The IBEW’s 39th International Convention convenes this month just a mile and a half from the St. Louis boardinghouse where 10 delegates met 125 years ago to form what would become the greatest union of electrical tradesmen and tradeswomen in the world.

We return to the banks of the Mississippi River at an important juncture for the United States, for the IBEW and for the state of Missouri.

“Coming back here to St. Louis, the birthplace of our union, is a reminder of the sacrifices our brothers and sisters have made over the years fighting for better working conditions, higher wages and secure retirements,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “We owe them so much, and it’s a privilege to be here in this city celebrating their contributions to our way of life.”

In 1890, when Henry Miller arrived in St. Louis, the booming Gateway City was a hotbed of labor activism. That year, Miller and other electricians working at the city’s grand Exposition Hall formed Local 5221, affiliated with Samuel Gompers’ American Federation of Labor. But Miller had bigger dreams, and just a year later, he and nine delegates from around the country came together at 2728 Franklin Ave. and drew up the constitution for what became the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

With that legacy in mind, and in the shadow of the city’s famous Gateway Arch, more than 3,000 IBEW delegates, alternates and guests will gather this month to elect leaders, debate laws and resolutions and to celebrate the Brotherhood and its origins in St. Louis.

This year, convention delegates plan to give back to the city, holding the IBEW’s inaugural Day of Service on Sept. 15. Delegates and guests will fan out across St. Louis to volunteer at homeless shelters, food banks, local parks, ballfields and more. “It’s a fitting way to head into our convention,” Stephenson said, “to give back to a community that has given us so much.”

St. Louis Local 1 and the Electrical Workers Historical Society will also cut the ribbon on the Henry Miller Museum, the boardinghouse restored during the past year to open in time for the convention. Hundreds of IBEW members and local unions have generously donated to its preservation, and they’ll soon have the opportunity to visit the place they helped make a reality.
Celebrating 125 Years, IBEW Returns Home

Continued from page 1

The convention also comes to Missouri — always a presidential battleground state — at a moment when the country is poised to make fundamental decisions about the future. In Jefferson City last year, Gov. Jay Nix-
on’s veto was the only thing standing between the state’s working people and a disastrous right-to-work law. Since IBEW delegates last convened in 2011, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and West Virginia have passed right-to-work laws and IBEW members and working families have been forced to fight dozens of attacks on prevailing wage laws across the country.

“Between now and November, we’ve got the opportunity to choose leaders who will lift working people up instead of blaming them for wanting to earn a living wage or to come together to improve their lot in life,” Stephens said. “By working together to elect allies in November, we can help ensure the legacy of our founding fathers lives on for another 125 years.”

Read on for the stories of the IBEW local unions following in the footsteps of Henry Miller and our founders in the Gateway City today.}

Local 1: Birthplace of the Brotherhood

That St. Louis Local 1 is the flagship local of the IBEW is not lost on its 5,600 members. It’s a distinction the men and women proudly carry with them as they power the city.

“It’s a tremendous honor,” said Local 1 Business Manager Frank D. Jacobs, a fourth generation IBEW member. “We feel a great deal of responsibility to protect and build on what we have been given.”

“We feel a great deal of responsibility to protect and build on what we have been given.”

— Frank Jacobs, Local 1 Business Manager

From the moment you land at the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, you are benefiting from the craftsmanship of Local 1 members. In fact, many of the sites that attract visitors have been built and maintained by our brothers and sisters, including the Gateway Arch, St. Louis Art Museum, Union Station, Washington University, Peabody Opera House and all of the sports venues in the St. Louis area.

“We’ve wired them all,” said retiree Jack Jacobs in a documentary about the local. He is also the father of the business manager and son of the 11th District’s first international vice president, Frank W. Jacobs. The documentary, “We Light This City,” was produced in 2012 as part of a promotional campaign and is available on the Local 1 website, ibewlocalr1.com.

From the first commercial use of electricity in the late 1800s to solar panels today, Local 1 has provided a skilled workforce. Members worked on the World’s Fair in 1904 — the first time electrical lights were available on the Local 1 website, which was established in 2012 as part of a promotional campaign and is available on the Local 1 website, ibewlocalr1.com.

They also wired the Arch during its construction in the 1960s, and today a crew is working on a renovation of the grounds around the monument. It’s a multi-year project that has crews installing lights on walking paths, working on the trams that take visitors to the top of the Arch and wiring new gift shops, restaurants and an auditorium. When it’s completed in 2017, people will be able to walk from the Arch grounds into the city, all through connected walkways.

“It’s a substantial renovation, and something I’m glad to be working on,” said Local 1 Business Representative Tim Murray, whose father worked on the original Arch construction. Local 1 also had the first federally registered electrical journeyman technicians.

Local 1: Birthplace of the Brotherhood

Some of the founders of the IBEW were linemen from St. Louis and these members of Local 2 are continuing the tradition.

Local 2: ‘it all Comes Back to Us’

Henry Miller, the first president of the IBEW, was an outside lineman from St. Louis. If he were working today, he’d be a member of Local 2.

“We bring it up all the time,” said Local 2 Business Manager Dave Desmond. “Our members are incredibly proud that it all comes back home to us.”

Local 2 is rooted in St. Louis and its jurisdiction covers nearly the entire eastern half of the state, from the northern farmlands along the Iowa border to the Ozarks at the border with Arkansas.

“We bring it up all the time … Our members are incredibly proud that it all comes back home to us.”

— Local 2 Business Manager Dave Desmond

For the last five years, Local 2 has been rebuilding the underground electrical distribution system in St. Louis, raising transmission towers to meet new regulations and building an expanded grid as demand grows and new power sources come on line. “We’ve been growing since I was initiated in 1985,” said Assistant Business Manager David Heidbreder, who will take over as business manager from Desmond after the convention. “Work is pretty good. We have a lot of transmission work and are organizing a new municipality and striping quite a few nonunion linemen.”

Nearly 1,000 members work for telephone and cable TV companies. Local 2 represents workers at more than a dozen rural electrical cooperatives, water utilities and the statewide electric utility Ameren since its purchase of longtime Local 2 signatory Missouri Power and Light. In recent decades, municipal and clerical workers have also organized with Local 2.

Local 2 is much like the IBEW that is returning home this month. Much of the work the linemen do would be familiar to any member from any era, though the tools have changed and safety is vastly improved. But as the country has changed, so has the IBEW. In another 125 years, however, when the people of St. Louis get the power they need in their lives, Local 2 will be there.
Local 4 Meets Broadcast Challenges, Remains Strong

St. Louis Local 4 once drew most of its membership from people working behind the scenes at the city’s television stations. Those workers remain valued members—but there are fewer of them because of automation in the video and television industries.

The broadcast local has stayed strong, however, thanks to outreach to non-traditional groups of workers, longtime Business Manager Michael J. Pendergast said. “We try to stay very active in organizing,” said Pendergast, who has served as Local 4 business manager for nearly a quarter-century. “That’s one thing we’ve been successful with over the years, not just recently. We’ve been aggressive in reaching out to new groups and that’s what we continue to do.”

“We try to stay very active in organizing. We’ve been aggressive in reaching out to new groups and that’s what we continue to do.”

—St. Louis Local 4 Business Manager Michael J. Pendergast

Among the employers Local 4 has bargaining agreements with are Barlow Productions, a St. Louis-based company that produces video for business and nonprofit; Kaufmann Broadcast Services, which produces programming from both studio and from on-site events to cable news and sports networks; and Klance Staging, which provides crews for sports events being televised in other markets, such as a Cardinals-Cubs baseball game back to Chicago.

Local 4 also represents technicians and technical assistants at Fox Sports Midwest, which telecasts St. Louis Cardinals and St. Louis Blues games; and Missouri-based workers represented by the national Fox Sports contract.

It still represents camera operators, engineers, technicians and editors at St. Louis’ NBC, ABC, CBS, PBS and Fox affiliates, as well as news department producers and assignment editors at the CBS and Fox affiliates. Additionally, it also represents workers at KMOV, the legendary CBS Radio affiliate and longtime broadcast home of the Cardinals. Overall, it has 30 agreements with employers.

Local 4 now has 305 members, down from the nearly 400 during the early 2000s, Pendergast said. But it is in good financial shape, allowing it to provide extra benefits for members and push back against anti-working family proposals from some companies.

In 2014, Local 4 put up billboards around the St. Louis area and produced television as well as radio commercials encouraging viewers not to watch KSDK-TV, the local NBC affiliate, because then-owner Gannett was asking for another round of cuts after employees agreed to concessions during previous contract negotiations.

It paid off. It took nearly a year, but Gannett officials backed down from their most draconian proposals and the parties agreed to a deal that gave 40 Local 4 employees at the station guaranteed employment for the life of the contract.

Just as important for its members, Local 4’s response to KSDK’s ultimatums served to protect the interests of all Local 4 bargaining units, Pendergast said. Other employers approaching negotiations were aware of the response they will receive if they insist on unreasonable demands, he said.

Outside of negotiations, Local 4 has developed a program that supports members, such as providing them with $200 on each of their first five days of a hospitalization, Pendergast said. It holds an annual drawing to award five $1,000 scholarships to members or their dependents in college or a trade program.

“Our years, we’ve built that treasury up to where we can do some things to support our members,” he said.

Local 4 also represents technicians and technical assistants at Fox Sports Midwest, which telecasts St. Louis Cardinals and St. Louis Blues games; and Missouri-based workers represented by the national Fox Sports contract.

Jeremy Pour, St. Louis Local 1439 vice president, gets a pole ready for installation at Founders’ Park.

“I’m very proud and fortunate that I’m a business manager when this is happening,” said Business Manager Michael D. Walter, who is also a member of the International Executive Council.

Local 1439 was founded in 1945. So was St. Louis Local 1453, which represents office and technical employees at some of the same companies that employ Local 1439’s linenmen, building service, meter department, meter reading, overhead, underground, stores, substations, transmission, distribution, gas, trouble and installation, utility shop and salvage and motor transportation employees.

Local 1455 members have adapted well to the automation that eliminated some positions, but made many of the remaining ones more demanding, Business Manager Michael A. Datillo said. “You have to accept change,” said Datillo, who has served as business manager since 1983. “You have to accept technology. You have to have people that have a commitment to quality in what they do.”

For decades, Local 1439 represented workers at Union Electric, the dominant electric utility company in the St. Louis area. It had about 1,600 members in the early 1990s. But like many utility locals, it has seen its membership fall due to consolidation in the industry and increased automation on the job. It has about 735 members today, Walter said. The majority of Local 1439’s members work for Ameren Missouri, but the local also has agreements with Liberty Utilities in Missouri, Alliant Energy in Iowa and Entergy in Arkansas.

Consolidation is expected to increase as companies look for greater access to alternative sources of energy, due in part to government mandates and increasing consumer demand. Industry experts also have cited cybersecurity concerns as driving recent mergers, noting that a larger corporation has resources to combat a cyberattack.

“Think this is a very pivotal time for us,” Walter said. “Going forward in three, five or 10 years, I’m not sure what we’re going to look like...it’s really hard to determine where we’re going to end up because, quite honestly, the utilities aren’t sure where they’re going to end up.”

One of Local 1439’s success stories in recent years came in Potosi, Mo., a town with a population of slightly less than 3,000 people located about 90 miles southwest of St. Louis. It organized the city workers at their request, but the story didn’t end there. Local 1439 has become a visible part of the community, hosting an annual golf tournament to raise money for a Potosi senior citizens center. Local 1439 members also regularly volunteer at the center.

“I am very proud and fortunate that I’m a business manager when this is happening.”

—Local 1439 Business Manager Michael D. Walter, who is also a member of the International Executive Council.

Walter said city leaders initially weren’t too happy to see the IBEW, but that attitude has been reversed. Local 1439 members built goodwill with their work in the community and also saved the city money with the IBEW medical plan.

“From the time we got down there and started doing things in that community, we’ve totally changed things,” Walter said.

IBEW RETURNS HOME continued on page 4
Continued from page 3

Today, Local 1455 represents workers in about 120 job classifications, ranging from mail clerks and customer service agents to information technology programmers and operators to accountants.

“When you have a presence in your state capital, your utility must recognize that fact,” Walter said. “They have to work with you. Every time the utility goes to the Missouri Public Service Commission, we always intervene. Whether we take a position or not, we always have a seat at the table.”

Walter has been business manager since 2007 and has served on the IEC since being appointed by then-Presi dent Edwin D. Hill in 2011.

“It’s a tremendous honor and I take it very seriously,” he said. “It’s a balancing act when you’re on the IEC because you’re also a business manager and you have to serve your members. But I’ve never really had any complaints and I get a lot of support.”

Local 1455 represents the office personnel and white collar jobs in both Missouri and Illinois at Ameren, a subsidiary of Ameren UE. It also represents those same employees at Alliant Energy in Iowa. It now has 800 members, Datillo said. Its high water mark was in 1986, when it had 1,500. Like Local 1439, it has had to deal with deregulation and mergers in the industry.

“Most of these people I represent I’ve known and worked with,” Datillo said. “To be a good business manager, you’ve got to be a good listener. Sometimes, people just want to be heard. But when I lead a negotiating committee, I don’t want just a bunch of booby heads nodding in agreement. If you disagree, tell me. I might change my mind.”

Datillo estimates he’s been a co-chairman of Union Electric’s and later America’s United Way campaign in the St. Louis area 10 times. He considers it important because he knows some of Local 1439 members who have used United Way services over the years. Members also take part in a program that repairs used bikes for children in low-income areas.

Like Walter, Datillo said the changing nature of his job is not only the result of technological change but also of the electrical industry guarantees that many challenging new positions have opened up.

“I think everyone realizes the gravity of the situation. If we don’t elect him, we’re in trouble,” Chavez said of Democratic Chris Koster, the state’s attorney general, who has come out strongly against right-to-work.

“He’s a strong candidate. He has consistently spoken out against legislation that harms working families and received nearly 56 percent of the vote in his last election as attorney general in 2012. In the November general election, he’ll face Republican nominee Eric Greitens, who has never held elective office and is in favor of a right-to-work law.

Koster has already raised between $10 million and $11 million, Hummel said. Despite Republican dominance in the Legislature, Missouri voters have shown an independent streak. Democrats hold six of the eight Senate and five of the eight House seats elected statewide.

But Greitens is expected to be well funded. Missouri is one of 12 states that does not limit the amount of money individuals can donate to a candidate. The Republican nominee likely will get substantial donations from wealthy individuals that have pushed for right-to-work legislation in the past.

“It’s going to be an extraordinarily expensive race, the most expensive in our history,” Hummel said. “With unlimited donations, it’s going to be tough for us to keep up.”

That’s where working people can make a difference, Hummel said.

“The IBEW has one of the largest union voting blocks in the state,” he said. “It could not be more important for our members to knock on doors and make those phone calls. But I know that may not be what you want to do when you get off the job and it’s 110 degrees and you’re tired. It’s difficult. But it’s important to remember that if we don’t do those things, and don’t remember the things we fought for, we’re going to be in trouble.”

Hummel noted the Missouri AFL-CIO is supporting some Republicans in the state legislature who have voted against right-to-work laws and other legislation that harms working families.

“It’s important that our membership knows that voting for the right candidate is not the same thing as voting for one (particular) party,” he said.

Right-to-work laws allow employees to opt out of paying membership dues, even when they receive the benefits of a union contract. Prevailing wage laws require contractors doing business with governmental bodies to pay their workers at pre-determined levels. Paycheck deception is called paycheck protection by its supporters and requires members of unions to sign in writing each year they want union dues taken out of their paychecks.
**Promoting Safety and Transparency in the Workplace**

Every Canadian should know how safe their workplace is. Now there’s a bill to help them do it.

MP Sheri Benson has introduced a private member’s bill that would require employers to record information about all accidents, occupational disease and other hazardous occurrences to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, says the NDP member’s website. The registry would be maintained by the minister and available to the public.

“This change will have a positive impact on workers — past, present and future — by allowing them access to pertinent information on the various hazards they could be exposed to at work,” said First District International Vice President William Daniels following the June bill introduction. “This is something every worker deserves to know.”

The bill, C-292, is intended to provide transparency and promote workplace safety. Benson says the inspiration came from a federal food plant inspector who contracted mesothelioma from contact with asbestos while on the job. Howard Willems, who passed away in 2012, was an inspector for 30 years and fought for a similar registry in his province of Saskatchewan, reported the CBC. Benson represents Saskatchewan West in the southern part of the province.

“I’m standing on the shoulders of others who have done a lot of work,” Benson said.

The legislation is expected to have its second reading sometime in 2017, Benson said. If it passes a second reading, experts may be invited to speak on the bill at the committee stage, and other legislators may comment and voice their support. Once the committee has completed its study, the bill will be reported back to the House for a third and final reading. Benson says it’s possible the bill could become law in 2018.

Thus far, there is no opposition, said First District Political Action and Media Strategist Matt Wayland.

“Everyone deserves to know what they’re walking into,” Wayland said. “This bill will help our members come home safe and in good health at the end of the day.”

A new bill calls for a national registry to promote safety and transparency in the workplace. Un nouveau projet de loi prévoit un registre national en vue de promouvoir la sécurité et d’assurer la transparence sur le lieu de travail.

**Promouvoir la sécurité et la transparence sur le lieu de travail**

Out Canadien devrait être informé sur la santé et la sécurité dans leur milieu de travail. Un projet de loi est maintenant en cours pour aider à le faire.

La députée Sheri Benson a présenté un projet de loi émanant des députés qui exigerait des employeurs d’enregistrer toutes informations relatives à tous les accidents, la maladie professionnelle et aux incidents dangereux au ministre de l’Emploi, au ministre du Développement et de la main-d’œuvre, mentionne le site web de la membre du NPD. Le registre sera maintenu par le ministre et sera disponible au public.

“Ce changement aura des répercussions bénéfiques sur les travailleurs du passé, du présent et du futur, en leur permettant d’avoir accès à des informations pertinentes sur les différents dangers auxquels ils seront exposés dans leur lieu de travail,” dit le vice-président William Daniels du Premier District. « C’est quelque chose que les travailleurs méritent de savoir. »

L’adoption du projet de loi C-292 est d’assurer la transparence et de promouvoir un environnement de travail sécuritaire. Benson dit l’inspiration est venue d’un inspecteur fédéral d’usines alimentaires qui a été atteint par le mésothéliome une fois exposé à l’amiante sur le lieu de travail.

Howard Willems était un inspecteur depuis 30 ans et est décédé en 2012. Il s’est battu pour un registre similaire dans la province de Saskatchewan, a indiqué Radio-Canada. Benson représente l’ouest de la province de Saskatchewan au sud de la province.

“Je m’tiens sur les épaules des autres qui ont fait énormément de travail,” dit Benson.

Cette législation devrait passer en seconde lecture en 2017, dit Benson. Si elle est adoptée en deuxième lecture, les experts peuvent être invités à prendre la parole sur le projet de loi devant le comité, et d’autres législateurs peuvent commenter et exprimer leur appui. Une fois que le comité aura terminé son étude, le projet de loi fera l’objet d’une troisième lecture par la Chambre. Benson mentionne que le projet de loi devrait acquérir sa force en 2018.

Jusqu’à présent, il n’y a pas d’opposition, mentionne Matt Wayland de l’Union canadienne des travailleurs de la construction en vue de promouvoir la sécurité et d’assurer la transparence sur le lieu de travail.

Nuclear plant owners want the ability to strip workers of their security clearance without arbitration, but IBEW leaders are working to stop the effort before it becomes law.

On June 6, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission voted 3 to 1 to move forward an industry recommendation to eliminate arbitration in cases where employers revoked so-called “unescorted access authorization,” which employees must have in order to work in a nuclear plant.

And while the vote was simply a recommendation to begin the rulemaking process, it does mean that the IBEW and nuclear industry owners are readying for their second fight on the matter in three years.

“This is really a question of whether or not an employer can unilaterally fire an union-represented employee without cause,” said IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter. “If this NRC rule goes through, a plant owner or manager who doesn’t like the way an employee is looking at him could not only fire that person, but they can effectively make sure they never work in the nuclear industry again.”

The current rules, when an employee has his or her access revoked by a nuclear licensee, that person turns to the union for assistance. If the union files a grievance that goes unresolved, the parties end up in arbitration run by a neutral third-party.

The nuclear industry argued in its petition that if licensees are ultimately responsible for safety at their plants, then they need wide-ranging authority to control access, even if it means firing an employee with no appeals process in place. But courts have repeatedly rejected that reasoning, arguing that reasonable arbitration is a simple matter of fairness that has no negative impact on security.

Members of Congress, too, are siding with workers. In May, after a concert ed effort by the IBEW utility and political departments, 30 U.S. senators and 133 members of the House of Representatives signed letters to NRC Chairman Stephen B. Burns urging him to reject the NRC’s staff petition that recommended the industry-backed changes.

The effort, led by Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden and Pennsylvania Rep. Robert Brady, failed to stop the process at its first hurdle, but it did seem to have some effect on the chairman’s thinking. In his statement accompanying the vote, Burns wrote, “My approval of rulemaking initiation does not come without reservations. I have yet to be convinced on the merits that a change to our regulations is warranted.”

Burns’ statement gives hope that he may eventually side with workers on the issue, but it does move forward a process that could ultimately rule in favor of plant owners.
This Vermont Local is the First in the State to Install Tesla’s Home Battery

Tesla doesn’t just make electric cars. It also makes batteries, the kind you can use to power your home. And if you live in Vermont, you’ll need a member of Montpelier, VT, Local 300 to install it for you.

“It’s an exciting opportunity and I’m glad to be a part of it,” said Scott Millette, a Journeyman wireman with Peck Electric, a contractor with Green Mountain Power and IBEW signatory. GMP is the area utility that employs Local 300 members and contracted with Peck for the battery installation.

Millette was one of three who were trained in a “train the trainer” course in January at Tesla’s Fremont, California, site on the Powerwall, a lithium ion home battery that can serve as a backup electricity source, something that appeals to Vermonters all too familiar with winter storms and power outages. It can also use electricity generated from solar panels. That’s more, the utility company can tap into this energy source, helping to meet demand during peak hours.

“You can charge it during the middle of the night and dispatch it when prices are the highest and when the grid system needs the most. It truly is a revolutionary step forward in terms of how we think about energy delivery,” said Green Mountain Power CEO Mary Powell in an interview with WACC, a local news outlet.

GMP is the first utility in the country offering the battery, according to its press release, and Local 300 members are the only people in New England doing this type of work, said Jeffrey Wimette, Local 300 business agent. And business is booming. About 20 have been installed so far, but the waiting list is 500 customers long. “Everybody wants them,” Wimette said.

“For those outside of Vermont, the batteries can be purchased, but installation is typically handled by third parties, like Solar City.

There have been off-grid battery backups for years, but those lead-acid versions take up a lot of space and require a lot of maintenance. And they’re not very environmentally friendly. With Tesla, you just install it and it’s good for 10 years, practically maintenance-free. And when the battery is done, Tesla recycles it, Millette said.

As with all new technology, there are some bugs to work out, but Millette says most of the customers are pleased. “We’re addressing the problems as they come up, and I’m confident we’ll have even more happy customers in the future,” Millette said.

RENEW Opening Opportunities in New Places

David Hogue works to convince businesses throughout the South to partner with the IBEW. It isn’t easy, even with the high quality of work performed by IBEW members, due to decades-old right-to-work laws and a hostility shown by many people toward organized labor.

But RENEW gives him another valuable tool, said Hoque, an international representative for business development in the Tenth District, which includes Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina and South Carolina. Many companies have invested in training their younger workers and helping them advance into leadership positions. They’re impressed when they see the IBEW doing the same.

“They see the value in telling our potential customers, our future and current customers, that we are engaging our rank-and-file members,” Hoque said. “We’re focusing on our millennial generation.”

That’s where Matt McCoy comes in. McCoy is an assistant business manager of Chattanooga, Tenn., Local 175 and RENEW coordinator for the Tenth District. Local 175 is the first Tenth District local to receive a RENEW charter.

McCoy is working closely with business managers to spread RENEW throughout the Tenth District. He’s also working with Hoque to let businesses know the IBEW is committed over the long term to RENEW, an initiative to mobilize members 35 years and younger and provide leadership training to them.

“It’s not just an immediate fix,” he said. “We’re going to be here. Whatever promises we make, we’re going to keep them for the long haul.”

Carolyn Williams, director of the Civ-ic and Community Engagement Department, said younger members are more likely to listen to a peer like McCoy than older members. Leaders like him also make them more likely to lead in important activities, like organizing campaigns.

“Young workers bring a renewed energy and new ideas that can help us in solving the issues labor unions face in an ever-changing landscape,” Williams said. “Education coupled with the enthusiasm young workers bring to the union can be a boost to organizing campaigns, whether internal or external, and is crucial to maintaining the IBEW’s status in the labor movement.”

Like the Code of Excellence, RENEW is another step the IBEW has taken in recent years to show businesses its members are committed to doing the highest quality work, Hoque said.

“When you’re not talking to potential customers, who often are Fortune 500 companies or the major employer in the communities they serve, you try to show what the IBEW can bring to the table,” Hogue said.

“A big part of our conversation is that unions are changing,” he added. “We’re trying to engage management.”

International Representative Rachel Bryan said what Hoque and McCoy are doing is a good example of how RENEW touches all of the IBEW, not just younger members.

“We have to work together in an inter-generational partnership,” said Bryan, who oversees the RENEW program. “We need each other, the mature member with institutional knowledge and experience and the younger worker who is tech savvy, energetic and pragmatic.”

For McCoy, a challenge is empowering young IBEW members in the Tenth District to realize their importance.

“They think they’re just starting a new job,” said McCoy, 33, a journeyman lineman. “It’s exciting teaching these younger members and getting them to realize they are part of something bigger.”

He points out that Henry Miller was just 33 when he founded the IBEW. Young workers have played a role ever since.

“Anytime we bring in new members and swear them in, one of the first things I like to tell them is I have 12 years in the IBEW, but right now, you’re just as much of a member as I am,” McCoy said.

The cooling towers of Tennessee’s Watts Bar nuclear plant could be off limits to out-of-favor workers if the nuclear industry wins the right to restrict access.

Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Flickr user Tennessee Valley Authority.
DECEASED

Tommy Maynard

The Electrical Worker | September 2016

We regret to report that former Fourth District/International Representative Harold W. “Bill” Crews passed away earlier this year in St. Albans, W.Va.

He was 87.

Brother Crews was initiated into Cleveland Local 39 in 1950 and later became a member of Huntington, W.Va., Local 37. He served the local in several capacities, including on negotiating committees and as apprenticeship director, vice president, assistant business manager and a member of the executive and examining boards. He was brought on as a Fourth District international representative in 1972. In that capacity, Crews aided locals in the district with negotiations, arbitration and grievances before retiring in 1988.

He was a member of the West Virginia Electrical Workers Association, Huntington Building Trades, Tri-State Building Trades, Huntington Central Labor Union, Vermont Building Trades, Tri-State Building Trades and American Legion. A native of Beckley, W.Va., he lived in the Mountain State following his retirement.

Brother Crews is survived by his wife Wanda and daughters Susan Groscup and Cathyita Middleton Gore; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

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

DECEASED

Harold “Bill” Crews

The IBEW regrets to report that Tommy Maynard, former Fourth District International Representative, died July 24. He was 70.

Born in Norfolk, Va., Brother Maynard was initiated into Norfolk Local 734. He worked as a lineman on military bases in Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach. He served his local in many roles, including as business manager, vice president and president. He also served on the executive and examining boards and on the welfare and organizing committees. Prior to his initiation, Maynard served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1966-1969.

“He was union 100 percent,” said Fifth District Vice President Wilson Gilbert. “He was one of us.”

In 1986, Maynard was appointed international representative for the Fourth District. He serviced manufacturing, utility, communications and government locals in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. His specialties were arbitrations.

“He always kept a close eye on us when he was a representative,” Gilbert said.

“He never forgot where he came from.”

“He was a great guy,” said Jay Edwards, a Local 734 steward when Maynard was president. “People always came to him for help.”

Brother Maynard spent a number of nights and weekends with Edwards and another member, Lewis Whitehead, building Local 734’s office, Edwards said. The building was a grocery store and they renovated it for use as a union building used by the area CLC, metal trades, Painters, Insulators and more.

“He did it all on his own time,” Edwards said. “He knew we needed a place to call home.”

Maynard retired in 2005. He enjoyed fishing, camping and hunting, and was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Shriners Temple.

Brother Maynard is survived by his wife of 53 years, Lynn; children Lisa Mor- ris, who was also a member of Local 734; Tina Raymond and Brian Maynard; four grandchildren; and three siblings.

On behalf of the entire IBEW membership and staff, the officers send our condolences to Brother Maynard’s family and friends.

DECEASED

Robert D. Myers

The IBEW regrets to announce the death of retired Fifth District International Representative Robert D. Myers. He was 84.

Myers was born in South Bend, Ind., in the seventh of 12 siblings. After high school, Myers earned a journeyman tool and die maker’s certificate at the Studebaker plant in Indiana before serving in the Air Force from 1950 to 1954. Myers met his wife, Charlene Lark Myers, on a blind date during his tour with the Air Force. They were married for 63 years.

Brother Myers got a job at the Westem Electric Graphite Factory in Shreveport and led an organizing campaign that successfully brought the IBEW into Local 2588. It was founded in 1967 and Myers was elected president, a position he held for 18 years. At its height, Local 2588 had more than 7,000 members.

Myers was chosen to head the Westem Electric System Council EM-C in 1983, at one time the largest system council in the IBEW with close to 100,000 members.

“He was negotiating national contracts and he was good at it,” said Fifth District International Vice President Joe Davis, who met Myers in the late 70s. “He was dedicated, believed in the union and he knew what he was doing.”

Davis said Myers built a reputation as an outspoken and knowledgeable advocate for his members.

“And he was a nice guy and a good family man too,” Davis said.

Brother Myers joined the Fifth Dis- trict staff in 1988 and served as an inter- national representative until his retire- ment in 1999.

He served Shreveport Local 154, organized Electric Membership Coop- erative in 1995. He was a subscriber to the co-op and helped organize its utility.

“It was the largest electric co-op in the area that was not organized, and he was a meter holder, so it made sense to have him do the organizing,” said Fifth Dis- trict International Representative Glenn Brannan, who was business manager of Local 154 at the time. “We won the election in a couple of months, and it was a good shot in the arm for us.”

The Western Electric factory faced particularly poorly as American manufactur- ing declined. The No. 1 product made at the plant was pay phones, which were rapidly disappearing at the end of the century. Local 2588 was made defunct in 2002.

Myers retired to his farm in Frierson, raising cattle, growing peaches and strawberries with his son John. Brother Myers is survived by his wife, Charlene, siblings Jerry and Eileen, his sons John and Paul and five grandchildren. To his family and friends, the IBEW extends sincere sympathy.

RETIRED

George Crawford

The South- east Texas native was initiated into 1970 into Beaumont, Texas Local 2186, where he’d gone to work in 1968 as a lineman for Gulf States Utility Co., now Entergy. After 11 years with the utility, including three while serving as president of the local, Crawford was appointed business man- ager in 1979. A year later, he was elected to the post, which he held for the better part of the next 23 years.

During his time as business manag- er, Crawford began an important exchange program with the Electrical Trades Union of Australia, establishing a relationship that would grow into his job with the Seventh District.

“That program is one of the high- lights of my working life,” Crawford said. Crawford said that the swap that takes place from four IBEW elec- tricians to Australia and a similar pact of ETU members to the Seventh District in alternating years. “We started this 20 years ago in 1996 as a way to trade best practic- es and training methods,” Crawford said. “At the time several of our coop com- panies had started buying up Australian companies to experiment with deregulation.”

At first, the program was run through the Texas Association of Industrial Workers, Local 2286 and Dallas Local 69, but when Jon Gardner became Seventh District vice president in 2002, he helped to expand it throughout the district, where today it draws participants from Arizona, New Mex- ico, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

In late July, the ETU welcomed Brother Crawford and his wife, Linda, to their annual officers’ meeting in Sydney, where they honored him for his decades of work strengthening the relationship between the two unions.

As an international representative in the Seventh District, Crawford spent the last 14 years negotiating contracts and pri- marily servicing utility industry locals.

“George has always been a relation- ship guy,” said fellow Seventh District International Representative Gary Buresh. “That’s how he approached any nego- tiation, by focusing on the problem, not the person. He always said, ‘You can’t get any- thing done without talking.’”

“I always thought the best approach to working with a company was to make sure I established the best possible labor-management relationship right from the start,” Crawford said. “If you have a poor relationship, your outcomes are a lot more likely to be poor, whether it’s a con- tract or a grievance or anything else.”

Those were skills he says he learned from Brother Gardner, who was his local’s service representative when he became business manager and who would later help bring Crawford to the international staff in 2002. “Jon was a guy I looked up to my whole career, and I was lucky to have his guidance for so many years.”

Now back home in Beaumont, Crawford says he plans to “dust off my golf clubs, do some traveling,” and spend more time with his two grandchildren, who live nearby. “This union’s given a lot to me, and I’m grateful to it,” he said.

The officers, staff and membership of the IBEW wish Brother Crawford the very best in his retirement.

RETIRED

Jeffrey Radjewski

Sixth District Organizing Coor- dinator Jeffrey Radjewski was initia- ted into Detroit Local 58 as a journeyman wireman in 1978. He served in a variety of leadership roles before being elected business manager in 1997.

In 2005, he was named the Sixth District organizing coordinator — a position that Radjewski said he turned down once before because he enjoyed being a hands-on business manager. But when then-national President Edwin D. Hill asked him a second time, he figured he better take it — and looking back, he’s glad he did.

“It was an adjustment for me, but when I went to work for the International Office, it was like getting a 20,000-foot view of the Brotherhood,” Radjewski said. “It gives you a whole new perspective.”

Brother Radjewski worked with 54 locals in five states in its role as an orga- nizing coordinator.

“You get a real feel for the really bright, innovative people and the wealth of experience and knowledge we have,” he said. “You sort of know that from meeting other business managers at events, but it was just refreshing to see the talent we have at the IBEW and it’s all home grown. It all rose to the top and then they stayed.”

Radjewski said he had many career highlights, but one that stuck out was a multi-local organizing campaign for Sears service technicians in 2009 he helped coordinate in Joliet. Ill. Radjewski said he thought it was a longshot the campaign would succeed and even counseled a young organizer at Local 276 to use it as a learning experience and “just play ball.” Instead, those workers voted for IBEW representation.

“When you get that close to people on a personal level and you prevail, it’s just so emotional,” he said. “These were grown men and women of all races. When we won that election, we were all chocked.”

Director of Construction Organizing Victor Radjewski said Jeffrey Radjewski’s top skill was “he was the guy every other organizer looked up to.”

“Jeff was a great asset to the Mem- bership Development Department,” Ham- ilton said. “He provided outstanding lead- ership for organizing in the Sixth District. Jeff has a great talent for guiding locals to achieve organizing success. We’ll miss him greatly, but wish him well in his deserved retirement.”

Radjewski, 62, said he and his wife Melanie want to travel and do some other things they’ve put off, including spending more time with their grandchildren. They will keep their home in Washington, Mich., but plan to spend January and Feb- ruary at warm-weather locations through- out the United States.

The couple recently celebrated their 40th anniversary. Son Nick is a Local 58 member and works as a maintenance electrician at Comerica Park, home of the Detroit Tigers. Daughter Kari works for Beaumont Hospital in suburban Detroit and daughter Kari works in communica- tions for the University of Detroit Mercy.

Radjewski also has volunteered to help out of state locals, including with potential national nominee Hillary Clinton in Michigan in the weeks leading up to November’s general election.

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

HAVE YOU MOVED?
Notify us of an address change electronically

www.IBEW.org

WWW.IBEW.ORG
Henry Miller Museum —
Upcoming Events

L.U. 15, DOWNERS GROVE, IL — We are proud to announce that IBEW Local 15 and Exelon have been awarded the Leo Perlis Labor Partnership Award from United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. This award recognizes a union that excels in its support of United Way and the mission to improve lives in Chicagoland.

Supporting Your Local Union’

L.U. 17 (cat,em,kkt,oo,k), DETROIT, MI — Work has slowed a bit on our construction side. Currently, some of our journeymen and apprentices are traveling. Our Line Clearance books are clear and expected to stay that way for the foreseeable future.

As of this writing we are in negotiations with DTE Energy, our largest employer. We are not expecting a labor dispute at this time.

Local 17 has presented its Line Clearance Tree Trim Training Programs to several local unions and utilities across the U.S. It is our hope that these models can be used in organizing drives and for raising the living standards of tree trimmers in their respective jurisdictions.

We are saddened to report the passing of retired Bros. Bob Sigouin and Greg Olechnowicz. Bob, who was a former business manager, and Greg, a former assistant business manager and grievance committee chairman, were both well-known for their tenacious approach to defending our members, bargaining contracts and fighting grievances.

Our members often ask us: “What can we do to help?” One of the most important things you can do to help this great Brotherhood is to vote in this year’s election! Union density is now at just 11.1 percent. To help this great Brotherhood is to vote in this year’s election! Union density is now at just 11.1 percent.

Our scholars were awarded based on their interpretations of the role union members play as a positive force in the community. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients: Jacob Bergman, Sarah Colberg, Natalie Cutrano, Katrina Kerr, Melissa Marcus, Samantha Reattoir, Amanda Rodriguez and Thomas Stancato.

Bob Przybylski, P.S.

Lineman Rodeo

L.U. 37 (em,oo,k), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA — This past June, 27 journeymen and 17 apprentice power line technicians from IBEW Local 37 (NB Power) and IBEW Local 1524 (Saint John Energy) competed in the NB Power/IBEW37 Lineman Rodeo in Fredericton, NB.

Although it’s a competitive and challenging event, the rodeo also strengthens brotherhood and provides a chance to show the skills required to perform line work safely. Spectators were treated with a barbecue, and kids had lots to enjoy — including face painting, a magic show, a crafts station, and a scavenger hunt.

Winner were announced that evening at the Rodeo Banquet. The title of Top Journeyman Team went to Local 37 members: Mark McCann, Tyler Smart and Jordan Atherton. The Top Apprentice was Local 37 member Joel Pertin. We’re pleased to congratulate them on their well-deserved victory.

A huge thank-you goes to members of the Steering and Competition Committees, the more than 50 dedicated volunteers, rodeo competitors, and spectators — it’s your combined support and energy that ensure continued success!

The winners will head to Kansas City in October to compete in the International Lineman’s Rodeo, joining other teams from across of North America.

We wish our members a safe trip and a best of luck in Kansas City!

Ross Golbraith, B.M./P.S.

Golf Scholarship Outing; Power Station Updates


Dynegy Midwest Generation announced plans to mothball Baldwin Power Station Units 1 and 2 earlier this year. This is in addition to the retirement of Dynegy’s Wood River plant. As of this writing, Dynegy’s plans have not changed. The company’s decision on its coal plants has been driven by a poorly designed Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc. (MISO) capacity market process.

Exelon announced its plan to shut down Clinton Power Station beginning June 2017. The local and Exelon are set to begin efforts to safeguard the necessary information becomes available concerning the shutdown and the initial layout.

Our annual Golf Scholarship Outing was a great success. We awarded college scholarships to: Mike Beardsley, Justin Ditr, Logan Knisley, Alexandria Lovel, Matthew Montague, Brandon Sparks and Daniel Waldron. The winning golf team from Champion consisted of Kyle Buhmuster, Justin Scherbinger, Kaleb Smith and Kyle Smith.

With so much at stake, it is imperative for our members to vote on Nov. 8. Donald Trump has made his intentions known, and fighting for unions is not one of them. Hillary Clinton will deliver real results for union members and our families. She is a proven fighter tough enough to get the job done on the issues.
that matter most: protecting pensions, safeguarding worker rights, bargaining collectively, and the right to organize. Vote your job — your family depends on it!

Kardene Knolesley, B.R.

Contracts Ratified
L.U. 97, (u), SYRACUSE, NY — Congratulations to apprentice linesmen Lucas Ullman, who represented Local 97 well at the National Sisterhood United for Journeyman Linemen Rodeo (NSULJ) in Clearfield, PA. Lucas won multiple first-place awards as well as 1st Place Overall Apprentice Lineman.

In recent months we were successful in ratifying an effects bargaining agreement for Entergy Nuclear craft workers at the Fitzpatrick plant and we continue to work out an agreement for the security workforce as well.

In June, Local 97 members employed by PSEG in Glenmont ratified a four-year contract agreement that brought about yearly wage increases and changes to the medical plans.

Congratulations to Local 97 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Theodore Skerpon and his team on their recent re-election for a third term in Local 97’s history.

We look forward to seeing all the elected delegates to the 39th IBEW International Convention in St. Louis this September.

Jim Zubinski, V.P.

FAA & Massport Awards — IBEW Electricians Recognized
L.U. 103 (e,g,mt,mta,rtb,spaku), BOSTON, MA — Local 103 electricians employed by the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) were recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration and Massport Operations and presented with Safety & Security Team Awards for electrical department Runway Status Light System upgrades at Logan Airport and for crane repair work at Conley Marine Terminal.

Many hours of planning and scheduling went into installing updated equipment, lights, cables and transformers. This project was completed with minimal impact to daily operations, using no outside contractors, and was completed in record time with no defects, downtime, or injuries! Credit goes to our Local 103 electrical team for a job well done! Congratulations on a great job go to: Jim Dee, Ralph Visconti, Ted Fullum, Rich Cruise, Matt Clegger, John Nigra, Noel Montesana, Rich Johns, Steve Breslin, Mike Jacobs, Glen Buchanan, Ed Casalleto, Angelo Bonaventura, Joe Clark, Anne Marie Raftery, Chris Bodensiek and Steve Coleman.

Louis J. Antonello, Pres.

Completion Certificate
L.U. 109, (u), ROCK ISLAND, IL — Local 109 member Todd Lopshire, pictured in the photo below, became a journeyman welder in April of 2016. Todd works out of the Rock Island Service Center for MidAmerican Energy Company. Congratulations to Bro. Lopshire on his achievement.

Presenting Todd with his completion certificate were Local 109 certified welder trainer Tim Harris and Local 109 certified pipeline welder Bryce Knapper.

Denise Newberry, R.S.

Local 109 members Tim Harris (left), Todd Lopshire and Bryce Knapper.

Officers Elected; Service Awards Presented
L.U. 111, (em,gtv,lt,mt, rtb, spaku), DENVER, CO — The Local 111 election of officers and delegates to the 98th IBEW International Convention took place recently and the membership has voted to elect the leadership of their local union.

Congratulations to: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Sean P. McCarville, Pres. Patrick Quinn, Vice Pres. Kristie Knudson, Treas. Robert Estrada, Rec. Sec. Edmond Reehre, Executive Board members William Ashley, Gene Baca, Julie Barger, Ron Geary, George Georges, Carol “Kelly” Hom and Almed “Denny” Wallace, Examining Board members Jeff Jablonski, Michael Moore and Jimmy Coslet III. Delegates-at-large to the 98th IBEW International Convention are: Eppie Martinez, Mike Kostelecky, Richard Meisinger, Kristie Knudson, Robert Estrada, Duane Lawlor, Nate Gutierrez and Gene Baca. Following officer training on July 8, all newly elected officers and Executive Board members were sworn in by Bro. Jerry King.

We also wish to acknowledge our members receiving their 50-, 55-, 60-, 65-, and 75-year service award pins and certificates from the IBEW. Congratulations to our 50-year pin award recipients — John Dererra, Don Mooney, Richard Saylor, Robert Steinbach, Harold Thompson and James Watkins; 55-year award recipient — Louis Zutman; 60-year award recipient — Ronald Draper; 65-year award recipients — Henry Baby, Milford Clark, James Grosshans and John Johnson; and 75-year award recipient — Leo Litt.

Mike Kostelecky, P.S.

Annual Benefit Golf Classic; Oregon Burn Center Fundraiser
L.U. 113, (lt,mt,mta,rtb,spaku), PORTLAND, OR — The 20th Annual Benefit Golf Classic was held in Hood River, OR, on June 25. This annual event raises funds for the Oregon Burn Center at Legacy Emanuel Health Center. It is fitting that the Benefit Golf Classic Committee honored Local 125 retired member Bill Quimby with the Sponsor of the Year Award in recognition of his hard work and dedication not only to the event but also to the OBC itself. Additionally, the Oregon Burn Center Foundation honored Quimby and Local 125 retiree Gene Daly for their 20-year commitment to and support of the OBC. The thank you to all participants, sponsors and volunteers for their support. Visit wwwBenefitGolfClassic.com for a list of golf Classic sponsors and winners and a donation total.

On June 8, Local 125 Election Judge Travis Hefely, along with tellers Jake Faulkner, Mike Wyatt and Kevin Townsend, certified the tally of votes for delegates to the 98th IBEW International Convention. The following Local 125 members were elected by the membership as convention delegates: Wade Anderson (PGE), Randy Bryson (PGE), Jeff Carson, Robert Clarkson, Raymond Cowell (Pacific Power), Marcy Grail, Joe Spears (PGE), and Tim Titus. Bus. Mgr. Travis Sris and Pres. Larry Browning will also attend the convention.

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.

2016 Apprentice Graduates
L.U. 139 (l,t,rt,se,spaku), ELMIRA, NY — IBEW Local 139 is proud to present its newest journeyman wiremen. These young men have been exemplary apprentices, both in the classroom and out in the field. They are an example of what’s great about the IBEW and our future.

The 2016 apprenticeship graduates are: Kinamith Arnold, Rob Bell, Shane Moore, Justin Sabins and Sam Schimizzi. Congratulations, brothers.

Ernie Hartman, B.M.

Local 139 class of 2016 apprenticeship graduates: Rob Bell (left), Justin Sabins, Kinamith Arnold, Sam Schimizzi and Shane Moore.

Labor Day Celebrated; Rally for Working People
L.U. 145, (em,i,o,rts,se,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL — We salute the hardworking men and women of this great nation, and especially the brothers and sisters of the IBEW, on the very celebrate Labor Day weekend. Like many other cities and communities across the United States, the people of labor join together in parades and community events to celebrate their toils and successes, their history of working together to make this great nation what it is today.

On May 18, many union members from across the state of Illinois joined together at the state Capitol in Springfield to rally against our current governor and his so-called “turn-around agenda.” The governor’s agenda severely weakens the middle class and the union’s rights to collectively bargain. His actions hold the state hostage, and the lengthy delay in passing a state budget places the burden on the backs of hard-working men and women in Illinois.

Work has slowed down somewhat with the completion of several big projects. We are optimistic that other projects will come through and keep our work picture steady.

Work safe and support your local union! In solidarity.

Dan Larson, P.S.

Blitzing + Summer Fun = Building the Union
L.U. 199 (l,mo,rtb&sk,sc), EVERETT, WA — Our summer has been filled with many social activities; picnics, golf tournaments, ball games and a night at the races.

IBEW 199’s Community Outreach Plan continues to grow. We have signs at local ballfields, malls, race tracks and ads on the radio. Special thanks to our organizers for conducting a very successful blitz under the direction of Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Joe Lorenzo. We received generous help from several of our sister locals: Locals 46, 48, 73, 77 and 89.

A total of 167 homes were visited by a total of 43 IBEW members over the two-day event. These initial contacts with unsupported workers
McKinley, Nathan Smeltzer, Mason Simpson, Ronald Local 229 apprenticeship graduates volunteer for Habitat for Humanity project in Red Lion, PA. Tasks included electrical rough-in, building and insulating walls, wrapping the house to make it weather tight in Chicago called for a general strike in May of 1886. Two days later, during a rally, what is known as the Haymarket Square Massacre erupted when a bomb was tossed and the police began shooting wildly. Many of the police were shot during the melee, were shot by their own. Eight defendants were indicted, tried and convicted. It can be proven seven were innocent. Four were executed.

Eight years later, the U.S. Congress approved Labor Day. Pres. Grover Cleveland, in an attempt to distance Labor Day in the United States from the Haymarket Square Massacre and the International Labor Day in May, declared Labor Day shall be observed in September. Yes, Virginia, people were actually killed for better working conditions.

On a happier note, work is still strong in Local 269. Pie with all the trimmings and fun at the Employee Appreciation Day was held on May 17. Over 400 people attended the ceremony at the Westside Market Square Massacre and the International Labor Day. Pres. Grover Cleveland, in an attempt to distance Labor Day in the United States from the Haymarket Square Massacre and the International Labor Day in May, declared Labor Day shall be observed in September.

Happy Labor Day. The movement for the eight-hour day began in the late 1870s. Thousands of strikes left office. It is important that we elect labor-friendly candidates, because their decisions greatly affect the American people. Are you better off? During the Industrial Revolution of the 1900s and 1900s, workers in Europe and the United States began to form organizations, called “unions,” to protect themselves. Almost every government outlawed combinations because of fear that they would be used to control bread prices. They were tried and convicted, but never sentenced. Fair wages and safe working conditions are not automatic or guaranteed.

The next U.S. president will make a number of important appointments, and those appointments will have a huge impact that can last long after that president leaves office. It’s important that we elect labor-friendly candidates, because their decisions greatly affect our ability to make a decent living. If we can’t make a decent living, many of those other issues don’t seem to be as important anymore. Our electrical workers in our area. With the work picture looking strong in 2016.

L.U. 299 (em&i), YORK, PA — The Local 299 construc- tion group has full employment, with many travelers working in our jurisdiction. The work picture looks very good through 2016.

Reminder to all retirees: The Retirees Breakfast is held the last Wednesday of every month, at 8:30 a.m., at West Manchester Diner, 930 Carlisle Rd., York, PA. The 2016 apprenticeship graduates performed various tasks on a Habitat for Humanity project in Red Lion, PA on May 7. Tasks included electrical rough-in, building and insulating walls, wrapping the house to prepare for siding, and wrapping windows and doors with metal. It was great to see these men applying their skills for a good cause in service to the community.

Our local continues to make community service a priority through our relationships with organizations like Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Junior Achievement, and the York County Food Bank. We hope that relationships like these will grow as we develop our newly chartered IBEW RENEW committee.

We are very proud of our members, such as the class of 2016, who recognize the importance of a strong community, a positive public image, and an engaged membership. Thank you and congratulations to all.

Timothy Goffe, P.S./ Dir.

Local 299 apprenticeship graduates volunteer for Habitat for Humanity project: from left, Glenn Gallagher, Clayton McInkley, Nathan Smeltzer, Mason Simpson, Ronald Hilbert and Richard Kuenne.

Important Election Year

L.U. 245 (govt,ltct,rttbu), TOLEDO, OH — The work picture at Local 245 is steady with a few new jobs on the horizon. All of the apprentices are working and the local will be looking to start some new ones soon.

Regarding contract negotiations, the Outside Construction 7/1/245 agreement is up, as is the Ohio/Michigan commercial agreement. The contracts for members employed by WTOR Channel 13 and the Bryan Wastewater Treatment Plant will be up for negotiation later this year.

Our Local 245 apprenticeship graduates performed various tasks on a Habitat for Humanity project in Red Lion, PA on May 7. Tasks included electrical rough-in, building and insulating walls, wrapping the house to prepare for siding, and wrapping windows and doors with metal. It was great to see these men applying their skills for a good cause in service to the community.

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As of this writing, one is planned for Twin Falls and one on the eastern side of the state, so that we can reach as many people as possible. With the success that we had the last time we did the career fair, we are certain that we will have the same type of success again this time around.

The AT&T Direct TV campaign is going well. The local is excited to have these new technicians as members and looks forward to making their future brighter and the labor movement stronger.

With deepest regret, Local 449 announces the passing of Bro. Larry Jensen. We send our deepest condolences to his family. Larry will be missed but never forgotten.

Local 449 congratulates Bro. Billy Ray Garret, Joe Zavala and Kelly Norman on their retirement from Local 449. We also thank them for all the hard work and dedicated service they have given as local union members. Thank you, brothers!


Work Picture Improves; RENEW Gains Momentum

L.U. 557 (fmt,rt,s,skp), SAGINAW, MI — With summer jobs in full swing at this writing, we are happy that our work has picked up for the summer months. This has allowed us to put some more of our members back to work in their home local. While we still haven’t had as much work as we hoped, we have been able to bring some members home to work. With the rest of our members working neighboring locals throughout the state, it has been a better summer than others in the past.

We recently have had additional success with our RENEW — Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers — program. We were able to purchase another banner with funds raised through fundraisers held by our committee. This program is starting to gain success and forward motion in our local area. It has seemed to raise awareness about the greater good of unions and the members who make up our great local. We cannot wait for the future that is ahead of us. With a new apprenticeship class that has joined our already existing members, we have a bright and prosperous future in our local area.

Howard Revard, P.S.

Apprenticeship Graduates; Great Turnout at June Picnic

L.U. 481 (er,e,m,fmt,rtts,k,p), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — IBEW Local 481 was proud to welcome our newest apprenticeship graduating class this summer. Congratulations to these new journeyman wireman and journeyman installer tech graduates, and good luck to you all on your future career in the IBEW. Stay active and involved and do your part for our local union to continue succeeding in all we do.

We had our local union picnic in June and there was a great turnout from the membership. With bounce houses, face painting, exotic animals, catered food, live bands and giveaways, everyone had something to enjoy. A highlight for attendees was seeing old friends and meeting new friends. It is a truly great example of brotherhood and being involved in the local. To raise funds for our Local 481 Help Fund, Bus. Mgr. Steve Menser participated in a "Dunk the Business Manager" event, where members took a shot at dunking him, and some succeeded! A special thank-you goes to Bus. Rep. Jason Bur- cham and the Local 481 Picnic Committee (Terry Berg, Pamela Blume, Mike Hunter, Chris Maddin, Logan Menser, Rick Saylor and Frank White) for all their hard work putting on a great event.

Blake Andrews, R.S.

Clinton Rally at Fairgrounds

L.U. 553 (fmt,lo,ko), RALEIGH, NC — On June 22, as Local 553’s press secretary and office assistant, I had the privilege of attending presidential candidate Hil- lary Clinton’s rally at the state fairgrounds in Raleigh. I was invited to the event by the North Carolina AFL- CIO and went as a representative of IBEW Local 553.

At the rally, Clinton stated, “I believe we should strengthen unions, which have formed the bedrock of a strong middle class.”

“It should be easier to bargain collectively,” Clini- ton told attendees. “That’s not only fair, it makes work- ers more productive, it strengthens our economy.”

Clinton said: “Unions are providing training pro- grams that add value to the companies that employ their members. Union pension funds are already investing in infrastructure projects that have sup- ported more than 100,000 jobs here in our country.”

She also expressed support for programs like the IBEW/NECA apprenticeship training programs. “I will support the union apprenticeship and training programs already out there,” Clinton said.

To hear such words of support from a major political figure in a so-called “right-to-work” state is of great significance for working people. Attending the rally was an experience that simply can’t be neg- lected. I was honored to have had this once-in-a-life- time opportunity to hear her speak, and to be there representing Local 553.

Josh Nixon, P.S.

Class of 2016 graduates of the joint apprenticeship program of IBEW Local 569 and NECA San Diego.

Apprenticeship Graduation; Contract Agreement Ratified

L.U. 595 (fmt,rt,sk,ml), DUBLIN, CA — June was an especially busy month for Local 595. Apprentices- es from San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties JATC, he served as training director for 16 years and prior to that spent 24 years in the field. He has worked as a journey- man instrument technician under a journeyman-in-charge and acting as a liaison for First Solar Inc. at the local area. It has seemed to raise awareness about the greater good of unions and the members who make up our local area. It has seemed to raise awareness about the greater good of unions and the members who make up our great local. We cannot wait for the future that is ahead of us. With a new apprenticeship class that has joined our already existing members, we have a bright and prosperous future in our local area.

Howard Revard, P.S.

Apprenticeship Graduates; Sept. 22 Skills Competition

L.U. 639 (fmt,ts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — IBEW Local 639 recently wrapped up our local’s elections, and we congratulate our newly elected leadership, including Pres. David Taylor and our new Bus. Mgr. Nick Segura.

We also congratulate Johnny Simpson, our for- mer business manager, on his new position as an IBEW Ninth District International representative. Under his leadership, IBEW 639 nearly doubled our membership, opened new partnerships on project labor agreements, and spearheaded partnerships with environmental allies that resulted in thousands of IBEW members working on renewable energy proj- ects. Thank you, Johnny!

Earlier this summer, IBEW 639 and NECA graduat- ed 54 hard-working union members from our outstand- ing joint apprenticeship program! This is a strong next generation of certified electricians, power professionals and sound techs and we are proud of their work!

We also want to recognize our 2016 apprentice recipients of our IBEW/639 Union Strong Award, each of whom have stepped up to share their stories on how our apprenticeship program and opportunity to “learn while you earn” has strengthened communities and changed lives. Our awardees have also volunteered at countless union events and walked hundreds of miles to help elect candidates who support working families. Congratulations to the award recipients: David John- son, Elizabeth Niemann and Evangeline McDonald.

Gretchen K. Newsam, P.S.

Kickoff for RENEW Chapter

L.U. 677 (fmt,moak,s), SANT MATEO, CA — On June 27, Local 677 members gathered to discuss the great work of RENEW members nationally and to kick off a RENEW Chapter of our own. This first meeting for the Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electri- cal Workers group was well-attended, and Matt Gillarducci, Leon Marshall, David Rupp, Eric Turner and Reina Vigil stepped up to comprise our Steering Committee. Thank you to Alex Caraballo (Local 321), Joshua Margolis, (Local 25) and Mia Rivas (Local 450) for joining us!

As we build for a bright future ahead… we proudly congratulate our Apprentice Graduating Class of 2016 [Photo of bottom, right].


Thank you to instructors — Glenn Arvin, Barba- rico Cox, Brian Gaines, Douglas Goldman, Dave Hus- ton, Thomas Frenzel, Edward Murphy Jr., Long Nguy- en, Dan Pasini, John Robins, Basel Romero, Donna D.J.” Siegman and Matthew Schlecht; and assistant instructors — Edward Flair, Joseph Grant, Joseph Sav- ino and Eric Turner.

Dan Pasani, Pres. Jamie Thompson, P.S.

Apprenticeship Graduates; Sept. 22 Skills Competition

L.U. 639 (fmt,ts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — Congratulations to the apprenticeship graduating class of 2016. Graduation ceremonies were held June 4 at F. Mic- tocks in Shell Beach, CA. [See photo, page 22].

Guest speaker at the graduation ceremony was Dawn Ortiz-Legg, candidate for the open seat to represent California’s 59th District in the state Assembly. Dawn has a longstanding relationship with Local 639, facilitating training opportunities and acting as a liaison for First Solar Inc. at the Topaz Solar Farm.

Our new JATC Training Dir. Dan Miller started a community outreach program. Dan has been attending job fairs and making presentations to local high schools, community colleges and even our local pris- on, getting the word out to the community about organized labor, apprenticeships and the IBEW.

On Sept. 22, Local 693 will partner with Ideal Industries Inc. for the company’s National Champion-
In May we had our yearly dinner to celebrate the newly topped out journeyman wiremen. Attendance was great this year. Unfortunately, as of press time, photos from the party were not available. However, I hope to include a photo with my next article. Kudos to all the graduates. 

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

Brotherhood at Golf Course — Annual Memorial Tournament L.U. 777 (u), READING, PA — Annually for more than 25 years, Local 777’s Unit 4 has been hosting a memorial golf tournament at various area golf courses throughout the area. The majority of Unit 4 is set in Berks County, PA, enveloping a part of our membership working at line operations and warehouse shops in Bethel, Boyertown, Hamburg, and Reading. First and foremost, the tournament is about the remembrance of our brothers and sisters who have lost to sickness or accident throughout the years. The golf! It’s a scramble. Some take it more seriously than others, but all have fun with it. At the end of the day, all the participants enjoy a fabulous awards presentation, lunch, and refreshments. To quote Bro. Glenn Hartling, who has organized the event for many years: “It’s a day of fellowship mixed with golf.”

The group includes both active members and retirees. Swapping old war stories about times past, the politics of the day, and even sometimes golf. It’s sad, but over the last several years, we have seen the number of tournament participants drop. Our thanks to Bros. Dave Marsh and David Yatsko for taking on managing the event this year. Hopefully they can keep this tournament, this day of brotherhood, thriving for years to come.

Mark Power, P.S.

Excellence in Training Award L.U. 955 (u), PENSACOLA, FL — Local 955 congratulates Dave Phillips as the recipient of the 2015 National Award for Excellence in Training plaque for his outstanding work in the training program. The plaque was sent to Mr. Randy King by IBEW Fifth District Int. Vice Pres. Joseph S. Davis. Recognition was given to Bro. King for his continued involvement in the success of the training program. Vice Pres. Davis conveyed his thanks to all involved in the membership training and let them know that the IBEW is proud of them for their dedication.

Local 955 is also proud to recognize Sister Theresa King, who was assigned by Int. Vice Pres. Davis to be the Fifth District representative to the newly formed IBEW Women’s Committee. Sister King attended the 2016 IBEW Women’s Conference, where the first meeting of this committee was held. She will represent Local 955 and the Fifth District honorably while working to build a strong sisterhood within the Brotherhood.

With the election season upon us, we all need to remember our oath taken upon joining the IBEW and make certain that we do not sacrifice our union’s interest in any manner, and that includes at the ballot box.

Theresa King, R.S./P.S. Michael Weeks, Pres.

50-Year Service Award L.U. 1055 (u), PENSACOLA, FL — Local 1055 congratulates Bro. Donald E. Miller for 50 years of dedicated IBEW service. Bro. Miller began his IBEW career serving as an apprentice for four years followed by eight years as a construction electrician in Local 666, working in locations from Seattle, WA, to Ft. Myers, FL, and dozens of locations in between. In 1977 he moved from Local 666 to Local 1055 when his career changed from construction electrician to that of maintenance electrician working for Gulf Power Company, an affiliate of Southern Company. Bro. Miller has numerous extended family members who have served the IBEW, most notably his father, Bro. E.E. “Double E” Miller, who is also a long-time IBEW member and a Local 1055 retiree.

During his 50 years of service to the IBEW, Bro. Don Miller served his local in several capacities including job steward, executive board member, and negotiations team member. Bro. Mike West, steward, presented an IBEW 50-year service pin and certificate honoring Bro. Don Miller for his distinguished service to the IBEW.

Michael J. West, P.S. pro tem

Diablo Canyon Power Plant; ‘Fist Full of Lighting’ L.U. 1245 (c), SACRAMENTO, CA — Thanks in large part to an aggressive grassroots campaign driven by IBEW Local 1245 members, the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant will remain open and operational for the next eight to nine years, until its license expires in 2024-2025. Local 1245 negotiated a generous retention package for IBEW members at the plant, which includes a generous 25 percent annual bonus, followed by a severance allowance (for employees who do not bid out).

“I do not believe there can ever be a sustainable energy economy that is based on a disposable workforce, said Local 1245 Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell. “That’s why we fought so hard to protect our members. Together with the long transition and the very strong

Local 639 graduating apprentices: Jared Levomway (left), Clark Rossetti, Cole Hadick, Kevin Via, Tyler Stefancich (outstanding apprentice award recipient), Nate Purdun and Ben Ramos. Ship to showcase the skills of electrical industry tradesmen. The company produces tools and equipment for the electrical and telecommunications industries. The championships event is part of the company’s centennial celebration. We will be hosting the Sept. 22 skills competition event and BBQ at an open house at our San Luis Obispo JATC apprenticeship training center, with cash and prizes totaling up to $250,000. The event is open to the general public and all are welcome.

[Editor’s Note: The National Joint Apprentice 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]

Kurt McClave, P.S.

Officers Elected

L.U. 673 (c), COLUMBUS, OH — Congratulations to our newly elected officers. The Local 673 election took place in June, and officers were elected for a three-year term. Thanks to all for stepping up to make our local better. We wish the officers a successful three years ahead.

Elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Danny Lastoria, Executive Board member Rory Breedlove, and Vice Pres. Scotty Sopko. (not pictured: Mike Kubicak, Executive Board.)

Thank you to outgoing president Bob Gameire for his dedicated service to our local. He served as president for 12 years. We appreciate his dedicated service.

Dave Phillips, P.S.

A New Union Hall

L.U. 687 (emh), LAUENS, OH — We welcome the news of our new union hall and officites have begun and will be completed by the time this is published.

Our final Bricker Hall Chuck Bland Fish Fry was a great success. There were a lot of younger members who attended for the first time and several retirees who haven’t been for years.
retention package, we will be able to keep our members on the job for as long as possible. This is a victory in our ongoing struggle to make sure middle-class jobs are a central part of the emerging clean-energy economy.” — Editor’s Note: See “Nuclear Power On Path to Extinction in California,” August 2016 issue of The Electrical Worker, pg. 5, and posted online at www.ibew.org/media-center/articles/.

Local 1249 revised its history book, “First Full of Lighting: Workers, Power and the Invention of a Union.” Authorized by Local 1249 Communications Dir. Eric Wolfe, it graphically portrays several IBEW inspired utility strikes that shook the West Coast, including street car strikes in 1906-1907, the PG&E strike of 1913, and more. The story describes the rise of a new industrial union movement at PG&E in the 1940s that finally forced PG&E to the bargaining table. Wolfe explores how IBEW 1249 became a labor powerhouse representing working people.

In outside construction, the work picture is steady. In addition to the work that has been contracted out through the utilities in Local 1249’s jurisdiction, additional projects — including large solar, Calstrtection, high-speed rail and the trailer park modification pilot projects — should provide good jobs for members for several years. In addition to the construction work, members are also performing inspection services, locating and support service work throughout the jurisdiction.

Rebecca Bond, P.S.

Kudos for Heroic Act

L.U. 1249 (lvt,ltc,t,ol,klk), SYRACUSE, NY — IBEW Local 1249 Vice Pres. Henry Westbrook III had a special message for the membership in June.

“Let’s hope that the company decides to complete their promise,” Ryan said. “We’re glad that we were able to bring the issue before the public.”

The crew ran inside to find that the clerk behind the desk was lying on the floor. That was when members Richard Hack and Scott Peterson went behind the desk was lying on the floor. That was when members Richard Hack and Scott Peterson went behind the desk was lying on the floor. That was when members Richard Hack and Scott Peterson went behind the desk was lying on the floor. That was when members Richard Hack and Scott Peterson went behind the desk was lying on the floor. That was when members Richard Hack and Scott Peterson went behind the desk was lying on the floor. That was when members Richard Hack and Scott Peterson went behind the desk was lying on the floor. That was when members Richard Hack and Scott Peterson went behind

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Rebecca Bond, P.S.

Family Tradition as Linemen

L.U. 1393 (catu,l,tlt,ol,kl,ku), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Some things are common in families. Maybe it’s that quirky tradition that is so irresistible; others might say it’s just bad luck. The Breeden family, it’s all about being IBEW linemen. The family tradition began when Frank Breeden joined our local’s predecessor, Local B-9, in 1935. Our records indicate that Frank retired from Local 1393 in 1970. In 1992, Frank’s son, William, started with our local and retired in 1990. William’s son, Michael Breeden, was a lineman with Duke Energy from 1992-2012. Michael has two sons, Jay and William, who are linemen in our local. Jay passed his exam on June 8, 2015. And William passed his exam on May 6, 2016.

Following Bro. Johnson’s untimely death, the Local 1505 Executive Board appointed Harry Robbins as business manager to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

Bro. Dave Johnson’s dedication to the IBEW and his commitment to the members of the Local 1505 will be sorely missed.

Harry Robbins, B.M.

Happy Labor Day

L.U. 1579 (Bk), AUGUSTA, GA — Always remember, Labor Day is the workers holiday and should never be treated as just another day. It should be celebrated in tribute with rest, relaxation, fellowship and time spent with your family. Local 1579’s annual Labor Day barbecue is a great celebration with several hundred members and their families in attendance. It is always very nice to see the brotherhood enjoy time together in fellowship and kindness.

The 2016 IBEW 98th International Convention takes place in St. Louis, MO, this month. Local 1579 will send three delegates to the September convention and they will represent the local well. Convention delegates also elect the leadership of the IBEW.

We will elect a president as well as our national, state and local leaders. The presidential election is very important this year, and every election year is important for organized labor. In our local, it could mean the difference between having an abundance of work or having very little work at all. This local has a total of five project labor agreements (PLAs), and we should support candidates who support PLAs and organized labor. Simply said, our Democratic nominee will continue to support organized labor and the Republican nominee will not.

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

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Until next time, God bless.

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

IBEW Black Hat $8.50
Black brushed cotton hat with white embroidered IBEW lettering.

Playing Cards $3.00
1 deck, plastic coated playing cards with IBEW logo. Laminated for increased durability, improved shuffling and dealing.

Logo Watch with Date $80.00
Men’s gold-tone watch with black dial, gold IBEW logo and date.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com
November 2016 Election

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — Hello from St. Louis. I hope everyone has enjoyed a good summer season.

We had our annual Retiree Golf Tournament in June. The weather, camaraderie and reminiscing were uplifting.


Remind your family and friends to be sure they are registered to vote and informed for the November 2016 election. All the Republicans running for governor of Missouri vow to bring so-called “right to work” to the state.

Editor's Note: To read more, see news article “What’s at Stake in Missouri Governor’s Race?” on page 4 of this issue and posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles.

The last two Local 1 Retirees Club meetings this year will be Sept. 28 (luncheon) and Nov. 16.

Neal McCormack, P.S.

Great Summer Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — As of this writing, we’re enjoying a wonderful summer in the New York/New Jersey area, as we continue our monthly meetings. So it’s great to keep in touch with each other even during the summer months.

In May several members joined another group on a four-day bus tour of Washington, D.C., and the Baltimore Inner Harbor. It was a great trip and we had a wonderful time visiting our nation’s capital!

Also in May, was our spring luncheon at Botza-no’s Restaurant in Congers, NY, where we enjoyed great food and camaraderie along with the meeting led by Chmn. John McCormick.

We enjoyed our annual picnic at Conger’s Lake in July. It was a great time getting together with everyone and enjoying the delicious, catered barbecue food and accommodations! A great job done by those on the picnic detail!

A bus trip to Mohegan Sun was August’s outing, and we’re all looking forward to our September trip to the Educational Center in Cutchogue, NY.

Additional activity plans are in the works for the fall season!

John Krison, P.S.

Catholic Council Breakfast

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM CHAPTER — On Sunday, May 1, officers and members of the Westchester/Putnam Retirees Chapter attended the 85th Catholic Council of Electrical Workers Communio Mass at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, and the Communion Breakfast at the Sheraton New York Hotel in Manhattan.

Honored at the event as this year’s “Man of the Year” was Local 3 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Paul Ryan. Paul became a member of IBEW.Former Local 501 in 1973 and served that local in many capacities including foreman, general foreman, business representative and treasurer. In 1993 then-Local 501 merged with Local 3. In 2008, Paul was appointed assistant business manager for the Westchester-Fairfield jurisdiction of Local 3.

Paul has been a great friend of the Westchester/Putnam Retirees Chapter since its inception, providing us access to the Local 3 headquarters to hold our monthly board and membership meetings. We appreciate all he does for us and we applaud the Catholic Council’s choice of Paul as its 2016 “Man of the Year.”

Dick Mills, P.S.


We thank the working members and officers of Local 22 for their support of the retirees.

We recently had a Years of Service Pin Dinner to honor our retirees. Fifty service award pins, ranging from 25 to 75 year pins, were presented. Our 75-year member, Bro. Phil Monaco, was unable to attend due to recent health problems; however, his pin was presented to him at a later date.

Our Retirees Club is working to increase its membership by specifically reaching out to the new retirees. A pamphlet describing the benefits of club membership has been designed. It will be given to members as they apply for retirement. Hopefully, our newer retirees will discover the fun to be had by joining us for good food, good friends and good conversation.

Chris Bayer, Pres.


Local 26 Retiree Golf Tournament

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 26, OMHA, NE — It has been a long time since the club submitted an article. Since then, Local 22 has remodeled our meeting room and provided us with new padded chairs. A health reimbursement account was started for the retirees to draw upon for medical expenses not covered by insur-

In August we enjoyed the annual Local 26 picnic in Maryland.

Regular club meetings resume Sept. 20, at noon. Please stop by!

In August we held our annual raffle ticket mailing. With the mailing, we also sent information about the October crab feast to all members, working and retired. The raffle supports our club’s medical equipment program for members.

Susan Flashman, P.S.

Labor Day Tributes

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — As Labor Day approaches, we should all be grateful for the sacrifices our union brothers and sisters have made in the past. Their commitment and dedication have laid the foundation that allows us to provide for ourselves and our families without present or past benefits.


Thanks to Retirees Club Pres. Dennis Machol and retired member Charlie Rose for attending the Alliance for Retired Americans meetings. Their dedication and input are greatly appreciated.

Kenneth R. White, P.S.

F.X. Matt Brewery Tour

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 43, SYRACUSE, NY — About 12 Local 43 Retirees Club members from the Syracuse and Utica area attended a tour of the F.X. Matt Brewery, home of legendary Utica beer, on June 15. It was interesting to learn about the history of the second oldest brewery in the United States, and one that has employed our union brothers and sisters for many years. Our group toured the site for a couple of hours, and afterward enjoyed sampling some of the finest brews to come out of the city of Utica. Shown in the accompanying photo is Retirees Club Pres. Dave Wiekowski sitting at a tour center display desk “restoring order” at the F.X. Matt, Utica Club brewery.

Local 3 Northern New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club tours Baltimore Inner Harbor.

Chris Bayer, Pres.

Local 26 Retiree Golf Tournament

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — Our club is growing and staying active.

In July, 300 members and their families attended Labor Night at the Washington Nationals baseball stadium. Although the Nationals lost, it was a great night of sisterhood and brotherhood!

Also in July, we had our annual bus trip to Annapolis to visit the Annapolis market and then traveled on for a Maryland crab feast!

If you like Maryland crabs, join us for our own annual crab feast on Oct. 8. If interested, please contact our press secretary by email at flashmanbwsell@optonline.net, or call 302-277-5923, for cost and location. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 1.

Congratulations to our Local 26 Bus. Mgr. George Hogan. We appreciate the local’s continued support of our club’s activities.

For our June cruise to the Caribbean Islands, we had over 60 people in our group!

Next year we plan to cruise in Europe with stops in Barcelona, Spain; Nice, France; Venice, Italy and elsewhere. Down payment of $250 per person is due with the reservations. Please contact our travel coordinator, Rick Warner, at 240-472-0438.

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Local 3 Northern New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club tours Baltimore Inner Harbor.
The Electrical Worker  | September 2016

June 7, the Local 90 Retirees Club held its last meeting of the current season. As we do every June, we held our election of officers at that meeting, followed by a pizza party.

Because we don’t meet in the months of July and August, our new year begins on Sept. 6, 2016, which is the date of our next scheduled meeting, at Two North Plains Industrial Rd., Wallingford, CT, at 1:30 p.m.

Local 99 Retiree Club officers were all unanimously re-elected. Club officers are: Pres. Robert Mantovani, Sec-Treas. Hugh McGuire and Vice Pres. Jerry Asplund.

We hope all IBEW members and their families had a safe and enjoyable summer.

Richard Lauder, P.S.

Breakfast & Fishing Trips

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI — The Local 99 Retiree Club held its Annual May Breakfast on May 17, 2016, at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick, RI.

The event was attended by 80 members. Retirees Club Pres. Robert Pierce gave the invocation and prayer.

The retirees would like to thank Local 99 Bus. Mgr. Michael K. Daley, local union Pres. James Jackson and Local 99 for support in keeping the Retiree Club active. We also thank Kenny Marandola for organizing two fishing trips for this summer.

Local 99 retirees wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe season. See you in September.

Frank J. Calucci, P.S.

Appreciation Plaques

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — At the May 2016 meeting, those retiring as club officers were awarded appreciation plaques for their outstanding leadership over the years. Receiving plaques as outgoing officers were treasurer Bobby Wolff, vice president Tommy Huckella, recording secretary Betty Cannon and president Gene Chamberlain, as well as Jenny Hall, for decorations.

The Sept. 8, 2016, meeting will be called to order under the guidance of newly elected club officers: Pres. Roy Rogers, Vice Pres. Tim James and Treas. Betty Cannon. As of press time the position of recording secretary was vacant. Our club’s sergeant-at-arms is Don Nichols, and Executive Board members are John Farris, Al Reina, Owen Ray, Bob Hall and David Gonzalez.

In May, the Local 60 Retired Members Club held their annual Golf Tournament fundraiser at the Devine Golf Club. The event was another huge success. Congratulations to the first-place team members: John Gray, B. Gray, C. Lorenz and Larry Duke. Without the help and support of everyone involved, the fundraiser would not have been as successful. Thank you to all.

The Local 60 Retired Members Club meets the second Thursday of each month, except June, July and August, when we are off for summer vacations. Meetings are held at the Plumbers and Pipefitters training building, 3930 Belgium Lane, at 12 noon. After a short business meeting, lunch is served followed by 10 games of bingo. Local 60 retirees, please join us.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Honor for Longtime Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Summer is nearly over, but here in Chicago we look forward to our changing seasons.

As of press time, Local 134 has plans to move from its home at 600 W. Washington Blvd., to the former Drake Elementary School building at 2722 S. Martin Luther King Blvd. in Chicago.

Local 134 Bus. Mgr. Donald Finn said the newly purchased building is a “perfect fit.” This move will provide the club more opportunities for the membership. As of press time, the relocation was planned for late 2016.

At our June 8 Retirees Club meeting, we honored club members who have served 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70 years with the IBEW. A delicious catered luncheon was served, and singer Mary Anne Riehl provided entertainment. Among honorees present were: Tony Filippello, Frank Markiewicz, Robert Haas, Roy Murray, Fred Seidel, Jack O’Keefe, Charles Sembenini, Ralph Spears, Leroy Herrick, Walter Felde, Richard Folena, James Tregay, Richard Polyak, Paul Somerstorfer, Vincent Rassi and John Klus.

The Annual Memorial Day gathering was held May 30 at Mount Emblens Cemetery to honor veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice. Sadly, the Local 134 retiree who for years represented our Retiree Club at this event was no longer with us. We lost Bro. Vito Alberotanza in April. Vito was a Local 134 E-Board member for 20 years. His is dearly missed.

Please get out and vote on Nov. 8! Our unions, our wages and our benefits depend on it.

Sue Kleczka, P.S.

‘Expect Respect’ & Vote

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, CINCINNATI, OH — With sorrow, I report the passing of several IBEW members. Their families are deeply missed.

The Annual Memorial Day gathering was held May 30 at Mount Emblens Cemetery to honor veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice. Sadly, the Local 134 retiree who for years represented our Retiree Club at this event was no longer with us. We lost Bro. Vito Alberotanza in April. Vito was a Local 134 E-Board member for 20 years. His is dearly missed.

Please get out and vote on Nov. 8! Our unions, our wages and our benefits depend on it.

Sue Kleczka, P.S.

Summer Picnic

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 201, BOISE, ID — We had a beautiful, warm day for our summer retirees’ potluck picnic, with a good turnout. Our president, Greg Oyama, manned the barbecue while the retirees visited together and caught up with one another, discussing their plans for the summer season.

Ken Penn, P.S.

Tribute to Life of Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 252, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — Our Retiree Club enjoyed the luncheon/meeting at the Lion’s Club in Hartsburg, MO, on June 28. We had a great turnout. Several members had good summer gardens (even with all the rain and heat) and brought their produce to share.

The club had a busy summer. Juanita Fischer has been lining up a trip to a show at the Lake of the Ozarks for September, and a few more trips for the fall. Attendees of the annual picnic on Aug. 3, The Labor Day parade will be Sept. 10. I am saddened to report that member John L. Sullivan passed away in May. He will be dearly missed by all. John was 92. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, as a bombardier/navigator with the 393rd Bombardment Group of the 2nd Air Division in England. He retired as a major from the Army Reserves in 1966. For his service, he was awarded the French Legion of Honor medal. John was a member of Local 257 for 74 years. He taught apprentice electricians and conducted electrical code classes for many years. The local apprenticeship training center is named in his honor. Our thoughts and prayers go to his wife, Bee, and his entire family.

Congratulations to Local 257 Bus. Mgr. Don Brummer on his re-election. We look forward to continuing work with him for another three-year term.

Delores Mellinoway, P.S.
Local 595 members enjoyed their annual Day at the Oakland A’s Baseball Game.

70-Year Award Honoree

RETIREES CLUB OF U.I. 640, PHOENIX, AZ — Our eight-month breakfast schedule concluded in May, resuming Oct. 21. Our club takes a break for the summer months.

The May election of Retiree Club officers resulted in no change in the board; however, we did fill a vacated post when Don Shaw volunteered for the position. Don is also the keeper of the memorial to our deceased brothers.

In mid-May, Local 640 held their annual picnic, which featured a service-pin ceremony. It was great to see many of our club members receive awards. The star of the show was Bernarr “Barnie” Broeder, who was awarded his 70-year pin. Barnie and his wife, Charlotte, are regulars at our meetings, and it is always a pleasure to re-live the “old days” of work in the electrical field. Pushing the mid-90s is not an easy task, but they handle it well, and still drive. Last year Barnie and Charlotte drove back to Chicago to visit relatives. I jokingly asked Barnie, “Are all those old-er than you?” He just smiled and replied, “Same are!” Then he flashed me a glint from the diamond set into his service pin!

Our board is trying new ways to increase our membership. We are instituting easier ways to communicate with us, and expediting ordering meals for the breakfast meetings. Details will be included in our October newsletter.

Daryl Knupp, P.S.

The Electrical Worker | September 2016

Benefit Fundraiser a Success

RETIREES CLUB OF U.I. 804, KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA — Since our last article for the Electrical Worker, Ken Woods, our Retirees Club president since the club’s inception, had to resign due to health issues. Bro. Woods formerly served with distinction as an IBEW First District International vice president. Our good wishes and thanks to Ken for all his years of great leadership.

Our club continues to interact with other clubs from Ontario. We enjoy trips to the theatre to see live performances, such as this summer to St. Jacobs. We host Oktoberfest celebrations in Kitchener, and other clubs join us. Our members also volunteer at Habitat for Humanity.

We have a guest speaker at most of our meetings. Speakers have provided information on topics including: political action, preparing family members for retirement homes, assistance with hearing aids, workers comp, first-aid, CPR, AED training, financial planning, wills, power of attorney, etc.

Last year an apprentice, James Wylie, tragically lost his life on the job and left behind a 15-month old daughter, Charlotte. At the suggestion of member Ralph Roussel, our club took on a fundraiser for Charlotte.

We are proud to announce that our members donated $6,415 to go toward young Charlotte’s education fund. Also, a retired member, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered to donate a small monthly pension he was receiving from a Detroit local.

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W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.

Annual Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF U.I. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA — We had our Annual Retirees Club Luncheon, with spouses invited, the first Monday in June. Each member was to bring a dish, and the food was great as always. With some of the local staff attending, we had about 60 participating this year.

It is with regret that I report the recent loss of several of our retirees: Donald G. Burns, John Darryl Hargis, Peter Constantino, Clarence Pourciau and Alvin Broussard. Our brothers will be missed.

W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.

All of our retirees are getting ready for their annual breakfast. It’s always a good time, and we look forward to it every year.

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Lunchen at Ren Lake

RETIREES CLUB OF U.I. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — The Retirees Club met on June 2 at Bennie’s Italian Restaurant in Marion, IL, at 11:30 a.m. A motion was made to skip the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, which was seconded and approved. The Financial Report was read, followed by a motion and second to approve, which carried. Luncheon orders were taken and the meeting resumed.

Under old business, it was reported that the April 6 Retirees Luncheon at Ren Lake was a great success and the meal was outstanding. A big “thank-you” to IBEW Local 702 Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughart and the local staff was recorded.

Under new business, it was announced that the DuQuoin State Fair is coming up soon and the Retirees Club is seeking volunteers. Jim Hnoln, Dave Cosimini and J. Marlow committed to helping. Fair dates will be confirmed at the next meeting.

The meeting was suspended for the meal and subsequently resumed.

Deaths for the months of March through June this year were read, with a moment of silence for all.

In the drawing, Roger Stiley won $13. The total deposit of $568 for membership dues and 50/50 money was announced.

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mark Baker, P.S.

Memorial marker at Workers Memorial Park in Albuquerque, NM.

Retirees Going Strong

RETIREES CLUB OF U.I. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM — We’re still going strong with events and projects.

The University of New Mexico interviewed several Local 611 members to collect stories about their past work experiences for a labor history project.

On April 28, approximately 30-40 members from numerous labor unions, including members from IBEW Local 611, participated in the annual Workers Memorial Day event at Workers Memorial Park in Albuquerque. Central New Mexico Labor Council Pres. Santos Gregio, Local 611 assistant business manager and dispatcher, was master of ceremonies.

Workers Memorial Day is observed internationally to remember and honor workers who have died or been injured on the job. Let’s never forget those before us who helped make the unions and our lives what they are today.

In May, several Local 611 retirees and working members attended the annual Rank & File Banquet sponsored by the Central New Mexico CIC. At the banquet, certificates were presented to union members who have notably supported the labor movement.

The Central New Mexico CIC installed a memorial marker, a park bench and a tree in tribute to workers. If you haven’t participated in the Workers Memorial Day event, it’s never too late to start. As the saying goes, “I’m too old to be young and too young to be old.”

We extend condolences to the families of Local 611 members who recently passed away: Jose L Creuz, Nevin P. Scott and Thomas E. Martinez Sr.

We're still going strong with events and projects.

70-Year Award Honoree

Mark Baker, P.S.

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Jerry Wilson, P.S.
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Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in July 1994

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In Memoriam
At the IBEW’s 39th Convention, Shaping Our Destiny

For our 39th convention, we return to our hometown, the Gateway City of St. Louis. Over the course of the week, we’ll get to see our brothers and sisters from across the U.S. and Canada, share stories and pins, and choose the direction of this great union.

When the IBEW was founded 125 years ago, horses and buggies traversed the streets and the telephone was in its infancy. While we will walk those same streets with smartphones in our pockets, much of what we do during the convention will have echoes of those early days. As our founder Henry Miller knew at the turn of the last century, the rights of working people are not freely given. We must continue this fight together.

We have grown from a handful of members into a 725,000-strong Brotherhood. It wasn’t easy, but we did it anyway because we know that we are stronger together.

As we look to the future, we need to think about how we can organize the next workforce, recruit the next contractor and grow our union further, fulfilling Miller’s goal of organizing every electrical worker.

Five years ago when we met in Vancouver, we were still coming out of the Great Recession. It was a tough time, but we didn’t give up. We got bolder in our organizing. We grew our construction branch and welcomed new members from tree trimmers to satellite installers. We committed ourselves wholeheartedly to the Code of Excellence, demonstrating our commitment to professionalism and doing the best possible work.

We will elect our leadership at the convention, and rightly expect much from them. But it is the duty of every one of us to stand in solidarity, collectively, to do all we can to protect and expand our rights. We are all in this together.

This is when we determine how we will work for shared prosperity and a stronger voice on the job. This is when we set the course for our future, brothers and sisters. It’s our responsibility.

This is when we, as a union, forge the next 125 years and determine what our legacy will be.

This Year, Down Ballot Races Are Key

The presidential election is dominating news coverage and will continue to do so. That’s what happens every four years.

But brothers and sisters, the races further down the ballot just might be more important. They’ll determine the future of this union.

Think that’s an overstatement? Well, consider this. Gubernatorial elections in Missouri, Montana and New Hampshire will decide if they become right-to-work states.

The Republican nominee in Missouri supports right-to-work and will have overwhelming GOP majorities in the statehouse. That’s why IBEW members are working hard to elect Democratic nominee Chris Koster, who has a record of supporting working families.

In Montana, the National Right to Work Committee and other far-right groups have been pouring money into the GOP-controlled state legislature. But Gov. Steve Bullock has held firm. He continually says no to right-to-work. He’s up for re-election and IBEW members have his back.

New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan is a friend to working families and she’s running for a Senate seat. IBEW members are working hard on her behalf there, too. But many state legislators clamor for a right-to-work law. We must ensure her replacement is someone with the strength to fight back.

We know wages fall when right-to-work legislation is signed. Other measures to punish unions, such as repealing prevailing wage laws, soon follow.

We also face critical governor’s races in Indiana, North Carolina and West Virginia. We must elect state legislators who support our cause. The right-to-work movement gained steam because conservative legislatures around the country increasingly take orders from the notoriously anti-union American Legislative Exchange Council, known as ALEC. That has to stop.

The fight isn’t just in state capitals. There are 33 Senate seats up for grabs. The Supreme Court has chipped away at workers’ rights for most of the last 40 years. It is critical we elect a Senate that will confirm justices who recognize that unions have a seat at the table.

Laws to protect our rights on the job mean little without a strong National Labor Relations Board. We must elect senators who will confirm NLRB members concerned with working families. We’ve got real chances to do that in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

This is not a debate about parties or personalities. In Missouri and other states, our members are working to re-elect GOP legislators who have voted against right-to-work and the repeal of prevailing wage legislation. We’ll support politicians from across the spectrum who show a commitment to good jobs.

This election isn’t just about individual candidates. It’s a referendum on your job, your union and the overall health of the middle class.

And when union members vote, all working families win. We can’t afford to sit this one out.
I'm a lineman originally from Boston Local 104, and I retired in 2007 after 25 years as a IBEW member. I have been a member of the IBEW for over 40 years and for the life of me, I can’t remember apprenticeship in 1975 on the Alaska pipeline. I met her in 1979 at Hanford working the nukes. What a great lady/wireman and tough as nails.

She served on the executive board and negotiating committee for Local 413. She has gone through the same things as Jeri and somehow was able to do her job and represent the IBEW with pride. She is now retired and enjoying life in Arroyo Grande, Calif. I would work beside her anyway (and have).

Michael Rugg, Local 413 retiree
Arroyo Grande, Calif

Saluting Another Trailblazer

In reference to the August Electrical Worker feature “Trailblazer Still Opening Doors for Others,” I would like to say kudos to Jeri Porter. I have worked the same jobs as the Porters in the past and known them since the late ’70s. Great people and did our trade proud. My wife, Vicki Rugg (Neketin) is also a journeyman wireman and started her apprenticeship in 1975 on the Alaska pipeline. I met her in 1979 at Hanford working the nukes. What a great lady/wireman and tough as nails.

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Michael Rugg, Local 413 retiree
Arroyo Grande, Calif

Labor’s Candidate?

I have been a member of the IBEW for over 40 years and for the life of me, I can’t remember any Republican that has come out in favor of organized labor. If I have missed one, please inform me as to who it was. Throughout the years, I have had to travel with my family in order to make a decent income to share with and educate them. I have been able to afford the luxury of seeing to it that all of my six kids received a decent education and a household where their mother was able to stay at home and aid them in their education and upbringing. This could not have been accomplished if we depended on the Republican Party to be of value to us. No matter who the Democratic Party candidate is, that person will be of value to organized labor, it’s a proven fact!

All union workers and those that are unfortunate to not be working under a union agreement should be voting Democratic across the board this November. Your employment future and the status of your family life is in your hands.

George A. Laiocona Jr., Local 728 retiree
Galveston Island, Texas

Getting Rid of Unions the Easy Way

I’m a lineman originally from Boston Local 104, and I retired in 2007 after 25 years as a member of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Local 799 in Florida.

I read my monthly Electrical Worker newspaper and felt the need to send my personal views of right-to-work laws. I give my permission to reprint the following letter printed in the Sun Sentinel newspaper:

Florida’s right-to-work law is nothing to be proud of. Workers in Florida are not required to join a union. Unions that have fought for health and welfare benefits, safe work environment, opportunities for job training and fair wages.

The Sun Sentinel often writes that women do not make the same money as men. In the 35 years I was a union lineman, my sisters in the union made the exact same wage, and there was no difference in opportunities for advancement. A lineman and a line woman were equal, and for that I am proud.

The only people benefiting from a right-to-work state are the few who refuse to pay their fair share for union dues, the cost to support the advancement in human rights. Shame on them, knowing they will receive the same benefits as the hard working union men and women.

Employers want to get rid of unions. It costs them money to provide a safe work place, provide for health and welfare benefits and pay a fair wage to the best workforce in America.

Living in a right-to-work state? Nothing I’m proud of.

Joe Boudreau, Local 799 retiree
Pompano Beach, Fla.

In St. Louis, A Monument Comes to Life

On Sept. 15, the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis opens its doors for the first time, welcoming IBEW brothers and sisters from across the U.S. and Canada.

The grand opening, timed to coincide with the union’s 125th anniversary and 19th International Convention, marks the most significant milestone yet in a journey that began with the stunning realization nearly a decade ago that the address on the IBEW’s first constitution was an abandoned brick building sitting rotting and forgotten on an overgrown city block that had seen better times.

And while the museum will long stand to honor the Brotherhood’s 10 founding fathers and the union they created, the fact that such a museum exists at all is a tribute to the hard work of a handful of IBEW leaders who had the vision to turn that simple address on a piece of paper into reality.

“When we first saw this place, we knew in our heart we had to save it,” St. Louis Local 1 Business Manager Frank Jacob said of the boardinghouse where the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was founded in November 1891.

Jacobs, along with Local 1 Treasurer Dave Roth and Recording Secretary John Kahrhoff, first seriously considered buying it, but once this group of us sat down and started thinking about buying the place, it started to get real.

“We wanted to do something special as the hosts of this convention,” said Jacobs, who had known about the building since the International Office discovered its address back in 2007. “We didn’t know how we’d do it or how we’d pay for it, but once this group of us sat down and started thinking about buying the place, it started to get real.”

In the months to follow, the group researched the ownership of the house and learned that at some point, the same building had been home to the late Henry Miller, one of the 10 founding fathers of the IBEW.

“Through all of it, we’ve really leaned on one another to really figure it out, and the small inner circle who helped make the Henry Miller Museum a reality.”

“Dale Roth, left, and brother Dave Roth, right, with their retired IBEW wireman father, Alvin, 82, are two of the inner circle who helped make the Henry Miller Museum a reality.”

“A lot of work went into getting us to that point,” Kahrhoff said, looking back, “but I don’t think any of us realized just how much of a passion project this would be.”

The treacherous task of venturing inside the run-down building fell to Roth, who volunteered to inspect the second story, which had been boarded up since the 1950s.

“That was probably the most grueling part of this whole project to me, to be able to get in there and to stand on the floor where Henry Miller and these 10 founding fathers stood … it was breathing-taking,” Roth said.

Next, Jacobs approached International President Lonnie R. Stephenson about the project, and, with him and International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore “Sam” Chilia, the group formed the Electrical Workers Historical Society to fundraise and guide the effort.

“I really don’t know where we would have been without the support of President Stephenson and Secretary-Treasurer Chilia,” Jacobs said. “We’ve done so much of the nuts and bolts of the work here, but their support has been what has made all of this possible.”

When time finally came to break ground, there was really only one choice for general contractor, according to Jacobs. Roth’s older brother, Dale, a 37-year Local 1 wireman at Sachs Electric, was hired as superintendent to run the jobsite. “Dale became a part of our little team, and he’s done such a phenomenal job,” Kahrhoff said.

Work started on Oct. 17, 2015, and just 11 months later, it’s a whole new building. “We surgically demolished everything inside the four original walls,” said Dale Roth, who considers the project the capstone on his career. “We saved the floor from Henry Miller’s bedroom, and everything else that was salvageable — but this is a new, modern building inside that original shell.”

Dozens of IBEW members from Local 1 and St. Louis Local 1439 worked on the house, and other trades, from bricklayers and laborers to operating engineers and plumbers were on site throughout. “We took special care to make sure all of the work was done 100 percent union and that every piece we could source was union-built in America,” Roth said.

“All through it, we’ve really leaned on one another to drive this thing forward,” Jacobs said. “Dave has been to every construction meeting, and John has done so much legwork sourcing materials and learning about the history of this building and this union. I just can’t say enough about this group, and they’ve done it all while keeping up their day jobs.

“Whatever it took to get the job done, these guys have been there every step of the way,” Jacobs said.

Now, with work nearly completed, the foursome are taking some time to reflect on the enormity of the challenge they undertook.

“To have been able to do this for our entire Brotherhood, for the millions of men and women who have ever been a part of the IBEW,” Kahrhoff said, “is just the most gratifying feeling in the world. We don’t know how many thousands of hours we’ve put into this, but seeing it nearly finished, it’s been worth every second.”

“I just can’t wait to share this with members from all over North America,” Jacobs said. “So many brothers and sisters have donated to this effort, and we hope they and others will come and visit and learn about their union’s history standing in the room where it all began.

“And I hope when other IBEW members see the museum, it inspires them to donate and be a part of the revitalization of our history. If it doesn’t give you chills when you walk in there,” Jacobs said, “there’s something wrong with you.”

Visit nbew-ibewmuseum.org to learn more about the museum. Also, visit the “Donate” tab to contribute to the effort. Commemorative gifts are available at dozens of sponsorship levels, including bricks and pavers engraved with your name or your local’s name in Founders Park.
When most people think of clean energy they probably think of wind and solar. What doesn't come to mind is the source that supplies the United States with 63 percent of its clean energy. What they aren't thinking about is nuclear.

But nuclear energy, which also provides U.S. consumers and businesses with 20 percent of their electricity, is in need of a lift. In an effort to provide one, the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry group, has embarked upon a two-year initiative, Delivering the Nuclear Promise. The plan aims to promote nuclear as a valued and necessary clean energy source, as well as reduce costs and increase safety and efficiency. And the IBEW is joining the effort.

"We used to have a 25-page procedure for changing a doorknob at nuclear plants. There is certainly room to make improvements in efficiency, and we support actions to keep plants open and make them more profitable," said Utility Director Jim Hunter. "We just want to make sure it happens with input from our members and not at their expense."

Rolled out in December, the initiative calls for a 50-percent reduction in costs, which will be determined by working groups where IBEW and other unions will have a presence.

"Nobody wins when a plant closes," said NEI Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer Tony Pietrangeli. "We want everyone pulling in the same direction."

Nuclear generation is facing its most challenging moment since the rise of the industry nearly 50 years ago. Even some environmentalists are changing their tune. Former NASA climate scientist James Hansen has called for a greater focus on nuclear as a way to combat climate change, reported Scientific American.

Michael Shellenberger, president of Environmental Progress, an environmental research and policy organization, said that because nuclear can produce so much energy, it can be even more environmentally friendly than renewables once the mining, development and other land issues are factored in, reported the New York Times. Various legislative fixes have been floated at the state level, with mixed results. In Illinois, the legislature considered subsidies to keep two plants operating, but the proposals never got a vote, reported the New York Times.

New York recently introduced clean energy subsidies for nuclear power, putting the clean energy source on par with renewables. The decision will effectively save the state's three upstate plants, most notably the James A. FitzPatrick facility, reported Oswego News, a local publication.

Wisconsin recently lifted its moratorium on building nuclear facilities. And in Tennessee, Watts Bar Unit 2 came online June 3, the first nuclear plant to do so since 1996. The new reactor will supply 1,150 megawatts of generating capacity. Two additional plants, one in Georgia and one in South Carolina, are also slated to come online in the next 10 years.

The Department of Energy convened a nuclear summit in May and is investing in research and development for new technologies.

"The importance of incentivizing continued [nuclear plant] operation is very clear," said Alternative Energy Ernest Moniz in Utility Dive. But, "the solutions are less clear." In a regulated market, the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no obligation to serve the public, but...