic was held again this year at Rotary Park, in Livonia, on Aug. 26. This gathering is a favorite for our group, with members and their guests enjoying the usual picnic fare, fellowship and lots of euchre games. The day began with coffee and doughnuts at 10 a.m.

This year’s Pin Party was a big hit with our guests, with everyone enjoying the usual picnic fare, fellowship and lots of euchre games. The day began with coffee and doughnuts at 10 a.m.

Our Annual Fall Bus Trip this year is going to New York City. With three buses full, this promises to be a good time for all aboard. We will tour all the popular spots within the city, including time at the World Trade Center memorial site. Much thanks to Rick Koerber for spearheading these trips for our group.

Evidence of board member Barb McNamara’s green thumb can be seen when visiting our union hall. She gathered dozens of hosta plants for new flower beds, some created as a result of renovations to our parking lot. This outdoor beautification will be enjoyed by our members and their neighbors for years to come.

Pat Nuznov, P.S.

Service Awards Presentation

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX—On May 14, Local 60 retirees held a very special meeting to award several group members. Honorees in attendance included seven retired members: Bros. John Weber, Leroy Joost, Robin Johns, Cleo Gibb, Ernest Elsworth and Charles Watson. (Watch for photos of honorees in our December article.)

September Fishing Trip

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Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Club Officers Re-elected

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 90, NEW HAVEN, CT—On June 2, the Local 90 Retirees Club met at our regular monthly meeting for election of officers. By a unanimous vote, the three incumbent officers were re-elected. They are: Pres. Robert Mantovani, Vice Pres. Gerry Asplund and Sec./Treas. Hugh McGuire. As this was our last meeting for the current fiscal year, pizza was served and enjoyed by all.

Our next scheduled meeting is Sept. 1. We invite all Local 90 retirees to join us at any of our meetings. We meet at 2 North Plains Industrial Rd., Wallingford, CT, on the first Tuesday of each month (except July
and August, at 1:30 p.m.

In closing, it is with great sadness that I report to you that our past Retirees Club president Richard "Rip" Kirby passed away on April 3. Our sincere condolences go out to his entire family. He will be missed by all.

Richard Louder, P.S.

Annual Breakfast Well-Attended

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI—The Local 99 Retirees Club held its Annual May Breakfast this year on May 16 at the union hall in Cranston, RI. Ninety-seven members attended the event.

At the springtime breakfast gathering, Stephen Farina gave the invocation and blessing. Stephen was catered by Ralph’s Catering in Cranston. We thank Bus. Mgr. Michael Daley and Local 99 for their support.

The retirees congratulate Bobby Bearwood on his retirement and his move to North Carolina. We also wish Joe McCarthy a healthy recovery from his recent operation.

The next Retirees Club meeting will be in September. At the time of this writing, 6-year awards had scheduled three summer fishing trips leaving from the Port of Galilee.

Frank J. Colucci, P.S.

Service Awards Presentation

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 113, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—Members of Local 113 gathered at the union hall for a dinner and service-pin presentation to honor members for their years of service. (Photo at bottom, left.) In total, 349 members were eligible for service awards, representing 7,880 years of service.

Thirty of those service-pin recipients had 50 or more years of service:


It is with deepest regret that I report the death of Louis Andreeto on Feb. 16 this year. Bro. Andreeto was a 50-year IBEW member. May he rest in peace.

Louis Rodriguez, P.S.

‘An Afternoon at the Theatre’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 124, KANSAS CITY, MO—the Local 124 Retirees Club spring event hosted 35 retirees, their wives and friends as they took in a concert at the Quality Hill Playhouse. The performance, “What They Did for Love,” included Broadway hit songs of Marvin Hamlisch and Burt Bacharach, movie theme songs and other songs that we all knew back when and can still appreciate today.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon and everyone came away with their spirits lifted. Thanks to retired member and former financial secretary Danny Liston for the help securing the tickets and making transportation arrangements.

We remember the following deceased members: Emmett P. Allit, Robert E. Brink, Marion W. Telkins, Larry E. Hampton, Stephen J. Hruska, William C. Kendall Sr.


Ken Starr, P.S.

Annual Luncheon Honors Longtime IBEW Members

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—On June 10, our annual luncheon honored our 50-, 55-, 60- and 65-year members with live musical entertainment and photo taking. Congratulations to these longtime IBEW members. The celebrations are as follows:


It is with deepest regret that I report the death of Louis Andreeto on Feb. 16 this year. Bro. Andreeto was a 50-year IBEW member. May he rest in peace.

Louis Rodriguez, P.S.

‘A Job Well-Done’

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—On June 5, we held our annual Crawfish Ball in the Alexandre Room. Over 100 people attended. As usual, the crawfish were great; there was an abundance of "mudbugs" to be eaten.

At our regular meeting on March 26, our presi-

dent, George Clesi, decided to retire and enjoy our remaining years of life. On behalf of all the members we say: "Thank you, George, for a job well-done!"

At the May Retirees Club meeting, six members were awarded service pins. Ray Kathman received his 60-year pin. Awarded 55-year pins were: Al Niederhel-
mann, Tom Ruehl and Ray Schother. 50-year pin went to Fred Holthaus. The late Bro. Fred Kaufman was posthumously awarded a 60-year pin. Congratulations to all for your accomplishments.

Welcome to new members: Mike Kiefer, Terry Ellers and Nick Abernathy.

The annual club picnic was July 1. Bro. Jim McInerny, Earl Staf and Danny Johnson, all 50- year members and in good health, were among the 153 members and guests in attendance. Danny was visiting Cincinnati from his home in Florida.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

Annual Luncheon/meeting.

‘Brothers are Remembered’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH—With deepest regret, I report the passing into eternity of four members: Bros. James “Jim” Zeineer, a 56-year IBEW member; Corwin Paris, 25-year member; Clifford North, 36-year member; and Albert Ihle, 46-year member.

Bro. Zeineer was also a signatory contractor for several years. His sons Jim, John and Doug are members of Local 212.

Bro. Ihle, a dear friend of mine, suffered with deteriorating health for a decade. A U.S. Air Force veter-

an, Al had a keen sense of humor and an infectious laugh. Al and Jean, his wife of 46 years, retired to Vero Beach, FL, in 1996. Our departed brothers are gone, but never forgotten. Farewell, dear brothers; may you rest in God’s hands, near to His heart.

At the May Retirees Club meeting, six members were awarded service pins. Ray Kathman received his 60-year pin. Awarded 55-year pins were: Al Niederhel-
mann, Tom Ruehl and Ray Schother. 50-year pin went to Fred Holthaus. The late Bro. Fred Kaufman was posthumously awarded a 60-year pin. Congratulations to all for your accomplishments.

Welcome to new members: Mike Kiefer, Terry Ellers and Nick Abernathy.

Sarnia Happenings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.UL 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CAN-

ADA—As I reported in our club’s March 2015 article, the office of club president and secretary-treasurer changed hands in November 2014, and I wish to touch briefly on the two men who served us so well for the past 13 years.

Bobhdan Kohut, our past president, took up the

Local 530 Retirees Club former president Bo Kohut (left) and former secretary-treasurer Ed McCormack.
tools of the trade when he was only 18 years old. He served as president of Local 530 for several years. He also has the distinction of having four sons and three grandsons follow him into the trade, all members of IBEW Local 530. At the Christmas Banquet in 2014, Bo received his 55-year service pin.

Edward McCormack, our past secretary-treasurer, also started working at the trade at a very young age and spent his entire career working in the Samil area. Ed also received his 55-year service pin in December 2014.

I must mention that Bo's wife, Marie, and Ed's wife, Carole, worked alongside these two men, helping to research and organize the countless events and outings we attended through these years.

Thirteen years of organizing and making our club run well is no small feat. So, once again, thanks to Bo and Ed—from the membership.

Nancy Stimson Philbin, P.S.

Thanks to Foodbank Volunteers

RETIREEs CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Local 611 retirees volunteered their time at the first Roadrunner Food Bank distribution, held in April, May, June and July in the local's parking lot. Food was distributed to some 920-200 needy families. Retirees assisting with the project included: Brian Dougall, Tracy Hall, James Moran, Joe Romero and Adolfo "AT" Trujillo.

Union members, including retirees, attended a Workers Memorial Day event in April at the Memorial Park. Every year on April 28, Workers Memorial Day is observed to remember and honor workers who were injured or have died on the job. In May four retirees were killed, their wives, and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Pete Trujillo attended the annual Rank-And-File Heroes Banquet, sponsored by the New Mexico Central Labor Council. The council recognizes and gives certificates to union members who have given special time and talents in the past year for labor unions.

An historical scrapbook of pictures and Local 611 events is now available for viewing at all future regular union meetings. But you need to attend the union meetings, held the third Saturday of each month, in order to see the contents.

We offer our condolences to the families of several retirees who recently passed away: Robert L. Wicox, Fred W. Ringe, James W. Holdman, Charles W. Atkinson, James Hicks and Kenneth T. Miller. Our condolences also go out to the families of Christopher A. Tesler and Richard Stafki.

Tracy Hall, Pres.

‘Come Join Us’

RETIREEs CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA—On the first Monday in June we held our meeting and luncheon for members and spouses. We had a good turnout with about 30 spouses also attending. The food was great and everyone seemed to enjoy the social. (Photo at bottom, left.)

We are still looking for new members to join us. The meetings are the first Monday of every month. If you are a retired IBEW member come join us.

W. Roland Goetzman, P.S.

Reno-Sparks Retirees Donate Fans to Low-Income Seniors

RETIreeS CLUB OF L.U. 1245, VICAVILLE, CA, RENO-SPARKS CHAPTER—In the Reno-Sparks area of Nevada, triple-digit temperatures in late summer aren’t uncommon. Unfortunately, many seniors cannot afford to pay for air conditioning, and the sweltering heat makes summertime uncomfortable and downright dangerous for low-income seniors.

After seeing a local TV station urging individuals to donate electric fans for seniors, IBEW Local 1245 retiree and Reno-Sparks Retirees Club Pres. Ron Borst challenged the other members of his retirees club to get involved in the effort. He called on the IBEW retirees to bring fans to the group’s monthly meeting in July. The retirees only had three days’ notice but managed to bring in 21 fans, which they donated to Washoe County Senior Services, an organization that provides support and resources to low-income seniors in the Reno-Sparks area.

“We’re the lucky ones.” Borst said. “We had a good retirement. And if we can help others out who weren’t so fortunate ... that’s what we should do.”

Ron Borst, Pres.

Contest Entry Form

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City and state ____________________________

Zip code ____________________________

Phone number ____________________________

E-mail address ____________________________

Local union number ____________________________ IBEW card number ____________________________

Photo description ____________________________

What makes a good photo? Is it the lighting or the contrast? Is it the colors or the subject? Maybe it’s the story that’s being told through the photo. Who better to convey the experiences and stories of IBEW membership through photography than members themselves?

For more than 16 years members of the IBEW from all over the U.S. and Canada have sent in images of their work. They capture shots that exemplify who we are as one of the largest and highly-skilled unions in the world. Now it’s your turn.

IT’S TIME FOR

THE IBEW PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline: Nov. 30

1st Place: $200

2nd Place: $150

3rd Place: $100

Honorable Mentions: $50

Photo Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter more than one photo.

2. International Officers and staff are not eligible.

3. Photos can be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, in color or black and white, on slides or prints. The preferred print size is 8”x10”. For more guidance on electronic photo files, go to www.ibew.org click on the Photo Contest button, and see the “Contest Rules and Photo Guidelines.”

4. All submissions become the property of the IBEW Media Department.

5. Photo entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.

6. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g., a safety committee, a lineman’s rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.

7. Photos previously published in IBEW publications or the website are not eligible for submission.

8. The preferred method of entry is through the Photo Contest application on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org.

9. If entering via U.S. mail, please fill out the contest entry form and affix it to each photo you submit for the contest and mail it to the IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001.

10. Fifteen finalists will be selected and posted on www.ibew.org for final judging by the public. The winners will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Electrical Worker.
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FROM THE OFFICERS

Excellence Shines at Florida Power

I was in Florida on Aug. 31, joining local union and company leaders to celebrate the success of the utility Code of Excellence adopted four years ago by the 11 local unions of System Council U-04 and Florida Power and Light.

There’s no better place than Florida to demonstrate the transformative power of IBEW’s commitment to excellence on the job.

But the Code of Excellence was never meant to be a secret weapon. So, IBEW and FPL came together to show the Sunshine State’s citizens, including FPL ratepayers and unorganized workers, what the Brotherhood’s skill and commitment is all about.

Our locals and FPL have come a long way. Hurricane season just might be a metaphor for the stormy relationship between the parties before the adoption of the Code of Excellence in 2011.

Negotiations on a new contract had dragged on for 16 months before it was signed in 2009. Then unilateral company staffing changes and lay-offs led to plummeting morale.

Locals filed over 1,500 grievances. Tragically, job safety deteriorated. Things needed to change.

The distrust that resulted led IBEW to initiate the Code of Excellence on its own, training officers, job stewards and members in the program. In time, FPL saw the success of the program and its potential to reduce accidents. The company agreed to enable training during working hours.

Four years later, the grievance backlog has fallen below 150. And OSHA reportable accidents have fallen by 50 percent. Morale is enhanced. Lives have been saved.

It was an honor to see this progress firsthand and salute the men and women who made this happen, the folks on both sides who held one another accountable to the highest standards of their industry.

I joined them in proudly affixing our Code of Excellence stickers onto their service trucks and their hard hats. Now, I look forward to hearing about new waves of goodwill and respect that will roll across the state letting citizens know what we have known all our lives: IBEW workers are the customers’ very best choice and the workers’ strongest advocate in everything we do, everywhere we go.

Respect Apprenticeship

We make a mistake in the labor movement when we talk about apprenticeship as an alternative to higher education. I have often heard people say that apprenticeships are an excellent fallback for people not cut out for college.

Baloney.

Apprenticeship is not an alternative to higher education, it is higher education. When our apprentices top out and get their journey license, they are prepared—safely and productively—to harness the power generated by holding back rivers, splitting the atom or the sun itself. We can put it to good use and go home safely at the end of every day.

That is not higher education?

If union-run apprenticeships were a university system, they would be the third largest in the U.S. Every year AFL-CIO apprenticeships educate 450,000 men and women with no government subsidies or loan programs. Only the state university systems of Ohio (520,000) and New York (468,000) are larger.

And our graduates leave job-ready, without debt and holding a paycheck.

Apprenticeships should no longer be left out of the national conversation about making higher education more accessible and affordable. There are some excellent ideas, worthy of our support, which would share some of the cost of apprenticeships across an economy that benefits from them.

For example, a bill introduced by Sens. Maria Cantwell of Washington and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York would give a $5,000 training tax credit for every qualified apprentice a health care, manufacturing or technology company hires. It is not surprising that a senator from Washington would introduce the bill. A 2015 study issued by the state’s workforce board found $235 in economic benefit for every $1 of state money supporting apprenticeships.

A separate bill sponsored by New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina would give a $1,000 tax credit to any company that hires an apprentice over age 25 and $2,500 for apprentices under 25.

It makes simple sense. It is long overdue. Apprentices deserve not only our country’s respect but its support.

Respect Apprenticeship

Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer
I read with great pride the article about all of the IBEW members who have been elected to public office. The IBEW is one of the most politically engaged unions in the country and, I'm happy to say, we will soon have one more member in office.

Riverside, Calif., Local 440 Business Manager Robert Frost retired recently to run for the California Assembly. Bob joined Local 440 35 years ago after his tour of duty in the Navy. He's been in a position of leadership with the local since 1988. The number of union and government committees he has served on are far too numerous to name but do include being an executive board member of the Workforce Investment Board and chairman of the Riverside County Office of Education Foundation.

Bob has pledged to use his real-world experience as an educator, business manager and veteran to champion policies that support middle-class families. As a lifelong advocate for working families, his leadership will make a genuine difference in Sacramento as he fights for working-class people. To learn more go to Frost4Assembly.com or his Facebook page Robert Frost for Assembly. Contributions are gratefully accepted.

Chuck McDanel, Local 440 member
Riverside, Calif.

This I Believe

I recently attended the IBEW Market Driven Contracting class in Baltimore. I'd like to share something I wrote on a piece of paper while there, which I still carry in my wallet:

- I Believe in myself.
- I Believe in my Brothers and Sisters.
- I Believe in the IBEW.

Tony DeLeon, Local 286 member
Salem, Ore.

Generations of Electricity

Granddad was a member, when I was just a girl, of the fastest growing local in this part of our world.

Then dad became a member when the local was still young.

And we learned electrician's lingo.

Upon that way of life
One's retired, the other thinking
Life always was exciting
Elections, strikes, negotiating
With the sure knowledge that tomorrow
A better job was waiting.

And so, three generations of my men
Have lived the electrician's way
Granddad, dad and husband
No regrets along the way.

One's retired, the other thinking
Upon that way of life
And, one day, I, too, will be
A retired electrician's wife.

Life was never dull
Dad would swing right in and say
"Let's get packed up and head for home For I '1rug up' today."

Well, you'd think I'd have to look at something new
But, no, I went and married
A local member, too.

He did his share of "traveling"
of "dragging up" and wow!
Nothing more exciting
Than a two months "turnaround."

Chuck McDanel, Local 440 member
Riverside, Calif.

IBEW’s Activist Retirees Come to Washington

IBEW members know how to mobilize, and that doesn’t stop when they retire. They are a formidable force who know the issues that affect working families. They also vote, in large numbers. That’s why they were in Washington, D.C., July 17-20 to attend a national conference of the Alliance for Retired Americans.

Coinciding with the 50th birthday of Medicare and Social Security’s births, the conference included workshops on organizing retirees to defend and extend past gains, sessions on scams that rob them of their savings and a lobby day on Capitol Hill to win support for progressive legislation that supports retirees and working families. Presidential primary candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren addressed delegates.

Established in 2001, ARA, which is financially supported by the AFL-CIO, is a nationwide grassroots movement advancing a progressive political and social agenda that respects workers and strengthens families.

Most retiree associations, says IBEW Civic and Community Engagement Department Director Carolyn Williams, focus on organizing dinners and other social events that help renew ties among former co-workers and their spouses. “That’s an important part of staying engaged and active during one’s later years. But just as important is doing what we can to protect the gains our union fought for and the future of our children and grandchildren,” Williams said.

Affiliating with the ARA is a natural way to promote this activism.”

William Carpenter, a retired Columbus, Ohio, Local 683 journeyman inside wireman, traveled to Washington to attend the conference. Local 683 retirees, says Carpenter, have been politically engaged for decades. The local was once affiliated with the National Council of Senior Citizens, ARA’s predecessor, formed in the 1960s during the John F. Kennedy administration to push for a national health care insurance plan.

‘All of us are much stronger than one of us. It is important to stay engaged and active so that our voice is heard …’

Columbus, Ohio, Local 683 retiree William Carpenter

“My local has a strong and vibrant history of being politically active, keeping members informed of what they need to do to stay active and viable in these changing times,” Carpenter says. “All of us are much stronger than one of us. It is important to stay engaged and active so that our voice is heard to uphold and expand all workers’ rights.”

Other IBEW members whose retiree associations have affiliated with ARA include Carpenter and more than 400 other retirees, in 35 state chapters at the gathering.

Tom Bird, a retired NV energy journeyman lineman and member of Northern California-based Local 1245, is president of the Nevada Alliance. "IBird" earned his organizing chops as a die-hard activist in the 2009 struggle of retirees at NV Energy to protect their pensions and health care insurance from cuts. He went on to help form the Reno retiree club of Local 1245.

Chuck McDanel, a retired Denver Local 68 journeyman inside wireman and ARA regional board member, joined other IBEW delegates at a breakfast during the conference. Mayor of Thornton, Colo., he says he is confident that activism by ARA members and others will not only protect Social Security from cuts and privatization, but will succeed in expanding the program, as proposed in eight different bills in Congress.

“Things have to change in America,” Goodman says. “With low wages and a high cost of living, more and more citizens don’t have much chance of making it unless we organize.”

One of the benefits of attending ARA conferences is the brainstorming that takes place about how to reach out and involve IBEW retirees, says Williams.

Elson Garrett, a retired inside journeyman wireman member of Huntington, W.Va., Local 37, says the local’s retiree association invites speakers to address club meetings with information about legislation and policies affecting retirees.

But Garrett says, opportunities for union retirees to communicate with others are endless and can happen anywhere other retirees congregate, including at meetings of the American Legion and VFW and at churches and community centers.

IBEW experience is well represented on the ARA’s staff, too. New England Senior Field Organizer Jennifer Kenny is a retired inside journeyman wireman member of Orlando, Fla., Local 616.

Local union retiree associations interested in the ARA may contact Director Carolyn Williams at Carolyn.Williams@ibew.org or 202-728-6204.
World War II battle site home to new members
Big Organizing Win on Tiny Pacific Atoll

Wake Island is hard to find on a map, even if you know where to look. It is a three-square-mile speck in the western Pacific with white sand, a sky blue lagoon, a flat-roofed U.S. Air Force base and a hill of palm trees. Wake is also home to some of the newest members of Honolulu Local 1260, the 12 firefighters contracted by the Air Force to watch over the base, the military planes that regularly land there as well as the odd emergency landing of civilian airliners that runs into trouble in the most isolated reaches of the Pacific Ocean.

Wake is one of the most isolated inhabited islands on the planet and best known as the site of the first American battle with the Japanese after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Its closest inhabited neighbor is the Ulithi Atoll in the Marshall Islands, nearly 600 miles away. It is a great deal closer to Asia than North America. Local 1260's headquarters is nearly 2,000 miles to the east and the closest IBEW members are 1,500 miles west in Guam.

"There is nothing to do there but work," said Honolulu Local 1260 Communication Director Russel Yamano. "It is beautiful, but the working conditions are hard."

Of the 32 unincorporated U.S. territories in the Caribbean and Pacific—including Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands—Wake Island has the smallest permanent population, about 200. About half of the population are members of either the Air Force or satellite trackers for the U.S. Space Command. Nearly all the rest are civilian contractors and can be organized.

But the only way to get to Wake Island is on an Air Force charter and the only ticket is an official invitation. Trying to organize the firefighters by traditional in-person techniques like waiting outside the base gate or meeting them in the local bar was impossible.

"It was a challenge organizing there, but through our contacts we heard that wages were low and benefits not very good," Local 1260 Business Manager Brian Ahakuelo. "The Pacific is very large and it is a big deal for the local and for the IBEW that we are expanding across it to reach our brothers and sisters whenever they need and want us."

The firefighters are employees of Chugach Federal Solutions, a military contractor familiar to Local 1260. Hundreds of its members work for Chugach across multiple military bases in Hawaii. Ahakuelo said it was because of their positive history with Chugach that the organizing campaign was resolved so quickly.

"We spoke with potential members first to make sure we had strong backing with cards and when we were certain, we were able to convince Chugach that it would be good for them too," Ahakuelo said. "They saw the value of our local and how we look out for our members, but that we are not grievance hounds. We negotiate, but based on common interests wherever we can and we’ve been able to do that with Chugach."

New Opportunities
Ahakuelo, who credits Local 1260 Construction and Maintenance Director Brandon Ahakuelo for the organizing success, said the local’s experience organizing Guam more than a decade ago is their blueprint for the push to organize across the Pacific.

Guam is the westernmost American territory, far closer to Australia than the mainland of the U.S. Local 1260 organized its first members in Guam in 2001.

Now there are more than 1,000 members, nearly 5 percent of the island’s total population and, Ahakuelo says, those members are building a strong, local labor movement that is transforming the local economy.

There are 16 territories in the Pacific that enforce U.S. labor laws, and Yamano said Local 1260 intends to organize on all of them.

“We already have a strong Guam-Hawaii connection,” said Yamano. “With the organizing campaign in Wake, we are trying to turn it into more of a spider web.”

Next targets include the 55,000 residents of American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, home to another 53,000.

“There are so many opportunities,” Ahakuelo said. “We are not only living up to our mantra of ‘Bringing the Pacific Basin,’ we are also venturing to take organized labor far beyond its normal boundaries.”