

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

CONSTRUCTION • UTILITIES • TELECOMMUNICATIONS • MANUFACTURING • GOVERNMENT • BROADCASTING • RAILROAD

Printed in the USA

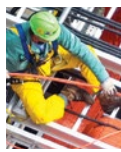
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vol. 9 | No. 11 | November 2015

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## IBEW Training Centers Receive Grant Windfall

The Electrical Training Alliance received a \$4.8 million grant to pay for apprenticeships for traditionally underserved groups, such as ethnic minorities and young men. Photo credit: Chicago Local 134 and NECA Chicago

Steve Anderson calls the grant the Electrical Training Alliance received from the Department of Labor a surprise—albeit a pleasant, \$4.8 million one.

“We’ve applied for these before and never got anything,” said Anderson, who has been with the Alliance for more than 20 years and now serves as the director of outside line curriculum and training. “It’s just been a very hard thing.”

Based in Bowie, Maryland, the Alliance is a training partnership between IBEW local unions and

### FILLING THE DEMAND — FOR — SKILLED ELECTRICIANS

the National Electrical Contractors Association. Formerly known as the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, the labor department announced in early September it would receive the grant as part of \$175 million awarded to 46 public-private apprentice training programs.

The grant requires the enrollment of at least 200 new apprentices in the first year and 1,000 during a five-year period, although Anderson expects it to be more than that. All will be trained as inside wiremen. The target population is traditionally underserved ones: young men, women, ethnic minorities and military veterans, which also likely made the application attractive to labor department officials.

To enhance retention, all will start with a 10-week pre-apprenticeship that will include classroom training and on-the-job exposure.

“The Obama administration has put a lot of emphasis on apprenticeship programs,” Anderson said. “It looks like the administration put a lot of pressure on the Department of Labor to follow through on those plans.”

For Anderson, the grant is a recognition that the federal government understands the IBEW’s apprenticeship program is just as valuable as college or university education. The timing is right, too. The demand for construction trades workers is rebounding after being depressed for several years following the economic collapse in 2008.

“For years, we talked about how we didn’t need and didn’t use government funds,” he said. “We funded our own training programs and it worked that way for decades.”

TRAINING CENTER *continued on page 2*

THE  
**IBEW'S PHOTO  
2015 Contest**  
Deadline: Nov. 30  
See page 16 for details

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## IBEW Training Centers Receive Grant Windfall

"But at the same time, the federal government was sending those funds to our competitors. It's nice that at this particular time, we're going to have significant, additional resources to get the right people to come into the trades."

Added Alliance Executive Director Todd Stafford: "We're trying to increase that recruiting pool and the available pool of apprentices. The larger the applicant pool, the better the quality of the applicants."

Gary Polulak, director of the Alliance's training center in Detroit, has served on a local school board in the area. For years, he's sought more young people for the trades.

"The new program is a big step toward doing just that," Polulak said. "Instructors will be able to quickly evaluate during the pre-apprenticeship program if an applicant has adequate math and reading skills comprehension," he said. The required safety and CPR testing also will be provided before applicants begin five-year apprenticeships.

"Trying to figure out a way to entice good candidates to our apprenticeship program has kind of been a bucket list item for me," he said.

Polulak expects the response to be strong in Detroit, one of the 13 training sites to implement the program in 2016.

"I can guarantee you that this is an excellent way to have a stronger presence in your community," he said. "You're giving people a very good opportunity at a trade."

Besides Michigan, the program will be rolled out at training centers in Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee and Texas during the first year. Stafford said the plan is to eventually extend it to all 285 training centers across the country.

"The economy has given us an opportunity to put people to work immediately," Anderson said.

Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), whose district includes the Alliance headquarters, noted the IBEW and its signatory contractors have trained nearly 350,000 workers since the model was conceived 70 years ago.

"This funding will help the Alliance continue its success at producing highly skilled electrical workers in our state," Hoyer said in a statement. "These investments will help make the workforce in Maryland and our country competitive." ■



**'I can guarantee you that this is an excellent way to have a stronger presence in your community. You're giving people a very good opportunity at a trade.'**

— Gary Polulak, director of Electrical Training Alliance center in Detroit



## 'A' Membership Reaches All-Time High

*With an ambitious organizing program in place, the IBEW's construction branch emerged stronger from the Great Recession*

**S**ometime last summer, the IBEW set a record for the part of the membership traditionally comprised of construction workers.

There are now 352,000 'A' members, 18,000 more than at the last convention in 2011, and more than any time in the 124-year history of the brotherhood.

That number might include a new outside lineman or a wireman, who are automatically brought into the IBEW as 'A' members. It might have been an existing 'BA' member who upgraded a membership, as any IBEW member can.

"For the first time in what seems like a decade, we're not just playing defense. We're not just worried about stopping the bleeding, we're going for growth. We're going for market share," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "We are on the verge of truly living up to our mission for the first time in many decades: to organize every worker in the electrical industry."

Any member of the IBEW can become an 'A' member, but an increase in 'A' membership has historically been a measure of growth on the construction side of the IBEW. Participation in the IBEW's pension plan is the primary difference between 'A' and 'BA' members. But only 'A' members are also eligible for death benefits and can serve as local union financial secretaries, international representatives and international officers.

Although 'A' membership is at an all-time high, the IBEW as a whole is smaller than it was in the '70s and '80s. Membership took a substantial hit after the Great Recession nearly a decade ago. Tens of thousands of jobs, particularly in manufacturing and telecommunications, either disappeared, were outsourced to nonunion employers, to other states or out of the country entirely.

But nearly two-and-a-half years ago, total membership stopped falling and began to grow again, the result of an all-out commitment to a culture of organizing, as well as a concerted effort to boost 'A' members.

Since 2011, a total of 6,000 'BA' members upgraded their membership.

'A' membership has been steadily rising since July 2012. Every district saw an increase in 'A' membership since 2011. The largest growth, more than 5 percent, was in the First District, driven by the massive energy infrastructure projects underway across Canada.

"These are good numbers, but it is not time to break out the champagne," said Construction and Maintenance Department Director Jim Ross. "The demand for construction electricians is growing and we are not keeping up with that demand."

Ross said his biggest concern is overall market share, which has hovered around 30 percent since before the end of the recession.

"I am cautiously optimistic because we did not lose a great deal of ground during the downturn, but we face a real challenge if we are going to increase our work and replace the 26,000 construction members who will retire in the next five years," Ross said.

The local that has seen the largest growth in 'A' membership is Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47. Since 2011, Local 47 brought in 1,600 new 'A' members, a 66-percent increase.

Local 47 Business Manager Pat Lavin said about 700 of the new 'A' members were already IBEW members who switched from 'BA' status. (See sidebar.)

"We have encouraged all of our new members and existing members to become 'A' members because of the supplemental retirement, and it's an investment in the IBEW," said Lavin, who is also the Seventh District member and secretary of the International Executive Council.

The other 900 new 'A' members were brought in after Local 47 signed an agreement with Southern California Edison that made all tree trimming, transmission and distribution, substation and underground work on utility property IBEW work. The result was that Local 47 organized a large number of nonunion contractors.

"Those contractors and their 900 workers are now signed on with the IBEW for everything that falls under our scope



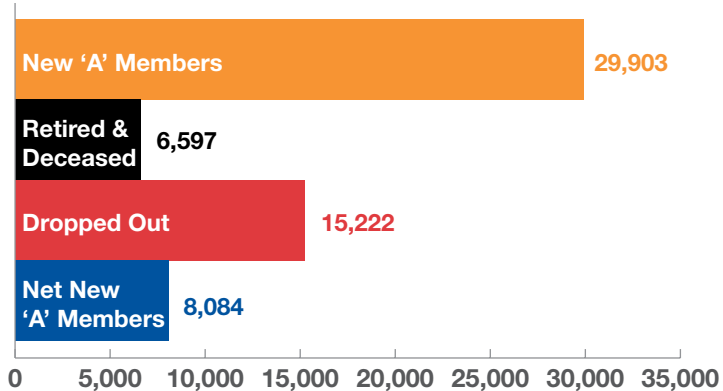
A 10-week pre-apprenticeship is one of the highlights of a new program that will be offered by the Electrical Training Alliance.



Historically a measure of construction members, anyone can upgrade to 'A' status and thousands do every year.

## In the Front Door, Out the Back

Recruitment is High, but Retention is Falling Behind  
July 2014 to June 2015



of work, even when it isn't for SoCal Edison," Lavin said. "It just shows that the best organizing tool is a job."

The largest percentage increase in 'A' membership was at St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Local 1620, which has grown from fewer than 100 'A' members to more than 1,100 since 2011. The expansion is due to the CA\$8.5 billion energy infrastructure project that will harness Labrador's wealth of hydroelectric power and bring it under the Strait of Belle Isle to Newfoundland. (See "Canadian Members Help Build Historic Dam, Transmission Project," October 2015 issue of the Electrical Worker.)

employers want to keep working with us? Are we developing the new business to keep everyone working? Are we educating the new people about the value of the IBEW beyond the job? Keeping them isn't magic."

### Keeping New Members is Today's Challenge

The growth of 'A' members is unquestionably good news, said Director of Construction Membership Development Virgil Hamilton, but he agreed that it is only half of the story.

"Despite the growth in members, we are not seeing a growth in market share for a simple reason: we are very poor at retaining the new members we bring in," Hamilton said. "Now that we are bringing people in, we have to concentrate on turning them into trade unionists so they don't drop out the minute a job ends."

For example, in the last year, the IBEW has signed up close to 30,000 new 'A' members. But over the same period, 6,600 IBEW members died or retired and about 15,000 dropped out. The net new 'A' members was 8,000.

The reality, Hamilton said, is many of the new members came on for single jobs, and when those jobs finished, many did not see a reason to stay in the union.

"Construction careers are built one job after the next. If we don't have a next job, nonunion contractors will," Hamilton said. "If we give people a choice between feeding their family and staying with the union, they will choose to feed their family. That isn't their problem, it is ours."

The result is that even though the construction membership has grown, the IBEW's overall market share has been locked at nearly 30 percent since the 1980s (although it dipped to 28 percent in the worst days of the recession).

"If we could close the back door we would be setting records and gaining mar-

ket share," said Special Assistant to the International President for Membership Development Ricky Oakland. "The only way to do that is teach people that the most important thing is what our founders knew 125 years ago when market share was zero: the most important thing is a strong union because it means we all do better. The job is a blessed side effect of more workers speaking as one."

The difficulty, Oakland said, is that too little effort is being made to get the message to new members. Many of the new 'A' members are not coming through the apprenticeship and don't know about the history of the IBEW and organized labor. And since many members do not come to local meetings and there is usually little conversation about trade unionism between workers on the job, they simply never get the message about what makes a union strong.

"If the unrepresented workers in the industry completely understood who we are and what we are about, they would all join right away. They would know that only organizing leads to better wages and more secure work," Hamilton said. "Too many of our existing members do not bring the message about solidarity to the jobsite."

Keeping new members is as much a cultural question as it is about the next job.

"Right there in the IBEW Constitution it says we have a duty to seek out and cultivate feelings of friendship amongst those of our industry. Why? Because simply paying dues and working an IBEW job isn't what makes you a trade unionist," Hamilton said.

### A Way Forward from Out of the Past: Salting

Oakland and Hamilton said one of the most powerful tools to keep new members in the IBEW is also one of the oldest: salting.

Being a salt isn't as simple as taking a job with a nonunion contractor and continuing to pay your dues. When done correctly, salting is a powerful organizing tool. But only when the IBEW member keeps in contact with the local, does a workmanlike job and speaks honestly with other workers about the advantages of organizing.

"In 1891, all IBEW members were

salts. Henry Miller was working a non-union job when he died," Hamilton said. "One of the most effective ways to organize can be by salting. We can get to know the unrepresented workers and our members can keep working."

A common objection to salting is that it helps a nonunion contractor to succeed, but Oakland said this misses the larger point. If the goal is to organize the entire industry, every contractor has the potential to be a signatory and every contractor needs to be organized. Having a member on the job can make that a lot easier.

"Members hired as employees in nonunion companies have far greater

rights to campaign at the worksite than non-employee organizers," he said.

Oakland said business managers are encouraged to use the boilerplate salting agreement created by Membership Development.

Oakland said he sees no reason to expect the growth to slow. After growing by 18,000 in four years, his goal is 14,000 more by the September 2016 convention in St. Louis.

"There are a lot of people out there who would be much better off inside the IBEW," Oakland said. "It's ambitious, but we hold ourselves to high standards in the IBEW and we are up for the job." ■

### What Are the Benefits of 'A' Membership?

There are two main types of membership in the IBEW, 'A' and 'BA.'

#### ► Pension

The most important difference between the two classifications is that 'A' members participate in the Pension Benefit Fund, the pension plan administered by the IBEW. All IBEW construction branch members are automatically enrolled as 'A' members. Any member can choose to convert their 'BA' membership.

'A' members receive a pension once they meet the PBF pension requirements. For example, if you retire at 65, and you have been an 'A' member continuously for at least the preceding five years, you get \$4.50 per year of continuous membership per month.

After three-and-a-half years, retired 'A' members make back everything they put in.

#### ► Death Benefit

All active 'A' members for at least six months are covered by a \$6,250 benefit for death by natural causes, and \$12,500 for accidental deaths, on or off the job. No vesting or years of service are necessary.

The benefit for retirees is different. Retired 'A' members are eligible for a death benefit between \$3,000 and \$6,250, depending on how much of their pension they have received, but the amount does not go below \$3,000.

#### ► Leadership

To be a delegate to the convention with the right to vote on every topic, you have to be an 'A' member.

There is another, less tangible, impact. The International Office can count retired 'A' members and includes them in the membership. When an 'A' member retires from the IBEW, the relationship with the union changes, but it does not end. Those 100,000 'A' members drawing a pension are an important part of the strength of the union.

'A' and 'BA' membership dues are \$17 a month. To become an 'A' member is \$33 a month, which is \$17 membership dues and \$16 PBF contribution plus a one-time \$2 fee for the PBF.



The IBEW's next challenge is retaining the members brought in.

"We have not peaked in membership but expect our membership to be around 2,500 before both this project and a concurrent project, the maritime link project, have plateaued in 2017," said Local 1620 Business Manager Terry Rose.

Local 1620's agreement with project owner Nalcor gives IBEW signatory contractors much more than just the electrical construction work.

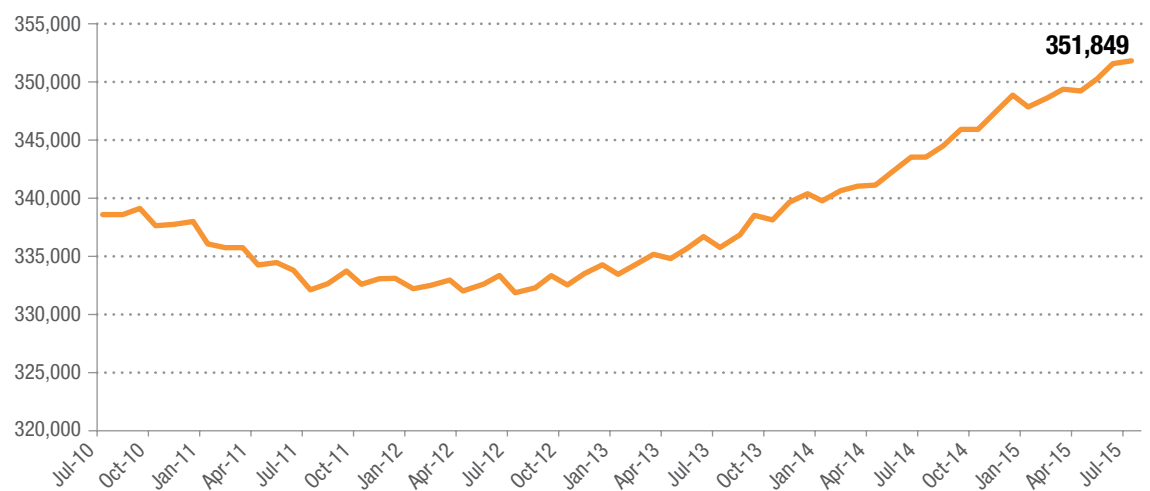
"The membership growth is all about the Muskrat Falls transmission project," said First District International Vice President William F. Daniels. "We represent the construction electricians on the job of course, but also equipment operators, brush clearing, even the people who cook and clean."

Daniels said keeping the new members is now his largest concern.

"Organizing gets people in, but it takes everyone in the Brotherhood pulling in the same direction to keep them," Daniels said. "Do we perform well on the job so

### 'A' Membership Rising to Record Heights

After dropping during the recession, 'A' membership has risen to record levels.



# NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

## British Columbia Locals Recognized for Apprenticeship Training

Not all apprenticeship programs are created equally. This is something that British Columbia officials are learning, and they are turning to the IBEW to make sure they are done right.

Apprenticeship completion rates across Canada have averaged only 50 percent since 2000, according to a survey conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Completion rates for IBEW apprenticeships, by contrast, are consistently well above 90 percent. As British Columbia sought to attract more business, particularly in sectors like liquid natural gas that require skilled tradespeople, the government realized that its apprenticeship programs weren't keeping pace. At one point, the completion rate dropped to 34 percent, said Victoria, British Columbia, Local 230 Business Manager Phil Venoit, who also serves as chair of the IBEW British Columbia council.

So they started looking for solutions and found them with IBEW.

"We took over where they failed," Venoit said.

British Columbia Premier Christy Clark called for an investigation into the issue, which led to a report. Among the recommendations was to include union representation in the Industry Training Authority, the provincial body that manages apprenticeships, sets standards and increases training opportunities; and to create sector advisory groups as part of the Authority. Labour had previously been involved at the provincial authority level, but was removed in 2003. Now with the report calling for labour's return, and with a clear need for improvement in apprenticeships, Local 230, along with Vancouver, Local 213 and Nelson, Local 1003 were called in to share their expertise.

"They had defunded their apprenticeships. There was no staff or follow-through. Apprentices had nowhere to go after their first job," Venoit said.

By contrast, IBEW apprenticeships have support systems in place. There is a one-to-one ratio and apprentices get the supervision and mentorship they need. They monitor progress and completion, as well as aptitude, attitude and professionalism. Apprentices also provide a written report on their goals.

"We knew this was the future. We knew the importance of this continued investment," Venoit said.

Now four IBEW representatives sit on various sector advisory groups. Nelson, British Columbia, Local 1003 Business Manager Ray Keen sits on the construction committee, Venoit sits on the maritime group, Local 213 Business Manager Adam Van Steinburg sits on the man-

ufacturing working group and Electrical Joint Training Committee Executive Director Andy Cleven sits on the liquid natural gas team.

"With IBEW representation on these sector advisory groups, which provide a 20,000-foot overview, we can suggest improvements and make sure that everyone who wants training gets it, and that the training is done as professionally and effectively as possible," Venoit said.

There are currently about 24 liquid natural gas projects that British Columbia is considering. There is also talk of a CA\$9 billion dam. Estimates vary regarding the number of people needed. In any case, to get more business, there will be a need for more skilled tradespeople, and IBEW is providing the apprenticeships to make it happen.

"We approach it from the perspective of 'we can do better and we'll show you how,'" Venoit said. "We're not always the cheapest but we are the best." ■



Labour representation is returning to British Columbia's Industry Training Authority, led by the IBEW's Local 230 Business Manager Phil Venoit, left, who is chair of the IBEW British Columbia council; Ray Keen, Nelson, British Columbia, Local 1003 business manager; Adam Van Steinburg, Vancouver Local 213 business manager; with Local 213's Andy Cleven, Electrical Joint Training Committee executive director.

## Les programmes d'apprentissage des sections locales de la Colombie-Britannique ont été reconnus

Les programmes d'apprentissage n'ont pas tous été créés de la même façon. La Colombie-Britannique a pris conscience de cet aspect et elle se tourne vers la FIOE pour s'assurer que ce soit fait selon la demande du marché.

Selon un sondage mené par l'organisation de coopération et de développement économique (OCDE), le taux de réussite des formations en apprentissage à travers le Canada ont atteint une moyenne de 50 pour cent depuis l'année 2000. En revanche, le taux de réussite des formations en apprentissage pour les membres de la FIOE est bien au-dessus de 90 pour cent. Comme la Colombie-Britannique cherche à attirer un plus grand nombre d'entreprises, plus particulièrement dans les secteurs tels que le gaz naturel liquéfié qui nécessitent des travailleurs spécialisés, le gouvernement a réalisé que ses programmes d'apprentissage ne répondaient plus à la demande du marché. À un certain point, le taux de réussite a baissé à 34 pour cent, dit le gérant d'affaires Phil Venoit de la section locale 230 à Victoria en Colombie-Britannique. Venoit préside également le comité de la FIOE en Colombie-Britannique.

Ils ont commencé à chercher des solutions et ils les ont trouvées avec la FIOE.

« On a repris là où ils ont échoué », dit Venoit.

La première ministre de la Colombie-Britannique Christy Clark a demandé de mener une enquête à ce sujet et cette demande a fait l'objet d'un rapport. Parmi ces recommandations étaient d'inclure la représentation syndicale dans le *Industry Training Authority*—ITA (service de formation industrielle), l'organisation de la province qui gère les programmes d'apprentissage, d'établir des normes et d'augmenter les possibilités de formations; et de créer des groupes consultatifs dans différents secteurs dans le cadre de *Authority*. Le syndicat avait déjà fait partie de l'autorité provinciale, mais a été retiré en 2003. Maintenant que le rapport demande son retour avec la nécessité absolue d'améliorer les formations; le local 230, le local 213 de Vancouver en Colombie-Britannique et Nelson, et la section locale 1003 en Colombie-Britannique ont été appelés pour partager leur savoir-faire.

« Ils ont cessé de financer leurs apprentissages. Il n'y avait aucun personnel ni de suivi. Les apprentis avaient nulle part où aller après leur premier emploi » dit Venoit.

En revanche, les formations en apprentissage de la FIOE possèdent des

systèmes d'appui en place. Il y a un ratio d'un pour un et les apprentis reçoivent la supervision et l'encadrement nécessaires. Le progrès, la réalisation, aussi bien que l'aptitude, l'attitude et le professionnalisme sont supervisés. Les apprentis doivent également fournir un rapport écrit sur leurs objectifs.

« Nous le savions que cela sera l'avenir. Nous avons saisi l'importance de cet investissement continu, » dit Venoit.

Nous avons aujourd'hui quatre représentants de la FIOE siégeant au sein des groupes consultatifs dans différents secteurs; le gérant d'affaires Ray Keen du local 1003 siège sur le *Construction SAG*, Venoit siège sur le *Maritime SAG*, le gérant d'affaires Adam Van Steinburg du local 213 siège sur le *Manufacturing SAG* et le directeur exécutif Andy Cleven de *Electrical Joint Training Committee*—EJTC siège sur le *Liquid Natural Gaz SAG*.

L'échec des formations provinciales a aussi placé les travailleurs semi-spécialisés en second plans. Étant donné que l'hostilité du milieu non syndical n'a fait qu'aggraver la situation, ces travailleurs n'avaient nulle part où aller pour recevoir la formation. Plusieurs les empêchaient d'aller à l'école. Les employeurs préféraient les laisser en situation de sous-qualifications

pour devenir moins employables ailleurs, donc une main-d'œuvre moins coûteuse. Tout cela a enlevé l'habileté à la province d'exécuter un travail de construction de qualité dit Venoit.

« Avec la représentation de la FIOE au sein des groupes consultatifs dans différents secteurs, car elle a une bonne vue d'ensemble de l'industrie, nous pouvons suggérer une amélioration et nous assurer que tout le monde qui désire recevoir une formation peut l'obtenir, et que la formation soit donnée aussi professionnellement et efficacement que possible, » dit Venoit

Il y a présentement 24 projets en considération sur les gaz naturels liquéfiés en Colombie-Britannique. Nous avons aussi entendu parler d'un barrage de 9 milliards de dollars canadiens. Les estimations peuvent varier en fonction des travailleurs demandés. Dans tous les cas, pour avoir plus de contrats, il y aura un besoin pour plus de travailleurs qualifiés et la FIOE fournira les formations nécessaires pour y arriver.

« Nous l'approchons d'un différent point de vue "nous pouvons faire mieux et nous allons vous le montrer", dit Venoit. Notre main-d'œuvre n'est pas toujours la moins coûteuse, mais nous sommes les meilleurs. » ■

# TRANSITIONS

## DECEASED

### Jon F. Walters



Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Jon F. Walters, who retired in 2008 after a 48-year IBEW career, died on Sept. 20 at his home in Black-

foot, Idaho. He was 73.

Brother Walters had been a member of Pocatello Local 449 since 1960 and became its business manager in 1977. He was elected the Eighth District International vice president in 1982. He was named international secretary-treasurer in 2005 and was elected in 2006 at the IBEW convention in Cleveland.

In that role, Walters helped establish the National Electrical Contractors Association/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan. He also was a leader in establishing union-wide the Code of Excellence program, a commitment to quality work that he pioneered in the Eighth District.

"The Code of Excellence elevated the work of all our members and remains the standard we strive for today," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "Jon's role in establishing it was invaluable, along with the many other leadership positions he took to improve the lives of workers. He will be missed."

Willy Kniffen, Walters' son-in-law, said President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore J. Chilia visited Walters two days before his death.

"No matter who he met, they just felt like they knew him forever, even if they only had known him for a few minutes," said Kniffen, an IBEW organizer. "He was that kind of person. He truly loved the IBEW. He said on many occasions that without the IBEW, he would have been nothing. He was just a true union tradesman and a great family man."

Ted Jensen succeeded Walters as Eighth District international vice president after Walters became secretary-treasurer. Jensen said Walters was nearing retirement and called the decision to move to Washington "the hardest of his life," but he made a commitment to Hill to install the new health care plan.

IBEW members, no matter their standing or what sector they worked in, could always take solace in knowing he was taking their thoughts into account, Jensen said.

"Jon was never as concerned about his position or opinion or condition as he was about the lifting up of others," said Jensen, now retired. "He had a way of bringing everyone into a conversation and taking into account their opinions."

Jensen noted that he also succeeded Walters as both president and business manager of Local 449.

"I always felt like I was following in Jon Walters' footsteps, but never in his shadow," he said. "He never led me astray. That's the greatest compliment I can give him."

The IBEW Political Action Committee raised between \$7 million and

\$10 million during each year of his tenure as secretary-treasurer, making it the top union political action committee in the nation. As vice president, he served as IBEW liaison to the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

A native of Spokane, Wash., Walters lived in Idaho for most of his life and returned there following his retirement. He and his wife Theresa celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year. He is survived by her and three daughters: Michele, Nichole and Candice; and five grandchildren. ■

## RETIRED

### Robert P. Klein



After 41 years in the IBEW, Tenth District International Vice President Robert P. Klein retired, effective Oct. 31.

"I felt the time was right for me to step aside and I am leaving with a sense of pride and satisfaction knowing the Tenth District has good leadership in place both on the district and local level," Brother Klein said. "I have had an outstanding career and I'm blessed to have met and worked with some of the finest individuals one could ever have the pleasure to be around. I want to be remembered for what I stood for and strived to maintain throughout my career: integrity, always being honest and keeping the interest of our members at heart."

Brother Klein was initiated into Chattanooga, Tenn., Local 846, in 1974. He topped out as a lineman in 1981, working for 20 years at the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga, a city-owned utility. He was chosen as chief steward of the overhead line department in 1984.

Klein was elected president of Local 846 in 1988 and re-elected in 1991. When Local 846 merged with Chattanooga Local 175, Klein left his job at the utility and came on staff at the local before being appointed an international representative in 1998 by then-International President J.J. Barry.

Klein took over as the service representative for the 17 locals with members employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Nearly 5,000 members go to work each day at the TVA and it is one of the largest and most important partners of the IBEW. While working in the Tenth District, Klein was elected in 2001 as president of the Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council. He held the position until July 2015.

In 2003, then-International President Edwin Hill appointed Klein to serve as the Tenth District international vice president covering Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina, an entirely right-to-work district. He was elected Tenth District International Vice President at the 37th and 38th international conventions.

"You can't beat up companies and threaten work actions if you want to protect

your workers. You have to work differently and he was exceptional at it," said Jim Hunter, director of the IBEW Utility Department. "He is a lot like [former International President] Hill. He is about the nicest person you ever met and you would not get the impression that he was a real fighter, but he was. Bobby is very humble, but he is a strong leader who protected his membership."

The remainder of Klein's term will be filled by International Representative Brent E. Hall.

"I can't say enough about Bobby Klein. You're not going to find a finer person," Hall said. "I told somebody the other day, 'Of course you're honored for the IEC to appoint you, but I'm even more honored that Bobby said, 'I think you can take my place.' That's something."

Klein resides in Chattanooga, Tennessee with his wife Sharon. ■

## APPOINTED

### Brent E. Hall



Former Tenth District International Representative Brent E. Hall became Tenth District vice president on Oct. 31 fol-

lowing the retirement of Robert P. Klein.

The Memphis, Tenn. native was initiated into Local 1288 in January 1985. A lineman for Memphis Light, Gas and Water, Hall began his apprenticeship as a groundman and left nearly 18 years later as a crew leader.

Unusually, Hall was nominated to the local's executive board in 1989 as an apprentice. By the time of the election a month later, however, he had topped out as a journeyman lineman and served on the board for six years.

During his time at the municipal utility, Hall helped negotiate three contracts and helped lead Local 1288's effort to fight off the company's sale by a Memphis mayor determined to privatize.

In 1995, he began the first of his two terms as the local's president, serving until 2001 when he was appointed international representative.

"I got into the union movement at such a young age because of my dad," Hall said. "He was president and business manager of the Amalgamated Transit Union local in Memphis, so union was all I knew growing up."

At Local 1288, Hall put that knowledge to use, serving on the joint apprenticeship and training committee, safety committee, the Memphis Labor Council and chairing the local's United Way drive. He also served on the Resolutions Com-

mittee at the IBEW's 36th Convention in San Francisco.

As international representative for the last 14 years, Hall has served under Vice President Klein, servicing locals in central and eastern Tennessee. During that time, he served 10 years on the state's Prevailing Wage Commission and sat on Gov. Phil Bredesen's Roundtable committee, a collection of community leaders that advised the state's chief executive on important policy matters.

Hall helped to lead the unsuccessful effort to preserve 250 IBEW manufacturing jobs at the award-winning Sparta, Tenn., Philips manufacturing plant, which closed in 2012.

"That was probably the low point of my time in this job," Hall said. "We worked so hard to keep that plant open—from the workers on the ground to the international office—but it was like fighting an unknown."

Reflecting on the path that led him to his new job as vice president, Hall credited his family first. "You can't do any of this without the support of your family," he said, thanking his wife, Teresa, and his children, Chloe, 21, and Collin, 25, who just topped out as a journeyman electrician as a member of Nashville, Tenn., Local 316.

The IBEW officers, staff and members wish Brother Hall much success in his new position. ■

# ORGANIZING WIRE

## Orlando Industry Night Aims to Build Disney Magic

Orlando is booming, and with growth comes jobs—lots of jobs. For Local 606, central Florida's explosive growth has presented the sort of problem many business managers would love to have: too many projects and not enough workers.

So, with major projects looming, Local 606, together with the Central Florida chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association, set out to find the workers they needed to compete.

Four months of planning came together this summer when the two organizations, assisted by Fifth District Vice President Joseph S. Davis and organizers from the international office and other Florida locals, hosted an industry night, drawing the interest of nearly 300 non-union electricians in the region.

"This is what Henry Miller was all about," said Local 606 Business Manager Bob Carr, "organizing everyone in the electrical industry."

And the extra manpower is coming at just the right time.

"We've got major projects coming down the pipe," said Local 606 Assistant Business Manager Fernando Rendon. "Disney is building 'Avatar' Land at the Animal Kingdom and 'Toy Story' Land at Magic Kingdom back-to-back, and our



Local 606 received interest from nearly 300 nonunion electricians thanks to their successful industry night.

contractors are in a great position to land the new 'Star Wars' attraction at Hollywood Studios. Add to that a couple of major airport projects, and we've got easily seven years' worth of work."

At their peak, the Disney projects alone should require more than 600 members, nearly the entire roster of Local 606.

"We're just going to have to keep growing," Rendon said. "We have to organize. If we don't, we're going to lose this work."

Organizing, in fact, is a way of life for Local 606, where as many as 60 percent of members were organized in, Rendon included.

And in Orlando, where commercial and multifamily construction increased 65 percent in the last year, organizing means using the construction electrician and construction wireman alternative

classifications.

"We're using the CE/CW program on every job we've got," Rendon said. "The program has been just phenomenal for us. We're using it on everything, and we would never get these jobs without it."

For July's industry night, organizers from Florida locals 728 in Ft. Lauderdale, 756 in Daytona Beach and 915 in Tampa joined three organizers from the international office and visited nearly 100 non-union jobs sites to drum up interest in the IBEW.

In addition, Davis was critical in getting funding for radio ads in the two weeks leading up to the event.

After the expectations-busting success of the event, Davis urged other locals to follow the example of Local 606. "Any local with the available work should have an industry night and promote the CE/CW program more." ■

## CIRCUITS

### Hawaii Members' 'Ohana' Given the Spotlight on Local Television

What started as a 30-second campaign to highlight the work of Honolulu Local 1260 has turned into a monthly segment with a spotlight on the members.

KHON, a local television station and signatory of Local 1260, was set to air a 30-second spot about the local and its positive impact in the community. Then they heard about a volunteer trip one of the members had taken. The executives loved the story so much they decided to air a segment on it. That was the beginning of a series showcasing Local 1260's members.

Each segment in the series, called "Living Local 1260," has a different focus but they all touch on the local's sense of 'ohana,' a Hawaiian word for family in an expansive sense, one that stretches beyond blood ties.

"Being part of this organization, being part of this ohana, is being part of this state," said Local 1260 Business Manager Brian Ahakuelo. "IBEW is out there supporting our members all the time."

The segments air monthly at 8 a.m. on a morning news magazine show called "Living 808," named after the local area code. They are set to run indefinitely.

There are about 40 members who work at the station and about six to eight work on the "Living Local 1260" series itself. Members shoot and edit the video and when the segment airs, another group of members work on the broadcast.

When Mark Staszko decided to accompany his wife, also a union member, on a trip to Bolivia, he didn't know it would spark a news series. He just knew that his skills would come in handy. Using the expertise he acquired through his job, including his knowledge of water filtration, he was able to provide the South American community they were serving access to clean water and medical aid, some for the first time. He also showed them how to construct a rudimentary water system.

Staszko knew that the trip would not have been possible if he didn't have the support of his union. As he mentions in the segment, he and his wife self-financed the trip, something they could

only do because of their union salaries. And they had three weeks of vacation time to spend, a luxury that not all working people have.

It's stories like this that "Living 808" anchors Trini Kaopuiki and Taizo Braden showcase. The series has aired four videos so far. The others feature member David Finn and his work with the local chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Joseph "JC" Ventura and Jennifer Deschamps sharing the ways in which their union membership has improved their lives and allowed them to live a middle class lifestyle.

Deschamps, a third generation union member, learned the value of a good union job from her family. It allowed her grandfather, a Filipino immigrant, the opportunity to buy a home and she is able to support her stepson.

"We're not buying yachts, but we're able to live comfortably," Deschamps said.

With Hawaii being one of the most unionized states in the nation, leaders want the series to show the many ways in which unions and their members are not only thriving themselves but giving back.

Ahakuelo said union members are enthusiastic contributors to the local United Way. Members can also be found pitching in at food banks, at various charity events and helping with highway cleanup. Local 1260 was also honored with an award from the Big Brothers Big Sisters chapter where Finn and others volunteer.

Volunteerism provides a positive boost and sense of purpose to volunteers themselves. And being in a place where volunteerism is encouraged only makes the experience better.

"Being a 1260 member and being around other members who share that same vision has definitely helped in being a better employee, being a better husband and being a better community member," Finn said. ■

### Portland's Latest Bridge Welcomes Traffic, but No Cars

Portland, Oregon's newest bridge is a monument to "the people" and a striking addition to the city's skyline, but it won't move a single car from one side of the Wil-



The IBEW-wired Tilikum Crossing connects East and West Portland for pedestrians, bikers, and mass transit users, but leave your cars at home.

lamette River to the other.

The IBEW-wired Tilikum Crossing, which opened on Sept. 12, is exclusively for the use of Portland's light rail, streetcars, buses, pedestrians and bikers. A video produced by the IBEW featured members working on the project [URL: [www.bit.ly/IBEWBridge](http://www.bit.ly/IBEWBridge)]

The 1,720-foot span, which cost \$134 million to build, will light up the city's night sky with a complicated and unique LED-lighting system designed to reflect the rapidly changing conditions on the river below.

"The importance of having a project like this helps highlight who we are and what we do," Portland Local 48 Business Manager Gary Young told the "Electrical Worker" last year.

"It's hard to do that when you're doing a commercial building or a grain elevator," he said, "but when something like this gets so much publicity, and then you can throw 'IBEW' across the face of it, it really helps to get our name out there."

And the publicity hasn't stopped. In September, "The Oregonian" published a video and feature on Local 48 member Camilo Marquez [URL: [www.bit.ly/TilikumBridge](http://www.bit.ly/TilikumBridge)].

The 29-year-old project foreman was responsible for more than 10 miles of wire that controlled everything from trains and switches to the dazzling light display.

Appropriately, the bridge's name, Tilikum, is taken from the Chinook Wawa word for "people," reflecting not only the multitudes who will cross under its suspension wires each day, but also the hard-working men and women who helped to put it there. ■

### Union Volunteers Lend a Hand to Tennessee Paddlers

Visitors to Harrison Bay State Park outside Chattanooga, Tennessee, will find a fancy new boathouse on their next outdoor adventure thanks to union volunteers, including members of Local 175.

The new shed for storing the park's dozens of canoes, kayaks and other

watercraft was built over the summer by the Union Sportsmen's Alliance in conjunction with the American Water Charitable Foundation. It was dedicated on the shores of Chickamauga Lake on Sept. 3.

The 63 foot by 18 foot structure is the product of countless hours of volunteer work by members of Chattanooga's labor community, including Local 175, Ironworkers Local 704, Utility Workers Local 121, Insulators Local 46, and Communications Workers Local 3802.

Michael Starling, an eight-year veteran of Chattanooga Local 175, spent time at the park cutting wood, hauling supplies and lending a hand wherever it was needed.

"We got word they needed help," said Starling, who is active in Local 175's RENEW chapter, "so I spent some time there with 10 or 12 other volunteers. It's a great resource for the community, so I plan to use the new boathouse as often as I can."

The project was one-third of a \$25,000 grant from the American Water Charitable Foundation's Building Better Communities initiative, aimed at improving public access to water-based recreation activities in Chattanooga, Peoria, Illinois, and Charleston, W.Va.

The grant was made to the Union Sportsmen's Alliance's Work Boots on the Ground volunteer conservation program, which is focused on conserving wildlife habitat, restoring America's parks, and mentoring youth about the outdoors.



A new boat shed stands on the shores of Chickamauga Lake thanks to the hard work of union volunteers.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the completion of our first joint project with American Water," said USA CEO Fred Myers. "I'm certain this partnership will continue to grow and, together, we will tackle many more community projects." ■

### RENEW: Continuing Traditions, Building New Ones in Iowa



Jeff Cooling, Local 405 RENEW committee member

Jeff Cooling views his role as a member of the RENEW Committee at Local 405 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as a necessity more than a choice.

"We have a labor movement that is

dwindling from its high point," he said. "It used to be 35 percent of workers in private industry were unionized. Now, it's more like 10 percent.

"I've got another 40 years left in this thing. A lot of people have more than that. Making sure it's as good or better than what it's been is important to me."

Cooling, 28, has been active in his local RENEW (Reach Out and Engage Next-Gen Electrical Workers) chapter since 2011. He grew up in a union family. His father was a member of the millwright's union and his mother was part of the machinists and aerospace workers' union. His grandmother was a member of Cedar Rapids Local 1362 when he she worked the assembly line at a Rockwell Collins plant.

He decided during high school he wanted to work in a trade and quickly sought out an apprenticeship program. Getting involved with RENEW was a natural from the time he became a journeyman inside wireman in 2011.

"It really helps a lot of the younger members understand the structure within the IBEW, how things work locally, and also gives them a broader idea of the impact our movement can have," Cooling said of RENEW. "It can make not just



Honolulu Local 1260 members share the spotlight for their community engagement and sense of 'ohana.'

union members, but everyone's life, more prosperous."

He's convinced it's paying off.

"We have younger members paying attention to what the union does for them and what it does for their quality of life," he said.

Local 405 Business Manager Bill Hanes said that even in a tradition-rich union city like Cedar Rapids, younger members are coming from first-generation union families. He credits Cooling and others on the RENEW committee for emphasizing the importance of getting involved.

"He has a lot of support from his peers," he said. "They do everything together. He's got a big job in front of him."

Hanes said he's encouraged Cooling to speak to other locals about starting a RENEW committee when the schedule allows it.

"He's able to communicate with

anyone he comes in contact with," Hanes said. "He's just a natural."

Cooling said Local 405's committee works closely with the AFL-CIO's Next Up program, which also encourages union activism by younger members.

"Being part of the broader labor movement, and bringing people from other trades and other professions together, has given us a better look at labor in our area," he said. "They've been effective in making us help everyone out."

He also thinks the strong ties to the local AFL-CIO have paid dividends in charitable endeavors. Local 405's RENEW Committee is actively involved in Operation Backpack, which sends single-serve food items home with children at the end of the school day with enough food for dinner that night. The AFL-CIO's local Next Up chapter has been a long-time sponsor.

The Local 405 Renew Committee

also provided back-to-school supplies and clothing for a family this summer and took part in a fundraiser organized by Omaha, Neb., Local 22 to provide assistance to families of members who were killed or injured while on the job.

Cooling said his RENEW committee will be active in the Iowa caucuses, one of the first major electoral events leading up to the presidential election.

"We're encouraging people to participate and make sure they're supporting candidates with policies that are friendly to working families and union families," Cooling said.

The ties to Local 405 don't end with Jeff in the Cooling household. Wife Amanda currently is an apprentice. She also is scheduled to give birth to the couple's first child in late November.

"She's been a big supporter the entire way," he said. ■

## THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

### Federal Legislation Aims to Strengthen Protections for Working People

A new bill in Congress is aiming to make joining a union easier and more like a civil right.

Sen. Patty Murray of Washington and Rep. Bobby Scott of Virginia introduced the Workplace Action for a Growing Economy Act in September. The bill would amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for workers who want to form a union, while also stiffening penalties against employers who seek to thwart any organizing attempts.

And it's good for nonunion people too. For anyone who wants to talk with their co-workers about equal pay or push for increased safety conditions or wages, they would be able to do so with less fear of retaliation from their bosses. And if bosses do get in the way, the WAGE Act provides more remedies for employees to seek damages.

"Too many employers use aggressive intimidation campaigns to keep workers from having a voice in the workplace," Murray and Scott wrote in a sign-on letter to colleagues. "The system is broken, and needs to be fixed."

The NLRA hasn't been updated since 1947—and then it was to weaken employee power.

"Anytime we make it easier to form a union and give working people a voice on the job, that's a good thing," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "And if we can give the NLRB more teeth and power to keep unscrupulous employers in check, that will help level the playing field."

Some of the changes the WAGE Act would make include:



- Tripling the backpay employers would have to pay for firing or retaliating against their employees, regardless of immigration status.
- Allowing employees to sue their employers for monetary damages, just as they can under civil rights laws.
- Establishing civil penalties up to \$50,000 for employers who engage in unfair labor practices.
- Empowering the National Labor Relations Board to issue a bargaining order upon finding that an employer prevented a free and fair election.
- Requiring employers to inform their employees of these rights by posting a notice developed by the NLRB. They would also have to inform new employees at the time of hiring.

"All told, the legislation would make it far riskier for employers to retaliate against workers who are trying to organize a union or band together to improve working conditions," wrote Dave Jamieson for the Huffington Post. A study from Harvard says there are a lot of people who would like to do just that. The study found that if everyone who would wanted representation on the job got it, the unionization rate would be

almost 60 percent.

Richard D. Kahlenberg and Moshe Z. Marvit, authors of "Why Labor Organizing Should Be a Civil Right," a book that lays out much of what is in the WAGE Act, wrote in Politico, "By giving workers a fresh way to think about becoming part of a union—as a civil right, rather than just joining a special interest—the idea has a chance to re-awaken a conversation that has languished in American politics." Considering another study that found unionization is positively related to upward mobility, this bill could potentially affect generations of working families.

The WAGE Act has 56 co-sponsors in the House and 14 in the Senate as of Oct. While leaders in the Republican-controlled Congress are unlikely to bring it to the floor, the bill does give politicians who wish to show their support of working families something to align themselves with. As Bill Samuel, director of government relations at the AFL-CIO said to the Guardian, "We want to make sure that our elected officials have something concrete to point to, to embrace, to explain to the public and to the press, and that's really why we are doing this now." ■

## Important Time-Sensitive Information for Workers Employed by Power Plants or by Power Plant Contractors

*If you or a family member ever worked at a power plant, you may have been exposed to asbestos—and you may need to act quickly to preserve your legal rights*

Energy Future Holdings Corp., Ebasco Services Inc., EECI, Inc., and a large number of affiliated companies ("EFH") owned, operated, built or maintained power plants throughout the U.S. and in other countries. Asbestos was present in a number of these plants, exposing workers and their family members to debilitating and potentially fatal diseases.

EFH has filed for bankruptcy. The bankruptcy court has set **5:00 p.m. EST, December 14, 2015** as the deadline for filing **all** asbestos-related claims against EFH. This deadline applies to anyone who **currently has an asbestos-related disease** resulting from exposures at EFH-associated plants ("manifested claims") and anyone **who may in the future develop an asbestos-related disease** ("unmanifested claims"). This includes:

- Employees of utilities operating EFH-owned power plants
- Employees of construction companies that built those power plants
- Employees of contractors that performed construction and maintenance services in these power plants, and
- Members of the families or households of these employees, who may have been exposed to asbestos carried home from the plants

You can find a full list of EFH's plants at [www.EFHAsbestosClaims.com](http://www.EFHAsbestosClaims.com).

Asbestos-related illnesses include mesothelioma, lung cancer, laryngeal cancer, pharyngeal cancer, stomach cancer and asbestosis. Some of these diseases may not become evident for as long as 50 years after exposure.

Many companies that have gone into bankruptcy after exposing their workers to asbestos set up special trust funds to compensate individuals who later developed asbestos-related illnesses. Despite protests by worker advocates, EFH has refused to establish a separate fund. The bankruptcy court is instead requiring everyone with a potential claim to file now. **It is important that you file a claim before the December 14, 2015 deadline** if you have ever worked in an EFH facility, directly for the utility or for a contractor that performed construction or maintenance work in an EFH facility—even if you do not currently have an asbestos-related disease.

You can obtain specific information about which power plants are involved and how to file both "manifested" and "unmanifested" claims at [www.EFHAsbestosClaims.com](http://www.EFHAsbestosClaims.com) or by calling 1-877-276-7311. If you believe this applies to you and/or a member of your family, it is important that you act quickly to review the directions on the website, collect the information you need to support your claim, and consult with an asbestos attorney, if necessary, so you do not miss the **December 14, 2015**, filing deadline. Failure to file could result in a loss of your right to recover for a current or future injury. **Don't delay, act today!** ■

## IBEW MERCHANDISE



### Hooded Blue Sweatshirt \$22.00

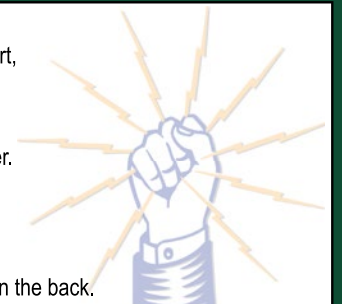
50% cotton - 50% polyester hooded sweatshirt, IBEW silk-screened in white on left chest.

### Union Yes Bumper Sticker \$0.25

3" x 11 1/2" weather proof vinyl bumper sticker. "Union Yes" with IBEW logo.

### IBEW Right Choice Hat \$8.50

Black with yellow embroidered lettering, "IBEW...the right choice" and IBEW initials on the back.



These items and more are now available at your IBEW Online store.

[www.ibewmerchandise.com](http://www.ibewmerchandise.com)

# LOCAL LINES

## New Signatory Contractor

L.U. 7 (i), SPRINGFIELD, MA—IBEW Local 7 would like to welcome RGS Communications to its list of signatory contractors. RGS owner is Robert Simkiss. We welcome our new members employed by RGS. They include: Bros. Jeremy Moran, Kane McCord, Evan Markham, Rich Lavolette, Alex Almquist and Dan Duford.

The weather didn't stop us from running the Holyoke, MA, St. Patrick's Day 10K Road Race in March. [See photo below.] It snowed all morning and the sun came out at 1 p.m. Congratulations to all of the runners who participated this year.

Mark Kuenzel, Tr. Dir.



IBEW Local 7 members gather for St. Patrick's Day 10K Road Race: Jim Houlihan (left), Mark Kuenzel, Matt Howard, Bill Horgan and Garrett Howell.

## World-Class Line Clearance Training Program

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—I am proud to report that all 650 journeyman line clearance tree trimmers with our local have completed the Local 17 Journeyman Continuous Education Program. The training is designed to enhance the journeyman skill set, review changes in the industry, and continue to provide world-class line clearance tree trimmers to our utilities.

Local 17 is in the process of purchasing our very own training facility. Our membership is growing. We now have five apprentice programs and more than 2,600 members. The time to step up and invest in our training is now! Providing the very safest, best trained craftsmen to all of our customers is without question the smart thing for our union to do.

All is good at the local, and we remain at full employment. DTE Energy is investing big dollars in its tree trimming program. Therefore, we are looking for qualified LCTT journeymen. Please contact Adam Kimbler at 313-790-1868 for the particulars.

In closing, please work safe and continue to look out for one another on the job. When you think about safety, think about your family and think about the safety of your co-workers.

Dean Bradley, B.M./F.S.

## 'Welcome, Sisters & Brothers'

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—We are pleased to welcome the Lake County, Indiana, emergency call dispatchers to our union family.

A representation election was held and 72 votes were tallied with 68 in favor of IBEW representation. The dispatchers are excited about joining our union. Local 21 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Paul Wright said, "The dispatchers protect the county's citizens every day ... and we look forward to working with county representatives to negotiate a contract that rewards the dispatchers for their service to the residents of Lake County." Bargaining began on Aug. 25 and at this writing contract negotiations were underway.

In June, Local 21 officer elections were held. Bus. Mgr./Pres. Paul Wright, Vice Pres. Bill Henne, Treas. Jacquie Fields and Rec. Sec. Bob Przybylinski were re-elected. Members re-elected to the Executive Board are: Devon Jennings, Errick Houston, Michael Scime, Eric Slattery, Tim Strutz and Jim Locke. Susan Elder, from Unit 4, was elected to a first term on the board. We thank our sisters and brothers for participating in this election!

We are proud of our members who donated to the IBEW 21 Days of Giving - Back to School Supply Drive. Our goal was to provide a backpack filled with supplies to the 100 families whose homes were destroyed when a tornado hit Coal City, IL. Not only did Local 21 members deliver all the backpacks, but we also donated supplies to the three charities we helped last year. The groups were very grateful for our members' generosity.

Bob Przybylinski, R.S.



Local 21 members Chris Jarchow (left) and Gary Vidal delivered 100 backpacks to help children whose families lost their homes when a tornado struck.



Coleson Cove Dragon Boat Team members sponsored by Local 37 include: Ronnie Oldfield, Andy Mawhinney, Steve Petrie, Chad Crawford, Kristen Ricketts, Michelle Danks, Bill Halpen, Harry Halpen, Laura Magee, Jerry Brennan, Achsah Losier, Matt Losier, Malin Johnson, Colin Toole, Michelle Toole, Aaron Theriault, Katelin Spence, Jesse LaPaire, John Mason and Deirdre Johnston.

## Dragon Boat Fest Volunteers

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Members of Local 37 have a proud history of actively supporting their communities. To help boost community involvement, the IBEW 37 Health, Wellness & Benefits Committee has a program that provides financial support to teams made up of IBEW members participating in community based, charitable fundraising events.

Just recently, a team of 25 Local 37 members employed at NB Power's Coleson Cove Generating Station participated in the Saint John Dragon Boat Festival, raising \$2,040 to help purchase a new ultrasound machine and a state-of-the-art computer system for a local hospital.

Since it started in 2007, the program has helped several IBEW teams raise tens of thousands of dollars for worthy causes like the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Saint Joseph's Hospital Foundation, Mindcare New Brunswick and the Canadian Cancer Society.

To be eligible for funding, specific criteria must be met: the event must be sponsored by a nonprofit group, be related to health and wellness, and involve physical activity. The majority of participants on the team must be IBEW members and the team must represent itself as being sponsored by the IBEW.

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

## 2015 Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—Our 2015 inside apprentice graduation was held at the recently organized Lucarelli's Banquet Center. Congratulations to

the graduates: Scott Guerra, Anthony Cieslikowski, Reinardo Castoire Jr., Brandon Dziura, Richard Doersam, Salvatore Rapasadi, Hutch Hepinstall, Terry Magierski, Patrick Dodds, Douglas Schifferle, Matthew Szal, Ronald Kennick, Eric Grabenstatter, Andrew Strianese, Mark Gaiser, Aaron Arnold, Jaeling Williams and Scott Hassett.

Eric Grabenstatter received the Dr. Anthony Renzi Award, given to the apprentice with the highest five-year cumulative grade point average. Doug Schifferle received the Dave McNamara Award, given to the apprentice with the second highest five-year cumulative average. Great job, men! Awards were also given to apprentices with the highest grade point average for each class year.

Those award recipients are: Juan Negron Jr. – 4th year class; Vince Majchrzak – 3rd year; Wayne Rich III – 2nd year; and Scott Tyx – 1st year. Congratulations to all!

Every election year is important. Deciding which political candidates to vote for may sometimes be difficult, but please consider candidates who have our best interest in mind. If you do not take part in the process, you are unable to have a voice. Be sure to exercise your right to vote. United we bargain, divided we beg.

Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.

## Annual Graduation Ceremony

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—The Central New York Joint Electrical Apprenticeship & Training Committee's annual apprenticeship graduation ceremony was June 26 at Justin's Tuscan Grille in East Syracuse. The occasion marked the graduation of 25 apprentices from the inside wireman program.

CNY JATC Training Dir. Jeff DeSocio had kind words and advice for the graduates in both his welcome and closing remarks. "I'm proud of all of the graduates here tonight, as this is a huge accomplishment, one to be proud of and honored by," DeSocio said. "I would like to remind you all to work hard, work safe, become foreman, challenge yourself to be great, and enjoy all your successes in the future."

**[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.]**

## Submitting Local Lines Articles

Local Lines are printed monthly on an alternating even/odd schedule. They can be submitted by designated press secretaries or union officers via email ([locallines@ibew.org](mailto: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](http://www.ibew.org/articles/journaldeadlines.htm). Please email or call the Media Department at (202) 728-6291 with any questions.

## Trade Classifications

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

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





At Local 43 apprenticeship graduation. Front row: graduates Christopher Snyder (left), Clint March, Henry Marrero, Eric Elford, Tyler Bulluck, Kevin Klee, Jeffrey Penny, Michael Hartmann and Teylor Cherkio. Back row: Training Dir. Jeff DeSocio (left); graduates Andrew Halladay, Christopher Gebhart, Steven Gentile, Jack Mincolla, Gary Stelter, Michael Perez, Michael Welsh, Jon Reitz, Craig Branch, Adam Mulcahey, Robert Prince, Douglas Hillman and Noah Cunningham. Not pictured: graduates Donald Pierson, Joshua Shoff and Jason Tyler.

Award recipients were also honored. Jon Reitz received the Scholastic Achievement Award, courtesy of Greenlee Tools. Jon finished the program with a final classroom average of 94.59 percent and over 8,000 on-the-job training hours. The Outstanding Attendance Award went to Michael Perez, courtesy of Fluke. Local 43 Bus. Mgr. Donald Morgan presented Andrew Halladay with the Bill Towsley Union Activist Award for Halladay's continued dedication to the IBEW.

Congratulations to the newest journeyman wiremen of IBEW Local 43!

Gene Townsend, P.S.

ed the Local 47 Family Picnic held in San Dimas. Everyone had a great time. The local plans to make the picnic an annual event. See all the official photos at [www.IBEW47.org](http://www.IBEW47.org).

We are sad to report the passing of retired member Harvey Richard Beck and Michael Dohrer. May they rest in peace. Condolences to Bro. Troy Mendenhall and his family on the untimely passing of his wife, Dani. Also, Local 47 wishes a full and speedy recovery to injured member Juan Morales.

Live long, live safe and well. Work and buy union!

Tracy Dougherty, P.S.



Local 47 Bus. Rep. Mitch Smith and his family enjoy IBEW Local 47 Family Picnic.

### NTI Graduate Recognized

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Bro. Lynn Turner, journeyman lineman/ALBAT instructor, recently completed his studies and graduated from the National Training Institute. The IBEW, NECA and other business organizations play major roles in

supporting this educational experience. NTI recruits some of the finest professors in the field to educate our IBEW inside and outside apprentice instructors. Bro. Turner joins Local 51 Vice Pres. Wes Heckman Jr. as a fellow graduate of NTI. "With the help from NTI, I hope to continue to inspire our future," Bro. Turner said.

Our sincere condolences to the family of Gerald Hawkins, past business manager of former Local 1306, who passed away Aug. 1.

Thanks to all who attended our annual picnic and fish fry. A special shout-out to Bro. Kurt Leith for his hard work to help make this event a success year after year.

At the time of this writing, our work outlook is promising. Be safe and attend your monthly unit meeting.

Karlene Knisley, B.R.

### Annual Crappie Tournament

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO—Bus. Rep. Dexter Drerup reported on Local 53's annual crappie tournament, which took place Saturday, June 6. While the lake was 11 feet high, members still managed to catch a few fish and have a fish fry afterward. Everyone had a great time!

First place went to Josh Sadver and Chris Collins with 9.99 pounds caught. A close second went to Nathan Warstadt and Jason Maupin with 9.36 pounds. Third place went to Jimmy and Ronnie Gaylord with 6.66 pounds. Fourth place went to Adam Combs and Don Hell with 6.38 pounds. And fifth place went to Roger Wainwright and Gary Spoor with 5.59 pounds.

James Burks, V.P.



Local 81 elected officers. Front row, from left: Bus. Mgr. Rick Schraeder, Pres. Paul Casparro, E-Board member Pat Hartman and Rec. Sec. Ed Scott. Back row: E-Board members Eddie O'Donnell, Mike Brust and Jeff Addley; Treas. Sean Loughman; Vice Pres. Mike McDermott; and E-Board member Nick Waitulavich.

### Election of Officers

L.U. 81 (i), SCRANTON, PA—On June 13, Local 81's membership elected officers for a three-year term. Bus. Mgr. Rick Schraeder, Pres. Paul Casparro, Vice Pres. Mike McDermott and Executive Board member Mike Brust were re-elected to office.

Elected for a first term are our new Rec. Sec. Ed Scott, Treas. Sean Loughman, and Executive Board members Jeff Addley, Pat Hartman, Eddie O'Donnell and Nick Waitulavich.

Thank you to the Local 81 membership for coming out that day to elect officers to lead their union for the next three years. We also thank our outgoing officers for their hard work and dedication to Local 81 over the years.

A new apprenticeship class was selected, and the new class started school in September.

Michael Brust, P.S.

### Tribute to Leadership

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY—Local 97 congratulates Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson

on his June 1, 2015, appointment. We look forward to supporting Pres. Stephenson as he leads our great union into the future.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill. During the many years that Pres. Emeritus Hill served as our leader, the IBEW was taken to a new level within the labor movement. During times of a changing corporate climate and notable challenges, his wisdom and steadfast leadership served the IBEW well. Under his leadership, the IBEW has made great strides. During challenging times, the IBEW knew it could not continue business as usual. Pres. Emeritus Hill knew change would be tough but that without it we would not survive. His leadership preserved the well-being of the IBEW and its local unions. Pres. Emeritus Hill has long been recognized as one of the most highly respected union leaders in the country. We wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for everything he has done for the "IB-of-EW."

Jim Zabinski, V.P.

### Family Day Festivities

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—On Aug. 16, Local 103 held the Annual Lowell Spinners Family Day event. Things started off with a big barbecue for the members—serving up steak tip, ribs, fried chicken and much more. After the barbecue, members and their families watched the Lowell Spinners take on Tri-City for a tough seven innings. Unfortunately, the Spin-

ners lost by 2-0, dropping out of first place, but attendees enjoyed a great day of food, fun and camaraderie.

Local 103 held its annual Labor Day Family Outing celebration on Sept. 6. The local provided food and fun for the members and their children. As always, there were many activities for the children, including sand art, clown shows, face painting and a rock-climbing wall. This was truly an amazing event celebrating the hard-working members of Local 103 and their families. Thank you to all who attended and helped out to make the day so successful.

Kevin C. Molineaux, P.S.

### United Way Fundraiser

L.U. 109 (u), ROCK ISLAND, IL—Active and retired members of IBEW Local 109, employed by MidAmerican Energy, were part of our recent United Way fundraising campaign. Our members, both active and retired, realize the importance of coming together to give back to the communities we live in.

We thank all Local 109 members for their participation in community service projects.

Denise Newberry, R.S.



IBEW Local 109 members volunteer for United Way fundraiser: Les Kline (left), Troy Hartman, Lori Shaffnit, retiree Paul Johnson and Frank Buchman.

### 2015 National Gas Rodeo

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) and IBEW members made a mark at the 25th National Gas Rodeo in Colorado Springs, CO.

All four PSCo teams participating ranked within the top 20 against 18 utilities from across the country on Aug. 29. A total of 12 PSCo participants, members of Local 111, competed in two two-man teams and two four-man teams against 154 contestants.

These members competed in events that highlighted their professional skills while performing them safely. Rodeo participants compete in four



IBEW Local 111 members on a PSCo four-man team at National Gas Rodeo include Matthew Bradley, Aaron Brown, Logan McNulty and R.C. Walker.

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## LOCAL LINES

timed events, and must meet safety requirements. Events include: meter set, service installation, pipe cut, and hand-dig followed by a relay event. PSCo had one four-man team (designated “3½ Men”) that qualified directly for the relay; the other three teams participated in a Mystery Event to qualify for the relay.

Every year, people come out and support their co-workers at the rodeo because of their dedication to, and pride in, their trade. We thank our IBEW members for their passion and hard work throughout the year.

Two-man teams were: 15th place - “Fittin’ For Alivin” with Wayne Kircher and Tony Madsen (Lipan Distribution Center); and 16th place - “Operator & Monitor” with Chris Phillips and Josh Voss (Ft. Collins).

Four-man teams were: 10th place - “3½ Men” with Matthew Bradley, Aaron Brown, Logan McNulty and R.C. Walker (Grand Junction); and 16th place - “Dirty Metfits” with John Dean, Eric McBarlett, Jeremiah Votruba and Brett Weitl (Ft. Collins).

Mike Kostelecky, P.S.

## SDS Pipeline Project — Water for the Future

L.U. 113 (catv,ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—In Western states water is a precious commodity. Colorado Springs Utilities’ Southern Delivery System is building 50 miles of pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir on the Arkansas River, three pump stations and a water treatment plant to back up its aging pipeline from the western slope.

The electrical contract for the SDS project was secured by McDade-Woodcock. During a tour of the water treatment plant, I was not at all surprised by the exceptional, quality product being installed by our IBEW members. Hats off to them for another quality job by American unionized labor!

The work picture this year has been exceptional with many calls going into Book II. Many thanks to the brothers and sisters who helped man these jobs.

In June the local hosted its annual picnic at a new venue called Wonderland Ranch. Located in Black Forest, it was spacious and family friendly. Everyone had a great time.

With regret, Local 113 reports the death of several retired members: Kevin Suddarth, Dennis Hedrick, Steve Kelly and Walt Ridenour. These brothers will be sorely missed.

Congratulations to our recent apprenticeship graduating class of 2015. Thanks for your hard work and dedication, graduates. We wish you well in your careers.

Brian Putnam, P.S.



Local 113 congratulates apprenticeship graduates. Front row: Randall McGaw (left), Nathaniel Cinocco, Daniel Sternthal, Bobby Lombardi, Samuel LaCombe. Back row: Ian Wilcox, Bradley Hartman, Evan Lehman and Josh Rincones.

[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](http://www.ibew.org).]

## Solidarity & Participation

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—The local concluded its summer events with the annual softball and golf tournaments in Bend, Oregon. This year, those events and the Pacific Northwest Lineman’s Rodeo

had a massive amount of support from participants, spectators and sponsors. Approximately \$10,000 will be donated on behalf of IBEW Local 125. Visit [www.ibew125.com](http://www.ibew125.com) for pictures from these activities.

As in years past, labor unions are standing up for working people as certain special interest groups try to continue stifling working families throughout our country. Too many corporations want to expand their profits at our expense. Anti-union groups are attempting to make us scapegoats for a variety of issues while they search for ways to improve their bottom lines. Don’t fall for the trap. Stay focused on what matters to us as a labor union and don’t let outsiders divert our attention from the priorities at hand.

Please keep attending your union meetings and working with the many volunteers who serve on your behalf. Take the time to thank a shop steward or any committee member who is advocating for your wages, hours and working conditions. Everyone has a duty to get educated, stay engaged and communicate. Stay focused; stay safe.

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.



Local 139 apprenticeship graduates: Jerimiah Clark (left), Keith Barnstead, Jason Zeigler, Mike Tierney and Bob Hendee. Not pictured: Tyler Southard (whose “tux” didn’t come back from the cleaners in time.)

## Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 139 (i&u), ELMIRA, NY—Local 139 is proud to present our 2015 apprenticeship graduating class. Congratulations to the graduates, our newest journeyman wiremen: Keith Barnstead, Jerimiah Clark, Bob Hendee, Tyler Southard, Mike Tierney and Jason Zeigler. These mechanics are doing a great job for their local and the community. Don’t let their fancy clothes in the photo (above) fool you—these guys are the real deal.

Ernie Hartman, P.S.

## Governor’s Anti-Worker Agenda

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Prevailing wage was axed in July, another casualty of the Gov. Scott Walker administration’s sweeping changes.

The controversial Voter ID law is now in effect in our state, requiring voters to show an approved photo ID at the polls. The Walker administration now wants to dismantle Wisconsin’s nonpartisan Government Accountability Board, which oversees the state’s elections, campaign finance, ethics and lobbying laws.

Local 159 seeks to be an agent of change, on the ground locally. We’re working with building trades partners and elected officials to implement Community Workforce Agreements and project labor agreements locally. We are also partnering with area high



Local 159 hosted two groups of energetic high school students at the training center in July and plans to host more students soon.

schools to bring students to the now-completed training center for an introduction to the trade. We hope someday some of these students will be working on Community Workforce Agreement jobs as IBEW members.

At the time of this writing, we have 20 new apprentices coming aboard.

Our RENEW members are hitting the ball out of the park, enthusiastically helping put on several events, including a poker ride, trap shoots, polar plunges and more. They were also charged up about the September RENEW conference in Detroit.

At this writing, we were all-hands-on-deck preparing to host Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson and Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. David J. Ruhmkorff, as well as local dignitaries, at our Oct. 10 Training Center Grand Opening.

Lisa Goodman, B.A.



Local 191 volunteers at Relay for Life fundraiser included: from left, Kelly Brune, Dave Brune, Tim Freeman (wearing cancer survivor medal) and Mike Potter.

## ‘Good Things Happening’

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—Local 191’s work picture remains strong. Thank you to our members and travelers for filling the calls!

We have several upcoming social events for the members and their families. The Westside Christmas parties will be held Dec. 5 in Everett and Bellingham. The Eastside Christmas party will be Dec. 20 in Wenatchee.

We are pleased to announce that we will be starting an Associate Member Program beginning in January 2016. This will allow unrepresented electricians to take Continuing Education Unit (CEU) classes, attend social events and meet and mingle with union members and contractors. We hope when the unrepresented electricians learn more, joining the IBEW

will be an easy choice for them.

IBEW Local 191 was successful in getting the Data Center Bill extended during the last session of the state Legislature. This bill creates incentives for developers building data centers in Washington state and has created millions of hours of work for IBEW members. Thank you to our members, and to our sister IBEW locals, who helped in this effort.

Special thanks to the members and their families who volunteered for the summer Relay for Life fundraiser in Bellingham to benefit cancer research.

Lastly, all retirees are reminded of our monthly Retiree Luncheon, held in Bellingham on the second Thursday of each month.

Bill Mirand, P.S.

## ‘Stand Up for Working People’

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Once again this year, we celebrated Labor Day in September. That is traditionally also the time for kickoff of the political season ... but not anymore! Issues that affect all Illinois citizens are on the plate every month. There are just more speeches as election time approaches. Labor needs to have all of its members and families

vote for those who will defend the gains and conditions organized labor has fought for. Please see the registrar at the union hall and be sure your voter ID is up to date. Vote pro-labor! Citizens United, offshoring jobs, “right to work for less” and unemployment continue to dog U.S. working people. That must change!

The Sugar Creek Sanitation Project is underway and the Jacksonville Water Plant work is ongoing. City Water, Light & Power (CWLP) is taking eight apprentices and also hired three journeymen at Dallman Station.

With regret we report the passing of the following members: Paul Jepp, Edwin Weiskopf Jr. and James “Mick” LaRue Jr. Our condolences go out to their families and friends.

Hope you had a safe and happy Labor Day. Remember to stand up for working people. Cardinals/Cubs in the major league baseball playoffs? Could be?

Donald Hudson, P.S.



IBEW Local 193 participates in 2015 Labor Day parade.



Local 229 congratulates apprenticeship graduating class. From left: fifth-year instructor Lee Berkheimer; Pres. Scott Moul; graduates Matt Mejo, Zach Roth, Tyler Crone, Chris LaCroix, Brad Claar, Jared Barley; and Bus. Mgr. Matt Paules. Not pictured: graduates Steve Schrum, Andy Jamison.

## 2015 Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA—We are pleased to announce the graduation of our inside wireman apprenticeship class of 2015. (See photo above.) All apprentice graduates completed the Electrical Training Alliance curriculum as well as the Craft Certification Level 6 written and proficiency examinations.

The class also completed a volunteer senior project for Habitat for Humanity that included building an electrical service, installing branch wiring, temporary lighting and panel rough-in for a new home. The Habitat project participants included apprentices, instructors and union staff. Chuck Whitman from CapitalTristate awarded each student and recognized the Outstanding Apprentice Award recipients.

We are thankful for the hard work of all of our instructors and the assistance of our training partners. This is an outstanding graduating class and we are proud to have the graduates represent Local 229.

Timothy Griffin, P.S.

## Upcoming Events

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—At press time negotiations are still ongoing for several units. The newly organized S&N locators, Lake Township employees and fire fighters are in negotiations for a first contract. The First Energy Agreement and the 71/245 Agreement are renewals of existing contracts.

In August, Local 245 members enjoyed a summer ballgame and dinner in a spirit of great comradery. Big thanks to Lisa Tracy and Amanda Parker for making all the arrangements for the event. The ladies have already started planning the winter social event, a hockey game in January. More details will follow.

To encourage more young people to get involved with the union, the local is planning a Christmas party for our young members and their families scheduled for Dec. 6. The party will include gifts for the kids, and Santa will make an appearance! Admission to the party will be a dozen cookies to be shared with the rest of the attendees.

The local will also participate in a Salvation Army Adopt a Kettle fundraiser on the day after Thanksgiving. Those who are interested should contact the hall for more information.

Have a safe and wonderful fall season! Go, Bucks!

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.

## Data Hub Project

L.U. 257 (em,i,rtb,rts,spa&t), JEFFERSON CITY, MO—Local 257 apprentice wireman Kyle Schlotz is pictured, in the accompanying photo, tightening lugs on a new 300-kilowatt natural gas generator. The new generator is part of an upgrade done by signatory contractor Richard W. Howerton Electric Inc. for Central Bank's

main data hub at Central Technology Services. The new generator will supply backup power for the server rooms, uninterruptible power source systems and emergency equipment.

Joel Vanderslice, P.S.



Local 257 apprentice wireman Kyle Schlotz on the jobsite.

## Informed & Politically Active

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—Another election cycle is upon us and many of us will be headed to the voting booth to exercise our civic duty. It is true that some members may find politics in general distasteful, but it is critically important that we stay informed, engaged and politically active as union members.

Some political entities in this country would love nothing more than to see the middle-class worker/voter lose patience and become disenfranchised. We never want to see the “Don’t Blame Me, I Voted for ...” bumper sticker give way to one that reads: “Don’t Blame Me, I Didn’t Vote”!

There is no bad time to educate yourself about local and national issues and legislation that directly affect your ability to earn an honest paycheck to raise a family on. Here in the Mercer County and Bucks County areas of our local’s jurisdiction, the political landscape is constantly shifting and we must stay informed to know which candidates support the interests of working people.

If you do not attempt to shape your own future, there are plenty of others who would be more than happy to do it for you.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

## Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 317 (i,o,rts,t&u), HUNTINGTON, WV—Local 317 congratulates the Huntington Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee class of 2015 for successfully completing their inside wireman apprenticeship!



Local 317 congratulates apprenticeship graduates. Front row: Local 317 Instructor James Stacy; Apprenticeship Dir. Tim Akers; committee member Travis Smith; graduates Schyler Elkins, Ami Rose, Joey Barr; committee member Tom Braley; graduate Dustin Dalton. Back Row: Instructor Carol Jones; committee member Matt Simms; graduates Eric Mollette, Adam Roush and Terry Hughes.

The class of 2015 began their apprenticeship training while the work picture in our local was very slow; as a result several people dropped out of the program because of the lack of work. Six brothers and one sister were determined to succeed. For all of their hard work and dedication, on behalf of Local 317 and the HEJATC, I wish the best of luck to the graduates as they begin a new chapter of their IBEW careers!

**[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.]**

James Stacy, P.S.

## Veterans Day & Giving Thanks

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN—World War I was “the war to end all wars.” Fighting between Allied Forces and Germany ceased on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. November 11 became known as Armistice Day, a day to honor World War I veterans.

According to the book “Dreams of Dignity, Workers of Vision,” a history of the IBEW, wiremen in 1918 earned wages varying from 55 cents an hour at 48 hours a week in Atlanta, to 75 cents an hour at 44 hours a week in San Francisco, to 82.5 cents per hour at 44 hours a week in Denver.

In 1954, veterans of World War II and the Korean War lobbied Congress to replace the word “Armistice” with the word “Veteran.” November 11 became Veterans Day, a day to honor veterans of all wars.

Veterans continue to join or return to the IBEW after military service. Local 343 has 176 members who are veterans; 115 of those veterans are IBEW retirees. Of the 61 who are active members, four are currently deployed. All five branches of service are represented. Veterans Day has been a provisional holiday in our contract since the 2002-2005 agreement. On this Veterans Day, remember those who fought in battle so that we may live in freedom.

Please remember to buy American, union-made products.

Tom Small, P.S.

## Volunteers Help Build New Trade School in Haiti

L.U. 349 (em,es,i,m,ps,rtb,rts,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—Several of our journeyman wiremen went to Port au Prince, Haiti, in June and July to help build a new trade school. Our school instructor Sergio Mayor led the group, along with Local 349 Pres. David Karcher, Bros. Wally St. Hilaire and Marc Zamor, as well as the Haitian participants.

The National School of Art and Trade, operated by the Congregation of the Salesians of St. John Bosco, was built in about 6 weeks. The Port au Prince school is a two-story building with 14 classrooms and two offices. Each classroom accommodates 25 to 30 students. The school provides instruction in several trades including the electrical and plumbing trades, as well as computer repair and secretarial courses, etc.

Attending the opening ceremony for the school were: IBEW Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill, Int. Sec. Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia, Fifth District Int. Pres. Joe S. Davis, IEC member and Local 349 Bus. Mgr. William W. Riley, school officials and guests.

Congratulations to Local 349 members on another job well done. Supplies for the project were provided by the South Florida Chapter of NECA.

Remember to attend your union meetings. Let’s get the work, do the work and work safe. Make Local 349 proud and strong. This will be my final article for this space. Thank you to the readership and good wishes to all.

Frank Albury, P.S./Exec. Brd. (retiring)

## 2,000 Attend Union Picnic; Active GOTV Volunteers

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ—Local 351’s annual union picnic was Saturday, Aug. 1, at Morey’s Pier in Wildwood, NJ. The weather was perfect and we had over 2,000 people in attendance. This marked our largest picnic ever. More than 500 door prizes were given out to attendees. Thanks to all who participated and those who contributed to help make the event a great success. Special thanks also to the picnic committee members for all their hard work.



Local 351 picnic committee members: Chuck Dellavechia (left), Dan Cosner, Tim Carew, Bill Hosey, Buddy Blatcher, Joe Trumbetti, Jim Fletcher, Ryck Signor, Don Morgan, Ray Listman, Eric Quinn, Wayne Bumm and Ed Reiser.

## LOCAL LINES

As of this writing, we are again gearing up our get-out-the-vote (GOTV) activities for November 2015 state elections. We are conducting labor walks on Saturday mornings and running phone banks in various locations throughout our jurisdiction. Thank you to all the members who volunteer their time to come out and help.

*Dan Cosner, A.B.M./P.S.*

## Community Services Institute; Sportsmen's Alliance Event

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA—The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO held its Community Services Institute on July 22-25 at the newly completed, union-built Renaissance Hotel in Allentown. We were honored to participate and welcome the opportunity to host this event in the future.

On Saturday, Aug. 29, the Union Sportsmen's Alliance held a shoot at the nearby Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays facility. AFL-CIO Pres. Richard Trumka attended as well as a good number of shooters from neighboring states. Our IBEW Local 375 Team represented us well by winning first place in the Class B competition. That team included: Michael Kilpatrick, Jonathan Treskot, Brian Shuey, Brett Martucci and Lee Fiorini. Congratulations to all!

Mark your calendars for the annual family Christmas party scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6, beginning at 11 a.m.

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



*Local 375 first-place team at Union Sportsmen's Alliance event: Mike Kilpatrick (left), Jonathan Treskot, Brian Shuey, Brett Martucci and Lee Fiorini.*

## Ascend Amphitheatre Opening

L.U. 429 (em,i,lctt,o,ptc,rtb&u), NASHVILLE, TN—On July 30, Nashville's Ascend Amphitheatre opened on schedule with a sold-out concert featuring Eric Church. The opening was a hit, and Nashville now has a riverfront venue for its locals and tourists alike.

After a nonunion electrical contractor fell behind on the Amphitheatre construction project, Local 429 signatory contractor Senergy Electric was able to establish a relationship with Skanska construction company, the general contractor on the job. This picked up valuable work for our sisters and brothers. Due to this effort, Local 429 and Senergy can now look forward to working with Skanska on the Hospital Corporation of America's towers project in downtown Nashville.

The HCA job is proposed as two towers with a hotel between them. With the effort of Local 429 members, Senergy was put in the front running for this project and was awarded the work on the shell and core of the tower. This has also led to Senergy being the first considered for the tenant buildout of this project.

This situation just proves that every job you go on is an audition for the next one. I want to personally thank the sisters and brothers who made this positive development happen.

*John "Tadpole" Ledwell, B.M./F.S.*

## Industry Night a Success

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—Local 449 held an Industry Night event on Aug. 20, in Twin Falls, Idaho. The local could not have done it without the help of Locals 291, 233 and 113, the state organizing coordinator, and a number of our local members. We were able to knock on 300+ doors and stop by more than 50 jobsites to talk with non-union electricians. Seven of our signatory contractors, along with NECA and the JATC representatives, attended the event as well. Electricians from up to 65 miles away attended and showed interest in the IBEW. Overall, Industry Night was a success, highlighting the IBEW's presence in our community and showing that the IBEW is looking to represent everyone in our industry. A three-week TV campaign helped drive that message home.

**[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](http://www.ibew.org).]**

Local 449 congratulates several members on their well-deserved recent retirement: Bros. Brent Inskeep, Dennis Sucher and Joseph Demmon and Sister Deborah Pein. We thank them for their longtime, dedicated union service.

It is with deepest regret that Local 449 reports the passing of Bros. James Gibson and Byron Roskelley.

*Joe Maloney,  
Mbr. Dev.*

## 'Trees of Honor Memorial'

L.U. 457 (u), MERIDEN, CT—Our local hosted a "Cigarbeque" fundraiser to benefit the Connecticut Trees of Honor Memorial in Middletown, CT. The memorial is located at Veterans Park, where a tree has been planted for every military veteran from Connecticut killed in the Middle East. At the

fundraiser event, everyone enjoyed a potluck lunch and cigars. Thanks to the efforts of many, we raised \$1,800 for this worthy cause.

*John Fernandes, B.M./F.S.*



*Some of the attendees at Local 457's fundraiser for Connecticut Trees of Honor Memorial.*

fundraiser event, everyone enjoyed a potluck lunch and cigars. Thanks to the efforts of many, we raised \$1,800 for this worthy cause.

## Local 459 Renovations

L.U. 459 (catv,ees,em,govt,mt,so&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—Local 459 recently renovated its local union hall. Upgrades to the building have been completed and at press time were scheduled to be unveiled to the membership at an open house in October.



*Before and after views of Local 459 meeting room renovation.*

If not for the foresight of members and local leadership before us who acted on the recognized need for a permanent location, the local would not be where it is today.

We are grateful to Bros. Charles Meo, Joe Sanna, Jeff Kehl and Milt Nichols as well as deceased members Deneen Brant and Billy Parsha, to name just a few.

Past business manager Billy Parsha had the vision to know that a union hall was needed and was instrumental in making it a reality.

In 1977, after the Johnstown Flood, Local 459 purchased the Holtzman Building at 408 Broad St. in Johnstown. After the mud was shoveled up and the building cleaned out, that structure became a local union hall for the IBEW and has remained substantially the same since then.

A few years after Bro. Parsha's passing in 1978, a ceremony was held in the mid-1980s and the "Parsha Hall" placard was placed on the front of the Local 459 union hall. Fast forward nearly 40 years later, and the current membership and leadership recognized the need for updates. Congratulations to all for a job well done.

*Brendan M. Wolf, A.B.M.*

## Apprentice Graduation Banquet

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—In August, our annual apprenticeship graduation banquet was held to recognize the newest graduating classes of journeyman wiremen and journeyman installer technicians. Congratulations to the 36 graduates on a job well done.

Apprentice of the Year Award recipient for the December 2014 class was Jeff Russell; runner up was Benjamin Bell. Apprentice of the Year Award recipient for the May 2015 class was Antwaun Armstead; runner up was Michael Hornberger, and the Telecommunication Apprentice of the Year was Wayne Stevens. Winning the Solidarity Award for their commitment to the Brotherhood during



*At the Local 481 annual apprenticeship graduation banquet.*

their time as apprentices were: Evan Tafflinger (December 2014 class), Antwaun Armstead (May 2015 class) and Wayne Stevens (telecommunications). Solidarity honorees were: Shane Harden, Ronald Christ and Richard Clements. Best wishes to all of our new journeymen! Continue to stay active and involved in your local union, graduates. You are the future of the industry!

Also in August, Local 481 Bus. Rep. Shawn Christ was unanimously elected as president of the Central Indiana Labor Council. This is the first time a member of IBEW Local 481 has held that position. Good luck, brother, on this new leadership role!

Blake Andrews, R.S.

## Tribute to a Life of Service— Second Anniversary of Passing

L.U. 499 (u), DES MOINES, IA—Bro. Donald D. Krause Jr., retired former business manager, died unexpectedly on Nov. 3, 2013. He was a lifelong IBEW member and a great source of knowledge and inspiration for the local. He was also a moderator for the Gas Workshops at the Inter-Union Gas Conferences and was known by members nationwide for his great service in that role.



The late Donald D. Krause Jr., a former Local 499 business manager.

Bro. Krause previously served Local 499 as secretary, vice president, president and assistant business agent. During his tenure as a meter reader, power plant operator and gas foreman, he was a steward and chief steward. Devoted to the union, he was a hard worker and dedicated to making the job better and safer for all. In his 37 years at the local, he ushered in many new ideas, schedules and new technologies. Computers, websites and local union newsletters marked his forward thinking. He was instrumental in the merger of former Locals 1302 and 189 with Local 499 in January 1991.

He was recording secretary for the Iowa Utility Workers. He also received the Richard L. Noland Memorial Service Award from the Nebraska Utility Workers in 2010 for his outstanding service.

Bro. Krause was an excellent negotiator at the bargaining table. He was tough and determined but also adept at resolving stalemates when negotiations stalled.

Bro. Krause is still remembered in casual conversation for his expertise. He had a superb memory and was a “walking contract book.” His friends and family miss him, and when together they fondly recall stories about Don. Some make you laugh, some make you sad, but all give you a great memory of a man who loved his family and his union.

George Fong, P.S.

## PLA Project Ramping Up

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA—Greetings from northern California.

Our casino hotel project broke ground Sept. 2. At this writing, construction was scheduled to start ramping up in October or November. This is a project labor agreement job with Native American preference hiring. Our books are quite thin and we look forward to help from travelling brothers and sisters. We are surrounded by beautiful redwoods, rivers and oceans. Spend your weekends in this great land fishing, hunting or just enjoying the award-winning landscapes.

In September we enjoyed the North Bay Labor Day Pancake Breakfast, which has a great turnout of labor union members and their families, as well as

avored political candidates and office holders. At this writing we were also looking forward to our annual union picnic with games, swimming and delicious food.

The fall schedule of journeyman classes also started in September. Classes on transformers, motor controls and foremanship are among those taught, to name just a few. These classes will continue through February and count toward your Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Call the hall and check out what’s going on!

This has been a great work year for our members and we are grateful all are out there working. Stay strong, work safe, and don’t miss the Christmas union meeting this year!

Denise D. Soza, B.R./P.S.

## Annual Family Picnic; New Employee Joins Team

L.U. 553 (i,mt,o&ws), RALEIGH, NC—Local 553 celebrated our 2nd Annual Family Picnic on Oct. 10. We had games, activities, food and other fare to celebrate our local’s growth throughout the year and a job well done. It was a rousing success. Thanks to all who attended and we hope to see you at next year’s picnic!

Local 553 has also retooled our website to better serve our members and prospective members in our rapidly growing local. The new website [www.ibew553.org](http://www.ibew553.org) is up and running and is updated on a regular basis with news, information and events from our local, our state and the country at large.

Local 553 congratulates new employee Josh Nixon for joining the IBEW team! Josh recently graduated from Berea College in Kentucky and came home to North Carolina. He has a background in history, political science and information technology (IT). He is currently working as office support and dispatcher for the local. As the local’s press secretary, he also writes the monthly newsletter and is working on the Local 553 website and Facebook page.

Josh Nixon, P.S.

## Battles for Working People

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—In the state of Michigan many projects have been underway to help



Local 557 Bus. Mgr. Dave Small (left) and Pres. Russ Combs (right) present 50-year service pin award to retired member Lowell Jones.



Local 611 congratulates class of 2015 apprenticeship graduates.

boost the economy. Many people throughout our state have been put to work, helping bring jobs to many families. With work in our area being at a moderate rate in recent months, many of our members are working in neighboring locals. This has been an enormous benefit to our community, and we thank our fellow locals.

Our state is in a continuous battle with the attack on prevailing wage. Big money is pushing for the repeal of our prevailing wage law. Many working people have joined together throughout the state to bring awareness to the issue. Prevailing wage is of great importance in the building trades and for working families throughout our great state. We hope to win this battle and keep bringing fair paying jobs to families all across Michigan.

As the holiday season approaches, we wish everyone safe and happy travels with their families.

Howard Revard, P.S.



IBEW Local 569 A Team, champions of the Ninth District Softball Tournament.

## Softball Team Champions; Apprenticeship Hall of Fame

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—For the second year in a row, the Local 569 A Team are champions of the IBEW Ninth District Softball Tournament!

Local 569 had three teams compete in the tournament at the Santee Sportsplex from Aug. 15-16. A total of 19 teams from all across the Ninth District, as well as a team from Canada, competed. In the final game, our local’s A Team won against Orange County 16-11. We commend all the contenders and congratulate our IBEW 569 A Team!

We also congratulate Local 569 members Jim Westfall and Mike Sparks, who were inducted into the Apprenticeship Hall of Fame located at the U.S. Department of Labor Building in Washington, D.C. This marked the first time our members have been inducted into the Hall of Fame!

Finally, we congratulate the 227 local members who received service pins for 20+ years of IBEW membership. Award recipients included four 70-year IBEW members: Fred Hill, Robert Morse, Kenneth Myron and Thomas Walker.

Gretchen K. Newsom, P.S.

## Tribute to a Life of Service

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st), DUBLIN, CA—Local 595 grieves the loss of fallen brother Scott Lunger, who was a former Local 595 member. During his IBEW career, Scott completed Local 595’s apprenticeship and rapidly advanced to general foreman. During his last five years as an IBEW inside wireman, I had the honor of working with Scott until 2001, when he concluded his IBEW career to pursue his calling to serve in law enforcement.



Local 595 mourns the late Scott Lunger.

Sgt. Scott Lunger served the Hayward Police Department for the past 15 years. He was on the SWAT team and was assigned to the Gang Unit in addition to his patrol supervision duties. Sgt. Lunger was slain during a traffic stop on July 22 this year. He was 48.

Scott Lunger was an IBEW member for 26 years. His brother Mike Lunger is a 26-year IBEW member and his father, Paul Lunger, is a retired 51-year member.

More than 5,000 people, including thousands of police officers from the Bay Area and beyond, attended the funeral service at Oracle Arena in Oakland. Speakers included: Gov. Jerry Brown, U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell, Hayward Mayor Barbara Halliday, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and other dignitaries.

The Oakland Athletics baseball team held a Sgt. Lunger Day. Scott’s father Paul threw out the first pitch to his son’s all-time favorite player, hall of famer Rickey Henderson. Scott’s father and two daughters were presented with Oakland A’s jerseys. A Lunger jersey with Scott’s police badge number was hung in the A’s dugout.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the Lunger family.

Bob Tieman, B.R.

## 2015 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—This year’s apprenticeship graduation was held at the Marriott Pyramid Hotel on Aug. 14. Class of 2015 graduates are: Charles Wilson Allen, John R. Alvarez, Nathan Arellano, Ricky Charley, Gene Clarkie, Walter A. Diaz Jr., Gregory E. Garcia, Roger Hubbard, David V. Martinez, Abinadab Mendoza, Darwin F. Mitchell, Oscar Olivas, Fernando L. Sanchez, Robert I. Tapia, Adrian Trujillo and Levi D. Wilson.

This year’s outstanding apprentice was Nathan Arellano. The recipient of both the C.S. Mitchell Award and Kee Littleman Award was Andrew Russel. The apprentice with perfect attendance over five years was Oscar Olivas. Congratulations to 2015 apprentice graduates and to all award recipients.

## LOCAL LINES



Volunteers gather for Local 627 Union Night at the Mets event.

Local 611 extends condolences to the families of members who recently passed away: Robert L. Wilcox, Christopher Tester, Fred W. Ringe, James W. Holdman, Charles Atkinson, Richard Safki, James J. Hicks, Kenneth T. Miller, Hildon O. Simmons, Philip J. Garcia, Jose D. Renteria and Vernon F. Clark.

Just a reminder, Local 611 union meetings are on the third Saturday of each month.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Motorcycle Ride

L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL—The holidays are approaching and our state's seasonal visitors from colder climates have arrived. Always remember to focus on safety at work and elsewhere. Watch out for the other guy, and remind yourself to be mindful of your own present situation. Happy stories are easier to retell.

Our members enjoyed three successful Union Night at the Mets events. If you did not have a chance to attend, please come out and enjoy next season's events. We always have a great time. [Photo, top left.]

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Motorcycle Ride will be Feb. 27, 2016. If you will be visiting in the area and are interested in seeing a portion of less-traveled Florida, please join us. For more information, please email [627motorcycle@gmail.com](mailto:627motorcycle@gmail.com).

In December, after the union meeting we will share food, stories and camaraderie.

Brothers and sisters, always remember to practice workplace safety and stay focused on the task at hand for everyone's sake.

Ray Vos, P.S.

## IBEW Community Volunteers

L.U. 659 (c,catv,em,i,lctt,o,st,t&u), MEDFORD, OR—IBEW Local 659 electricians donate their time and their skills for Rogue Valley Habitat for Humanity projects. With combined efforts including donations and skilled labor, Habitat is able to build houses for those in need in the southern Oregon community. These houses help bring opportunity to families who need handicap access or a safe neighborhood for a child from a single-parent family to play.



IBEW Local 659 members volunteer for Habitat for Humanity project: Chris Farrell (left), Lance Corley, Aric Todd, Dan Parrish, Pat Boeggeman, Hunter Gallagher and Jesse Livingston. (Photo by Mark Nelson.)

JATC Training Dir. Lance Corley and journeyman Mark Nelson helped to coordinate efforts from IBEW Local 659. At press time, a dedication ceremony was planned for the fall season to invite the families into their new homes.

**[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](http://www.ibew.org).]

John Hutter, Mbr. Dev.

## Steward Training Class

L.U. 667 (u), PUEBLO, CO—Greetings to IBEW sisters and brothers.

Congratulations to our members who completed the IBEW Steward Training course, conducted by Int. Rep. Guy P. Runco. We thank them for their service and welcome any member wanting education or training!

We also enjoyed a summer's end picnic with our brothers and sisters from IBEW Local 12. It was a great time and allowed members of both locals to get to know "the ones on the other side of the socket."

Stay safe, stay united, and be sure to check out the local's new website at [www.ibew667.org](http://www.ibew667.org).

Richard Koetting, B.M./F.S.



Local 667 members attend a Steward Training course.

## Community College Partnership

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH—Long-term business relationships with valued customers can be harder to maintain in this current economic climate. Some friends and customers we have long counted on to use our services are being overridden



Local 683 combined softball teams assemble at ballpark.



Local 673 members Scott Sopko (left), Bob Szabo and Joey Gamiere, of Goulder Electric, at Lakeland Community College science facility renovation jobsite.

by accountants and lawyers. One of our longtime, loyal customers is Lakeland Community College.

It has been 40+ years since the college was established, and from the very beginning IBEW members have done the electrical work on the LCC campus. About 15 years ago, Local 673's connection with LCC took a step to a new level as we partnered with

the college on a new Electrical Construction Technology degree program. LCC students now have the opportunity to become IBEW members through our partnership with the college.

Over the years our local developed a strong working relationship with Lakeland Community College that continues to this day. The school reached out to us to help with support for a proposed new construction levy this fall. We will be there for the school with funds and a grassroots effort that will have a huge impact on the levy's passage.

We completed the final phase of a science facility renovation project on the LCC campus in August. There are plans for a major renovation and addition to the Health Sciences Building next spring. Lakeland currently has about \$60 million worth of construction on the board and we are confident that

we will be doing this work. Our partnership with Lakeland has been a win for the community, a win for Lakeland, and a win for our members.

Jim Braunlich, P.S.

## Midwest Softball Tournament

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—I know it is cold out, but let's think back to summertime union activities. Local 683 congratulates New York Local 3 A Team for winning the upper division bracket and Cleveland Local 38 B Team for winning the lower bracket at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual IBEW Midwest Softball Tournament. The Local 683 combined teams are pictured above (at top, right). Kudos to all who participated.

As we prepare to do our holiday shopping, we should do all we can to spend our hard-earned money with the businesses that support labor's cause and working families. Please everyone have a safe and fantastic holiday season.

Tracy Starcher, P.S.

## VDV Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—Congratulations to the voice-data-video apprenticeship graduating class of 2015. Members Chase Donovan, Ben Fennema, Jordan Graegin, Jason Gonzalez, Anthony McCullough and Jeff Stephan celebrated the completion of their apprenticeship as telecom technicians in July. This is the first class to start and finish their training in our new training facility, and they are a very accomplished group. Training Dir. Ken Jania and Instructor Joe Dancho gave the graduates well-deserved accolades for being very committed throughout their training, which included earning an associate degree from Ivy Tech Community College.

While we eagerly await the upcoming holiday season (and many anticipate the deer hunting season), we won't be able to forget that politics never seems to take a break. The presidential, national and state election season is well underway with the Indiana primary scheduled for May 2016. In addition, our state legislators are currently knitting together their agendas for the upcoming legislative session, which begins in Jan-



At Local 697 apprenticeship graduation banquet: VDV graduates Ben Fennema (left), Chase Donovan, Tony McCullough, Jordan Graegin, Jeff Stephan and Jason Gonzalez.

uary. We must, and will, pay close attention to the anti-labor lobby, which is very effective at glossing over their intent while decimating the rights and opportunities of working Hoosiers. Be safe, and remember to be extra careful when that first snowfall hits.

Dan Waldrop, B.M.



Local 723 Bus. Mgr. Bruce Getts (left) presents 60-year service award to member David Nussbaum, retired from WKJG-TV in Fort Wayne, IN.

## Contract Extension & Mobilization Campaign

L.U. 723 (govt,rtb&t), FORT WAYNE, IN—On July 3, Local 723 members at Indiana's News Center (WISE-TV) in Fort Wayne ratified a one-year contract extension with a 1.5 percent general wage increase. The sale of WISE-TV, currently owned by Granite Broadcasting, to Illinois based Quincy Publishing is pending FCC approval and the contract extension will facilitate the negotiation of a successor agreement with Quincy Publishing once the sale is final.

IBEW Steward Training for Local 723 stewards was held Saturday, Oct. 3. The class included training on the IBEW Code of Excellence and Member to Member projects.

Unit 5 Executive Board member Jason McGee is heading up a mobilization effort with our CenturyLink members to educate and motivate them to action in what will likely be difficult contract negotiation with CenturyLink in 2016.

At press time, we are continuing our political efforts to elect labor-friendly city council members in the November 2015 election in the city of Fort Wayne, in hopes of restoring collective bargaining for employees of the city of Fort Wayne in the coming year.

Bruce L. Getts, B.M./F.S.

## Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 861 (i), LAKE CHARLES, LA—Local 861 is proud to announce the class of 2015 apprenticeship graduates:



Local 861 Bro. Albert K. Newlin III (right) receives Outstanding Apprentice Award presented by Training Dir. Carlos Perez.



Local 915 Bus. Mgr. Randall King (left) and the local's RENEW Committee display charter.

Joshua Bowling, Christopher Butts, Johnathan Chavis, Robert Hebert, Larry Johnson, Daniel Kelley, Jacob McBride, Albert Newlin III and Spencer Vincent Jr.

Outstanding Apprentice Award recipient Albert Newlin III subsequently attended the National Training Institute in Ann Arbor, MI.

Lance Corner, Mbr. Dev.

## RENEW Committee Steps Up

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Congratulations to Local 915's RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) Committee for being the first in Florida to be chartered by the IBEW. These brothers and sisters have really stepped up and taken the activity of this committee to a higher level. [Photo at top, center.]

The RENEW Committee's Keep Tampa Beautiful project is a success, with a cleanup project for a road near our union hall. The IBEW Local 915 Adopt-A-Road sign is displayed on Orient Road between Hillsborough Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

The RENEW Committee helped host last year's Christmas party and plans to take on the task again in 2015. They also have volunteered at the Saint Petersburg Science Center remodel project as well as a radio tower project. Additionally, they are active in the Florida Young Workers of Tampa Bay. The RENEW Committee participants have even stood in solidarity against Walmart in support of working people.

The IBEW Local 915 RENEW Committee's Facebook page is also a testament to the heart and dedication of this fine group of young electricians. I am proud to call this new generation of members my brothers and sisters in solidarity.

Theresa King, P.S.

## Festive Labor Day Picnic

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TX—Although the temperature reached over 100 degrees on Saturday, Aug. 29, that didn't stop the brothers of Local 1015 and their families from coming out to enjoy the annual Labor Day picnic in Weslaco. The pavilion at Harlon Block Sports



Local 1015 attendees gather to enjoy Labor Day picnic.

Complex was alive with music playing, children laughing, and the members and their families socializing with one another. Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Sergio A. Salinas raffled off electrical prizes for the members. One by one, each member stepped up with a smile to receive the small token of appreciation given out by Bus. Mgr. Salinas and Training Dir. Servando Munguia.

Once all the members had received a prize, Rec. Sec. Pablo Puento surprised all the children by bringing in a star-shaped piñata full of candies and treats. The kids were ecstatic as they each took a turn hitting the piñata, each child doing his best to crack it open. After 10 minutes and one broken stick, 20 kids, ranging from 2-10 years old, ran to the middle to stock up on the candies that littered the pavilion floor. Local 1015 can't wait for next year's Labor Day picnic!

Maria A. Estman, P.S.



Local 1141 members help rebuild after a house fire in south Oklahoma City. From left: Carlos Amaya, Sean Wallace, Jimmy Griffy, Keith Bell and Tim Chappell.

## Peppers Ranch Volunteer Project

L.U. 1141 (em,i,mow,rts&spa), OKLAHOMA CITY, OK—Giving back: it's not just the right thing to do, it's what creates stronger communities.

That's why more than 30 journeymen, apprentices, officers and staff members volunteered their weekends beginning in early spring to help wire a massive new horse riding facility for Peppers Ranch

in Guthrie. The organization offers therapeutic horse riding activities for children who have been abused or have been in crisis situations.

As of this writing, we are about 95 percent finished with the project, which will benefit the dozens of youngsters aged 5-17 who participate in the program. It's been a blessing to be able to use our talents as electricians to truly give back to some of the children who need assistance the most in our nearby communities.

We'd like to offer a huge thank-you to Ron and Brenda Evans of signatory contractor All Star Electric, who donated the materials.

Please watch our new video at [www.ibew1141.org](http://www.ibew1141.org), which shows some of our members hard at work on the project.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, and we will see you at the next union meeting. Until then: work hard, and work safe.

Dewayne Wilcox, B.M.

## California Wildfires & IBEW Restoration Work

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—In the wake of two large-scale wildfires that have torn through northern California this summer, Local 1245 members have been hard at work, repairing and replacing transmission lines, distribution circuits and utility poles that were destroyed by the fires. Local 1245 units are also working to raise money for a Local

1245 retiree who lost his home in the "Rocky Fire" over the summer.

Our newly redesigned website [www.IBEW1245.com](http://www.IBEW1245.com) was awarded first place for content and design by the International Labor Communications Assoc.

Two work groups at Pacific Gas & Electric recently voted to join Local 1245. PG&E computer client field analysts overwhelming voted to join IBEW Local 1245, with 90 percent voting "yes." Gas distribution

coordinators at PG&E's Bishop Ranch facility voted to join Local 1245 by a margin of 2-to-1.

In recent months, Local 1245 members and leaders have been collecting donations of tools and safety supplies to send to fellow linemen in the economically developing country of Suriname. In July, the union



IBEW Local 1245 members Hollis Hadley (left) and Don Lee from PG&E replace a power pole that was destroyed by the "Rocky Fire" in Clearlake, CA.

## LOCAL LINES

filled an entire shipping container with safety equipment for their Surinamese brothers, including 300 pairs of electrical hazard (EH-rated) safety boots and 1,000 pairs of safety glasses. This fall, a delegation from Local 1245 will travel on a mission to Suriname to serve as instructors at the Lineman School that IBEW Local 77 member Brady Hansen has set up there.

In Outside Construction, the work outlook remains steady in distribution, with some increases in transmission work in both California and Nevada.

*Rebecca Band, P.S.*

### Annual Clambake a Success

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY—Once again, we had a fantastic summer! It ended with a bang with our Annual Local 1249 Clambake. The weather was great and as usual the food and drinks were terrific. Attendance was extraordinary—more than 600 people attended!

The number of prizes was astounding. Members and family had the chance to win 40 different prizes! A huge thank you to the Executive Board, which makes possible the purchase of prizes by the local, and to all who contributed to the festivities. Many thanks also to the members, staff and families who helped pull off a successful event! We hope to see even more members, both active and retired, at next year's clambake.

The event was also the kickoff for Mark Lawrence's new career as business manager for Local 1249. He was appointed by the Local 1249 Executive Board to fill the unexpired term of former business manager William Boire, who retired. Bus. Mgr. Lawrence has big shoes to fill, and we have no doubt that he will be a great leader for the local and do great things! Congratulations, Mark!

*Jennifer Schneider, P.S.*

### Graduates & Fresh Starts

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—Congratulations to the members who completed the Heavy Underground apprenticeship in August. In late July, apprentices started for the substation electrical mechanic and overhead lineman classifications. Both work groups are on Ameren/Missouri property.



*Local 1439 late Bros. Tom Fagan (in red sweater) and Bob Wiesehan (in cap).*

A contract agreement was reached with Entergy Arkansas. Joint bargaining took place with Locals 1439, 647, 750 and 1703. Contract explanation meetings were held and IBEW members ratified the contract in September.

It is with regret that we report the passing of Bro. Tom Fagan and Bro. Bob Wiesehan, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for their contributions to our local. Since Bro. Fagan was a proud Irishman, we plan to hold an annual Tom Fagan Memorial Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner in March of each year beginning in 2016. Additionally, at that event we will honor retirees from the previous 12 months.

*Matt Curry, R.S.*

### COPE Award Presentation

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie recently was presented with a COPE (Committee on Political Education) Award for our local's outstanding participation and contributions. Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia presented the award to Bus. Mgr. Guthrie at the Fourth District Progress Meeting, held this year in Cincinnati.

This is the 19th COPE Award presented to Local 1501 since 1990. COPE is a very important part of our union's involvement in the political system. So keep those voluntary C.O.P.E. dollars coming in, brothers

and sisters, because that is one important way we can help elect political candidates who support the interests of labor and working people.

*Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.*

### Labor Day Barbecue

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—Wow! Another Labor Day has come and gone! Our Local 1579 Labor Day Barbecue was a great success! With several hundred members and families showing up to eat, to fellowship and laugh with each other, I would say good job!

Our work situation is still booming. We tend to have more work than electricians. We are working hard at the local to take in and employ more apprentices, as well as stripping the best electricians from the nonunion sector. In addition, we have many traveling brothers and sisters working in the jurisdiction. Thank you to all for your support.

At this time of Thanksgiving, we pause to count our blessings: the freedom of this great country in which we live, and the blessing to belong to a great union such as the IBEW where we enjoy opportunities for achievement as well as the brotherhood we demonstrate daily. For all these things we are deeply thankful.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Will Salters, B.M./F.S.*

## IT'S TIME FOR

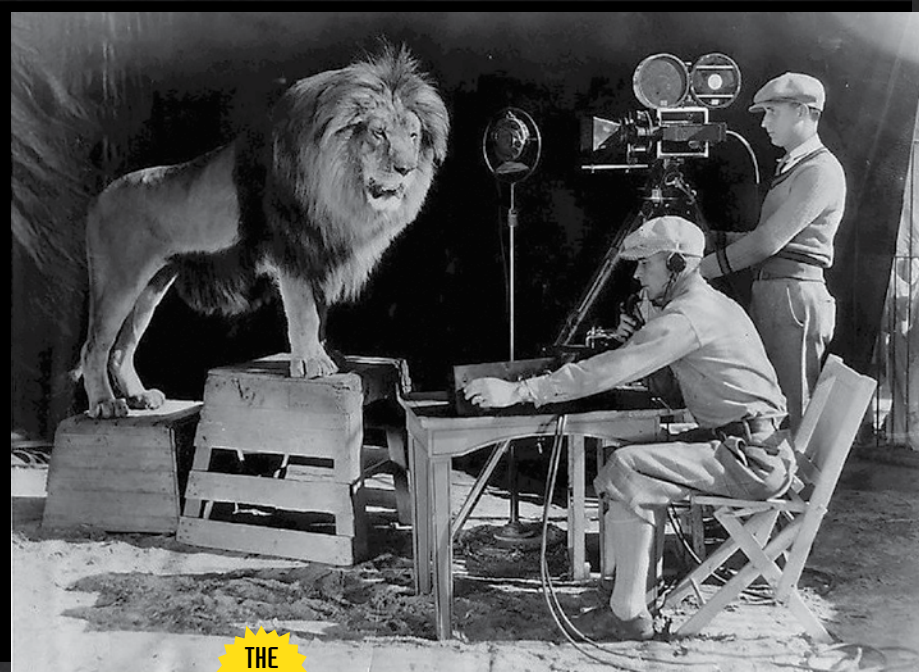


Photo credit: Photo by Pacific and Atlantic Photos, used under creative commons license.

### 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 sizes, go to [www.ibew.org](http://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 linemen'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](http://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](http://www.ibew.org) for final judging by the public. The winners will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Electrical Worker.

### Contest Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and state \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Local union number \_\_\_\_\_ IBEW card number \_\_\_\_\_

Photo description \_\_\_\_\_

# IBEW'S PHOTO 2015 Contest

Enter Today!

Deadline: Nov. 30

1st Place: \$200

2nd Place: \$150

3rd Place: \$100

Honorable Mention: \$50

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.



# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in September 2015

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Collier, G. R.	7/3/15	66	Pettengill, D. R.	5/10/15	294	Hilton, J.	8/9/15	665	Richards, H. E.	5/7/15
1	Slezak, J. M.	7/27/15	68	Bledsoe, L. I.	4/25/15	302	Brewer, R. E.	6/22/15	666	Gilbert, G. F.	8/3/15
1	Turek, P. J.	7/6/15	68	Brooks, M. F.	8/1/15	303	Anderson, D.	4/17/15	668	Shepard, R. F.	7/28/15
2	George, R. J.	7/30/15	68	Burnside, E. L.	7/29/15	306	Hammel, R. E.	7/19/15	673	Hoffman, J. E.	6/30/15
2	Gibson, L. L.	7/2/15	68	Coffman, G. B.	7/31/15	313	Dennis, G. L.	6/26/15	673	Mansfield, G. E.	7/25/15
2	Jeffries, H. E.	5/23/15	70	Grubb, R. L.	8/17/15	332	Moon, D. H.	6/20/15	683	Collier, R.	8/1/15
3	Cumberbatch, J.	8/8/15	71	Vaughn, P. G.	6/29/15	332	Zabel, D. B.	7/18/15	683	Watters, T. R.	7/25/15
3	D'Agostino, F. A.	7/14/15	72	Thaemert, J. L.	6/12/15	340	Seaton, K. L.	8/16/15	684	McCown, N. E.	7/20/15
3	Diver, R. E.	7/25/15	76	Gray, P. L.	8/7/15	349	Baker, J. A.	1/31/15	684	Robbins, G. D.	3/24/15
3	Exter, S. J.	5/13/15	76	Wood, S. M.	7/24/15	349	Moegerle, D. E.	4/25/15	697	Cook, J. A.	5/28/15
3	Foertsch, K.	8/13/15	77	Bessett, D. J.	1/2/13	351	Tonetta, J. J.	7/8/15	702	Huff, K. L.	7/19/15
3	Gibel, L. H.	8/2/15	77	McKinnon, P. N.	7/26/15	353	Cheesman, W. S.	7/27/15	714	Rakness, L.	12/1/14
3	Hickey, B. A.	7/10/15	80	Harris, J. E.	1/9/14	353	Cuttell, P. D.	4/1/15	716	Hight, L. G.	8/3/15
3	Johnson, F. V.	8/8/15	86	Mast, J. F.	7/29/15	353	Dawe, R.	8/8/15	716	Weeden, H.	7/14/15
3	King, E. J.	7/11/15	86	Mast, L. L.	8/20/15	353	McMurray, B. A.	8/9/15	728	Crumb, R. S.	8/9/15
3	Klein, D. M.	7/2/15	86	Parker, C. O.	7/3/15	353	Savoy, A. J.	7/20/15	728	Miller, D. J.	7/12/15
3	Lewis, C. D.	8/15/15	90	Smiles, G. J.	7/21/15	353	Smart, R. A.	7/27/15	738	Hodges, J. C.	8/7/15
3	Mangum, J. F.	6/29/15	97	Herold, F. C.	7/22/15	353	Smith, J. D.	7/3/15	738	Horn, C. L.	7/21/15
3	McLean, C.	8/2/15	98	Leedom, C. D.	7/15/15	354	Sego, L. W.	7/8/15	756	Parke, W. W.	8/10/15
3	Nichols, R. C.	8/11/15	98	Pierce, D. H.	6/29/15	357	Sholty, D. A.	6/19/15	768	Stotts, W. J.	7/9/15
3	O'Neil, D. L.	7/6/15	98	Ward, W. J.	8/16/15	357	Wood, G. B.	7/12/15	776	Leonard, R. W.	8/12/15
3	Rivera, A.	5/25/15	100	Harper, G. B.	7/14/15	363	Berardi, A. R.	6/23/15	816	Fowler, L. H.	8/24/15
3	Serrano, I.	7/7/15	100	Wagenhalls, J. M.	5/3/15	363	Jones, B. A.	7/5/15	841	Pugh, R. E.	7/16/15
3	Voloshin, D.	7/31/15	102	Emory, R. C.	7/21/15	363	Kesar, R. V.	7/27/15	852	Hall, H. D.	6/2/14
5	Berry, R. F.	8/7/15	102	Higgins, M. L.	8/10/15	363	Moschetti, M.	7/11/15	876	Romain, P. J.	7/25/15
5	Gutherie, T. B.	6/7/15	103	Dorrance, R. E.	7/15/15	369	Arnett, L. G.	6/19/15	889	Crowley, A.	5/26/15
5	McIntyre, T.	8/10/15	103	Imbruglia, J. A.	4/8/15	369	Sorrell, L. S.	7/16/15	890	Aldrich, R.	6/3/15
6	Jimenez, F. A.	8/8/15	103	St. Germain, R. J.	7/29/15	375	Coken, G. A.	8/14/15	915	Milko, P. J.	8/5/15
6	Piper, J. W.	6/13/15	103	Tringale, D.	6/25/15	375	Wagner, W. C.	7/26/15	915	Pizzo, J. G.	8/16/15
6	Sanchez, L. R.	7/27/15	110	Weida, K. S.	8/17/15	387	Brinkman, W. A.	7/30/15	932	McDaniels, H. L.	7/3/15
7	Peck, C. E.	7/16/12	111	Eiring, W. L.	7/19/15	401	Roper, B. H.	5/31/15	934	Harkleroad, D. L.	7/27/15
7	Ragoza, C. F.	4/4/15	120	Johnson, S. R.	7/25/15	405	Nylund, C. R.	4/20/15	948	Dyer, J. C.	7/17/15
8	Thompson, R. L.	6/11/15	124	Reintjes, G. L.	7/13/15	424	Coombe, D. C.	8/13/15	953	Svea, R. P.	4/21/15
11	Itts, H. J.	5/31/15	125	Price, D. E.	7/19/15	424	Stangl, F.	7/28/15	968	Blair, P. F.	6/12/15
11	Markley, J. C.	5/3/15	126	Holmes, O. W.	7/30/15	426	Lantis, J. A.	6/25/15	997	Schuman, W. C.	5/22/15
11	Mc Laughlin, M.	6/19/15	134	Cesarotti, E.	8/4/15	429	Hobbs, J. T.	8/5/15	1070	McClelland, J. N.	8/13/15
11	McCune, D. J.	7/9/15	134	Daley, T. P.	7/12/15	429	Prater, L. H.	7/22/15	1141	Earnest, W. E.	8/6/15
11	McMurtrey, D.	7/16/15	134	Egan, W. E.	8/7/15	441	Grinstead, G. S.	11/5/14	1186	Rupprecht, M. J.	6/25/15
11	Ristow, D. L.	7/13/15	134	Fahey, T. W.	7/15/15	441	Mayer, E. D.	6/16/15	1245	Ufford, G. V.	8/6/15
11	Tankersley, C. O.	7/19/15	134	Gara, J. M.	8/8/15	443	DiPofi, P. A.	2/6/15	1249	Griffin, J.	7/1/15
11	Wagner, R. N.	6/27/15	134	Hynes, R. T.	7/23/15	456	Beck, J. A.	7/10/15	1249	Sanderson, J. W.	8/16/15
14	Richardson, J. A.	5/4/15	134	Johnson, L.	6/20/15	456	Clement, R.	7/20/15	1316	Livingston, W. B.	8/8/15
16	Faulkner, J. R.	7/15/15	134	Kowalcze, J. T.	5/2/15	456	Hansen, S. R.	7/11/15	1316	Simmons, W. R.	7/25/15
18	Cornwell, T. W.	2/1/15	134	Willcoxon, R. L.	7/24/15	459	Wess, E. F.	8/20/15	1547	Chase, M. F.	6/8/15
18	Downs, N. E.	8/15/15	143	Foltz, G. L.	7/26/15	461	Underwood, R. G.	8/29/15	1547	Liberty, J. C.	7/19/15
18	Leal, M. O.	7/20/15	145	Quick, R. L.	7/5/15	473	Lewis, R. T.	7/16/15	1579	Anderson, D. S.	8/15/15
18	McCord, H. E.	4/11/15	146	Riley, D. C.	8/15/15	474	Davis, C. T.	8/13/15	1701	Higgs, K. L.	8/1/15
20	Bourquin, C. K.	7/30/15	159	Alibaugh, W. A.	5/18/15	474	Norwood, R. G.	5/27/15	1984	Bright, C. S.	8/7/15
20	Crenshaw, W. H.	7/29/15	159	Schneider, K. A.	6/1/15	479	Peterson, F. N.	8/17/15	2085	Pinkerton, B. L.	3/25/15
20	Evans, M. D.	7/3/15	160	Powell, T. E.	7/5/15	481	Gadberry, G. W.	3/11/15	2150	O'Neill, J. B.	5/9/15
20	Londenberg, E. L.	7/14/15	164	Brehm, K. G.	7/15/15	481	Needham, D. W.	7/18/15	2265	Pace, E.	7/24/15
20	Overby, F. I.	7/10/15	164	Fry, R. J.	7/19/15	481	Royer, J. L.	2/14/15	2295	Lewis, G. G.	4/1/15
20	Vest, J. M.	6/16/15	164	Panther, N.	6/21/15	481	Whitehouse, D. A.	8/2/15	I.O. (12)	Hill, R. L.	7/5/15
20	Welch, L. D.	8/2/15	175	Mahaffey, L. D.	8/2/15	483	Sueco, F. M.	12/7/14	I.O. (776)	Close, J.	8/8/15
22	Oltman, B. J.	8/3/15	175	Parris, L. E.	7/25/15	486	Rice, J. A.	5/24/15	I.O. (898)	Bannert, R. W.	7/16/15
22	VanBruggen, H. E.	5/31/15	177	Moir, F. E.	8/7/15	494	Pospyhalla, J. L.	7/18/15	Pens. (323)	Egan, R. J.	7/12/15
24	Shortt, D. R.	8/10/15	180	Dodson, B. M.	6/23/15	494	Tackes, G. E.	7/28/15	Pens. (404)	Murphy, T.	6/16/15
24	Szczybor, D. F.	7/21/15	191	Grecula, G. A.	7/28/15	520	Lyckman, M. E.	2/27/15	Pens. (686)	Betterly, R. A.	7/25/15
25	Consiglio, S. D.	7/26/15	191	Hunt, R. K.	5/25/15	531	Keene, J. R.	8/8/15	Pens. (814)	Williams, J. J.	8/19/15
25	Giuliano, P. C.	7/21/15	194	Foster, D. K.	7/24/15	545	Updegraff, L. E.	7/17/15	Pens. (1264)	Smith, H. D.	3/17/15
26	Eckert, L. E.	8/9/15	212	North, C.	5/16/15	553	Thompson, C. E.	8/10/15	Pens. (1788)	Carroccia, R. L.	7/22/15
26	Hickman, G. E.	8/8/15	213	Pickwell, K. J.	12/4/14	567	Moon, T. E.	7/23/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Allen, J. A.	3/10/15
26	Katz, M. I.	8/11/15	213	Prosick, T. R.	4/28/15	569	Ogden, R. J.	8/5/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Broyles, R. H.	7/25/15
26	Lehmann, P. F.	8/24/15	213	Sagman, A.	7/10/15	569	Perry, R. D.	7/31/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Christen, A.	6/11/15
26	Middleton, L. F.	2/5/15	233	Bobbett, L.	5/5/15	569	Petersen, R. A.	7/8/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Deig, A. F.	6/10/15
26	Wildman, W. A.	8/2/15	236	Ryder, R. I.	7/8/15	573	Doan, F. W.	8/16/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Ess, C. J.	4/2/15
43	Murphy, M. D.	7/26/15	245	Roth, D. J.	8/2/15	589	Martorano, D. S.	8/1/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Finn, E. S.	4/5/15
46	Buntjer, J. W.	8/1/15	246	Kendziorski, E. S.	10/25/14	595	Nelson, W.	7/9/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Finster, M.	7/14/15
46	McCown, R. Q.	5/24/15	246	Thomas, J. O.	8/4/15	602	Busby, D. T.	7/31/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Harris, D. L.	6/21/15
48	Gende, D. P.	6/12/15	254	Leong, J.	5/27/15	602	Nunn, C. E.	7/27/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Hollifield, M. L.	5/8/15
48	Maloney, J. J.	6/25/15	257	Shern, K. R.	8/3/15	606	Light, R. J.	7/29/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Homering, R. H.	5/3/15
48	Rohwedder, S. C.	7/4/15	258	Betteridge, J. A.	7/6/15	611	Garcia, P. J.	7/21/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Joy, A. D.	3/21/15
55	Moran, R. W.	8/13/15	258	Robinson, G. A.	5/14/15	611	Renteria, J. D.	7/26/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Kindle, R. L.	7/27/15
58	Aaron, M. M.	7/19/15	258	Westby, M. C.	5/28/15	611	Solar, J.	8/12/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Liberatore, S.	7/7/15
58	Bartolomeo, A.	8/16/15	269	Matthews, J. R.	7/7/15	613	Bell, P. L.	6/18/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Mata, R. F.	8/7/15
58	Dubowsky, H. S.	7/29/15	270	Stricklan, R.	6/3/15	613	Wimbish, L. D.	5/31/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Morin, G. A.	6/11/15
58	Hope, N. F.	7/8/15	271	Hurd, R. F.	5/7/15	617	Sublett, J. W.	4/25/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Panega, R. A.	7/27/15
58	Preece, R. J.	7/14/15	271	Scott, K. M.	4/14/15	618	LaRosa, M.	6/7/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Rhoney, S. A.	7/8/15
58	Walker, M. L.	5/7/15	291	True, P. A.	7/28/15	648	Amiot, T. L.	7/28/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Sinkler, W. J.	3/6/15
58	Walkowski, R.	7/24/15	292	Blood, D. F.	7/18/15	648	Cloud, D. H.	6/22/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Tripp, R. A.	7/11/15
66	Foster, J. F.	7/9/15	292	Gongoll, P. G.	7/2/15	649	Admire, G. L.	7/28/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Unger, B.	7/4/15
66	Ortiz, R. G.	7/24/15	292	MacMillan, R. D.	7/11/15	663	Flex, T. J.	7/14/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Wilkerson, T. W.	6/29/15

# IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

## www.ibew.org

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

And read *The Electrical Worker* online!

## YouTube

Boston Local 103 is now swearing in new members within the first week of their apprenticeships. This change has them excited to be a part of the IBEW family. <http://bit.ly/1FTxQ21>

## Vimeo

New IBEW history – the highlights of all the presidents who came before International President Stephenson. [Vimeo.com/137521199](http://Vimeo.com/137521199)



## HourPower

The latest feature from Hour Power is a festive one! Local 288 members from Iowa volunteer their time and expertise at the Iowa Irish Festival each year. They help keep the power on and the party going! [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com)



## ElectricTV

[ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net) is on the move once again, this time in Boston covering the renovation of Government Center Station. Once known as “the bunker,” the transit station gets a much-needed transformation.





International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

## Recruiting the Next Generation



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

**T**he economic recovery in the construction industry is a reminder that the looming blue-collar skills shortage is closer than we think. The baby-boom generation is on the verge of exiting the workforce, making educating the next generation of electrical workers a priority. Not just for the IBEW, mind you, but for the entire country.

The federal government got the message.

As we report in this issue (see page 1) the Labor Department's \$4.8 million grant to the Electrical Training Alliance is a long overdue recognition that we can't bridge the skills gap without labor unions like the IBEW.

When it comes to construction, the building trades remain the largest private-sector jobs trainer in the country.

Neither our nonunion competition, nor the community college system can match the training and resources provided by the Alliance—formerly the National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee.

It's exciting to see our nation's leaders finally recognize the value of our excellent apprenticeship programs—and just how vital they are to making sure our economy keeps moving forward.

For many years, school counselors—and even many lawmakers—advised students to aim for college, while downplaying the trades as a career alternative.

Today as student loan debt continues to balloon out of control—all the while important skilled jobs go unfilled—the apprentice model pioneered by the building trades not only deserves federal financial support. It should be promoted by educational leaders and government officials as a viable alternative to a four-year degree.

Not only is the apprenticeship model a better deal for students and young people entering the workforce. It's necessary to make sure we have the workers needed to wire and build the country's infrastructure.

It's also vital to promote pre-apprenticeship programs—like those funded by the recent Labor Department grant—to help attract students unfamiliar to the trades, especially those in traditionally underrepresented groups, such as women and minorities.

Fueling economic growth and innovation requires a new generation of skilled blue-collar workers to step to the fore. It's something the IBEW and its employer partners in NECA have been helping to do for more than a century.

We look forward to working with lawmakers and the business community in continuing that tradition. ■

## Making the Hard Work Count

**A**fter a decade-long effort to bring the IBEW back to its root commitment of organizing, we are seeing the results. We are welcoming tens of thousands of new members into the IBEW each year. We owe a great debt of gratitude to generations of members, organizers and international and local officers for accepting that the future of organized labor was in our hands.

Today, we have more 'A' members than at any time in our history. That can seem like inside baseball. Overall membership is still far below where we were in the 1970s.

But 'A' members' higher dues support the IBEW-run Pension Benefit Fund, and 'A' members can hold certain offices in the brotherhood and vote on any issue at our convention. While 'A' membership has historically been a measure of outside linemen and inside wiremen, any IBEW member is eligible to upgrade. Record 'A' membership is a good sign we should all be proud of.

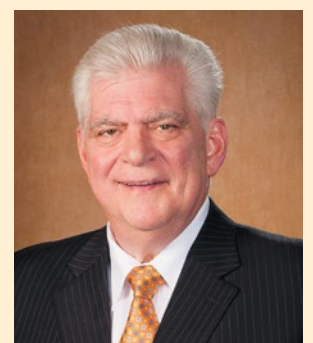
Now we have to keep them.

While we bring in tens of thousands of new members every year, we watch thousands of them leave. An important part of retaining new members is, of course, the next job, and the construction industry is, by its nature by-the-job. The No. 1 reason people leave the IBEW is lack of a union job.

I understand that it isn't our job to find a project for a contractor, an order for a factory or a permit to build a new power plant for a utility. We do the work, we don't run the business.

But if you go back to our founding 124 years ago, the original members of the IBEW didn't need a union job to stay a union member. The difference between a scab and a brother is not about who is signing the paycheck. It is about whose signature is on the union card, who goes to meetings, who pays their dues and sees every moment as a chance to spread the word: the only path to a decent wage and a dignified retirement is for working people to stick together.

That is a job for every member of the IBEW. It is the new challenge for the IBEW. ■



**Salvatore J. Chilia**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

**Send letters to:**

Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Or send by email to: [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org)

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*The Electrical Worker* (print)  
ISSN 2332-113X

*The Electrical Worker* (online)  
ISSN 2332-1148

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

*The Electrical Worker* will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

Paid advertising is not accepted.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756.

Canada Post: Return undeliverables to P.O. Box 2601, 6915 Dixie Rd, Mississauga, ON L4T 0A9.

# “LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

## Tuition-Free Opportunity

The officers' articles in the Electrical Worker newspaper are always on target and straight to the point. I really appreciated Secretary-Treasurer Sam Chilia's September editorial, "Respect Apprenticeship," on the value of the apprenticeship program. Well done.

After my wife and I put our children through college, we realize it is no small task — or cost — to get the degree that is required in this country to move on to hopefully bigger and better things. Unfortunately many young adults end up saddled with huge loans that weigh them down for many years or decades to come. I had no idea the number of apprentices educated in the U.S. and how it speaks volumes to walk away debt free and qualified to be a productive member of society. This should be screamed from the rooftops in today's market and bragged about as one of the many positive benefits the IBEW and AFL-CIO offers in the way of opportunities.

To the officers, a quick thank you for being true servants of the workers across this country. Your articles come straight from the heart. Thanks for your hard work in the International. You make all of us proud.

Mike Rockford  
Local 38 member, Cleveland

## Proof of Brotherhood

On Aug. 14, my wife Dawn was in a very bad accident. I was about an hour away at work at the time when my 11-year-old son called me in a panic and was only able to say to me "Dad, Mom got hit by a car!" I arrived at the hospital, and give the lady at the desk my name. As I stood there I looked through the opening into a common area of the trauma room, where I saw Dawn lying on a stretcher, with a neck brace on, not moving. Then I see a priest walk over to give her a blessing. I thought she was gone, that I simply couldn't get there in time to see her. But she survived. She was rushed into surgery and has many broken bones and horrific injuries that she will have to recover from.

Dawn spent the next three weeks in the hospital, and then was transported to a rehab facility. I was home with our three sons, Anthony, 11, Dominic and Carmine, 10-year-old twins.

I was on unpaid leave from work, taking care of the kids and at the hospital. It was touch-and-go for a while. There was such an outpouring of support from IBEW members, and members of other trades. I was getting phone calls, visits, donations, flowers. I couldn't believe what I was seeing.

Everyone knows when you are on a job, there is complaining, about the wage, the contract, the job conditions, whatever it may be at that moment. If there are times when you think that brotherhood doesn't exist anymore, please let me be the one to tell you that couldn't be further from the truth!

Dawn is home now. She is unable to stand up or walk right now, has had some major complications, and still has a long, painful road ahead of her. But, she's alive! This is without a doubt the most humbling experience of my life. Being the recording secretary of this local, next time I sit at the general membership meetings and look out into the membership, I am going to feel very proud to be a member of Local 589. I can only hope to one day return the favor. I know I could never express how much it means to my family and I what everyone has done. I just want to say thank you to everyone who thought of my wife and my kids. I truly am very proud to be a part of this.

Augie Maccarone, Local 589 member  
Jamaica, N.Y.

## An Important Reminder

We can't prevent time but through the result of our actions, we can manipulate change in its potential and severity by how we live our lives. My one aspiration and fulfillment in my work is my dedication to family. We all may have different reasons as to why we come to work and do the things we do, but there should be a reason why we work safe.

We are all here to accomplish a task, whether that be to come home to our families every night unscathed, enjoy our hobbies in life, fulfill a personal goal, etc.

Work safe for the values of the union, work safe for your personal interest and work safe for your fellow co-workers whose family is reliant on your preservation.

Ben Parkinson, Local 57 member  
Salt Lake City



Jamaica, N.Y.,  
Local 589 member  
Augie Maccarone  
thanks his IBEW  
brothers and sisters for  
their support while his  
wife, Dawn, recovers  
from an auto accident.

# WHO WE ARE

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org).



## Hot Rod is Ready to Roll, Aid Portland Local

Local 48 Business Manager Gary Young, right, stands with retired member Merle Munger in front of a 1952 Chevy 3100 that Munger recently finished restoring. He will donate all proceeds from the sale of the truck to the local.

Merle Munger retired in 1998 after 35 years as an inside wireman. But he wasn't about to stop working or aiding fellow electricians in need—particularly those at Local 48 in Portland, Ore.

Munger, 78, took up restoring old and vintage cars as a hobby after his retirement. His latest project is a 1952 Chevy 3100, a brilliant orange pickup with silver chrome. For sale now for \$27,500, proceeds will be donated to a fund to assist Local 48 members in need.

"When you retire, you have to occupy your mind, so I took it on," said Munger, who lives in Vancouver, Wash., just across the Columbia River from Portland.

The third Chevy restored by Munger, he updated a 1971 Chevelle and '62 Nova and gave them to his two grandsons. He started working on the truck at the recommendation of a fellow IBEW member, who spotted it for sale for \$2,500 in Beaverton, Oregon.

Auctioning off his latest work is a way of saying thanks for a good life, which he credits to being part of a strong union.

"The local has been really good to me over the years," said Munger, who served two terms on Local 48's executive board. "I'm more than happy to do it."

## A Labor of Love

Munger worked more than six years restoring the truck. He recently added up his receipts. Turns out he spent more than \$44,000 on the project.

Munger's background as an electrician helped. Still, considering the complexity of engines and transmissions in today's cars, patience proved to be a virtue.

"I took some classes and deliberated quite a bit before I made a move," he said. "I stayed persistent, and kept that kind of focus, not to get in a rush and screw things up."

The truck is a model from more than six decades ago, but the interior and exterior are now state of the art.

The truck is a hot rod powered by a 2008 Chevy 4.3 Vortec motor with a four-speed automatic transmission and V6 engine. Munger installed a new suspension system and cleaned out gobs of sludge, the gooey, tarlike substances of oil that build up over time.

A computer specialist helped him make a modern engine compatible with an older model car. A friend with body shop experience helped him extend the dashboard 3-4 inches to make room for modern technology. He also installed a new defrosting system for the windshield.

"When you start changing the whole suspension underneath, from solid axle to independent suspension, and completely change to a new style engine and transmission involving computers, it's a pretty complicated thing," he said.

## Asking Price: \$27,500

Munger is being assisted by Clif Davis, international representative in business development, who worked with Munger at Local 48. Davis has nearly 40 years of experience selling classic cars. The Chevy 3100 is now listed on Craigslist.com at <http://portland.craigslist.org/mlt/cto/5237605211.html> Asking price is \$27,500, but IBEW members can get a break. Asking price for them is \$22,500.

Retirees giving back to their locals is an IBEW tradition, but Davis agrees that Munger's actions are more generous than most.

"He's kind of the old-fashioned, hard-work, get-it-done type of person," Davis said. "But he's also charismatic and friendly and always willing to help anybody. He always brought that to the [local] executive board."

Local 48 Business Manager Gary

Young said the most he can remember the fund having is \$7,000, but it's usually closer to \$3,000. Munger's donation will help more workers now and also give volunteers a chance to grow the fund in the future.

"This is pretty exciting," he said.

## Working Hard to Inspire Others

Munger grew up on a farm outside Vancouver and his father worked for Kaiser Shipyards, a leading shipbuilder in World War II. He earned his IBEW card in 1963. Besides the executive board, he served on the board for Local 48's credit union and on a committee that worked with industries in the Portland area to improve the apprenticeship program.

"I loved everything about local leadership," he said. "It was always a challenge. The people in the industry are really smart."

Munger doesn't want to just help people in need. He hopes younger members seeing a retiree remain active in the local will encourage them to seek out leadership positions.

"They don't fully understand the labor movement because they don't get involved enough to understand what goes into receiving benefits and how that comes about," he said. "It's not just a number that is drawn out of a hat. There's a tremendous amount of work that goes into negotiations and a lot of reasoning that goes on on both sides. Young people, if they don't get involved in organized labor, they never really understand that."

Munger's been able to live a comfortable life during 17 years of retirement. His top hobby besides working on cars is gardening. He gives most of his fruits and vegetables away—much like he's given away his restored cars.

"This is really above and beyond for a person to be this dedicated," Davis said. ■



## CHICAGO'S RENEWABLE TRAINING FIELD:

# Powering the Present, Preparing for the Future

Chicago Local 134 has a new tool to meet the challenges of a changing climate head-on, and on Sept. 16, Business Manager Don Finn flung open the doors to his local's state-of-the-art Renewable Energy Training Field.

The new training facility, located on the campus of the Chicago-area IBEW-NECA Technical Institute—or IN-TECH—boasts several solar photovoltaic arrays, an 80-foot wind turbine, rooftop solar installations, a 100-foot cell tower and an 18-kilowatt solar carport with four electric vehicle charging stations.

Finn praised the completion of the joint project, saying, “The future is clear. There was one choice and that was to meet the growing demand for renewable energy. Contractors will be able to take requests from customers knowing they have electricians with the best training and who are certified in renewable energy.”

Students have responded enthusiastically to the new training field as well.



Local 134 and NECA Chicago's new facility provides hands-on training with solar arrays, a wind turbine and even a place to charge electric cars.

Photos courtesy Chicago Local 134 and NECA Chicago

“We’ve got 21 electricians enrolled in the PV [photovoltaic] course this term,” said Local 134’s assistant training director, Harry Ohde. “That’s a huge increase over last year’s course,” he said, adding that training center leaders expect to train 50 students using the field in the first year and hope for even more in the future.

“One of the most important components of the training field is the hands-on

nature of it,” Ohde said. “I have high expectations for the program, and we hope its benefits aren’t limited to just the Chicago area.”

Indeed, the training field was built with IBEW locals and NECA chapters all over the country in mind. Ohde said he hopes other locals from across the country will come to Chicago to take advantage of the unique setup, “and we are looking into offering online courses as well. We want this training field to be the IBEW’s nationally recognized training facility for renewables.”

And while it trains the next generation of electricians, the field also serves a more immediate and practical function. The solar and wind technologies on site will contribute to IN-TECH’s status as a net-zero facility, powering the rest of the center’s campus with no carbon emissions.

David Witz, president of the Chicago NECA chapter, said at its opening, this project was designed “to meet the future demand for renewable energy that is coming like a freight train.”

“We are doing what we can in the electrical industry,” he said, “to decrease dependence on fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions, and we’re excited to celebrate our grand opening and to show the world what we’re doing.” ■



Students receive training on the latest in renewable energy technology at Chicago's sprawling In-Tech facility. Photos courtesy Chicago Local 134 and NECA Chicago

## May International Executive Council Meeting

# Minutes and Report of The International Executive Council's Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:00 a.m., by Chairman Pierson, on Thursday, May 14, 2015, in Washington, D.C. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Walter, Wagner, Lavin, and Galbraith.

### International President Hill

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

### International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia

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

### Legal Defense

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

### Financial Reports

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

### Review Relocation Policy

The International Executive Committee reviewed the request by International President Hill for approval of his relocation expenses as per IBEW policy. The request complied with the requirements under IBEW policy and past practice and the IEC approved these expenses.

### Article XX and XXI Cases

During the first quarter of 2015, the IBEW settled one Article XX dispute, Case No. 14-12, International Line Builders, Inc. (LIUNA and IBEW) and objected to the United Steelworkers' request to register a strategic campaign under Article XXI's Strategic Campaign Registration Program for Tesla “Gigafactory”—currently under construction in Reno, Nevada. To date, the AFL-CIO has not acted on the USW's registration request.

### IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement covering the 9-month period ending March 31, 2015

Reviewed and Filed

### IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets/Changes in Net Assets covering the 9-month period ending March 31, 2015

Reviewed and Filed

### Retirement of International Representatives

Eddie L. Dedmon, International Representative, Fifth District Effective—March 1, 2015

Carol L. Fitzgerald, International Representative, Second District Effective—March 1, 2015

Alan P. Goddard, International Representative, Sixth District Effective—May 1, 2015

Donald C. Hartley, International Representative, Utility Department Effective—March 1, 2015

James B. Kauffman, International Representative, Fourth District Effective—June 1, 2015

### Retirement of International Office Employees

Jody R. Pheasant, Supervisor, Per Capita Department Effective—October 11, 2014

Mary A. White, General Office Clerk, Support Services Department Effective—May 1, 2015

### Vested Pension

Susan C. Mucha, Secretary, Third District Office Effective—July 21, 2015

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned on Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 12 p.m., on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, in Las Vegas, NV.

### For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary  
May 2015

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW pension fund. For a complete listing, consult [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org), clicking on the International Executive Council link on the “About Us” page. ■

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