The Block Island Wind Farm is now being built three miles off the island and 16 miles off the Rhode Island mainland. Photo provided by Deepwater Wind.

Three miles off the coast of Block Island — and 16 miles off the Rhode Island mainland — will stand the first offshore wind farm in U.S. waters, another sign that wind energy is making inroads in North America.

It has added significance for Providence, R.I., Local 99. The construction of the five-turbine farm is a chance to be a part of history and also put IBEW members in line for good-paying jobs now and in the future.

“We’re at the dawn of a new source of energy. Being on the ground of this initial project will hopefully give us a leg up on the next project,” Business Manager Michael Daley said.

Daley said about 50 wiremen from Local 99 are expected to work on the Block Island project, most of them at the Port of Providence, where Local 99 members helped build a temporary construction facility last winter.

They have been replaced by crews assembling the five turbines and cables to support them. The turbines will be put on barges and transported to the Block Island site sometime this summer. Deepwater Wind, the windfarm owner, expects it to be generating power later this year.

It hasn’t been the easiest work. Heavy rains during the winter slowed construction of the temporary facility. So did the unexpected discovery of methane gas. Most of the parts were built overseas and French- and Spanish-speaking workers also are on the jobsite, leading to some communication difficulties.

“I’ve never been a part of anything else like it,” said Local 99 member Jack McGee, who interrupted his retirement to serve as construction manager at the temporary facility for IBEW signatory contractor Aladdin Electric.

But it’s all been worth it.

“There’s going to be a lot of new construction because of this and we want to be part of it,” said Local 99 member Jeff Audet, co-owner of E.W. Audet & Sons, who heads a crew of IBEW workers assembling the turbines.

New Opportunities

There are thousands of windfarms off the coasts of Europe, China and Japan. But in the United States, most have been built on the open plains of the Midwest and West. States getting the largest percentage of their energy from wind are Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma and North Dakota, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

That availability of land has discouraged the building of offshore facilities. So have other factors. Some owners of oceanfront property have worked to squash them, including the highly-publicized Cape Winds of Change

IBEW News

Trains Keep on Running

Last-minute agreement averts NJ Transit strike

Unprecedented Shutdown

IBEW crews inspect shuttered system for hazards

New Satellite Members

DirecTV workers sign IBEW cards

No Carbon, High Risk

NY’s nuclear plants threatened

In This Issue

North of 49°

Circuits

Politics & Jobs

Transitions

Spotlight on Safety

PBF Summary Annual Report

Local Lines

December IEC Minutes

February IEC Minutes

In Memoriam

Editorials

Letters to the Editor

Who We Are

IBEW Builds First U.S. Offshore Wind Farm

The Block Island Wind Farm is now being built three miles off the island and 16 miles off the Rhode Island mainland. Photo provided by Deepwater Wind.

The Block Island Wind Farm is now being built three miles off the island and 16 miles off the Rhode Island mainland. Photo provided by Deepwater Wind.

OFFSHORE WIND FARM continued on page 2
IBEW Builds First U.S. Offshore Wind Farm

Wind project proposed for Nantucket Sound off the coast of Massachusetts’s Cape Cod.

But Rhode Island officials welcomed the Block Island project. They see it as a way to boost the state’s economy and get a jump on an emerging, clean-energy technology ahead of other coastal states. They worked in concert with Providence-based Deepwater Wind to pick the site. The IBEW was among several trade unions that lobbied Rhode Island officials to ensure it would be built and Deepwater Wind officials turned to them when construction began.

“They bring with them the unique skills and experience we need to complete this work and we’re pleased that IBEW members are part of the world-class team we’ve assembled to build this project,” Deepwater Chief Executive Officer Jeff Grybowski said.

Located in a spot with strong winds, the project is expected to significantly lower energy costs on the island, which isn’t connected to the mainland grid and has to import one million gallons of diesel fuel every year.

Daley expects it to lead to bigger and better things for Local 99 members. They will have permanent positions at substations on the island and in Narragansett, R.I., he said. Deepwater Wind also has plans to build a 200-turbine farm in federal waters off the coasts of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, with work starting sometime next year. Local 99’s signatory contractors are expected to be involved in working on that, too.

Site Challenges

For members like McGee and others at Aladdin Electric, the job is finished. He and his crew completed work on the temporary construction facility on Feb. 1.

Temperatures were mild by New England winter standards, but there was more rain than usual, he said. Workers preparing to pour the concrete base found methane just beneath the ground’s surface. That delayed work for six weeks while a protective barrier was built.

“Then we had to monitor the methane and had to put in a control system.”

The situation also forced crew members to deal with standing water. It couldn’t seep into the ground during and after rainstorms and had to be removed manually.

“We had an open pit, all the water would run into that opening,” McGee said.

For others like Audet, the work is ongoing. But as he pointed out, IBEW members are used to taking on difficult jobs.

“Our guys know how to put things together,” Audet said. “With the knowledge they’ve gained in the past on other construction sites, they can adapt and make it happen.”

Most of my guys have been with me for a long time, for more than 10 years. I have a lot of trust in them and they know what to do. If they don’t, they know the right questions to ask.”

Daley said he is hopeful some Local 99 members will be involved in construction at the on-water site near Block Island.

That remains uncertain. But no matter the future in wind energy in and around Rhode Island, he’s confident Local 99 will have a place in it. Daley recently attended a conference in Boston for companies pursuing wind-energy projects. It convinced him more than ever of the importance of Local 99 getting involved.

Among the companies on hand was GE, which has installed more than 30,000 wind turbines on land, but is moving into the offshore market. GE’s renewable energy division is installing electrical and mechanical components in the Block Island project’s five turbines.

“We’re trying to get out the message that green energy is good,” Daley said.

“There will always be fossil fuels. But the less reliant we can be on those, the better off we’ll be. That’s the message we’re trying to promote.”

NJ Transit ‘Win-Win-Win’ Deal Averts Strike

Only hours before a strike that would have stranded tens of thousands of commuters, union workers and New Jersey Transit came to terms.

The deal was struck March 11, after NJ Transit added nearly $50 million in wages and benefits to its previous offer, said IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohné.

The final terms of the agreement have not been released, but Bohné said the eight-and-a-half-year deal, with five years retroactive pay, came very close to the union position that had been endorsed by two presidential emergency boards over the last year. The major difference was that the pay increases were spread over a longer period.

“In the end we have a deal that is a win for the state, a win for the workers and a win for our customers,” Bohné said.

If the negotiations had failed, the more than 300,000 people who use NJ Transit Railroad every day, more than 100,000 into Manhattan alone, would have been effectively stranded. NJ Transit announced plans to increase bus service, but only enough to carry 40,000 more riders. With the first NJ Transit strike in 20 years set for the night of Sunday March 13, many workers left work Friday night unsure of how they would get back.

“We got an agreement because there was a lot of political and public pressure on New Jersey Transit to keep the trains running,” Bohné said. “I thought it was wonderful that the pressure was on.”

The 4,200 union rail workers will receive wage increases of approximately 2.5 percent per year over the term of the agreement, with retroactive wage payments dating back to March 1, 2012, paid in two lump-sum increments. Certain changes were made to the health care plans and members will be paying more for their coverage, but the changes were in line with the recommendations of the two PEBs.

“What they first offered would not have covered the increase in health care costs that NJT was demanding,” Bohné said. “All 11 unions were united. That wasn’t good enough.”

A week before the announcement, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie had characterized the union contract offer as “outrageous” and warned that an agreement on those terms would require an increase in ticket prices. After the deal was announced, however, Christie told a news conference that no fare increases were needed until June 2017 at the earliest.

“I think we came to a fair, reasonable accommodation to the interests of the union and the interests of the taxpayers of the state,” Christie said. “People generally don’t settle until they have to. We’re about 90 hours or so from ‘have to.’ So we got it done.”

When a strike was averted last year at the Long Island Railroad, union leaders and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the deal together. It is a sign of the strain between NJ Transit and labor that Christie and union leaders gave separate news conferences announcing the deal. In fact Christie had no involvement in the negotiations at all. Labor coalition organizations have sent the contract out to the membership for ratification.

“What was accomplished here is a true testament to the solidarity of all 11 rail labor unions and their members,” Bohné said, particularly New York Local 1773 General Chairman John MacDonald and President Kevin Kirch and IBEW System Council No. 7 General Chairman Arthur Davidson, Assistant General Chairman Steve Corrado and their staff. “And thanks to International President Lonnie R. Stephenson for his support during this dispute.”

“Averts Strike

More than 4,000 IBEW rail workers at New Jersey Transit agreed to a new contract, five years after the last one expired.
All in a Day’s Work: IBEW Members Rescue D.C. Region from Metro Nightmare

Washington, D.C.’s public transportation woes made international news on March 16 after the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority arrived at the unprecedented decision to shut down the region’s underground Metro system for an entire day in the middle of a busy work week.

In a city where the term “gridlock” usually describes intransigent members of Congress battling political opponents, panic set in after the announcement that Metro’s 700,000 daily commuters would be forced onto the capital’s streets the next morning if they had any hope of making it to work.

But with safety concerns the overwhelming priority after an electrical fire the day before, WMATA turned to the best of the best, IBEW journeymen wiremen, to quickly and correctly get the nation’s second-biggest subway system back up and running and serving the region’s customers.

On any given night, 60 to 65 IBEW electricians report to work at Metro, employed by Maryland-based signatory contractor C3M Power Systems. Some are assigned to ongoing construction and rehabilitation projects, and others perform electrical maintenance and repair across the system as needed.

After the March 14 fire, the second incident in a little over a year, new WMATA General Manager Paul Wiedefeld determined that every inch of the system’s 118 miles of track needed to be inspected to prevent a recurrence. That meant more than 600 of the jumper cables responsible for both fires needed to be checked and replaced if faulty, all in a little over 24 hours.

“We understand how important this system is to everyone in this region,” said C3M foreman and IBEW wireman David Manfredi. “Getting these repairs done quickly was important, but getting them done right and getting them done safely were the main priorities.”

Most nights, Manfredi leads a crew of nine or so IBEW electricians, but during the shutdown, he played the role of air-traffic controller and triage doctor, helping WMATA officials to prioritize electrical maintenance and repair on an around-the-clock schedule.

Most of the inspection work was done by WMATA employees, but when problems were identified, and at least 27 highest priority issues were found according to Wiedefeld, the work of repairing the cables and electrical components called for expert IBEW wiremen.

“We have the best training out there,” said Washington, D.C., Local 26 member and C3M foreman Tarrick Luck, who spent both nights of the shutdown walking tracks and repairing problem areas. “It’s hard to imagine operating on a 750-volt third rail without it. It’s a fast-paced, dangerous job, but we’re prepared for it.”

Luck and Manfredi’s crews worked long hours, some pulling 12- and 14-hour shifts during the closure, but it’s all part of the job, Luck said. “We’ve got a responsibility to the people who rely on Metro in their daily lives. It’s important that when these people travel, they have to get there and back safely.”

Despite some recent public trouble that prompted Wiedefeld to seek new leadership in Wiedefeld, both Manfredi and Luck insisted that the Metro system is in good hands.

“Metro is a fantastic system in comparison to a lot of others,” said Manfredi, who is in his fifth year on the job. “They really do have safety in mind, and it’s getting better every day,” he said, noting that outside contractors like C3M work with WMATA every day to keep the system in operation.

Luck was impressed with how effective Metro leadership was during a difficult moment. “For things to have been as chaotic as they were with the last minute announcement, everything behind the scenes went incredibly smoothly. Everybody really came together and got it done in time to reopen Thursday morning. Just like they promised,” he said.

“We’re IBEW, and that means we take pride in the work we do,” Manfredi added. “We have families, and this union makes sure we can support them. But when you’re working for a system like Metro, it means all the families who rely on it to get them safely from place to place can be confident that our work is done right.”

Local 26 Business Manager Charles E. Graham Jr., who represents the vast majority of IBEW electricians working in the Metro system, said he couldn’t be prouder of the hard work his members put in during the crisis. “Our members helped build the original system in the 1950s and they’ve been working on expanding and maintaining it ever since. A relationship doesn’t last that long unless you consistently do quality work. We’re proud to be a part of getting Washingtonians where they’re going.”

DirectTV Workers Gain a Voice with the IBEW

When AT&T closed a deal to buy DirecTV last July, employee representatives were worried about any change to the satellite giant’s employ practices, but when AT&T closed a deal to buy DirecTV in July, the satellite giant’s employees were relieved. They’d heard that AT&T was resistant to union organizing, AT&T’s relationship with the IBEW dates back to 2001, and it’s getting better every day,” he said, “so the sooner we get this settled, the better.”

For installation technicians in Idaho, the issues were different, but the result was the same. DirecTV installers there chose to join the IBEW to gain consistency in decision-making, fair compensation and to have their opinions heard by management.

Earlier this year, DirecTV announced a plan to move the techs from a piece-pay scale to an hourly one, which would effectively cut their annual pay in half in many cases. “Before, a manager could basically decide how much you were going to be able to make in any given month,” said Jason Taylor, one of the Idaho technicians who led the unionization effort. “There was no real consistency in the leadership, and that’s what really helped us convince our co-workers that we needed a union.”

With their 120-member union now recognized, Taylor is eager to join Boise, Idaho, Local 291 and to get started negotiating a first contract. “We’re losing money every day,” he said of the new hourly rate, “so the sooner we get this settled, the better.”

Elsewhere, the IBEW’s organizing team has been “mobilizing, educating their co-workers and educating them about the benefits of IBEW representation. We’re happy to welcome these 2,100 future members from DirecTV,” said IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stepenson. “Not only will they be some of the newest members of our great union, but they’re leaders of a movement that we hope will bring a voice to the people.”

DirecTV launched its operations in Missoula, Montana, in 2005 and eventually expanded to other states. In Idaho, they’re making the right decision.

IBEW organizers erected an informational tent outside the Missoula, Montana, DirecTV call center.

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When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau chose Washing-
town, D.C., in March for his first official state visit
since the Liberal Party’s landslide Octo-
er election, observers hoped it would mark
the return of a friendlier, more coopera-
tive relationship between the
Two neighboring nations.
For the last several years under for-
mer Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s Conser-
ivative government, numerous issues had created a somewhat strained,
businesslike arrangement between the
North American powers.
In Wisconsin, Trudeau and Presi-
dent Barack Obama pledged to “play a
leadership role internationally in the
low-carbon global economy over the com-
ing decades,” setting specific goals for
reducing methane emissions from oil and
gas drilling by 2025, and agreeing to work
together toward the long-term preserva-
tion of the Arctic. The two also vowed to
move more quickly to implement stan-
dards agreed to at the United Nations Par-
lis climate talks last year.
For IBEW members in both coun-
tries, however, talk of severely reducing
carbon emissions presents an obstacle to
grid stability and good-paying jobs.
Alberta, where about 60 percent of energy
generation comes from coal, the Paris Cli-
mate Agreement goals would likely force
the closure of six coal plants by 2030.
Calgary, Alberta, Local 254 rep-
resents about 350 members at several of
those plants, but Business Manager John
Briegel also recognizes the importance of
climate change and the need to address it.
“Obviously, these issues are front
and center right now,” he said, “but we
have to make sure that hard-working peo-
ple in Canada aren’t forgotten about while
we try to reduce carbon emissions.”
In Alberta, provincial government
leaders have said they’ll find a way to look
after people and communities hurt by in-
evitable coal plant closures, but so far,
they’ve only appointed a facilitator to pro-
tect the investments of the power compa-
ies. “We hope that they’ll do the same for
the communities and the work-
force,” Briegel said. “It’s naïve to think
we’ll stop the government’s course of
action, but we can all work together to
protect the working people who are going
to be affected.”
IBEW Utility Department Director
Jim Hunter, who attended the climate
talks in Paris last year, met in February in
Toronto with First District leaders and
affected locals, who collectively repre-
sent more than 1,500 members who
could be impacted by coal plant closures.
The group discussed the implications of
Trudeau’s renewed push on carbon emis-
sions and strategized on how to best pro-
tect power grid reliability and IBEW mem-
bers against future plant closures.
Coal plants, Hunter said, aren’t an
issue in every province, but they are criti-
cal to providing steady baseload power,
particularly in Alberta and Saskatche-
wan. “It’s easy for lawmakers to say, ‘Let’s
close these polluting plants,’” he said,
“But it’s a lot harder question to fig-
ure out how we’re going to replace the
critical power they supply. We’re com-
mitted to helping Canada figure out how to
do it, same as we are in the U.S.”
Just as important for First District
Vice President Bill Daniels are the new
jobs that will need to be created for IBEW
members and communities where coal
plants are slated to close.
Some of those new jobs will come
from work on renewable sources of elec-
tricity like wind and solar, but those alone
aren’t reliable enough to replace critical
baseload power. For that, energy compa-
nies will need to rely on cleaner sources
like natural gas, hydroelectric or zero-emissions nuclear.
“As Canada moves to greener sour-
ces of energy, it will give us a chance to
showcase the talents and skills of IBEW
electricians in those fields,” said Daniels,
pointing to recognized photovoltaic and
electric vehicle infrastructure training
programs developed by the National Elec-
trical Trade Council, a joint-contrac-
tor organization that creates and pro-
motes new technology training for
Canada’s electrical industry.
“We’re ready for the jobs of the
future,” Daniels said of the 70,000 IBEW
members in Canada, “but we expect that
both the federal and provincial govern-
ments will work with us as they move further
along the path to cleaner energy sources.”

Trudeau Pledges Carbon Cuts,
Urged to Keep Focus on Grid Stability

“Obviously, these issues are front
and center right now,” said Daniels, “but we
have to make sure that hard-working peo-
ple in Canada aren’t forgotten about while
we try to reduce carbon emissions.”

The Genessee Power Station, 40 miles southwest of Edmonton, Alberta, is one of Canada’s cleanest coal plants. Still, it is scheduled to be shuttered by 2030 to meet the province’s new carbon rules.
Ed Hill, ‘Giant’ of the Utility Industry, Honored

International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill was honored for a lifetime of service to the utility industry by the landmark labor-management organization he helped create.

Hill was presented the John D. Dingell Award at the annual meeting of the National Labor and Management Political Action Committee, along with Tom Kuhn, president of the Edison Electric Institute, a coalition of investor-owned utilities with nearly 220 million customers and 500,000 workers.

Hill and Kuhn co-founded LAMPAIC in 2002 to advance the common goal of a healthy industry, reliable power and a well-trained workforce.

The award is named after the former Michigan representative, the longest serving member of Congress, Dingell sat on the Energy and Commerce Committee for nearly 60 years and was chair for more than 30. He built a reputation for finding ways that labor and management could collaborate for the common good.

His wife, Michigan Rep. Debbie Dingell, and New Jersey Rep. Donald Norcross, the only IBEW member in Congress, presented the awards to Hill and Kuhn.

Hill accepted his award on behalf of IBEW members. He thanked the room of business managers, international representatives, elected officials, and utility executives, and expressed a philosophical view of the award.

“Giving me an award for building relationships is like giving a little kid an award for eating ice cream,” Hill said.

“There will always be a certain adversarial nature to the relationship between labor and management, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t work to find common cause where we can.

Kuhn accepted his award with some kind words and thanks of his own.

“I don’t deserve to be in the same category as Ed Hill. How he rose through the ranks to the highest office of the IBEW... his story is incredible,” Kuhn said.

“The Code of Excellence is imbedded in his heart, that we better serve our members when we serve our customers first.”

The Dingell Award, an engraved table lamp mounted with an electricity meter, was presented by American Electric Power CEO Nicholas Akins and Utility Department Director Jim Hunter.

The ceremony came after a daylong conference focused on business and political challenges facing the utility industry.

Throughout the day, company and IBEW leaders spoke about how they were meeting each challenge together.

A particular bright spot was the focus of a panel featuring Florida Power & Light President and CEO Eric Silagy and Utility System Council 4, Business Manager Gary Aleknavich.

Before the Code of Excellence was signed between FPL and the 11 locals in System Council 4, Aleknavich said, contract negotiations dragged on for months and thousands of grievances were filed against the company.

The twin spires tower over Louisville’s Churchill Downs, site of the Kentucky Derby. Democrats won three of the four races in a special election held to fill four open Kentucky House seats on March 8.

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“This last contract negotiation took 34 days from start to finish and I am proud to say we have zero, not one grievance pending arbitration,” Aleknavich said.

“Aligning our interests has made us better, stronger and safer,” Silagy said. “We are really, really proud of how far we have come.”

Another Way This Tulsa Local is Helping First-Year Apprentices

While graduates of the IBEW apprenticeship programs are all but guaranteed a good-paying job, the first year can be tough in terms of up-front costs. With books, tools and other supplies, an apprentice in his first year can expect to pay between $1,000 and $2,100 out of pocket. So when Ted Jenkins, training director for the Tulsa, Okla., JATC, learned about a program through the Department of Labor’s Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that provides financial assistance, he applied.

“When you come in to the apprenticeship, you’re at your lowest pay scale. A lot of times you’re coming from a starter job that don’t pay well,” said Jenkins, a Tulsa Local 584 member. “There’s never really been any help for these apprentices, and it can be a struggle when you first come in.”

And more, and more, people are touting the benefits of apprenticeships. You learn a marketable skill and get paid while doing so. Unlike a four-year college degree where graduates often emerge with thousands of dollars in debt and precarious job prospects, graduates of an apprenticeship have no such debt. And they will make an average of $50,000 in their first year. Still, that first year can be difficult financially. Not everybody has $1,000 to spend, even if it’s for an investment in their future.

“It’s been very helpful,” Jenkins said. “We don’t want these costs to be a barrier to entry.”

Jenkins says the Tulsa apprenticeship program was the first in the state to apply. They had eight recipients the first year. This year they will have between 15 and 20.

Dillow, president of Portsmouth, Ohio, Local 575, which has jurisdiction in District 98, “I think there’s a lot of buyer’s remorse and people are tired of his arrogant approach toward labor in general. He’s just belittling us.”

Dillow and Holthouser said that voters in District 98 get most of their media coverage from West Virginia outlets. They were well aware that state had passed a right-to-work law last month. That wasn’t terribly popular in a district that has about 6,600 union members and retirees.

Nicholls’ Republican opponent sensing labor’s importance and told voters he would vote against right-to-work and support prevailing wage, but Dilow said those words were hollow.

“He was kind of talking out of both sides of his mouth,” he said.

Tackett got just over 5 percent of the vote in a district where a Republican previously held the seat.

In District 8, President Barack Obama recorded a robo-call in support of Taylor that voters heard around the district, which has one of the largest black populations in the state.

Taylor, who was the only African-American candidate in the four races, won with 59 percent of the vote. He retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority and is the current chairman of the Christian County Democratic Party. He also is the first African-American to represent the district.

Jimmy Evans, business manager for Paducah, Ky., Local 816, said the combination of Taylor’s appeal and union members traveling in from around Kentucky to campaign for him led to an overwhelming victory.

“He got people to vote who normally don’t vote,” Evans added. “He convinced them that working people need the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives.”

The battle with right-to-work supporters is far from over. All 100 House seats will be on the November ballot and the GOP will make another major push to gain control, relying heavily on funding from groups outside the state to do it. The Kentucky House is the only legislative body in the South controlled by Democrats.

But Holthouser, Dillow and Evans all say they are optimistic. Many union members are concerned by what they have seen in Indiana and West Virginia and are becoming more politically involved, Holthouser said.

Each winning campaign convinced voters they were voting in a statewide race because of its potential impact on working people, Holthouser said.

“I really believe that our folks are paying attention,” he said. “I hate to say it, but I think there had been a lot of apathy. People thought issues were important, but there was an attitude of ‘Let someone else do it’ or ‘We’ve got others to manage that.”
accredited apprenticeship in the country can apply. Funds are for first-year apprentices only. For further information, Jenkins says trainees can talk with their local work force, or call the National Office. The Tulsa program has been so succes-
sful that Jenkins was asked to join the Governor’s Council for Workforce and Economic Development.

“It’s important that we have a say in where the money goes, and to push for apprenticeship,” Jenkins said. “By 2020, more jobs will require some sort of certification beyond a high school diploma, and apprenticeships like the IBEW’s are an excellent opportunity for the right person.”

Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance.

Ohio RENEW Chapter Partners with Local Schools

Members of the Reach Out and Engage Next-Gen Electrical Workers chapter at Columbus, Ohio, Local 1466, wanted to be more visible in the areas they serve. Employees of American Electric Power and members of a utility local, they wanted to find a way to tell customers the IBEW is a major part of their lives.

“We just want to let people know we’re out there and we’re in the community and we care,” said Jim Jette, a Local 1466 member. Local 1466's RENEW committee is partnering with Reynoldsburg City Schools for a backpack campaign before the next school year begins.

RENEW members will be raising money and donating items to fill backpacks for students in need before the coming school year. They also will donate items to teachers for use in the classroom. RENEW is an IBEW initiative that encourages young members to become more active and focus on issues important to members of their local. “They [Columbus area residents] don’t know we’re a union,” Jette added.

Jette recently turned 36 and bylaws required him to give up his seat on the advisory committee. He’s been succeeded by Derek Samuels from Columbus, Ohio, Local 146. Samuels, 30, is a journeyman inside wireman and has been a leader at an active RENEW chapter at his local. He and other members took part in a polar plunge last winter to benefit the Special Olympics and have helped build homes for Habitat for Humanity.

They volunteer to work on maintenance projects at NUCOR in weekend work. “The people could be in a decommissioned battleship that functions as a museum at the National Maritime Center in Norfolk,” Samuels said. He worked on non-union construction jobs before going through the Local 80 apprenticeship.

“If I try to tell people there’s a lot more power in numbers,” he said. “We’re all in this together. When you’re working non-union, you’re on your own.”

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Generosity Fuels Safety in Philadelphia

It was a simple set-up. Find a good “catch” that improves worker safety and everyone on your crew gets a $25 gift card. The program was launched by signatory contractor Matrix NAC in 2015 and every distribution maintenance and construction crew at Pennsylvania Power and Light was eligible.

“Our safety program wasn't working as well as it should have been. Not that we had lots of injuries, just too many,” said Jim Collins, vice president at Matrix NAC, and a former lineman with Philadelphia Local 126.

Safety may be its own reward, but cash will still grab your attention. It was right around Thanksgiving and Local 126 members Dave Grochowski, Kyle King, Bob Tranguch and foreman Dan Von Houdt were owed some gift cards. At their morning meeting to lay out the maintenance and construction work the linemen would be doing that day, they had an idea for a little friendly competition.

“A good catch is an accident that doesn’t happen. A hazard or problem nipped before it blossoms,” Collins said.

The example Collins used was a hammer someone put down on a raised platform. Some other guy comes along, doesn’t see it, kicks the hammer and it drops three levels. “Even if it doesn’t hit anyone, that is an incident,” Collins said. “The good catch is stopping everything before something happens.”

The good catch program is designed to overcome an ugly reality of the construction business. Some companies will say safety is priority one, but workers get the message quickly that is only true to a point.

“[I]read accident reports in this job and what I see is that it is often culture that we need,” said IBEW Director of Safety Dave Mullern. “Too many programs reward the wrong people. You want to build a successful safety culture? Acknowledge and reward people who do it right and do it right away.”

The reality is, most safety programs are nearly opposite. They punish people for pointing out safety problems, whether they are intended to be or not.

“I’ve worked in places where you feel almost scared about pointing out safety problems,” said Van Houdt’s supervisor, Kevin Fielder. “You don’t want to look dumb or sound foolish or worse, you end up with the famous ‘one man layoff.’”

“Twenty-five dollars is a nice recognition for going above your job — even though it is so small,” Collins said. “The utilities love to see that we have a group of IBEW members looking their systems than they had before.”

News spread through Matrix all the way up to Collins. A lineman by training, Collins now oversees Matrix’s $200 million electric division. He is responsible for the jobs and safety of hundreds of IBEW members across the U.S.

Collins made an announcement: whatever his crews donated, he would double it.

In a single month, IBEW members at Matrix NAC raised nearly $2,600. All of it was donated to a local food bank and children’s charities near the Philadelphia hall.

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In a single month, IBEW members at Matrix NAC raised nearly $2,600. All of it was donated to a local food bank and children’s charities near the Philadelphia hall.
“It is what he hoped it would become,” Watkins said. Harvey is survived by Billie, his wife of 44 years, and five children, Jason, Den- nis, Steve, Eddie and Shavae. “He loved his family and he loved the IBEW,” Watkins said. “Even as he was dying, he’d ask me ‘How’s my local? How is my business manager?’ The IBEW was everything to him.”

To his family and friends, the IBEW extends sincere sympathy.

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Retired

Robert Erickson
Second District International Representative

Erickson, 67, of Denver, retired March 31, bringing a 43-year career in the telecommunications industry.

Erickson was born in Denver and raised in nearby Brighton. He learned his trade from his father, a master electrician, and moved to the Denver area to work as an apprentice. He joined Local 637 in 1974 and began his career as a maintenance technician, starting with New England Telephone in New Hampshire and ending with numerous ownership changes that ended with his retirement from Verizon in 2008.

From 2003 until his appointment as International Representative in 2007, Erickson served as his local’s assistant business manager, the final year of which was spent working with the International Office in fighting the sale of Verizon’s New England landline and Internet business to FairPoint Communications, then a small telecom outfit based in North Carolina.

“That sale was the start of some very tough years for us,” Erickson said. “After spending months lobbying regulators and elected officials and testifying in hearings about the dangers of the deal, its approval was a letdown.

Erickson served as his local’s assistant business manager, the final year of which was spent working with the International Office in fighting the sale of Verizon’s New England landline and Internet business to FairPoint Communications, then a small telecom outfit based in North Carolina.

After 44 years of service to his IBEW family, Sixth Distric International Representative Richard “Rick” Gessler retired effective October 1, 2015.

Born and raised in Illinois, Brother Gessler was initiated into Downers Grove, Ill., Local 367 as a telephone installer repairman with Illinois Bell. Local 367 later amalgamated with Downers Grove, Ill., Local 23, the local that would remain his home.

He served on the substance abuse and bargaining committees, as chief stew- ard and as a business representative. He also served five years as assistant business manager and vice president.

“I thought I could help the membership,” Gessler said of his decision to run for office. “I saw too many people being abused by management and they weren’t speaking up.”

Appointed International Representative in 2005, Gessler served in that capacity for the next 10 years, servicing the railroad, telecommunications and broadcast branches.

“it was great to be able to help, especially the smaller locals,” Gessler said. “Frequently they’d have someone who really wanted to do something but didn’t have the resources. So I’d help wherever I could, with Department of Labor regu- lations or making sure they were following the [IBEW] constitution, things like that.”

Brother Gessler says that he is most proud of “getting involved, period.”

“Getting along with everyone and meeting the members, I do miss that,” he said. “I’ve had a very fulfilling career. I wouldn’t change it for the world.”

He and his wife Mary moved to Florida upon retirement.

“I’m busier now than I ever would have believed, with all the activities and making new friends. We love Florida. And we don’t miss the snow,” Gessler said.

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Retired

Larry McGlamary
International Representative for M e m b e r s h i p Development

McGlamary ended a 41-year career with the IBEW when he retired on Oct. 2.

Brother McGlamary was initiated into Roanoke, Va., Local 637 in 1974. Local 637 was later merged into Washington, D.C., Local 26. He is a journeyman wiresman and served as 637’s recording secretary from 1988-90 and its financial secretary from 1990-98. But he was best known for his organizing skills, traveling throughout Virginia to spread the gospel about the benefits of union membership.

“I always liked going and talking to people and giving them the facts, letting them know how things really are,” McGla- mary said. “There’s so many misconcep- tions. Corporations have always been dil- igent about being anti-union and giving misinformation.”

He moved to the International Office in Washington in 1998 and was appointed international representative in 2005.

In 2005, he helped with a campaign to help 220 manufacturing workers at the Oram Sylvania gas plant in Versailles, Ky. McGlamary worked closely with now-retired International Representative David Appleman, a long- time friend, and won despite opposition from a union-busting law firm retained by the company.

In 2005, he assisted with a successful organizing effort at Asplundh Tree Experts locations in Virginia. It was McGlamary’s final organizing campaign before retirement and was made sweeter by the fact all eight shops voted in favor of IBEW representation, he said.

“All [organizing efforts] were rewarding due to the fact we were able to educate workers about their workplace rights,” he said.

McGlamary said the most difficult part of retirement was informing Carmelina Thomas, director of professional and industr- ial organizing, of his decision.

“Watching him as an organizer taught me the most important role of organizing: to listen and to not speak,” Thomas said. “If you are not listening, you are not communica- ting. He organized to grow our Brother- hood. He organized to help those employ- ees who were being treated unfairly.”

McGlamary and wife Marilyn recent- ly moved to Manchester, Pa., to be close to daughter Kari and their two grandchildren. Jaime, another daughter, lives in Charleston, W.Va. Son Drew is deceased. He and his wife plan to spend their winters in Florida.

The IBEW officers, members and staff thank Brother McGlamary for his years of service and wish him a long and fulfilling retirement.

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Summary Annual Report for Int’l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers’ Pension Benefit Fund

This is a summary of the annual report for the IN T’L BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS’ PENSION BENEFIT FUND, (Employer Identification No. 53-0083810, Plan No. 001) for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust (benefits are provided in whole from trust funds). Plan expenses were $155,420,416. The expenses included $10,926,176 in administrative expenses and $144,294,015 in benefits paid to participants and bene- eficiaries.

A total of 462,843 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits. The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was $2,120,508,849 as of June 30, 2015 compared to $2,120,508,849 as of July 1, 2014.

During the plan year the plan experienced a decrease in its net assets of $12,340,103. This decrease includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan’s assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of $133,489,262, including employ- ee contributions of $65,962,651, gains of $101,281,756 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of $3,743,008 and other income of $5,012,297.

Your Rights To Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant’s report;
2. Assets held for investment;
3. Transactions in excess of 5 percent of the plan assets; and
4. Information regarding any common or collective trust, pooled separate accounts, master trusts or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Plan Administrator

SALVATORE J. CHILIA
International Secretary-Treasurer
900 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 728-6200

The charge to cover copying costs will be $13.50 for the full report, or $0.25 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both.

If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers’ Pension Benefit Fund

500 7th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001


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Have you moved?

Notify us of an address change electronically

www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress

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**Lending a Helping Hand**

L.U. 1 (arc,catv,ei,em,es,et,ff,fi,im,lt,tu,se,spa,sta,wo), ST. LOUIS, MO — Last December Mississippi River floodwaters nearly destroyed the facilities of a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving disabled children, adults, veterans and at-risk youth.

IBEW Local 1 and the Electrical Connection helped restore a ride on St. Louis, located along the river in scenic Kimmswick, MO. ROSL’s physical therapists and instructors utilize horse therapies to benefit program participants.

After a Local 1 member/ROSL volunteer informed our local of the flood damage, Local 1 Rep. Chuck DeMoul, a Jefferson County Labor Club board member, visited ROSL to assess damages. Bro. DeMoul contacted the Electrical Connection, a partnership of IBEW Local 1 and St. Louis Chapter of NECA. Subsequently, EC Pres. Jim Curran approved a grant providing donated materials and services to restore power up to code requirements.

Summit Electric Owner Doug Heidland and Local 1 electricians made the repairs. Bro. DeMoul also coordinated efforts of other labor unions within the Jefferson County Labor Club to help.

“Without the help of IBEW Local 1 and the Electrical Connection, I don’t know if we would have been operational,” said ROSL Dir. Marita Wassman. “The workers were so professional and made it easy to get the work done; they were all so nice.” For more information visit www.rideonstl.org.


**New Chicago Training Center For Linemen Opens**

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — A new training center for linemen opened in Chicago on Feb. 19 this year. This new training facility at ComEd and the Rockford training center, which opened in 2013, are a result of the Illinois Electricity Modernization Act of 2011, enacted by the Illinois legislature with IBEW sup- port. Local 15 Vice Pres. Terry McGoldrick spoke at the grand opening for the new center. Also in attendance were Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and ComEd Pres./CEO Anne Pramaglio. As hundreds of guests toured the new facility, IBEW Local 15 members displayed their expertise on skilled tasks such as cable splicing, pole climbing and substation construction.

We finalized an agreement on Aerial work clarifying job duties and manpower. Our clerical representatives met with Exelon to discuss issues with Elec- tronic Work Packages (EWP).

Generosity of Spirit, Service

L.U. 37 (mar), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Local 37 is extremely proud of its members’ generous spirit. Time and time again we see countless examples of members volunteering their valuable time and donating their hard earned money in support of so many inspiring organizations that are making a differ- ence in the communities where they live and work.

A celebration was held at NB Power to recognize the awesome efforts of the campaign team, the crew of volunteers, and contributors to the campaign.

Last year, IBEW Local 37 won the United Way’s Labour Award of Distinction for the Saint John region and has been nominated once again this year. We’re also very proud of IBEW member Eive Savage, an NB Power member.

**Trade Classifications**

| (as) | Alarm & Signal | (et) | Electronic Technicians |
| (ar) | Atomic Research Service | (fm) | Fixture Manufacturing |
| (bo) | Bridge Operators | (gov) | Government |
| (cs) | Cable Splicers | (i) | Inside |
| (cabo) | Cable Television | (it) | Instrument Technicians |
| (c) | Communications | (lctt) | Line Clearance Tree Trimming |
| (cr) | Cranemen | (lbp) | Lightning Protection Technicians |
| (ees) | Electrical Equipment Service | (mb) | Maintenance |
| (ei) | Electrical Inspection | (mo) | Maintenance & Operation |
| (em) | Electrical Manufacturing | (mov) | Manufacturing Office Workers |
| (es) | Electric Signs | (mar) | Marine |

**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) 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. Please email or call the Media Department at (202) 728-6294 with any questions.

**New Chicago Training Center For Linemen Opens**
news story “Preserving the Dream: IBEW Birthplace Surpasses $1 Million Milestone,” posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-articles.]

Congratulations to newly appointed Local 53 Bus. Mgr. Matt Moore, who previously served as assistant business manager. Bus. Mgr. Moore was appointed to fill the unexpired term of recently retired former business manager Jim Bates. Matt is a Jour- neymen Lineman and has worked as a business rep for 17 years. He has the experience needed to be a productive, efficient leader for our local.

Our work scene is picking up. We have 650+ travelers working in our jurisdiction. Be safe and attend your monthly unit meeting.

Karlene Knisley, B.R.

Four-Year Contract Ratified


The contract features yearly wage increases as follows: first year - 5 percent increase; second year - 5 percent; third year - 3 percent; and fourth year - 2.5 percent. Current employees will stay on the old retirement plan, which is the NECA 51/62 plan. New hires will be on the NECA straight 62 plan, and will also be enrolled in a 401(k) plan with the co-op matching 1:1 up to 5 percent.

Bus. Rep. Brett Stone reported on the recent retirement of three Local 51 members who worked at water pollution control of Kansas City, KS. They are members Steve Roper (38 years of service), Carrie Milton (36 years), and Harold Hedgins (32 years). Congratulations, brothers.

Bus. Rep. Kyle Niumakwander reported a very strong work outlook for 2016, and noted that the annual Local 53 crappie tournament will be Saturday, June 18, at Truman State Park in Warsaw, MO.

James Burks, V.P.

Local 81 Volunteer Service At ‘Equines for Freedom’

L.U. 81 (i), SCRANTON, PA — Journeymen and apprentices of Local 81 have volunteered 400+ hours of their time and labor to a new nonprofit organization, Equines for Freedom, that provides innovative equine therapy to active and former mili- tary personnel who are experiencing post-traum- atic stress disorder. The program is partnered with Marley’s Mission at Matt Burne Acres on Eckel Farms, located in Newton Ransom Township, PA.

Some of the services provided by Local 81 included wiring a riding arena, installing and wiring a 400-amp service, as well as wiring a utility room, restroom, and office space.

In the past, Local 81 has also dedicated 2,200+ hours of time and labor to the cause of Marley’s Mis- sion. We thank all of our apprentices, journeymen, instructors and officers for answering the call to sup- port this mission.

Michael Brust, P.S.

FairPoint Reps Vote For IBEW Representation

L.U. 89 (cut,em,ect,ot,o&l), SEATTLE, WA — In the summer of 2015, the customer sales and service repre- sentatives who work at FairPoint Communications in Ellensburg, WA, came together to seek representa- tion by IBEW Local 89. In an ever-changing telecom industry with a company whose future is seemingly unknown, the staff at the Ellensburg Call Center sought stability in their variable work environment. After a few months of research and discussion, combi- ned with union education, they were successful in their vote for representation on the first round, voting 17-10 in favor of joining with the IBEW to create democracy and security in their workplace.

In the months since the representation election, the Local 89 negotiation committee, consisting of Local 89 staff along with Ellensburg Call Center repre- sentatives Heath Ekland and Michelle Schobs, have collaborated amicably with FairPoint to negotiate a fair contract that benefits all parties, defining expec- tations from both sides of the table.

At the time of this writing, the team of customer service representatives at FairPoint and IBEW Local 89 look forward to a long and positive future togeth- er, starting with finalizing negotiations and securing their first contract in the near future.

Amanda McDougall, P.S.

‘Kilowatt Chasers’ Volunteer; Community Service Tradition

L.U. 97 (ks), SYRACUSE, NY — Members of the Local 97 Kilowatt Chasers team from the Mohawk Valley recently volunteered their time to help a local Boy Scout troop from White Lake, NY. The troop needed to relocate their historic 1950s totem pole to a new loca- tion. The Kilowatt Chasers gathered equipment and erected the totem pole. We thank them for their con- tinual community support.

Negotiations were completed and the security force at the Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant ratified a four-year agreement, effective through March 31, 2020. At press time, we were continuing to negotiate effects bargaining and retention of members at the plant. Entergy Nuclear announced that it would not be re-fueling the plant and that employees would be downsized in February 2017. Local 97 has taken much action to reach out to politicians and the general pub- lic to consider the consequences of closing the plant. As part of the Clean Energy Standard, the New York State Public Service Commission has been formulat- ing a new energy credit that would, for the first time, place a monetary value on zero-emission power pro- duced by the Fitzpatrick facility and other qualified plants. The employees and their communities,
LOCAL LINES


2nd Annual Solidarity Ride — Motorcycle Run in May 2016

L.U. 99 (gov't), PROVIDENCE, RI — Every December, Local 99’s “regular” monthly union meeting turns “special,” as current members and retirees are awarded service pins recognizing their years of IBEW membership. Service pins are awarded in five-year intervals, the first pin being presented on the 25th anniversary of the year a member was sworn into the local union. The December meetings are always the most well attended of the year, as it is the holiday season, and attendees enjoy a magnificent buffet meal served following the meeting.

With the arrival of spring, we look forward to our annual picnic at Goddard Park, and also our second annual “Solidarity Ride” Motorcycle Run, a fundraiser that will benefit Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, a group that helps our veterans secure stable housing. At press time the date of the picnic was not yet set. The Motorcycle Run will be held May 15; please call Organizer Joe Walsh for details. Lastly, Local 99 members may remember a March 2011 rally at Providence City Hall in support of fired unionized Providence public school teachers — a rally that many Local 99 members and other building trade members attended. Recently, the organization that represents these teachers needed some electrical work done in its offices as a result of a fire; it’s sad to report that this organization hired a non-union electrical contractor to perform that work.

William Smith, P.S.

Florida Luncheon for Retirees

L.U. 103 (c&sb), BOSTON, MA — For the last three years, the last Tuesday in February has been set aside not for snow shoveling or skiing, but for lunch with Local 103 retirees in sunny, warm Naples, Florida. This year would be no different.

On Feb. 23 this year, 250 Local 103 retirees and their guests were welcomed to south Florida by Miami Local 349 Bus. Mgr. William W. Riley, International Executive Council member, and treated to lunch, drinks, and catching up with old friends and new. Informative presentations about the state of our union were given by Local 103 Bus. Mgr. John Dunas and Second District Int. Vice Pres. Michael P. Monahan. Retired Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill was in attendance and spoke about Brotherhood Beyond Borders, his new global initiative to bring charitable awareness and good will to the less fortunate.

Local 103 retirees spent a career working in extremely harsh conditions. Now they spend time golfing, on the beach and riding Harleys. It speaks to the quality of life and benefits that Local 103 and the IBEW have provided during and after their careers.

A wise man once told me, “It’s not how you start, it’s how you finish!” That wise man was my father, and I’m convinced he was talking about retirement with an IBEW pension.

Lou Antonelli, Pres.

Apprentice Sworn In

Ken Lue, left, gas tech construction apprentice, is sworn in as a new member of Rock Island, IL Local 103 by Vice Pres. Randy Tresnak.

2016 Election of Officers

L.U. 111 (em, gov’t, rtc, mt, o&t, sb&apa), DENVER, CO — Nominations for Local 111 officers began in April 2016. The election of Local 111 officers, Executive Board members, delegates to the IBEW International Convention, and Unit 1 Examining Board members will occur this year.

The election process started at April unit meetings, where nominations were made. A mail ballot will be sent to all active members in good standing during the month of May, with ballots to be counted on June 3. Members will vote for candidates for the following offices: president and delegate to the International Convention; vice president; recording secretary; treasurer; and business manager/fiscal secretary and delegate to the International Convention. Also to be elected are seven Executive Board members (with six elected at large, and one to be elected from Unit 1); eight delegates to the International Convention; and three Examining Board members (elected from Unit 1 Journeyman Linemen).

The official notice of the IBEW Local 111 nominations and election was mailed March 1, 2016.

Marcy Crain, A.B.M.

Annual Casino Night Benefits Community Food Bank

L.U. 125 (i&t, o&i&b&c), PORTLAND, OR — The local hosted its 14th Annual Casino Night in March and raised more than $2,800 for the Brotherhood Fund along with 363 pounds of food for Snowcap Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all the generous sponsors.

“Our members’ generosity and that of the sponsors allows us to host this terrific event,” said Bus. Mgr. Travis Erli. “It’s a great way to celebrate our brotherhood while providing valuable resources not only to our members but also the community.”

Please check your voter registration and confirm that you are eligible to exercise your democratic rights. Vote for candidates who will respect your right to join a union and your right to collectively bargain wages, hours, and working conditions. There are numerous candidates and special interest groups who want to destroy your way of life. Don’t let it happen.

Stay current with your union’s activities and issues by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram — @ibew125.

Mike Kastelecko, P.S.

Local 125 Bus. Mgr. Travis Erli calls out prizes at Casino Night benefit.

Giving Back to Community; School Outreach Program

L.U. 193 (i, madison, wi) — We are very fortunate to be able to give to the community. One favorite cause is an organization, Badger Honor Flight, that sends veterans on one-day visits to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. (See photo above.) We also partner with a local nonprofit that provides housing for homeless vets. In February, our hardy Polar Plunge team raised more than $2,400, enough to support four Special Olympics athletes for one year.

Continuing education classes are in full swing at the new Training Center. Our school outreach program is also underway, as we connect with students in grades 8-12, as well as teachers and counselors, to share information about our trade and pathways to the trades.

At press time, members were excited to attend the 2016 Women Build Nations, Sixth National Conference for Women in the Trades, scheduled for April 29 — May 1, in Chicago. This year marks the first time this event has taken place in the Midwest.

At this writing, we were gearing up for the April 2016 presidential primary, and a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court was also up for election on April 5. Deep-pocketed right-wing groups have looked to buy yet another seat on the court. A hand-picked Scott Walker appointee was tapped for the seat last fall, when a long-time justice passed away. At press time, labor was supporting the challenger, judge JoAnne Kloppenburg.

Lisa Goodman, B.A.

Scheduled Events — ‘A Lot is Happening’

L.U. 193 (i, madison, wi) — Everett, WA — Spring and summer bring many events for members and their families. Among scheduled events are the following:

L.U. 193 — Retiree & Service Pin Banquets: Westside, on May 5; and Eastside, May 21.

Local Picnics: Bellingham, June 5; and Eastside, July 6.

Golf Outings: Westside, July 13; and Eastside, Aug. 12.

We welcome our new IATC Training Dir. Rob Bar tel, Bro. Bartel previously served on the staff of IBEW Local 193 and chaired the Safety Committee. Welcome also to new staff member Chip Donaldson, who will cover Skagit County.

Best wishes to recently retired training director Randy Ambuehl. We thank him for his service.

Editor’s Note — The National Joint Apprenticeship and 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.

Congratulations to Bros. Chip Donaldson, Tim Kornell and Gary Kemp, who graduated from the IBEW 193 Intern Training Program and are now on staff.

Local 159 Referral Agent Jeff Crocker (center) spoke about his father’s honor flight to Washington, D.C., as he and Bus. Mgr. Robert Doyle (left) presented $5,000 donation to Badger Honor Flight. Pres. Brian Ziegler. The donation was funded by proceeds from Holiday Fantasy in Lights display.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY
Special recognition goes to members who volunteered for the recent Habitat for Humanity lighting retrofit project: Dave Brunke, Jeff Marshall, Dan Pinner, Sean McCormack, Ian Telles, Mike Putter, Matt Anderson, John Mitchell and Dave Williams. These members contributed over 164 hours to help our community!

Please take time to attend a meeting or event this summer. Your local needs and appreciates your input. Check our website at www.ibew193.com for details or call the office.

Bill Miranda, P.S.

2016 Contract Negotiations

L.U. 193 (Uktnt,hat,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Local 193 will be very busy with contract negotiations this year. To be negotiated are agreements for inside, outside, Line Clearance and Telecommunications members, as well as agreements with City Water Light & Power, and St. John's Hospital.

Gov. Bruce Rauner finally signed legislation that makes it possible for the Illinois Lottery to resume payments to state lottery winners, following a lengthy "train wrecking" stop. Let's all hope for an early spring and an "Elections Have Consequences"

Get Registered to Vote — ‘Elections Have Consequences’

L.U. 193 (eml&d), BLOOMINGTON, IL — As you all know, we are in an election year. At the time of this writing it is primary season. We have said it before and we will stress it again: get registered to vote and get educated on candidates who will support the interests of working families. If you are not registered, come to the hall and we can assist you with that. Talk to co-workers, family and friends about voting your paycheck. Our state is currently worse off than ever before and there is one reason — Gov. Bruce Rauner, with his anti-union stance. Elections definitely do have consequences. We should have Local 193 brothers and sisters at work on a proposed $42 million project at the Center for the Visual Arts on the campus of Illinois State University, but because of Rauner’s opposition to the project, he is affecting our pay checks and very negatively.

A Destill Brewery expansion project and also a redevelopment project at the site of the old Kmart plaza are getting ready to start, and we look forward to that. We are encouraging the City Council of Bloomington to support the redevelopment of downtown Bloomington, which will bring much-needed jobs for our local. We also will be needing the membership to contact the City Council in support as well.

Remember to get involved with the local and stay involved!

Don Hudson, P.S.

‘Rewarding Work’ — Community Service Award

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTO, NJ — Unlike a neatly wired panel or a particularly challenging pipe run, the administrative efforts of our elected local union officers at the hall are not always on display for the general membership and may not always be recognized.

Hoover's efforts were acknowledged in the form of an award presented to Local 269 by the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce. The Champions of Commerce Award was presented to Local 269 Bus. Mgr. Steve Aldrich for "outstanding community service" in Bucks County, PA. The award itself is in the form of a sculpted glass bowl and is a welcome addition to the local's trophy case.

Yet, more importantly, the award represents the tireless efforts of our officers, supported by our general membership, within our community to remain a relevant and integral part of doing business on a local level. For most of us in the field, the dirt under our fingernails and the little aches and pains are the evidence of a good day's work. For those who chose the pen in place of the pliers, awards like this are the palpable fruits of their labor.

Brian Jacoppa, P.S.

Building Membership

L.U. 343 (sp,18985), LEE SUEUR, MN — Building membership doesn't focus solely on apprentice and journeyman numbers. For us to work, we need contractors. For contractors to succeed, they need us. Jim Backus, Local 343 compliance officer, and Andy Kusile, Local 343 membership and marketing rep, work together to promote the benefits of union membership to the non-represented electrical workers and shops within our jurisdiction. Bros. Backus and Kusile have organized 14 journeyman welders, 19 apprentices, and shops in Austin and Pine Island. Additionally, at press time an organizing effort in Winona was underway. Bros. Backus and Kusile have made more than 200 house calls to nonunion electricians. Those visits are typically not between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Organizing mostly happens in the evening, around the kitchen table of the prospective member with a spouse wondering about the family's future.

The future is unknown, but the Union Label & Service Goods Dept. of CLC, states that eight U.S. working adults belong to a labor union. Union membership varies by region. Approximately 24 percent of adults in the East live in a household where at least one person belongs to a union, compared with 23 percent in the Midwest, 18 percent in the West, and 6 percent in the South.

Notably, 66 percent of adults 18-34 years old approve of labor unions. Young Americans support us!

After "planting the seeds" of union benefits, we must promote growth of the new members. Lead by example, follow the contract, and support the union. Buying USA feels good.

Tom Small, P.S.

Annual Bowling Tournament

L.U. 357 (i&l), LAS VEGAS, NV — As the weather warmed up members of Local 357 came out to knock over some pins at the fifth annual Bowling Brotherhood Tournament. Fun was had by all as proceeds went to the Brotherhood Welfare Fund. Thank you to all who participated!

We also want to thank the many members who came to the Benefit Fair and blood drive.

Election season is upon us, so please make sure your voter registration is current if you have recently moved. Or, if you need to register, come down to the union hall and we will make sure you get the forms you need.

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.

IBEW MERCHANDISE

IBEW initials, fist and lightning bolts on left chest. Wicks moisture away from the body by using rapid dry interlock fabric.

Jazz Sport Management Polo Shirt $26.00

100% polyester moisture management shirt with mesh pattern and rolled collar.

AC Sensor $13.00

Traces circuits and helps prevent electrical shock. Features sound and bright red glow to indicate voltage. - UL listed and tested safety.

Golf Tees $1.50

2 3/4" black wooden golf tee with IBEW initials (25 tees per pack).

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

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IBEW MERCHANDISE

IBEW members and supporters should wear their hats and decals with pride. These items and more are now available at your IBEW Online store.

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**2016 Apprenticeship Graduates**

L.U. 429 (em,lt,pt,rtbk), NASHVILLE, TN — On Feb. 27 this year, the NEJATC topped out 15 new journeymen wiremen. The Nashville Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Center and Local 429 invite you to share in congratulating these fine brothers on their persistence and hard work to successfully complete their five-year apprenticeship. The 2016 apprenticeship graduates are: Zachary Bailey, Dakota Bell, Jordan Bowen, Ian Brenner, James Ray, Jose Korth, Jon Plew, Trevor Puckett, Brent Schmid, John Schmidt and Joseph Wright.

This graduating class had one of the highest grade-point averages ever. Apprentice of the Year honors went to John Schmidt, and the Leadership Award went to Jordan Bowen. We wish to recognize all of these brothers for their tireless commitment to our industry, and we wish them a very safe and profitable future in the IBEW.

*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.*

Local 429 had one of the best winters this past season, as far as work goes, in a long time. We even had some calls going to traveling sisters and brothers. We thank them for helping man our work.

John Ledwell, B.M.F.S.

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**Irvine Ranch Water District Project Underway**

L.U. 441 (am,js), SANTA ANA, CA — Congratulations to our football team for bringing home the SoCal IBEW Super Bowl Championship in February, the third time in four years. Great job, brothers!

We recently had the opportunity to visit with and applaud the hard work of our members at the Irvine Ranch Water District, where they continue to do a great job on this important project. As of press time, Morrow Meadows is currently employing 25 Local 441 members working on-site. A biosolids and energy recovery project that began in June 2013, this project will lower the surrounding communities’ costs, and reduce the plant’s carbon footprint and greenhouse gases. The project serves approximately 330,000 residences and over 500,000 individuals daily. Set to be completed later this year, this project will lower the surrounding communities’ costs, and reduce the plant’s carbon footprint and greenhouse gases. The project serves approximately 330,000 residences and over 500,000 individuals daily. Set to be completed later this year, this project will lower the surrounding communities’ costs, and reduce the plant’s carbon footprint and greenhouse gases.

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**Apprenticeship Contest**

L.U. 479 (Ik), BEAUMONT, TX — Local 479 each year sends the very best to compete in the Seventh District Apprenticeship Contest. Between the years 2000-2015, Local 479 has returned from the contest, hosted by the IBEW and signatory contractors in the Seventh District, with a total of these first-place districts win overall. Local 479 first-place winners have included the following: for the year 2000 - Casey Hart; for 2001 - Ryan Plessas; and for 2004 - Johnathon Miller. Local 479 honorable mentions have included: for 2001 - David Gray; for 2003 - Nory Godic; and for 2005 - Johnathan Bolser.

From the local’s point of view, the competing local union Apprentice of the Year is already a winner, even before the district contest, because of the hard work it takes to be on top, locally. With that said, we congratulate Scottie Sterling, who is Local 479’s 2016 Apprentice of the Year. Scottie is a great example of a young worker who demonstrates excellence in a great trade with superior benefits. In March, he competed at this year’s Seventh District Apprenticeship Contest and represented our local well. We are proud of him.

*Editor’s Note: To read more, see Oc. 15, 2004, news story “Yearly Contest Challenges Apprentices in Tasks,” Theory, posted on IBEW website [www.ibew.org/articles](http:www.ibew.org/articles).*

Christopher Reeves, M.T.S.

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**’Great Job, Graduates’ — Union Sports Activities**

L.U. 431 (es,em,mt,ts,sk,p), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Congratulations to IBEW Local 431’s most recent apprenticeship graduating class, who topped off in December 2015, to become journeymen wiremen. Great job, graduates, on successfully completing your apprenticeship and best of luck as you start your new careers as IBEW journeymen. Remember to continue to be active and involved with the local union.

One way to stay involved is through our many sports activities. In February, the IBEW 431 Basketball League hosted the 6th Annual Corridor Tournament, with all proceeds going to the IBEW 431 Help Fund. The Basketball League has raised a significant amount of money over the years for the Help Fund. These events are a great way to connect with one another and, at the same time, support our fellow brothers and sisters. Thank you to all who participated.

In March, our local completed the latest installment of our 481 Forums. These meetings serve as a way to educate the membership on the current activities of the local as well as what the administration has planned for the future. A special thanks to Bus. Mgr. Steve Menster and staff on a job well done.

Blake Andrews, R.S.

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Putting members out to work. We had a tough winter this year but our future looks brighter.

We did many great things this past winter and one of them was to start getting our younger members involved in our own RENEW – Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers – committee. We also completed the Roberts Park Pavilion volunteer project, and it is a great addition to our community. With summer here, we hope to start many more volunteer projects to help make our community a better place.

“The union is not a fee-for-service organization, it is a family.” – Sue Carney, director of Human Relations, American Postal Workers Union, ARPCD.

Powering Up the Green Economy

Local 557 members working with Ledyard Electric volunteered to help build the Roberts Park Pavilion in Saginaw, MI. We are actively involved in the development of regulations to implement California SB 350. This landmark legislation will double energy efficiency in California buildings and increase our electricity generation from renewable sources to 50 percent by 2030.

Additionally, over 300 IBEW 569 electricians and power professionals are building the new high-tech, energy efficient Kaiser Permanente San Diego Central Hospital. This project is seeking LEED Gold certification and incorporates the latest technologies and sustainable materials, including a solar array on its parking garage.

We’re also pleased that a recent California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) decision will help make charging an electric car convenient and cheaper than gasoline, while ensuring that charging infrastructure is built and maintained safely with highly skilled union electricians.

Finally, we congratulate the graduates of our new Solar Start boot camp training program! All of them are now employed and working for our union contractors!

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past year, we want to welcome all of our new members and invite them to get involved and to check out the Local 667 website at www.ibew667.org.

Richard Koetting, B.M., P.S.


Political Action is Key — ‘Your Vote & Your Livelihood’

L.U. 673 (catv,ls,spa,lui), PAINESVILLE, OH — Recently, with a strong union-friendly state, West Virginia, falling to so-called “right-to-work” legislation, this is just another reminder of how your political involvement shapes your paycheck.

No matter if it’s voting for a senator, governor or mayor, all of these are vital to the labor movement and keeping brotherhood strong. As I have heard in past elections, “this is the most important election of our lives.” This could not be any truer than it is right now.

I ask you to please put any personal agenda aside and vote for labor-friendly candidates. Please vote for friends of working people for the sake of our children’s future and the future of the United States, so that our country can remain the prosperous nation that we have known for years.

With political involvement from every IBEW member, along with our grassroots program set in place by the International, it has been shown that we can prevail. Brothers and sisters, I ask you all to stand unite and keep our IBEW strong!

Dave Phillips, P.S.

2016 Election Year — ‘We Must Stand Together’

L.U. 683 (emkl), COLUMBUS, OH — With the close of winter and the arrival of spring, we look forward to new jobs getting underway and for work to pick up in the Columbus and surrounding area.

As work picks up it is easy to forget about the lean times, and in an election year it is especially important that we do not forget. We as union members must stand together and vote for those candidates who will protect union members’ rights and the ability of working people to make a living wage to support their families.

Congratulations to Bro. Joe Stahl for being awarded the 2015 BX Craftsmanship Award.

Anyone who went to Local 683’s union hall over the last 39 years probably met Doris Jones, who worked in our office. Once Doris met you, she always remembered your name. Sadly, Doris passed away in January at the age of 90. She will be missed by many.

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

Legislative Attacks on Labor

L.U. 696 (c,es,ltm&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN — Here in Indiana, labor has been under siege by big-money influences at the state capitol. Because of publication deadlines, I cannot report here on the most recent legislative session — but attacks on labor, union and nonunion, have been many.

Unfortunately, we are not alone. State by state we see cookie-cutter legislation that mirrors actions being taken across the nation. Does anyone really believe that dozens of legislators from different parts of the nation just happened to dream up exactly similar legislation?

While the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) — an ultra-right wing political organization that lobbies for anti-worker bills — has taken a more secretive approach, its core mission is the supporting of big multinational corporations, opposing labor, shifting tax burdens from corporations to the citizens, and dismantling the EPA is still in full effect.

One only has to look to Flint, Michigan, to see how the philosophy of un-regulated privatization can negatively affect unsuspecting Americans.

Apparently some people are enjoying the circus atmosphere in the presidential race. We need public servants who will protect our way of life through action — not politicians who only speak to our emotions.

Dan Waldrop, B.M.

Training Center Renovation

L.U. 273 (emkl), READING, PA — Greetings, brothers and sisters. We have been busy with renovations to our training center and we are very proud of our newly upgraded hands-on lab rooms. One of the new labs is a totally renovated Motor Control Lab featuring new programmable controllers, variable frequency drives, and other solid state and magnetic control devices. We also have constructed a brand new Tele/Data lab, Fire Alarm lab, General Wiring lab and Conduit lab. Additional labs will be operational shortly to include a HVAC Controls lab and a Rigging and Histing lab. I want to give a special thank-you to retire Bro. David Fox and Bro. David Paskowski for all their help with the renovations.

The work picture has been good and looks to remain that way for some time due largely to several large construction projects at several medical facilities in our area.

Finally, all had a good time for a great cause as over $14,000 for the American Cancer Society and “Pink in the Rink” hockey game. The event raised over 150 members and their families attended the event.

IBEW Community Outreach

L.U. 915 (lk&mt), TAMPA, FL — We held our annual Local 915 work party in February and although the attendance was small, a tremendous amount of work was done. From changing out lighting fixtures at the hall to clearing the grounds outside, there were enough tasks to keep everyone busy. Thanks to those who volunteered their time on a Saturday to come out and help. The spirit of brotherhood and, of course, the food were awesome.

Local 915 has partnered with the University of South Florida to promote the IBEW brand. Over 500 students and faculty members have been educated about the value of qualified, skilled tradesmen. This partnership is a way to build relationships in our community and helps send out the message that IBEW is the right choice for all of Tampa’s electrical needs.

In the upcoming election season, keep labor and the future of our trades foremost in mind as you make your decision at the ballot box. Please VOTE!

Our trades and your jobs are dependent on electing friends of working people.

Theresa King, P.S.

‘Coming Back Strong’ — Strategic Organizing Success

L.U. 969 (lok&u), GRAND JUNCTION, CO — Things looked bleak for our survival back in 2012. In 2016, with the membership’s grit, savvy decisions by the executive board and strong leadership of Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. James Milligan, Local 969 is coming back stronger than ever!

A major part of our turnaround has been out organizing. A strategic organizing plan was implement in 2015. With constant evaluations and tweaks, it has shown superb performance. Our contractors have accepted the construction electrician/construction wireman (CE/CW) program, and the Construction Wireman Education Program (CWEP) is proving beneficial.

Membership Development Agent Jon Stevens and Business Development Agent Ron Hall shake the bush—es night and day organizing new members and contractors, and tracking upcoming projects.

In other news, Local 969 hosted the quarterly Eighth District organizing meeting March 3 and held a job fair March 3. Line work has been steady throughout our jurisdiction and our utilities work picture has been stable. Local elections began with nominations in April, ballots were mailed in May, and elections are in June. We have been through a lot and the membership will not accept anything less than excellence throughout the local moving forward.

Work safe always. See you in St. Louis at the International Convention in September to celebrate our great union.

Mike Gardner, Pres.

Local 915 work party volunteers assemble at local union hall.

‘Organizing Steward’ Program

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,lui), VACAVILLE, CA — On March 1, Local 1245 welcomed 212 members from the City of Vallejo into our ranks, following the merger of former Local 2176 with Local 1245.

Local 1245’s Innovative “Organizing Steward” program continues to grow. Seventy organizing stewards were sworn in earlier this year, and they have already hit the ground running. A team of organizing stewards recently returned from Indiana, where they helped Local 124 conduct a membership drive to boost their numbers at the furnaces manufacturing plant.

The local is doubling down in its efforts to keep the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant open. Diablo Canyon is the largest generator of clean, zero-emissions energy in the state of California, and Local 1245 represents 600 of the 1,500 workers employed at the plant.

Last year, IBEW 1245 succeeded in finding off a legal effort seeking to close the plant, but the threats to Diablo Canyon’s continued operation have continued to mount, and IBEW Local 1245 remains steadfastly committed to do everything in its power to keep the plant up and running.

In Nevada, the local is prepared to combat a proposed ballot measure that would open the door to energy deregulation and job loss in Nevada. The measure seeks to amend the Nevada state constitution in order to allow energy consumers to procure energy from other sources besides IBEW-represented NV Energy.

In outside construction, the work outlook remains strong and steady.

Rebecca Band, P.S.

Major 2016 Utility Projects; Coal-Fired Plant Closures

L.U. 1393 (catv,ltt,lctt,o,pet,lui), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Changes to EPA rules have had an impact on our local with Duke Energy closing coal-fired power plants at Wabash River Station, which is also the site of the Wabash River Coal Gasification Repowering Project. This closure affects more than 1424 conduct a membership drive to boost their number at Wabash River Station, which is also the site of the Wabash River Coal Gasification Repowering Project. This closure affects more than 1424.
RENW committee this year! RENW — which stands for Reach Out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers — has been raising funds for the Richard M. Fairbanks Burn Center at Eskenazi Health in Indianapolis. Many communities throughout Indiana send their most severely burned patients to this facility because of its outstanding reputation and central geographic location. IBEW members have also been treated at the Fairbanks Burn Center. The fundraising efforts have included a motorcycle ride, held earlier this spring.

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

Political Challenges

L.U. 1429 (i&O), ST. LOUIS, MO — With the 2016 Missouri legislative session under way, Republican lawmakers have once again set their sights on the hard-working men and women of organized labor. A number of anti-labor bills, such as so called “right-to-work” and “paycheck protection” measures, are making their way through the Missouri House and Senate. At the time this article was written, a “paycheck protection” bill (marked more accurately as “paycheck deception”) had passed in the Senate and was headed back to the House for further debate.

We encourage our members to stay engaged in local politics. Express your opposition to anti-worker laws with your state representatives. Stay informed by attending your union meetings and find opportunities to educate people you know regarding the benefits of being a union member.

Wet snow and high winds caused power outages in late February, and once again our members rose to the storm. We thank our brothers and sisters in all job classifications for their hard work.

The International Executive Council reviewed the file of retiree Robert Bentz, Local Union 98, Card Number D-791629. After review, it was determined that Brother Bentz was not in violation of Article XI, Section 6(d). Brother Bentz must repay pension monies he collected while working.

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8 a.m. by Chairman Pierson, on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015, in Washington, D.C. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Walten, Wagner, Lavin and Galbraith. The council began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Oath of Allegiance.

International President Stephenson

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

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia

International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore (Sam) Chilia presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the IBEW for both in Canada and in the United States. Resolution of IEC regarding Funding of the Pension Plan for International Officers, Representa- tives and Assistants and the Pension Plan for Office Employees of the IBEW was discussed.

Legal Defense

The International Executive Council adopted a 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.

Restated IBEW Relocation Policy

The International Executive Council discussed and approved the restated IBEW Relocation Policy, effective July 1, 2015.

Electrical Worker Historical Society Restoration Project

The International Executive Council discussed and approved the letter appeal from Perry Speranza, Local Union 353, Card Number D-664240. Brother Speranza’s appeal was referred to the International Convention.

Action Involving Members Receiving Pension Benefit Funds

The International Executive Council reviewed the file of retiree Larry D. Chapman Sr., Local Union 1393, Card Number D-129543. Following an investigation it was determined that Brother Chapman while receiving benefits from the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) returned to trade and made himself available for work. As a result, the IEC requires Brother Chapman to look for the union label and lay “Made in America!” God bless!

Bob Smith, P.S.

IBEW Volunteers Step Up — ‘Kids for Christmas’ Campaign

L.U. 2113 (IUEW) TULLAHOMA, TN — Our Kids for Christmas campaign just continues to grow year after year, with donations from our members and friends totaling over $50,000 last year. We were able to sponsor 50 foster children for a shopping spree to purchase Christmas gifts for their family members last year. After our volunteers took the children shopping, participants returned to the union hall where the kids wrapped their gifts and were treated to pizza and refreshments. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all who helped make this effort a special blessing for these wonderful children.

Our work continues to hold strong without any help from the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) and made ourselves available for work without additional PBF credits. Brother Chapman must reimburse the PBF payments received for that time period. In the interim, Brother Chapman has satisfied reimbursement to the PBF, and will be returned to pension status.

The International Executive Council reviewed the file of retiree Robert Bentz, Local Union 98, Card Number D-791629. After review, it was determined that Brother Bentz was not in violation of Article XI, Section 6(d). Brother Bentz must repay pension monies he collected while working.

Letter from IBEW International Office Retiree

The International Executive Council read, discussed and filed the letter from retiree Shirley Weber regarding International Office employee pension.

Retirement of IEC Chairman and Sweating in of Newly Appointed IEC Chairman

Pursuant to the retirement of IEC Chairman Robert W. Pierson, President Stephenson on Nov. 10, 2015, appointed Christopher Erickson to fill the vacancy of IEC Chairman, and the IEC unanimously confirmed his appointment to be effective Jan. 1, 2016. President Stephenson swore in newly appointed IEC Chairman Christopher Erickson.

The IEC thanked Chairperson Pierson for his service to the IEC and the IBEW, presented him with a plaque and wished him well in retirement.

Article XX and XXI Cases

In 2015, the IBEW was involved in three Article XX disputes, and opposed efforts by three affiliates to register strategic campaigns under Article XXI Strategic Campaign Program.

IBEW Local Union 47 and Local Union 440 and the Southern California District Council of Laborers all have collective bargaining agreements with International Line Builders (ILB). The Laborers have filed an election petition for a unit defined as all laborers performing work for ILB under the Laborers’ master-multi-employer agreement; both Local Unions 47 and 440 have intervened in the election proceeding. The Laborers have filed Article XXI charges against the IBEW. It is the position of the IBEW that ILB is engaged in construction, which is excluded from Article XX. In mediation, the IBEW agreed to settle the matter, with the Laborers amending its election petition to define its bargaining unit as explicitly excluding employees covered by any IBEW collective bargaining agreement, and Local Unions 47 and 440 withdrawing from the election proceedings.

United Steelworkers (USW) Local 81392 represents a unit of employees at Steam Electric Association in Minnesota. The employees were disparate from lack of support from the USW’s national office and invited IBEW Local Union 160 representatives to a membership meeting where USW Local 81392 president presented IBEW Local Union 160 representatives with authorization cards signed by all 27 members of the bargaining unit and a letter stating that the USW was no longer interested in representing the unit. When IBEW Local Union 160 filed an election petition, the USW charged the IBEW with violating Article XX by interfering with its established collective bargaining relationship. Because Article XX rights are held by the national union and not the local union and the USW’s intent to continue to represent these employers, the IBEW withdrew the election petition and settled the dispute.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and IBEW Local Union 292 rep-...
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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 NBWE 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.

Strengthening Our Foundation

Just four months from now, the IBEW will be coming together in St. Louis for our 13th Convention and marking our 125th anniversary in the place where we began. Not only are we returning to our roots physically, over the last few years the IBEW has been returning to some of our founding ideas.

There was a time in this union, and organized labor generally, where all too often, existing members pulled up the ladder behind them. They began to think the purpose of a union was to look out for the people who were in it and build walls to keep everybody else out. I don’t need to tell you what a disaster this was.

As a union and a community, we have made enormous strides in putting those misguided days behind us.

I think we are now making it clear that every working man and woman deserves the benefits that come from unity in the workplace. It is as true today as it was when those founders of the IBEW made it the first goal of the Brotherhood: “To organize all workers in the entire electrical industry in the United States and Canada, including all those in public utilities and electrical manufacturing, into local unions.”

Moving Forward Together

A hallmark of the labor movement is the notion of solidarity. There is strength in numbers. At its best, it is a movement that fosters people coming together for the greater good. And we have a history of putting this into action. We did it when we marched with Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement and we do it in smaller ways when we donate to the United Way or volunteer our skills to build a home with Habitat for Humanity. When you believe we are stronger together, there is no shortage of ways to make that happen.

Our brother in Congress, Rep. Donald Norcross, a Democrat and member of Folsom, N.J., Local 351, reached across the aisle to work with Republican Rep. David McKinley to create a building trades caucus. Instead of falling prey to the seemingly endless partisan rancor that has infected our government at all levels, these two are coming together to educate their peers about the value of the trades. It’s an excellent example of a better way forward.

The work we do every day is often dangerous and requires a commitment to safety and teamwork. There is no room on a worksite for undermining our co-worker or creating divisions. When our members who work on Washington, D.C.’s Metro transit system were called in for an emergency inspection and repair of an aging structure that supports hundreds of thousands of working men and women in the nation’s capital, they showed up and performed like the experts they are. They came together and they got the job done. It’s a lesson our politicians could stand to learn.

As the election rhetoric heats up to a near boiling point, we need to remember what we stand for, and it isn’t getting ahead at the expense of others. It isn’t exploiting those less fortunate for personal gain. It’s about shared prosperity. It’s about a fair day’s pay and investing in people.

When we support our Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, our Women’s Caucus and RENEW, we practice the solidarity that will fuel our work for future generations. To truly realize the dream of our founding fathers, to organize all working people in the electrical industry, we need to organize with our arms open. We need to respect our future brothers and sisters, all of them. We’re going to have some big battles in the coming days and years, facing immense corporate greed. Our ability to fight back will depend on the power we build today.

The house of labor should be a beacon of hope and solidarity for anyone willing to work hard and contribute to the greater good. That’s how we went from 10 men in a boardinghouse to more than 725,000 men and women today. And that is how we will continue to grow and prosper, by fostering our better angels and reminding our brothers and sisters everywhere that a house divided cannot stand, but a house united has unlimited capacity for greatness.
Mind to, you have accomplished. Congratulations on being the first woman elected president of the Florida Building and Construction Trades Council. It’s not a surprise at all. Anything you have ever set your mind to, you have accomplished. — David Judowin, Local 164 member Jersey City, N.J.

(Editor’s Note: We greatly appreciate when members take the time to let us know what they think of the stories in the Electrical Worker and on IBEW.org. The names of the writers, editors and producers in the Media Department are on the masthead each month, but every day, it is our privilege to put the focus where it belongs: on the men and women of the IBEW.)

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

College Will Help With Apprenticeship

Best wishes to Cary James (IBEW apprentice who recently spoke at the Center for American Progress) in her career as an electrician after graduating from Boston University. Her continuing education bodes well for her future in the IBEW. The knowledge she acquired in college will help her persevere as an electrician. Good study habits, time management and critical thinking are all transferrable skills that will help throughout the apprenticeship program.

— Joan Love, Local 134 member Chicago

Right-to-Work Equals Surrender

When you support right-to-work legislation, you surrender your right to fair treatment by your employer — for you and your family. You might as well wave a white flag. Right-to-work may sound like some employment agency, but it’s merely a wage-theft scheme.

— Chuck Myers, Local 66 retiree Seattle

Kentucky Voters Fight Back

Regarding huge labor mobilization that resulted in Kentucky special election results that slowed efforts to pass a right-to-work law there: Keep up the good work. Sometimes, the grassroots have to take over so the kids don’t burn down the house.

— Maureen Ripple

Fixing the D.C. Metro System

Regarding IBEW members repairing the Washington Metro system: You want the job done right the first time! Hire professional people. Hire union, we train our people to be the best.

— Oscar Friedt, Local 105 member Hamilton, Ontario

Support for Amtrak

Regarding IBEW calls to fully fund Amtrak: I am an Amtrak employee. All we hear from management is that things are going down the drain. Please everyone, when you vote, think about keeping Amtrak alive — not just for me, but for so many union brothers and sisters across the country. The railroads are part of America’s history. Don’t let them go away.

— Caleb Wilford, Local 946 member Los Angeles

A Florida Milestone

You never cease to amaze me, (Tampa, Fla., Local 955 recording secretary) Theresa King. Congratulations on being the first woman elected president of the Florida Building and Construction Trades Council. It’s not a surprise at all. Anything you have ever set your mind to, you have accomplished.

— Michael Ray VanSickler Frostproof, Fla.

High Line after Amputation

Monroe, N.Y., Local 503 member Glenn Hampson lost his foot in a motorcycle accident but never lost his love of life as a lineman.

“I knew there was no way my leg would heal. I studied up on prosthetics and it was a no-brainer. The progress has been incredible,” Hampson said.

He Googled “extreme sport prosthetics” and began looking for the fake foot that would return him to his real life. His first step was nearly eliminating his use of painkillers.

“The guy in the room with me in the hospital was maxed out on painkillers and always asking for more. I knew the utility would never let me climb if I was on painkillers,” Hampson said.

By the time he left the hospital in February 2013, he was taking only Tylenol. Hampson spent a winter in physical therapy, going crazy stuck in the house on crutches. But it was a huge improvement over the early days of PT back in the hospital where merely getting up after months in bed took hours. Each day was a mixture of working out, keeping positive, and stretching. Lots of stretching.

Hampson’s first prosthetic was simple and temporary. The first thing he did when he got his prosthetic home in March was try on the metal hooks that strap to a lineman’s boots.

“They felt OK. And there are poles all along my street and I started stepping up,” he said. “It felt fine, there was no pain. It wasn’t awkward. That is how it started for real. I knew it was possible, I can easily go back.”

When his sick leave had been used up, he went out on long-term medical leave, allowing him to continue receiving part of his salary. As 2013 came to a close, it was clear he was ready to get back to work.

“I am so thankful I had a union job when this happened,” he said. “If I hadn’t, I would have been [in a difficult position].”

In February 2014, Hampson went in to work for a function test from the company doctor. He was wearing a prosthetic built by a specialist in Florida who outfitted X-Games competitors, skiers, runners and cops. He had a climbing hook that worked with flat-bottomed boots, but anyone could wear the setup.

“He knew he could do it. He practiced on his own and aced that test,” Jen- sen said. “There was no issue. He was maybe better than before the accident, to be honest.”

Hampson has been back on the job for just over two years.

“After the accident, we never thought he would come back to the team, because of the rough terrain, let alone climb tow- ers,” said Local 503 member and extra high voltage crew member Douglas Peifer.

“Today, there are no special arrangements, he uses everything we use as if nothing was different. You watch him climb or move around, you would never know unless he rolled up his pants and showed you that prosthetic. It is incredible.”

“Glenn doesn’t hinder us, he is an asset. He isn’t limited by this at all,” Peifer said.

For Hampson, this is just his life, back again.

“At this point, I am back doing what I’m supposed to be doing,” he said. “Back to the high line, loving it every day.”

Glenn wanted to thank his brothers and sisters at Local 503 for the friendship and support and the local office staff who helped him wade through the disability system.

He especially wanted to thank his wife Anya.

“There are so many people who helped me but only one person went through it too,” he said.

M ore and more, nuclear ener-
gy is recognized as part of a clean power portfolio. Sur-
prisingly, the country’s third most populous state, New York, is
eliminating its options.

Despite attempts by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to keep it open, energy company
Entergy announced plans last November to close the James A. FitzPatrick nuclear pow-
er plant, near Syracuse. The facility employs more than 600 people, about 300 of whom
are Syracuse, N.Y. Local 97 members, said Business Manager Ted Skerpon.

“They want to go carbon-free but they are taking out the plants that help the
state do just that,” said Skerpon, who also chairs the IBEW Utility Labor Council of
New York. “We’re trying to show the public and the politicians what is going on, what
these plants really mean for New York.”

At issue are three of the Empire State’s four nuclear power plants. One is already
slated to close, the R. E. Ginna plant. If FitzPatrick closes too, that will
leave just one upstate, the Nine Mile Point station, on Lake Ontario’s eastern shore.

Discussions about the fate of these plants come at the same time that states
are scrambling to meet new clean energy standards mandated by the Environmen-
tal Protection Agency. The EPA issued a rule in October that requires states to
reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from existing power plants. The final
version of the rule, also known as the Clean Power Plan, would reduce national elec-
tricity sector emissions by an estimated 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.
New York is required to reduce emissions by 20 percent.

The rule was challenged in court, including by the IBEW, and the Supreme
Court issued a stay in February, barring the EPA from enforcing the requirements until a final decision is made.

The labor council, along with the northern New York building trades, recently
commissioned a report to look at the impact of closing these plants, both
economic and environmental.

Conducted by economic consulting
firm The Brattle Group, the study analyzes
the likely impact of closing the FitzPatrick
plant as well as the R.E. Ginna and Nine Mile
Point nuclear generating stations. The Ginna and Nine Mile Point stations are owned by Exelon. Ginna is scheduled to
close when a contract runs out in 2017, said RTO Insider.

FitzPatrick and Ginna are located
respectively north of the FitzPatrick
plant as well as the R.E. Ginna and Nine Mile
Point nuclear generating stations. The Ginna and Nine Mile Point stations are owned by Exelon. Ginna is scheduled
to close when a contract runs out in 2017, said RTO Insider.

FitzPatrick and ginna are located
respectively north and south of the
FitzPatrick plant. If FitzPatrick closes too, that will
mean less energy independence. Off-
shore wind has been proposed, but it is
too expensive to build and would encour-
er numerous societal and regulatory hur-
dles, Skerpon said.

“The most likely scenario though, is
that natural gas would be used to fill the
electric void, said the report. And with this
increased reliance on fossil fuels, New
Yorkers would see higher electricity bills
along with more carbon emissions.

Closing Down
Upstate New York
While Entergy has said it will do all it can
to offer alternate positions to its
staff, Skerpon says layoffs are likely.

“Some employees may be able to
relocate to another plant, but not all,”
said Skerpon. “I will be very difficult to
stay in the area.”

North of Syracuse, the part
of upstate New York where these
plants are located is rural. Despite proximity to a col-
lege town, there are few jobs to be had.

As FitzPatrick employee and Local
97 member Shawn Doyle told the New
York Times, “I’m not giving up yet,” Skerpon said.

“Entergy says it’s a done deal, but
I’m not giving up yet,” Skerpon said.

“We’ll keep pushing.”

The closure of the Fitzpatrick nuclear
power plant in upstate New York would
cause layoffs for Syracuse Local 97 and
difficulties replacing the energy source.
The Indian Point plant, pictured, is
expected to remain open.

Image credit: Wikimedia Commons

A New Day for Nuclear?
Elsewhere in the country, the Wisconsin Legislature voted to repeal the state’s
33-year moratorium on nuclear plant construction. Gov. Scott Walker is expected
to sign it into law, reported the Nuclear Energy Institute. Among the considerations
was the EPA’s requirement to reduce carbon emissions.

In California, a group of environmentalists and climate scientists are fighting to keep
the Diablo Canyon plant from closing. It’s the state’s only nuclear plant and
accounts for about one-tenth of the Golden State’s electricity, serving more than 3
million homes and businesses, reported Mother Jones, a progressive publication.

Mother Jones also cited a recent analysis by the International Energy Agency that
found, in order for the world to meet the global warming limit established by the
recent climate agreement in Paris, nuclear’s share will need to grow from around 11
percent in 2015 to 26 percent by 2030.

Prominent climate scientists including former NASA scientist James Hansen have
also called for “an enlarged focus on nuclear energy,” reported the Scientific American,
a national scientific publication.

“Nuclear, especially next-generation nuclear, has tremendous potential to be part of
the solution to climate change,” Hansen said.