

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## New York City Local Reclaims Lost Ground

Manhattan's skyline as it will look in 2030, transformed by a record number of residential and hotel tower starts. Local 3 is determined to make them union jobs. (Image courtesy VISUALHOUSE)

For decades, New York City construction sites have been union construction sites. Period. Competition among contractors was fierce, but except on the margins, victory never went to those who skimped on safety, cut benefits or underpaid.

Until five years ago.

The recession ended in the United States and billions of investor dollars seeking safe haven were plowed into Big Apple real estate.

"The business changed more in the last



## WINNING THE WORK

half-decade than in my whole career," said New York City Local 3 Business Representative Elliot Hecht. "When I was an apprentice, anything that had a wire on it was being installed by us. Times changed."

Nonunion contractors established a beachhead in the construction business. The financial institutions that had dominated New York City development for decades were sidelined, along with the developers and contractors they worked with. Nonunion contractors started winning smaller residential and hotel jobs, especially the ones outside the Manhattan core.

And then real estate development in New York City went insane. Today, permit applications are at levels not seen in more than half a century and hotel

developers are adding rooms faster than at any time since the Jazz Age almost 100 years ago.

And nearly 90 percent of the hotel and residential permits in the last 18 months have been pulled by nonunion contractors.

"This is the biggest change in this industry in my lifetime. It is surprising that it happened so fast, but no one is confused about what is behind it," said Nicholas Coletti, executive director of the New York Building Trades Employers' Association. "We're too expensive."

Many big city trade unions have seen this change over the last 40 years, and many of them sat on the sidelines and watched as their contractors lost ground.

Like all successful New Yorkers, Local 3 took action.

"The men and women who built Local 3 had to fight for the market share we inherited. There is no way we are going to pass on less than we inherited," Hecht said.

NEW YORK CITY LOCAL 3 *continued on page 2*

Continued from page 1

# New York City Local Reclaims Lost Ground

## Once in a Lifetime Construction Frenzy

New York City is getting a facelift.

After a slowdown during the years immediately following the financial crisis, hotel and residential construction growth in New York is breaking all records.

Last fiscal year, the city's Department of Buildings agreed to the construction of 53,000 residential units, a 750-percent increase from the post-recession low of 2010. In June alone the city issued almost 18,000 permits, the Census Bureau reported, more than most years since the '60s.

"This is an astounding figure, so far ahead of anything the city has experienced in 50 years," Richard T. Anderson, president of the New York Building Congress, a construction industry group, told The Wall Street Journal. "We are heading into the stratosphere."

The result is that eight of the 10 most expensive construction projects in the city last year were residential projects, a significant change from years past when industrial and commercial projects topped the chart. Just three years ago, only four of the top 10 were residential. The enormous increase in construction costs was due to expectation inflation—real estate in New York City is dominated by luxury housing.

The residential building boom is echoed in the growth of hotel construction.

Nearly 20 percent of the city's 112,000 hotel rooms were built in the last five years and that total is expected to rise another 25 percent by the end of the decade. Projects range in size from the 14-room The Broome in SoHo to the 900-room Wyndham New Yorker across the street from Penn Station.

Tom McConnell, a hotel broker for real estate firm Cushman & Wakefield told the New York Post, "We haven't seen anything like today's construction since the 1920s and 1930s."

But in 2014, 90 percent of hotel and residential permits—73 buildings—went to nonunion contractors. The only borough where union contractors built more square feet than the competition was in Manhattan. In the Bronx, union contractors built none.

Despite the bad news, the bread and butter of the union trades is doing well. Office construction is at its highest level in a quarter century. In 2015 and 2016, 10 million square feet of office space is being built in Manhattan alone. From 2016-2020, another 20 million is predicted.

"This is the worry. The fastest growing nonunion residential contractor just won two commercial buildings, 40-60 stories each," said Gary Labarbera, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York. "The nonunion contractor got better. By not winning jobs, we taught them."

Although there are no official statistics, the New York Times recently reported that between 25-40 percent of construction jobs in the city are now nonunion, a

"Ultimately this nonunion workforce must be organized, and it will be."

— Local 3 Business Manager Christopher Erikson

"This is the biggest change in this industry in my lifetime."

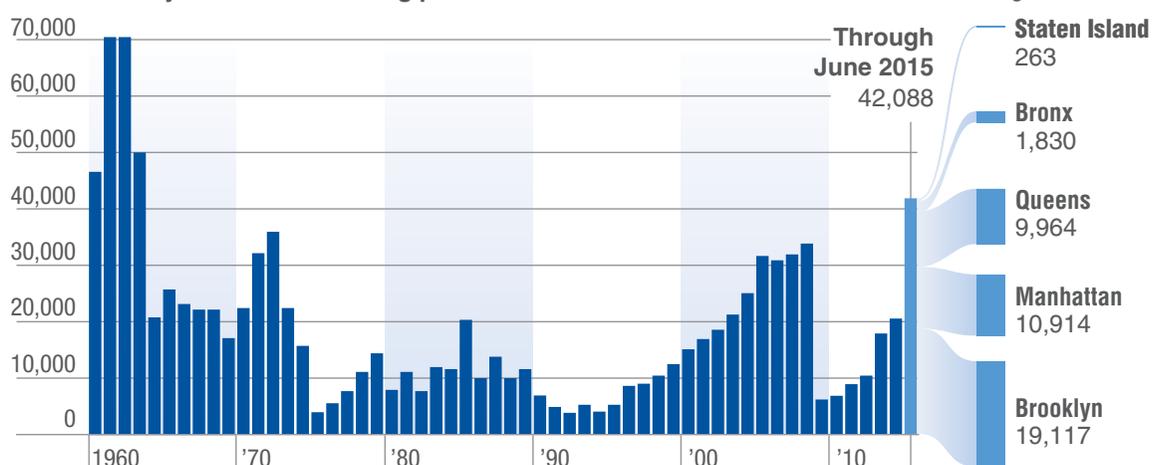
— Nicholas Coletti, executive director of the New York Building Trades Employer Association



## Building Momentum

With Brooklyn projects leading the way, New York City has issued more residential building permits so far this year than in any full year since 1963.

### New York City residential building permits



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; NYC Rent Guidelines Board

The Wall Street Journal

dramatic rise from the 15 percent that had been standard for decades.

"Overall, work is up for Local 3," said Business Manager Christopher Erikson, who is also the International Executive Council chairman. "It is just up a lot more for nonunion contractors. And that is not acceptable."

## Don't Call It a Comeback

At the general membership meeting in May 2015, Erikson announced his plan.

If union contractors were priced out of the market, Local 3 needed a plan to compete. Erikson announced his plan for a new residential division, structured on the proven model of the alternative classification program.

The program won broad support at the meeting, Hecht was reassigned to the new division and Erikson immediately opened negotiations with signatory contractors.

"There have always been nonunion companies out there. Residential is a sector they seem to be thriving in," Hecht

said. "We can't allow this to continue or they will work their way into the commercial market."

Previous efforts to recover lost market share, including reducing wage rates and maintaining benefits were failing to generate successful bids. On an average 10-40 story building with a budget around \$60 million, union contractor bids were 25 percent higher than nonunion, Labarbera said.

"Estimating a job was going through the motions for some of our contractors," Hecht said. "Owners were just seeing how much they could save going nonunion. We had signatories that never even got a call back."

"Every trade's market share is suffering. We are not competitive. But if we got the differential to 12 percent we would win everything," said Louis Coletti, president and CEO of the New York Building Trades Employers Association. "There

Since July, hundreds of applicants have been brought in for interviews and boot camps.

tions on the job and increasing the variety of classifications the union offered.

Taking a page from the alternative classification program, Erikson proposed a massive organizing drive to bring in non-union workers, assess their skills, get them paying dues and out to work with journeyman wiremen and apprentices.

They put out the word that they would host an open house in July, advertised in local papers and through social media. The only requirement was two years of work in the industry.

On July 22, 1,375 people came to the open house and were met by nearly 100 Local 3 members. On July 25, more than 1,400 came.

"These people knew they were being exploited—no benefits, lousy wages, no pension, no annuities. They wanted an opportunity to get something better," Hecht said.

Over 1,000 had five or more years of experience and several hundred had 10 years or more.

"My dad was an organized electrician, and he used to always say people would give their right arm to be Local 3, and we are still seeing it at these open houses," Hecht said.

Since July, hundreds of applicants have been brought in for interviews and boot camps. Depending on how they rate in the interview, some are presented with different apartment setups stripped down to the studs. Applicants get a wiring diagram and three and a half hours to put in boxes, pull cables and mount fixtures.

"Just like it was a regular job," Hecht said.

Successful applicants are rated a residential mechanic up through four grades of residential wireman and sent to Local 3-run boot camps that were running every Tuesday and Thursday over the summer, and more sporadically now.

Worksites still have a complement of residential electricians, journeymen and apprentices. The new members pay the initiation fee and their dues and will have access to ongoing training, health care and pension, even the apprenticeship if they want.

Just as important, contractors will have a chance at winning the work.

"Ultimately this nonunion workforce must be organized, and it will be," said Erikson. "The future is strong. We have great electricians, great training and a great apprenticeship." ■

used to be seven or eight developers and owners in the city and they got financing from NYC banks. There was a loyalty. The recession destroyed all that."

## Getting Competitive

Local 3 discovered that the best route to competitiveness was not cutting wages, but changing the overall mix of classifica-



## Friedrichs case threatens bargaining rights

# The Right Asks the High Court to Curb Unions

This month marks the beginning of an important year for the labor movement. In November, voters will head to the polls to decide America's next president, the makeup of Congress, and countless state and local offices, any combination of which could have an enormous effect on working people and the middle class.

But long before those ballots are even printed, much less cast, the Supreme Court will hear and decide a little-known case with wide-ranging implications for trade unionism.

Scheduled for oral arguments later this month, *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* threatens to turn all federal, state and local government workplaces into right-to-work shops, circumventing the voters and their elected representatives who have rejected such anti-labor measures time and time again.

The case involves a small group of California teachers, led by Orange County's Rebecca Friedrichs, who object to paying the so-called fair share fee that covers the cost of collective bargaining, contract administration and grievance adjudication—all services the union is required by law to provide to members and non-members alike.

But this is not a case of just a few mild-mannered teachers facing off against "big labor," as many conservative voices say. Friedrichs and her cohorts are backed by the very same big-business, anti-union billionaires who have sponsored right-to-work legislation across America.

Right-to-work, is, of course, mislabeled. Visiting a Michigan auto plant the day before that state's governor signed the legislation in 2012, Barack Obama described it a little more accurately—"right to work for less money."

An Ohio public school cafeteria worker, Tina Adams, described it even better in a recent article for the National Education Association's website. Calling attacks on working people, "right-to-work," she said, is "like calling bologna an artisan meat."

In all 25 right-to-work states, workers who object to a union's political activities can not only opt out of the political fees, as anyone can, but they can also refuse to pay the union's "fair share" fee to cover costs of collective bargaining, contract administration, and grievance adjudication. This, of course, creates what is referred to as a "free-rider" problem, because the union remains legally obligated to represent even non-members to management.

The plaintiffs in the *Friedrichs* case are attempting to do the same thing, challenging decades-old settled law from the 1977 case, *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, which held that unions could charge employees for the administrative costs of bargaining even if that person chose to remain a non-member to avoid contributing to the organization's extra political costs.

In *Friedrichs*, the plaintiffs are making virtually the same argument that the *Abood* plaintiffs did nearly 40 years ago, suggesting that any interactions with public officials, even collective bargaining, are "free speech," and thus forced participation is in violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

"That argument is ridiculous," said IBEW Government Employees Department Director Dennis Phelps, who represents tens of thousands of the union's civil service members ranging from linemen to law enforcement. "The relationship between an employee and an employer is just fundamentally different from the one between a lobbyist and a government, and the Supreme Court affirmed that back in 1977. Public employees have a right to be represented just the same as private employees do, and we hope the court sticks to precedent and agrees with us."

If history is any indicator, even conservative justice Antonin Scalia may agree with labor's position, as he rationalized the *Abood* decision in a 1991 case, *Lehnert v. Ferris Faculty Association*. Unions, he wrote, need "the services of lawyers, expert negotiators, economists, and a research staff, as well as general administrative personnel," adding that fair share fees are key to discouraging free-rider status.

At the heart of the push behind *Friedrichs* is a little-known organization called the Center for Individual Rights, founded in the late 1980s, and until now, focused primarily on eliminating affirmative action and curtailing the 1965 Voting Rights Act. But a quick glance behind the

curtain reveals that CIR's donors are a who's who of conservative billionaires and CEOs, none more prominent than Charles and David Koch.

The Koch Brothers and their flagship political organization, Americans for Prosperity, have been behind the successful right-to-work campaigns in Michigan in 2012 and in Wisconsin last March. The group also spent more than \$10 million supporting Wisconsin governor Scott Walker in 2011 and 2012 when he stripped collective bargaining rights from all public employees in the state and then faced a contentious recall election.

Most recently, the Kochs spent hundreds of thousands of dollars funding an unsuccessful campaign to overturn Missouri governor Jay Nixon's veto of right-to-work legislation in September. Thanks to the efforts of the IBEW and its labor allies in the state, the anti-union forces were defeated, but the group is currently embarked on a second effort to punish the 20 Republican legislators who sided with Democrats with an eye to reviving the right-to-work bill next session.

The defeat in Missouri, however, helps to explain the shift in strategy—or the parallel strategies—that led right-to-work to the steps of the Supreme Court. Faced with a court they believe is sympathetic to their cause, the Koch-backed lawyers actually argued against their own case in every lower court just so they could speed the case to the Supreme Court even faster.

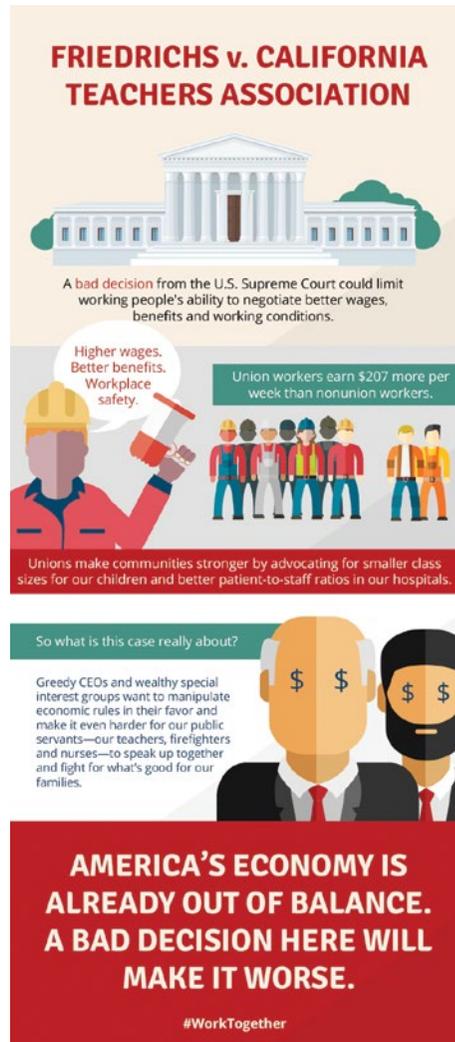
Whichever way the Supreme Court decides *Friedrichs* before the end of its term in June, one thing is clear: the power-

ful corporate interests that are backing this effort are unlikely to stop here.

In Wisconsin, after the Americans for Prosperity-backed 2011 effort that nearly destroyed the state's public sector unions, membership dropped nearly 80 percent and those who were left saw their health care costs rise by an astonishing \$400 per month.

In an economy that is already out of balance, this case threatens to make things even worse for the working men and women of the middle class, moving the rest of the country toward the Wisconsin model. Eliminating fair share fees and making right-to-work the law of the land is just the first step in the Koch network's plan to install a permanent conservative majority, coupled with the nearly \$900 billion they have pledged to spend during the 2016 election cycle.

As International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore J. Chilia wrote in December's *Electrical Worker*, "Don't think for a minute that a negative ruling is only bad for public employees. A decision for the *Friedrichs* plaintiffs could set a dangerous precedent for the rest of our members in the private sector as well." ■



**FRIEDRICHS v. CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

A bad decision from the U.S. Supreme Court could limit working people's ability to negotiate better wages, benefits and working conditions.

Higher wages. Better benefits. Workplace safety.

Union workers earn \$207 more per week than nonunion workers.

Unions make communities stronger by advocating for smaller class sizes for our children and better patient-to-staff ratios in our hospitals.

So what is this case really about?

Greedy CEOs and wealthy special interest groups want to manipulate economic rules in their favor and make it even harder for our public servants—our teachers, firefighters and nurses—to speak up together and fight for what's good for our families.

**AMERICA'S ECONOMY IS ALREADY OUT OF BALANCE. A BAD DECISION HERE WILL MAKE IT WORSE.**

#WorkTogether

Graphic courtesy of America Works Together, a coalition of unions and others working to preserve bargaining rights for the middle class.

## Workers Independent News Joins Public Radio Stations Across the Country

Over 400 public radio stations will now have access to high quality, labor-friendly news courtesy of Workers Independent News. All they have to do is ask for it.

Beginning in January, WIN's content will be available to more than 400 National Public Radio affiliates across the country via the Public Radio Satellite System.

"We've supported WIN since the beginning and are pleased to hear that more news stations, and more working families, will have access to their content," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson.

WIN will produce 15 minutes of content each day, which stations can take in segments or in its entirety. One segment will be the three-minute news roundup that WIN presently produces, as well as an in-depth look into a current news topic. Other segments will have interviews with labor leaders, an economic news feature and underwriter recognition.

"We're thrilled to be able to offer our content, and the stories of labor and working families, to a broader audience," said WIN Executive Producer Frank Empsak. "This is a



WIN has been broadcasting since 2002 to over a million listeners.

great step forward for the movement, and we're proud to be the catalyst."

The Public Radio Satellite System provides content to local radio stations throughout the country, most of which are NPR stations. WIN's content was already being used by outlets like Daily Kos and radio host Thom Hartmann, as well as CNN and Al Jazeera. Their inclusion in the system makes accessing the content that much easier for participating stations and consequently more likely to be aired.

With fewer and fewer news outlets with a dedicated labor reporter, this comes at a good time. When labor issues do get coverage, many advocates of working families have noted it isn't always fair or objective.

"For labor coverage, the way it usually goes is that there is a labor-management dispute, the news outlet calls the company first, gets their perspective, then they call the union. We call the union first," said Empsak. "No one else really does that."

For its part, WIN plans to reach out to local unions and community partners and ask them to contact their stations about carrying WIN's content. With the added audience, WIN expects to increase its underwriting revenues.

WIN began broadcasting in 2002 and currently reaches over a million listeners using a multi-media strategy. Empsak gives a great deal of credit to IBEW for its start. In addition to early financial assistance, the IBEW offered guidance and encouraged others to get involved, he said.

"Without IBEW, we wouldn't be here," Empsak said.

Tax-deductible contributions may be made through [laborradio.org](http://laborradio.org).

WIN is produced by Diversified Media Enterprises, which is owned by the nonprofit Public Economic Information Service. ■

## 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

Visit the new [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org), your source for union news and information.

And read *The Electrical Worker* online!

### YouTube

Houston Local 66 faced a big challenge in organizing linemen spread across the Lone Star State, but its hard work paid off. Check out its latest victory.

[YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](http://YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker)

### Vimeo

Chicago is home to one of the Midwest's first net-zero energy facilities, and it's all IBEW. Take a tour of the Alsip, Ill., IBEW-NECA Technical Institute's new renewable energy training field.

[Vimeo.com/IBEW](http://Vimeo.com/IBEW)

### HourPower

In the latest edition of Hour Power, travel with us to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to view a new training center and to Peoria, Ill., to honor the legacy of a fellow IBEW brother.

[IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com)

### ElectricTV

Electric TV recently traveled to North Dakota to check out the Bakken oil formation and the population boom it has caused. The NECA/IBEW team is at the center of the rework of infrastructure.

[ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net)



## NORTH OF 49°

# New Ontario Regulations Undermine Trades

Few things offer a path to the Ontario middle class better than a 309A license, awarded to a construction electrician after completion of an apprenticeship. It guarantees Red Seal certification, allowing its holders to move easily between the provinces for work.

IBEW leaders fear that license is under attack after the provincial government moved late last year to adopt the Dean Report, issued by former Ontario Public Service head and current University of Toronto professor Tony Dean following his year-long review of the Ontario College of Trades.

"Our trade is viewed as something of value," said John Grimshaw, executive secretary/treasurer of the IBEW Construction Council of Ontario. "To go out and get a license means something. You're hiring properly qualified, highly trained, skilled electricians."

Trade licensing and worker training is handled by provincial governments in Canada. Since 2013, it has been overseen in Ontario—Canada's largest province with about 14 million people—by the College of Trades.

Dean's report recommends that when two or more trades are allowed to do the same work, employers can hire anyone to do that work, not just from the unions that train their workers to do so.

For instance, if the IBEW and another union are both allowed to install conduit on a construction site, contractors can now hire less skilled workers who often are nonunion. Toronto Local 353 Business Manager Steven Martin said a journeyman electrician makes about \$60 per hour. Unskilled workers make around \$16, he said.

Proponents of Dean's report say the move will drive down unemployment, but Martin and other IBEW officials think the opposite will happen. Instead, it will make it difficult to attract qualified applicants to apprenticeship programs because wages will drop, he said.

"If they start spinning the trade off and allowing anyone to do the menial parts of the job, it makes that job much less attractive," he said.

The public has a right to be concerned too, First District International Representative Bruce McNamara said. McNamara noted unskilled workers will be allowed to install raceway wiring, an enclosed channel of metal or nonmetallic materials designed expressly for holding wires or cables.

Trained apprentices are taught both bonding and grounding when installing raceway, McNamara said. Nonskilled workers often are not.

"It boils down to public safety," Martin said. "If you have unskilled people doing skilled labour, that is a factor."

IBEW and other trades leaders also are disappointed in Dean's recommendation to remove most of the College of Trade's enforcement power. College representatives visit job sites to make sure

contractors are using workers in the appropriate job classifications. Those who don't are subject to fines.

Now, contractors will be allowed to appeal any penalties to the Ontario Labour Relations Board. They also will not have to pay the fines until the appeal process is completed. Martin said he is urging provincial officials to at least remove this designation because it cripples the college's enforcement arm.

What makes it all even more troubling for Grimshaw, Martin and others is that Dean's recommendations were accepted by a provincial government in which the Liberal Party has a working majority. Labour has campaigned heavily for Liberals in provincial elections in recent years. Dean largely has been

viewed as a friend of unions during his time as a public servant and academic.

Local 353 responded by declining to send representatives to a Liberal Party fundraising dinner in December, leaving its table empty, Martin said. He's written a letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne, stating that Local 353 will no longer attend Liberal Party functions until "such time as your government refocuses on the values on which you were voted into office."

McNamara said he suspects backers of Dean's report want unskilled or nonunion labour to complete much of the work before having union tradesmen arrive on site to make sure it is done correctly. It's a way to cut costs and still take advantage of skilled union workers. It also could compromise public safety and

cripple the Ontario economy.

"Basically, what they're trying to do is splinter the trades and take out portions deemed unskilled, which means anyone can do it," he said.

Grimshaw said he met with Dean three times during the review process, but he is disappointed the IBEW and other trade unions weren't allowed to study the report and give its reaction before the release in mid-November.

"We are very concerned that there are significant changes being proposed in the Dean Report that will affect us and others trades," he said. "Yet, the industry is being presented with the report without the opportunity to comment on significant changes that will affect us. That is a mistake." ■

## AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

# Les nouveaux règlements de l'Ontario compromettent les métiers

Très peu de choses offrent un chemin à la classe moyenne de l'Ontario mieux que le permis 309A, il est attribué à un électricien en construction après avoir complété la formation en apprentissage. Cela garantit pratiquement l'obtention du certificat portant le Sceau Rouge; ce qui lui permet de se déplacer facilement entre les provinces en vue d'un emploi.

Les leaders de la FIOE craignent que ce permis soit menacé suite à l'adoption précoce du Rapport Dean (*The Dean Report*) par le gouvernement fédéral. Cette initiative a été émise par l'ancien chef de la fonction publique et actuellement professeur à l'Université de Toronto Tony Dean après avoir conclu sa révision sur l'Ordre des métiers de l'Ontario qui a duré un an.

« Notre syndicat/métier est considéré comme quelque chose de précieux, » dit le secrétaire exécutif/trésorier John Grimshaw du Conseil de la Construction de l'Ontario de la FIOE (*IBEW Construction Council of Ontario*). « De se déplacer et d'aller chercher un permis, cela a une signification. Vous embauchez des électriciens compétents dûment et hautement qualifiés. »

Les licences commerciales et la formation des travailleurs sont gérées par les gouvernements provinciaux du Canada. C'est seulement que depuis 2013 que c'est dirigé en Ontario par l'Ordre des métiers de l'Ontario; c'est la plus grande province du Canada avec une population d'environ 14 millions d'habitants.

Ce rapport suggère que lorsque deux ou plusieurs métiers sont autorisés à effectuer la même catégorie de travail, l'em-

ployeur a le droit d'embaucher quiconque pour ce travail. Et non seulement des syndicats qui forment leur syndiqué à le faire.

À titre d'exemple, si la FIOE et un autre syndicat sont tous les deux autorisés à installer des conduits sur un chantier de construction, les entrepreneurs peuvent maintenant embaucher des travailleurs moins qualifiés (qui se trouvent à être des non syndiqués) pour combler cette tâche. Le gérant d'affaires Steve Martin du Local 353 de Toronto mentionne qu'un compagnon électricien gagne environ 60 \$ par heure, alors qu'un travailleur non qualifié gagne environ 16 \$ par heure.

Les promoteurs du rapport mentionnent que cette initiative baissera le taux de chômage, mais Martin et d'autres responsables disent que le contraire risque de se produire. Cela compliquera la capacité d'attirer des candidats qualifiés aux formations en apprentissage, puisque les salaires vont baisser, dit-il.

« S'ils commencent à détourner la réalité du métier et permettent à quiconque d'exécuter la partie la moins plaisante du travail, cela rendra ces tâches moins attrayantes, » dit-il.

Le représentant international du Premier District Bruce McNamara mentionne que le public a le droit de s'inquiéter. McNamara souligne que les travailleurs non qualifiés auront le droit d'installer des chemins de câblages, un conduit souterrain de matières métallique ou non métallique destiné à faire tenir des fils ou des câbles.

McNamara mentionne que les apprentis qualifiés sont formés pour faire la mise à la terre et la continuité lorsqu'ils font l'installation d'un chemin de rou-

lement, alors que la main-d'œuvre non qualifiée n'est pas apte à faire de même.

« Tout se résume à la sécurité du public. Si vous avez des travailleurs non qualifiés qui exécutent un travail qui exige une main-d'œuvre qualifiée, ceci est facteur, » déclare Martin.

La FIOE ainsi que d'autres leaders des syndicats sont déçues des recommandations du rapport, car il enlève du pouvoir d'application à l'Ordre des métiers. Les représentants de l'Ordre visitent les chantiers pour s'assurer que les entrepreneurs embauchent des travailleurs dans la classification d'emploi appropriée. Pour ceux qui ne se conforment pas à ce règlement, ils s'exposent à une amende.

À l'instant présent, les entrepreneurs peuvent faire appel à n'importe quelle peine à l'Ordre des métiers de l'Ontario. Ils n'auront également pas à payer d'amendes jusqu'à ce que la procédure d'appel soit menée à terme. Martin mentionne qu'il recommande fortement aux dirigeants provinciaux d'au moins éliminer cette désignation, car elle paralyse le bras exécutif de l'Ordre.

Ce qui rend cette initiative encore plus inquiétante pour Grimshaw, Martin et d'autres c'est que les recommandations du Rapport Dean ont été approuvées par le gouvernement provincial où le parti libéral est majoritaire. Le syndicat a fortement investi dans la campagne du parti libéral dans les élections provinciales au cours des dernières années. Dean a largement été perçu comme un allié aux syndicats durant son mandat en tant que fonctionnaire public ainsi qu'universitaire. ■

# TRANSITIONS

## RETIRED

### Robert W. Pierson



After 10 years as the International Executive Committee chairman, Robert W. Pierson stepped down from the position effective

Dec. 31 and retired from the IBEW on Jan. 8, capping a 50-year career.

Pierson chose Jan. 8 because it is the day he and wife Shirley celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. He also has served as Chicago Local 9 business manager since 1997.

"You won't find a more faithful servant to the IBEW than Bob Pierson," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "We will miss his wise counsel, but he's earned a long, happy retirement. All of us at the IBEW consider him a friend."

Sixth District International Vice President David Ruhmkorff said Pierson was a successful leader because he combined a no-nonsense style with an ongoing understanding of his constituents' needs.

"Not only is he passionate about the labor movement, but he's passionate about people and he truly cares," Ruhmkorff said. "He can articulate his point. His word is his bond. He's a good guy. When he tells you he's going to do something, it's going to get done. His membership respects him."

Pierson was initiated into Local 9 in 1966. He has served as IEC chairman since his appointment by then-President Edwin D. Hill in 2005. He was re-elected at the 2006 and '11 conventions.

The nine-member executive council meets four times per year. It is the final authority on the granting of pensions, vested rights and disability payments.

"I've had an extremely wonderful life," Pierson said. "I owe a lot to the IBEW. Fifty years ago, I never thought I would be where I am today."

Pierson, a longtime influential leader on the Chicago labor scene, lists his proudest accomplishments as organizing 1,100 cable television workers in and around the city in the 1980s and leaving Local 9 in strong financial shape with a good staff for his successor as business manager, Bill Niesman.

"There is no one thing that convinced me to retire," he said. "I think everyone knows in their heart when it's their time. I don't think there's much left for me to accomplish with my own local or the International. I've had a good run."

Ruhmkorff said Pierson's position as IEC chairman was a point of pride for the Sixth District, which includes Local 9.

"Bob's mere presence gave us some notoriety," he said. "It let everyone know that we are a district that takes care of business and champions the cause of the working men and women we represent. Bob never let a meeting go by where he didn't echo those things and encourage people to remember that. His messages

usually were short, concise and very much on point."

Pierson and his wife plan to continue living in the Chicago area so they can stay close to their nine grandchildren. All three of his sons—Gary, Chad and Todd—are Local 9 members. Daughter Wendy owns an insurance agency.

The IBEW officers, staff and membership wish Brother Pierson a long, happy and healthy retirement. ■

## APPOINTED

### Christopher Erikson



IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson appointed New York Local 3 Business Manager Christopher Erikson

chairman of the International Executive Council, effective Jan. 1. The appointment was confirmed by the IEC.

Erikson succeeds Chicago Local 9 Business Manager Robert W. Pierson, who had served as chairman since 2005. He will remain the Local 3 business manager in addition to his new duties.

"When Bob decided to retire, I wanted to fill the position with a strong leader from one of our strongest locals," Stephenson said. "Chris has provided impeccable leadership while guiding Local 3 through the economic crisis and it continues to be a force in New York construction."

The nine-member executive council meets four times per year and is the final authority on the granting of pensions, vested rights and disability payments.

Erikson is the grandson of the legendary Harry Van Arsdale Jr., who served as Local 3 business manager from 1933-68. Van Arsdale also was the first president of the New York City Labor Council and was one of the most influential people in New York politics until his death in 1986.

Erikson began his Local 3 apprenticeship in 1975. He was appointed a business representative in 1989 before being named assistant business manager in 2000. He succeeded Thomas Van Arsdale, his uncle, as business manager in 2006.

"His commitment to our ideals is unwavering," Stephenson said. "He literally has been around the trade union movement since birth."

Erikson said he didn't hesitate when Stephenson offered him the position.

"The trade union movement is being challenged all over the country," he said. "People look to the IBEW to lead. There's no doubt about that. Our members need to remember our strength is in our solidarity."

Like his predecessors, Erikson is a leader on the New York labor scene. He serves on the executive boards of the New York City Building and Construction Trades Council and New York City Central Labor Council. He is a member of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Electrical Workers Minority Caucus and

NAACP. The EWMC awarded him a lifetime achievement award in 2011.

He was the grand marshal of the New York City Labor Day Parade in 2014, telling the Queens Tribune at the time that "Our mantra has always been to help the less fortunate. We will continue the hard work."

Erikson, 60, and his wife, Denise, have four sons: Christopher Jr., Robert, Nicholas and Thomas. Christopher Jr., is a Local 3 business representative and Robert is a Local 3 member.

"I look forward to working closely with President Stephenson and providing whatever counsel I can give him," he said.

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

## DECEASED

### Robert W. Dunleavy



The IBEW regrets to report that Robert W. Dunleavy, former executive assistant to the international president, died on Nov. 13. He was 79.

Born in Rockaway Beach, New York, Brother Dunleavy was initiated into Long Island Local 25 in 1957. He served his local in many roles, including as vice president, assistant business manager, business representative, recording secretary and as chairman of the executive board.

"We always talked about unions," said Brother Dunleavy's son, Pittsburgh Local 5 Business Manager Mike Dunleavy. "It was all I ever wanted, to join the union, but dad made sure I went to college first." Dunleavy and his brother Ronald, an instructor for Local 5, are third generation IBEW members.

In 1969, Dunleavy was appointed Third District international representative. In this role, he assisted then-International Vice Presidents Andy Johnson, J.J. Barry and Raymond Duke. He helped organize members in the construction, utility and television industries.

Dunleavy would go on to serve two international presidents. In 1979, then-International President Charles H. Pillard assigned him to the International Office as one of his assistants. Then in 1987, newly elected International President J.J. Barry appointed him executive assistant.

Brother Dunleavy's commitment to the labor movement extended to his membership on the Greater Pittsburgh Labor-Management Advisory Council. He also served as regional coordinator for the AFL-CIO Tele-Video Conference and as a member of the Ohio State University Committee on Experiential Education. Additionally, he addressed organizations including the National Governor's Association, Tri-State Educational Conference, U.S. Army War College and various IBEW and NECA workshops and conferences.

Dunleavy also served as secretary for both the Council on Industrial

Relations and the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. With the NJATC, he was a major force behind the inauguration of the National Training Institute.

As the principal liaison with NECA, Dunleavy was instrumental in launching "The Quality Connection," a joint effort to market the quality electrical work done by IBEW members.

In his spare time, he enjoyed camping, golf and football—especially the Pittsburgh Steelers—creative writing and spending time with his family. He also coached and served as a member of the Massapequa Mustang Midget Football program.

Brother Dunleavy is survived by his wife of 59 years, Elizabeth, daughters Coleen Clawges and Maureen Heavner, sons Michael and Ronald, and his brother Richard, a Local 25 member. He also leaves 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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

## RETIRED

### James D. Denton



Tenth District International Representative James D. Denton retired in September after more than 42 years of service to the IBEW.

Born and raised in Little Rock, Ark., Brother Denton went to work in July of 1973 at the age of 18. Following in his lineman father's footsteps, Denton was initiated into Little Rock Local 295 a year later and spent the next 14 years as a journeyman wireman working on everything from hospital projects to nuclear plants.

In the 1980s, Denton ran a major nerve-gas demilitarization project at the U.S. Army's Pine Bluff Arsenal just south of Little Rock, where he led 150 electricians in building incinerators to burn toxic gas after the United States signed a chemical weapons treaty with Russia.

It was during that time that Brother Denton first sought and won elected office within Local 295, a streak he would keep up for more than 17 years.

"I started at the bottom as a building trustee," he said, but he rose quickly, becoming recording secretary and treasurer within months. In 1989, Denton was appointed assistant business manager, and became business manager two years later. He served nearly seven years in that job until he was appointed international representative by then-International President J.J. Barry in 1998.

While serving as business manager, Brother Denton served a five-year term on the Council on Industrial Relations, as a member of the executive board of the Arkansas AFL-CIO, and as vice president of the Central Arkansas Building and Con-

struction Trades Council.

It was also during his time as business manager that Denton achieved what he called the highlight of his career. After an eight-year campaign, he successfully lobbied for the passage of Arkansas' first mandatory electrical licensing act, which required a license as a journeyman or master electrician or registration as an apprentice to perform certain work in the state.

"Nonunion contractors fought us every step of the way," Denton said, noting that the measure finally passed on the third or fourth legislative attempt in 1997, completing the project he'd started as assistant business manager.

For the last 17 years as international representative, Denton serviced locals in Arkansas and western Tennessee covering members in every branch of the IBEW except telecommunications.

"Jim was the service representative for my local when I was president," said Tenth District Vice President Brent E. Hall, who later served alongside Denton on district staff for 14 years. "He was always one of the guys you could bounce ideas off of. He was so thorough and detail-oriented. But he was more than just a co-worker. Jim was a good friend, and we'll miss him."

For his part, Brother Denton is enjoying retirement, and thankful for the opportunities the union provided him. "Life would have been tremendously different without the IBEW," he said. "My father made a good living as a lineman, and I never forgot that everything I've ever had was bought with IBEW wages."

He and his wife, Gwen, plan to spend their newfound free time "getting off the pavement" and traveling to national parks. Denton is also looking forward to spending more time hunting, fishing and pursuing his passion for restoring old Jeeps. "I'm down to three," he said, laughing.

The IBEW officers, staff, and membership wish Brother Denton a long, happy and healthy retirement. ■

## RETIRED

### Debra Harget



After 44 years of service with the IBEW, Eighth District International Representative Debra Harget retired effective Oct. 5.

"It was a wonderful ride," Harget said. "It really changed my life."

Born in Denver, Colo., Sister Harget was initiated in 1971 when she began work at Western Electric. She was a technical component-level troubleshooter and member of Northglenn, Colo., Local 2300, which later amalgamated with Denver Local 68. She also has an applied science degree from Front Range Community College.

"It never crossed my mind, not being union," she said. But it wasn't until later in her career that she got involved in

TRANSITIONS continued on page 6

## TRANSITIONS *continued*

leadership. For that, Harget credits a former business manager.

"He gave us an education on unions, the IBEW, but also the labor movement. It sparked a commitment in me that until then had been lying dormant."

Harget said there was a vacancy and her business manager approached her about filling the spot. From there, she would go on to serve in multiple leadership positions and even be part of a team that filed a class action lawsuit against their employer, Lucent-Avaya, resulting in a \$500 million settlement.

"A lot of it happened because of NAFTA," she said, referencing the 1993 trade agreement among the U.S., Canada and Mexico. "It was a two-year fight, but we won. I'm very proud of what we accomplished."

When she became a business manager herself, she continued that education. "I made sure it wasn't forgotten," Harget said.

Sister Harget served as business manager and president of Local 2300 from 2000 to 2002. Prior to that, she served as vice president from 1997 to 2000, and executive board chair from 1992 to 1997. She also served as recording secretary and treasurer on the System Council EM-1 and on her local's grievance committee. In 2002, she was appointed international representative for the Eighth District.

Those roles served her well. In 2009, then-President Hill offered her a job in the

Education Department. Harget conducted trainings on leadership and organizational development, as well as trainings for stewards, business managers and organizers. She also developed classes and presented at conferences.

"She was a really critical part of our team," said Education Department Director Amanda Pacheco. "Coming out of a local and from an elected position was definitely a strength. She brings a lot of history and institutional knowledge. And she was a lot of fun to work with."

In the Education Department, Harget served parts of North and South Dakota, western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana.

"It was my dream job and I got paid to do it," Harget said. "I loved sharing my experiences and teaching people."

While she misses her co-workers and her work, Harget said she is happy to make way for the next generation of leaders.

"If I didn't hand over the baton and allow them to continue the work, then I'd feel selfish," she said.

Sister Harget plans to stay active, taking advantage of Colorado's outdoor activities like fishing, camping and hiking with her husband, Carl. She also plans to travel.

"I'm enjoying this new adventure of doing anything I want," Harget said. "And I wouldn't have it if it wasn't for my union." ■

## CIRCUITS

### In Peoria, A Life's Work Remembered

A section of Spalding Avenue that runs just past the Peoria, Ill., Labor Temple now bears the name of one of the city's most prominent union leaders.

Honorary Mark H. Ayers Way was dedicated on Oct. 9 in a ceremony that also renamed the labor temple's meeting room in his honor.



Local 34 Business Manager Paul Flynn presents the sign that will memorialize Mark Ayers for years to come.

Brother Ayers, a 38-year member of the IBEW who rose through the ranks to ultimately serve as president of the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department, died suddenly in April 2012 at the age of 63.

"Mark's death was a huge loss for all of us in the labor movement, and for our union in particular," IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "As an Illinois native myself, it makes me proud to see the City of Peoria and the local labor community step up and honor him this way."

Peoria Local 34 Business Manager Paul Flynn presided over the ceremony, which drew labor officials, elected leaders, friends, family and colleagues.

Ayers, a Vietnam veteran, joined Local 34 in 1973, serving as treasurer and business representative before spending nine years as business manager. In that job, he co-founded the Central Illinois chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association-Local 34 Quality Connection and served as a trustee and chairman of the NECA-IBEW Welfare and Pension Trust Funds.

Mike Everett, now retired, who succeeded Ayers as business manager at Local 34, described his friend as "the most intense, meticulous and hard-working human being I have ever met. His dedication to the union movement was beyond question, and so was his integrity."

In 1998, Brother Ayers left Peoria for Washington, D.C., appointed by then-International President Edwin D. Hill as director of the IBEW's Construction and Maintenance Department. He served nine years in that job, most notably promoting the Code of Excellence program that has since been adopted by nearly all of the other building trades unions.

In 2007, Ayers was elected president of the AFL-CIO's Building and Con-

struction Trades Department, where he led more than 2 million tradesmen and women until his 2012 death.

At the time, then-Labor Secretary Hilda Solis inducted Brother Ayers into the U.S. Department of Labor Hall of Honor, saying, "We shared the same values. Whether it was fighting for investments in infrastructure and good construction jobs, securing decent wages and safe workplaces, or protecting health benefits and pension plans, Mark stood proudly on the side of working people. ... The American trade movement lost a great leader."

On the occasion of his most recent honor in his native Illinois, Local 34 press secretary Marc Burnap summed up the sentiments of the countless working men and women who will drive down Mark H. Ayers Way or gather in the Mark H. Ayers Unity Hall. "Many of us never had the pleasure of meeting Brother Ayers," he wrote, "but we reap the rewards of his distinguished career and his lifetime of service, and can only hope to live up to the example he set." ■

### Renovated Classic Truck Finds Home with Florida Retiree

Baltimore Local 24 member Larry Tiller searched for months for a truck suitable for himself and a new service dog. He found it while leafing through the November 2015 edition of *The Electrical Worker*.

"When I saw that orange pickup, I just kind of said, 'That's for me,'" said Tiller, a retiree who lives in Cape Coral, Florida. "Plus, what a wonderful way to help an IBEW brother. That really struck me."

Tiller purchased the 1952 Chevy 3100 for \$20,000 from Merle Munger, a retired member of Portland, Oregon, Local 48. Munger had renovated it and promised to donate sale proceeds to the Local 48 fund that assists members in need. The truck was shipped more than 3,000 miles from the Pacific Northwest to Tiller's home in southwest Florida.

The project took Munger six years and more than \$44,000. But he has no complaints.

"It's gratifying to me the way it's turned out," he said.

That's due in part because it helped another IBEW member in need.

Tiller is a Vietnam veteran diagnosed with post-traumatic stress syndrome. He is the commander of the Disabled American Veterans chapter in Cape Coral.

He's unable to walk without crutch-

es because of a motorcycle accident nearly 20 years ago that caused nerve damage. He especially has trouble using his right leg, so unlike most people, he has to use his left foot to tap the brakes and push on the accelerator when driving.

The renovated 3100 allows him to do just that, he said. It has an automatic transmission and it doesn't have a console in the middle of the front seat, unlike many modern trucks. That gives him more room to slide over and use his left leg.

Tiller welcomed a new service dog at the end of November, a golden retriever named Sandford. The 3100 should provide plenty of room for his new companion, too. Even better is that it is painted orange, his favorite color. He rides around on a black Harley Davidson trike, often wearing an orange shirt.

"This is for me and my dog," he said of the truck.

Clif Davis, an international representative in business development who is a fellow member of Local 48, has nearly 40 years of experience in selling classic cars and assisted Munger in the selling process.

"For everyone, I think it was a good experience," Davis said. "[Tiller] got a good truck at good value. If anyone lost, it was Merle because of all the time he put into it. But he's such a good guy. He doesn't look at it that way at all."

Indeed, Munger says he's pleased Local 48's fund got such a huge boost. It had never had more than \$7,000 in it previously.

"The local has been really good to me over the years," Munger said before listing the truck. "I am more than happy to do it."

Munger also has restored two classic cars for his grandsons, but he has no plans to take on another old vehicle. He plans to devote more time to other hobbies, especially reading.

"Several people came up and made a comment to me about how nice the



The 1952 Chevy 3100 pickup truck that Larry Tiller recently purchased for \$20,000 from fellow IBEW retiree Merle Munger. The truck was shipped from Portland, Oregon, to Tiller's home in southwestern Florida.

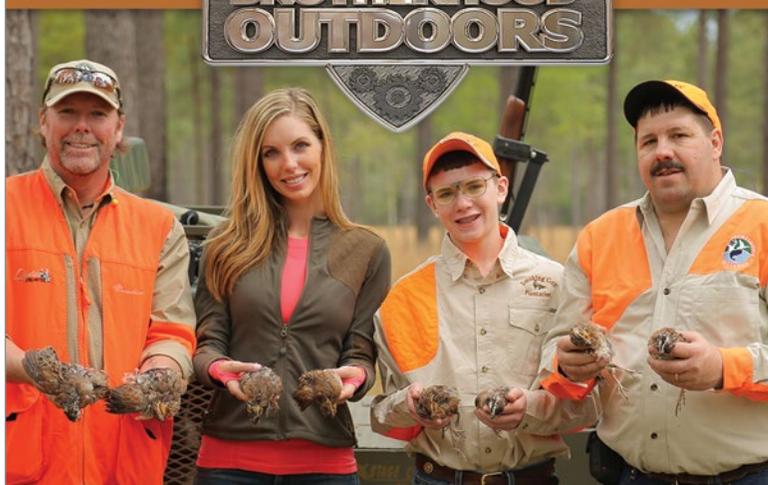
truck looked and what a nice thing I did," he said. "I really enjoyed that. It worked out pretty well."

Tiller, 70, said he learned about the truck just after the death of his mother on Nov. 5.

"With this truck coming," he said, "it has lifted my spirits tremendously." ■

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## Diversity, Youth in RENEW Conference

This month's conference marks the third time RENEW will be holding its annual gathering in conjunction with the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, this year in New York.

In addition to the many EWMC panels and roundtables, RENEW (Reach out and Energize Next-Gen Electrical Workers) is planning to run special workshops on communication strategies for reaching young members and on privilege.

The EWMC representative on RENEW's special advisory board is Wendell Yee, a 15-year member of New York Local 3. The other 11 members of the board come from the 11 vice presidential districts.

Yee said the group will also begin to focus on the upcoming convention in St. Louis next fall, and discuss possible resolutions to strengthen the role of young workers in the IBEW.

"RENEW was created at the convention in 2011 and I think we have shown what an asset we are to the brotherhood," Yee said. "Now we want to create more ways to teach younger people how to affect change through group action, and help the older generation understand how to involve the future of the union." ■



## Sisters in Solidarity: The 2016 IBEW Women's Conference

IBEW women members will don name badges and lanyards for a few days next month to attend the eighth IBEW Women's Conference.

"We are very proud of our sisters in the Brotherhood and want to do all we can to support them," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "The benefits and opportunities that come with a union job should be available to everyone, regardless of gender."

The conference will run from Feb. 24-27 in Los Angeles, opening with a pre-conference on Wednesday, Feb. 24. Beginning on Feb. 25, the conference will include plenary sessions, caucuses and workshops covering various topics related to leadership, politics, the labor movement and specific issues women face in the workplace.

"We've got a full agenda and are looking forward to moving the ball forward for women in 2016," said Carolyn J. Williams, director of civic and community engagement.

All locals from across the United States and Canada are encouraged to participate. For questions or additional information, contact the Civic and Com-

munity Engagement Department at [CCE@ibew.org](mailto:CCE@ibew.org). Local unions can also get information and register members by visiting the Local Connections section of [IBEW.org](http://IBEW.org). ■

## Proposed Clean Lines Project Clears Hurdle

A \$2.2 billion high voltage transmission line that would bring wind power from Kansas to Illinois and Indiana took an important step forward when it was approved Nov. 12 by the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Illinois joins Indiana and Kansas, which have already approved the 750-mile high voltage direct current transmission line. When finished, the line will carry 4,000 megawatts of wind-generated power to major load centers in the Midwest and the East Coast, enough to power 720,000 homes.

Of the states along the route, only Missouri rejected the proposal on 3-2 vote last summer at the state public service commission.

"This is an important accomplishment and I believe it puts the project in a strong position to appeal the Missouri vote," said Springfield, Ill., Local 51 Business Manager James Bates.

Grain Belt Express is one of five projects in development by Clean Lines, a private, Texas-based company. Like the Grain Belt Express, Western Spirit, Rock Island, Centennial West and Plains & Eastern projects are transmission lines that will carry energy produced in America's windiest states—Kansas, Oklahoma, and Iowa—to major load centers on the coasts.

Rank-and-file, local leadership and international representatives were all active participants throughout the five-year, multistate review process. In the weeks before the vote, the IBEW ran an ad produced by the Media Department in Missouri and Illinois that made the case for approval.

"The IBEW is looking forward to working with the contractors that the company will hire to build the Clean Lines projects when they are finally approved," said Business Development International Representative John Bourne.

The next step for the project is unclear. The Missouri Public Service Commission rejected a request for a rehearing a month after the July no vote on the permit. Public pressure on the Missouri commission has also been building inside Missouri since the Illinois vote. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch ran an editorial urging approval.

"In the short term, it's easy to understand why farmers may not want wind turbines whipping up the air over their land and changing life as they know it," the editors wrote. "But if rural landowners in Missouri don't give a little and embrace ways to save the Earth from global warming, more than farming as they know it could be at stake."

Even if the Missouri commission reversed its vote tomorrow, Bourne



*When complete, the modest footprint of the Grain Belt Express will carry enough clean power to run 700,000 homes.*

acknowledged that it will be some time before IBEW members are cashing paychecks from Clean Lines.

"This job is important to our members not just for the transmission lines, but for all the wind turbines, substations and the DC-to-AC converters that will feed the lines," Bourne said. "It may take a while, but when we finally start putting poles in the ground, it will have been worth the work." ■

## In Detroit's Renaissance, Opportunity for the IBEW

Detroit has been through tough times, but Local 58 Business Manager Michael Richard thinks the comeback has started. The challenge is for the IBEW and other building trades to take advantage of it.

An estimated \$5 billion is expected to be spent on new construction projects in southeastern Michigan during the next three years, the most notable a \$627 million arena that will house the NHL's Detroit Red Wings.

At least 51 percent of the workforce on any project within the city limits that accepts public funds or tax credits must be Detroit residents, so trade unions are

intensifying their recruitment effort within the city.

"This city is having a revitalization," Richard said. "It's important for us that the kids that live in this city have a chance to learn a trade and take part in it."

Richard is one of the leaders of MUST—Management and Unions Serving Together—and it includes the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its contractors. It began a campaign in September to add 1,100 apprenticeships in Detroit's building trades during the following 12 months. Potential applicants can consult one site ([mustcareers.org](http://mustcareers.org)), which provides information about apprenticeships in each of the building trades and connects them directly to training centers.

All this is coming at a time when an aging workforce is eyeing life after work. Nearly 40 percent of Local 58's members will be eligible for retirement during the next two to five years, Richard said. It has added about 150 members in 2015 and is looking to double that in 2016, Local 58 Development Director Jennifer Mefford said.

The \$250,000 initial campaign started on Labor Day weekend and includes radio and television ads, billboards and bus wraps. The MUST cam-

paigned built upon the successful marketing of Local 58 and its Labor Management Cooperation Committee.

"We're looking at a big hole to fill and this is just a portion of it," Richard said. "For us, it's just worked out great. Not just in feeding our apprentice program, but it's also huge for my organizers out there in the field doing the work."

Videos prepared for the Internet and television feature apprentices from various trades who grew up in Detroit explaining how an apprenticeship helped change their lives.

Mefford said Local 58 is a leader in the MUST campaign because it has had a strong recruitment and apprenticeship program for years. But combining with other Detroit-area building trades allows it to better get the word out, especially in a time when so many new apprentices are needed.

"It's all about telling our stories with a stronger, collective voice," Mefford said. "It's exciting to me to see all our trades and associations starting to become much more active in telling their stories and getting them out there like Local 58." ■



*Voncaira Williams, a first-year apprentice for Local 58, says the experience has changed her life.*

## Notice of Convention Qualifications

The IBEW's 39th International Convention will be Sept. 19-23, 2016, in St. Louis. Local unions will receive the initial convention notice in January. In the meantime, here is some important information regarding eligibility to participate in the Convention.

### Qualification of Delegates

According to Article II, Section 10, of the IBEW Constitution, no one may be nominated to be a delegate or alternate unless he or she has been a member "in continuous good standing in his [local] at least 24 months immediately prior to nomination, provided his [local] has been in existence that long." Exceptions are provided for members whose previous local was merged into the current local union, as long as the member has 24 continuous months of service in good standing.

Locals must inform their membership of the election to choose delegates at least 15 days in advance. The election must be held by secret ballot of the membership and "delegates and alternates shall be decided for those receiving the most votes and ballots, and records of the election shall be retained for one year." Please review all of Article II, Section 10, for complete qualification requirements.

### Deadlines for Dues, Election Results

According to Article II, Section 7, a local union is not entitled to voting representation unless its per capita to the International is paid in full six months prior to the convention. The deadline for

this year's Convention is March 1.

According to Article II, Section 11, credential requests for delegates and alternates must be received by the International Secretary-Treasurer or be in the mail at least 60 days before the convention. Locals that fail to meet that requirement will have their delegates lose mileage or any other reimbursement payments. A final decision on seating will be made by the credentials committee.

### Delegate Allotment

The number of delegates each local union will send to the convention is calculated by its number of members, based on the May 2016 Per Capita report. See Article II, Section 8, for guidelines. The International Office will send additional information to local unions in May.

### Candidates for International Office

The offices of International President, International Secretary-Treasurer, International Vice Presidents, International Executive Council Chairman and International Executive Council members will be elected by the delegates at the convention. Candidates must have five years of continuous good standing in the IBEW immediately prior to nomination, according to Article III, Section 2. In addition, please refer to Article III, Section 12, regarding prohibitions on soliciting or accepting financial or other support from non-members of the IBEW. ■

# ORGANIZING WIRE

## Montana Local Ratifies First Contract after Two-Year Fight

In March of 2013 maintenance employees at REC Silicon voted for better working conditions and respect on the job. In September 2015, they finally got it.

After two years of bargaining, Helena, Mont., Local 233 ratified its first contract with the Butte-based REC Silicon. The company, which produces silane gas and polysilicon that is used to make computer chips, is also the largest manufacturer of the material in the world.

"It was an uphill battle," said Local 233 Business Manager Keith Allen. "But with the strength of our supporters we were able to keep fighting to get our employees on an equal footing with management."

Local 233 dealt with numerous obstacles, including charges of unfair labor practices by the company and an unsuccessful decertification attempt. A volunteer organizing committee member was even fired a week before Christmas. But in the end, 48 new members got a contract, and one with a union security clause. And the fired employee, who is a U.S. military veteran, got his job back—with back pay.

"It was a total team effort," said Dave Thomas, state organizing coordinator. "We had a strong volunteer organizing committee and everyone worked hard to make this happen."

The maintenance staff are comprised of electricians, welders, mechanics, painters, insulators and other craft trades people with specializations, all jobs that require high levels of competency. Previous attempts by other unions had been made to organize these working women and men, but only two ever got to a vote. This time around, the IBEW organizing team hit the ground hard.

When organizers at Local 233 heard that REC Silicon was flying in a union-busting lawyer from Ohio, they made sure to let everyone know. From then on, the labor-friendly town of Butte got regular reminders in the daily and weekly newspapers, as well as broadcast coverage, of the out-of-towner with a history of dismantling companies and shipping jobs overseas.



After two years, Helena, Mont., Local 233 ratified its first contract with REC Silicon, a major employer in the central Montana area.

REC Silicon plant photo credit: Flickr user Scott Butner

"His credibility was gone before he even started," said Regional Organizing Coordinator Bob Brock. "We were really proactive with the press and got them on board early on. Then we just kept pounding away."

Brock said they also circulated letters of encouragement throughout the Butte labor community—Butte is an old union mining town with deep labor roots—and delivered them to the employees before the vote. The letters came from fellow union members—firefighters, teachers and machinists—and other locals in support of a vote for the union.

"With Butte being a tight-knit town, everyone who read the list saw a name of someone they knew encouraging them," Brock said.

With that vote and the successful negotiation, the days of constantly changing rules and management playing favorites are over. And with their contract, the new members of Local 233 now have the fairness and security they deserve.

"Employees should have management promises in writing," Allen said. "Now we have that. Now we have a voice that management will listen to." ■

## New Attitude Sparks Big Growth in Vermont Local

Jeffrey Wimetete admits many members of Montpelier, Vt., Local 300 didn't greet the IBEW's embrace of alternate job classifications with much enthusiasm at first.

"Initially, it was a battle," said Wimetete, the local's business manager. "Some people were writing e-mails saying that they are going to take away from our work. Contractors are not going to hire our [journeyman wiremen] because it cost too much."

That didn't turn out to be the case, he said.

Local 300's membership has increased 30 percent during the last two years, using a program that's designed to lower costs, allow IBEW signatory contractors to bid successfully on more projects and introduce more men and women to the benefits of a union job. Many participants in the alternate job classification program have worked lower-skilled electrical jobs on non-union sites with little or no formal training.

Wimetete said he understands the reluctance to change, but it is now as much of a necessity for the IBEW as for private industry.

"I didn't have a cell phone 40 years ago," he said. "I didn't have my life in my hands or my back pocket. I kind of crack up when I hear utility managers say they've be doing things the same way for 30 years."

Times change.

"It's been a no-brainer for the most part," Wimetete added. "Even if we have apprentices that don't pan out, we have a place to put them in our system."

Membership Development Director Tim LaBombard said 90 percent of Local 300's first- and second-year apprentices originally were construction wiremen or construction electricians, designations that allow less-experienced workers to join the IBEW and be paid at a lower rate than a journeyman wireman.

"It gave me an opportunity to get a handle on what the career was all about and whether it was something I could really sink my teeth into," said Micah Williams, a former construction wireman who is now a second-year apprentice.

Williams got a chance to boost his career, but the program has provided benefits throughout the Vermont electrical industry.

Local 300 had about 425 journeyman wireman prior to the 2008 economic collapse. That number had dropped to nearly 200, LaBombard said. The influx of alternative job classification members gave overall membership a 30-percent increase to nearly 1,100 members, he said.

"The construction wiremen program has been a big part of Local 300's financial stability," Wimetete said.

It has helped signatory contractors bid on projects they had little chance to land in the past, he said. Salaries for alternate category workers vary because each local negotiates its own pay rates, but they generally make between \$10 and \$20 less per hour than a journeyman wireman.

"I can tell you we would not be doing these jobs if we did not have the [alternate] classifications to blend into the pay rates against nonunion contractors," LaBombard said.

It has built goodwill with contractors and helps with recruitment, too.

"We hire people that are really looking for a career, not just a job," said Jeff Peck, owner of Peck Electric in Middlebury, Vermont. "The program has been a gateway to introduce us to those people."

"Our desire every day is to be better, more efficient and more productive," Peck added. "The union is focused on that and is continuing to help us find the workers we need."

Wimetete says the demand for skilled journeymen electricians remains strong and the alternate classification workers allow those better-trained members to concentrate on higher-level tasks.

"You don't hear it anymore, that we're going to lose our jobs," Wimetete said. "It started off as a directive and we turned it into an opportunity."

The IBEW Media Department recently produced a video on Local 300, which can be viewed at: [www.ibew.org/media-center/Video/Vermont](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Video/Vermont). ■



Local 300 construction wireman Jeff Becher said he hopes to use experience gained in that position to earn a spot in an apprenticeship program.

## Hundreds of Missouri Municipal Workers Join IBEW

The IBEW picked up nearly 300 members in Springfield, Mo., when city workers voted 122-8 to certify with Local 753, a major win in the conservative southwest part of the state.

"People are tired of having the thumb put down on them by their employer," lead organizer Phil Meyer said. "They're tired of the way they've been treated. They wanted the IBEW because they know we're one of the strongest unions in the world."

The new bargaining unit will touch nearly all of local government in Springfield, a city of 160,000 near the tourism mecca of Branson. Once an agreement is signed, road maintenance crews and workers at the parks department and the Springfield airport will be represented by Local 753. So will staff from the janitorial, sanitation and public works departments.

A state mandated one-year waiting period following the unit's decertification

from another union ended in early 2015. Eleventh District Regional Coordinator Brian Heins said the IBEW was approached by those employees right away.

"We saw people that were committed to becoming IBEW," Heins said. "It's not often we pick up a group of 300 people. To pick one up in southern Missouri is huge."

One of those employees was Randall Stevens, a road construction worker for the city. Stevens said he and others researched several unions, but liked the IBEW because it already had a strong local in the area. For many years, Local 753 has represented Springfield utility workers, who are governed by an appointed commission instead of the city council, which oversees most city employees.

Stevens said those city employees looked at the salary and benefits the utility workers received and wanted the IBEW representing them.

"It made sense," Stevens said. "They already dealt with the city. Might as well fly in and make it one big happy family is the way I figured it."

Meyer said he knew the employees were serious during his first meeting with them, when it had to be moved to a local firefighters' union hall because attendance was larger than expected. That momentum carried over into organizing activities.

"I had a good idea the election was going to be a good day for the IBEW and Local 753," Meyer said. "I didn't think it was going to be this kind of smash."

Local 753 Business Manager Tony Parrish said he and other local officers have had a good working relationship with Springfield city management in recent years. He expects that to continue when contract negotiations begin for the newly-organized employees, probably sometime this year.

"They knew we were able to negotiate good contracts with the city utilities," Parrish said. "It seemed like a natural fit for them to come over and join us. They seem really pumped and excited. I really hope we can do them some good."

It was an extra special moment for Meyer, a retired utility worker in Springfield. He has been a Local 753 member for 32 years and still lives in the city.

"It's great to help people out, especially because I consider these people my neighbors," he said. ■



Springfield, Mo., city workers gather for their first meeting since voting to allow Local 753 to represent them in contract talks with municipal government.

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# In Memoriam

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

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Buchanan, C. R.	9/8/15	48	Brown, D. N.	7/25/15	134	Hinman, W. J.	6/10/15	325	Czuhanich, G.	9/23/15	508	Owens, E. R.	8/12/15	934	Jennings, G. B.	6/30/15
1	Cierpiot, R. J.	9/16/15	48	Burns, C. W.	9/9/15	134	Kantutis, J. L.	6/11/15	332	Ball, R.	8/8/15	520	Holcomb, J. R.	9/25/15	934	Mackenzie, P. L.	9/25/15
1	Griffin, C. W.	9/2/15	48	Gardinier, A. F.	8/24/15	134	Kozik, A.	8/14/15	332	Powers, D. E.	9/22/15	520	Krommes, W. H.	7/17/15	934	Moore, T. M.	6/21/15
1	Johnson, H. E.	9/11/15	48	Lindahl, K. R.	8/17/15	134	Lofgren, R. R.	9/2/15	332	Russell, W. E.	9/5/15	520	Noack, R. T.	7/25/15	953	Maust, R. B.	8/15/15
1	McDonald, P. R.	8/23/15	48	McCarthy, D. J.	8/28/15	134	Marcy, R. J.	8/27/15	340	Engeldinger, R. E.	8/18/15	520	Tanner, G. E.	1/27/15	968	Rake, D. D.	7/9/15
1	Miller, G. R.	9/20/15	48	Stewart, D. O.	9/4/15	134	Napolitano, R.	8/8/15	342	Denny, B. M.	8/26/15	527	McDonald, R. B.	8/13/15	993	Anthony, R.	9/17/15
1	Mobley, W. R.	9/10/15	51	Cort, F. B.	5/8/15	134	Newton, D. N.	6/29/15	343	Loesch, A. L.	7/17/15	529	Cross, D.	5/14/15	993	Antrobus, L. R.	9/13/15
1	Pillow, T. B.	9/5/15	51	Whitehurst, R. A.	8/24/15	134	Oellerich, A.	9/9/15	343	Peterson, R. H.	9/5/15	551	McFarland, G. N.	8/28/15	993	Lindquist, E. G.	8/29/15
1	Siems, W. W.	9/6/15	56	Martin, W. D.	7/29/15	134	Ozien, W. J.	8/9/15	347	Goodwin, R. P.	9/9/15	557	Langer, S. C.	8/31/15	993	Monteiro, J. M.	7/11/15
3	Amantea, R.	6/28/15	56	Rys, R. C.	9/10/15	134	Reid, C.	9/13/15	347	Hoshaw, G. L.	9/1/15	558	Bolden, J. J.	9/7/15	995	Bankston, C. R.	9/6/15
3	Aronoff, M.	9/24/15	56	Wood, L. A.	8/22/15	134	Staffeldt, G. D.	9/23/15	349	Febles, J. M.	5/3/15	558	Burbank, J. D.	8/7/15	1003	Gerein, P. N.	8/16/15
3	Arraji, R. G.	8/23/15	57	Anderson, N. B.	8/11/15	134	Stallone, J. A.	7/22/15	349	Lownsdale, J. A.	5/23/15	569	Palmer, G. R.	9/3/15	1066	Johnson, D. A.	8/29/15
3	Bardone, B. J.	9/9/15	57	Henderson, S. N.	6/29/15	134	Whitney, E. L.	8/31/15	349	Olson, L. J.	8/15/15	569	Steen, R.	5/25/15	1070	Jalonen, K.	9/14/15
3	Bhulai, H.	9/14/14	57	Mahoney, D. T.	12/8/14	134	Wolff, M.	9/3/15	349	Stamper, R.	7/27/15	569	Sult, L. E.	8/11/15	1077	Miller, L.	9/8/15
3	Broushet, V.	8/7/15	58	Blackwell, C. W.	9/19/15	136	Atkinson, J. K.	7/27/15	351	Ernst, F. C.	9/6/15	570	Almada, G. L.	8/29/15	1105	Grier, D. C.	8/22/15
3	Cohen, S.	4/30/15	58	Douglass, A. D.	8/26/15	136	Dunn, J. R.	7/29/15	351	Howarth, A. J.	8/31/15	570	Miller, L. A.	7/30/15	1141	Boggs, J. L.	7/9/15
3	D'Agostino, F. A.	7/14/15	58	Fobare, W. R.	9/23/15	136	McMurry, G. H.	6/19/15	353	Blanchette, R. J.	9/4/15	577	Sippl, D. E.	9/6/15	1141	Duke, R. G.	9/21/15
3	De Franceschi, B.	9/5/15	58	Lawson, E. N.	9/6/15	143	Wolf, D. R.	8/22/14	353	Cordeiro, C. M.	8/12/15	584	Brewster, S. L.	6/29/15	1186	Miyamoto, R. Y.	6/3/15
3	Delcore, P.	9/4/15	58	Rentner, W. G.	8/27/15	145	Engleking, H.	9/24/15	353	Gagne, J. C.	1/6/15	584	Hensley, P.	9/19/15	1205	Curling, J. T.	8/31/15
3	Donato, T. J.	8/21/15	58	Shoemaker, L. E.	8/27/15	145	Karr, E. E.	4/30/15	353	Marchett, E. R.	6/24/15	584	Scales, D.	8/20/15	1205	Whatley, J. C.	5/30/15
3	Greene, H.	9/6/15	58	Warren, L. W.	7/22/15	145	Parker, B. J.	8/29/15	353	Matsigaris, G.	7/25/15	586	Legault, H. E.	8/5/15	1245	Kunz, R. W.	8/20/15
3	Grennan, G. J.	8/27/15	58	Webb, J. D.	9/20/15	146	Ramsey, J. C.	8/24/15	353	O'Neill, E. S.	9/27/15	602	Abbott, R. R.	7/8/15	1249	Loetscher, J. J.	7/9/15
3	Jackowski, W. L.	8/17/15	60	Jimenez, R.	8/18/15	150	Smith, G. L.	8/16/15	353	Spoelstra, E.	8/20/15	606	Gause, C. R.	8/1/15	1253	Lugdon, M. R.	9/1/15
3	Kalinich, P. J.	9/2/15	60	Rivera, J. C.	7/23/15	153	Northern, R. T.	9/6/15	353	Stevens, D. A.	8/20/15	613	Birkbeck, D. A.	9/2/15	1316	Stone, T.	5/28/15
3	Klein, D. M.	7/2/15	64	Toporcer, E. M.	8/20/15	159	Johnson, D. W.	8/27/15	353	Vertesi, L.	9/28/15	613	Haralson, R. L.	9/8/15	1319	Lannen, R.	9/8/15
3	Meehan, W. J.	8/28/15	66	McBride, A. C.	12/22/13	159	Stamm, F. M.	7/25/15	357	Freeman, O. K.	4/12/15	613	Terry, G. E.	9/24/15	1319	May, B. L.	9/8/15
3	Mika, W. J.	6/20/15	66	McIntyre, H. W.	7/31/15	160	Beer, R. F.	8/23/15	357	Ross, L.	6/1/15	617	Ricci, O. R.	6/18/15	1319	Walker, E. T.	9/7/14
3	Murray, G.	4/10/15	68	Petrucchi, F. E.	4/24/15	164	Smith, J. H.	8/26/15	357	Venturi, R.	3/25/15	640	Arvizu, A. F.	9/24/15	1377	Fedak, W.	8/14/15
3	Petrizzo, J. J.	8/18/15	68	Tucker, J. R.	7/28/15	175	Frizzell, S. B.	8/7/15	363	Craig, H. H.	8/9/15	640	Faust, D. O.	6/22/15	1377	Grech, A. J.	8/14/15
3	Pierce, J. R.	9/24/15	68	Wiley, D. E.	8/30/15	176	Hinrichs, S. A.	9/26/15	363	Dispensa, V. F.	9/9/15	640	Haggarton, J. C.	9/25/15	1377	Reitz, A. K.	8/25/15
3	Yacono, F. R.	10/8/14	69	Allen, J. D.	9/28/15	177	Carter, G. R.	9/26/15	364	Berggren, S. E.	9/2/15	640	Key, W. M.	5/18/15	1393	Raines, H.	6/6/15
5	Kish, J. S.	9/18/15	73	Comstock, R. M.	7/29/15	177	Williams, A. J.	9/3/15	369	Chism, M. D.	8/11/15	648	Flick, J. L.	8/31/15	1426	Skadeland, I. D.	6/18/15
5	Plummer, J. F.	2/4/15	73	Paullas, V. F.	9/11/15	191	Weldon, N. S.	8/25/15	369	Harris, C.	9/16/15	648	Minor, G. C.	10/10/12	1531	Wimberly, H. D.	7/20/15
6	Nelson, A. J.	1/22/15	73	Peterson, H. A.	2/13/15	193	Jepp, P. A.	8/22/15	375	Haller, J. N.	4/18/15	654	Ziegler, G.	6/30/15	1547	Edgerton, J. J.	8/27/15
8	Lorigan, E. J.	8/13/15	76	Bednarski, S. D.	7/23/14	194	Miller, D. S.	3/16/15	375	Strohl, B. F.	8/18/15	668	Dill, J. D.	9/15/15	1547	Hobbs, G. R.	6/27/15
9	Dulgar, J. D.	9/21/15	77	Taylor, J. C.	8/16/15	210	Haines, E. G.	3/25/15	379	Miller, H. C.	6/24/15	673	Schultz, G. J.	7/20/15	1547	Kirkendall, J. O.	8/28/15
9	Marino, C. F.	5/23/15	81	Keisling, B. G.	7/10/15	212	Burns, J. J.	8/10/15	387	Boyd, M. F.	4/13/15	697	Craven, J. E.	9/3/15	1547	McAdoo, D. R.	5/1/15
9	Noga, J. C.	8/13/15	82	Gwinn, C. V.	8/31/15	212	McKinney, L. R.	9/4/15	387	McKee, E. N.	9/3/15	697	Stacy, F.	5/2/15	1579	Clark, R. W.	3/31/15
11	Alongis, M. A.	8/5/15	84	Taff, R. D.	8/28/15	212	Smith, C. E.	8/14/15	401	Imrisek, R. K.	8/18/15	700	Floyd, L. L.	9/4/15	1908	Simmons, A. J.	4/8/15
11	Bartlett, G. E.	7/13/15	90	Halloran, F. J.	7/5/15	213	Dawson, W. A.	8/16/15	401	Levan, J. E.	4/18/15	700	Khillig, C. M.	9/9/15	2038	Faul, R. C.	3/28/15
11	Carter, C. H.	6/20/15	97	Collins, J. D.	5/13/15	213	Noble, D. E.	4/7/15	401	Roper, B. H.	5/31/15	701	O'Connell, T. J.	8/16/15	2038	Kowalewski, Z.	7/10/15
11	Csillag, R. P.	5/20/15	98	Boedewig, J. P.	7/24/15	213	Robb, D.	7/19/15	402	Prieston, F. J.	7/29/15	701	Soukup, V. A.	8/17/15	2085	Madsen, J. W.	1/12/15
11	Ellsworth, J. A.	9/11/15	98	Cleary, J.	7/10/15	214	Leiding, D. R.	8/16/15	402	Read, J. A.	6/24/15	702	Alley, S. A.	8/6/15	2150	Evans, R. D.	7/14/15
11	Hazard, D. W.	7/31/15	98	Deegan, D. P.	8/22/15	223	Leonard, C. T.	9/7/15	402	Trewin, A. A.	7/21/15	702	Romeo, W. F.	9/30/13	2150	O'Neill, J. B.	5/9/15
11	Martin, L. A.	9/12/15	98	Ferri, N. F.	9/5/15	223	Pola, C. A.	9/21/15	405	Schleisman, N. E.	9/22/15	704	Sisler, E. E.	7/21/15	2166	Noble, C. W.	6/23/15
11	Minke, V.	7/20/15	98	Freedman, R.	5/2/15	226	Carey, V. L.	8/13/15	413	Kelly, W. J.	9/8/15	712	Jannot, T. M.	7/26/15	2295	Tomblyl, C. F.	4/7/15
11	Monzingo, F.	9/18/15	98	Kabatt, L. T.	8/6/15	226	Keim, D. L.	8/27/15	424	Badach, K.	9/21/15	712	Wilcox, D. W.	9/16/15	2330	Fiander, G. S.	3/1/15
11	Smith, W. E.	9/13/15	98	Kolman, B.	8/8/15	229	Daehnke, D.	8/23/15	424	Gilchrist, R. B.	8/20/15	714	Braun, J. M.	8/6/15	I.O. (38)	Dobrinich, N. J.	9/9/15
13	Creighton, R. P.	9/14/15	98	Powers, E. J.	5/25/15	230	Walker, C. D.	4/28/15	424	Mills, D. J.	9/19/15	716	Arnold, C. A.	8/16/15	I.O. (134)	Cairo, A. F.	12/10/14
16	Austill, C. N.	8/28/15	100	Dutko, A.	7/26/15	233	Hetland, E. R.	8/7/15	424	Pannu, B. S.	6/3/15	716	Cervantes, A.	5/1/15	I.O. (769)	Jones, S. P.	8/13/15
17	Bell, C.	9/17/15	100	Hoveiler, N. L.	3/6/15	233	Hogart, W. P.	8/14/15	429	Capps, W. C.	2/3/15	716	Duncan, L. D.	8/19/15	Pens. (323)	Wilkinson, J. D.	7/9/15
17	Petiprin, G. A.	7/24/15	102	Johnson, A. E.	8/29/15	236	Oakes, R. C.	9/13/15	429	Cauthen, D. K.	8/28/15	716	Poynter, H. A.	9/7/15	Pens. (569)	White, R. W.	8/24/15
18	Allen, R. C.	8/6/15	102	Kale, C. R.	8/29/15	236	Paradise, A. J.	8/28/15	429	Williams, J. C.	8/18/15	716	Stripling, R. E.	3/8/15	Pens. (1264)	Smith, H. D.	3/17/15
20	Denney, W. R.	9/5/15	102	Lopa, R. J.	8/10/15	245	Bowles, R. W.	8/16/15	441	Graves, J. F.	1/5/15	716	Thomas, J. D.	9/18/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Adalderks, D. C.	9/11/15
20	Nix, G. E.	10/3/15	103	Boress, J. J.	7/30/15	245	Lenz, W. J.	7/14/15	441	Schirmer, W. E.	7/27/15	725	Mars, D. R.	9/3/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Adams, E. E.	4/30/15
20	Purifoy, B. D.	9/10/15	103	Mark, J. J.	9/3/15	246	Kendzioriski, E. S.	10/25/14	446	Thompson, F. T.	8/2/15	725	McCain, M. E.	11/24/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Baughman, R. L.	5/22/15
23	Hoppe, J. R.	8/29/15	104	Whynot, R. G.	7/23/15	252	Kreger, R. R.	7/26/15	449	Bown, R. F.	7/11/15	728	Carter, K. D.	9/12/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Bolland, J. C.	9/14/15
26	Banks, J. M.	9/21/15	105	Galdino, D.	7/13/15	254	Schleppe, C. W.	7/18/15	449	Walters, J. F.	9/20/15	728	Kardash, V.	7/14/09	Pens. (I.O.)	Braband, A. J.	8/30/15
26	Dickinson, R. W.	9/25/15	105	O'Quinn, K.	7/26/15	258	O'Brien, M.	6/18/15	456	Schiffhauer, R. R.	9/5/15	728	Schweiger, C. L.	9/27/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Bradburn, R.	8/2/15
26	Harris, S. B.	9/19/15	105	Rispoli, G.	8/27/15	265	Johnson, S. R.	8/2/15	459	Okruch, M.	9/15/15	728	Sticco, T. S.	8/17/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Conrad, R. M.	7/2/15
26	Hill, J. A.	8/25/15	105	Stone, F. S.	9/12/15	265	Reinke, G. R.	4/4/15	465	Hamilton, A. L.	7/5/15	731	Wyberg, W. C.	4/4/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Costantini, F. J.	8/18/15
26	Isaacs, R. L.	6/21/15	110	Barger, D. L.	5/30/15	269	Brennan, T. J.	8/20/15	466	Simpson, W. L.	9/24/15	756	Rawlins, R. C.	8/18/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Courtney, C. L.	8/1/15
26	Marsh, S. G.	9/3/15	110	Napper, M.	4/18/15	269	Golden, J. C.	6/4/15	474	Green, K. L.	8/8/15	759	Crosson, W. J.	7/22/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Crenshaw, J. W.	9/12/15
26	Quackenbush, G. I.	7/21/15	110	Pestel, M.	7/3/15	275	Arnold, J. E.	8/24/15	474	Mapp, R. M.	5/3/15	773	Warnock, J. L.	9/16/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Day, D. Y.	7/28/15
26	Schroeder, P. M.	9/5/15	113	Kelly, S. H.	8/9/15	280	Adams, R. D.	8/20/15	474	Whiteside, R. L.	9/8/15	776	Atkinson, C. H.	6/8/15	P		

# LOCAL LINES

## 2015 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 7 (i), SPRINGFIELD, MA—The officers and membership of Local 7 and the Springfield Electrical JATC congratulate the apprenticeship graduating class of 2015 and thank all of the instructors who contributed to the apprentices' education. [See photo, at right.]

2015 apprenticeship graduates are: inside wiremen — Lawrence Barnes, Brendan Bartlett, Jared Brown, Kevin Gentile, Kevin Hill, Edwin Iserman, Kyle Levesque, Luke Mlynarczyk, Joshua Moran, Keith Richards, Julian Stanley, Lyle Vance; and installer technicians — Nathan Bundy and Jonathan Hinman.

**[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).]

Mark Kuenzel, P.S.



Local 7 congratulates the class of 2015 apprenticeship graduates.

since been re-elected as IEC chairman twice, once in 2006 and again in 2011.

We extend our congratulations and gratitude to Bro. Pierson for his service and devotion to IBEW Local 9 members and their families as well as the entire labor movement. We wish Bob and Shirley, his wife of 50 years, a long, healthy and relaxing retirement.

Mary Beth Kaczmarek, P.S.

## Career of IBEW Service



L.U. 9 (catv, govt, lctt, o&u), CHICAGO, IL—After 49 years of service to the IBEW, Bus. Mgr. Robert W. Pierson announced his retirement, effective Jan. 8, 2016.

Bro. Pierson began his career in Local 9 working for Hecker Electric Inc. After 15 years working for various contractors, he was

asked to be a business representative for the local. One year later he was promoted to assistant business manager. In 1997, he was appointed business manager and was re-elected six times to this position.

Bob not only has the interest of Local 9 members at heart, but also the many working men and women of Illinois. Throughout his long career, he has served on the executive boards of the Chicago Federation of Labor and the State Conference of the IBEW; he also served as chairman of the Outside Task Force and co-chairman of the Inside/Outside Jurisdictional Committee.

Bob's leadership skills and efforts to improve the lives of Local 9 members and all working families of Illinois did not go unnoticed. In October 2005, then-IBEW president Edwin D. Hill appointed Bob to the International Executive Council. On November 1, 2005, Bob was appointed chairman of the IEC. He has

## 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.



IBEW Local 11/Los Angeles NECA's Net Zero Plus™ Electrical Training Institute will advance the future of buildings as energy solutions.

## Net Zero Plus™ Electrical Training Institute

L.U. 11 (i, rts & spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—2015 brought a better work picture, and in 2016 work is expected to gradually increase as well.

One highlight of 2016 will be increases in job opportunities through City of Los Angeles building retrofits and state renewable energy and efficiency laws. The IBEW Local 11 and Los Angeles NECA's Net Zero Plus Electrical Training Institute (NZP ETI) will be at the forefront of this transformation. Net Zero Plus is a clean energy and efficiency initiative to transform buildings to become energy solutions.

Construction is underway at our NZP ETI. When completed this year, it reportedly will be the second largest net zero commercial retrofit in North America. Several highlights of the new NZP ETI are a utility-scale micro grid, rooftop PV solar array, battery energy storage, advanced lighting controls, LED and DC lighting, advanced building energy management systems and high-efficiency heating and cooling systems. NZP ETI will be a living laboratory for emerging

energy technologies and the subject of a one-hour, independent Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) documentary, "Building Below Zero," currently in production. We look forward to being a showcase to the world as experts in our industry. For more information, go to [www.nzp-eti.com](http://www.nzp-eti.com).

Best wishes for you and your families in this new year!

Diana Limon, P.S.

## Utility Local Update

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—In October, a U.S. District Court judge ruled in Local 15's favor in a case against Exelon. The case involved whether or not the local could arbitrate permanent abstinence (from alcohol) requirements placed on members working at the nuclear stations. The company refused to allow these cases to go to arbitration, stating they were "not arbitrable." The court ruled that these cases can be taken to arbitration. We have our first arbitration on this subject scheduled for March of this year.

Our Electrical Workers Minority Caucus chapter is very active and recently held a 50/50 raffle to raise money to help feed veterans on Thanksgiving. In November the EWMC followed the raffle up with a successful food drive for veterans. This was part of a

nationwide EWMC campaign to help our veterans.

Talks continue with NRG about the Joliet Station gas conversion. NRG wants to set the station up in the "model of gas generating plants," which would mean new job titles (power plant technicians and control room operators) and about two-thirds to three-fourths fewer workers.

The Grand Prairie Gateway Project is underway. The project is a new, 60 mile long, double circuit 345 transmission line being built between Byron Nuclear Plant and Transmission Substation 144 in the town of Wayne, near Elgin, IL. Normally, an outside union contractor would be hired to do a job this extensive, but this time, because of negotiations between Local 15 and ComEd, and the exceptional performance of the Local 15 Overhead Transmission (OHT) group on previous big projects, OHT was able to carve out 17.5 miles of the project.

Doug Veda, P.S.

## Victory at Comcast

L.U. 21 (catv, govt & t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—It has taken well over a year, but our members at Comcast's Chicago North - Cortland facility have achieved victory. After two elections, one of which was thrown out by the National Labor Relations Board because of employer interference, numerous unfair labor practices, a NLRB bargaining order and an overall assault on their union rights, our members voted for continued representation by Local 21. This group has remained strong and is following the nationwide trend at Comcast. There has been a surge of decertification elections across the country and employees are seeing through their employer's tactics by voting to remain as union members.

Our membership's solidarity will be felt at the bargaining table as their contract negotiations continue. Comcast members working in Chicago's western suburbs are also in bargaining with this fiercely



Chicago's labor community turned out in support of IBEW Local 21 members employed by Comcast.

## 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.

anti-union employer. When members attended the Comcast shareholders meeting to voice their displeasure with how they were being treated, the shareholders greeted the workers and encouraged them not to give up the fight. As IBEW members, we must keep the pressure on this company. We cannot allow Comcast to destroy the middle class; this company is the Wal-Mart of the communications industry.

*Bob Przybylinski, R.S.*

## SUNY Stony Brook Projects— New Hospital Expansion

L.U. 25 (c,catv,es,i&rts), LONG ISLAND, NY—After many years of planning, at the State University of New York (SUNY) Stony Brook, construction of the new advanced research and technology building and the Children's Hospital have finally taken off. Two Local 25 signatory contractors were awarded this project. GLS Electric, with foreman Tom Benz, will do the core of the buildings; and Bana Electric, with foreman Vinny Breuning, will do the fit-out. Bro. Godfrey King is the shop steward. At press time, approximately 60 Local 25 members are working on the project, and as it progresses more members will be involved. [See photo at bottom, left.] Both GLS and Bana are working well together as the project moves forward.

The 45th annual William J. Lindsay Softball Tournament was in August with 26 different IBEW locals participating. Three days of playing softball ended up with a final between Local 25 and Local 3. It was an exciting game and at the end, Local 25 lost by one run. Congratulations to Local 3 for winning the tournament.

It's election time again and COPE Committee Chmn. Mike Montelone and the COPE Committee have been busy with phone banks, hand-billing and attending fundraisers. The committee does an important and outstanding job.

Congratulations to Bros. Gary Leuis, Jeffrey Tetrault and Alfred W. Rath Jr. on their retirement. May they enjoy a future filled with happy times and good health.

A de-energized circuit never hurt anyone. Please turn off those circuits!

*Tom Lawless, P.S./E-Board*

## YWCA Award of Distinction

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Local 37 couldn't agree more with the YWCA of Saint John—Bernice Lanigan is truly a "Woman of Distinction." Recently, Bernice was honored at the YWCA's Women of Distinction Awards ceremony. This prestigious award recognizes Bernice, a Local 37 member, for exemplary achievements in her field while serving as an outstanding role model in her community.

Bernice has been a member of the IBEW for nearly 23 years and is employed as an "environmental lead" at NB Power's Point Lepreau Nuclear Gener-

ating Station. She won the award in the "business and professions" category for her leadership demonstrated with Women in Nuclear (WIN) and for her dedication to helping inspire hundreds of young women to consider careers in trades and technology.

Bernice has been a key driver in establishing province-wide events for high school girls to network with tradeswomen in their communities. These events have proven to be an exciting exploration of opportunities in the skilled trades and technologies. Bernice has also helped make great strides promoting public awareness and education around the benefits of nuclear technology.

IBEW Local 37 is very proud of Bernice and her accomplishments. She continues to be a champion for her union, profession, and community.

*Mary Williamson, A.B.M.*



*Local 37 member Bernice Lanigan (left) receives Woman of Distinction Award presented by YWCA board member Sherry Sparks.*

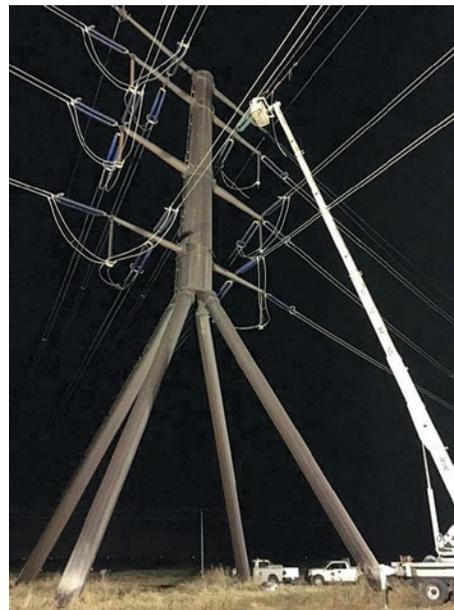
## Business Manager Speaks at White House Summit

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—Happy new year, sisters and brothers! I hope the holiday season was enjoyed by all. Moving into 2016 we look forward to a prosperous year. I wish to thank all traveling sisters and brothers who continue to help us at various projects in our jurisdiction. It is a necessary part of our Brotherhood that is often overlooked, misunderstood or underappreciated. Let's be cognizant of this and thank those who are here helping to get our work done while earning money to support their family back home. It could be you traveling one day.

Last October, Bus. Mgr. Mike Gaiser had the privilege of making a trip to Washington, D.C., to speak at a White House "Summit on Worker Voice." The summit was held to emphasize the importance of raising workers' voices, and to raise awareness about collective bargaining, organizing and the failure of some companies to treat their workers fairly or acknowledge the right to a voice at work. Bus. Mgr. Gaiser was part of a panel that discussed the importance of collective bargaining and the voice it provides individuals in the workplace. Great work, Bro. Gaiser!

[**Editor's Note:** See news story "IBEW Member Speaks at White House Summit," posted Oct. 7 on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/articles).]

*Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.*



*Local 51 members are constructing new transmission lines being built as part of the Illinois Rivers Line Construction Project.*

## 2016 Work Outlook

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Local 51's work outlook for journeyman linemen in 2016 is strong. This is due in part to the Illinois Rivers Line Construction Project, which will extend from Quincy to Danville. The project consists of 300 miles of 345kV line and is mostly steel monopoles. Several substations and switchyards are also involved in this project, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019.

We recently settled a first contract at the Village of Arthur, and also renegotiated agreements at the City of Geneseo, City of Peru, and Village of Riverton. Additionally, the state of Illinois Labor Relations Board (ILRB) awarded the local a majority interest petition for the Recreational and Cultural Center director at the City of Bushnell.

As this article went to press, Dynegy announced that in June 2016 it plans to close the Wood River plant. The main reason for the retirement of the plant is the low prices in MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator), which are caused mainly by the poorly structured capacity and energy market. Dynegy will continue working to get reforms of the MISO structure, and Local 51 will be doing what we can to convince MISO and other agencies of the needed changes. The company said that without the needed changes, other plants/units are in danger of early closings also. Please keep Local 51 members who work at Wood River in your thoughts.

As a reminder, our website is [www.ibew51.org](http://www.ibew51.org)

and you can "like" us on Facebook. Be safe and attend your monthly unit meetings. Happy New Year!

*Karlene Knisley, B.R.*

## Agreements Ratified

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—In recognition of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month campaign, the IBEW Local 57/Idaho Falls Power T&D (transmission and distribution) crews and the power generation crew wore pink hard hats during the month of October (photo below). The event was well-supported by the members and customers alike. Bringing more awareness to this devastating disease is important.

The membership ratified a four-year extension on the four agreements that Local 57 has with Rocky Mountain Power. General wage increases in each year of the contract, along with enhanced vacation allocation, were agreed to by both parties. The Eighth District REA (Rural Electrification Administration) Construction Agreement was also completed.

Always remember to practice safety at work.

*Scott Long, P.S.*



*IBEW Local 57 crew members with Idaho Falls Power observed cancer awareness campaign by wearing pink hard hats in October.*

## A Pioneer Tradeswoman— Tribute to a Life of Service

L.U. 77 (lctt,mt,o,t&u), SEATTLE, WA—Heidi Durham, a 41-year member of Local 77, was one of the original 10 women hired into Seattle City Light's groundbreaking Electrical Trades Trainee program, launched in 1974. Although a fall from an electrical



*The late Heidi Durham of IBEW Local 77.*

pole partially paralyzed Heidi when she was 24, she fought to continue working in the field and retired from Seattle City Light as a senior power dispatcher after a 30-year career.

An impassioned pioneer tradeswoman, champion of affirmative action, and decades-long feminist and union activist for the IBEW, Heidi left an indelible mark on the Seattle scene. Heidi was an irrepressible fighter against all forms of discrimination. Courage, compassion, and a dedication to improve the lives of working-class men and women were her hallmarks. She was a founding member of the Committee for Equal Rights at City Light in 1983 and of the Ad Hoc Committee for Fair Employment and Open Housing in 1984, which successfully organized community support to defend and strengthen Seattle anti-discrimination laws.

Heidi was brave and fiercely loyal in pursuing the causes she believed in. Heidi recently passed away after a battle with early-onset Alzheimer's, which claimed her life at the age of 62.

*Tanisha Mitchell, P.S.*



*At the SUNY Stony Brook Medical & Research Translation (MART) building jobsite are IBEW Local 25 crew members and foremen working with GLS Electric and Bana Electric.*

## LOCAL LINES



At Local 81 apprenticeship graduation. Front row, from left: Jerry Nichols, JATC; graduates David Bonafede, Michael Joyce, Nathan Penley, Andrew Salvi and Ronald Walsh. Back Row: Joseph Hickey, state Department of Labor; Pat Hartman, JATC; Local 81 Pres. Paul Casparro; Todd Stafford, executive director, Electrical Training Alliance; Bus. Mgr. Rick Schraeder; Eric Lewis, JATC; Fred Leber, JATC; and JATC Training Dir. Mike Brust. Not pictured: graduates Jason Riegan and Justin Newcomer. [See "Editor's Note" in article.]

## Annual Graduation Ceremony

L.U. 81 (i), SCRANTON, PA—On Sept. 28 last year, the IBEW Local 81 Scranton Electricians JATC held its annual apprenticeship graduation ceremony for the class of 2015. Among the guests were: Todd Stafford, executive director of the Electrical Training Alliance; JATC committee members; Local 81 officers, graduates and current apprentices; and representatives of area agencies including the Pennsylvania Department of Labor. [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).]

Completion certificates were handed out to the graduates. Additionally, awards presented included the Outstanding Apprentice Award, the Frank O'Neil Jr. Award, and Perfect Attendance awards. Nathan Penley received the class of 2015 Outstanding Apprentice Award. David Bonafede received the Frank O'Neil Jr. Award, which recognizes dedication, courage and commitment. Congratulations to the class of 2015!

Michael Brust, P.S.

## Utility Contracts Ratified

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY—In October, members employed by New York Independent System Operators (NYISO) ratified a three-year contract extension that includes yearly wage increases and also paid rest time after periods of overtime.

Members employed by Fitzpatrick Nuclear Plant in Oswego, NY, owned by Entergy, ratified a four-year agreement for craft workers. The negotiations were difficult; retiree medical was the main sticking point as it is in many negotiations. The company, at the time of this writing, is still contemplating whether it will refuel in 2016. Many meetings and rallies have taken place with Local 97 and local politicians to keep the plant open. The security guards at Fitzpatrick, who are also represented by Local 97, will vote on a contract soon.

Also in September and October, we held our annual Union Solidarity Picnics across all three divisions with more than 1,000 members and retirees in attendance. It was a very positive showing of solidarity by all. I wish to thank the staff of Local 97, who made it all possible with their hard work and dedication.

Jim Zabinski, V.P.

## 2015 Solidarity Ride Benefit

L.U. 99 (govt&i), PROVIDENCE, RI—IBEW Local 99 Bus. Mgr. Mike Daley and IBEW Local 2323 Bus. Mgr. Steve Murphy presented Pink Heals Rhode Island Chapter Pres. Chris Seelenbrandt a check in the amount of \$10,325.96 from proceeds raised at the IBEW 2015 Solidarity Ride Motorcycle Run, held in May 2015. PHRI is dedicated to raising awareness and support in the fight against cancer.

There were over 150 participants from labor unions throughout New England and also 20+ from the New York, NY, IBEW Local 3 motorcycle club. Thank you to all who participated.

William Smith Jr., P.S.

## Boston Building Boom & Major Organizing Drive

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—As 2015 winds down at press time, the work situation is heating up. Cranes are filling the Boston skyline. Locations range from residential and office high-rises at the South Boston Waterfront, Boston's hottest neighborhood, to new bio-pharmaceutical and hospital buildings to projects at many local college and university campuses. Another Boston building boom is well underway. We are approaching 8 million man-hours for 2015; that is by far the highest we've seen since 2007. The strong work picture promises to continue into 2016. We look forward to the new Salem Harbor Power Plant manning up and the Wynn Casino development in Everett to break ground.

The Local 103 organizing team is busy as ever. We are a year into an aggressive organizing drive that includes the strategic salting and stripping of some of our largest nonunion competitors. We've also enjoyed some recent National Labor Relations Board election successes. From our "Membership Day One" initiative for new apprentices to aggressive technical high school recruitment, to targeting foremen and general foremen at our biggest competitors' shops, Local 103 is ensuring that our organizing efforts are attracting the cream of the nonunion crop and the area's best and brightest. To date, 2015 has been the most successful year of organizing that we've seen in 10+ years with nearly 700 new members initiated, bringing our total active membership to more than 6,200 for the first time ever.

Lou Antonellis, Pres.

## International Lineman's Rodeo

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—IBEW Local 111 and Mountain States Line Constructors Apprenticeship Training had five apprentices compete in the International Lineman's Rodeo in Bon-

ner Springs, KS, on Oct. 17 last year. These apprentices did an outstanding job representing the Local 111 and Mountain States Line Constructors JATC. Results were as follows: Apprentice Contractor Division—Shane Bykonen, fourth place; Barrett McClafin, 14th; Shane Kair, 16th; Daniel Lu, 21st; and Andrew Grow, 30th. [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).]

Congratulations also to our Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCO) members who participated: Journeyman Lineman, Best of the Best—62nd place, Travis Guymon, Forrest McNulty and Trent Roberts; Journeyman Pole Climb & Journeyman "Hurtman Rescue"—Robert Ball, Jason Diekmann and Michael Miller. Apprentices Best of the Best: Jeremy Jones (20th place) and Sean Harris (29th); Apprentice Pole Climb—Jeremy Jones (131st place) and George Suazo (135th); and Apprentice Written Test—Jeremy Jones (18th). We congratulate all of these fine young brothers on their accomplishment!

Reminder to all our construction members: union dues can now be paid online and you can also re-sign the books. Please register at [www.ibew111.com](http://www.ibew111.com) to see what is happening around your local.

Wishing all a very happy new year!

Mike Kostecky, P.S.



Local 111 members participated in a journeyman "Hurtman Rescue" event at the International Lineman's Rodeo.

## 'Your Right to Vote'

L.U. 113 (catv,ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—On behalf of Local 113, I wish you a happy new year and hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. This will be a very important political year, and the next election cycle will require everyone's effort. If you have not registered to vote, I urge you to please do so.

Colorado is not a so-called "right-to-work" state, and there are many politicians who would like otherwise. Solidarity is the greatest strength in a union and we will need help to ensure all labor friendly state legislators retain their seats in the next election. Our No. 1 weapon against anti-labor forces is our vote.

Welcome and congratulations to the 13 employees of newly signatory B3 Enterprises on voting unanimously to have Local 113 represent them. They will be working various positions at the U.S. Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs.

We mourn the recent loss of several members: Ed Perschbacher, Harold Olson, Jack Mayo and Scott Henderson. RIP, brothers.

Brian Putnam, P.S.

## Collective Bargaining— Participation & Solidarity

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—Happy New Year! As this year begins, please stay focused on your work as you deal with daily duties and storm season.

Your union is starting the year with a significant amount of collective bargaining. At the time of this writing, the local has given Pacific Power a notice to terminate the collective bargaining agreement, effective midnight Feb. 2, 2016. Additionally, negotiations will start with Clark Public Utilities, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, and Portland General Electric. We need all members to be engaged and active during these negotiations. Attend unit meetings. Make sure you are registered for the local's website. Participate in any organized union actions that help promote our position and advocate for the wages and working conditions comparable in the Pacific Northwest.

We wish to recognize our many members who volunteer their time in a variety of ways — serving on boards, acting as shop stewards or union officers, and attending various union events. Also, thank you to Local 125 journeyman linemen Luis Ochoa, Kurk Shriver and Joel Wallace for joining Local 77 journeyman linemen Joe Baker and Brady Hansen in the efforts for the Suriname American Brotherhood Initiative.

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.

## Training Center Grand Opening; Holiday Fantasy in Lights

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Our Training Center Grand Opening went well. We were pleased to have Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. David J. Ruhmkorff on hand for the event. Carol Johnson cut the ribbon as we dedicated a classroom in memory of her late husband, Local 159 member and instructor Dave Johnson.

We continue to acquire and build lab equipment, including turning a donated air handling unit into a teaching apparatus. We thank all those who donated equipment and materials.

This winter season's Holiday Fantasy in Lights was bigger and better than ever, and we unveiled the new Fantasy 5k Run, the co-star of our Lights-On celebration. A crew of dedicated union retirees spent months repairing and updating the displays. Their most herculean feat—among many—was overhauling, repainting and relighting the faded booths and donation boxes.

We are engaging with the community, working to strengthen the communities we live and work in by collaborating with like-minded community partners.

As we gear up for April elections, Wisconsin's Voter ID law is now in effect. Strict guidelines about the types of ID that are acceptable now create barriers for many eligible voters (the elderly and the underprivileged among others) to cast a ballot.

Lisa Goodman, B.A.



At Local 159 Training Center grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony: from left, County Executive Joe Parisi, IBEW Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. David J. Ruhmkorff, Carol Johnson, Bus. Mgr. Robert Doyle, U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, and Madison Schools Work-Based Learning Coordinator Sherrie Stuessy.

## 'Get Involved in 2016 & Win Great Prizes'

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—IBEW Local 191 is excited to announce our new Member Participation Program and Apprentice Participation Program for 2016.

In addition to making friends and helping build the union, journeymen and apprentices are eligible to earn great prizes by earning points for various union activities. Some examples include: volunteering to chair a social event, serving as a steward or participating in a blitz. For apprentices, perfect attendance at school, grades above 95 percent or attending 12 meetings a year could earn them free books or basic dues paid for one year. All members will be eligible to win weekend getaways to San Francisco or Seattle. There will also be many other prizes such as jackets, tool kits and other IBEW gear.

Please check Local 191 website [www.ibew191.com](http://www.ibew191.com) or contact the hall for more details. We need and want your participation!

Our Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC) recently hosted a "Developing Your Workforce" evening, featuring presenter Nic Bittle. He spoke about techniques to improve labor-management cooperation and how to translate that to field installations. Our hope is that this will be another tool in our tool belt.

Lastly, 2016 is a big election year. It is very important that members be registered to vote, learn about the issues and get out to vote.

Bill Mirand, P.S.



At Local 191 LMCC event: presenter Nic Bittle (left), Cindy Austin of Cascade Chapter NECA, and Local 191 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Joe Lorenzo.

## Habitat for Humanity Projects

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Greetings, brothers and sisters. Gov. Bruce Rauner is still shoving his "right-to-work-for less" zones on the state along with his fictional "budget" and his "Terrible Turn-around" Agenda. His policies are not good for union labor and working folks throughout the Land of Lincoln.

Local 193 is sending Dave Evans to registrar school in Chicago for training. The COPE Committee is slating funding for labor-friendly candidates with help from the AFL-CIO. At press time, the Illinois State Conference is underway in Springfield. We all are hoping for some good news, a better work climate and an improved work picture statewide.

At this writing, the L. E. Myers Company is completing highline work at Memorial Hospital to allow for expansion in the year ahead.

The Habitat for Humanity project is also starting. Two houses were completed last year. Local 193 and the City of Springfield extend a big "thank-you" to all journeymen and apprentices who volunteered their skills and community service to Abe's hometown!

With regret we note the passing of Bro. Denny McKennedy. He will be missed.

Congratulations to the Kansas City Royals, 2015 World Series champions!

We hope everyone had a merry holiday season. Best wishes to all for a good new year ahead! In solidarity.

Don Hudson, P.S.



Walking with Local 197 contingent in Labor Day parade is a friend of working people, Illinois State Treasurer Mike Frerichs (front row, center), standing tall.

## Five-Year Agreement Ratified

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—We are pleased to report that the local union membership overwhelmingly voted to ratify our inside agreement with NECA and the McLean County Electrical Contractors Association. During negotiations we settled on a five-year agreement. Thank you to our rank-and-file members who served on the negotiating committee. Jake Goar, Tom Peasley and Troy Prescott did a wonderful job speaking on behalf of our membership and helped foster an agreement that both parties can live with.

During the winter holiday season, our members volunteer their skills and time to benefit the community. Providing power for the Festival of Trees, a local fundraiser that benefits needy children, and helping out with a Christmas party for the underemployed/unemployed families in McLean County are two of the seasonal programs we help out with annually. Thanks to our members who are so generous with their time and keep the IBEW in a positive light in our community. Also, congratulations to Bro. Luther Butler, who was given special recognition by a youth football league he coaches. Luther dedicates much of his time mentoring young kids in the community, teaching them much bigger lessons than the X's and O's of a football game and making a positive influence on many kids' lives.

We wish everyone a great new year ahead! Remember to get involved in the local and stay involved.

Mike Raikes, Pres.

## 'Moving Forward'

L.U. 223 (em,govt&i), BROCKTON, MA—We hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season, and we wish all in the IBEW a very prosperous new year.

The past few years have been quite busy and eventful for us. We moved into a new office/training facility, built Massachusetts' first slots/casino, and installed many solar panels across our jurisdiction. As we move forward in our new building, the plan is to bring new contractors to the table and discuss the ways we can work with them, supplying them the qualified manpower needed to complete their projects.

As a local we must move forward looking for new opportunities. With the closing of our nuclear and coal fired power plants within our jurisdiction, we need to retool and use our new training center to get back those small projects that have been done by nonunion contractors.

With 2016 being an election year, let's make sure we vote for the candidates who look out for labors' best interest and not those who just say they have or will.

Happy new year to all!

David W. Fenton, B.M./F.S.

## Active SISTERS Committee

L.U. 225 (u), BURLINGTON, KS—SISTERS of Local 225 is a women's committee formed in 2014 after several members attended our first IBEW Women's Conference, held in San Antonio that year. "SISTERS" stands

for Sisters In Solidarity Together Educate, Rally and Support.

Reasons for forming this committee were to gain a sisterhood, to serve our union and community, to continue our education in our union and personal lives, and to develop active members and leaders.

Recently, the SISTERS of Local 225 held a Rosie the Riveter Dice Run. The fundraiser was a success raising \$1,508 for SOS, a multi-county agency that helps victims of sexual and domestic violence, child abuse and neglect in our communities.

The next project the SISTERS committee is working on is a Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled for Jan 29. No doubt with sisters involved it too will be a great success.

The SISTERS committee is thankful for all the support and great participation, and looks forward to everything 2016 has to offer.

Angela Johnson, V.P.



Local 225 SISTERS Committee members include: back row, Rhonda Bewley (left), Sharon Lowney, Debbie Williams, Kathy Louia, Donna Chandler; front row, seated, Angela Johnson and Diemmi Duong.

## Apprentice Council Elected

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA—We would like to announce the election of our 2015-'16 Apprentice Council, a student governance group that meets to discuss improvements to the program, methods of peer support, and community service projects. The Apprentice Council (photo below) offers an opportunity to build leadership skills and provides a platform for some of our younger members to get more involved in local activities. We are proud to have this group of Apprentice Council officers representing our local on the job and throughout the community.

Timothy Griffin, P.S.



Local 229 Apprentice Council Vice Pres. Derek Jennings (left); Tyler Brown, third-year apprentice; Nick Blakney, fourth-year apprentice; Glenn Gallagher (rear), fifth-year; Council Pres. Jess Hear (front); Alayna Queary, second-year; Chris Siford, first-year.

## Contracts Ratified

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—Happy new year! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas. IBEW Local 245 is happy to welcome 40 new members, as Lake Township employees and firefighters ratified their first contract. In other negotiation news, both the First Energy contract and the 71/245 contract were negotiated and ratified. Next on the agenda for negotiations is the contract for the Rossford firefighters. The outside work picture at Local 245 is holding its own with some new work trickling in.

2016 is a very politically important

year for labor. We need to keep informed about the issues and the candidates so that come November we can make sound decisions.

On a lighter note, Local 245 will once again be sponsoring a Toledo Walleye hockey game for our members and their families. This year on game night, dinner will also be provided. Members may sign up by calling the hall; the deadline is Jan. 4, 2016.

Local 245 also has a tradition of ringing the bell for the Salvation Army on the day after Thanksgiving. See photo (below) of two local union volunteers.

Have a safe and prosperous new year!

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.



Local 245 Pres. Ray Zychowicz (left) and retired member Andy Horvath volunteer for Salvation Army bell ringing.

## 'Shifting Winds' & November 2015 Elections

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—In the political arena, the winds of change were blowing in New Jersey on Tuesday, Nov. 3, as the Democratic Party expanded its majority to 51 out of 80 possible seats in the state General Assembly. With the Democratic Party maintaining control in the state Senate, the results ensured that labor will have plenty of support in both houses of the New Jersey Legislature. Perhaps the crowning achievement of the election was the response the results elicited from anti-union Gov. Chris Christie. The irony of his comments was not lost on our members as he bemoaned the fact that Republicans were outspent by "union money." He blamed union dues converted into campaign donations as the main impetus behind his party's failure to carry the day. Members take note!

On the other side of the Delaware River, our brothers and sisters in Bucks County, PA, held their own in local elections. Many of the labor-backed candidates either won or maintained their seats.

**[Editor's Note: See news story "IBEW Members Score Wins on Election Day" posted Nov. 6 on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/articles).]**

Within the local, the 2015 apprenticeship graduates were sworn in as were all apprentices currently enrolled in the program as per the new International mandate. Let's hope that the encouraging election results can bolster the work prospects for all our new members as well as the standing membership.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.



Local 269 members attend Knights of Labor awards dinner. From left, seated, Bros. Gavin Brown, Mark Russo, John Cunningham, Mike Wright, Bill Martin; standing, Bros. George Grant, Wayne De Angelo, Anthony Angelico and Joe Povia.

## LOCAL LINES



Local 307 Bus. Mgr. Rodney Rice (right) and Organizer Dan Tedrick (left) present coats for students to Bunker Hill Asst. Principal Nick Emmerling and school Counselor Jaime Laidlow.

## Winter Coats Donated For Young School Students

L.U. 307 (ees,es,i,o&u), CUMBERLAND, MD—The officers and membership of Local 307 donated new winter coats, three of which are pictured, to Bunkerhill Elementary school for their students who may have a need this winter. The local wanted to show its gratitude toward the Berkeley County School System for using local union contractors to perform the electrical work on many of its school construction projects.

Dan Tedrick, Organizer

## Mapping Agency Relocation

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL—The inside branch work picture has been unsteady, but Book 1 has been moving. Outside line construction remains strong.

Granite City Steel sent notices to 2,000 steelworkers in October that the company may be forced to idle the plant. At the time of this writing, it appeared that layoffs could possibly begin around Christmas. Inside wiremen are continuously doing maintenance on this plant. Not only would idling of the plant harm some of our members but it would also be a blow to the entire region.

There will be a relocation of the Defense Mapping Agency, currently located in St. Louis. St. Clair County is one of four locations still being considered. This will be a \$1.2 billion project with a five-year build out.

Our annual 50 Year Luncheon was held at Sunset Hills Country Club on Oct. 24 last year. The event was well-attended and everyone seemed to enjoy the good food and camaraderie. Honorees included 50-year members Royce F. Braden, Robert L. Dohm, Larry E. Schmidt and Robert F. Schneebeli Sr.; 55-year member Albert A. Hilmes; 60-year members John W. Chaney and Arlen H. Juergens; 65-year members Roger E. Houk Jr. and Vernon W. Klaus. Congratulations to each and every member.

To our active members, I encourage you to get involved in the political process, as it impacts your life and your families' lives whether you are at work or at home.

Work safe!

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

## 'A Productive Season'

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN—Happy new year, brothers and sisters. Local 343 experienced a productive fall season with many calls getting to Book II and some calls going unfilled. Thank you to the travelers for helping man our work.

We look forward to a prosperous 2016 for all our members. Remember: eight hours' pay for eight hours' work in a journeyman-like manner assures financial security and dignity for us and our families. Be there for the union and the union will be there for you. Keep Americans working—buy "made in USA."

Tom Small, P.S.

## 'Thank You to Volunteers'

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Volunteers are the heartbeat of a great union and we are always grateful to ours. A huge shout-out to everyone who helped make the annual picnic another huge success. From prepping the food to cleanup, our members were there to make sure the event went smoothly and that everyone who attended had a wonderful time! They also helped keep the 13th Annual Gary Pitts Golf Tournament running smoothly.

Our members stepped up for the children this holiday season and helped spread Christmas cheer to all. We thank all of our volunteers for everything they do to help make our events memorable for all who attend.

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.



Local 357 Bros. Jeff Gates (left) and Jack Fleig (retired) enjoy 13th Annual Gary Pitts Golf Tournament.

## Training Classes

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA—The summer season was no time for the JATC to take it easy; in fact many classes were given to supplement the regular apprenticeship program. Additional classes held were: Rough Terrain Fork Lift training, OSHA 30 Hour, and Confined Space training. In September, the 3 M Fall Arrest & Awareness training program as well as a High Reach Certification course were held, with approximately 98 journeymen and apprentices participating in these two courses. [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).]

A special breakfast was held Oct. 13 for our local's retirees. Approximately 30 members and their spouses attended. Award recipients were: 50-year members Karl Beusgen, Rodney Haines, Francis Hudock, Douglas Schildt, Glenn Wescoe, Ronald Woroniak and Wayne Yenser; 55-year members Wil-



Local 375 journeymen and apprentices participate in 3 M Fall Arrest training.

liam Bilsak, Lawrence Blatz, Ernest Gagliardi, Pasquale Gino, Paul Holler, Gene May, Donald Parks and Charles Sweigard Jr.; 60-year members James Andrews, James Burnhauser, Dale Jenkins, Russell Redfern and Ralph Yost; and 65-year members Rudolph Gestl, Albert Haldaman Jr. and former business manager Andrew Kubik.

The annual clambake was Sept. 26 at Emmaus Community Park. All attending enjoyed great food and beverages. Beware, next year the older members will kick butt in the baseball game!

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

## Work Picture Improving

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—Local 449's work picture is improving with a few projects in the Twin Falls area and beginning to man up. We are starting to get into Book 2 and expect a continued positive forecast for work through the winter and into summer. We expect to see a couple of projects in the Pocatello area get underway in the next few months.

Our apprenticeship program is doing well. We currently have more than 60 apprentices in the program. A group of 11 brothers completed their training in November 2015. Congratulations to these brothers on their success in becoming journeymen.

We are engaged in a statewide organizing campaign to represent our first group of tree trimmers in Idaho. Their excitement for representation, better safety training and structured advancement is encouraging for everyone involved with the process.

With deepest regret we report the passing of retired Bros. Richard Bown, Harvey Coffman and Int. Sec.-Treas. Emeritus Jon F. Walters. We send our deepest condolences to their families. These brothers will never be forgotten!

Local 449 thanks Bros. John Fortner and Randal Waldron for their service and congratulates them on their retirement.

We wish our IBEW sisters and brothers and their families a happy, prosperous new year!

Ned Jones, A.B.M.

## Fellowship & Service

L.U. 479 (i&u), BEAUMONT, TX—Local 479 held its annual picnic Oct. 17. Several retirees in attendance were recognized for their many years of service and membership with Local 479. We are a proud local and to have such individuals who have helped forge this local to where we are presently is truly awesome. Many members came to enjoy the fellowship, brotherhood and good food prepared and served by Local 479 members.

It is the responsibility of the active members to move Local 479 forward for our future. Election season is here and many candidates for offices in city, county and state elections are now actively seeking endorsement. We must vote for those who will support the values of working men and women.

Jimmy Burk, B.M./F.S.

## Successful Elections & Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Elections were held in November with many positive outcomes to share. Four IBEW Local 481 members successfully won seats on their city or county councils, giving labor a voice at the table. David Ray won a seat on the City-County Council of Marion County and Indianapolis, the legislative branch of the city of Indi-

anapolis and county of Marion government. Brian Hatfield and Trent Wisner won seats on North Vernon City Council, and Jeff Wright won a seat on Shelbyville County Council. Thank you to all for your hard work in campaigning. We look forward to the positive role these members will have for IBEW Local 481 and our industry in their elected positions. Congratulations!

Also in November, Local 481 members graciously volunteered their time to complete the first house for the Hearts & Hands of Indiana program. Thank you to the volunteers who helped, especially IBEW Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. David J. Ruhmkorff for getting our local union involved.

Our local union continued the annual holiday tradition of stringing the lights on Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis for the 53rd Circle of Lights Celebration. Local 481 is proud to be involved in a tradition that is beloved by the community. Thank you to all the IBEW Local 481 volunteers for participating in this season's event. It was another successful year! Looking forward to a prosperous new year!

Blake Andrews, R.S.

## Devastating 'Valley Fire'

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA—Local members were, and still are, affected by the disastrous 2015 California wildfires. The "Valley Fire" was classified as the third worst in California history. This fire consumed 40,000 acres in just 18 hours, approximately 37 acres per minute. The fire broke out on Sept. 12 and was declared fully contained on Oct. 15. It was reported that 1,958 structures were destroyed, including 1,280 homes lost, gone forever. Approximately 76,000 acres burned in the Valley Fire.

Our Local 551 Executive Board was quick to respond and approved \$18,000 for disbursement for our affected members from our benevolent fund. The North Bay Central Labor Council set up a fund to help victims, which at the time of this writing had raised over \$21,000, and can be found on our Facebook page through a GoFundMe account.

As always, when the chips are down fellow union members extend their fellowship and support, standing strong in solidarity. Thank you to all who have contributed. And to everyone who is dealing with this disaster, our prayers and well wishes continue.

Our work picture continues to be strong, so come sign the books and get the jobs while they're hot.

We remove our hard hats for the passing of Bro. George McFarland, who was a 41-year member.

Have a safe new year.

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



Local 551 member Michael Clary stands at the site where his home of 21 years was located prior to the 2015 wildfire season.

## Events/RENEW Committees; IBEW Tradition of Service

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—We have had many great developments over recent months in our local.

Several local union members and their families celebrated happy occasions recently. We congratulate Bros. Andy Egerer, James Lamb, Dave Neal and Josh

Williamsen on the new additions to their families.

Another new development in our local is the startup of the Events/RENEW committees. The RENEW committee is a chapter of the IBEW's Reach out and Engage next-gen Electrical Workers initiative. These committees will help us engage people in our community in a positive way and raise awareness about the IBEW and the benefits of having a union. We are excited to start these committees and give back to our community.

Local 557 congratulates Solomon Meyer, a retired 66-year member, on his longtime IBEW service. Sol is age 98 and a World War II veteran. He is a proud IBEW member and religiously wears his IBEW hat with his 65-year pin. Sol has two sons, Jim and Tom, who also are retired IBEW members. We are proud to have members like the Meyer family in our local. Thank you, brothers, for your years of dedication and service to the IBEW.

Howard Revard, P.S.



Local 557 retired members Jim Meyer (left), Solomon Meyer and John T. "Tom" Meyer.

## Golf Tournament Fundraiser

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st), DUBLIN, CA—Local 595 hosted the 3rd Annual Golf Classic Invitational Tournament on Sept. 11 held at the elite Dublin Ranch Golf Course. Approximately 72 members and guests participated in this event not only to enjoy a warm summer day of golfing, but also to contribute to a worthy cause.

The golf tournament was also a fundraiser, and \$15,000 was raised to benefit the American Board for Child Diabetics. Golf scores were turned in based on the honor system. The foursome of Matt Altman, Tom Lee, John Astorino and Jeff Sanchez playing best ball had the lowest score of 53. Wes Smith crushed the ball winning the longest drive. A tournament of this magnitude can only be accomplished through the dedication and hard work of those involved. Thank you to tournament chairman Dustin Baker and committee members Jay Aguilera, Mark Buck, Juan Guerrero, Brian Stewart and Josh Winter.

Local 595 has some staffing changes. Bus. Mgr. Daniel Chivello appointed two new members to his staff. Jason Gumataotao, a 13-year member and past treasurer, was assigned to Membership Development, and he will also take the lead with our Young Workers RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) program.

Dispatching and Market Advancement Program



Local 595 hosted 3rd Annual Golf Classic Invitational Tournament fundraiser.

duties will be carried out by Earl Hampton, a 21-year veteran member, who previously served as recording secretary and Executive Board member. Bus. Mgr. Chivello's staff welcomes the new additions with full confidence they will serve the membership well.

Bob Tieman, B.R.

## Apprentice Graduates; Annual Retirement Dinner

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,it,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—Some 30 members completed their apprenticeship in 2015. Graduates not previously recognized in this space are: Bros. Phil MacCormick, Matthew Giles, Eric MacQuarrie, Eric Smith, Jonathan Bugbee, Stephen Boudreau, Nathan Schofield, Jason Worden, Justin Brine, Aaron Connors, Kyle Crawford and Kyle Colp. Congratulations to the entire class of 2015 apprenticeship graduates. Well done, journeymen.

Work has slowed down from full employment at one time in April 2015 to less than 50 percent employment at this November writing. That's a huge swing in just six months. We hope work on the road will pick up this winter and keep the bills paid. There are no big projects coming up in the Province. The Convention Centre is still going slow at press time, with a possible increase in the workforce from its current 17.

The Annual Retirement Dinner & Dance in Sackville was a great time. All the members who attended went home with a full belly, a warm hoodie and lasting memories. Please remember to come out and enjoy the next one.

Newly retired members are: Greg MacDonald, Davit Hutt, Rob Hiscock, Stephen Forrest and Kevin Archibald. Thank you for your years of service and keep in touch with your union. The Retirement Dinner & Dance is just the place to connect with your brothers and sisters.

Members who worked at the DSM Fish Oil Plant expansion project in Mulgrave, Nova Scotia, include: Owen MacIntyre, Donald McNutt, Steve Martin, Gerard Decoste, Frank MacMaster, Charlie Carpenter, Ray MacDonald, Blair Chisholm, Jerome MacKinnon, Jamie Harvie, Brian Pettipas, Kenneth Connolly, Danny Bowie, Shawn Long, Cory Morris and Ed Connolly. [See jobsite photo posted in the online version of the January issue of *The Electrical Worker* at IBEW website [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).]

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.

## Motorcycle Run in February

L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL—Congratulations, brothers and sisters, for a safe year while on the job. The St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant personnel dealt with two refueling outages, and the line crews had no respite from the months of relentless heat. Great job by all.

The motorcycle run is scheduled for Feb. 27. Invite a friend for a day to enjoy the great Florida weather and the fellowship you will discover. If any fellow IBEW members from sister locals are visiting our area, they are most welcome to join us for the

event. For more information, please send an email to [627motorcycleride@gmail.com](mailto:627motorcycleride@gmail.com).

At this writing, we were looking forward to the Local 627 holiday get-together scheduled to take place after December's union meeting.

Hope 2016 is your best year yet.

Ray Vos, P.S.

## Steady Progress Reported

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH—Our goal in implementing the construction electricians/construction wiremen (CE/CW) program has been three-fold:

1) To strip non-signatory contractors of their best people. 2) To give our contractors the best possible chance of securing work that we have been ignoring. 3) To screen the best qualified candidates for entry into our apprenticeship program.

The progress has been steady as we continue to recruit some of the top electricians from our competitors. These workers have been a valuable tool in getting our contractors back in the game on these long-ignored sectors of work.

As we make progress on this work we are able to evaluate our new members. Most of these new members are motivated to learn and move forward with their career. Many apply to the apprenticeship and are accepted based on their work history and previous education.

This has been a win-win for both our contractors and our membership. We are doing work that we haven't done in years, and we are adding better-prepared candidates to our apprenticeship, all while taking talented young workers away from our nonunion competitors.

Jim Braunlich, P.S.



Local 673 Bros. Dave Sinkovic (left) and Matt Weaver began their careers with the local in the CE/CW program. Dave is now a first-year apprentice, and Matt is a project foreman after having completed the apprenticeship program.

## Sportsmen's Alliance Events

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—We continue to be cautiously optimistic about the work picture locally, as winter is historically slow here.

Every year Local 683 hosts a "25 Year Dinner." Those who have been members for 25 years or more are honored at the event, as well as members who retired during the current year.

Our Union Sportsmen's Alliance group held several clay shoots and turkey shoots throughout the fall.

Best wishes to all for a safe and successful new year ahead.

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

## Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—Our apprenticeship completion banquet was held Oct. 24. We congratulate the graduates, new journeyman inside wiremen of Local 697: Matt Braatz, John Brannon, Sean Carroll, Jeff Hendricks, Chris Huff-

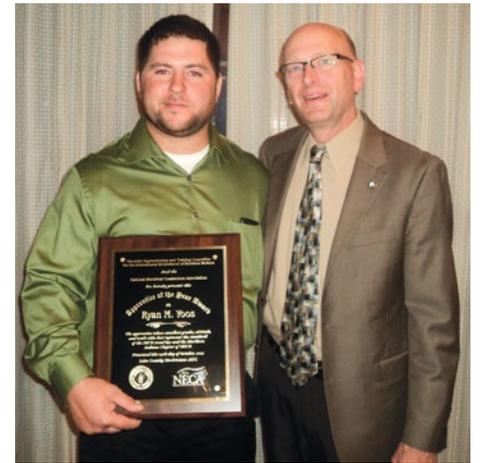
man, Kevin Humphrey, Trevor Janke, David Kono-pasek, Adam Moor, Ryan Nowak, Adam Spurr, Jacob Sulek, Randy Vanek and Ryan Yoos.

John Brannon earned the Angel Alvarez Award for public service and leadership. Ryan Yoos was announced as Apprentice of the Year by the JATC committee. Many guests, friends, family and JATC members joined in the graduation celebration. [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).]

We start 2016 with the necessity to focus on upcoming elections. We must not let the "presidential candidate parade" divert our attention from the many other races. Just as important are elections for the U.S. Congress and our statewide elections. While the gubernatorial election takes main stage at the state level, there are also other local and statewide offices at stake as well, including seats in the Indiana General Assembly.

Now is the time to educate yourself, your family and your friends about where the candidates stand on issues important to working families. Let's help elect candidates who will support working families and not assault them.

Dan Waldrop, B.M.



Local 697 class of 2015 apprentice of the year Ryan Yoos (left) with Training Dir. Ken Jania.

## RENEW Members & Fundraiser for Homeless

L.U. 723 (govt,rtb&t), FORT WAYNE, IN—Local 723 RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) participants recently took part in a fundraiser to help the area homeless in Fort Wayne. The event was called "One Night Without a Home." RENEW members raised more than \$2,800 and collected toiletry items for the homeless shelters. They also spent one night outside to raise awareness for the homeless.

Dan Tolomay, V.P.

## 'Solidarity Day'

L.U. 777 (u), READING, PA—Local 777 gathered for our fourth annual family picnic at Knoebels Grove in Elysburg, PA. While it was a soggy, drizzly, sometimes pluvius day, the weather didn't dampen the spirits of the local's members.

IBEW Local 777 members, who work at various companies, and their families traveled to the picnic from areas in eastern Pennsylvania, spanning from York to Stroudsburg. Despite the weather, most of the rides at the amusement park stayed open and the food was great. The event made for another successful and fun-filled 2015 solidarity day.

Mark Power, P.S.

## LOCAL LINES

## Action to Save a Life



Local 827 member  
Martin Ellicott.

L.U. 827 (catv&t), EAST WINDSOR, NJ—Bro. Martin Ellicott recently saved the life of a fellow member who had a medical emergency at work on Oct. 1. As soon as Martin realized his co-worker was in distress, he jumped into action and performed CPR. When local police responded, Martin used their automated

external defibrillator (AED) device to shock the member's heart to regulate her pulse. Police and ambulance workers agree that Martin is the reason she is alive today.

Martin is a 16-year Local 827 member. He has served with several ambulance squads and fire companies over the last 26 years. Currently, Martin is on Parsippany's Rockaway Neck Volunteer Ambulance squad and the Lake Hiawatha Fire Department squad; he is also a member of the Lake Ariel Fire Department when he vacations in Pennsylvania.

When asked how he felt about the October event, Martin calmly stated, "You do what you do, emotions roll, then you go back to work." Martin's co-workers commend him, and the member he assisted is obviously happy that Martin came to work that day.

Martin recently was notified that he is the recipient of the IBEW Life Saving Award for his selfless act. He also will receive the Hero's Award from his employer, Verizon Communications.

Thanks to Martin for his courage and quick thinking. Local 827 is grateful for the quiet heroes amongst us.

Karen Lane, V.P.

## Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Our 2015 Apprenticeship Banquet & Completion Ceremony was held in September and chaired by Local 915 Bus. Mgr. Randall King. We had a combined class of 30 graduating to inside journeyman wireman status.

Three graduates had perfect attendance for all five years of apprenticeship: David J. Burns, Steven Van Order and Jennifer Riske. David J. Burns was recognized as the fifth-year outstanding apprentice.

We had two graduating apprentices, representing their respective graduating class, who were recognized as leaders academically, on the job, and at the local level. The JATC recognizes the exceptional attitude, skill and knowledge that propel an apprentice to the top of the class. The outstanding apprentice for December 2014 is Steven Van Order and for August 2015 is Donald Riggans. **[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.]**

This year's Brad Felkner Memorial Award recipient has overcome many obstacles in his life and is a

fine example of true dedication and loyalty. He is a great role model, a valuable asset and represents the IBEW well. This award went to Kevin Huggins.

Local 915 extends our best wishes to each of the graduating apprentices for a successful and prosperous career.

Theresa King, P.S.

## A Proud Finish to 2015

L.U. 1141 (em,i,mow,rts&spa), OKLAHOMA CITY, OK—Happy new year, brothers and sisters. I hope you had a nice holiday season.

2015 ended on a good note with several high-profile events showing the importance and legacy of skilled labor across the state.

In October, retired Local 1141 member Roy Gordon was inaugurated into the Oklahoma AFL-CIO's Labor Hall of Fame for his decades of service to union families. "Being in the labor movement has been the best thing that ever happened to me in my entire life—except for my family," Gordon said. See his full remarks at [www.ibew1141.org](http://www.ibew1141.org).

We also joined the Oklahoma Building Trades in promoting the first-ever National Apprenticeship Week. Members of the public came to the hall on Nov. 5 for an open house to learn more about how skilled labor is a great career route, allowing workers to earn while they learn. Watch our video at [www.ibew1141.org](http://www.ibew1141.org).

Finally, I'd like to thank the dozens of volunteers who helped us complete the Peppers Ranch project, where we wired the therapeutic horse riding facility that benefits Guthrie children in need. Look for a feature about our efforts at [www.ibewhourpower.com](http://www.ibewhourpower.com).

Let's make 2016 a great year for working families in the Sooner State.

In solidarity,

Dewayne Wilcox, B.M.

Local's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY—2016 is an exciting year for Local 1249, as we are celebrating our 75th Anniversary! Local 1249 was chartered May 1, 1941, in Syracuse, NY. The membership started with outside construction and later added "line clearance tree trimming" and "telephone" and also started representing some municipalities. We have grown to more than 2,000 members, who work throughout the state of New York, excluding the boroughs of New York City and Long Island.

To celebrate, the local will put on a party for the members in June. We started planning for this event a year in advance to ensure that we give the membership the celebration it deserves. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

We will also raffle off a Polaris Ranger at our annual Clambake in August—a much larger prize than attendees usually see! 2016 will be a year for the books.

We don't need an anniversary to thank all of our active and retired members, our current officers as well as past officers, and all of our office staff. IBEW Local 1249 wouldn't be who we are today with-

out all of your hard work and support! Here's to another 75 years, Local 1249!

Jennifer Schneider, P.S.

## 'Great Organizing Success'

L.U. 1253 (i&mo), AUGUSTA, ME—Organizer and Pres. Nicholas Paquet has seen great success in organizing! Four nonunion contractors signed various letters of assent in recent months. They are: Cube Electric, Lander Group, Mastercraft (Brandon Craft) and R & J Electric. These contractors perform all levels of work, from residential to industrial. The assistance of the membership in giving Nick leads has been invaluable. As the IBEW Constitution says, we're all organizers!

A big "thank-you" goes out to Damian and Danielle Boutin, Kristina Milliken, Josh Guenard, and George Howe for all their hard work on our annual picnic. A majority of the local again turned out to enjoy a great summer's day, and a great barbecue!

We also congratulate our IBEW sister Cynthia Phinney of Local 1837, who recently was elected president of the Maine AFL-CIO! She is the first woman to hold that position.

Scott Cuddy, P.S.

## A Successful 2015

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Recent months have been an exciting time for Local 1393! We look to be concluding negotiations soon with Asplundh Tree Expert Co. for a significantly sized unit in Indiana. We have also filed another election petition for another group of Asplundh Tree Expert Co. employees and we look forward to welcoming them into the Brotherhood.

Local 1393's RENEW committee had a very successful year in 2015. RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) participants worked diligently in promoting the local and the IBEW, helping to further the cause of labor. Their efforts largely led to the local being recognized as "Labor Union of the Year" by one of the Central Labor Councils that Local 1393 participates in. The RENEW committee has been hard at work planning for an even better 2016.

As we've turned the corner into 2016, we continue to look forward to making a difference for our members, and for the communities in which our members live. Happy new year!

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

## Taking Home the Trophy

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—Three journeyman teams from Local 1439 competed in the 32nd Annual International Lineman's Rodeo, and one of the teams was awarded First Place Overall in the Contractor Division. The team members who brought home the trophy were Greg Tall, Mike Myers and Mike Bell. Other participants included Eli Logsdon, Bob Neske, Randy Eichholtz, Tim Flanagan, Irah Howe and Phil Barowski. The local thanks all the participants for their efforts during the competition.

Participation in the rodeo would not have been possible without the sponsorship from our IBEW Eleventh District Gen-up Committee, and the sacrifices made by team members to stretch the available funds. We also want to thank those brothers and sisters who purchased T-shirts, which helped raise additional money for the event.

The Gen-Up Trivia Night is scheduled for February, so be sure to mark your calendars and get your team together. Please keep up with the local's events by going to our website [www.ibew1439.com](http://www.ibew1439.com) or "like" us on Facebook.

Matt Curry, R.S./P.S.

## Worker Friendly Mayor

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—At our last union meeting, I reported that Augusta Mayor Hardie Davis and I have been discussing a possible community workforce agreement. If achieved, this agreement will put many IBEW members as well as other building trades craft to work.

Recently the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) was on the ballot in Augusta and passed. This will give the city of Augusta much-needed monies to pay for projects that are needed. The above referenced agreement will benefit the city as it will be the mayor's way of putting local contractors to work that employ union members who live in the metro area.

The work situation is looking good. Everyone on Book I who wants to work is currently working, and we have some Book II members working as well. The upcoming work picture in 2015 looks as though it should also be busy.

As we begin the New Year, I would like to ask that everyone make a commitment to have a financial plan. Much of the upcoming work will have overtime involved. Keep in mind that this work will be good for the next few years, but it won't last forever. If you are already used to living on 40 hours, why not save that extra overtime money for a secure financial future.

The officers and staff of IBEW Local 1579 wish all IBEW members and family a happy new year.

Will Salters, B.M.

## Tribute to Career of Service

L.U. 1837 (rtb&u), MANCHESTER, ME—After 20 years of service, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Bill Dunn retired in October from his position with IBEW Local 1837 and from Central Maine Power Co.

Bro. Dunn began work for CMP in 1983. He worked in the Meter Department for 2½ years and then moved to the Line Department for the rest of his work years at CMP. He became a Local 1837 shop steward in 1994 and 12 years later was appointed assistant business manager.

"I became a steward on the immediate heels of CMP going through a layoff the wrong way," Dunn said. "It didn't affect me directly but it affected everyone around me and it just ticked me off." After serving as shop steward, he later moved from CMP into his union staff position.

Dunn helped countless members and assisted with contract negotiations, earning the respect of people on both sides of the table. "The best part of the job was attempting to resolve situations for people ...," Dunn said. "The most satisfying moment was prevailing in the CMP AMI (Automated Metering Infrastructure) arbitration knowing that everyone who wanted a job could come back to work. That was a 2½ year process!"

Bro. Dunn encourages members to embrace their union, work together for better contracts and improved working conditions, and not to give in to forces that seek to divide them.

"Bill's dedication to 1837 will be greatly missed," said Bus. Mgr. Dick Rogers. "We wish him and his family all the best."

Matthew Beck, B.R./Organizer



Local 915 class of 2015 apprentice graduates, joined by Apprenticeship Dir. David McCraw (far left), Hillsborough County School Superintendent Jeff Eakins (far right) and Bus. Mgr. Randall King (at podium).



Local 1837  
Asst. Bus.  
Mgr. Bill  
Dunn  
retires.

# In Memoriam

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

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Chambers, J. H.	7/24/15	26	Henderson, W. P.	5/11/15	120	Knox, F. G.	8/6/15	347	Ruge, J. R.	8/9/15	568	Bergeron, P.	9/30/15	1186	Oyama, G. K.	9/9/15
1	Dorlac, F. A.	10/4/15	26	Lee, C. W.	10/14/15	124	Dick, J. C.	10/31/15	349	Fuertes, J. J.	9/18/15	568	Chartrand, G.	9/29/15	1186	Sumida, O. S.	5/28/15
1	Huber, R. R.	10/22/15	26	Long, T. W.	10/19/15	124	McKarnin, C. L.	10/11/15	349	Rogers, R. T.	4/10/15	568	Lamirande, P.	9/1/15	1245	Snow, J. H.	9/6/15
1	Mull, C. L.	10/16/15	35	Stewart, W. B.	4/23/15	125	Chisum, J. N.	7/5/15	349	Stanley, E. W.	10/11/15	569	Johnson, R. A.	9/25/15	1253	Martin, L. O.	8/14/15
1	Nellesen, G. A.	5/24/15	38	Akos, J. L.	10/19/13	125	Dunlevy, C. H.	10/5/15	349	Valdes, B.	8/19/15	570	Chavez, J. R.	9/26/15	1340	Campbell, J. P.	9/30/15
1	Otte, D. C.	10/6/15	38	Fuerst, W. N.	10/1/15	125	Methvin, G. L.	9/9/15	351	Ramey, J. E.	8/7/15	570	Noake, H. E.	9/20/15	1347	Graman, D. A.	12/2/14
3	Anderson, J. H.	10/4/15	38	Jaskolka, M. J.	9/2/15	125	Miller, R. P.	4/6/15	353	Clark, W. R.	9/16/15	584	Rogers, D. M.	8/1/15	1393	Gumm, E. W.	6/1/15
3	Burke, T. K.	9/12/15	43	Liquori, R. F.	9/16/15	126	Bilbee, J. G.	6/9/15	353	Cordeiro, C. M.	8/12/15	584	Shaull, D. J.	9/20/15	1547	Farnam, J. D.	9/23/15
3	Curley, J.	10/5/15	46	Boadle, J. R.	10/3/15	126	Boettner, G. T.	10/11/15	353	Kennedy, O. A.	6/1/15	584	Smithy, C. W.	10/20/15	1579	Barnett, J. M.	10/4/15
3	Delcore, P.	9/4/15	46	Johnson, R.	9/4/15	130	Baragona, J.	9/4/15	353	McNair, W.	9/10/15	595	Rocha, A. R.	7/20/15	1579	Videtto, H. B.	10/11/15
3	Gilmartin, P.	6/11/15	46	Kerens, J.	9/9/15	130	Hoffpauir, G. L.	9/11/15	353	Schafrick, M. H.	9/6/15	595	Wallis, T. E.	9/4/15	2085	Heiland, T. R.	6/6/15
3	Glatz, A. E.	10/11/15	46	Walsh, J.	9/20/15	131	Ruggeri, T.	9/12/15	353	Smith, B.	10/10/15	596	Arnold, G. A.	9/7/15	2085	Schenkeveld, C.	9/23/15
3	Goldstein, S.	9/30/15	48	Gester, S. C.	10/16/15	134	Amaro, J. N.	10/15/15	357	Hartman, R. B.	10/2/15	602	Roye, L. C.	8/20/15	2113	Young, J. O.	10/3/15
3	Joyner, I.	7/19/15	48	Waller, J. A.	5/5/15	134	Amerlan, C. W.	10/28/15	357	Lucas, F. K.	9/28/15	605	Martin, T. Q.	3/8/15	2330	Harty, P.	1/4/14
3	Kantor, R. J.	6/17/15	50	Franklin, C. E.	9/25/15	134	Buechele, R. C.	10/16/15	357	Marquez, J. K.	9/25/15	611	Clark, V. F.	9/8/15	2330	Oliver, P.	7/17/15
3	Knudsen, S. H.	2/15/15	55	Holliday, R. J.	8/23/15	134	Dawson, R. T.	9/24/15	357	Randolph, R. K.	3/31/15	613	Hogue, R. N.	10/10/15	2330	Russell, J. J.	6/15/15
3	Mercado, R.	10/12/15	55	Soloman, M. D.	10/26/15	134	Hofbauer, J. W.	9/28/15	363	Dispensa, V. F.	9/9/15	613	Kane, S. W.	10/10/15	I.O. (71)	Fox, C. E.	8/4/15
3	Modafferi, A. J.	10/6/15	56	Alberstadt, J. E.	10/5/15	134	Johnson, W.	9/20/15	364	Cree, T. J.	10/4/15	613	Owenby, T. W.	10/6/15	I.O. (134)	Abramavicius, B. J.	9/15/15
3	Moquin, J. A.	9/17/15	56	Niederriter, C.	8/20/15	134	Kataitis, F. J.	9/26/15	369	Hagerdon, R. H.	10/5/15	613	Popham, D. M.	10/6/15	I.O. (134)	Cici, P. J.	9/28/15
3	Pettigrew, J.	9/19/15	56	Sliter, R. A.	8/24/15	134	Kuczuda, W.	9/2/15	369	Pace, V.	10/3/15	613	Preston, D. R.	10/13/15	I.O. (134)	Klaus, F. C.	10/14/15
3	Rivera, S.	4/26/14	57	Lazaros, J.	9/12/15	134	Magnuson, J. T.	1/20/14	369	West, G. R.	9/19/15	613	Walker, M. D.	10/6/15	I.O. (213)	Lovegrove, G.	10/2/15
3	Rodriguez, A.	8/16/15	58	Alexander, H. S.	9/13/15	134	McHugh, R. T.	11/2/15	387	Clark, R. F.	9/8/15	640	Michael, K.	10/2/15	I.O. (441)	Hill, A. E.	8/20/15
3	Roukis, N. S.	9/11/15	58	Butler, T. G.	10/9/15	134	Neururer, J. E.	8/3/15	388	Switlick, J. E.	10/8/15	641	McQueen, W. D.	10/10/15	I.O. (551)	Bysom, L. L.	8/27/15
3	Stark, R.	9/27/15	58	Chenoweth, R. E.	9/12/15	134	Skertich, N. M.	5/13/15	396	Cox, R. D.	10/9/15	650	Bettanini, S. D.	9/9/15	I.O. (1151)	Hanna, P. N.	8/23/15
3	Toirac, F.	9/6/15	58	Cross, T. J.	10/11/15	134	Stanko, J.	10/28/15	400	Faller, C. R.	9/16/15	659	Golden, G. G.	10/16/15	I.O. (1749)	Mock, M. H.	8/26/15
3	Victore, N. J.	10/1/15	58	Darish, W.	10/3/15	136	Fairley, E. J.	7/20/15	401	Kelly, J. P.	7/20/15	666	Marny, K. W.	10/10/15	Pens. (686)	Hauptly, A. L.	10/7/15
3	Walker, R. M.	10/2/15	58	Meyers, N. A.	7/31/15	136	Phillips, L. D.	7/4/15	412	Raymond, C. E.	8/24/15	668	Martin, R. W.	10/9/15	Pens. (1253)	Lancaster, S. L.	9/7/15
3	Zeller, W.	9/20/15	58	Ulrich, W. J.	9/23/15	141	Chapline, J. W.	9/15/15	413	Farrell, G. C.	10/13/15	673	Eldridge, R. H.	3/23/15	Pens. (1470)	Stravinsky, J.	10/29/15
6	Brigaerts, D. K.	9/25/15	64	Hudak, R. P.	2/8/15	141	Walters, P. F.	10/11/14	413	Fuller, J. F.	9/14/15	683	Ray, G. L.	9/18/15	Pens. (1788)	Horne, R. G.	8/30/15
6	Davi, H. E.	10/2/15	64	Thomas, R. J.	10/17/15	153	Nickerson, J. F.	11/3/15	413	Smith, K. W.	10/8/15	683	Walter, G.	10/5/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Adams, D. D.	8/25/15
6	Martin, J. P.	9/15/15	66	Bell, E. B.	4/24/15	153	Woodley, J. V.	10/2/15	424	Bureyko, K. D.	9/29/15	692	Ahler, D. G.	9/21/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Anderson, S.	1/24/15
6	Thompson, J.	6/28/15	66	Moser, M. R.	7/22/15	160	Barker, K. W.	9/16/15	424	Garteig, P. E.	1/9/15	692	Schmidt, F. J.	9/23/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Arto, J. F.	10/7/15
7	Peck, C. E.	7/16/12	66	Walters, C. R.	7/9/15	164	Kohen, K.	8/15/15	424	LaGroix, M. A.	7/29/14	697	Leckrone, R. M.	10/17/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Askew, E. J.	9/16/15
8	Dusseau, D. A.	9/17/15	68	Cryder, A. E.	9/2/15	175	Diamond, C. E.	9/12/15	424	Reynolds, G. C.	7/21/15	712	Belgie, A.	8/9/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Bennyhoff, E. J.	9/9/15
8	Fahle, L. H.	9/28/15	68	Eberhart, L. G.	9/27/15	175	Shoemake, H. R.	10/13/15	426	Louder, W. M.	9/25/15	714	Fode, L. R.	10/23/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Branch, R. H.	7/3/15
9	Elliott, C. W.	10/18/15	70	Burgwyn, M. T.	10/5/15	176	Klug, E.	10/10/15	426	Slow, J. G.	9/22/15	716	Cervantes, A.	5/1/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Calabro, J.	9/18/15
9	Jacobson, W. G.	10/11/15	71	Dixon, J. R.	4/27/15	213	Barry, C. J.	5/13/15	429	Jackson, R. A.	10/2/15	716	Hall, C. C.	10/2/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Davis, R. R.	10/19/15
11	Cuccia, L.	8/16/15	71	Moore, R. L.	6/23/15	213	Musterer, G. R.	9/26/15	429	Smith, A.	6/11/15	716	Perry, J. S.	9/14/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Davis, R. L.	10/8/15
11	Gronemeier, D. E.	10/3/15	73	Compogno, T. G.	9/22/15	222	Rooks, C. L.	10/3/15	443	Stamey, J. S.	10/19/15	716	Ward, R. C.	9/5/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Denomy, D. J.	9/19/15
11	Hawkins, G. T.	8/27/15	77	Logan, J. C.	10/6/15	230	Besler, G. P.	2/5/15	449	Coffman, H. G.	9/25/15	728	Ritter, N. L.	9/19/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Duarte, C. J.	12/22/14
11	Honig, P. E.	9/25/15	81	Tagliaterra, F. J.	10/15/15	234	Gayman, M. C.	10/9/15	456	Chodak, F.	9/27/15	731	Wyberg, W. C.	4/4/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Ellington, C. B.	6/1/15
11	Koller, A. J.	10/6/15	82	Gamon, S. W.	9/23/15	236	Coons, R. J.	9/11/15	456	Kampf, D. E.	9/26/15	743	Royer, J. L.	7/3/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Ernst, L. G.	8/18/15
11	Monk, L. A.	5/13/15	84	Byrd, S.	7/19/15	236	Langenbach, W. P.	10/7/15	456	Morgan, J. A.	9/21/15	743	Sell, R. W.	10/23/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Frame, D. H.	7/5/15
11	Sanderson, J. H.	7/20/15	86	Orlando, A.	5/18/15	238	Boone, C. M.	8/21/15	456	Tingle, D. G.	9/18/15	753	Moore, B. D.	2/3/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Friedmann, A. J.	8/20/14
12	Fowler, K. F.	10/2/15	86	Schneider, J. A.	10/9/15	241	Dayhart, D. S.	12/24/14	459	Mihailov, E.	9/29/15	760	Golden, R. L.	9/21/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Hamacher, D. M.	5/11/15
12	Gutierrez, R. D.	10/16/15	90	Fox, J. E.	9/26/15	245	Perry, R. L.	9/30/15	461	Brosi, W. T.	10/25/15	760	Jones, R. M.	8/31/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Horcholic, E. J.	9/17/15
12	Strain, W. L.	9/10/15	90	Miller, E.	8/15/15	252	Bolhouse, D. I.	8/24/15	465	Bridgman, C.	10/4/15	760	Stone, R. F.	9/30/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Justice, B. L.	10/11/15
13	Hamma, D. W.	9/16/15	96	Hiitt, E. H.	6/21/14	258	Bourguignon, G.	3/25/15	465	Hotta, J.	9/18/15	768	Nesten, G. G.	9/13/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Kelley, J. C.	8/28/15
16	Schraeder, S. W.	10/29/15	96	Leger, D. L.	10/8/15	258	Kromm, W. H.	9/30/15	479	Smith, C. N.	10/4/15	769	Morton, J. S.	9/10/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Kendley, T. E.	10/19/15
17	Carrell, P. E.	9/14/15	98	Fitzpatrick, G. W.	2/15/15	275	Leach, J. W.	8/26/15	480	Thomas, C. W.	9/7/15	773	Pickle, N.	9/1/13	Pens. (I.O.)	La Mothe, R. D.	9/30/15
17	Smith, K. M.	3/18/15	98	McElhone, R. E.	10/6/15	280	Grant, E. R.	9/12/15	481	Simpson, D. J.	7/13/15	812	Frantz, S. R.	9/30/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Larson, E. D.	10/14/15
17	White, E. B.	8/4/15	98	Patterson, J. A.	5/12/15	291	Shaw, W. P.	8/7/15	488	O'Toole, L. P.	4/3/15	816	Gilliam, W. N.	9/18/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Leonard, G. A.	10/26/15
18	Furubotten, J. O.	10/10/15	98	Quinn, G. J.	12/27/14	292	Koppi, J. P.	9/6/15	494	Zuelzke, G. K.	8/22/15	816	Houser, E. T.	10/24/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Lindeman, D. E.	9/7/15
18	Larson, L. S.	7/7/15	102	Cavallo, J. S.	8/9/15	292	Lindberg, L. J.	9/3/15	499	LaSala, J. S.	9/19/15	852	Butler, W. J.	10/2/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Mastrangelo, A.	3/31/14
18	Miller, F. H.	6/9/15	102	Ginnelly, C. V.	9/20/15	292	Rudolph, S. J.	5/20/15	502	Splane, J. M.	9/4/15	852	Hardin, J. M.	9/15/15	Pens. (I.O.)	McWherter, A. H.	9/18/15
20	Gustin, W. B.	10/20/15	102	Pfister, H. W.	10/18/15	295	Allen, E. L.	9/19/15	502	Stewart, R. M.	10/8/15	861	Guidry, A. V.	7/15/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Olivier, D. H.	5/3/15
20	Studebaker, P. A.	10/18/15	103	Cain, D. F.	8/31/15	304	Hubert, A.	7/10/15	505	Copeland, R.	9/18/15	873	Edwards, B. G.	9/14/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Powell, L. R.	6/2/15
20	Wyatt, P. D.	7/14/15	103	Carpenter, R. W.	9/22/15	304	Johnson, A.	9/20/15	508	Altman, D. G.	1/13/15	876	LaBonte, S. J.	6/4/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Reid, A. J.	10/4/15
21	Moline, A. G.	9/10/15	103	Evans, D. J.	10/7/15	305	Dwight, W. N.	10/10/15	508	Walker, J. E.	9/22/15	876	Theaker, T.	9/19/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Renfroe, M. C.	7/10/15
23	Hanrahan, J. E.	9/18/15	103	Fairfield, D. A.	9/13/15	309	Fox, K. M.	9/29/15	518	Abrams, R.	10/1/15	910	Baughn, W. W.	9/23/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Sappington, R. D.	9/16/15
23	Jung, R. A.	9/29/15	103	Mitchell, J. F.	9/15/15	309	Heflin, D. D.	8/24/15	518	Smith, V. S.	9/5/15	934	Harmon, K. A.	10/19/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Sheppard, H. F.	4/19/15
24	Hill, R. E.	10/11/14	103	Nigro, A. R.	8/21/15	309	Weible, C. P.	9/27/15	530	Jay, H.	8/13/15	934	Taylor, J. A.	9/22/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Shoemake, J. W.	10/15/15
24	King, C. L.	3/27/15	103	Sullivan, C. M.	7/17/10	317	Fannin, J. C.	7/27/15	530	Jensen, E.	8/29/15	952	Bullock, B. E.	8/14/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Smith, S. E.	8/1/15
24	Tull, W. E.	10/22/15	104	Zylinski, T. P.	8/17/15	332	Brown, C. E.	9/16/15	532	Roswadowski, W. S.	9/12/15	952	Murrieta, G.	10/2/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Smith, J. R.	9/30/15
2																	



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**

# Making History in 2016



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

**125** years ago, 10 men—mainly linemen—gathered together in St. Louis. Their purpose: to found the first ever union of workers in the newly-emerging electrical industry.

There were those at the time who said it wouldn't work, who said that you could never organize electricians.

But more than a century later, our founders' vision of a brotherhood of electrical workers is now a reality for hundreds of thousands of working people—from Texas to the Yukon.

Our logo, first adopted back in 1891, can be seen on hardhats and pickup trucks on construction sites across two nations. Our members can be found everywhere—from call centers and TV studios to nuclear power plants and wind farms.

IBEW members serve in elected office—from the county level to Congress.

Those 10 men made history back in 1891. And in 2016, we will continue on their path.

While the tools and technology are different, the roadmap to success blazed by our founders remains the same.

This includes a total commitment to our craft and excellence on the job. That's exactly what the Code of Excellence is about and is why we will continue to promote it amongst all our branches and in all of our workplaces.

It means that organizing must be every member's job. 2015 was a good year on that front, but we have to redouble our efforts in order to replace the retiring baby-boom generation and grow our market share.

There are thousands of working people who are hungry for the good things we have. But unless our best ambassadors—our own members—are reaching out and talking with those workers about how the IBEW can change their workplace for the better, they will be lost to us.

One founding principle that is front and center this year is political action. When the IBEW was formed, there were no minimum wage or safety laws, nor were there any legal protections for collective bargaining.

We helped changed that, but increasingly, those gains are under threat from radicalized far-right politicians, who want to turn back the clock to 1891.

If we want to stop right-to-work, if we want to protect our basic rights to join and form a union, every member has to get involved in our grassroots political program. And not just after Labor Day, but now.

This September, we are going back to St. Louis for our 39th International Convention.

We're returning to our founding city not just to honor our history, but to make it. Whether you will be there or not, we all have a role to play in writing the next chapter of the IBEW's story. ■

## Giving It All We've Got

**S**ome jobs come easily. An owner has a project, a signatory contractor bids it when it comes around and calls the local hall for workers when they win.

Our jobs at the International Office, as business managers and even as construction electricians would be a lot easier if every job came through the door on a silver platter, but that isn't how it works.

For nearly 125 years, we have been organizing workers. Nearly three years ago, we launched the Business Development Program, now the Business Development Department, to organize the work systematically—targeting the early stages of projects long before requests for bids are put out.

It was a new idea for us and for organized labor and, when we launched it, we weren't perfectly sure what it would look like or how it would work best.

I think we are getting an idea.

Last November, the Illinois Commerce Commission approved the Grain Belt Express, a 750-mile, high voltage transmission line that will carry 4,000 megawatts of wind-generated power to major load centers in the Midwest and the East Coast, enough to power 720,000 homes.

I believe the IBEW was crucial to the approval of the project. IBEW members and retirees were at every meeting in every community along the line's route arguing for approval. Our Business Development international representatives communicated with local politicians and the line's owner, Clean Lines Energy. The IBEW's Media Department even shot, produced and ran an ad in Missouri and Illinois in the weeks before the vote.

There is still a ways to go before poles start going up, most importantly overturning Missouri's rejection of the plan, but the approval in Illinois is good news for two reasons. First, we are a step closer to a job that will put our members to work. And second, we are beginning to exercise our full power as a brotherhood, using every tool we have to win the work that isn't waltzing in our door. ■



**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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## “LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

### The IMF's Pro-Labor Message

The International Monetary Fund concluded in a recent study that unions reduce inequality and foster a healthier economy for everyone. As authors Florence Jau-motte and Carolina Osorio Buitron state, “the decline in union density has been strongly associated with the rise of top income inequality” and that “unioniza-tion matters for income distribution.”

Being a union electrician for over 55 years, I realize sometimes we forget what unions really accomplish. This study spells out in great detail what can really be accomplished when unionism is promoted. The study was done by the IMF, not usually a union booster. It is so important that we educate the public that the unions are not the problem in this country, as some people would believe. I hope we can let people know that we are the good guys.

*Mike Mraz, Local 38 member  
Cleveland*

### Higher Ed, the IBEW Way

I read the article “Respect Apprenticeship” by International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore J. Chilia in the September issue of The Electrical Worker. This is a pow-erful piece that gives specific facts about union apprenticeship. We need to be sending this kind of positive information into the media to counterattack the vilification against unions. We need to educate the public before unions become dinosaurs of the past.

*Rosalie Gald, wife of Local 100 retiree Merrill Gald  
Fresno, Calif.*



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

### Honoring our Founder

**In response to the Henry Miller Museum story in December's Electrical Worker:**

Henry Miller was the only union member that never worked on a union job. He died while he was out there organizing. Thank you, Henry, and the nine others that started this great Brotherhood.

*Russ McNally, Local 302 member  
Martinez, Calif.*

### A Debt of Gratitude

My father and grandfather were members of New York Local 3. My Dad grew up in the Bronx and the union kept him on the right path after he left the Army. I received a scholarship to help pay for college from Local 3. Through that and the work ethic passed on to me by my father, grandfather and the IBEW, I am now a partner in one of the fastest growing tech companies in the United States.

I owe a lot to Local 3, my father and grandfather.

*Marc Eigner  
Basking Ridge, N.J.*

### Time to Throw the GOP Out

The anti-prosperity Republican Party has been attacking workers' rights and how we support our families for too long. Send the Republican clown show down the road before we work for nothing.

*James Bradshaw, Local 480 member  
Jackson, Miss.*

## 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).

# In a First, Woman Member Elected to Maine AFL-CIO Helm

**C**ynthia Phinney worked as a hand sewer for 12 years in Maine's struggling shoe industry. She loved the work. She didn't like the way she and co-workers were treated while management sent jobs overseas. They fought back and got some concessions, but it was a difficult battle without union representation.

“After that, I specifically looked for a union job because I had learned a little bit about organizing while working at a non-union shop,” Phinney said.

A local utility hired her as a customer services representative and she later became a meter reader, joining Manchester, Maine, Local 1837 in 1991. She's left quite a mark on labor in the Pine Tree State ever since, culminating with her election as the first woman president of the Maine AFL-CIO during its convention in October. The federation represents 160 unions and more than 40,000 workers.

“She is just a tremendously balanced, smart, caring person,” said Matthew Beck, Local 1837 organizer and business representative. “I think everyone is excited that we've elected the first woman, but I think they're more excited we elected Cynthia. She is so well-known and loved by the Maine labor community.”

Phinney was hired as Local 1837's first full-time organizer in 1998 and served as business manager from 2004-10. She had been a meter installer and reader for Central Maine Power since leaving office before retiring in December to begin her four-year term as president.

She said she doesn't think gender played a role in her election, but it is a positive for Maine's unions going forward. A woman previously was appointed to the position after a president resigned, but Phinney is the first to be elected by the delegates.

“One of the things we know is that in all of the labor movement, our real strength is in our numbers and solidarity,” she said. “The more diverse our leadership and activists are, the richer we are. That fact that I as a woman can get elected is a good thing.”

Local 1837 Business Manager Dick Rogers was one of her most ardent supporters—even though Rogers defeated her in the 2010 election that put him in his current position. He said Phinney wasn't bitter in defeat, noting she went out of her way to introduce him to all companies with which Local 1837 does business.

Rogers said Phinney's organizing skills and passion for the labor movement made her a perfect fit for the job.

“It's what she should be doing,” he said. “We supported her in every way.”

Phinney has served on Maine's Citi-



*Former Manchester, Maine, Local 1837 member Cynthia Phinney speaks at the Maine Fair Trade Campaign annual meeting in 2015.*

zen Trade Policy Commission, a state government entity that examines the impact of trade agreements. In 2008, she was the recipient of the Solidarity Award, presented by the 6,000-member Eastern Maine Labor Council.

She also has received the Paul A. Loughran Memorial Award, which is given to a business manager who has shown outstanding leadership in the Second District. Loughran, who died in 2002, was a journeyman wireman and beloved IBEW leader in New England who served as the Second District's international vice president in the '90s.

Beck got to know Phinney when he was the shop steward at television station WGME in Portland, Maine, and led several job actions during contract negotiations with owner Sinclair Broadcast Group.

“She's one of the most ethical and dedicated trade unionists that I've ever known,” Beck said. “She has a tremen-

dously balanced world view, not just about union members, but workers in general.”

Phinney has had an adventurous spirit and a fondness for work her entire life. She grew up near Milwaukee, but moved to New England to study French at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, in the northern part of the state along the Canadian border. It's in the heart of Acadian culture and many people in the area speak French.

She loved the experience, but realized she wanted to work with her hands and didn't finish her degree. She now lives in Livermore Falls with her husband, Paul Wilson.

“The union movement is the best way, and maybe the only way, that workers can be effective in the impact they have on the economy,” she said. “Our well-being is set up by how well the economy is working and right now, it is set up to benefit a few. I want to help change that.” ■

## IBEW MERCHANDISE



### Black Logo Watch \$100.00

Men's black ion plated stainless steel watch with silver IBEW logo on face. Features ion plated stainless steel band with safety latch and water resistant housing.

### IBEW Logo Belt Buckle \$10.00

2" x 3" Bronze buckle with raised IBEW logo, U.S. and Canadian flags.

### Ladies Comfortek Polo Shirt \$24.00

100% polyester, black moisture management polo shirt with IBEW initials, fist and lightning bolts. Wicks moisture away from the body by using rapid dry interlock fabric.

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

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# IBEW-Backed Candidate Wins Louisiana Governor's Race; Member Named Chief of Staff

State Rep. John Bel Edwards won the Louisiana governor's race walking away. The IBEW-backed Edwards was an unknown from rural Tangipahoa Parish when he declared his candidacy. After the votes were counted Nov. 21 he had beaten U.S. Sen. David Vitter by 13 points.



State Rep. Ben Nevers, an IBEW member, is Edwards' chief of staff.

Edwards is the first Democrat to win statewide office in Louisiana since 2008. The day after his victory, Edwards named State Rep. Ben Nevers—a 50-year IBEW member and past business manager of Bogalusa Local 1077—as his chief of staff.

"This is an extremely big step," said Fifth District International Vice President Joseph Davis. "We were on board with Gov.-Elect Edwards from before he announced because he has always been a friend to the IBEW and working people. He did nothing less than change the conversation about unions in Louisiana and possibly the South."

Edwards is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and he served in the U.S. Army as an airborne Ranger, culminating with command of a rifle company in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He is pro-life, a hunter and has an A+ rating from the National Rifle Association.

Vitter, on the other hand, was plagued by his involvement in a prostitution scandal in 2007 and the unpopularity of Gov. Bobby Jindal, who was termed out.

Jindal leaves office with the state in freefall, facing a \$500 million budget shortfall this year, and that gap is expected to balloon to \$1 billion next year. Jindal exacerbated the fiscal crisis by refusing to raise taxes and pushing through tax cuts and corporate tax giveaways that shrank government revenues just as Katrina aid money was ending and low oil prices dropped the bottom out from beneath the state's oil industry.

Edwards at times looked to be running against Vitter and Jindal. In many of his speeches he pledged: "I will be honest with you. I will never embarrass you."

The honest remark seemed targeted at Jindal. No embarrassment was a direct hit against Vitter.

"It was great to have a candidate we didn't have to make excuses for," said Jason Dedon, political director for Baton Rouge Local 995. "We live in a state that down the line is doing what conservatives want, but we are worse off. People may have believed that there needed to be a

change, but weren't comfortable with the people bringing that message. Edwards suggests a way forward."

IBEW Political Director Ann Miller said that it was difficult to say which was more effective, the message, or the messenger.

"[Edwards] is rock solid and people responded to that, but he was also out front about being a union candidate," Miller said. "It sends a great message for 2016 that with right candidate and right message, working families can win and elect champions."

A prime example of Edwards as champion, Dedon said, was his response to a hallmark of the Jindal governorship: blaming teachers.

"Jindal vilified teachers. If we had a truancy problem, it was teachers. Not enough kids going to college: teachers. If the state was in debt, it was the union teachers and Democrats were either silent or piled on," Dedon said.

But not Edwards.

"He just stood in front of the room and



Louisiana Gov.-elect John Bel Edwards is a vocal supporter of organized labor in a state with one of the lowest union densities.

said everyone had teachers that inspired them and changed their lives. Everyone thought of their Miss so-and-so and you could see it go through the crowd. The problem is not teachers, he said, it's giving mon-

ey away to huge corporations," Dedon said. "He made it personal. He made it look easy—and I think that can be replicated."

Davis said he sees signs that the message is growing across the South.

"The locals in Louisiana decided to commit a lot of time and money to show that unions aren't a bunch of thugs with cigars. We are little league coaches, we're a part of the community," Davis said. "We see real hope in Edwards' message and we have high hopes for the Florida Senate race and statewide elections in Georgia next year."

Dedon said the IBEW's highest priorities for Louisiana are moving a bill that would establish a state license for electricians and repealing a law that outlawed project labor agreements whenever any state money was used to fund construction. Edwards, and Nevers, supported both ideas in the state Legislature.

"If he has a successful run—and it won't be too hard to see success given how awful Jindal was—we will have a good message and record to go with it. In two years we will have some people we can run in the Legislature that will support his ideas and agenda because he proved that it was safe for candidates who believe like he does," Dedon said. "I am hoping that this changes everything." ■

## IBEW Sues EPA to Stop Clean Power Plan

The IBEW has filed suit to prevent the implementation of new federal regulations on power plants. The IBEW petition joins the 27 states, several utilities and two other labor unions that are already challenging the regulation.

The Clean Power Plan regulations went into effect Oct. 23 and, for the first time, the Environmental Protection Agency will require states to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from existing power plants. The final version of the rule would reduce national electricity sector emissions by an estimated 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The petition for review was filed Nov. 5 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and has already been combined with other challenges to the regulation, said Eugene Trisko, the lawyer representing the IBEW in the case.

"The EPA is creating energy policy and they have neither the expertise nor the legal authority to do it," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "We worked with the EPA for years to address greenhouse gas emissions with a plan that is both effective and legal. Unfortunately, we don't believe this regulation is either."

Stephenson said implementing this rule as written would be a disaster for working men and women and would disrupt the engine of our economy, a reliable power grid.

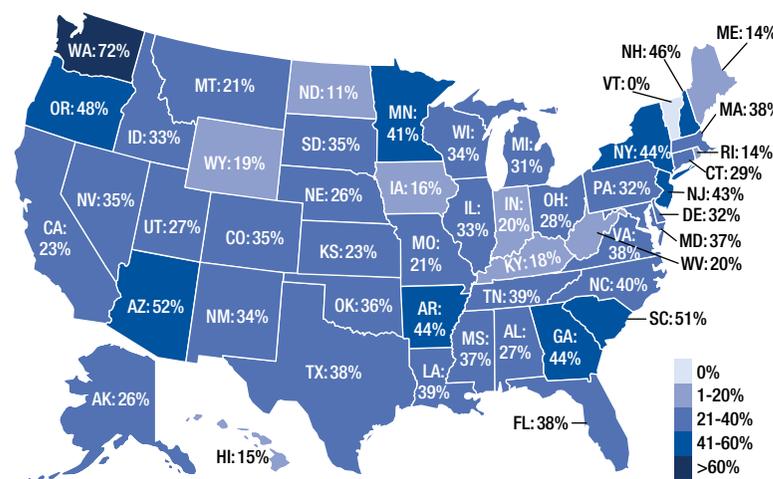
"Human-caused climate change is real, and a real threat, but focusing on power generation in isolation—leaving out industry, agriculture and transportation—ignores three-quarters of the problem," Stephenson said. "Everyone will benefit from an effective response so everyone should share in the cost."

Instead of simply requiring plants to increase efficiency using available technology, the target of nearly 40 percent reduction in emissions from coal plants would require shutting down production and, presumably, replacing it with natural gas, wind and solar generation that, in many cases, does not exist.

"There is no economically feasible technology outside of a lab that would cut

### CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Rate Reduction Targets

State targets range from 215-1,783 lb-CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh



Under the CPP, every state has a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target that varies based on total output and an EPA determination of how much they could increase efficiency. Source: EPA

emissions nearly 40 percent," said Utility Department Director Jim Hunter. "Ordering plants to shut down was a power never envisioned by the authors of the Clean Air Act and it has never been allowed by a court."

Fundamentally, Hunter said, the EPA is trying to solve a problem well beyond its scope.

"I don't question the goodwill of the EPA, just their authority to make this rule. I have been saying for years, this is a problem that only Congress can solve and they are just not doing their job," said Hunter, who testified before Congress twice and met with EPA officials more than a dozen times during the writing of the Clean Power Plan.

Any plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Hunter said, will have to be economy-wide and include all the uses of energy from leaf blowers to manufacturing, cars and trucks, agriculture, building efficiency as well as power generation.

"This rule puts all the responsibility on the back of one industry and the work-

ing men and women who are employed there," Hunter said.

The great risk, Stephenson said, is that if this regulation is enforced as written, it would shutter thousands more megawatts of reliable energy generation without any way of guaranteeing it would be replaced. More than 200 coal-fired power plants have already shut down in the last five years.

"Without that base load, it isn't just lights, air conditioning, and computers that stop working. Without reliable electricity, our economy simply stops," he said. "It won't work, it isn't fair, and we don't think it is legal."

Lawyers involved in the litigation expect the case to be heard and decided by the D.C. Court of Appeals in 2016. Ultimately, Trisko said there is a good chance the case will go to the Supreme Court with a decision by 2017 or early 2018.

"If the regulation is vacated and remanded to the EPA, the Obama Administration will be long over and it will be the next administration that will determine what should be done next," Trisko said. ■