

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## The Voices of an Icon: Worker Stories from the Golden Gate Bridge



Harvey Schwartz's new book captures the voices of the men who built the Golden Gate Bridge, including IBEW member Fred Brusati, pictured at right.

Bridge photo credit: Wikimedia Commons. Brusati photo courtesy of Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University.

“One day I heard they were going to start the Golden Gate Bridge, and I says well, I’ll try it. I never been up 746 feet but I’ll try it anyhow.”

That’s what IBEW member Fred Brusati told interviewer and historian Harvey Schwartz as part of an oral history project that is now a book by Schwartz titled “Building the Golden Gate Bridge: A Workers’ Oral History.”

Much has been written about the Golden Gate Bridge, but much less has been said of the men — women were nonexistent on the project — who toiled hundreds of feet in the air over the Pacific Ocean, dealing with massive fluctuations in weather conditions, as well as the dangers that came with construction in the 1930s — long before safety laws or OSHA. Now however, some of that record has been amended.

“Our brothers worked under perilous conditions to give us a beautiful structure that is still around today — that we still work on — and it is recognized the world over,” said Ninth District Vice Pres-



ident John O’Rourke. “They deserve to have their voices heard.”

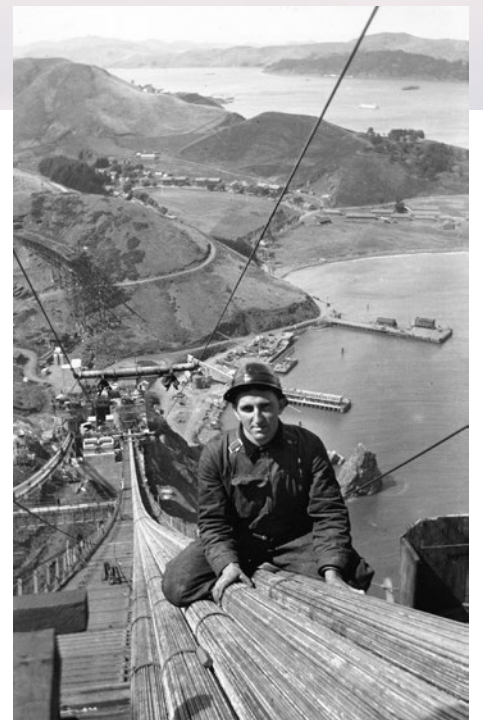
Brusati, then 76, and others who worked on the bridge sat down for interviews as part of an oral history project by the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University. The interviews were conducted in 1987 and coincided with the 50th anniversary of the bridge’s completion.

Readers will hear the voices of immigrants, laborers, boxers and cowboys, as well as two of the nurses who cared for them when they were injured. Schwartz ends the book with two interviews with people currently working on the bridge.

“He captured those people, the way they talk. It was like being at work,” said San Francisco Local 6 member Allan Smorra, a retired Golden Gate Bridge employee. “Those are my people.”

### A Depression Era Project

Construction ran from 1933 to 1937, during the Great Depression when jobs were scarce. Without any state or federal funding, it would become the first suspen-



sion bridge built with a tower in the open ocean, said KQED, a public radio and television station, in a story for the 75th anniversary. At its time, it was also the longest suspension bridge in the world with a length of 4,200 feet. The price tag was estimated at \$35 million.

The bridge, one of the most recognizable in the world, spans the mile-wide Golden Gate Strait and connects San Francisco with Marin County to the north. It sits 220 feet above the water with towers reaching nearly 750 feet. Its original combined weight totaled 894,500 tons, which included approximately 600,000 rivets in each tower.

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE *continued on page 2*



## 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 IBEW website to get union news and other information, and to read *The Electrical Worker* online!

### YouTube

Take flight this month with Martinez, Calif., Local 302 wireman Steve Diethelm. In his spare time, Steve volunteers as a crew chief for the civilian aerobatics Patriots Jet Team, who perform at air shows across the West. [bit.ly/FlyingWireman](http://bit.ly/FlyingWireman)

### Vimeo

When a 7.0 earthquake struck near Port-au-



Prince, Haiti, in 2010, it flattened the National School of Arts and Trades. Thanks to the IBEW and others, the school is back online and training Haiti's next generation of electricians. [bit.ly/IBEW\\_Haiti](http://bit.ly/IBEW_Haiti)

### HourPower

To keep up with Silicon Valley's booming growth, Northern California locals teamed up to build a state-of-the-art sound and communications JATC. [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com)



### ElectricTV

The latest edition of ETV witnessed history in Knoxville, Tenn. For the first time in 20 years, a NECA/IBEW team is building a residential project in the region. See for yourself on [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net).



Continued from page 1

## The Voices of an Icon: Worker Stories from the Golden Gate Bridge



Brusati and the others knew it was dangerous, but they needed the work — and they knew how coveted those perilous jobs were. Out-of-work men routinely lined the site, waiting for someone to quit or fall. “I’m ... happy I had a job at that time because a lot of men weren’t working,” Brusati said. “Younger people nowadays can’t realize what a real depression is like. You didn’t have welfare or anything. It was really tough.”

The project was almost completely union so wages were generous, especially considering the economy, with a range of \$4 to \$11 per day, or \$45 to \$125 per day in 2004 dollars, said PBS in a feature story.

Brusati said he worked on the bridge as a member of Local 614 in Marin County (a Philadelphia local now holds the charter), just north of San Francisco. At the time, the local had only a handful of members. Later, during World War II, it would amalgamate briefly with San Francisco Local 6, then with Santa Rosa Local 551. Brusati said he was still a member of Local 551 when he spoke with Schwartz.

“In late 1934 though, I was happy to get into Local 614. When I was at Hamilton Air Force Base around 1932, ’33, the unions weren’t very strong. Work was very scarce then too. But when we got on the bridge, you’d almost have to belong. You heard through the grapevine that a project like that was bound to be union. That’s when I decided, well I better join.”

Brusati also noted the union benefits of seniority and being on the book, something that was not as common in the 1930s. “Today [1987] in our union, IBEW Local 551, you have to go on the book, and whenever your turn comes up, they hire you. That was done so older members would get a chance to go to work. ... Being on the book gives everybody a chance.”

A common theme in the interviews was the widely vacillating temperatures and weather conditions.

The Bay area is home to a number of microclimates that produce notoriously wide variations in temperature, winds and fog. So for the men working literally over the ocean, hundreds of feet in the air, wild weather was inevitable.

*Opened in 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge has always been built and maintained by union work, including IBEW members like Local 6 member Gregg Montaranao, pictured.*

Color photos courtesy of Allan Smorra. Construction photo, bottom right, courtesy of Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District.



Sometimes the men would stuff newspapers in their coats for extra warmth.

“What bothered me most about the job was that in San Rafael [about 12 miles north of San Francisco] it would be 70 or 80 degrees and sometimes on the bridge it was real cold ... Then sometimes when it was clear it was hotter than blazes up on top. You’d get down to the bottom and you’d be almost freezing,” Brusati said.

Working so high up — a feat accomplished by riding in a tiny, rickety elevator — also meant that getting down took a long time, and lunch hours were 30 minutes. So they worked with what they had.

“Sometimes at lunchtime we would get a thousand-watt lamp and bring a little wire out there. A switch could go on and then we’d cook hot dogs. You put the wires in each end,” Brusati said. “I think the electricians figured that out on the bridge.”

### Halfway to Hell Club

In the days of the bridge construction, a good safety record was measured as one death per \$1 million, wrote Schwartz. By this standard the Golden Gate Bridge was safe, especially when compared to the Bay Bridge, which was being built at the same time. Long before OSHA was established in 1971, the Golden Gate project mandated safety equipment rarely used then but now considered commonplace, like hard hats and safety nets.

“If you were caught on the catwalks without a hard hat on or without your safety belt on, they’d fire you,” Brusati said.

The hats were made by the E.D. Bullard Co., which had previously made hats for mining work. Those worn by Brusati and the others were designed specifically for the bridge work.



The safety net cost \$130,000, not a small sum in the 1930s. But it saved lives. Nineteen to be exact, who referred to themselves as the “Halfway to Hell Club” for the injuries suffered despite surviving the fall.

Not all lives could be saved. Eleven people died during construction, with 10 perishing on one fateful day, three months before completion. On Feb. 17, 1937, a platform broke from the bridge and tore the safety net, sweeping 10 men into the icy ocean water below. Brusati was there. He and a few others were able to save one man who had managed to hang on to a piece of steel.

“Me and three or four other men lowered a rope down and pulled him up. The man had a pipe in his mouth! He didn’t drop the pipe or nothing. He just started walking toward San Francisco. I never did see him back there again,” Brusati said.

### Keeping the Lights On

In his interview, Brusati remembered one day when everyone was sent home except the electricians.

“One extra cold morning we went to work and heck, all the water lines were frozen. They sent everyone home but the electricians because we were more or less the firemen on the bridge in case of a fire.”

A lot has changed over the near 80 years since the bridge was completed, but some things remain the same, like IBEW members being central to its operation.

“We’re one of the few who work on the bridge 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” O’Rourke said.

Local 6 has maintained the bridge since it was built. Today it’s a crew of eight who work in rotating shifts. Two of the eight actually come from a neighboring local in Dublin, Local 595. They are





*While much has changed since its construction, working on the bridge is still not for the faint of heart. Local 6 member Pat Kelly, pictured in the bottom photo, replaces a sodium light in a sidewalk fixture at one of the towers.*

Kelly photo courtesy of Allan Smorra. Top photo courtesy of Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District.

responsible for maintaining the toll collection system as well as the cameras, lights and other electrical aspects of the bridge and security system. They are also there in case the power goes out.

"We keep the bridge running," said Golden Gate Bridge Foreman Jim McKnight, a Local 6 member. "We maintain everything electrical on the bridge, including the offices."

Local 6 members are in the process of converting the roadway lights, replacing the old ones with an inductive light that is more energy efficient and requires less maintenance.

Local 6 built the server racks that power the computer and data systems. Members also put the security system on a fiber network and built the raceways that provide the power, things unheard of in Brusati's day.

"If you had told me 20 years ago that I'd be working on computers on the bridge, I'd say you've got the wrong job," McKnight said.

One thing that hasn't changed is the weather.

"It gets so cold your hands freeze," McKnight said. "The rule is, never go on the bridge without a jacket."

Also, the height. At 746 feet, the towers are not for the faint of heart.

"People that don't like heights, well, they can't do it. Day two, they make you walk the cable [36 inches in diameter with a 12-inch, nonskid strip down the middle]. Basically, if you can't walk the cable, then there's no day three," said Local 6 member Gregg Montarano in a video produced by the IBEW in 2011.

"When we change a lightbulb, it's a major operation," said Smorra, a 15-year veteran of the bridge.

The height and location of the bridge also cause it, a near 900,000-ton structure, to move.

"You'd think it's so big it doesn't move, but actually it's so big it has to move," Smorra said.

On a hot summer day, the bridge gets longer. And it gets shorter in the winter and at night when it's colder. Smorra says that in the course of a day the bridge can rise five feet and drop 11.

"It feels alive," Smorra said. "On a breezy day, there's a hum, an aura."

One day while changing a lamp, Smorra said the cable he was standing on started to vibrate. At that point, he was probably 700 feet above the water, and 400 feet above the road. The vibrations, he learned, were caused by a lumber truck down below. When heavy trucks cross the bridge they can hit the expansion joints, throwing a longitudinal wave that causes the movement.

"It's like grabbing a sheet and fluffing it," Smorra said.

Another thing that has remained since the early days are the log books, which detail use of the fog lights, still operated manually, as well as traffic accidents and damaged equipment. The books also note less mundane occurrences, like attempted suicides.

Most people who visit the bridge do

so to get from point A to point B, or to marvel at the beauty and structure. Some, however, go for more dire reasons. Since its opening, an estimated 1,600-2,100 people have jumped to their deaths, said SFist, a local publication.

"We're all looking for someone in trouble," McKnight said. "It's not an official part of our job, but if we see someone who looks despondent, someone who is staring over the rails just hanging around, we'll try to talk to them."

When it does happen, McKnight or whoever is on shift calls the sergeant's office. Everyone carries radios, and hotline phones and cameras are located along the bridge.

One night McKnight saw someone, staring out into the Pacific, standing alone.

"I just talked to him and said, 'You look pretty cold, why don't you come in and we'll get some coffee.' Fortunately he did. He didn't stay for the coffee, but I was able to get him down and off the bridge."

SFist reported that funding for a safety net has been approved by the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District and is expected to be in use by 2019.

## Built by Labor

"One thing I'll say is that the bridge was special because earlier nearly everybody said that it couldn't be built," said Brusati, who died in 1989 at the age of 78. "So after it all got built I said, 'I guess everybody who figured this couldn't be built must have been wrong. It's all finished now and it's going to stay up.'"

Stay up it has, thanks to the labor of electricians, ironworkers, painters, plumbers, operating engineers and other trades. And they've always had representation.

"It's always been a union contract," McKnight said.

Perhaps not unlike the improbability of building a massive suspension bridge in the world's largest ocean, it's a remarkable feat that the bridge was built by union labor when it was. When construction began in 1933, the Norris-La Guardia Act was only a year old. The act allowed for freedom of association and organization, but didn't offer much federal protection for union organizing.

The National Labor Relations Act, or the Wagner Act, became law in 1935, two years into bridge construction. It came on the heels of a strike wave in 1933 and 1934 and encouraged collective bargaining as well as guaranteeing certain employee rights. It also created the National Labor Relations Board.

The epilogue to the Schwartz book contains a quote from historian and author Kevin Starr, "An army cannot consist of officers alone, however talented; and a great bridge — while it owes so much to its designers and construction supervisors — owes an equal, if not superior, debt of gratitude to the workers who built it." ■

# The High Court Vacancy: What it Means for Working Families

**T**he death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on Feb. 13 could have far-reaching consequences on several pending cases important to working people.

Most notably, the sudden vacancy on the high court looks likely to put an end — at least for now — to a serious challenge to fair-share fee collection brought by a group of anti-union California teachers in January.

The case, *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, threatened to make all public employees in the U.S. — including roughly 30,000 IBEW members — right-to-work. After oral arguments on Jan. 11, most legal observers predicted the court would rule 5-4 against unions thanks to particularly pointed questioning from Scalia himself.

The court is now likely split 4-4 on the *Friedrichs* case, rendering it unable to overturn decades of precedent that have long held that unions could compel fair share fees from non-members who benefit from the union's collective bargaining and grievance adjudication services.

Ironically, the anti-union lawyers bear some responsibility for their predicament. In their attempt to fast-track the case to the Supreme Court, the attorneys pursued the risky legal strategy of arguing against themselves in lower courts so that they could speed up the appeals process.

In the event of a tie, the Supreme Court simply affirms the lower court's ruling, which in this case was a verdict in favor of the teachers' union rendered by the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in November 2014.

Chief Justice John Roberts retains the right to hold the case over to be re-argued once a new justice has been nominated and confirmed, but he has not yet indicated how he plans to proceed. At present, Senate Republicans, including Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Judiciary Committee chairman Chuck Grassley, have vowed that they will not allow a replacement nominated by President Obama through the confirmation process during his last year in office, potentially delaying any significant court action until 2017.

Obama has promised he will name a successor to Scalia, however, and the battle is setting up to shape the politics of much of the next year.

But while the court's gridlock works in labor's favor on the *Friedrichs* case, that is not the situation on every issue before the remaining eight justices.

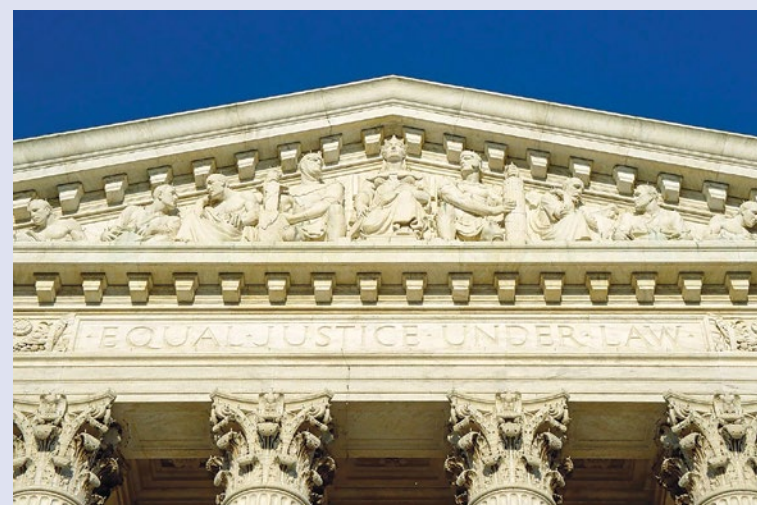
On Feb. 9, the court issued a temporary stay on implementation of Obama's Clean Power Plan, a victory for the IBEW and the 29 states and dozens of industry groups also party to a lawsuit against the EPA.

The delay of the June 2016 deadline for states to submit initial carbon reduction plans to the EPA was put on hold by the court's conservative majority until the matter is decided by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. The stay appeared to observers to indicate an unease among the court's conservative majority with the president's plan, which could have benefited the IBEW and others suing for the regulations to be overturned.

With the D.C. Circuit expected to rule in the fall, a tie vote on the Supreme Court could make the lower court's opinion the final say for now.

"All of this uncertainty just makes this election cycle even more important," said IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "If anyone thinks *Friedrichs* was the last challenge to unions that will come before the Supreme Court in the coming years, they're sorely mistaken.

"The makeup of the nation's highest court is extremely important," he said, "and it's up to us to make sure we elect men and women who will put allies of working people on the bench." ■



*Many cases before the Supreme Court are now locked in a 4-4 tie thanks to Justice Scalia's death in February.*

Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Flickr user yeowatzip.



## ROÅFTOP SÖLARVIK

## The St. Louis Swedish Solar Super Roof

**F**our miles due west of the St. Louis Arch is a big box store unlike any other in the state of Missouri.

Most big box stores are cookie cutter jobs. A vast indoor space is sandwiched between a concrete slab and a metal truss roof and surrounded by three concrete and one partially glass wall. Electrical work is straightforward, heavy on industrial lighting and easily handled by a handful of electricians over a few months.

"We typically bang out a Target with six members in six months," said St. Louis Local 1 Business Agent Tim Murray. "It isn't as simple as following directions with cartoons on it, but they are familiar jobs using routine skills."

But the new St. Louis Ikea is a showcase of the commercial electrician's art. It took seven signatory contractors nearly a year-and-a-half to build the temple to veneered plywood and Allen wrenches. The Swedish behemoth wraps dozens of life-sized dioramas of modern life, like scenes from the natural history museums, inside its blue and yellow walls. Then there is the towering warehouse, the lingonberry-and-meatball-scented restaurant, and high over the heads of the browsing masses, members of St. Louis Local 1 built one of the largest solar power generating stations in the state and by far the largest built on a commercial rooftop.

St. Louis is part of Ikea's corporate goal to be energy "independent" by 2020. This is the 42nd solar project for Ikea in the U.S. with many done by IBEW members. Solar panels are in place at nearly 90 percent of its U.S. locations. Ikea has installed more than 700,000 solar panels across the world and, an Ikea spokesman said, owns approximately 157 wind turbines in Europe and Canada, with 104 more being built in the U.S.

"This project was a microcosm of everything we know about commercial retail construction, especially solar," said Murray of the 1.3 megawatt, 260,000-square-foot solar array that will produce 1.8 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually for the store, the equivalent to reducing 1,227 tons of carbon dioxide.

And that was less than 20 percent of the total man-hours on the project.

"We normally finish large retail projects with a half-dozen workers in six months. We had double that for twice as long because of the complexity," said Local 1 member and project foreman Chris Thomson. "I am proud to say doors still opened as planned on time and on budget despite enormous challenges."

For the Ikea project, Aschinger Electric had 15 members working full out for five months, 20 at the peak.

Solar power is not a big business in Missouri yet, Murray said, and most jobs that do come up are for two or three wiremen for about a fortnight.

"We are the most experienced solar installer in St. Louis and this blew everything we've ever done out of the water," Thomson said.

Aschinger, one of the largest wom-

an-owned contractors in the state, also exceeded workforce diversity standards. Any construction project using city funds or receiving city benefits (in this case incentives) requires 25 percent of the workforce come from historically underrepresented communities, 20 percent must be local hires and 5 percent women.

"We had to meet some pretty aggressive numbers and we creamed them. Knocked them out of the park," Murray said. "We doubled the women, and far exceeded local hires."

Possibly the biggest challenge was installing a system from a manufacturer that Aschinger had never used before, designed for a roof that ended up looking nothing like the drawings that had been used to order it.

"The general contractor had no experience with solar installs," Thomson said. "There were substantial changes to the original design that affected 95 percent of the modules. This was no cookie cutter job."

Skylights were turned 90 degrees out of orientation. Two-foot high expansion joints were not marked on the plans. And unlike most of the solar rack-and-



*The largest commercial rooftop solar installation in Missouri was installed by members of St. Louis Local 1. Mike Seger, left, is project manager for Aschinger Electric, with Local 1 member and project foreman, Chris Thomson.*

tioned. Then wires were laid out for the individual panel and inverters — known as modules — before the panels were brought up and bolted into place.

"The big advantage is you can get everything in place without crawling around on the ground and make corrections before everything is locked into place," Thomson said.

But the system they were installing required every rack and module to be completed before moving onto the next, and each one connected and electrically balanced with the others. Only two of the 30 went in as they were designed on the plans.

"As we reconfigured everything, we had to recircuit the whole system without under or overloading it, and because each module was connected to about 11 others, there was no way of going back to fix it if there were any mistakes," Thomson said. "That requires a brain and an experienced one."

Despite the challenges, or more likely because of them, Thomson said the install crew was especially proud of the finished product, delivered on time and on budget.

"This shows the value of using the best trained electricians in the world," he said. "From the construction wireman to the apprentices to the journeymen there was nothing we didn't handle in stride." ■

## IBEW Calls on Congress to Pass Amtrak Budget

**A**mttrak CEO Joseph Boardman presented a \$1.8 billion budget request to Congress Feb. 12 with increases for tracks, bridges, engines and passenger cars.

IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohne called for swift approval.

"Amtrak ridership was over 30 million for the fifth year in a row and set a record in the Northeast corridor, but Congress has not responded to that increased use with increased investment," Bohne said. "We are on borrowed time already, so Congress should get this done quickly."

The approximately 1,200 IBEW members at Amtrak maintain existing engines, passenger cars, communication systems, and overhead wiring, keeping the railroad safe and efficient. But as it ages and reaches capacity, inevitably delays and costs will rise. It is a recipe for a loss of ridership and greater economic pressure.

Amtrak has made significant investment to meet the 2015 mandate for positive train control on the Northeast corridor. Thanks to the hard work of IBEW and other union railroad members, from north of Boston to Richmond, Va., Amtrak workers and passengers are protected by this automated safety system.

But the investment in PTC came at a cost. The most commonly used cars in the system are nearly 40 years old, and the newest engines, for the Acela service, came online when Bill Clinton was president.

"I ride those cars every day," Bohne said. "They are still clean and comfortable, but



*The IBEW called for quick passage of Amtrak's \$1.8 billion budget request for 2017. Amtrak carries the most passengers between Boston and Washington, D.C., but serves cities in 46 states, including The Cardinal which runs from the East Coast to Chicago.*

they are taking more work, and more costly work, to keep them that way."

The bigger worry, Bohne said, is not the rolling stock, it is the infrastructure.

In the budget request letter sent to Vice President Joseph Biden and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Boardman wrote, "The [Northeast corridor trains] carry a significant portion of the traffic into and out of Northeastern metropolises, but deferred investments threaten current performance and severe capacity constraints limit the potential for future growth."

The biggest concerns are the nearly 500 bridges in the Northeast corridor system approaching, or already past, their 100th year of service.

"That is our biggest worry," Bohne said. "Amtrak gets hamstrung by underfunding, hurting timeliness, hurting the bottom line, and then Congress starts blaming the working people for making a decent wage."

In March 2015, transportation economist Frank Wilner wrote that simply modernizing the 450-mile Northeast rail infrastructure would cost \$20 billion. Upgrading to the high-speed rail now common in Asia and Europe would cost \$120 billion.

And that would not touch the problems in the rest of Amtrak's intercity passenger network, which is spread over 21,000 track miles in 46 states, with 520 stations.

"Obviously a \$1.8 billion dollar budget request won't get us where we need to be, but it would be a nice change if Amtrak wasn't a political football," Bohne said. "It would give some solidity." ■



# Excellence in the Spotlight at New York Manufacturing Plant

**C**hristian Serrano has done his job well for nearly two decades at an Eaton Cooper Lighting plant in Hicksville, N.Y. Now, a distinctive black-and-white label tells customers that he and his co-workers are working at an elite level.

"It's like putting on a bow tie to go with my suit," said Serrano, who has worked at the Long Island facility for 18 years and is a shop steward for New York Local 3.

Eaton is the first manufacturing company to attach an IBEW Code of Excellence sticker to its products. The program is a partnership with Local 3, which has 45 members working at the Hicksville facility, and reflects the IBEW's commitment to the code in its manufacturing branch, which has lost thousands of jobs in recent years due to an increase in overseas outsourcing.

"With the Code of Excellence, we're trying to provide the best workers that the employer can have," said Scott Zillig, an international representative in the manufacturing department. "We know what they want, so we want to give it to them."

Serrano said that's a point of pride for himself and other IBEW members, who assemble lighting fixtures for the electrical industry.

"I'm proud to say I'm the first steward with the program," said Serrano, who works as a shipping clerk and backup truck driver. "I always use it with my guys. I tell them, 'Remember when we talked about the Code of Excellence? Let's try to keep it sharp around here.' I think it helps us."

The IBEW rolled out the Code of Excellence on a national level in the construction branch in 2007 and it's received positive reviews from members and signatory contractors ever since. A modified version for the manufacturing sector was formed during a series of meetings in 2013 between international representatives and members from all 11 districts, Zillig said.

The code reminds members that craftsmanship and professionalism are the foundation of the IBEW. Expectations listed include arriving at a job site ready to work and on time; doing the work safely; respecting the employer's rules and property; working a full eight-hour day and limiting breaks to allotted periods; showing zero tolerance for drug and alcohol abuse; and refusing to engage in activities that reflect poorly on the IBEW or that extend a job in order to get overtime.

"This is a first-of-its-kind label," Zillig said. "We're hoping to make many more of them."

Union-made labels have appeared on products for decades, but this label is intended to mean something more.

It is set on a black background with white lettering. The stickers placed on boxes exiting the Eaton facility are egg-shaped with the company name across the top, IBEW across the bottom and the words "Partners in Quality" in black lettering across a white strip. "Union Made in Hicksville, N.Y." and "Manufactured in a

Code of Excellence Facility" also are on it.

"The brothers and sisters of the IBEW manufacture the best products in the world," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "We know this, but it's critical to make sure everyone else knows it as well. Simply put, our future depends on it."

In 1970, the IBEW represented about 360,000 manufacturing-sector employees. It had slipped to 145,000 in 1990. Today, it's around 40,000 — an 87 percent drop during the last 45 years.

"In today's global marketplace, consumers and businesses have so many choices," Stephenson said. "We need everyone to know the IBEW is the right choice and that we are the right investment for the future."

Local 3 Business Representative Anthony Esponda negotiated the agreement with Eaton. He said he's tired of having to ask companies to put language in contracts to aid workers in the event of an overseas move. He would rather find a way to promote strong jobs here. The

label is a great way to do that, Esponda said.

"It can be a point of pride for us and something that other electrical contractors should be asking for when they buy their products," he said.

Esponda said Eaton officials were enthusiastic about entering into the partnership. He conducted a three-day training session with Local 3 members at the plant last year.

"It's been very well received and our members love it," he said. "It shows the pride they have at a Code of Excellence facility. The company loves it. It shows the partnership with the IBEW."

"If we keep doing the same thing over and over, that's the definition of insanity," Esponda said. "This is a no-brainer. This is a key to stemming what has gone on the last 10-15 years."

Esponda and Zillig said they are



*New York Local 3 members display certificates, following their Code of Excellence training at the Eaton Cooper Lighting plant on Long Island. Above, the label on products as they leave the Eaton plant in Hicksville, N.Y.*

talking with other companies about setting up a similar program with the IBEW. More agreements are expected to be announced in the future.

Serrano likes the recognition. But in

the end, the label reveals something more important, he said.

"It shows the product was made in America," he said. "That's what we all want." ■

## Louisiana Local Prepares for Construction Boom

**T**he drop in oil prices has had a devastating impact on several states, including Louisiana. But a construction boom is imminent around Lake Charles and Local 861 Business Manager Jeff Sanders is optimistic it will lead to some big opportunities for workers, too.

Local 861 and the local chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association are hosting a job fair for potential new members on May 19. The motivation comes from reports that southwest Louisiana will see as much as \$80 billion in construction on industrial projects during the next 10 years as companies look to sell off a surplus of liquid natural gas. Job fairs introduce nonunion electricians to the benefits of IBEW membership.

"They're saying there could be an influx of 30,000 more people into this area while all this is going on," Sanders said. "The majority of them are going to be in construction-related jobs. There's a lot of potential during the next few years."

Sanders said Local 861 has about 620 members, but expects that will rise rapidly. Construction will be at facilities along the Gulf of Mexico and the Port of Lake Charles.

"If everything comes to pass in terms of what they're projecting, it will be the biggest deal that I've been involved with," said Fifth District International Vice President Joe Davis, who has been on the international staff since 1979.

Some areas of Louisiana have unemployment levels nearing 10 percent



*Lake Charles, La., Local 861 Business Manager Jeff Sanders, center, stands atop the foundation of the local's new training center now under construction. He is joined by training director Carlos Perez, left, and President Lance Corner.*

following the 18-month drop in oil prices. But the area around Lake Charles has a good pipeline infrastructure in place that allows it to get the large deposits of liquefied gas to port facilities.

"The opportunities could be unlimited here," Sanders said. "We want to grow our numbers because we want to be able to man the jobs that we're going to get our hands on."

Dutch-based Mammoet, which spe-

cializes in transporting heavy industrial equipment, recently moved a crane weighing more than 6,000 tons from Brazil to the Port of Lake Charles.

"They're looking at a glut of [liquefied natural gas] across the country with all the fracking and shale they have discovered," Sanders said. "These companies want to monetize that and sell it abroad."

Local 861 has started construction on a new training facility after conducting

training at a nearby technical college in recent years.

"Education, training and organizing are the most important keys to the existence and prosperity of any local union," Sanders said. "As business manager, I would like to personally thank the members of Local 861 for their commitment to funding the construction of our new training facility. As always, organizing remains our top priority." ■



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

## Prime Minister's Visit Highlights Alberta's Plight

**E**dmonton, Alberta, Local 424 Business Manager Kevin Levy was honored to host Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He now wants to ensure the visit pays off for his membership, which is feeling the effects of the economic downturn in western Canada.

Trudeau toured 424's training facility on Feb. 1 along with Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Minister of Infrastructure Amarjeet Sohi. Trudeau and Notley met earlier in the day, just the second time a prime minister and Alberta premier met during the provincial legislative session.

"He understands the importance of Alberta, the economy there, and getting people back to work," said Matt Wayland, First District political action and media strategist. "That [visiting 424] is a big statement."

It was a recognition by the newly elected prime minister of Alberta's economic difficulties due to the collapse of the oil sands-fueled energy boom.

Oil prices have plunged, dropping to less than \$30 per barrel. Unemployment has skyrocketed. Statistics Canada reports Alberta lost nearly 20,000 jobs in 2015, the most in a calendar year since 1982.

Some analysts say the number of full-time jobs lost is closer to 35,000, with many of those displaced workers now working at lower-paying or part-time jobs. The province's unemployment rate at the end of 2015 was 7.4 percent, up from 4.6 percent at the same time during the previous year.

Local 424 has about 8,500 members. Approximately 1,200 of them currently are out of work, Levy said. Two years ago, just before the price of oil started falling in September 2014, there was such a demand that 4,000 IBEW members from outside Local 424 traveled into the province for jobs.

Levy said the only time things were worse in his 35-year IBEW career was during a recession from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. Jack Fullerton, an inside wireman and Local 424 member since 1975, remembers that as a difficult time as well.

"We have a lot people up here that have never experienced this situation before because of the long boom we had in the price of oil," Levy said. "It's the first time they've come to their union hall and we're not able to get them any work. It's been devastating to our families."

The combination of the economic downturn and a push by the provincial government toward renewable energy has forced unions to change training and job opportunities. Local 424 is no different, Levy said.

Trades leaders support the Energy East project — which would connect a pipeline from Alberta to markets along Canada's East Coast — but recognize that construction work in the oil sands will continue to dwindle during the next few years, he said.

Current projects will wind down and few, if any, new ones will start because the price of oil is so low. Enform, the safety

organization for Canada's oil and gas industry, estimates construction jobs at oil sands sites will decrease by 84 percent by 2020. Workers will have to look more at maintenance and operations jobs at those facilities if they want to stay in the industry.

"We have an obligation to our members to chase work wherever it's available," Levy said.

The provincial government announced a plan late last year that called for 30 percent of Alberta's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2030. Levy said he and other IBEW leaders were expecting that and have invested heavily in solar training for members and apprentices.

Local 424 workers also were involved in the construction of Shell Canada's Quest Project, which captures carbon dioxide produced at Shell's facility in Scotford, Alberta, and permanently stores it.

"We partner with our contractors and scour the community and tell businesses to let us know when a new technology is

coming out," Levy said. "When it's ready to be deployed in the field, we're ready and trained and we can strongly get at it."

Trudeau and Notley — who both took office within the last year — understand the problems working families face and are helping to find solutions, Levy said.

"Both of the [provincial and federal] governments are telling us they understand Alberta is hurting and are offering plans on what to do about it," Levy said.

Trudeau took over as prime minister after the Liberal Party won the majority of Parliamentary seats in national elections in October, ending nearly 10 years of Conservative control. Notley is the leader of the Alberta New Democratic Party, which won a majority in the provincial elections in May 2015, ending 44 years of conservative Tory rule. Her provincial seat is in Edmonton and Local 424 has been a long-time supporter, Levy said.

Trudeau pledged \$704 million in federal money toward infrastructure

improvements in the province, and is listening to suggestions from trade union leaders on where the money should best be spent.

Levy and Wayland said they urged Trudeau to also push for investments in large-scale projects like schools and hospitals.

"What the IBEW can do is point to areas where they can put the money to work immediately for projects that are ready to go," Wayland said. "Not only are you putting people to work, but you're driving social change." ■



*Edmonton, Alberta, Local 424 Business Manager Kevin Levy welcomes Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, second from right, to the local's training facility on Feb. 1. Accompanying Trudeau are Alberta Premier Rachel Notley, Parliament member Randy Boissonnault and Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi.*

*Le gérant d'affaires de la section locale 424 à Edmonton en Alberta accueille le premier ministre Justin Trudeau, au centre de formation du local le 1er février, le 2e à partir de la droite. Trudeau est accompagné de la première ministre Rachel Notley, le membre du parlement Randy Boissonnault et le ministre de l'Infrastructure Amarjeet Sohi.*

## La visite du Premier Ministre souligne la situation de l'Alberta

**L**e gérant d'affaires Kevin Levy de la section locale 424 à Edmonton en Alberta a eu l'honneur d'accueillir le premier ministre Justin Trudeau. Il veut maintenant s'assurer que cette visite soit rentable pour ses membres, qui ressentent les effets du ralentissement économique dans l'Ouest canadien.

Trudeau a visité le centre de formation du local 424 le 1<sup>er</sup> février avec la première ministre Rachel Notley et le ministre de l'Infrastructure Amarjeet Sohi. Trudeau et Motley se sont rencontrés plus tôt dans la journée, c'était la deuxième fois qu'un premier ministre et qu'un ministre de l'Alberta se réunissaient au cours d'une législature provinciale.

« Il comprend l'importance de l'Alberta, son économie, et de permettre aux gens le retour au travail, et [rendre visite au 424] en dit long », dit Matt Wayland de l'action politique/stratège en média du Premier District.

Le premier ministre nouvellement élu voulait reconnaître les difficultés économiques en Alberta suite à l'effondrement du boom pétrolier des sables bitumineux.

Le prix du pétrole a baissé, réduit jusqu'à 30 \$ le baril. Le chômage a augmenté en flèche. Statistique Canada signale que l'Alberta a perdu près de 20 000 emplois, le plus nombreux depuis l'année civile 1982.

Certains analystes affirment que le nombre d'emplois à temps plein perdu est proche de 35 000, avec un bon nom-

bre de ces employés déplacés vers des salaires plus faibles et vers des emplois à temps partiel. Le taux de chômage de la province vers la fin de 2015 était de 7.4 %, une augmentation de 4.6 % comparative-ment à l'année précédente.

Le local 424 a autour de 8 500 membres. Environ 1 500 d'entre eux sont actuellement sans emploi, dit Levy. Il y a deux ans, juste avant la chute de prix du pétrole en septembre 2014, la demande était telle que 4000 membres de l'extérieur du local 424 ont voyagé à la province pour venir y travailler.

Levy mentionne que la seule fois où la situation était devenue pire depuis ses 34 ans d'expérience au sein de la FIOE, c'était la période de récession du milieu des années 80 jusqu'au milieu des années 90. Le monteur de ligne Jack Fullerton du local 424, membre depuis 1975, se souvient très bien de cette période difficile.

« Il y a beaucoup de personne ici qui n'a jamais vécu cette situation en raison du long boom qu'a connu le prix du pétrole. C'est la première fois que les membres ont recours au local et nous ne sommes même pas en mesure de leur trouver un emploi, cela a été catastrophique pour nos familles », dit Levy.

La combinaison de la récession économique et le coup de pouce du gouvernement vers les énergies renouvelables ont forcé les syndicats à changer de formation et d'occasions d'emplois. Le local 424 n'est pas plus différent, dit Levy.

Les leaders de l'industrie appuient

le projet de l'oléoduc Énergie Est (*Energy East project*) visant à acheminer du pétrole en commençant par l'Alberta jusqu'à un terminal maritime situé le long de la côte est du Canada. Lévy reconnaît que les travaux de construction au sein des sables bitumineux continueront à diminuer au cours des prochaines années.

Les projets en cours réduiront progressivement, voire très peu, des nouveaux commenceront puisque le prix du pétrole est si faible. L'organisation pour la sécurité de l'industrie pétrolière et gazière *Enform*, estime que les travaux de construction sur le site des sables bitumineux vont diminuer de 84 % d'ici 2020. Les travailleurs devront dorénavant trouver des emplois dans la maintenance et les opérations s'ils désirent rester dans l'industrie.

« Nous avons l'obligation envers nos membres de trouver de l'emploi là où c'est disponible, » déclare Lévy.

Selon le plan du gouvernement provincial annoncé vers la fin de l'année dernière, 30 % de l'électricité en Alberta proviendra des énergies renouvelables d'ici 2030. Lévy mentionne que lui ainsi que d'autres leaders de la FIOE s'y attendaient et ont investi grandement dans la formation sur l'énergie solaire pour les membres et les apprentis.

Les travailleurs du local 424 ont également contribué à bâtir le projet Quest de Shell Canada (*Shell Canada Quest Project*) ce qui permet de capter le dioxyde de carbone (CO<sub>2</sub>) à l'usine de Shell à Scotford en Alberta et le stocker

de façon permanente.

« Nous travaillons en étroite collaboration avec nos entrepreneurs et nous parcourons la communauté pour dire aux entreprises de nous tenir au courant sur l'arrivée de nouvelles technologies, lorsqu'elles seront prêtes à être déployées sur le terrain, nous serons prêts et formés et nous l'effectuerons à fond, » dit Levy.

« Trudeau et Notley qui sont entrées en fonction l'année dernière comprennent les problèmes que les travailleurs affrontent au sujet des emplois et ils contribuent à trouver une solution », mentionne Levy.

« Les gouvernements [provincial et fédéral] nous disent qu'ils comprennent que l'Alberta est mal en point et offrent des plans pour remédier à la situation, » déclare Levy.

Trudeau est devenu premier ministre après que le parti libéral ait remporté la majorité des sièges au parlement lors des élections nationales en octobre dernier pour mettre fin au 10 ans de contrôle du parti conservateur. Notley est le chef du Nouveau Parti Démocratique en Alberta, qui a remporté la majorité lors des élections provinciales en mai 2015 mettant fin aux 44 ans de pouvoir des conservateurs. Son siège provincial est en Edmonton et le local 424 l'appuie depuis longtemps, dit Levy.

Trudeau a apporté 704 millions de dollars du fédéral vers l'amélioration de l'infrastructure dans la province, et écoute les suggestions des leaders du syndicat sur la manière la plus efficace de l'investir. ■

# ORGANIZING WIRE

## Settlement Delivers Smackdown to ADT's Anti-Worker Tactics in South Carolina

Installation technicians at an ADT shop in Columbia, S.C., won a hard-fought victory in January when the home security company settled a handful of unfair labor practice charges, paying tens of thousands in back pay and restoring work that had been taken away last year.

Service and installation technicians voted in 2014 to organize with the IBEW, but the company, known for playing hardball at other locations around the country, put up serious resistance.

"I just couldn't be prouder of this group," said Charleston, S.C., Local 776 Business Manager Chuck Moore. "They've really stuck together through a tough process, and these wins really are an extension of that."

The trouble in South Carolina started soon after the techs voted to organize, with the company's go-to union-buster flying in and demanding changes to the Columbia shop's pay structure for the installation of components for ADT's home and small business security systems.



*Home security giant ADT tried to slash the pay of IBEW-organized technicians in South Carolina, but the workers won by sticking together.*

"This guy's goal was to move the installation techs from a 'piece rate' where they got a flat fee per device to an hourly rate," said Tenth District International Representative Lindsay Nelson, who led the negotiations.

The move would have meant a pay cut of nearly 50 percent, down to \$14.17 from \$28-\$32 per hour on the piece rate system, which was completely unacceptable to the workers and the union.

During the uproar over pay scales, the company also started giving away the install techs' work, first to the Columbia service techs, and then to nonunion installers from other ADT shops and local contractors.

"They were doing everything they

could to break these guys," said Moore, who had watched as ADT locked out technicians in neighboring North Carolina around the same time. "And this group was one of ADT's top five producing units in the whole country. ADT was treating them like garbage just to try and break the union."

To make matters worse, on Jan. 1, 2015, ADT suddenly changed its healthcare plan to a high-deductible, high out-of-pocket plan that cost workers thousands in additional premiums.

For Moore and Nelson, it was time to fight back. "We filed four unfair labor practice charges with the NLRB," Nelson said: one for giving the install work away, one for the healthcare changes, another

for ADT's improper firing of installer Michael Reeves without negotiating with the union, and a final one for ADT's failure to produce wage and employment documents as required by the law.

It took nearly a year to resolve, but IBEW attorneys and negotiators completed a settlement at the beginning of 2016 that amounted to a huge win for the Columbia technicians.

First, ADT agreed to return all installation work to the bargaining unit, including adding a new piece of equipment to the "piece rate" pay matrix that had been a major sticking point for both sides. The company also agreed to pay more than \$31,000 in back pay to the install techs for the work that had been taken away from them, which amounted to more than 80 percent of what the remaining techs were owed.

Second, ADT promised to reimburse employees for any increased expenses incurred as a result of the changes to the employees' healthcare plan, and more

importantly, agreed to keep doing so for as long as it takes to reach a binding contract.

And finally, the fired installer, Reeves, who had been suspended without pay and let go over a series of petty incidents, was awarded more than \$11,000 in back pay for his mistreatment. ADT also turned over all of the documents it had long resisted sharing.

After the wins, Nelson and Moore are heading back to the bargaining table, still trying to hammer out a first contract. "We're hopeful we'll get a little more movement now," said Nelson, who said ADT has so far agreed to just five of the contract's more than 25 total sections in a year and a half. "This win ought to help the company see that it pays to treat people fairly," he said.

"We're just really happy for these guys," Moore added. "Not only did they all get back a good chunk of the money ADT took from them, they held together and showed the company that working people win when they stick together." ■

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## September International Executive Council Meeting

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

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 9:45 a.m., by Chairman Pierson, on Tuesday, September 16, 2015, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Burgham, Riley, Walter, Wagner, Lavin, and Galbraith. Second District IEC Myles Calvey was excused to attend other business of his local union.

#### International President Stephenson

International President Lonnie R. Stephenson met with the members of the International Executive Council a number of times to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the Brotherhood.

#### International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia

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

#### Legal Defense

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

#### Financial Reports

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

#### Resignation of International Vice President Robert P. Klein

The International Executive Council accepted with regret the resignation of Tenth District International Vice President Robert P. Klein who will retire effective October 31, 2015, and granted him his laptop computer, iPad and cell phone into retirement. The IEC extends best wishes to Brother Klein and his wife for a happy and healthy retirement.

#### Confirmation of International Vice President Brent E. Hall

The International Executive Council confirmed International Representative Brent Hall to fill the unexpired term of retiring Tenth District International Vice President Robert P. Klein effective November 1, 2015.

#### Appropriation of Funds — NBEW — Henry Miller House

The International Executive Council regularly moved, second, and carried to appropriate \$100,000.00 to fund the IBEW historical project, NBEW-Henry Miller House, in St. Louis, Missouri.

#### Charges Against Anton Treis, Jr.

After review of the investigation of Anton Treis, Jr., the International Executive Council dismissed all charges against Brother Treis.

#### Appeal Filed with The International Executive Council By Perry Speranza, Local Union 353, Card No. D623420

Brother Perry Speranza is appealing International President Lonnie R. Stephenson's decision of June 11, 2015, upholding International Vice President William F. Daniels' decision dated February 18, 2015. Brother Speranza was found guilty of Article XXV, Section 1, sub-section (a), (e), (i) and (l) of the IBEW Constitution and assessed a fine. On appeal, International Vice President ordered three of the four charges dismissed, however; IBEW Constitution, Article XXV, Section 1(l) was upheld.

After a thorough review of the facts pertaining to the appeal of Brother Speranza, it is the decision of the International Executive Council to deny Brother Speranza's appeal and uphold the decision rendered by the International President.

#### Review Indemnification Policy

The International Executive Committee reviewed and adopted the IBEW Indemnification Policy regarding the International President and International Secretary-Treasurer.

#### Article XX and XXI Cases

During the second quarter of 2015, the IBEW was not involved in any Article XX disputes. The IBEW objected to three (3) requests by other unions to register a strategic campaign under Article XXI's Strategic Campaign Registration Program (SCRPP); United Steelworkers SCRPP request for Tesla "Gigafactory", International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers SCRPP request for Solar City, and United Food and Commercial Workers SCRPP request for its "Cannabis Workers Rising" Organizing Campaign.

IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement ending June 30, 2015

**Reviewed and Filed**

IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets/Changes in Net Assets ending June 30, 2015

**Reviewed and Filed**

#### Retirement of International President

Edwin D. Hill, International President  
Effective — June 1, 2015

#### Retirement of International Office Employees

Cheryl H. Jones, Secretary, IBEW Fifth District Office  
Effective — June 1, 2015

Leonard R. Shindel, Communications Specialist, Media Department  
Effective — August 12, 2015

Angela Yancy, Secretary, Construction & Maintenance Department  
Effective — August 21, 2015

#### Vested Pension

Deborah L. Rickman, International Office Employee  
Effective — May 12, 2015

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at 5:15 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:00 a.m., on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

#### For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary  
September 2015

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



# TRANSITIONS

## DECEASED

### Arthur Korff



We regret to report that former International Representative Arthur Korff died on Feb. 3 in Newport News, Va., where he had lived for the last 14 years. He was 92.

Brother Korff was initiated into New York Local 1212 in 1949 and served as its business manager from 1969-73. He then moved to the IBEW office in Washington, where he was an international representative and director of the cable television department until it was merged into the telecommunications department in 1988. He retired in 1990.

“He was a very detail-oriented guy,” said former telecommunications director Art Perry, who worked closely with Korff. “What he said was golden. You didn’t have to worry about Art because he was so committed to his job.”

Korff was a retired United States Air Force lieutenant colonel and served in both World War II and the Korean War. He kept his pilot’s license until his death and former colleagues say he enjoyed living in Newport News because it was close to the large military population in and around Norfolk, Va.

“He was a die-hard military man,” said Pete Keenan, IBEW’s personnel director from 1984-2004. “He loved the Air Force. With him, it was family, Air Force and the IBEW.”

Former broadcasting director Reggie Gilliam got to know Korff when they met at CBS-sponsored meetings. The two worked at CBS-affiliated stations and Gilliam was the business manager of New Orleans Local 1139. That helped them strike up a friendship when Gilliam arrived to work at the international office in 1975, he said.

“We would sit and have coffee quite a few mornings during the week and debate different issues,” he said. “When something came up, I think we would take the opposite viewpoint just to see what would happen.”

Gilliam noted Korff worked for the IBEW when it helped organize workers at fledgling cable companies. Much of that work was done by business managers and local organizers, but they leaned heavily on Korff for advice.

“He was a joy to work with,” Perry said. “He was very on point. I knew when he gave me some information, I didn’t have to research it.”

Late in his career, Brother Korff was honored at an IBEW Radio and Broadcasting Conference for his work developing contracts that improved the relationship between workers and CBS.

Perry said Korff was active in IROAR, the International Retired Officers and Representatives of the IBEW, throughout his retirement. He volunteered for several civic organizations in and around Newport News. He also was an accomplished bagpipe player, co-founding the Newport News Police Pipe Band and accompanying groups on tours of Scotland.

Brother Korff is survived by wife Ann; daughters Karen and Christine; and many stepchildren and grandchildren.

On behalf of the entire IBEW membership and staff, the officers extend our heartfelt condolences to Brother Korff’s family and friends. ■

# CIRCUITS

## IBEW Joins Siemens Dialogue, Looks to Neutrality

When unions and management work together to level the playing field in today’s global market, workers win.

That was the message IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson took to a groundbreaking labor meeting held in early February in Florida, which aimed to increase communications between global manufacturing giant Siemens and its labor stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic.

The meeting brought Siemens executives together with representatives from all six North American unions with members employed by the company, as well as leaders from the German union IG Metall. It represented an important step in a process that could result in the company adopting neutrality toward organizing in its nearly 150 nonunion plants across the U.S. and Canada.

“We really appreciate IG Metall and the Siemens Works Council’s involvement in this and their encouragement for the company to come together to talk with us about the future of Siemens’ North American manufacturing,” said IBEW Manufacturing Department Director Randy Middleton, who hopes the meeting will lead to increased cooperation between labor and management. “Reps from all the unions really came together, and we’re hopeful this leads to serious organizing at Siemens facilities all over the U.S. and Canada.”

The IBEW represents about 1,400 Siemens workers at 12 plants across the U.S. and Canada, but the company has another 40,000 employees at 149 North American plants that are still nonunion. The German engineering conglomerate employs about 350,000 people worldwide and makes everything from circuit breakers to medical equipment and subway trains.

In Germany, Siemens and IG Metall have long enjoyed a productive relationship, in part because nearly all of the company’s 100,000 workers, including engineers and managers, belong to unions. German law also requires works councils, independent boards comprised of labor and management representatives that must sign off on major decisions like layoffs and work distribution.

In the U.S., the story is more complicated. Because unions here aren’t always on the same page, Siemens has traditionally resisted organizing within its U.S. facilities.

“That’s really what these meetings are all about,” Middleton said. “Showing Siemens that we can all work together and get along will go a long way to addressing some of their concerns here in North America.”

That’s not to say, however, that Siemens hasn’t had good experiences with its union shops on this side of the Atlantic, especially in IBEW facilities. In Grand Prairie, Texas, the company recently invested over \$5 million into the low and



Siemens workers at a plant in Ohio and 149 other North American facilities could soon benefit from a neutrality agreement with the IBEW and other unions if talks continue smoothly.

medium voltage switchgear plant there, adding more than 70 employees from nonunion shops.

“Siemens understands that with the IBEW, they’re getting the best-trained, hardest-working men and women out there,” Middleton said. “Our people live and work by the Code of Excellence, and I know they appreciate that as an employer.”

With momentum building toward Siemens’ annual worldwide meeting in June in Washington, D.C., union leaders in the U.S. and Canada are hopeful that the \$100 billion company will vote to adopt neutrality for organizing at its remaining North American plants.

Siemens executives are planning to visit IBEW headquarters during the lead-up to the June 16 vote.

“We’re confident that the leaders at Siemens value quality and hard work the same way we do here at the IBEW, and we look forward to hosting them in June,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “Its people are any company’s most valuable asset, and we hope to have the opportunity to be a voice for even more of them at Siemens in the future.” ■

## Ohio Local Funds Legacy of Education

The IBEW and its training partners have developed some of the most highly regarded apprenticeship programs in the building trades throughout the years. Leaders at Youngstown, Ohio, Local 64 are hoping for similar success as they invest in higher education.

Local 64 and the Mahoning Valley chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association have endowed a scholar-

ship at Youngstown State University that will assist a member or signatory contractor employee working toward a degree in a discipline that benefits the electrical industry.

The \$1,000 scholarship will be given on an annual basis beginning in September. The winner must enroll or be enrolled in Youngstown State’s College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Electrical engineering, civil and construction engineering technology and business management are some of the areas in which students can pursue degrees. Deadline to apply is May 1.

“We provide the apprenticeship program that we think is a great opportunity for young people,” said Local 64 Business Manager James Burgham, who also is a member of the International Executive Council. “You get an education, career and no financial debt in getting it. Why not continue that and give our membership a chance to go back to school and enhance their careers?”

“We think it really fits along the line of labor-management relationships,” Burgham added.

Applicants who have shown a long-time commitment to working in the electrical industry will be given priority by the selection committee, Burgham said.

“We wanted to tie it in to the industry and hopefully, give it to someone who can make a substantial contribution to the industry,” he said.

Burgham said much of the credit for the scholarship goes to longtime Local 64 member Jim Geller, the owner of Geller Electric, Inc., before he retired in 2008. Geller also is a trustee for the Youngstown State University Foundation, a private, non-profit board and the developmental entity for the university.

“Our goal is to benefit the membership and the employees of the signatory contractors so that they can advance their careers,” Geller said. “Our hope is that they stay in the industry and become leaders and look for ways to enhance it.”

Brian Nord, a development officer with the foundation who worked closely with NECA and Local 64 to set up the scholarship, said Local 64 has long provided support for the university. The scholarship takes that a step further, he said.

“When a group like Local 64 sets up an endowed scholarship, they’re setting something up that will be given in perpe-

# IBEW MERCHANDISE



### Golf Umbrella \$39.00

Red and black golf umbrella with 62” arc, fiberglass shaft and rubberized handle. Features IBEW logo on 2 panels.

### Women’s Logo Watch \$100.00

Women’s gold-tone watch embossed with IBEW logo on face, expansion band, stainless steel backing and water resistant.

### Weston Moisture Management Polo \$27.00

100% polyester moisture management shirt. IBEW initials on left chest. Wicks moisture by using rapid dry interlock fabric.

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

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



tuity and will help the people within their trade forever," Nord said. "It's set up to be given to people year after year after year. That's a powerful thing."

Nord said the scholarship also aids the university overall because it is another step in President Jim Tressel's plan to hold down tuition costs. Tressel, the former football coach at both Youngstown and Ohio State, has been the school's president since 2014.

"Youngtown is a working-class, blue-collar area and always has been," Nord said. "The more endowed scholarships that we can set up, the more it benefits kids from the area and outside the area."

Burgham said the local building trades council in Youngstown has had a similar scholarship program with Youngstown State for several years. Local 64 contributes to the foundation and also advertises at the school's sporting events.

"We've always worked closely with YSU in our area," he said.

It's been a big few months for Local 64. It is now accepting bids for a new apprentice training center that is expected to cost about \$1.2 million.

"Work is slow right now, but we need to prepare for the future," Burgham said. "We've come off a good five years. We have to keep our members prepared for the future and apprentices ready for the future." ■

### Third District RENEW Sets Sights on November Elections

Young members in the Third District are gearing up for November's election and managing to inject some friendly rivalry into the process.

The district's RENEW leadership started a voter registration competition in March, pitting local chapters against one another to see who can sign up the most new voters before the Third District progress meeting in May.

"Voting — having a voice in politics — is so important," said Third District Youth Caucus co-chair Chris Erikson Jr., who is spearheading the effort. "This competition is a great way to engage our young members and to spread the word that working people need to be heard at the ballot box."

That's part of the message being taken around the country by international representative and Grassroots Political Coordinator Tarn Goelling, who worked with Erikson and the youth caucus leadership to get the registration idea off the ground. Goelling has spent much of recent months travelling to locals and helping to train and organize political coordinators to prepare for November's elections.

"Our members are under attack in state legislatures all over this country," Goelling said, "and most people aren't paying attention to the damage being done. These lawmakers are going after construction wages, collective bargaining

and our local unions' ability to represent our members. They want unions to disappear, plain and simple."

Citing recent right-to-work and prevailing wage attacks in West Virginia, Missouri, Kentucky and Virginia, she added, "If our members don't understand that this is happening right under their feet, they are going to wake up without any representation at all."

Third District Vice President Don Siegel has spent years encouraging young member engagement. "Voting is such a timely issue, and I've always said that if we want active union members, we have to get them active in the community first."

Goelling's goal is for every one of the IBEW's more than 725,000 members to be registered to vote well before

November rolls around, and the Third District's young members are hoping to do their part with this competition.

"There are so many important races going on this year, from city councils and state legislatures right up to the White House, and we want our young members to be a part of electing representatives who are going to fight for working people at every level," Erikson said.

"If we don't step up and speak for ourselves in these important races," Goelling said, "you'd better believe somebody else will step in and speak for us, and I doubt we'll like what they have to say. Voting, registering like-minded friends and neighbors, and being engaged in the political process is the best way to make sure the attacks on working people don't go unanswered." ■



Jack Savage from the Mahoning Valley NECA chapter presents a check to Brian Nord of the Youngstown State University Foundation to signify the beginning of an endowed scholarship at the school funded by Local 64 and NECA. They were joined by Local 64 Business Manager James Burgham and Local 64 President William Booth and NECA's John Rafoth.

## THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

### Virginia Lawmakers Seek to Enshrine Right-to-Work in State Constitution

Virginia was one of the first states to enact a right-to-work law, doing so in 1947 soon after the federal passage of the Taft-Hartley Act. It hasn't been seriously challenged since.

That apparently isn't good enough for the Republican-controlled state Legislature.

Both the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates approved a resolution on Feb. 2 that puts a measure on the November ballot that would make right-to-work a permanent part of the state constitution.

Passage would make it much more difficult to make any changes to the right-to-work law. Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe has been a supporter of unions and working people. He completes his first and only term in January 2018 as state law prohibits him from seeking re-election.

The American Legislative Affairs Council, which includes companies and legislators from across the country, has made it a priority to implement — or strengthen, in the case of Virginia — right-to-work laws in every state. ALEC works in concert with groups like Americans for Prosperity, the main political advocacy group for the billionaire Koch Brothers.

Neil Gray, an international representative and IBEW's Virginia political director, sees groups like ALEC at work in Virginia.

"It's choreographed with the other states," Gray said. "It's designed to destroy the core of organized labor because that's the one thing that's limited the ability of those groups to do what they want."

Dan Duncan, president of the Northern Virginia Central Labor Council, says it's a move driven by political payback.

"The Republicans have control of the Virginia House and Senate and they



A statue of George Washington sits in the rotunda of the Virginia state capitol in Richmond. Voters in the Commonwealth will vote in November on making right-to-work a permanent part of the state constitution.

Photo provided under a Flickr/Creative Commons agreement by ckn01sk.

want to rub the noses of labor in the dirt for their support in helping elect Terry McAuliffe governor," said Duncan, a member of the Seafarers International Union and the Communications Workers of America. "It's basically a situation where they're saying, 'We can do it and there's nothing you can do to stop us.'"

Added Newport News, Va., Local 1340 Business Manager Jeffrey S. Rowe: "It's just ridiculous and inappropriate to put this in the state constitution. ... It's a cornerstone of the Republican platform to be anti-union. They may not come out and say that, but every chance they get, that's the case."

Nearby West Virginia passed right-to-work legislation during its current legislative session, overriding a gubernatorial veto to do so. It's been narrowly pushed back in recent months in Missouri and Kentucky, but right-to-work opponents expect the battle to continue in both states.

Gray is trying to look at the Virginia situation as a positive in one sense: The ballot measure gives opponents of right-

to-work a larger platform to show it hurts workers across the board, not just in unions. Most right-to-work states are near the bottom in quality-of-life-indicators, including average wages for workers.

"It's not going to change how we operate today," Gray said. "We've been living with it for so long. It's just another opportunity for us to prove why right-to-work is wrong for Virginia."

Gray said the legislature has voted seven other times since right-to-work passed in 1947 against measures that would permanently add it to the constitution.

"We don't change the constitution willy-nilly in the commonwealth," House Minority Leader David J. Toscano, a Democrat, said during floor debate on the issue, the Washington Post reported.

Gray said the combination of outside interest groups and longtime House of Delegates Speaker William J. Howell making it a priority has raised this issue in importance. Gray said he has personally spoken to Howell about the issue and

the speaker is upset that some unions have campaigned against him during his re-election bid.

Duncan said labor leaders in the Commonwealth will work hard to defeat the measure. He expects those efforts to ramp up after the Virginia AFL-CIO convention in August. Rowe said Local 1340 continually tries to impress upon the public and elected officials why right-to-work harms working families. Putting the proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot would give those efforts more urgency, he said.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch, the newspaper in the state's capital city, published a conservative columnist's opinion story arguing against the amendment because right-to-work laws are an "improper governmental intrusion into worker-employer relations."

Right-to-work laws allow employees to opt out of paying membership dues, even when they receive the benefits of a union contract, and they prohibit companies from encouraging them to join a union. Such laws were confined primarily to the South and some Western states, but have been enacted during the last few years in Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Congress overrode a veto by President Truman to pass the Taft-Hartley Act, which was designed in part to thwart the burgeoning labor movement after World War II and to rein in newly enshrined labor laws passed in the 1930s. A clause in it allowed states to outlaw union shops — defined as those where union membership was required for a person to work for an employer. That led to a rise in so-called right-to-work laws.

"I personally think it was a little bit of a mistake by the Republicans to put it in a presidential year," Gray said of the current initiative. "What it's going to do is cause longer lines at voting precincts, which concerns me a great deal. But I see this as an opportunity to educate the public. We need to dedicate the necessary resources to do it." ■



LOCAL LINES

Welcome to New Contractor

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Local 8 welcomes a new signatory contractor. TaylorMade Electric, with a dozen employees, recently was organized after a campaign that resulted in a National Labor Relations Board representation election. Bottom-up organizing is an effective organizing tool.

Our work situation should improve this spring. We anticipate numerous planned industrial shutdowns, and the construction sector is finally emerging as well.

With sadness I report that former business manager Phil Couture passed away in January. Phil's passion for the labor movement led him to serve the Brotherhood in many capacities, spanning his entire career and into retirement. He was a great example of a union brother.

Mike Brubaker, P.S.

Officer & Steward Training

L.U. 10 (u), JOHNSON CITY, NY — Bus. Mgr. Gary Bonker started 2016 with training in mind. Local 10 officers received training in January. Stewards received training on Feb. 4 and Feb 16. Int. Reps. Julie Cosenza and Jim Ayer conducted the training at the Local 10 offices. The training included topics such as: the grievance procedure, the National Labor Relations Act, legal rights, harassment, rules of a steward, organizing, union structure, legal issues, arbitration, labor laws, workers' compensation and more. Bus. Mgr. Bonker requested the training so that the officers and stewards would have the tools to do the best of their ability for the membership.

Registrar training was also attended by some of Local 10 officers in January. A very informative presentation was put on by Int. Reps. Ellen Redmond and Mike Welch in Albany, NY.

Another informative meeting took place in Albany attended by all the union leaders who bargain with energy company Iberdrola USA. Discussions included the newly formed Avangrid and what was taking place at different properties.

Don Tuttel, P.S.

116<sup>th</sup> Awards Banquet

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO — The local's 116th Awards Banquet in February had an excellent turnout. The evening began with a happy hour, which was just that. With lots of laughter and camaraderie, the event is always a great time to mingle. The meal was delicious and the service pins were abundant. Numerous members were honored for a lifetime of

service. Our 50-year pin recipients were: Bros. Ernest P. Cross, John Dent, Kenneth Griffin and Roy McKinney. Bro. Earl Ditmore received a 55-year pin, and Bro. Darwin McCurry was awarded a 60-year pin. Congratulations to all of those who have contributed to making the IBEW a great way of life.

Local 12 had a lot of changes last year, and this year looks to be a busy one. Bro. Jose De La Torre is the latest addition to our Membership Development staff.

We have a Local 12 election of officers in June, and the Inside Agreement expires in August. The Negotiations Committee has been appointed and is beginning training. Work has been steady, but no large projects are on the horizon at this writing.

Susan J. Johnson, P.S.

'Fantasy of Lights' Display — IBEW Community Service

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN — The festive holiday lighting display known as Fantasy of Lights, one of Local 16's major community service projects, generated almost \$157,000 last year. These funds will provide approximately 3,200 sessions of rehabilitative therapy for people in need. Since its inception, \$2,989,650 has been raised. The 2015 edition of FOL could not have been done without the apprentices. They came out in full force for setup, maintenance, and tear-down. On many occasions, they showed up before and after class to expedite the project. It is encouraging to know that the future of this local is in such good hands.

In May, Mel-Kay Electric Co. of Evansville, long regarded as one of southern Indiana's leading electrical contractors, is celebrating its 65th year as a signatory contractor of IBEW Local 16. The company was founded in 1951 by Melvin Kallenbach and is currently in its third generation of family ownership. To date, Mel-Kay has employed Local 16 electricians for over 7 million man-hours, primarily in the areas of health care, education, industrial, and commercial construction. Mel-Kay's current projects include a convention hotel and a new hospice facility in Evansville.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Utility Trainee Program — IBEW and LADWP Partnership

L.U. 18 (u), LOS ANGELES, CA — The Utility Pre-Craft Trainee (UPCT) program was launched in 2011 as a partnership between IBEW Local 18 and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

This program was created in response to DWP's rising retirements and the need for good jobs in high unemployment areas in Los Angeles.



IBEW Local 18/Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Utility Pre-Craft Trainee class No. 4 at the Castaic Hydro Generating Plant.

The program provides paid, pre-apprenticeship on-the-job training and a pathway to permanent employment in DWP.

Fifty-eight Utility Pre-Craft trainees have been hired to full-time employment, and there are currently 117 participants in the program. An important goal is the broad inclusion of workers from low-income and minority communities.

UPCTs rotate to work under journey-level trades to gain knowledge and training in the following: Electric Station Maintenance-Power; General Construction-Power; Electrical Repair Shop-Integrated Support Services (ISS); Mechanical Repair Shop-ISS; Test Lab-ISS; Home Energy Improvement Program; Water Distribution; Support Services; Conduit; Protective Coating; and Warehouse & Tool Room.

As a result of the rigorous classroom and on-the-job training, the UPCTs are qualified to compete in the following examinations: Electric Distribution Mechanic Trainee; Electric Meter Setter; Electric Station Operator; Electrical Craft Helper; Electrical Mechanic; Electrical Repairer; Electrical Tester; Maintenance and Construction Helper; Mechanical Helper; Steam Plant Assistant; Warehouse & Tool Room Worker; and Wind Plant Technician.

Shawn McCloud, A.B.M.

\$322 Million Cancer Center At University of Nebraska

L.U. 22 (i,rts&spa), OMAHA, NE — IBEW Local 22 members are at work on a major \$322 million building project underway at the University of Nebraska Medical Center campus.

The new Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center is the largest project ever at the University of Nebraska.

The Cancer Center will include: a 10-story Cancer Research Tower with 98 laboratories; a seven-story hospital tower with 108 beds; and the Chihuly

Sanctuary for patients and caretakers.

The Chihuly Sanctuary will feature indoor and outdoor gardens and vibrant art installations designed by renowned American glass sculptor Dale Chihuly. The 5,000 square-foot addition will overlook an exterior healing garden lined with plants, trees, and flowers. Heated walkways will keep the outdoor garden open year round. The Chihuly Sanctuary, with its gardens and artwork, is designed to aid patients' recovery and will be a cornerstone of the Buffett Cancer Center's Healing Arts program.

Commonwealth Electric and IBEW Local 22 members are doing the electrical work on the project. At press time there are 82 IBEW electricians and six IBEW Sound & Communications technicians working at the jobsite. The project underway on the university campus is currently the biggest construction jobsite in the Omaha area.

The Buffett Cancer Center is scheduled to open in the spring of 2017. The Chihuly Sanctuary will open shortly thereafter. Work is on schedule and looking very good.

Mike Whisney, P.S.



A rendering of the Buffett Cancer Center under construction at the University of Nebraska. IBEW Local 22 electricians and technicians employed by Commonwealth Electric are at work on the building project.

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/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Submitting-Local-Lines](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Submitting-Local-Lines). Please email or call the Media Department at (202) 728-6291 with any questions.

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

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





Local 24 thanks the 2015 Children's Christmas Party volunteers, some of whom are pictured.

## Delegates Elected

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — On Nov. 24, 2015, the local's election for delegates to the 2016 IBEW International Convention was held. Thank you to all who participated and/or voted. Congratulations to those elected as delegates: Carmen Voso, Cory McCray, Frank Voso, Pete Demchuk, Ellwood Hanks and John Rankin.

Nominations for the Local 24 election of officers will be held in May, and the election of officers will take place in June this year.

The Annual Children's Christmas Party was Saturday, Dec. 12. A good time was had by young and old alike. Once again, the party was a huge success thanks to all the volunteers. On behalf of the local and the children, a big thank-you to each and every volunteer.

Stay well and stay safe.

Gary R. Griffin, B.M.

## Upcoming Springtime Events

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — It's springtime in Washington, DC, and that means cherry blossoms and final preparations for the Poker Run on Saturday, May 7, and our annual Dollars Against Diabetes Golf Outing on Monday, June 6. For additional information, please see our quarterly magazine, In Charge, or visit our website at [www.ibewlocal26.org](http://www.ibewlocal26.org).

Just a reminder that the Manassas, VA, picnic is Saturday, June 18, and the Edgewater, MD, picnic is Saturday, Aug. 6.

The Local 26 Scholarship Committee is reviewing the many scholarship applications and will make a decision on this year's four scholarship recipients very soon. The winners will be announced in our quarterly magazine, as well as in an upcoming Local Lines article. Thanks to the many outstanding applicants for their participation!

We congratulate Fin. Sec. Michael Shoemaker on his retirement and wish him health and happiness in future endeavors.

Several members have passed away since our last article: Jerome B. Barefoot, Richard S. Roberts, Lawrence L. Nevitt, Lamont Gordon, Steve A. Whitehead, Phillip H. Robinson, John J. Costello and Dwayne C. Henderson. These brothers will be missed.

Best wishes to recent new retirees: Raymond J. Antoniuk, Roger Higgins, Dennis R. Phillips, Robert E. Roberts, Charles E. Redding, Thomas L. Spruill, Steven A. Holland, Hermit Mosley, Martyn Montague III, Robert D. Kaminsky, Robert C. Einstein and Ronald S. Willard.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

## Construction Projects Underway in Cleveland

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH — When I last visited the new Hilton Hotel in Cleveland, we had about 80 members working on the project getting it completed so that it will be open for the upcoming National Republican Convention to be held in Cleveland this summer. The

stylish, 100 percent union-built project has 32 floors, 600 rooms, a restaurant and several lounges including the Sky Bar on the 32 floor, which features an open-air patio overlooking the Lake Erie shoreline.

Several big projects are scheduled to start this year. The new 48-story Nucleus Building is scheduled to start construction this summer, and the same developers are proposing an 18-story building to be built atop the 515 Parking Garage. The Huntington Building just got awarded \$25 million in historical tax credits and should start the conversion of its 1.3 million square feet into apartments, offices, hotel space, restaurants and retail.

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



At jobsite of a Cleveland Local 38 Hilton Hotel project are: Lake Erie Electric foreman Izzy Santiago (left), general foreman Andy Dighero, Local 38 Bus. Mgr. Dennis Meaney and steward Vince Conforto, standing on deck of 32-floor Sky Bar at the new hotel. Visible in the background is Lake Erie.

## Tribute to a Fallen Brother

L.U. 40 (em,i&mps), HOLLYWOOD, CA — It is with a heavy heart that Local 40 reports the recent loss of a beloved brother, Neil Ryan Hastings-Reynolds (1978-2016). Bro. Hastings-Reynolds was a journeyman wireman "gangboss," who entered the IBEW apprenticeship program in 2005. He worked under the Motion Picture Agreement at Warner Brothers, Universal and Disney Studios. He grew up in LaCrescenta, CA, and graduated from Cresceta Valley High School. Our condolences go out to his wife, Ericka, and family members. Bro. Hastings-Reynolds was a great co-worker and friend to all the brothers and sisters in Local 40. Along with his family and friends, we at Local 40 mourn the loss of our brother.

On a brighter note, Local 40 had our "That's a Wrap" party in December 2015 and there was an unbelievable turnout. Thanks to all those who contributed, we donated two bins filled with food items and children's toys to the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission. We also held a C.O.P.E. raffle and raised over \$600. Big thanks to our Ninth District Int. Rep. Tim Dixon and his wife for joining us in this celebration, and honoring our newly graduated apprentices, David King, Desiree Jones and Jesse Villegas. Congratulations to you all! Local 40 looks forward to another successful year ahead in 2016. Strength in Brotherhood!

Matt Gruber, P.S.

## Certification Classes

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT — The work picture for Local 42 "A" members is slow at the time of this writing. Distribution and transmission work should pick back up sometime in early spring. Our membership has steadily increased to 540 "A" members and 520 "BA" members.

To all members of Local 42, please make sure that you are all up to date with your certifications: First Aid, CPR, Bucket and Pole Top Rescue (if you're a lineman/apprentice). This is mandatory in order to sign the book and go out to work. If you need to sign up for any future classes, please contact the Local 42 Occupational Safety & Health Education (O.S.H.E.) Department at phone number 860-643-4048.

The work picture for Local 42 "BA" members was steady throughout the recent winter season. We also have one of our contractors looking for experienced tree trimmers/driver groundmen who are willing to work long hours and travel throughout the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. If you are interested, please contact Jeff Neurath at 860-508-5903. We also have applications available at the union hall.

Think safe, work safe and be safe.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

## Keys to Local 48 Success Include Building Relationships

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts,st&tm), PORTLAND, OR — Local 48 is proud to announce the new Cowlitz Casino Project. The project is being developed by Salishan-Mohegan LLC in collaboration with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and will be located near La Center, WA.

Bus. Mgr. Gary Young salutes the dedicated perseverance of those who helped secure this project labor agreement (PLA), including past and present Local 48 leaders.

As a Port of Portland commissioner and Oregon State Building & Construction Trades Council president, Bus. Mgr. Young understands the complexity of navigating such projects to fruition. The \$100 million phase one of the casino project is forecast to provide jobs for 250 IBEW members. All planned phases will ultimately total \$510 million on this PLA/all union project! "We should all celebrate the success of securing this important PLA project for our members," Bus. Mgr. Young said.

Former business manager Ed Barnes, a committed advocate for the project since its inception 10 years ago, helped forge the relationships needed to secure this win-win project. Barnes, though retired, continues to work tirelessly for his local. He is a Washington Building Trades member, State Transportation commissioner, Clark County commissioner, and Southwest Washington Labor Roundtable chairman.

Local 48 Reps. Mike Bridges and Bob Carroll work with Bro. Barnes and continue to strengthen our community relationships. Their advocacy contributed to securing these union jobs in our current "right-to-work" climate. Both Bros. Bridges and Carroll also serve on many other labor-wide councils and organizations, too numerous to list in this space.

Bus. Mgr. Young encourages all members to join Local 48 leadership and take an active role in secur-

ing Local 48's future. "Breaking ground is especially exciting on another PLA project," he said.

**[Editor's Note: To read more, see news story "Oregon Governor Appoints Portland Business Manager to Port Commission," posted on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/articles).]**

Bob Blair, P.S.

## Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 50 (u), RICHMOND, VA — IBEW Local 50 wishes to thank the RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) Committee, other volunteers and the Central Virginia Area Labor Federation for all of their efforts and time spent to help make project Holiday Hope 2015 a great success. Volunteerism and hard work continue to illustrate organized labor's commitment to those less fortunate in our communities.

Local 50 represents more than 3,000 workers employed by: BARC Electric Cooperative, Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, Dominion Virginia Power, Monongahela Power, and Virginia Natural Gas. Members work in all phases of generation, transmission, distribution, operations and maintenance of electric and gas utilities in North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, including two nuclear stations in Virginia.

John Albert, Treas., B.R.

## Work Outlook Positive

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb,spa&t), DETROIT, MI — This will be an exciting year at Local 58. Our projected work outlook has signs of full employment for our brothers and sisters of the IBEW. The new hockey arena project has started and will be ongoing, along with other projects in our jurisdiction.

The Local 58 Benevolent Fund party on Super Bowl Sunday was a huge success. Ten TVs and a recliner were offered as prizes this year. Congratulations to all the winners. The committee thanks all those who purchased tickets and provided the volunteer work needed to make this event a success. They are looking forward to their next event, which will be the Walleye Tournament on the Detroit River in the spring. Details will be available soon at the union hall.

The local is asking members and their families to become involved at the local government level, and we can help members do that. Become a precinct delegate in your voting precinct, get elected to a seat on your school board in your community, become a member of your city council or your county board of commissioners. YOU can make a difference and have influence on issues that affect all families. Contact the union hall for more details.

James E. DeLuca, B.R./P.S.

## 'Greetings from Colorado'

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO — Things didn't slow down as much work-wise this recent winter as in previous years. We are still seeing some calls trickle through almost every week, as of this writing.

The local held another round of Code of Excel-



IBEW Local 48 crew members working with On Electric Group (OEG) have begun work on the Cowlitz Tribe Casino project.



## LOCAL LINES



Local 68 retired Bro. Emerald Nelson celebrates his 100th birthday.

lence classes on Dec. 10. Thanks to Int. Rep. Guy P. Runco for the informative session. Eighth District business managers met in Denver on Dec. 17 to discuss problems, solutions and registrar training.

On Jan. 15 and Feb. 17, we met with U.S. Reps. Diana DeGette and Jared Polis to respectfully voice our opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

On Jan. 23, retired 78-year member Emerald Nelson celebrated his 100th birthday. Congratulations, Bro. Emerald!

On Jan. 27, a diversity training session was conducted at Local 68 and it provided important, useful information. As we all make an effort to organize and as we welcome new apprentices, always remember to treat new members as you would want to be treated.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased brothers: Eugene H. Rightsell, Ronald G. Davis, Richard L. Waymire, Leroy M. Jagger and John P. McGrath.

Hope everyone had a good winter. "Brotherhood — Pass it On."

Jack Cox, Pres.

## Transmission Line Project — Skilled IBEW Teamwork

L.U. 70 (lctt&o), WASHINGTON, DC — Local 70 members working on the 230 kilovolt-ampere (kVA) Dominion Power transmission line in Virginia have been working long hours since the job started back in May last year.

The IBEW members started the project by lacing the steel and putting up the towers. This job has been a climbing job, through the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter. These members have worked very hard to get this job done. With safety a priority, and pride in a job well-done, the commitment to excellence shows.

Henkels & McCoy is the union contractor on the job and a great contractor to work for. Working together with Local 70 Bus. Mgr. William "Tip" Tipton, they have put together a great group of union brothers. They have worked like a team on a very physical job.

So here at Local 70, we wish to thank Henkels & McCoy, our IBEW members, and everyone who has helped make this another fine union job with a great safety record. At press time, the project is on pace to finish ahead of schedule. Brothers and sisters, you are greatly appreciated and make union labor the best in the world.

Union pride, union strong!

Jimmy Horton, B.R.



Local 70 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. William "Tip" Tipton (left) and Pres. Paul Carter congratulate members for another job well done.

## Recognized for Service; Active 'Young Brotherhood'

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA — Work slowed some over the winter, but Local 80 members have been busy as of this writing. The Local 80 annual children's Christmas party saw a good turnout and included a visit from Santa. Thanks to Woody Gregory and his wife for heading up the party.

The Young Brotherhood of Local 80, our young workers group, continued their community service projects by volunteering their skills for a project on the battleship USS Wisconsin. They removed and replaced lighting for several displays and removed old cabling on the ship.

Local 80 Bro. Derek Samuelson, chairman of our Young Brotherhood group, was named to the national advisory board for RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers), representing the Fourth District.

Bro. Michael Iacobellis, JATC training director, was also recently recognized for his work. Bro. Iacobellis was honored as the IBEW Hour Power Instructor of the Year for all his work as both training director and fifth-year instructor. **[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 to both Bro. Samuelson and Bro. Iacobellis.

W. Dennis Floyd, A.B.M.



Local 102 retiring E-Board member Wiley Haskins (left), Bro. Marty Baram and Bus. Mgr. Pat Delle Cava.

## A Career of IBEW Service: Brother Wiley Haskins Retires

L.U. 102 (em, govt, i, mt, o&ws), PATERSON, NJ — After 42 years of service, Brother Wiley Haskins, who served as an Executive Board member, has hung up his tool belt and retired from Local 102. Having retired from the field, Bro. Haskins decided it was also time to step down from his position on the Executive Board. On Jan. 19, he submitted his letter of resignation to the Executive Board. Bro. Haskins became a member of Local 102 in 1974. He served on many local union committees including the Election Committee, Bylaws Committee, and Agreement Committee. He became an officer in 2006 taking his spot on the Examining Board, where he served until becoming an Executive Board member in 2009. We wish Brother Haskins the best in his retirement and thank him for his service to Local 102.

We congratulate Bob Kaminski on his appointment to the Executive Board to fill the unexpired term of Brother Haskins. We also congratulate Brother Mark Battagliese on his appointment to the Examining Board.

We have a photo contest winner among us. All of us at Local 102 congratulate Brother Chris Plesnarski on finishing first in this year's IBEW photo contest. Great job, Chris! We look forward to showcasing the winning picture in our hall for all to see.

Bernie Corrigan, Pres.

## Election Year

L.U. 104 (lctt, o&u), BOSTON, MA — At this writing, the work picture within Local 104's jurisdiction is slow, but there is hope that spring will bring on some much-needed work to the area. Members should take advantage of this down time to update any certifications, such as CPR, First Aid or any OSHA classes offered. Remember that classes are offered at all three union hall locations: in Lewiston, ME; Barrington, NH; and Walpole, MA.

Also, I would like to remind the members that this is an election year. It is a presidential election year, and also the year for an election of Local 104 officers. Please get out and vote. It is important that the members of IBEW Local 104 let our politicians know who we are.

For the Local 104 election of officers, all Local 104 members in good standing will be receiving updates regarding nominations to be held in May, and the election of officers to be held in June.

Brian T. Murphy, B.M./F.S.

## Mobilize the Vote in 2016

L.U. 124 (ees, em, i, mar, rts, se, spa&t), KANSAS CITY, MO — Economic growth in our jurisdiction lost a little of its upward momentum over the past 12 months. We are fortunate that since 2008, we have increased our share of the market by nearly 32 percent; otherwise man-hours would be down instead of holding steady. Our signatory contractors have the tools and incentives they need to grow market share even more in 2016.

The labor movement is still under fire from the corporate agenda in both Missouri and Kansas. In Missouri, the 2015 legislative session upheld the governor's veto of so-called "right to work," but yielded a veto override that reduced unemployment benefits by half. Local 124 continues to fight back by investing in political education. Two Local 124 members have stepped into the fight by running for the Missouri General Assembly. The challenge for unions will be to get our members to the polls. In Missouri the lack of labor turnout has created this extreme partisan imbalance that allows the corporate agenda to flourish. We must mobilize the vote in 2016.

We remember recently deceased members: Charles E. Alverson Sr., Daniel W. Brady, Marshall F. Charuk, Larry K. Dulaney, Jason H. Hayes, Ellis L. Jeffies, James N. Jewett, Herbert Marselus, Robert E. Myers, Fred R. Nuzum Jr., William Reintjes, Richard P. Strong and Donald L. Wissman.

Congratulations to recently retired members: David K. Binger, Danny Collins, Richard M. Glatz, James M. Griffin, Larry F. Hilliard, Larry G. Howard, Ronald D. Jarrett, Edward J. Leverich, Daniel McConaughy, Gary E. McCracken, Wayne C. McNabb, Kenneth Sanchez, Stanely M. Sims, David L. Skelton and Brett M. Speak.

In solidarity labor wins.

Terry Akins, B.M.  
Steve Morales, P.S.

## Election Season & Training

L.U. 146 (ei, i&rts), DECATUR, IL — The work picture here slowed considerably over the winter but is expected to pick up this spring. We continue to wait for the Cronus Fertilizer project to begin. The downturn has given members a chance to continue their education. Training Dir. Jason Drake has been busy coordinating First Aid, CPR, and AED classes. Also offered have been OSHA 30 and Welding, for apprentices as well as journeyman wiremen. Currently, 62 apprentices are attending classes and participating in on-the-job training.

The election season is now in full swing, and we all have seen what happens when we as labor do not show up at the polls. The 2016 elections are more cru-

cial than ever for working people. It is important that we turn out in great numbers to vote, because the only thing that is helping organized labor to stay in the fight in Springfield is our super majority in the state House and Senate. It is critical for us to maintain these seats in Springfield so the middle class is represented and has a voice.

Congratulations to IBEW Local 146 member John Warner on his election as vice president of the Decatur Trades & Labor Assembly, and to Local 146 member Mary Sapp on her election as DTLA secretary.

Our condolences to the family and friends of recently deceased Local 146 member Steve Buchanan. Steve was a 47-year IBEW member and will surely be missed.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

## Continuing Education Classes

L.U. 150 (es, i, rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL — Some of our summer activities are already in the planning stages so please watch your email or home mail box for further updates. And there will be a family picnic on May 14 at the Lakewood Forest Preserve Shelter C. Lots of good food, a fishing derby for the kids, and a baggo tournament. If you would like to help or have any suggestions or ideas, please see Jon Aunet.

There is still time to sign up for a JW continuing education class with the JATC. Remember, most of these classes count as continuing education credits for various state licenses and certifications you may already hold. Courses scheduled for April and beyond include NFPA 70E Work Zone Safety, Significant Changes to the 2014 NEC, IMSA Traffic Technician Level 2, Code Review, 10 Hour OSHA, NFPA 70E Work Safety Practices, and an Arc Welding Brush-up Session.

**[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).]**

Recently the Village of Lincolnshire passed a right-to-work ordinance. The village is currently being sued by four labor groups. If you live in Lincolnshire or are a regular customer of some of the businesses and establishments there, we are asking that you spend your monies elsewhere. And please be sure to tell the businesses that you are taking your monies out of town and why. Personally, I would never spend my hard-earned money in a municipality that is so hostile to working people of all kinds.

See you at the meeting.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

## IBEW Volunteers: Giving Back to Community

L.U. 164 (c, em, i, o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ — As spring approaches, we in Local 164 again find ourselves very busy in our ongoing effort to give back to our communities.

We are gearing up for our annual tradition of participating in "National Rebuilding Day" with Rebuilding Together, a great organization that coordinates volunteers to assist homeowners with repairs and upgrades to their homes that the homeowners cannot provide for themselves.

We look forward to another great day of giving back and helping others by volunteering our time to perform much-needed electrical repairs and upgrades. This is always a great event and a day of brotherhood among our brothers and sisters and the residents of the communities where we live and work.

Bus. Mgr. Dan Gumble and Pres. Tom Sullivan wish to thank all our members who volunteer their time for this worthy cause. As the local volunteer coordinator, I also extend a heartfelt thank-you to all our volunteers as well. This great work simply couldn't be



done without the dedicated members who volunteer.

Warren M. Becker, V.P.

## Annual Luncheon for Retirees

L.U. 194 (i,spa&u), SHREVEPORT, LA — On Dec. 9 last year, Local 194 held its Annual Christmas Luncheon for our local union retirees with 140 in attendance. At the luncheon, we awarded a number of IBEW service pins.

Service award recipients were as follows: receiving 40-year service pins — Charles “Lynn” Craig, Henry James and John D. Sherrer; 45-year pins — William “Bill” Bogues and Travis C. Camp; 50-year pins — Charles D. Evans, Harvey R. Kemper and John W. Sims; 55-year pins — Samuel S. Sherville and John W. Tyler; 60-year pins — Robert “Bob” King and James W. Lee; 65-year pins — Leo C. Cryer, Guy R. Friend and William M. Jones.

Terry Reynolds, B.M./F.S.

## Honored for Service

L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL — At the Dec. 7, 2015, Line Construction Benefit Fund (LINECO) trustee meeting, the board of trustees honored Ernie Pastor, who recently retired from the board after 26 years as a management trustee from the Southeastern Line Contractors Chapter of NECA.

Ernie was also honored by Local 222 Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell for 60 years of distinguished service as an IBEW member. In the 1990s, Ernie was the president of Olson Electric and as such was very active in the industry. Serving in many capacities to improve our industry, he was also a member of Local 222. On behalf of Local 222 officers and members, we wish Ernie and his wife, Ann, a happy and long retirement.

On Dec. 19 last year, Local 222 held its annual Christmas party at the office facility in Orange Lake, FL. More than 200 people attended. Winners of the corn toss were as follows: first place — Lucas Engh and Brandon Ray; second place — Joey West and Jason Bowen; and third place — Dave Boom and Jason Mathis.

Mike Bell, B.M./F.S.



Local 222 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Mike Bell (left) awards retiree Ernie Pastor his service pin for 60 remarkable years of membership.

## Salute to Life of Service

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA — With heavy heart we share the sad news of our sudden and tragic loss of Bro. Christopher Burditt on last New Year's Eve. We take solace that he spent his final hours among family and close friends engaging in one of his many passions: archery.

We are grateful that another of his passions was the IBEW. With an ancestral background firmly intertwined with our local, Chris, after graduating from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, completed his Inside apprenticeship in 2010 and after a short stint in the field went on to be appointed treasurer and organizer in September 2011.

A testament to the many lives Chris touched could be seen in the overflowing crowds at both his



Local 234 contingent at Marina Labor Day parade: Jimmy Walker (left), Andy Hartmann, Steve Rios, Chris Burditt, Juan Palacios, Serina Searson, Colby Craig, Carson Craig and Rip Smith.

memorial service and reception. Many of those who came to pay their respects found themselves on the sidewalks around the block in both directions, as there were too many people to fit into the building.

Chris worked tirelessly for our local. His efforts led to the bettering of relations, signing of contractors, and adopting project labor agreements (PLAs). In addition to serving on the Examining Board, he was a COMET instructor and our liaison with the Castroville Artichoke Parade & Festival. See photo above for his IBEW conduit-inspired parade entry, through which he coached several apprentices to hone their conduit-bending skills.

Chris, we salute you.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

## City of Calgary Award — Career of Public Service

L.U. 254 (ees,em,mo,o,rts&u), CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA — Congratulations to Bro. Noel Murphy, winner of the 2015 City of Calgary Public Safety Communications Board of Governors' Award honoring his public safety work at 9-1-1 and recognizing his dedication to public service.

During 33 years of prior military service specializing in air traffic control, Bro. Murphy served in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) at the Cheyenne Mountain Complex, as chief of Airspace Operations to monitor international airspaces with American counterparts. NORAD is a combined organization of the U.S. and Canada that provides aerospace warning, air sovereignty and defense for North America. Bro. Murphy, working with an American officer, was responsible for alerting the U.S. president and the Canadian prime minister to the terrorist attacks on 9/11. After the attacks Bro. Murphy and his team were responsible for rewriting airline hijacking policy and procedures.

Upon retiring from military service in 2005, Bro. Murphy's career with The City of Calgary 9-1-1 began. Affectionately known as “Papa Murph,” he demonstrated his continuing passion for public service through his concern for citizens, stakeholders and



Local 254 Bro. Noel Murphy on the job at The City of Calgary Public Safety Communications office.

co-workers. Bro. Murphy served as an IBEW union steward for nine years, utilizing his impressive knowledge to assist co-workers and serve members, always willing to lend support and have hard conversations with anyone, including management.

Bro. Murphy will officially retire at the end of May. Local 254 thanks Noel for his stellar job serving as shop steward and as a contract negotiator, and extends congratulations on his remarkable 40+ decades of public service and his union involvement.

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

## Summer Season Promising; ‘Thank-You’ to Travelers

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN — The winter season arrived a little late but quite suddenly in Minnesota. By late January, the temperature had dipped below zero for an extended period. As a result of the cold weather and the holidays, the work picture slowed a bit.

The new Vikings Stadium (US Bank Stadium) is nearly 85 percent finished at press time, and the push is on to finish by July.

Our other projects include: the 1.5-million-square-foot Amazon fulfillment center; the remodeling and expansion projects for both of our airport terminals; and several other large projects.

With these projects, we should be able to keep our list of out-of-work brothers and sisters to a minimum. We extend a special “thank-you” to all the travelers who came to help us man our jurisdiction in 2015! The upcoming summer season looks promising as well.

Eric Peterson, B.R.

## Great Member Participation; Apprentices Serve Community

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Vermont set new record-high temperatures for the month of February. The recent winter season in Vermont was extremely mild and non-snowy, the polar opposite of the previous winter. This has been a pleasant occurrence for the many Local 300 members working on solar installations.

Happily, I can once again boast that Local 300's membership involvement has bumped up a level.

Our local is blessed with an outstanding team of apprentices. This collection of fresh IBEW members is and will be a force for the non-union contractors to reckon with! Several of the apprentices are hosting, preparing and serving dinner to out-of-town families who have children receiving specialized medical care at our local hospital. While the meal-planning team is working hard, the fundraisers for research on type 2 diabetes in children are getting things rolling.

With energetic, caring members the IBEW will not only survive but also continue to flourish. To all those who come together to form this team, we give a heartfelt thank-you!

Bro. Chad Bell, a journeyman wireman and apprenticeship instructor, attended a “train-the-trainer”

course for the installation of Tesla Powerwalls, rechargeable lithium-ion battery products. In the photo below, Bro. Chad is pictured at the Tesla factory in California. Tesla requires its personal training prior to any installation. I believe that Vermont is one of the first Northeast locations (if not the first) where the Powerwall is being offered for installation.

We at Local 300 wish you and yours the very best!

Tim LaBombard, Mbr. Dev.



Local 300 training instructor Chad Bell stands beside a Tesla Powerwall at Tesla factory in California.

## Election Year 2016 — Stand for Working People

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA — In this election year, let's remember who we are and what we stand for.

We are not one particular political party, gender, race or background. We are the hands that harness the energy that drives the future of America.

When politicians talk about “jobs,” remember that it is not just the job that is important. It is fair compensation for a career of applying our skills efficiently, producing a quality product under respectful conditions.

When “jobs” are discussed in large, dehumanizing numbers, the discussion misses something. References to the “thousands of jobs being sent overseas” often miss the fact that the thousand workers trained to do those jobs are unemployed here in America.

Those in government who used to advocate for us are being replaced by global-economy advocates. Others are downright hostile toward unions, blaming fair wages for a sluggish economic recovery and lack of competitiveness.

Listen carefully, brothers and sisters. There is a big difference between the lip service of “fighting for working men and women” and advocating for our right to build, maintain and participate fairly in the fruits and benefits of the future of America.

We deserve more than pandering. We deserve a seat at the table.

Bob Lilley, A.B.M.

## Service Awards Presentation

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH — At our December union meeting, service awards were presented to eligible members in appreciation for their longtime IBEW service. Award recipients included: for 65 years of service — William Campbell, Arthur Goodspeed and Eugene Mortimer; for 60 years — Donald Brown, Roger Casseday, Eugene Givens and James May; 55 years — Bruce Adams, David Brisbin, John Felber, John Horneck, Dennis Johanyak, Leonard Klein, Richard Muha, Daniel Popa, Robert Stewart, Bernard Taylor, Richard Vence, Arthur Weber and Philip Yankulov; 50 years — Richard Brauser, Robert Crookston, Howard Masters and Lowell Young; and 25 years — Frank Bindreiter, Molly Dougherty, Janice Gemind, Carol Hilton, Gregory Jarvis, Shawn Johanyak, Robert Kachovec, Andrew King, George Kungl, Brian Lawrence, James Livers, Steven Mangus, Christopher McDevitt, Mark Michl, Thomas Racco, Robert Schumacher and Arlett White. Congratulations and thank



## LOCAL LINES



Local 332 San Jose Chapter EWMC members pictured are: Tim Farnsworth, Alex Caraballo (with wife Alyse), Diallo Watson, Marvin Settles, Mark Martinez, Al Thompson, Nicholas Wokabi, Eddie Cabral (with wife Elizabeth), Michael James, Sean Larsen and Anthony Hernandez.

you, sisters and brothers, for your longtime service.

Also in December our Children's Christmas Party was a great success. We had a large turnout and attendees were entertained by a juggler, a balloon sculptor, and a visit from "Bro." Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thank you to our officers and the social committee for all their help. Thanks also to retired Bro. George Manus, who for many years has been our photographer at most Local 306 events, taking pictures of award recipients and each child visiting Santa at the Christmas parties.

With sadness we report the loss of retired Bros. Alfred Sander and Robert Biehl. Our condolences to their families.

Thomas Wright, P.S.

## EWMC San Jose Chapter

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA — The San Jose chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus at Local 332 is on the rise! [Photo at top, left.] It has been up and running as a committee for a couple of years now — and in January 2016, the group received their official charter at the annual EWMC Conference.

Volunteerism is a long-standing tradition in Local 332, and we are proud to have the EWMC enriching our communities and strengthening our Brotherhood. Recent EWMC contributions include staffing a Department of Veterans Affairs phone bank to benefit homeless veterans, and assisting with the annual decorating of San Jose's "Christmas in the Park" displays.

David Bini, Organizer

## EWMC Leadership Conference — Report From a Delegate

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA — I am happy to share the following, which was written by Local 340 construction wireman Bro. Will McKee, one of six Local 340 delegates who attended the 26th annual Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Leadership Conference in January:

"As a new member of IBEW Local 340, I was grateful to be able to attend the EWMC conference on behalf of my local. This conference provided a wealth of information regarding race, immigration and the

future of organized labor as well as offering a multitude of networking opportunities. Our delegates included a business development representative, three journeyman inside wiremen, myself and another brand new construction wireman member. [The delegates] were inspired and amazed at the magnitude of this conference. We worked side by side with over 425 EWMC members in the New York community installing various fixtures in schools, churches and businesses, and also cleaning up garbage around the city. It was record-breaking cold, but there were no complaints!

"There was also much to learn as we attended the workshops and panel discussions on myriad topics including prison reform and its relationship to the labor movement, understanding privilege, cultural competency and, for the first time, a panel discussion on LGBT issues. I was proud to be a part of this amazing event."

Thanks, Bro. McKee, for sharing this with us and thanks to IBEW Local 3 for hosting this year's event. I know from personal experience that this conference is always life-changing for the many delegates who attend.

Tom Okumura, B.M.

## IBEW Rallies Support During Flint's Water Crisis

L.U. 352 (u), LANSING, MI — Committed to giving back, we turned our efforts to the City of Flint in January. The water crisis there touched us deeply. It's in our Michigan community, and one of our Local 352 sisters lives and raises her children in Flint. Our local partnered with the non-bargaining side of our company in fundraising efforts and we collected donations of bottled water that were delivered to residents of Flint.

Organized in 1903, IBEW Local 352 became signatory to the Lansing Board of Water & Light in 1913. Local 352 members who work at Lansing BW&L include journey workers, electrical tradesmen and clerical workers, as well as operators who work in water production, transmission and distribution.

We began replacing all of our lead water pipes in 2004, and have replaced more than 13,500 of them to date. In January, our brothers and sisters were called upon to share their skills with the people of Flint and to show how efficiently lead services can be replaced with copper. They had local news outlets follow them with camera crews, and even had The



Local 340 delegates attend 2016 EWMC Leadership Conference: Bro. Ray Hughes (left), Asst. Bus. Mgr. D'Elman Clark, Bro. Jesse Naranjo, Local 340 EWMC Pres. Saleem "Slim" Khalid and Bro. Lurell Andrews. Not pictured: Bro. Will McKee.

New York Times join them at a job for a story highlighting their replacement process.

[Editor's Note: To read more, please see Who We Are article, "The IBEW's Innovative Solution to Flint's Water Crisis," on page 19 of this issue. The news story is also posted on the IBEW's website at [www.ibew.org/media-center](http://www.ibew.org/media-center).]

We are so proud of all our brothers and sisters!

Maggie Rich, V.P.



IBEW Local 352 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Jim Dravenstaad-Moceri (left) and Tony Baltimore, Lansing Board of Water & Light community relations coordinator, help deliver bottled water donated to residents of Flint, MI.

## Brighter Work Picture; Mercy Hospital Addition

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL — Local 364 held its semiannual Retirees Luncheon on Jan. 21. Sixty retired members and their spouses attended. Bus. Mgr. Alan Golden addressed the crowd and thanked the members for their dedicated years of service. Everyone enjoyed a great time.

The work situation looks brighter for Local 364 with the upcoming addition of a new 188-bed facility by Mercy Hospital. This 263-acre campus will include three buildings including a hotel. The \$450 million project is one of the largest in Rockford's history. Local 364 is eagerly awaiting the start of the project, which should begin in the spring with a completion date of 2018.

All politics are local. That being said, Local 364 is gearing up for the political season with endorsed-candidate information being distributed to all our members. Gov. Bruce Rauner's relentless attacks on labor have spawned resurgence in the labor movement. Now more than ever, we need to mobilize our efforts to protect our worker rights that our forefathers have worked so hard to preserve.

Brad Williams, Mbr. Dev.



New Jersey General Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling (left), a member of IBEW Local 400, is sworn in by Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto.

## IBEW Members Elected To New Jersey Legislature

L.U. 400 (es,i&o), ASBURY PARK, NJ — On Jan 12, 2016, Bro. Eric Houghtaling was sworn in as a state legislator at the 217th session of the New Jersey Gen-

eral Assembly. Bro. Houghtaling ran as a Democrat and his victory in a Republican stronghold was a monumental task and a great success.

Assemblyman Houghtaling is a 38-year IBEW member and current registrar who has been an elected public official for the past 18 years. He served Neptune Township for many years as a councilman and mayor.

Thanks go out to Local 400 Bus. Mgr. Guy Peterson for his unwavering support of Bro. Houghtaling's candidacy for the New Jersey Assembly seat. Demonstrating fierce dedication, Bus. Mgr. Peterson worked tirelessly to help build support for the campaign, both in terms of financial backing and manpower, from IBEW local unions in New Jersey, the building trades, and the AFL-CIO.

Local 400 is proud to have one of its own join two other IBEW members currently serving in the New Jersey General Assembly. General Assemblyman Joseph Egan, deputy majority leader, is a member of IBEW Local 456. Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, deputy speaker, is a member of IBEW Local 269. Our brothers will be hard at work introducing legislation and voting for laws that will benefit the working families of New Jersey.

Raven Morris, P.S.

## Recent Retirees Honored

L.U. 446 (i), MONROE, LA — Local 446 wishes to congratulate three members who recently retired. Bros. Donald Hebert, Donald Cooper and Donald Jennings retired in 2015 following longtime careers of dedicated IBEW service.

Bus. Mgr. Joshua Palmer presented these brothers with their IBEW retirement watches in recognition of their service. The local extends best wishes to Bros. Hebert, Cooper and Jennings for a long and happy retirement.

Joshua Palmer, B.M./F.S.



Local 446 Bro. Donald Cooper (left) receives retirement watch presented by Bus. Mgr. Joshua Palmer (right).

## IBEW Members Recognized For Act of Heroism

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts,spa&t), MILWAUKEE, WI — During our apprentice interviews, one of the questions asked of all our applicants is, "What would you do in an emergency situation?"

Two Local 494 members working with Nelco Electric — construction wireman Derrek Larson and journeyman wireman Jake Zacharias — were put to a real-life test and passed with flying colors.

During what would have been a normal work day, they observed something that appeared abnormal. They investigated a locked closet at the school they were working in and found an unresponsive employee.

Dialing 911 and administering first aid, Derrek and Jake were able to keep the person they found alive until emergency responders arrived.





Local 494 members Derrek Larson (left) and Jake Zacharias (center) with Bus. Mgr. Dean A. Warsh.

For their act of heroism, Bros. Larson and Zacharias each received an IBEW Local 494 Challenge Coin presented by Bus. Mgr. Dean Warsh.

Congratulations to these brothers for their remarkable quick thinking.

Kurt Jante, B.R.

## Union Sportsmen's Alliance Banquet a Great Success

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL — Local 558 was honored to be a part of the first Union Sportsmen's Alliance banquet in conjunction with the Alabama AFL-CIO on Dec. 3, 2015, in Trussville, AL. This was a groundbreaking event and exceeded all expectations considering it was the first year for the event. Plans are to hold the event annually. The proceeds raised from this event will be invested back into the Alabama Wildlife Conservation efforts. It is inspiring to know that the IBEW has played a pivotal role in assisting from day one and that our members represented our local in excellent fashion. [Photo at bottom, left.]

We are proud to announce that we have solidified a three-year contract with NECA, a five-year contract with Tombigbee Electric Cooperative, and a seven-year contract with Franklin Electric Cooperative. Work has slowly begun to pick up, with our scheduled spring outage at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. There will be a fall outage at the nuclear plant this year as well.

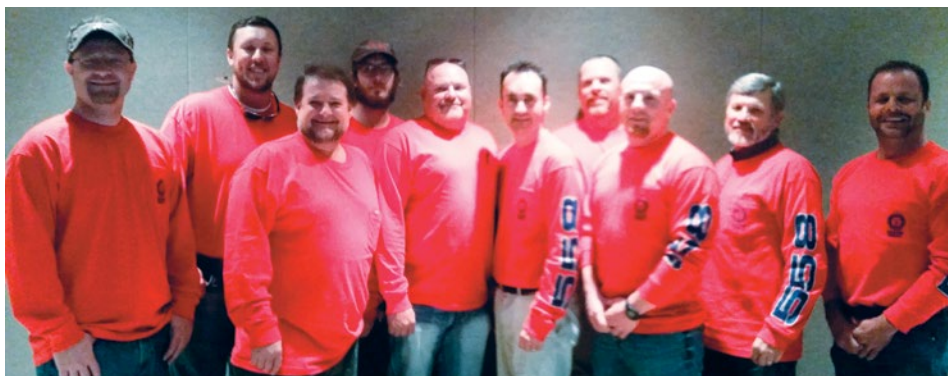
Notification will soon be released regarding plans for our 7th Annual Spring Picnic, to be held May 21 at Spring Park in Tusculumbia, AL.

We send our best to the Brotherhood and anticipate a very productive 2016.

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

## Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 570 (i,mo,spa&u), TUCSON, AZ — On Dec. 19 last year, Local 570 members, officers and family closed out 2015 by volunteering to help pack and distribute Christmas food boxes for distribution to more than 600 union members of the Tucson community who were in need of a helping hand for the holidays.



Local 558 members Jason Phillips (left), Tyler Pace, Greg Smith, Jessie McGee, Dwight Quillen, Tony Quillen, Jeremy Henderson, Dustin Bretherick, Mike Thompson and Brian Tipper.



At the Local 640 apprenticeship graduation ceremony in January.

Local 570 included turkeys for the 40 members of our local who received food boxes. Thanks go out to all the volunteers; they had fun and enjoyed the spirit of camaraderie working together to make the project a success.

We have an election of officers coming up, as well as negotiations for the inside agreement and negotiations for some of our units.

The work picture is still slow starting out 2016. Thank you to the fellow IBEW locals that are working our brothers and sisters on the road.

Scott W. Toot, Pres.



Local 570 volunteers Eric Varela (left), Pete Sabin, David Ochoa, Steven De La Rosa, Bus. Mgr. Mike Verbout, Patrick Armet and Russ Wind. Not pictured: member Rudy Aguilar, Apprenticeship Training Dir. Karen King, and family members Rhonda and Ryan Verbout.

## Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 640 (em,govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ — Our 2015 apprenticeship graduation ceremony was held in January and hosted by Phoenix Electrical JATC Training Dir. Shawn Hutchinson and Asst. Training Dirs. Lee Emms and Stephan Cole. We had combined classes totaling 30 graduating apprentices. Congratulations to all these graduates on becoming inside journeyman wiremen.

Graduate Shawn Davis was recognized for perfect attendance. Graduates Shawn Davis and Andrew Fritsch received Academic Achievement Awards. The 2015 Apprentice of the Year Award went to Shawn Davis. Great job, brothers.

We were honored to have three special guest speakers at the graduation ceremony: IBEW Seventh District Int. Vice Pres. Steven M. Speer, a Local 640 member; Electrical Training Alliance Exec. Dir. Todd Stafford; and NECA Field Rep. J.T. Osborn. They all had

great things to say to our new journeyman wiremen.

**[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 extend condolences to the families of our recently fallen brothers: John Laundry, Wesley Miglio, Richard Pollard, Warren Coughlin, Ernest Gautier and John McCahan. May you rest in peace, brothers.

Our work outlook is starting to pick up as of press time, and that is needed to put our brothers and sisters back to work after a very slow 2015. We extend thanks to all the locals that have kept our members working in our slow times.

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

## Fight for Worker Rights

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA — At this writing, there are fights for union and worker rights in statehouses all across the country, including Virginia.

The Republicans have taken advantage of the 2010 and 2014 off-year elections where they made big gains in statehouses. One major issue near and dear to legislators on the right is attacking unions. These attacks come in the form of so-called "right-to-work" legislation or by attempts to roll back prevailing wage law. There is also a great resistance on the right to any meaningful action on rampant worker misclassification in the construction trades and elsewhere. The upcoming presidential election is getting a great deal of coverage already, but the local and state elections are just as important. Find out how your representatives vote on issues important to working people, and remember it when you vote.

Recent retirees include: Walter D. Potter, Aubrey C. Collawn III, Riz B. Yu, Sherry P. Krouse, Kris I. Mitchell and Steven T. Repole.

Charles Skelly, P.S.

## Battle for Working People

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL — In our never-ending battle to improve the lives of our members and all working families, we continue to oppose politicians who attempt to destroy that which we strive to achieve. Indiana has already enacted "right-to-work-for-less" legislation, and the Republican governor in Illinois, as

well as the Republican-controlled House and Senate in Missouri, are pursuing that agenda. As we work through this election year, please join us in helping to elect a labor-friendly slate in all three states!

Our Annual Retiree Luncheon will be on April 6 this year, again at Rend Lake; doors will open at 11 a.m. Please contact the Union Hall at (618) 932-2102 to RSVP for yourself and your significant other.

In Indiana, we supported House Concurrent Resolution 54, which would recognize "the hardworking men and women who work every day of the year so that Hoosiers in every corner of our state have safe, reliable electric energy to power their homes, schools, churches and businesses by urging the Governor to designate February 29, 2016, as Electric Lineman Appreciation Day across Indiana."

As of this writing, our referral books are as follows: Inside Construction — 103; Outside Construction — 10; and Line Clearance — 4.

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

## 'Passing Along Information' — Valuable Program Presented

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA — I recently attended a meeting for all of Local 704's apprentices. Bus. Mgr. Tom Townsend and Bro. Pete Hird, Membership Development, presented an informative and valuable program. They spoke about the many aspects of our working agreement. Apprentices and journeymen alike are urged to contact the union hall if they have any questions or if they would like any clarifications regarding our agreement. Many times the knowledgeable voice of experience can clear up or address potential problems before issues develop into misunderstandings.

Local 704 extends condolences to the family of Bro. Milt Avenarius, who passed away at age 80 in December 2015. Milt was a loyal member of Local 704 for 55 years. He previously served on the apprenticeship committee and also as an instructor. Volunteerism was a major part of Milt's life and his commitment to our Dubuque area. He was involved with activities at the Dubuque County Fair, the Dubuque Arboretum, and the National Mississippi River Museum, where he was instrumental in establishing a Blacksmith Shop. He spent many hours, right up to the last days of his life, educating museum attendees about the art of blacksmithing.

Ron Heitzman, P.S.

## Tribute to a Life of Service

L.U. 1040 (em), HARTFORD, CT — Local 1040 Bus. Mgr. John O'Toole reports with great sadness the loss of Bro. Wayne Betts, who passed away Nov. 25, 2015.

Bro. Wayne was a good friend to all who knew him. He was a proud member of Local 1040 for 53 years and an employee of the Wiremold Company in West Hartford. He will be missed but not forgotten.

Don McNamara, P.S.



## LOCAL LINES

## Appointments &amp; Transitions

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ — Local 1116 recently said a fond farewell to our former business manager, Frank Grijalva. Frank led our local for more than eight years and now has moved on following his appointment as a Seventh District International Representative, effective Feb. 1 this year. Frank is a 28-year IBEW member and has also served the local in positions including financial secretary, vice president and president. We thank Frank for his dedicated leadership and wish him the very best in his new endeavors. We know he will serve the district well in his new position. Frank will be missed here at Local 1116, but we know his appointment will be a gain for everyone district-wide.



*Int. Rep. Frank R. Grijalva, former Local 1116 business manager.*

Stepping up to fill Frank's former position is newly appointed Bus. Mgr. Scott Northrup, our former president. Bus. Mgr. Northrup was appointed to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of office. Bro. Greg Carter was appointed president to fill that vacated seat. Bro. Andrew Koch was appointed to the vacated vice president's chair. At the time of this writing, a new E-Board member had not been appointed to fill Andrew's former position.

We also thank Roger Asplin for his participation as local union press secretary. He has stepped down from that post due to a new job assignment.

*Sharon Williams, P.S.*

## 'A Busy Year Ahead'

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH — 2016 is gearing up to be a busy year for Local 1466. We are in the midst of a historic, three-year collective bargaining agreement that was negotiated with American Electric Power. This is something we tried to achieve for many years, and are glad that it finally came to fruition. We still have a lot of work ahead of us to get where we need to be, but this is a good start.

We are also in the early stages of planning for both Union Stewards training and also a 2016 Code of Excellence training/workshop for our members. We had originally planned to conduct this training in 2015, but unfortunately were unable to solidify a date because of scheduling conflicts. We will be discussing possible dates for training this year at the various union meetings, and will keep everyone updated. We hope to see as many members as possible in attendance.

As the weather warms up, please continue to work safe and keep an eye out for your fellow brothers and sisters you work with every day!

*Jimi Jette, P.S.*

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## In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in February 2016

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Bradley, F.	1/1/16	77	Lesmeister, W. J.	10/9/15	349	Baggett, H. M.	12/19/15	701	Marcuccelli, C. V.	12/10/15
1	Bresnan, M. T.	1/23/16	77	Matheson, R. E.	12/21/15	349	Nottbohm, H. R.	12/22/15	702	Beal, J. L.	5/7/15
1	Cain, J. R.	11/27/15	80	Faircloth, D. G.	12/27/15	351	Dellinger, J. E.	1/6/16	702	Embry, D. R.	12/3/15
1	Davis, J. L.	1/3/16	95	Hebner, D. H.	12/6/15	351	Gallenthin, M.	10/24/15	702	Halbin, R. L.	1/10/16
1	Door, K. R.	1/4/16	98	Johnson, S. J.	11/6/15	351	Koykka, P. H.	12/7/15	702	Mondino, P. E.	12/29/15
1	Hearon, O.	1/10/16	98	Meagher, W. J.	1/4/16	351	Miller, C. F.	1/21/16	702	Rothe, C. A.	12/29/15
1	Mackenzie, G. G.	12/23/15	99	Berg, J. H.	11/16/15	351	Sacro, J. A.	1/11/16	704	Avenarius, M. A.	12/26/15
2	Hamlett, T.	11/7/15	100	Bravo, E.	9/4/15	353	Hochrein, R. W.	7/7/15	716	Aldridge, R.	1/5/16
3	Bergen, P. J.	1/14/16	103	Mitchell, T. F.	12/1/15	353	Munro, M. D.	12/22/15	716	Collier, R. J.	12/1/15
3	Cooper, W. J.	1/12/16	103	O'Meara, P. J.	8/17/15	353	Vella, J. J.	12/29/15	716	Faz, J.	12/17/15
3	DiFilippo, J. A.	1/3/16	104	Glidden, D.	12/25/15	353	Walchuk, S. E.	1/7/16	716	Knudson, C. J.	12/26/15
3	Esposito, J. N.	11/6/15	105	Cantin, C.	1/9/16	354	West, J. R.	10/11/15	716	Olis, R. G.	1/2/16
3	Federbush, A. K.	11/6/15	110	Bauer, M. G.	12/9/15	357	White, J. R.	12/20/15	716	Orton, L.	11/25/13
3	Herger, E. S.	12/8/15	110	Dufour, B. L.	10/29/15	364	Austin, R. L.	10/29/15	716	Russell, J. A.	1/8/16
3	Kunkel, P.	1/6/16	110	Lind, H. O.	4/12/15	369	Davis, J. E.	12/25/15	728	Lamb, C. T.	12/15/15
3	Panico, S.	11/28/15	111	Underwood, H. E.	1/10/16	369	Lawson, D. J.	11/12/15	728	Schandelmeier, R. G.	12/18/15
3	Rooney, D. J.	10/31/15	120	Jackson, L. M.	12/19/15	369	Muench, L. B.	12/19/15	756	Durrance, L.	1/9/16
3	Schleger, A.	9/4/15	124	Brownlee, K. J.	10/24/15	369	Price, V. T.	10/15/15	756	Garris, G.	11/25/15
3	Sullivan, E. B.	1/2/16	124	Charuk, M. F.	1/2/16	379	Humphries, R. E.	12/29/15	756	Smith, H. J.	12/7/15
3	Thony, J. A.	10/20/15	124	Myers, R. E.	1/4/16	388	Meuret, W. D.	12/31/15	768	Harris, J.	1/7/16
3	Ungar, D.	12/5/15	124	Nuzum, F. R.	12/7/15	424	Fingland, D. J.	12/9/15	768	Oftedahl, H. O.	12/29/15
5	Beard, J. L.	1/3/16	124	Reintjes, W. T.	12/21/15	424	Malcolm, S. R.	12/24/15	769	Morris, C. T.	11/18/15
5	Burkholder, W. E.	12/19/15	124	Strong, R. P.	12/7/15	428	Wallace, P. A.	11/29/15	769	Rogers, E. C.	9/25/15
5	Thomas, H. A.	1/7/16	125	Chiotti, A. J.	1/6/16	430	Surendonk, J.	10/30/15	769	Wood, K. C.	12/31/15
5	Unger, A. J.	12/10/15	129	Stitak, T.	12/26/15	440	Ambriz, M. G.	11/27/15	776	Phillips, R.	3/20/15
6	Buoncrisiani, D. R.	12/25/15	134	Accetta, M. J.	12/28/15	441	Dunham, C. E.	10/27/15	804	Fowler, R.	10/30/15
7	Carney, J. W.	7/30/15	134	Barrett, T.	12/24/15	441	Long, W. J.	12/22/15	816	Dillingham, R. M.	12/27/15
7	Ress, A. E.	12/10/15	134	Beishuizen, R. K.	1/2/16	446	Rinehart, R. C.	12/25/15	855	Rasner, L. F.	12/27/15
7	Wawrukiewicz, J. W.	12/22/15	134	Benson, M. E.	12/15/15	449	Fisher, R. J.	11/17/15	862	Wise, J. W.	12/23/15
8	Couture, P. E.	1/5/16	134	Clark, W. J.	10/21/15	453	Blackburn, L. D.	12/17/15	873	Conwell, P. G.	12/12/15
9	Batterson, D. G.	1/9/16	134	Erdmann, K. W.	12/19/15	456	Urban, R. R.	12/27/15	890	Devries, F. P.	1/15/16
10	Witter, F. F.	8/19/15	134	Groth, N. R.	1/3/16	461	Brosi, W. T.	10/25/15	903	Kelly, B. C.	10/8/15
11	Ferla, E. M.	12/30/15	134	Howard, W. R.	12/28/15	461	Knuth, G. M.	1/7/16	915	Bowman, D. D.	11/25/15
11	Flint, L. M.	11/30/15	134	Kazlowski, N.	12/25/15	466	Kapp, K. M.	12/7/15	948	Carlisle, A. W.	12/22/15
11	Horiguchi, T.	11/8/15	134	Olsen, K. L.	1/5/16	474	King, L. N.	12/21/15	952	Branstrom, W. G.	1/7/16
11	Hudson, D. W.	12/13/15	134	Pletcher, H. C.	1/2/16	477	Kelly, F. W.	12/16/15	969	McNitt, W. L.	12/19/15
11	Jones, B. F.	12/2/15	134	Quinn, J. C.	1/10/16	477	Stelk, R. L.	11/18/15	995	Burns, D. G.	1/8/16
11	King, R. L.	12/9/15	134	Shirey, R. D.	10/21/15	481	Jackson, D. L.	1/26/16	995	Nettles, S. C.	1/12/16
11	Knapp, D. H.	1/10/16	143	Kennedy, R. A.	1/8/16	481	Stevenson, D. M.	12/4/15	1049	Ennist, R. E.	11/8/15
11	Nery, C. K.	11/19/15	145	Brooks, D. L.	1/8/16	483	Larson, L. G.	12/31/15	1141	Burke, J. E.	1/4/16
11	Sievert, O. E.	8/19/15	145	Czarnetzki, J. K.	12/23/15	488	Horner, G. E.	12/7/15	1141	Carter, C. E.	12/26/15
11	Sparks, A. C.	11/6/15	145	Radue, R. R.	12/31/15	494	Arendt, E. J.	10/18/15	1141	Cottrell, G. D.	12/22/15
11	Zamudio, C. M.	1/31/14	150	Benson, J. E.	1/10/16	494	Bonn, K. J.	9/26/15	1186	Miyashiro, T.	11/12/13
13	Morrow, K.	10/7/15	150	Kiesgen, R.	12/13/15	494	Malecki, P. R.	1/5/16	1191	Garcia, C. P.	1/16/16
17	Barnes, D. G.	12/14/15	159	Bickle, D. M.	11/1/15	494	Pintar, J.	9/1/15	1191	Pflaum, N. J.	1/16/16
18	Gorham, D. B.	10/23/15	164	O'Brien, J. P.	10/24/15	495	Haman, W. M.	12/22/14	1191	Purvis, G. F.	12/5/15
20	Reed, R. K.	12/18/15	164	Sullivan, K.	11/26/15	505	Brown, H. S.	12/3/15	1212	Short, J. D.	4/26/15
22	Brown, E. E.	12/14/15	175	Ricker, J. L.	12/19/15	505	Forrester, L. D.	11/27/15	1245	Rohl, T. L.	12/31/15
22	Olsen, H. J.	12/14/15	175	Womack, J. D.	1/2/16	505	Welford, R. E.	11/6/15	1245	Timperley, H. E.	7/1/15
24	Hall, D. A.	9/5/15	177	Newman, J. C.	1/1/16	518	Nuttall, J. H.	11/1/15	1245	Warden, A. S.	4/10/15
24	Kramme, J. L.	11/20/15	177	Thomas, J.	1/3/16	520	Wauson, J. C.	5/7/15	1253	Brisette, E. E.	9/25/15
24	Pointer, C. G.	1/2/16	191	Courtney, H. W.	11/23/15	540	Hou, J. R.	11/25/15	1340	Steele, J. D.	12/22/15
24	Storm, R. N.	12/21/15	194	Lee, W. D.	11/8/15	551	Fendrick, H. E.	12/29/15	1391	Bargainnier, J. W.	12/22/15
25	Hobert, C. O.	1/1/16	194	Mills, C. W.	12/5/15	558	King, E. E.	12/1/15	1393	O'Meara, P.	12/27/15
26	Black, D. B.	11/24/15	196	O'Hair, T. C.	12/25/15	558	Lasater, T. D.	12/27/15	1547	Boyd, J. H.	12/23/15
32	Bidlack, N. A.	1/6/16	222	Register, G. C.	1/11/16	558	Michael, D. A.	1/4/16	1547	Buxton, L. F.	1/17/16
34	Brink, L. J.	5/6/13	222	Whittle, J. W.	12/25/15	558	Wright, J. D.	12/13/15	1579	King, J. L.	11/30/15
34	Rush, J. W.	12/25/15	223	Lessard, R. J.	12/18/15	569	Roscoe, R. D.	10/7/15	1925	Adams, E. E.	12/11/15
34	Zefo, A. L.	12/11/15	223	Nardullo, J.	11/27/15	573	Mason, R. R.	2/2/16	2104	Ziehm, W.	12/22/15
38	Holleran, E. J.	12/12/15	231	Russell, M. A.	12/15/15	586	Cochrane, R. K.	11/9/15	I.O. (106)	McIntyre, N. A.	5/13/15
43	Anderson, J. C.	12/20/15	234	Green, R. D.	11/3/15	586	Deslauriers, D.	11/18/15	I.O. (134)	Kaczmarek, M. M.	1/1/16
43	Gormley, E. J.	12/23/15	234	Sahlberg, R. B.	11/16/15	596	Thorne, R. S.	12/14/15	I.O. (379)	Gray, J. E.	10/6/15
46	Egbert, D. A.	1/3/16	236	Alukonis, R. J.	12/20/15	596	Wilson, C. E.	1/4/16	I.O. (424)	Marshall, S. R.	12/21/15
46	Pascho, R.	12/1/15	242	Watson, G. C.	1/18/16	602	Outlaw, J. B.	11/10/15	I.O. (769)	Baldrige, P. B.	12/15/15
48	Christensen, H. J.	11/20/15	254	Green, E. G.	12/30/15	606	Murphy, R. L.	1/11/16	I.O. (1377)	Kirkpatrick, J. E.	11/10/15
48	Cole, A. R.	1/17/16	257	Pritzel, B. L.	12/30/15	611	Montez, V. T.	12/23/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Allison, D. J.	12/11/15
48	Mason, E. D.	10/24/15	258	Giesbrecht, D.	11/29/15	611	Ward, T. D.	11/16/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Barnes, E.	12/19/15
48	Phillips, H. R.	12/20/15	265	Read, D. R.	11/13/15	613	Crowe, H. L.	11/22/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Doak, H.	12/6/15
48	Rasmussen, E. D.	12/24/15	278	Mullenax, J. C.	1/15/16	613	Hart, P. J.	1/6/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Downing, D. E.	11/28/15
48	Stewart, C. A.	7/14/15	280	Boals, W. C.	11/15/15	613	Thompson, B. D.	11/27/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Easton, R. T.	12/29/15
55	Dohrer, M. J.	7/29/15	280	Dixon, W. J.	12/27/15	636	Yard, A. J.	10/29/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Grasse, J. L.	12/27/15
57	Powell, L. K.	4/14/15	291	Shaw, W. P.	8/7/15	640	Landry, J. T.	12/19/15	Pens. (I.O.)	LaPenta, W. A.	11/1/15
58	Martin, J. E.	10/29/15	292	Hartley, J. L.	12/18/15	654	Metzger, L. R.	7/10/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Newbury, C. R.	12/18/15
58	McDonnell, R. L.	12/23/15	292	Ryba, A. F.	8/12/15	659	Chimenti, J. C.	12/8/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Reeves, B.	1/7/16
58	Reppke, R. J.	10/22/15	301	Hickey, C. E.	10/22/15	666	Schools, R. M.	1/14/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Rembold, G. L.	11/8/15
58	Walker, M. L.	5/7/15	306	Biehl, R. E.	10/24/15	666	Tuck, T. W.	1/4/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Shumaker, F. K.	12/23/15
66	Everage, I. L.	11/12/15	307	Ardinger, G. L.	10/17/15	666	Waltrip, L. L.	1/14/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Sims, P. K.	11/30/15
68	Oaks, P. L.	5/5/14	317	Austin, R. L.	1/6/16	668	McKinniss, G. I.	11/28/15	Pens. (I.O.)	States, R. C.	12/9/15
70	Bibb, R. F.	12/19/15	317	Browning, J. T.	11/28/15	683	Elder, R. H.	1/7/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Steffen, E. D.	12/26/15
71	Maines, M. K.	12/8/15	325	Crawford, C.	11/15/15	683	Sowers, H. D.	11/21/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Walker, L. M.	12/11/15
71	Plank, K.	1/4/16	332	Ernest, W. E.	12/10/15	692	Voisine, T. H.	11/28/14	Pens. (I.O.)	White, D. N.	1/5/16
76	Bell-Kosenski, M.	12/23/15	340	Connelly, W.	12/29/15	692	Voisine, R. J.	7/8/15			
77	Ballard, M. L.	12/11/15	343	Klingsporn, L. B.	12/28/15	697	Lanter, J. D.	10/29/15			



# Annual Funding Notice for National Electrical Benefit Fund

Introduction

This notice includes important information about the funding status of the National Electrical Benefit Fund (“the Plan” or “NEBF”). It also includes general information about the benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“PBGC”), a federal insurance agency. All traditional pension plans (called “defined benefit pension plans”) must provide this notice every year regardless of their funding status. This notice does not mean that the Plan is terminating. In fact, despite the difficult economic times and the market losses in 2008, the Plan has substantially rebounded. As a result, the Plan is in sound financial condition and is considered a “green zone” plan (rather than a plan in endangered or critical status). This notice is provided for informational purposes and you are not required to respond in any way. This notice is required by federal law. This notice is for the plan year beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015 (“Plan Year”).

How Well Funded Is Your Plan

The law requires the administrator of the Plan to tell you how well the Plan is funded, using a measure called the “funded percentage.” The Plan divides its assets by its liabilities on the Valuation Date for the plan year to get this percentage. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. The Plan’s funded percentage for the Plan Year and each of the two preceding plan years is shown in the chart below. The chart also states the value of the Plan’s assets and liabilities for the same period.

Funded Percentage			
	2015 Plan Year	2014 Plan Year	2013 Plan Year
Valuation Date	January 1, 2015	January 1, 2014	January 1, 2013
Funded Percentage	83.91%	84.75%	85.30%
Value of Assets	\$12,969,046,337	\$12,526,882,222	\$12,124,629,409
Value of Liabilities	\$15,455,532,336	\$14,781,355,674	\$14,214,010,207

Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the Valuation Date. They also are “actuarial values.” Actuarial values differ from market values in that they do not fluctuate daily based on changes in the stock or other markets. Actuarial values smooth out these fluctuations and can allow for more predictable levels of future contributions. Despite the fluctuations, market values tend to show a clearer picture of a plan’s funded status at a given point in time. The asset values in the chart below are market values and are measured on the last day of the Plan Year. The chart also includes the year-end market value of the Plan’s assets for each of the two preceding plan years.

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$12,559,080,450	\$12,970,582,768	\$12,431,896,702

Endangered, Critical, or Critical and Declining Status

Under federal pension law a plan generally is in “endangered” status if its funded percentage is less than 80 percent. A plan is in “critical” status if the funded percentage is less than 65 percent (other factors may also apply). A plan is in “critical and declining” status if it is in critical status and is projected to become insolvent (run out of money to pay benefits) within 15 years (or within 20 years if a special rule applies). If a pension plan enters endangered status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a funding improvement plan. Similarly, if a pension plan enters critical status or critical and declining status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a rehabilitation plan. Funding improvement and rehabilitation plans establish steps and benchmarks for pension plans to improve their funding status over a specified period of time. The plan sponsor of a plan in critical and declining status may apply for approval to amend the plan to reduce current and future payment obligations to participants and beneficiaries.

NEBF was not in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status in the Plan Year.

If the Plan is in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status for the plan year ending December 31, 2016, separate notification of that status has or will be provided.

Participant Information

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the Valuation Date was 522,849. Of this number, 232,236 were current employees, 131,104 were retired and receiving benefits, and 159,509 were retired or no longer working for a covered employer and have a right to future benefits.

Funding and Investment Policies

Every pension plan must have a procedure for establishing a funding policy for plan objectives. A funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The funding policy of the Plan is to ensure that the employer contributions to the Plan, coupled with long-term investment returns, will keep the Plan financially secure and permit the Plan to meet all current and future liabilities. The Trustees have determined that the 3% of gross labor payroll contribution rate will continue to satisfy this funding policy.

Pension plans also have investment policies. These generally are written guidelines or general instructions for making investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan is to select a diversified investment portfolio designed to balance risk and return, and to hire or contract with professional investment staff and advisers to ensure that the allocation of investments are prudent and that the individual investment funds and managers are achieving the goals established by the Plan.

Under the Plan’s investment policy, the Plan’s assets were allocated among the following categories of investments, as of the end of the Plan Year. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

Asset Allocations	Percentage
Cash (Interest bearing and non-interest bearing)	0.02%
U.S. Government securities	4.50
Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	—
All other	8.19
Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	0.74
Common	21.65

Partnership/joint venture interests	17.44
Real estate (other than employer real property)	0.04
Loans (other than to participants)	2.34
Participant loans	—
Value of interest in common/collective trusts	26.63
Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1.17
Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	—
Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	—
Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	3.84
Value of funds held in insurance co. general account (unallocated contracts)	—
Employer-related investments:	
Employer securities	—
Employer real property	—
Buildings and other property used in plan operation	—
Other	13.44

For information about the Plan’s investment in any of the following types of investments — common / collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, or 103-12 investment entities — contact the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, or (301) 556-4300.

Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report

Pension plans must file annual reports with the U.S. Department of Labor. The report is called the “Form 5500.” These reports contain financial and other information. You may obtain an electronic copy of your Plan’s annual report by going to [www.efast.dol.gov](http://www.efast.dol.gov) and using the search tool. Annual reports also are available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration’s Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling (202) 693-8673. Or you may obtain a copy of the Plan’s annual report by making a written request to the plan administrator. Annual reports do not contain personal information, such as the amount of your accrued benefit. You may contact your plan administrator if you want information about your accrued benefits. Your plan administrator is identified below under “Where to Get More Information.”

Summary of Rules Governing Insolvent Plans

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans that become insolvent, either as ongoing plans or plans terminated by mass withdrawal. The plan administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in the annual funding notice. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan’s available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC, below), the plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan’s financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including loss of a lump sum option.

Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC

The maximum benefit that the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Only benefits that you have earned a right to receive and that cannot be forfeited (called vested benefits) are guaranteed. There are separate insurance programs with different benefit guarantees and other provisions for single-employer plans and multiemployer plans. Your Plan is covered by PBGC’s multi-employer program. Specifically, the PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit payment equal to 100 percent of the first \$11.00 of the plan’s monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next \$33.00 of the accrual rate, times each year of credited service. The PBGC’s maximum guarantee, therefore, is \$35.75 per month times a participant’s years of credited service.

Example 1: If a participant with 10 years of credited service has an accrued monthly benefit of \$600.00, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the participant’s years of service (\$600.00 / 10), which equals \$60.00. The guaranteed amount for a \$60.00 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11.00 plus \$24.75 (.75 x \$33.00), or \$35.75. Thus, the participant’s guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50 (\$35.75 x 10).

Example 2: If the participant in Example 1 has an accrued monthly benefit of \$200.00, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the guarantee would be \$20.00 (or \$200.00 / 10). The guaranteed amount for a \$20.00 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11.00 plus \$6.75 (.75 x \$9.00), or \$17.75. Thus, the participant’s guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$177.50 (\$17.75 x 10).

The PBGC guarantees pension benefits payable at normal retirement age and some early retirement benefits. In addition, the PBGC guarantees qualified preretirement survivor benefits (which are preretirement death benefits payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies before starting to receive benefit payments). In calculating a person’s monthly payment, the PBGC will disregard any benefit increases that were made under a plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan’s termination or insolvency (or benefits that were in effect for less than 60 months at the time of termination or insolvency). Similarly, the PBGC does not guarantee benefits above the normal retirement benefit, disability benefits not in pay status, or non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

For additional information about the PBGC and the pension insurance program guarantees, go to the Multiemployer Page on PBGC’s website at [www.pbgc.gov/multiemployer](http://www.pbgc.gov/multiemployer). Please contact your employer or plan administrator for specific information about your pension plan or pension benefit. PBGC does not have that information. See “Where to Get More Information,” below.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, or (301) 556-4300. For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001 and the plan sponsor’s name and employer identification number or “EIN” is Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, 53-0181657.

Lonnie R. Stephenson NEBF Trustee	Salvatore J. Chilia NEBF Trustee	John M. Grau NEBF Trustee	Dennis F. Quebe NEBF Trustee
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*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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#### 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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#### FROM THE OFFICERS

## Manufacturing Excellence: A Top Priority



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

**T**his edition of *The Electrical Worker* reports on an exciting partnership between New York Local 3 and Eaton Cooper Lighting. IBEW Code of Excellence labels now are affixed to the company's products as they leave its facility in Hicksville, N.Y.

Eaton Cooper is the first company to display the labels, but the Code of Excellence already is having a profound impact in the manufacturing branch. The IBEW has reached agreements with nearly 60 other companies to implement Code of Excellence training. That number is going to rise.

Here's why: Nearly everyone knows American manufacturing has been devastated, but the raw numbers still are sobering. The IBEW now has approximately 40,000 members in the manufacturing branch, about an 87 percent drop from 1970.

We can't expect corporations to suddenly stop going overseas in search of cheap labor. But we can put ourselves in a better position to meet that challenge. We must show pride in our work and a commitment to our craft.

The Code of Excellence asks for nothing from a good worker that he doesn't expect from himself. Show up on time and work a full eight hours. Commit to a drug-free workplace. Let other workers know when they aren't pulling their weight. The only things new with the code are undergoing training and affirming those principles in writing. In turn, management agrees to work collaboratively with IBEW members to produce the best possible products for consumers.

Some members have wondered if the Code of Excellence will lead to an increase in disciplinary issues with management. Quite the contrary. We've found that reported discipline cases dropped more than 50 percent at some locations that have implemented it.

Others wonder if we are getting too comfortable with private businesses. Not a chance. The IBEW will continue to protect your rights on the job, ensure your safety and push to make sure you have a decent paycheck.

We understand there are no guarantees. Corporations will continue to look to slash costs. But now, we can remind them they have the most productive workforce in the world.

All of us must look for innovative ways to protect American jobs in a demanding environment. The Code of Excellence does just that. I'm asking you to support it and follow its principles at your workplace. You'll be proving once again there is no better worker than an IBEW member. ■

## A Clear Choice in November

**A**s if the stakes weren't high enough already, the vacancy created on the Supreme Court when Justice Antonin Scalia died shines the brightest of spotlights on this November's presidential election.

Republicans in Congress are promising to deny President Obama his constitutional right to nominate Scalia's successor, outright refusing to consider his nominee while they cling to the hope that a member of their party ends up in the White House.

But we in the labor movement can't let that happen. The Supreme Court is the last line of defense in our democracy against unjust laws, and these politicians aim to replace one of the most right-wing justices in Supreme Court history with another one just like him or worse.

At the time of his death in February, Scalia was likely preparing to cast the deciding vote against working people in a case that would have put every public employee in America in a right-to-work shop. And if we think that case was the only challenge to the rights of hard-working Americans, we are kidding ourselves.

Already, the lawyers behind that case are clamoring for it to be reheard whenever a new justice finally takes the bench. These are the same anti-union lawyers who felt so confident the Scalia Court would side with them that they chose to circumvent elected representatives in California just to speed their argument to Washington.

In Kentucky, a federal judge struck down county-by-county right-to-work laws in February, but the very next day the big business interests behind the attempt were vowing to appeal all the way to the Supreme Court if that's what it takes.

It's no different in Congress, where Republicans have tried to eliminate PLAs and to gut prevailing wage laws this term, and the only thing stopping them from succeeding has been a Democratic president in the White House threatening the veto.

This November, we get to have our say in choosing the next president, who will shape the direction of this closely divided Supreme Court for decades to come.

A lot of candidates out there claim to be speaking to us, but when the smoke clears, we'll be faced with a choice that couldn't be clearer. A Republican president will try to replace Justice Scalia with another friend of union busters. A Democrat will appoint justices who will protect the rights of working people.

We know that no politician is going to side with labor on every issue, and sometimes we're going to be angry with the decisions our so-called friends make in office. But when it comes to the Supreme Court and its lifetime appointments, we can't afford to take chances.

So, while we're not making an endorsement now, I can promise you that when we do, it will be for the candidate who will nominate a justice who will fight for working families. The risks this November are simply too high. ■



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



## “LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

### ‘A Brawler for All of Us’

On Feb. 1, Manchester, N.H., Local 2320 Sister Linda Horan passed away. She was known to most of us as a fierce advocate for the rights of others and a fighter for anything that she thought was unfair, or anyone that she thought was being treated unfairly. Whether the rights were union ones that many of us have known her for, or the civil ones, she challenged, scrapped, and brawled for all of us.

Local 2320 Business Manager Steven Soule said he'll always remember her as a passionate advocate for the rights of people in the labor movement. “She had no hesitation to speak to what other people felt but lacked the courage to say.”

Sister Horan was on the executive board for many years and was a steward in her unit. She chaired the local's political action committee. She was a delegate to several international conventions, New Hampshire AFL-CIO conventions, Second District progress meetings, and served as vice president for the state AFL-CIO.

After Sister Horan received a lifetime solidarity award, the local union created a commemoration in her honor for members who go above and beyond to encompass what it means to be a true union member.

She was on the School-to-Work committee with Verizon, and worked tirelessly to bring this program to fruition. One of her crowing achievements was helping establish the New Hampshire AFL-CIO Scholarship Fund, which was renamed in her honor in January.

Sister Horan testified in Congress and protested against right-to-work in New Hampshire on multiple occasions, and was always willing to take a road trip to rally for fellow union brothers or sisters.

During the longest strike in our local's history, members from unions in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Tennessee made the trip to New Hampshire during the blustery winter of 2014-2015 all because of the hard work done by Sister Horan.

Sister Horan will forever be in our hearts and her memory will live on in our spirit as we continue to fight for the rights of workers and people everywhere.

*Cara Delahanty, Local 2320 member  
Manchester, N.H.*

### Recognition at Last

I would like to thank Cumberland, Md., Local 307 Brothers Irvin “Butch” Johnson and George Smith for their service to our great country. In today's often troubling times we tend to forget just what our past and present brothers and sisters went through and go through to keep our country safe. Great story.

*Brian Lewis, Local 9 member  
Chicago*

I did enjoy the story on the back page of the March issue (“At Long Last, Recognition for IBEW Hero,” page 20). I see the writer incorrectly noted D-Day as June 1943. Well, sir, D-Day was actually June 6, 1944. As a war history buff and a Vietnam era veteran, I do hope you will correct that in your next issue.

*Joseph Marley, Local 146 retiree  
Decatur, Ill.*

**[Editor's Note:** Thank you for your note, Brother Marley. We apologize for the editing error and appreciate your sharp eye. The longer, online version correctly placed D-Day in June 1944 and we hope everyone will visit [bit.ly/IBEWHero](http://bit.ly/IBEWHero) to learn more about Brother Butch Johnson and his heroism during World War II.]



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

### Right-to-Work Blues

Bought-and-paid-for politicians! How many voters do you hear asking for [a new right-to-work law in West Virginia]? Zero! There is no positive economic impact to this legislation. It doesn't create jobs. Doesn't improve working conditions. Doesn't increase wages or benefits. The only thing it does is lower wages and increase profits for business.

*Robert DeNoto, Local 86 member  
Rochester, N.Y.*

## 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).



*The Chicago chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus joined up with the southeast Michigan chapter to donate and distribute \$2,300 in bottled water. Pictured here are Nannette Culp (left), Felicia Wiseman, Kevin Mack, Peter Thurston and Leticia Zepeda.*

Photo credit: Flickr user Ben Gordon

## The IBEW's Innovative Solution to Flint's Water Crisis

**B**eyoncé is helping out. So are the Detroit Lions, the Plumbers and the Auto Workers. If there is a silver lining to the water crisis in Flint, Mich., it's the outpouring of assistance from the public and in no small part labor unions, including IBEW locals.

“It's a disgrace what has happened to the people of Flint,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “If ever there was time for solidarity and coming together to help our brothers and sisters, it's now and it's in Flint.”

In 2014, in an effort to save money, a state-appointed “emergency manager” decided to switch Flint's water source from the Detroit River to the Flint River. Without proper treatment, the heavily contaminated water leached into the lead pipes that run throughout the city and into people's homes.

What happened afterward included a series of ignored signs of the mounting disaster. The number of children with high levels of lead in their blood doubled. Bacteria including E. coli and cancer-causing chemicals were found in the visibly filthy water.

The city has since switched back to the cleaner water source, but the lead pipes remain. In addition to rashes and other health issues, some 8,000 children have been exposed to an element known to cause irreversible brain damage.

Many questions remain unanswered, but what cannot be disputed is that the residents of Flint have been and continue to receive polluted water. That is where IBEW locals have stepped in to help.

In Michigan's capital city of Lansing, Local 352 members collected bottled water and raised over \$1,500. But that's not why they're getting national attention.

Local 352 is also the home of a new technology in lead pipe removal, a less disruptive and quicker method of switching old pipe to copper. These Lansing Board of Water and Light employees have replaced over 13,000 pipes this way since 2004.

The technique even caught the attention of The Rachel Maddow Show. As Maddow discovered, whereas the previous method required digging a giant trench and tearing up the street, the new version is less invasive, requiring only two relatively small holes.

Local 352 members helped pioneer the new procedure and tools that cut and remove old lead cable while also pushing through and replacing it with safer copper pipes. And two lead services, or homes, can be done in one day — twice as fast as the traditional method.

Now these members are heading east to Flint to share their technology. According to an estimate from the Lansing utility, it will cost about \$55 million and take 130 people to replace all the lead pipes within a year.

“We've been doing this for more than 10 years and we know it works,” said Local 352 Business Manager Ron Byrnes. “It can work in Flint too.”

For its part, Flint's hometown Local 948 has been coordinating water drives and directing people interested in helping to the Genesee County United Way, which

is working with the area Red Cross and the Michigan Community Service Commission to run a volunteer center. The local is also working with area building trades to donate money to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

South of Flint, Detroit Locals 17 and 58 have also stepped up. Local 58 Business Manager Michael Richard said that the locals sent about 3,000 cases of water north.

Chicago Local 134 and its Electrical Workers Minority Caucus have also been providing assistance.

“This type of community service falls in line with what we do all the time,” said EWMC Chicago Chapter President Joseph K. Wells. “It was just a matter of how we were going to go about it.”

After learning about a water relief program run by Michigan grocery chain Meijer, Wells met with Local 134 Business Manager Don Finn and President Thomas Manning and the decision was made to purchase \$2,300 worth of bottled water, which was delivered by the Teamsters.

Wells and other EWMC members distributed the water in Flint with the help of the Southeast Michigan EWMC chapter.

“It was good to be able to help,” said Southeast Michigan EWMC President Felicia Wiseman, who participated. “I can't even fathom what it's like, to have to go every day without any water.”

Wells and Wiseman both said they are considering other ways to help, which may include collecting items like hand sanitizer and wipes.

Read the full story at <http://bit.ly/IBEWFlint>. ■



# Trade Deal Opposition Mounts

## TPP, Signed, Faces Hurdles in the Capitol

**O**n most issues, Washington feels hopelessly gridlocked, but believe it or not, politicians from opposite ends of the political spectrum have found some rare common ground: opposition to President Obama's Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

On Feb. 4, representatives of the 12 nations party to the treaty, including the U.S. and Canada, signed the agreement in New Zealand, opening the door for countries to begin ratifying the deal in their respective legislative bodies.

Reached last October after seven years of secret negotiations, the trade pact has been billed by the White House as a game-changer that "has the strongest protections for workers of any trade agreement in history."

But that's only half of the story.

The TPP, as it's known, is a broad-based trade and investment agreement among the United States, Canada, Japan and nine other Pacific Rim countries. And, like other trade deals before it, it aims to reduce tariffs on imports and exports and promises reforms in labor laws, environmental standards, human rights and intellectual property protection — all things designed to keep U.S. companies competitive.

But leading presidential candidates, members of Congress from both parties, labor leaders, environmentalists and even some corporate interests aren't buying it, especially after the agreement's full 6,000-page text was made public last November.

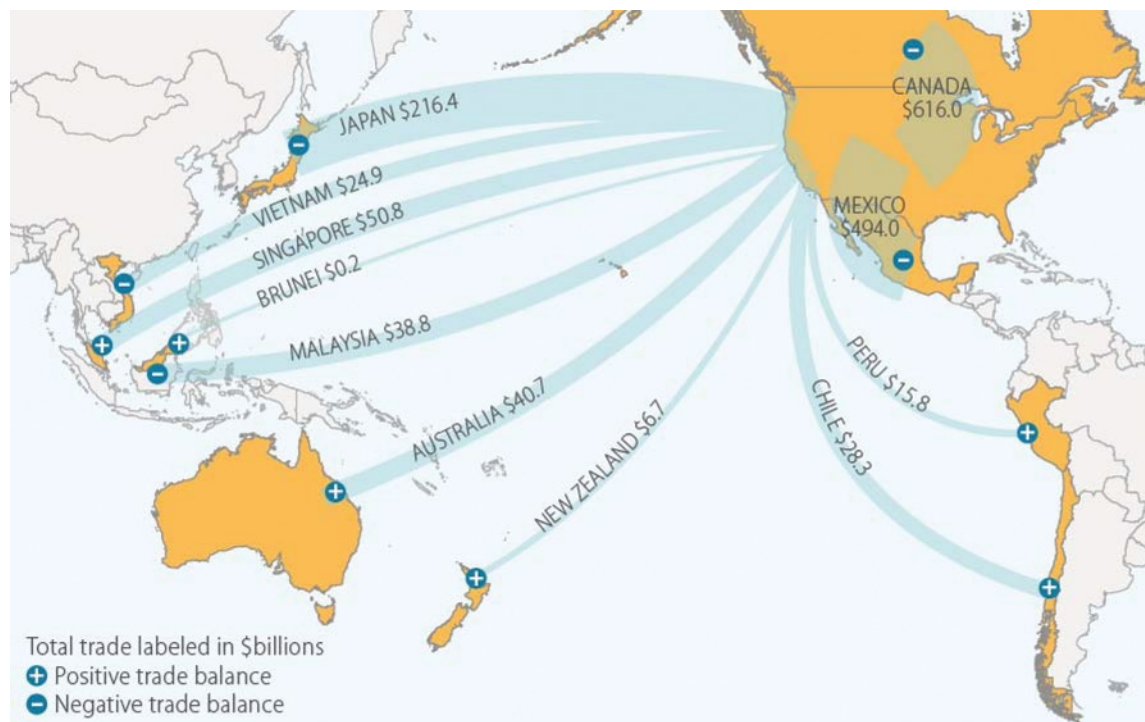
"The final text of the agreement," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka wrote in The Hill, "is even worse than we imagined, with loopholes in labor enforcement and rewards for outsourcing."

"The TPP is a giveaway to big corporations, special interests and all those who want economic rules that benefit the wealthy few," he wrote, adding that the labor movement tried dozens of times during negotiations to convince the White House to make changes but that labor leaders were ignored at every step.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has been critical of the secretive process from the beginning, detailed the ways that the TPP favors corporate interests over working people in a speech late last year at the National Press Club.

"As the negotiations took place," Warren said, "there were cleared advisors ... here in the United States who whispered in the ears of the actual trade negotiators, met with them, talked with them, helped them shape the trade deal. And 85 percent of them were either corporate CEOs or lobbyists. That builds a tilt into the entire process. And now we've seen the product, and the tilt is right there."

The main problem with the TPP, Warren explained, is that for all its great promises about labor rights and human rights and environmental protections around the world, the deal contains the same old enforcement mechanisms that have failed over and over on past trade



*The U.S. carries a net trade deficit of more than \$154 billion to the 11 other countries party to the TPP. This chart shows total trade between the countries, \$1.6 trillion, as well as trade balance with the U.S. If TPP is passed, these deficits could grow even larger while U.S. jobs move overseas. (Source: Congressional Research Service)*

deals and have paved the way for shipping American jobs overseas. "Promises without enforcement aren't worth the paper they're printed on," she warned.

Another major problem with the deal, according to IBEW Manufacturing Department Director Randy Middleton, has to do with the TPP's rules of origin.

"Under this agreement, a car can be made 45 percent in China, which is subject to none of these supposedly 'rock-solid' labor standards, and then get shipped off to any other TPP-signatory country, finished up, and still make it into the U.S. 100-percent duty free," Middleton said. "Tell me how that's good for Americans, or even the least bit fair to the workers who are going to be hit hardest by this thing."

A recent study by the Global Development and Environment Institute at Tufts University warned that economic projections touted by the White House are essentially bogus, "based on unrealistic assumptions," the report showed.

The reality, according to the study, is that TPP would lead to losses in employment and increases in inequality in developed countries, with no country more affected than the U.S. In total, the study expects that U.S. gross domestic product would shrink by more than half a percent over 10 years of TPP and 448,000 jobs would be lost.

Even more, the share of GDP that goes to labor would decrease by 1.31 percent, meaning an even larger share of a smaller economy would go directly to corporations and their CEOs.

"What we're seeing with TPP is really no different than any of the bad trade deals that came before it," said IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "Corporations are going to make a lot of money off this, just like they

did with NAFTA, CAFTA or the Korean trade deal, and working people are going to be left holding the bag."

Since the North American Free Trade Agreement was passed in 1993, the U.S. has lost more than one in four manufacturing jobs, putting more than 5 million people out of work. More than 57,000 U.S. manufacturing facilities have closed since then, and the U.S. trade balance with Mexico and Canada has skyrocketed from a \$5 billion surplus in 1993 to a \$177 billion deficit today.

With vocal opposition from leading presidential candidates on both sides — including Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders — TPP's prospects in Congress are dwindling.

Just hours before U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman inked the deal in Auckland, congressional leaders, joined by Trumka and members of the progressive community, participated in a press conference on Capitol Hill vowing to stop the trade agreement in its tracks and backing it up with more than a million signed petitions opposing the TPP.

"I see an agreement written by corporations for corporations," Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut said. "We need to defeat this agreement because it stacks the deck against working people."

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii added, "We know how this [TPP] story will end. ... The American people deserve transparent trade that will not take us down a path that leads to more suffering."

Rep. Debbie Dingell, whose Michigan district includes a number of Detroit automakers, said she is concerned that the TPP does nothing to stop big-time currency manipulators like China and Japan, who artificially deflate their currencies to boost exports.

Trumka called the deal "toxic," and issued a stern warning to lawmakers who cave to corporate pressure on the TPP. "To all those on the ballot in 2016, we have a simple message: either you're with us or you're against us."

As it stands, the TPP is unlikely to reach a vote before the November elections. Congressional leadership understands how unpopular the deal is with ordinary Americans, and experts think Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan want to protect their members by delaying action until after the elections.

Even with the delay, the deal faces opposition by large numbers of Democrats and more than a handful of Republicans, including former U.S. trade representative Ohio Sen. Rob Portman. Faced with a competitive challenge from former Gov. Ted Strickland, Portman came out against the TPP on the day it was signed. "I can't support the TPP ... because it doesn't provide that level playing field," he said.

Still, the White House considers TPP a top priority, and Obama is continuing to urge Congress not to wait until after the elections.

"If waiting is indeed their plan," Stephenson said, "they think we'll forget about it before 2018 rolls around. I can promise these lawmakers that we in the labor movement have long memories. If they vote to inflate corporate profits over protecting American jobs, we won't forget about it." ■

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