

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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*'From Zero to 100 Percent'*

## IBEW Hits Grand Slam in Boston



*Freelance broadcast technicians working at every Boston stadium, including Fenway Park, are now members of Boston Local 1228 after a successful four-year drive.*

**A**fter an unprecedented four-year organizing drive, Boston Local 1228 successfully organized the entire market for sports broadcast technicians in New England.

It all started because someone laughed at Steve Katsos.

It was 1994 and Katsos was finishing up college and began freelance work as a field audio technician in and around Boston, setting up the studio and field microphones and other equipment that capture the sound of professional sports events.

Katsos noticed something weird about the jobs. He could set up the same equipment, in the same stadium for the same sport but on some days, he made \$100 and on others he made \$200. So he

## BIG LEAGUE BROADCASTS



asked a co-worker, why am I making twice the money in the same building?

The \$200 were union jobs, required by contracts signed by other technicians living in other cities. It made no sense to Katsos.

"So, I asked him, 'How do we make ALL our shows union?'" Katsos said. "And the guy laughed and said, 'Good luck.'"

It's not that he was a bad guy, Katsos said, but the laughter stuck with him.

"I didn't understand why anyone would take half the money. But we did. For decades," he said. "But that laughter was like a seed that was planted."

Now, 23 years later, every televised broadcast with a ball or a puck, on grass, wood or ice in Boston, is produced by the nearly 500 broadcast technician members of Boston Local 1228.

There have been five successful elections at

five companies and, in April, a first contract was ratified 98-8 with the final company to be organized. The success in Boston is part of the 20 percent growth in the IBEW's broadcast membership over the last five years.

"This is a feat. This is big. To go from zero to 100 percent union in such a short period of time and get contracts is something we can all be proud of," said IBEW's Broadcasting and Telecommunications Director Martha Pultar. "As a Boston girl, I'm thrilled."

### 'It was the Wild West'

The deals cover the array of specialist positions including camera operators, font assistants, sound technicians, instant replay operators, assistant directors, stage managers, graphic designers, technical directors and utilities.

The Boston area is home to five major league sports teams: the Bruins, Patriots, Revolution, Red Sox and Celtics. They play 188 home games a year. Local Division I colleges add about 100 more. Each

**BOSTON SPORTS BROADCASTS** *continued on page 2*



Continued from page 1

# 'From Zero to 100 Percent' Boston Sports Broadcasts are Now All IBEW



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needs a crew to get it on screen. Sometimes the crew will be small, sometimes it will include dozens of people.

And until four years ago, Katsos said, every job was paid differently. People doing the same task — one for the home team broadcast, one for the away — could make different rates. Sometimes the \$45 parking fee for Fenway was reimbursed, sometimes it wasn't.

**"You work 80 games at \$500 a game, that's \$40,000. What other transaction worth \$40,000 would you do without a contract?"**

— Neil Ambrosio, international representative

"Every time there is a game, there is a home feed and a visitor feed to wherever they came from and, if there is a national broadcast, there is a third feed and all of them need their own crew," said Local 1228 Business Manager Fletcher Fischer.

The feeds are produced by companies that bought the rights for the broadcast. Comcast SportsNet New England, a subsidiary of NBCUniversal, owns the broadcast rights for the Celtics. The Kraft Sports Group owns the rights to distribute the Revolution, the MLS soccer team. New England Sports Network owns the rights for the Sox and the Bruins.

In the past, the people who owned the rights to broadcast a game would employ the people who could do it. But now they employ a handful of salespeople and since at least the '80s, they have relied on an army of freelancers to do the actual work.

It made business sense. No sport goes year-round, so why keep full-time employees on the books when your sport isn't running? For example, during long stretches of the summer, only the Sox and the Revolution are in season, but in early fall, nearly all of the teams are playing.

A new kind of company stepped into the gap: the crewer.

Crewers have the giant rolodexes of specialists that give modern sports production their look and sound. Some crewers, like PPI, are enormous operations with locations across the country. Others, like MJN Productions, are more mom-and-pop operations, often in a single city.

What the crewers working in union-dense Boston all had in common in 2013 was that their workforce was entirely non-union. Local TV stations were organized, but the pool of about 400 sports broadcast technicians were not.

"The crewer wields a lot of power," said Broadcasting International Representative Neil Ambrosio. "Home teams and away teams call them. You have to play nice with everyone because you want to work."

Sometimes, the away team had signed a union contract with their local production team requiring them to use union technicians on away games. That is where the \$100 difference came from.

*For years the editors, camera operators, producers and sound techs put Bruins games on the air without a contract.*

Same crewer, hiring people with the same skills, for different rates.

"Every job was different and you couldn't negotiate anything," Katsos said. "It was the Wild West."

## A Nonunion Market in One of the Most Unionized Cities in America

Four years ago, Boston Local 1228's Fischer, then-Second District International Vice President Frank Carroll and Pultar committed to changing that.

"We started reaching out to the freelancers and asking them how they wanted to proceed," Fischer said.

They held meetings at locations around Boston. And they approached Katsos to help run the campaign.

After 20 years in the business, Katsos basically knew all 400 people that would be eligible to join. And, more importantly, he understood what stood in their way.

"Fear," Katsos said. "Fear is a wall. Fear stops things from growing."

For most of his career, even though he had been working without a union contract, Katsos had just been happy that this was his job. Something changed. He was 23 years in and had no retirement, no contract, no benefits and other people, in other cities, doing the same work, did. So why did he accept it when they didn't?

All the reasons people used to argue against forming a union — getting blackballed, being treated unfairly, having a manager give a friend work instead of you — had all happened to him anyway. And when it did, if he fought it — he did it alone.

He had a breakthrough.

"Why didn't we ask for more? We were afraid we wouldn't work. Why didn't the crewer ask for the money to pay us more? They were afraid the rights-holder would go somewhere else. But then I realized the rights-holders were afraid too: that we would walk off and they wouldn't



have a show," Katsos said. "Everyone was afraid and no one was talking."

When Fischer and Ambrosio asked him to step up, something had shifted inside him. The seed, maybe.

"I will put my neck out and I will risk my career if I have to be the one screaming from the mountaintops about how we have been treated. I will make sure the difference will be me," Katsos said. "This is not how I have been, this is how I am now. No one will threaten me. I cannot be pressured. I will not be afraid."

After a few rounds of conversations, a strategy developed. The focus would not be on individual crewing companies but on the people who did the work. They would organize company by company, of course, but they would offer all of them essentially the same deal. And they would have a unified message to every tech in the region.

"Unity is what gives workers the freedom to negotiate good contracts, so everyone matters and we need everyone," Pultar said.

But they had to start somewhere and when the national crewing company Program Productions, Inc. moved into Boston, they had their first target.

PPI was new to the market. PPI already classified their workers as part-time employees (they withheld taxes and workers filed W2 forms), not as independent contractors. Under the National Labor Relations Act, independent contractors cannot organize into a union. In some cities, PPI already had contracts with the IBEW and the company owner, Robert E. Carzoli, was the son of an IBEW member.

"It was a good plan," Pultar said. "It was pragmatic and on the level with each crewing company: you will not get a better

or worse deal than anyone else. And we said that to the workers too."

Anyone who had worked at least five days in the last year for PPI was eligible to vote and would form the bargaining unit. They collected cards, set a date for the vote, won the vote and by November 2014 they had a contract signed.

They moved next on MJN productions, which is also owned by a long-time IBEW member, Michael Nathanson. As with PPI, there was an election followed by a first contract signed in November 2015.

"We said to them that everyone else working in the stadium has a contract but you. The players, the coaches, the announcers, the ticket takers, the beer sellers. Why not you?" Ambrosio said. "You work 80 games at \$500 a game, that's \$40,000. What other transaction worth \$40,000 would you do without a contract? You do it because they tell you it is normal, and for years freelancers made it normal. But it's your future, not theirs, without a safety net, and that should not be normal."

The message resonated. Because technicians worked for several different crewers, often in the same week, each new election would include some technicians who had already voted in previous, successful elections.

"It built momentum and organizing is built on momentum," Pultar said. "When you are trying to flip an entire city, you need a lot of momentum."

They organized out-of-town crewer LDM Worldwide in Seattle, and signed a first contract in 2016.

The most significant challenge, Fischer said, was a crewer called Greenline. They classified their technicians as



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*Now, all the companies that put together the broadcast crews, including for Patriots' games at Gillette Stadium, have signed contracts with Local 1228.*





Audio producer Steve Katsos, top, was the lead organizer for the campaign that brought in Fenway Audio Assistant Jon Lukason (opposite page) and Fenway Park Stage Manager Phil Robinson, left.

the IBEW to solve it,” Pultar said. “The victory is the workers’, but we owe a lot to Fletcher and Steve.”

Don't Look at Our Promises, Look at Our Results

By the time the Greenline contract was approved, Local 1228 was already negotiating new contracts with the first organized crews.

The first contracts, as promised, treat every employer about the same. Where there are differences they are the result of the different ways places do business.

“The first agreement is always the toughest, but Fletcher and his team did a great job bargaining the deal. We now have an area standards agreement. You want to do TV in Boston, this is what it costs. The head of PPI had concerns the IBEW con-

tract would make him uncompetitive in the market, leading to a loss of work; to the contrary he's grown his business,” Ambrosio said. “Today in Boston, crews win their clients on customer service, the producers, and their relationships, not by nickel-and-diming freelancers.”

There is a grievance procedure — a first — and regular raises, which were intermittent and not evenly spread. The contract includes consistent job descriptions so more work gets a technician more money. And they get reimbursed for parking.

Which is all wonderful, Katsos said, and there has been another benefit: the fear is lifting.

After they signed a contract with a crewer, Katsos does not want to say which, the workers noticed some inconsistencies in how productions were being staffed. Some people weren't getting jobs they thought they deserved. People thought, Katsos said, the company was playing games.

Katsos met with the head of the company and his lawyer and they talked. They explained the business reason for what was going on, and why it made sense for the company to do what they were doing. They talked about ways to accommodate the needs of both the business and the members and left happy.

“We never had those meetings before to solve problems together. It would not have been possible. With the union, it takes down the barrier of fear so we could speak freely,” Katsos said. “That was special.”

Pultar hopes that this message will get out. There are other markets out there that look like Boston did four years ago.

“We don't have to tell nonunion techs to look at our promises, we can tell them to look at our results,” Pultar said. “Many people have this idea that organizing in the gig economy is hard. We have had a model for going on 30 years that works, and we are expanding on it.” ■



The contracts cover major league football, hockey, soccer, baseball and basketball. Local 1228 is also signing contracts for colleges and regional teams. Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Wikimedia Commons user UserKtr101



A lot goes into a good photo: light, contrast, composition. But more than that, it needs to tell a story. And who better to tell the stories of the IBEW than its membership?

For almost 20 years, members from all over the U.S. and Canada have submitted the pictures that tell those stories. In the space of a few pixels, these images show who we are, what we do, and how well we do it. Now it's your turn. What's your story?

ENTER TODAY!  
DEADLINE: OCT. 31

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE: \$200
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE: \$150
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE: \$100
- HONORABLE MENTION: \$50

Photo Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter more than one photo.
2. International Officers and staff are not eligible.
3. Photos can be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, in color or black and white, on slides or prints. The preferred print size is 8"x10". For more guidance on electronic photo sizes, go to [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org). Click on the Photo Contest button, and see the "Contest Rules and Photo Guidelines."
4. All submissions become the property of the IBEW Media Department.
5. Photo entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
6. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g. a safety committee, a linemen's rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
7. Photos previously published in IBEW publications or on the website are not eligible for submission.
8. The preferred method of entry is through the Photo Contest application on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).
9. If entering via U.S. mail, please fill out the contest entry form and affix it to each photo you submit for the contest and mail it to the IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001.
10. Fifteen finalists will be selected and posted on [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org) for final judging by the public. The winners will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Electrical Worker.

Contest Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Local union number \_\_\_\_\_

IBEW card number \_\_\_\_\_

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



# With Season on the Line, St. Louis Local Lights up Youth Baseball Program's Diamonds

A longtime youth baseball and softball program in Missouri saw its season put in jeopardy by an aging, dangerous electrical system.

A call to St. Louis Local 1 and a signatory contractor fixed the problem in time for the season-opening pitch. And at no cost to the league.

"A lot of our electricians have kids that play on ball teams," said Local 1 member Charlie Schaeffer of St. Louis-based Schaeffer Electric, who donated material and labor to the project. "We're real sensitive to the spirit that stimulates a community. It's just a good cause and we're happy to be part of it."

Twin City Little League is in Festus, about 35 miles south of St. Louis. League president Scott White said it has been around for 77 years and has played more than 50 years at its current location. About 550 boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 16 annually participate.

It has been a resilient part of the community. The league — which draws players from Festus and neighboring Crystal City — has survived natural disasters, including being left underwater by the overflowing Mississippi River during a 1993 flood that was the costliest in U.S. history.

But its aging lighting system had become a safety hazard.

"It's been 50 years of volunteers helping however they can to piece it together and keep it working," White said. "It didn't get bad for any particular reason. It was just an aging system."

"That all came to a culmination this winter to the point where we had to do something just to operate normally," he said.

Fortunately, a member of the league's board passed the news along to his father-in-law, a Local 1 member. He contacted business agent Chuck DeMoulin, who visited and saw exposed wiring on light poles, endangering fans and players. Conduit wiring that could have served as safety protection was hard to find.

That was mid-February — not much time to get the facility ready for the upcoming season, especially with April and May being two of the rainiest months of the year.

So DeMoulin reached out to Jim Curran, executive vice president of the Electrical Connection — a partnership between Local 1 and the local chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association. White filled out the required papers for assistance and DeMoulin and Local 1 Business Manager Frank Jacobs contacted Schaeffer.

He visited the site soon afterward and dispatched two employees — journeyman wireman Matt Copeland and lineman Chris Blank — in mid-April to make the needed repairs.

"It was a mess," Schaeffer said. "We wanted to make sure it was as safe as possible for the kids playing and all the other

kids running around. If we're going to get involved, we wanted to make sure everything we touched was safe. We're not going to come out and do a halfway job."

White said the league paid a non-union electrical company \$10,000 a few years ago to work on the lighting. None of the problems were fixed.

"When I heard that story [about the nonunion contractor], it made me even more determined to get something done for those people," said DeMoulin, who also serves as president of the Jefferson County (Mo.) Labor Club. "I wanted to show them not just the generosity of the IBEW, but the quality and excellence of the IBEW."

Copeland and Blank's work allowed the league's season to start on time. Without them, league officials would have done away with night games and played on weekends, cutting into family time that most of the parents said they don't want to give up, White said.

The two returned later in the summer to finish the job, including installing light fixtures the league purchased. The project's total value is estimated to be about \$5,000.

"It's just great being able to help the little guys out," said Copeland, who has worked for Schaeffer for 15 years and whose 15-year-old son plays high-school baseball. "There is something about getting out there and playing baseball with your friends. I think every kid remembers that first time he plays under the lights."

Jacobs noted Local 1 has been giving back to the St. Louis community for more than a century.

"I've been involved in coaching my children in youth sports for years, and I know how much these activities mean to families," he said. "When we heard about the situation in Festus, it was really a no-brainer to get involved. Commitment to the community is something that makes the IBEW special." ■



St. Louis Local 1 member Chris Blank repairs a light at the Twin City Little League in Festus, Mo.

## IBEW Partners with Child Safety Program

It's a horrible time when a child is reported missing or abducted — a scenario parents understandably don't want to think about much.

Now, the IBEW has partnered with the National Child Identification Program to make it easier for members and their families to be prepared if faced with such a situation.

"You and I know there is nothing more important to us than our children's safety," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "And yet, most of us aren't prepared if something happens to them. We want to change that."

The International Office is providing about 750,000 child identification kits to local unions, which will distribute them to members. In the kits, parents and guardians are asked to include their child's medical information, height, weight, fingerprints, a picture and a swab of their DNA. They store it in a safe place and provide it to police and other law enforcement if the child is reported missing.

"We see this as an opportunity to reach out to our members," said Civic and Community Engagement Director Carolyn J. Williams, who is overseeing the program. "Nothing is more important to them than being able to take care of their children."

About 800,000 children are reported missing in the United States each year and another 50,000 go missing in Canada. In the United States, about 450,000 of those children are runaways. Another 300,000 are taken by family members and about 58,000 are abducted by non-family members, according to the Department of Justice and the Center for Missing Children.

The child identification program was started by the American Football Coaches Association in 1997, about a year after the murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman in Arlington, Texas. Police efforts to locate Hagerman, whose body was found four days after she was abducted, were slowed by a lack of fingerprints and DNA information.

Hagerman's death was a catalyst for local and state governments to strengthen efforts to locate missing children. The activation of the child abduction system when a



minor is reported missing is called the Amber Alert in her honor. It also sparked the coaches' organization, which is based in nearby Waco, Texas, to act.

"We couldn't imagine being in your house and looking for this information and not looking for your child," said Kenny Hansmire, a former NFL wide receiver and the child identification program's executive director since its inception.

"What is unique about our program is that it does not go into a database," he added. "It is a child I.D. kit that you fill out at home and you keep it back for safety. You turn it over to law enforcement only if you need to."

The program is affiliated with the National Sheriffs' Association and works with law enforcement groups throughout the country. About 56 million kits have been distributed since the program's founding, with the help of various business, religious and civic groups.

Labor unions also have played a key role, Hansmire said. He credits retired University of Michigan football coach Lloyd Carr for helping to set up a partnership between the program and the United Auto Workers to distribute kits to its members.

That opened the door to a partnership with the AFL-CIO and separate agreements to distribute kits to members of the American Federation of Teachers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; the International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craft Workers; and the Association of Flight Attendants.

The program has been attractive to unions because it fits into a general theme for all of them, Hansmire said. That's giving members another tool to take care of their family members and loved ones, he said. The IBEW's involvement was welcomed, he added.

"The IBEW is kind of the golden child [of the union movement]," he said. "You can't walk into a building anywhere without turning the lights on. You need electricity. Somewhere along the way, a union member somewhere in this country had a role in getting that to the building."

The Media Department has produced a video on the IBEW's partnership with the child identification program. It can be viewed by going to [ibew.org/media-center](http://ibew.org/media-center) and looking under the video tab.

Members who would like to purchase additional kits can do so at [www.childprogram.com/order-now](http://www.childprogram.com/order-now). Cost is \$4.95 per kit. They are also encouraged to check with local union officials to see if extra kits are available because of members without children not taking one.

"I know we all love our children very much," Stephenson said. "This small packet could be the most important thing that you do for them. Together, we can be part of the movement to keep all of our kids safe." ■



# Code of Excellence SPARQs Turnaround at Troubled Arkansas Nuke Plant



Members of Little Rock, Ark., Local 647 and company officials from Entergy's Arkansas Nuclear One plant raised the IBEW's first Code of Excellence Flag at the end of April. Photo Credit: Arkansas Nuclear One

In 2015, it was safe to say things at Entergy's Arkansas Nuclear One in Russellville, Ark., were not going well.

A fatal March 2013 crane collapse and critical findings during an inspection a year later had pushed the two-unit, 1,770 MW nuclear plant into Column 4, the worst Nuclear Regulatory Commission rating prior to mandatory shutdown.

Management at the company wasn't investing in equipment, maintenance or safety, and the plant's 300 IBEW permanent staff and hundreds more temporary contractors felt excluded from the decision-making process.

The story of the plant's turnaround, in light of those challenges, is a lesson in determination and labor-management cooperation.

"To be where we are now, looking back at where we've come from, it's night and day," said Little Rock, Ark., Local 647 Business Manager Shannon Walters, who represents IBEW members at the plant. "After the NRC moved us into Column 4, things started to change. Entergy put some new people in charge, and it feels like we're righting the ship."

The turnaround took some time to get started, but Walters says it really got moving last October when he received an unexpected call from the new plant manager. "Our relationship hadn't been one where management sought out our input for many years, so it was a welcome surprise to hear from him."

The new management wanted the local to be a part of the process of fixing things. As luck would have it, Walters and some of his staff had just attended a training session for the IBEW's Code of Excellence, the union-wide set of professional standards intended to distinguish its highly-trained workforce from the competition. "I said to him, 'Now would be a great time to roll out the Code of Excellence,' and the

response was, 'When can you start?'"

Over the fall, Walters and his staff and stewards trained not just the plant's 300 Local 647 members, but 600 more managers and contractors from every building trade on site. The training followed the IBEW's SPARQ standard, demanding excellence on the job in safety, professionalism, accountability, relationships and quality.

Some of those who attended the training were IBEW inside wiremen from Little Rock Local 295 and Fort Smith Local 700, but the vast majority were from other trades, including millwrights, pipefitters, carpenters, operating engineers and laborers. Plant steward Randy Flippo said Entergy managers even held Code of Excellence meetings during refueling outages, which would have been unheard of under previous managers.

"To hold those meetings during outages, when every minute is money lost, really showed us that the management was committed to making things better," Flippo said. "When you get a breath of fresh air like this, it's great for morale."

Walters said the message of the Code of Excellence, which is ever-present on bulletin boards and in break rooms across the facility, has helped to turn even some of the managers most skeptical of the union. "When we got up there with the Code and said, 'This is what we stand for,' I'm certain some of the management nearly fell out of their chairs."

Even the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, whose poor rating prompted the changes, has taken notice, as has the powerful industry watchdog, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. In a June 2 visit to the plant, the institute's CEO, retired Adm. Bob Willard, took the time to praise Local 647's role in the positive changes in front of visiting corporate executives and site management.

"This whole jobsite gets it now," Walters said. "From the managers to the permanent staff to the contractors who depend on the work here, we're finally working together, pulling in the same direction, and it's really refreshing after so many difficult years."

Management feels the same way. In January, a manager called Walters and asked to fly the IBEW flag alongside Entergy's to mark the new, collaborative relationship between the two. Walters asked that it be a Code of Excellence flag, something that to that point didn't exist. But with the OK from the International Office, Local 647 and plant officials raised the IBEW's first Code of Excellence flag in Russellville at the end of April.

Entergy Operations, Inc.'s site vice president Richard Anderson said at the time, "We are very fortunate to have such strong ownership and engagement from our bargaining unit workforce."

"It's really a remarkable thing," said Flippo, who has worked permanently at the plant since 1990 and as a contractor stretching back into the 1980s. "I've been in more meetings with management in the last six months than in the previous three years combined, and managers seem to genuinely want our input on how to improve things."

The new dialogue between workers and management is paying off, he says, and the company is once again investing millions of dollars upgrading equipment to bring neglected systems up to code. They're updating operating and safety procedures and even hiring bargaining unit workers in positions that have gone unfilled for years, moves union leaders hope will bring the plant back into Column 3 sometime in the next year.

"We're not out of the woods yet," Flippo said, "but for the first time in years, I'm really hopeful about the direction we're headed." ■

## GOP Health Care Bill Disastrous for Older Workers, Retirees

While Senate Republicans worked behind closed doors to deliver a version of an Obamacare repeal that could pass the upper chamber, retired Americans were pushing back on the House version, passed in May, that would prove devastating for older workers and retirees.

The Alliance for Retired Americans brought some of its members, including retired Washington, D.C., Local 26 electrician Susan Flashman, to the U.S. Capitol to speak on behalf of their fellow retirees about the unintended consequences of the House bill, particularly its effects on Medicare.

"Older Americans know enough to be extremely frightened," Flashman said of the Senate's health care plan on June 20, pointing out its similarities to the American Health Care Act passed by the House.

That bill, which the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicted will cut health coverage for 23 million Americans, imposes an age tax on older working people as part of its attempt to lower rates for younger, healthier people.

According to estimates, working people approaching retirement, those aged 50-64, would have to pay five times the insurance costs of younger workers, with premiums for those aged 60-64 predicted to increase by an average of \$3,200 to an unsubsidized average of nearly \$18,000 per year.

Despite the lack of obvious cuts to Medicare, the health care program for retired Americans over the age of 65, critics argue that the massive increases to health costs for near-retirement workers will lead to sicker Medicare enrollees, ballooning costs to the already underfunded program.

Additionally, the AHCA would repeal a tax on prescription drug manufacturers, boosting corporate profits while driving up premiums for Medicare Part B subscribers.

By contrast, Obamacare, or the Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010, took steps to extend the life of Medicare, boosting its solvency by almost a decade through a tax on high-income earners. Under the House-passed AHCA, the tax on individuals making more than \$200,000 per year would be repealed. Experts at the nonpartisan Brookings Institution predict the Medicare Trust Fund could be depleted as soon as 2025 under the House plan.

"I don't need to tell anyone how devastating that would be," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "The way this process is being carried out — done in secret without any input from the people whose lives it would wreck — is unprecedented and unconscionable."

For people like Flashman, who in 2011 needed costly brain surgery that required her to stop working at the age of 57, the GOP health bill could be even more devastating. Reports suggest the Senate bill may reintroduce lifetime caps on coverage, which were banned under Obamacare. That means even families with good, employer-provided health care could risk running up against a lifetime cap after a serious illness or injury.

"Taking coverage from 23 million Americans, robbing from Medicare to fund tax cuts for the rich and punishing sick people with lifetime caps hurts the quality of our coverage too," Stephenson said. "We can't be bystanders in this fight."

IBEW members are encouraged to call their senators using the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or directly, using [www.whoismyrepresentative.com](http://www.whoismyrepresentative.com), to tell them to reject the AHCA and strengthen Medicare. ■



Washington, D.C., Local 26 retiree Susan Flashman spoke to members of the U.S. Senate in June, pleading for them to reject the Republican health care plan.



# Supreme Court to Decide Future of Public Sector Unions

**T**he same anti-worker groups who brought a 2015 California union-busting case to the Supreme Court petitioned the justices to weigh in on an eerily similar case, this time out of Illinois. At issue — again — is whether public employees can be compelled to pay “fair share” fees to a union to cover the costs of collective bargaining and representation performed on their behalf.

Plaintiffs’ lawyers in *Janus v. the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees* — the same National Right-to-Work Foundation attorneys who argued the *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* case before the court in January 2016 — practically begged lower court justices to rule against them in an attempt to speed their case directly to the high court.

In the case of *Friedrichs*, the effort nearly succeeded. During oral arguments, justices seemed ready to side with the anti-union, corporate-backed plaintiffs, but Associate Justice Antonin Scalia’s death in February 2016 left the court split 4-4 along ideological lines, unable to render a definitive verdict.

The reprieve for public-sector unions — including the IBEW, which represents tens of thousands of public employees — was temporary. With Donald Trump’s election last November and the appointment of Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch to fill Scalia’s seat, this second attempt to strike directly at organized labor’s finances, filed in June, looks likely to succeed when the case eventually comes before the court later this year or early next.

“We know where the eight previous justices stood after *Friedrichs*, and this is essentially the same case,” said Austin Keyser, the director of the IBEW’s Political and Legislative Affairs Department. “We don’t know for certain where Justice Gorsuch will fall on this issue, but his background doesn’t give me a lot of confidence that he’ll stick his neck out for working people. If he goes against us, we’re left with another painful reminder that elections have serious consequences.”

“Fair share” fees, which have long been protected under a 1977 Supreme Court decision called *Abod v. Detroit Board of Education*, are payments collected from non-members in a union shop that help to cover services related to collective bargaining or workplace representation. Lawyers to review contract language, for example, or a union official’s time spent filing a grievance or defending a non-member against disciplinary action are expenses that would be covered by these fees. By law, workers cannot be required to pay for the political activities of a union, and electing not to be a member of the unions allows a person to opt out of that portion of dues.

“Fair share fees are a simple way of making sure everyone contributes to the collective effort of employees in a workplace,” Keyser said. “Asking people to pay for a service they’re receiving shouldn’t be controversial, but these anti-union groups’ goal is to destroy the labor movement, and

*The Supreme Court is expected to take up the challenge to workers’ rights in the next term, which starts this fall and ends in June 2018.*

Photo Credit: Creative Commons/Flickr User Kyle Rush

attacking our ability to provide collective bargaining services is their plan of attack.”

The 1935 National Labor Relations Act requires unions to represent every person in a union shop, regardless of whether they’re full dues-paying members. “Fair share” fees are a way to make sure everyone contributes to that representation.

In right-to-work states — there are now 28 of them — all bargaining unit employees can opt out of not only membership, but any fees altogether, while still receiving the benefits of a negotiated contract and union representation in disciplinary matters. This creates a “free-rider” problem, where members of a union pick up the slack for co-workers who choose not to contribute, which could eventually bleed a union’s resources dry.

“These attacks on unions tend to start with public workers, but they never end with public workers,” said Government Employees Department Director Paul O’Connor. “Every member of the IBEW or any other union should be concerned that they’re next if this succeeds. These big money, anti-union interest groups won’t stop until we’re out of their



hair for good. And if we’re gone, who’s standing up for the American worker?”

Decisions on right-to-work used to be the job of states, Keyser said. “Politicians on the right like to talk a lot about states’ rights, but they also like to ignore those rights when it suits them.”

The IBEW’s public sector workers who would be hurt by a ruling against labor work in public utilities, law enforce-

ment, shipyards, government and more.

“Public workers already deal with enough,” O’Connor said, citing government shutdown threats, hiring freezes and regular political attacks. “Subjecting them to blanket right-to-work laws will further weaken their voice in the workplace and erode their ability to collectively negotiate fair contracts.”

“With Republicans in control of Con-

gress, the White House and now the Supreme Court, I fear it’s only going to get worse,” Keyser said.

The real battle, Keyser said, comes in 2018. “Winning back the House and the Senate are going to be key to slowing down the anti-union fever gripping the Republican Party right now. Until then, we’re at the whim of a majority that doesn’t seem to like us very much.” ■

## Canada’s Liberals Keep Promise with Repeal of Anti-Union Laws

**L**egislation in Canada designed to cripple unions was undone with the passage of a new bill.

Making good on a campaign pledge, the Liberal government under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau passed Bill C-4 into law, reversing the course set by the previous administration. One, Bill C-377, created onerous reporting requirements for unions. The other, Bill C-525, mandated a secret ballot vote over card-check as a way to join a union, opening the door for employer intimidation.

IBEW members were part of a years-long effort to defeat the bills, contacting legislators and participating in large numbers on lobby days hosted by the Canadian Labour Congress and Canada’s Building Trades Unions.

Most recently, members and staff focused their efforts on lobbying independent senators who aren’t beholden to any party.

“I want to thank every member who participated in one form or another during those lobbying efforts,” said First District Vice President Bill Daniels in a letter to all locals in the district. “We wouldn’t be in this position today had you not been involved in the process.”

Passage of C-377 and C-525 spurred many in the labor movement to action during the last federal election, in 2015, which ousted the Conservative party and gave the Liberals a sweeping majority in Parliament. Both the Liberals and NDP parties campaigned on repealing the laws.

The Liberal government did in fact introduce C-4 as one of its first acts, in January 2016. But Conservative senators rallied last spring to include amendments that would essentially keep C-525 intact.



*Diane Bellemare, left, deputy leader of the government, with IBEW’s Matt Wayland; Patty Hajdu, employment minister; Canadian Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuff and Rodger Cuzner of the Employment, Workforce Development and Labour ministry.*

Both the House of Commons and the Senate must agree on an identical bill in order for it to move to the governor general for Royal Assent, or official passage, into law. The House rejected the amended version, sending it back to the Senate for another round. IBEW members played a major role in securing enough Senate support to pass the new version, without amendments and matching the lower chamber’s, on June 14.

On June 19, Bill C-4 received Royal Assent with a special signing ceremony on Parliament Hill attended by labor leaders.

“This is a great moment for working men and women across Canada,” said First District Political Action/Media Strategist Matt Wayland. “This was a long and hard-fought battle and I’m glad that working families came out on top.”

The reporting requirements in the original anti-union bill, C-377, were likely unconstitutional,

said independent Senator Diane Bellemare in the *Huffington Post*, as it called for disclosure of personal information. Neither C-377 nor C-525 were reviewed by the Department of Justice, a common practice to ensure legitimate rule-making.

In December 2015, soon after coming to power, the Liberal Party’s Diane Lebovitch, minister of national revenue, announced a waiver of the reporting requirements under C-377, halting it from being enacted. Bill C-525 however, did take effect in June 2015. In addition to mandating secret ballots, it also relaxed the conditions necessary to revoke union certification.

“I would encourage our local unions and our members to reach out to the senators that voted in favor of the bill in the original form and thank them for restoring balance for workers and unions across the country,” Daniels said. ■



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

## Wage Freezes Signal Bad Times Ahead for Manitoba Unions

**P**ublic employees in Manitoba are under attack, but in July, they petitioned the courts to help them strike back.

At issue is a law pushed by Premier Brian Pallister and his Progressive Conservative government, which attempts to impose strict pay freezes that undercut the fundamental principles of collective bargaining. Labour representatives on July 4 filed for an injunction against the law, an aggressive legal maneuver that has little precedent in Canadian history, but one that labour lawyers think has a real chance at stopping the bill's worst anti-worker provisions.

"The Pallister government has tried to tie our hands," Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2034 Business Manager Mike Velie said, referring to wage mandates prescribed in Bill 28, the legislation designed to cut provincial expenses on the backs of working people. "This bill doesn't prevent us from engaging in contract negotiations, but it takes away the rights of our 2,800 members to bargain on wages."

That issue, said Local 2034 Assistant Business Manager Ken Woodley, cuts to the heart of collective bargaining itself. In a May 8 presentation to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, Woodley made a passionate argument against the bill.

"There is little doubt that this bill is intended to directly interfere with the collective bargaining process," he said. Removing wage negotiations from contract talks, he reasoned, is "like saying, you can keep the car, but we're going to take the motor out for four years."

The bill amounts to a drastic solution to balancing provincial budgets, calling for a two-year compensation freeze for all of Manitoba's 120,000 public employees and maximum increases of 0.75 percent and 1 percent in the third and fourth years of the law, respectively. Additionally, it mandates those strict limits on total compensation in the first two years, meaning that if a pension fund needs a boost, or workers want extra vacation days, that funding has to come in the form of wage cuts or other compensation reductions.

All of Velie's 2,800 members working for Manitoba Hydro would be affected, as would smaller numbers of IBEW members at Winnipeg Locals 435 and 2085.

"This bill was meant to send a message to labour," said First District International Representative Brian Murdoch. "The New Democratic Party ran things for 15 years, and things were pretty good for working people, but when the Progressive Conservatives won control in 2016, we knew we were in for a long fight."

Bill 28, which was introduced in March and passed secretly in the middle of the night on June 2, has yet to be officially proclaimed into law, but

Velie likened it to an ax hanging over labour's head. A similar measure was passed by the Liberal government in Nova Scotia in 2015, promising to reign in imbalanced budgets by attacking the wages of public workers.

"This is just another attack from an extremely anti-unions government," Velie said, likening the measure to Canada's version of the U.S.'s right-to-work laws. Last year, Pallister's government eliminated the use of card check in organizing campaigns, and he has made clear that Manitoba will not be entering into any project labour agreements on publicly funded building projects in the future.

Manitoba Federation of Labour President Kevin Rebeck, whose organization is coordinating the court challenge to Bill 28, said the anti-union measures being undertaken by the government are already being felt in the private sector as well, casting a pall over negotiations all

over the province.

"Even before Brian Pallister's final vote to pass this heavy-handed new law, the effects were being felt at the workplace. This comes right on the heels of major layoffs and cuts to healthcare and other services people count on," said Rebeck. "Pallister can use his majority in the legislature to get his way, but we'll be there to push back every step of the way in court."

He warned that the Pallister government is already looking for creative ways to carve pieces out of Crown corporations, including Manitoba Hydro, that could make the new, smaller organizations ripe for privatization at a later date.

"The one silver lining," Rebeck said, "is that Manitoba's unions are united in ways we haven't been in years. Together, we'll keep fighting this thing until we have a chance to send a message at the ballot box in 2020." ■



Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2034 members, like those working for Manitoba Hydro at the Wuskwatim Generating Station, have been squeezed by the provincial government. Now they're fighting back.

## Le gel salarial pour les syndicats au Manitoba s'annonce difficile

**L**es employés du secteur public au Manitoba sont attaqués, mais en juillet ils ont adressé des pétitions auprès des tribunaux pour les aider à contre-attaquer.

La loi en question est poussée par le premier ministre Brian Pallister et son gouvernement conservateur qui tentent d'imposer un gel salarial strict qui nuit aux principes fondamentaux de la convention collective. Le 4 juillet, les représentants syndicaux ont déposé une injonction qui va à l'encontre de la loi, une manœuvre légale agressive qui présente peu de précédents dans l'histoire canadienne, mais une que les avocats spécialisés dans le milieu syndical pensent avoir une bonne chance d'empêcher l'adoption des pires dispositions antisyndicale du projet de loi.

« Le gouvernement de Pallister a essayé de lier nos mains », informe le gérant d'affaires Mike Velie de la section locale 2034, situé à Winnipeg au Manitoba, se référant aux mandats salariaux comme prévu dans le projet de loi 28, cette législation vise à couper dans les dépenses provinciales au détriment des travailleurs. « Ce projet de loi ne nous empêche pas d'entreprendre des négociations de contrats, mais enlève le droit à nos 2800 membres de négocier leurs rémunérations.

Ce dossier touche au cœur de la convention collective comme telle, mentionne l'assistant gérant d'affaires Ken Woodley du local 2034. Dans le cadre d'un exposé

présenté le 8 mai à l'Assemblée législative du Manitoba, Woodley a argumenté avec passion contre le projet de loi.

« Sans aucun doute que l'intention de ce projet de loi vise à intervenir directement avec le processus de négociation collective », spécifie-t-il. De retirer les négociations salariales dans le cadre de négociations de convention collective, précise-t-il, c'est comme dire, « tu peux garder le véhicule, mais on va enlever le moteur pendant quatre ans. »

Ce projet de loi constitue une solution drastique pour atteindre l'équilibre des budgets provinciaux, demandant un gel salarial pendant deux ans à tous les 120 000 employés du secteur public du Manitoba et des augmentations de salaire maximales de 0.75 pour cent et de 1 pour cent dans la troisième et la quatrième année de l'existence de la loi, respectivement. Elle exige entre autres de limiter strictement l'augmentation des taux de rémunération dans les deux premières années, ce qui signifie que si l'on doit injecter dans le fond de pension d'une personne, ou que les travailleurs veulent avoir des journées de vacances supplémentaires, ce financement doit être fourni depuis une compression de salaire ou sous une autre forme de réductions en matière de rémunération.

Tous les 2800 membres de Velie qui travaillent pour Manitoba Hydro seront touchés, ainsi qu'un plus petit nombre de membres de la section locale 435 et 2085

de la FIOE situé à Winnipeg.

« Ce projet de loi est destiné à envoyer un message au syndicat », ajoute le représentant international Brian Murdoch du Premier District. « Le Nouveau Parti démocratique a géré les choses pendant 15 ans, et tout fonctionnait plutôt bien pour les travailleurs, mais lorsque les progressistes-conservateurs ont pris le contrôle en 2016, nous savions que nous devions nous préparer à mener une longue bataille. »

Le projet de loi 28 a été présenté au mois de mars et a été adopté en secret au milieu de la nuit du 2 juin, et n'a pas encore été officiellement proclamée loi, mais Velie l'a comparé à avoir une épée qui pend au-dessus de la tête du syndicat. Une mesure similaire a été adoptée par le gouvernement fédéral de la Nouvelle-Écosse en 2015, avec la promesse de corriger le déséquilibre budgétaire en attaquant les rémunérations des travailleurs du secteur public.

« Ceci est juste une autre attaque d'un gouvernement extrêmement antisyndical », déclare Velie, en comparant cette mesure canadienne à la loi du « droit du travail » des États-Unis. L'année dernière, le gouvernement de Pallister a éliminé l'utilisation de la carte dans les campagnes de syndicalisations, et il a clairement mentionné qu'à l'avenir, Manitoba ne réalisera aucun accord sur des projets de construction financés par les fonds publics.

Le président Kevin Rebeck de La

Fédération du travail du Manitoba, dont l'organisation se prépare pour contester le projet de loi 28 devant les tribunaux, mentionne que les mesures antisyndicales entreprises par le gouvernement sont également ressenties dans le secteur privé, qui a pour effet d'hypothéquer le processus des négociations dans l'ensemble de la province.

« Même avant le vote final de Brian Pallister pour adopter le pouvoir sévère de cette nouvelle loi, ses effets ont été ressentis sur le lieu de travail. Ceci se tient juste après les mises à pied majeures et les coupures dans les soins de santé et autres services, dont les gens ont recouru », informe Rebeck. « Le premier ministre peut utiliser son gouvernement majoritaire au sein de cette législature pour parvenir à ses fins, nous serions toutefois présents pour nous y opposer à chaque étape devant le tribunal. »

Il a averti que le gouvernement de Pallister cherche déjà de nouvelles façons pour couper dans les sociétés d'État, y compris Manitoba Hydro, ce qui ultérieurement donnera lieu à la privatisation aux nouvelles organisations de petite taille.

« L'un des aspects positifs est que les syndicats au Manitoba sont unis comme nous ne l'avons jamais été depuis des années. Ensemble, nous allons continuer la lutte face à cette situation jusqu'à ce qu'on ait la chance de passer le message aux urnes en 2020, » assure Rebeck. ■



# CIRCUITS

## Earn and Learn Debt-Free, IBEW Tells Congress

The IBEW apprenticeship program took center stage before the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee on Capitol Hill, with a member telling lawmakers that IBEW training makes graduates immediately employable with journey-level skills that are valued anywhere.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, helps set Democratic policy. The hearing was on challenges facing young adults in today's economy.

"While entry into these programs is competitive, with an emphasis on math and science, we sponsor pre-apprenticeship programs to help with preparedness," said Rachel Bryan, an international representative in the Department of Civic and Community Engagement. "RENEW chapters are working with the leadership of their local unions to educate young workers about the opportunities and benefits the apprenticeship program offers."

Bryan was representing RENEW/Next Gen, an IBEW initiative for members 35 and younger that nurtures future leaders.

"We have to consider the 60 percent of millennials that do not have a college degree," DeLauro said at the June 15 hearing. "They are a majority of the millennials who are part of the working public in the United States, so we need to look at how we provide job training, educational opportunities, and training for jobs in the digital economy, so that all workers are in position to get a job with fair wages."

Bryan, who is a journeyman wireman and member of Dublin, Calif., Local 595, discussed construction apprenticeship programs with the curricula set by the Electrical Training Alliance, a partnership between the IBEW and unionized contractors.

Such programs can be an attractive alternative to college for some students because they finish them with little or no debt. Apprentices also are paid a salary and work on a jobsite while completing their education.

"I learned skills that can never be taken away," Bryan said. "I am now able to build my community literally and figuratively. I completed this program with no student loan debt and immediate access to employment."

That same day, President Donald Trump signed an executive order that

called for an additional \$200 million in federal funds to be spent on apprenticeship programs while also giving private industry more authority in designing them. It is expected to have little, if any, impact on the IBEW's training programs, which are paid for by the IBEW and its signatory contractors.

Bryan said RENEW/NextGen members are visiting with high school students and counselors to ensure the value of apprenticeships is better understood. That also should help make them more attractive to traditionally underrepresented groups, such as people of color and women, she said.

**"We have to consider the 60 percent of millennials that do not have a college degree."**

*-Rep. Rosa DeLauro (Conn.)*

"Diversity is part of [the millennials'] mantra," she said. "It's not an issue for them."

Rep. Darren Soto of Florida asked the panelists for one suggestion to improve the future of the economy.

"More investments in pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to apprenticeships," Bryan said. "Investments in the building trades that lead to an improved infrastructure and into careers that are viable now and in the future."

Bryan also noted in a response to a question from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi that the IBEW negotiates through collective bargaining for health insurance and pension benefits that

young workers in other industries feel like they are missing out on. Pelosi appoints the committee members and attended most of the hearing.

"I'm very proud to be part of a union that works to provide this and believes that all workers should have these types of benefits," she said. "I feel that we are leading the cause and others will follow." ■

## Oklahoma Football Gets a Powerful Face-Lift from the IBEW

When the Oklahoma Sooners decided in 2015 it was time for a major upgrade to the Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium, the university's Board of Regents turned to the same IBEW contractor it's used on the historic football structure for decades.

The \$160 million project, which was substantially completed in April, gave the south end of the stadium a completely new look, adding seats to surround the field for the first time in school history and topping them with the second biggest video screen in college sports. But the real work came below, where workers constructed an enormous new training and meeting facility for the football program, complete with offices, film rooms, therapy rooms, new locker rooms, an indoor track and a 25,000-square-foot weight room.

"This is an amazing transformation for this football program and for this stadium," said Mickey Smith, a 35-year member of Oklahoma City Local 1141 and the construction manager for Shawver & Son, Inc., the project's signatory electrical contractor. His team used more than 130 IBEW electricians on the job at its peak, and the total project involved more than 750,000 man-



*Ryan Drury, an apprentice at Oklahoma City Local 1141, works high above the new south stand in the early stages of the OU project. The old stand had to be mostly removed to complete the stadium bowl and add thousands of seats.*

hours from all trades combined. "From the field, and for the players and coaches, it's a totally different experience now."

Before the latest renovation, Oklahoma's stadium was a horseshoe shape, enclosed on the north side, with a free-standing set of bleachers in the south end zone. Local legend had it that the south end had been constructed in such a way that the open southeast and southwest corners couldn't be filled in. Things just wouldn't line up correctly, the naysayers said.

It's possible they were right, because closing the gap required demolishing more than 35 percent of the existing structure, but the resulting bowl, which was completed in time for the 2016-17 football season last fall, had Sooner fans abuzz — so excited, in fact, that they crashed OU's servers in 2014 when the plans were first revealed.

The project's most noticeable feature is a 7,849-square-foot, state-of-the-art video board that is the envy of the Sooners' sporting rivals. The board measures 167 feet by 47 feet, and comes with a sound system that features 30 amplifiers and 24 subwoofers. The whole system runs on nearly 425,000 watts of power on gamedays, and it can be seen all the way from downtown Norman on the opposite side of OU's campus.

Eric Sager, a 16-year member who served as Shawver's general foreman, said the job was the biggest he's been a part of to be completed in such a short amount of time. "They started tearing down the old stand almost as soon as the lights went off at the end of the 2015 football season," Sager said, "and the first phase, which included every bit of the stadium that fans are able to use on gameday, was done before kickoff the next fall."

That meant the bulk of the structure was finished in just under nine months. When the Sooners kicked off on Saturday,

Sept. 10, last season, the team started a social media campaign, "#surrouned," with the 'OU' capitalized for effect, to describe the new fan experience with the open corners filled in.

"It made everything flow so much better," OU Athletic Director Joe Castiglione told SoonerSports.com. "For the first time, now a fan can walk around from one side of the stadium to the other through the south end."

The work that was left included everything the general public wouldn't regularly use — football facilities tucked under the south stands and a new, extended exterior façade that would nearly double the size of the previous office and training space.

"What's especially unique about the new football facilities," Sager said, "is that 90 percent of it — basically everything you can see in the finished space — is LED lighting. It's been nice to get to work so much with these energy-efficient fixtures."

Sager said his crew had been reduced to a few electricians working through a final punch list and finishing some exterior lighting, and that everything would be completed in time for players and coaches to prepare for the season opener, scheduled for Sept. 2 against the University of Texas - El Paso.

"Our company has been involved in this stadium for a long time," Smith said, who himself ran the \$75 million expansion in the early 2000s. "Our long relationship with the university says a lot about the quality of the work our company and our IBEW electricians do on a consistent basis."

"The opportunity to work on something directly related to the Sooners is a definite source of pride for our local union," said Local 1141 Business Manager Dwayne Wilcox. "Like the OU team showing its best efforts on the field, our members strive for that same level of excellence on the jobsite." ■



*House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi speaks during the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee meeting on June 15. California Rep. Eric Swalwell looks on. Rachel Bryan, left, an international representative in the Department of Civic and Community Engagement, testifies before the committee.*





# TRANSITIONS

## RETIRED

### Larry P. Reidenbach



After 38 years of service to the IBEW, Senior Executive Assistant to the International Secretary-Treasurer Larry P. Reidenbach retired Aug. 1.

Brother Reidenbach joined Racine, Wis., Local 430 in 1979, leaving a college engineering program.

"I had to take a class about speaking to non-engineers in college, all about doing presentations and leading meetings and I thought 'I don't want to do any of that,'" Reidenbach said. "I have used what I was supposed to learn in the class but the main thing I took away was that I liked being outside, liked building things and wanted to have more freedom than you got in an office."

**"There are so many paths to success in the IBEW and organized labor. I don't understand why everyone doesn't join. On your own you have no power."**

Reidenbach's mother was a garment workers' union activist and helped organize the Burlington textile plant where she worked in the '60s, but it was a friend's father who introduced him to the IBEW. When he started applying, work was so slow the local wasn't starting many apprentices.

Reidenbach worked 17 years with the tools. On one of his first jobs, he was sent down to a Lake Michigan beach with a shovel and told to dig a 40-foot trench. It was a warm summer day. The sun was out. It was, he said, what he wanted.

"The weather wasn't always as great, but the work was always rewarding," he said.

"When I topped out in 1982 I grabbed a tramp guide and went on the road and I was working and happy," he said. "One day I was talking about work with a guy from Madison Local 159 — I don't remember his name unfortunately — and I was telling him things were going good."

The guy stopped Reidenbach and asked him how far away from home he was.

"And when I told him about seven hours he asked, 'Well how good are things really?' and that made sense," he said. "I got involved to try and turn things around, win back the work we were losing."

Reidenbach thanked former Local 430 business manager Wayne Molitor for encouraging him to run.

Brother Reidenbach was elected to Local 430's executive board in 1987. A year later he was elected vice president, a position he held for three years. In 1990, he was elected president, and when Molitor retired in 1995, Reidenbach was selected by the executive board to finish out the term. He successfully ran for re-election in 1996 and 1999.

"We needed to get more involved and we did. We started approaching customers — business development before we called it that — and we grew by over 50 percent while I was business manager," he said.

Labor-related activities have included membership on the United Way Labor Advisory Committee and the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Standing Com-

mittee for Building Trades. He has also served on the United Way board of directors.

In 2002, Reidenbach was appointed by International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill as the reciprocal administrator at the International Office.

"I was looking for a challenge," Reidenbach said. "I'd been a traveler before reciprocity and left some money around so I really appreciated what the reciprocity system did for the membership."

Reidenbach said his primary task in the job was overseeing the transition from a paper-based system to the Electronic Reciprocal Transfer System, which allows traveling workers to maintain their benefits at their home local. A year later the position was folded into the Pension Department and Hill appointed Reidenbach to run it.

In 2007, Reidenbach was appointed executive assistant to the international secretary-treasurer. In addition to assisting the IST managing the IBEW's health, general and pension funds, he oversaw day-to-day operations of five IBEW departments including Per Capita, Accounting, Personnel, Investments and, his old department, Pension. He was also responsible for managing the operations of the building owned by the IBEW that serves as its international headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"It was plenty to fill the day, that is for sure," he said.

"There are so many paths to success in the IBEW and organized labor," he said. "I don't understand why everyone doesn't join. On your own you have no power."

In his retirement, Brother Reidenbach will relocate to near Nashville, Tenn., to be equidistant to the families of his children and close to the music he loves. He plans to go "hiking, fishing, camping, hunting and anything else that ends in 'ing.'"

He plans to walk the length of one of the most important Catholic pilgrimages in Europe: the 400-mile journey across the Pyrenees to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain, known as the Road to Santiago, or simply the Way.

"The total distance we will walk is still under negotiations with the missus though," he said.

The officers, staff and members of the Brotherhood thank Brother Reidenbach for his years of dedication and wish him a long, active and joyful retirement. ■

## APPOINTED

### Darrin Golden



Illinois-native Darrin Golden has been appointed Senior Executive Assistant to the International Secretary-Treasurer, replacing Larry Reidenbach, who retired. Brother Golden comes to the position having served the last three years as director of the Council on Industrial Relations/Bylaws and Appeals Department. International President Lonnie R. Stephenson's appointment of Golden took effect Aug. 1.

"I'm deeply humbled and honored to be entrusted with this responsibility," Golden said. "To be coming into this job only a few months after the appointment of International Secretary-Treasurer [Kenneth W.] Cooper, and to have the chance to work side-by-side with him on some of the most important issues facing this Brotherhood is not something either of us takes lightly."

In his new role, Brother Golden will assist Cooper in all of the duties and responsibilities under the IST's jurisdiction, including every financial function of the IBEW as well as oversight of the Engineering, Pension and Reciprocity, Per Capita, Accounting, Person-

nel and Investment departments within the International Office.

"It's an enormous job," Golden said, "but I'd like to think everything I've done up and to this point has prepared me to tackle it with the same level of enthusiasm and hard work I've always tried to give to the IBEW."

Those life-shaping experiences for Golden started just two weeks after graduating high school, when he enlisted and served four years active duty in the U.S. Navy and another four in the reserves. Working as a Naval Aircrewman on and around helicopters and airplanes, he said, taught him the importance of discipline, attention to details and checklists.

After honorable discharge from active duty in the US Navy, there was really only one option. "I've been IBEW since the day I was born," Golden said, noting that his father recently earned his 50-year pin from the Brotherhood. "This union is very much a part of who I am — it's always been more personal than an occupation for me." Golden was initiated in Rockford, Ill., Local 364 in 1991, topping out as a journeyman inside wireman five years later. In 1992 he became an apprenticeship instructor, teaching the 3rd year of the Inside apprenticeship for eight years. In 1997, he was first elected as an Executive Board Member for two consecutive terms, and in 2002, he was hired into the local union office as an organizer. That job, he said, was the most rewarding because he got to sell the IBEW lifestyle to others. In 2004, Golden was elected vice president of his local, and just three years later, he took the reins as business manager, serving from 2007 until his appointment to the International Office in 2013.

During his 22-year career at Local 364, Golden took advantage of a wealth of educational opportunities available to him. He is a graduate of the National Labor College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in union leadership and administration, and of the University of Baltimore, where he was awarded a Master of Public Administration degree. He has also attended Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation and graduated from the National Training Institute for Apprenticeship Instructors at the University of Tennessee.

In Washington, Golden says his service leading the CIR/Bylaws and Appeals Department has provided valuable insight into labor-management disputes and how they escalate from minor irritations into full-blown grievances. From the local union to the international office, Golden has always advocated for lowest level conflict resolution.

"At CIR, we're involved every step of the way, from mediation to arbitration with CIR panels to observing how the results of a particular decision are applied back at the local level," Golden said. "Most of the time, we get it right and the litigants sometimes don't always get what they want but they almost always get what they need." It is a unique process by which signatory contractors and IBEW leaders manage labor disputes before they lead to work stoppages, Golden says, it is invaluable to the industry and a testament to the visionary leaders who set up the process nearly 100 years ago.

Golden plans to take all of that knowledge and experience with him as he approaches his next challenge. "I can't say enough about the amazing work Larry Reidenbach has done in this job over the last decade," he said. "What our officers at the IBEW do every day is so extraordinary, and I'm excited for the opportunity to serve IST Cooper and the entire membership of this great Brotherhood."

"I've always been willing to push myself, and if I can do one thing or 100 things to make the lives of our members better," he said, "I'll do it every day and twice on Sundays." ■

## RETIRED

### Linda Mathews



International Representative Linda Mathews retired on June 30, capping a 38-year career in which she went from a cashier for her local utility to training the IBEW's future leaders.

Mathews joined Kansas City, Mo., Local 1613

when she was hired to work at Kansas City Power & Light in 1979. But her supervisors there and Local 1613 officers later realized she had a knack for computers. She designed the local's first website in the mid-1990s while working in the utility's telecommunications department.

"I've always been a real gadget girl, trying to check out all the newest technology," she said.

"Because of that, I was really pushing technology on the labor movement to try to leverage our power with our members," Mathews said. "If we didn't embrace these things, they would be used as weapons against us. We needed to use them to our benefit."

Mathews served as a steward and was elected Local 1613's president in 1995. In those years, she struck up a friendship with then-Secretary-Treasurer Edwin D. Hill.

"I was always telling him things I thought the IBEW should be doing," she said. "When he became president, he started talking about me possibly coming on staff and updating a lot of the processes."

Hill was appointed international president in 2001 and Mathews joined the international staff a year later, during her third term as the Local 1613 president. She was assigned to the Utility Department, where she upgraded processes using databases in place of paper records that made it easier to access key information in a timely fashion.

Mathews also coordinated the department's annual conference and was the lead international representative on issues involving technical and clerical classifications.

Former Utility Department Director Jim Hunter started at the International Office at the same time as Mathews.

"Within two years of us starting, the whole department was new, so we could not do it as it had always been done because we didn't know what that was," Hunter said. "Linda's computer skills and dedication to the membership helped push the department into the modern age."

Mathews credited her father, Virgil Hamman, who was a member of Kansas City Local 1464, as a big influence. She also described him as a gadget guru.

"He moved around through different classifications until he found his perfect fit, just like many of us do," she said. "He started in underground utilities then went into fleet services as a mechanic. Finally, he found this perfect place in tree trimming. He provided a real strong presence."

In 2009, Mathews was re-assigned to the Education Department and provided training for business managers, officers and members of locals in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Oklahoma. It allowed her to move to Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks area, where she plans to live during retirement.

"I am comfortable leaving knowing that things are in good hands," she said. "So much of our new leadership is younger and ready to take the helm. It is soothing to me to know that."

Mathews plans to spend more time with her children, Christian and Heather, and her seven grandchildren. The IBEW officers and staff thank her for her service and wish her a long and happy retirement. ■



LOCAL LINES

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 2 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), ST. LOUIS, MO — Local 2 has been busy negotiating contracts, with several due in 2017.

So far this year we have ratified contracts for: Ameren Missouri, City of Hannibal Board of Public Works, Consolidated Electric Cooperative - Physical Unit, Cuivre River Electric Cooperative, and Precision Daylighting Inc.

Contracts due later this year are: Bi-State Development Agency, Central Electric Power Cooperative, Citizens Electric Corporation, City of Thayer, Crawford Electric Cooperative, Lewis County Rural Electric Cooperative, Missouri American Water, four contracts with Missouri Valley Line Constructors, Nelson Tree Service, and Wright Tree Service. We are also finalizing a first contract with Asplundh Tree Expert.

We have a hiring hall rule change that went into effect April 17. The rule requiring separation papers showing the date of separation from the previous employer for both members and travelers has been discontinued.

Please connect with us on social media for information on committees, events, unit meetings, and various recognitions such as retirements.

Greg Benton, A.B.M.

Community Service Tradition

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH — The Local 8 Defiance Unit has conducted a trash pick-up along Route 66 for the past 24 years. Typically, the pickups occur during the months of April, July and October in lieu of their monthly meetings.

This is an excellent record of IBEW community service. An especially notable accomplishment is that retiree Wally Westrick has participated in every single pickup since day one! And Wally celebrated his 90th birthday this past March. What dedication! Congratulations, Wally, on an awesome achievement!

Thanks to all the Local 8 members who have participated in this community service endeavor. Recent participants included: Curtis Blanchard, Mike Graziani, Wally Westrick, Frank Robey, Kevin Hurley, Dave Phillips, Buck Crosser, Joe Geiger, Brian Hahn, Bus. Mgr. Roy B. Grosswiler, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Bill Box, and Defiance Unit Chmn. Ron Bergman.

The work situation has been very strong over the past few months and should remain this way for a few years. Check out our website [www.ibew8.org](http://www.ibew8.org) for job opportunities in our area.

Mike Brubaker, P.S.

RENEW N.Y. State Lobby Day

L.U. 10 (u), JOHNSON CITY, NY — 3DYC RENEW New York State Lobby Day was held last May in Albany. Attendees listened to speakers and politicians. Then they were off to experience lobbying for the first time. It was an eye-opening experience for the young members of our union. One that will hopefully keep them involved in their union and political action.

The 2017 IBEW Utility Conference in April was well-attended in Cleveland, Ohio. The Third District Workshops and LAMPAC (Labor & Management Public Affairs Committee) meetings also were well-attended.

Contract negotiations are coming up for members at Cayuga Station and Steuben Electric Cooperative.

Congratulations to recent IBEW I.O. retirees and thank you to all for your service.

Don Tuttel, P.S.

August Annual Picnic; Earth Day Event Volunteers

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO — At the time of this writing, Local 12 is in the planning stages for our 2017 Annual Picnic, scheduled for Aug. 5. We have the park reserved in Pueblo West for volleyball, softball, horseshoes and all the picnic favorites. There will be ample grassy space, shade, food and good company to enjoy. We hope to have a good turnout this year!

On April 22, to celebrate Earth Day, Local 12 volunteers helped out at the hazardous waste collection area at the Colorado State Fairgrounds. Members manned the fluorescent light recycle booth and packaged 1,240 bulbs. It is great to see people take the time to dispose of these things correctly.

Last year, we negotiated the Inside contract for



Local 12 staffed a booth at state fairgrounds on Earth Day. From left: Susan Finzel-Alred, environmental coordinator, Pueblo Health Dept.; Local 12 Apprenticeship Dir. Dan Kraus; office manager Susan Johnson; and journeyman wireman Richard Ganni.

one year; therefore, we are in the negotiation process again. We hope to have the details worked out soon.

With the state electrical license renewal deadline right around the corner, we have been holding Upgrade Classes regularly to make sure everyone gets their Professional Development Units (PDUs) before the deadline.

The work picture is steady in our area with no big jobs in the plans.

Susan Johnson, P.S.

Member Activities & Updates

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN — Local 16 completed the move to Massachusetts Mutual as the company that will now serve as the local's defined-contribution pension plan's record keeper. This change allows for better service and value. For additional information, call 800-743-5274 or 800-831-4914, or go to [www.Retiremart.com](http://www.Retiremart.com).

The 20th Annual Turkey Testicle Festival was April 29. Over 450 attended, with brothers traveling from as far away as California and the East Coast. Twenty-five members in need were helped, and \$16,000 was contributed toward the 49th IBEW reunion. Since the festival's inception, over \$375,000 has been raised! Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this event possible.

The Local 16 Cooking Committee did a great job preparing the 200 pork butts recently sold to help a union brother, and everyone enjoyed the camaraderie.

The Political Action Committee regularly holds events for the membership, and welcomes new members. Anyone troubled by the country's current direction should check into this great organization.

The Entertainment Committee had a busy spring hosting the Winter Gala at the new Doubletree hotel, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the union hall.

Under the leadership of Jeff Brady and Brandon Wong-ngamnit, IBEW members and other skilled tradesmen renovated an office complex for a nonprofit organization. Aurora Inc. is a resource center for the homeless that provides housing solutions and related services.

Several large projects in the jurisdiction require specific current credentials. All members working here are encouraged to consider getting and maintaining a Vanderburgh County electrical license. This will be a necessity for the Tropicana Casino

expansion, the Indiana University Medical School project, and the new McCutchanville Elementary School project. Also, some customers insist on site-specific safety and drug testing criteria. Please be fully prepared to take these calls and show what the IBEW can do!

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.



Local 24 Fin. Sec. Mike McHale (left), Bus. Mgr. Pete Demchuk, and Examining Board member and organizer Nick DiMartino.

Recent Appointments — Continued Progress

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — Former business manager Gary Griffin recently was appointed as a Fourth District international representative under the leadership of Int. Vice Pres. Brian G. Malloy. We wish Gary much success in his new position and thank him for his many years of service with the local.

The Local 24 Executive Board unanimously appointed Pete Demchuk, former financial secretary, to fill the unexpired term of office of Bro. Griffin. The board also appointed Mike McHale as financial secretary to fill the unexpired term of office. And Nick DiMartino was appointed to fill an Examining Board seat vacated by Bro. Cory Shifflet.

Bus. Mgr. Demchuk has served the local well throughout his career as an organizer, Examining Board and Executive Board member, vice president, president and JATC committee member. Congratulations, Pete — we look forward to continued progress under your leadership.

Fin. Sec. Mike McHale has served the local in various positions over the years, including as an organizer, Examining and Executive Board member, and in various leadership roles in the field.

Nick DiMartino was recently brought on staff as an organizer. We look forward to the youthful enthusiasm Nick brings to the local and wish him much success.

We thank Bro. Shifflett for his service and look forward to working with him in the future.

Michael G. Azzarello, A.B.M.

Submitting Local Lines Articles

Local Lines are printed monthly on an alternating even/odd schedule. They can be submitted by designated press secretaries or union officers via email ([locallines@ibew.org](mailto:locallines@ibew.org)) or U.S. Mail. We have a 200-word limit. We make every effort to assist local unions in publishing useful and relevant local union news; however, all final content decisions are based on the editor's judgment. Our guidelines and deadlines are available at [www.ibew.org/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Submitting-Local-Lines](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Submitting-Local-Lines). Please email or call the Media Department at (202) 728-6291 with any questions.

Trade Classifications

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

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



## Anniversary Party Sept. 23; Graduates & Scholarship Awards

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — Local 26 is extremely proud to have a historic event occurring on Sept. 23, 2017! This is the date of our 125th Anniversary Party and the event will be held at MGM National Harbor. To purchase tickets or for more information and sponsorship opportunities, please view our website at [www.ibewlocal26.org](http://www.ibewlocal26.org).

Local 26 is proud to announce the four winners of this year's scholarship awards: Caleb Byram, Jacob Cowan, Marcus Smith Jr. and Nora Windsor. Congratulations to all, and stay tuned for further details.

Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed the annual Manassas, VA, picnic on Saturday, June 24. And don't forget that the Edgewater, MD, picnic is Saturday, Aug. 26.

Local 26 congratulates the 2017 graduates of our Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee program and the "R to A Upgrade" program. This year we had a total of 238 graduates. It was a pleasure to see so many supportive family members and happy graduates! Best wishes to the new journeyman electricians!

Several members passed away since our last article: Steven J. Rein, Greg G. Gregory, James E. Bennett Sr., Charles L. Lay, Scott A. Rutherford, Michael G. Whittington and Michael A. Cade. They will be missed.

Best wishes to new retirees: David A. McCord, Victor C. Bernard, Michael D. Neel, Charles O. Williams, Derrick R. Stoutamire, Jefferson R. Wickens, Andrew M. Herold, Robert T. Dennis, Elbert L. Gaddis Jr., Allan J. Rose, Cecil B. Canfield, James P. Metler, Robert H. Anderson, Christopher L. Ludlow, Milan Klacar, Albert E. Winfield III, Francis S. Sitney and Stephen F. Wade.

*George C. Hogan, B.M.*

## 2017 Graduation Ceremony

L.U. 34 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), PEORIA, IL — Local 34 officers, board members and staff proudly attended the graduation ceremony for our 2017 JATC program graduates on June 9.

Training Dir. Brandon Currie and his assistant DeAnna Wills hosted a flawless event. Graduates enjoyed a great meal, refreshments and celebration in honor of their accomplishments. The banquet room looked fabulous and everyone had a wonderful evening.

The inside wireman program produced 29 outstanding new journeyman wiremen: Ryan Kelson, Matthew McComb, Joshua Berger, Timothy Bianco, John Cardosi, Thomas Carroll, Tad Chatten, Ross Curley, Andrew England, Neil Ensor, Cody Hamilton, Jacob Hughes, Adam Johanson, John Jones, Johnny Jorden, Karmel Kang, John Luginbuhl, Jeremy Moxley, Cody O'Brien, Ryan Paul, Cody Roberts, Brennen Rodgers, Brittany Romani, Scott Rudesill, Michel Shropshire, Chad Walker, Brody Woodard, Justin

Brown and Phillip Molleck.

Also graduating this year are three exceptional electronic technicians and three residential wiremen. Electronic technicians include: Robert Bong, Zachary Helms and Michael King. The newly graduated residential wiremen are: Caleb Bugos, Andrew Butts and Paul Moore.

Local 34 is proud of its programs and the continued tradition of producing highly trained, professional wiremen. Special thanks to the Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. David J. Ruhmkorff for attending and speaking at the graduation ceremony. Again, congratulations to all the graduates!

*Marc Burnap, P.S.*



*IBEW officers and members from multiple Ohio local unions joined informational picket in support of workers at Materion Corp.*

## Solidarity for Workers Employed at Materion Corp.

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH — IBEW officers and members turned out from many parts of the state of Ohio to participate in an informational picket that was held in Local 38's jurisdiction for the Materion Corp. (Brush-Wellman) campaign. [Photo, above.]

The picket was held to show support for the 430 workers at Materion and took place while a stockholders meeting was being held just outside of Cleveland.

The employees who work at the plant, which is in Toledo, Local 8's jurisdiction, produce products made of beryllium for cell phones, satellites and other electronic components.

The employees are looking for IBEW representation for several reasons but mainly because of their concerns over their exposure to beryllium, which can result in scarring of the lung tissue.

The company has hired a union-busting firm, and Local 38 was happy to help out on this campaign to show solidarity for the workers in their quest to become represented by the IBEW so that the workers can have a voice at work.

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



*IBEW Local 34 class of 2017 inside apprenticeship graduates.*



*Int. Rep. Tim S. Dixon, Local 40 member.*

## 'Congratulations on 30 Years'

L.U. 40 (em,i&mps), HOLLYWOOD, CA — Local 40 would like to congratulate IBEW Ninth District Int. Rep. Tim Dixon on 30 years of IBEW membership. Bro. Dixon graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1985. On Feb. 1, 1986, he was sworn into membership and began working as a full-time business representative.

For over 13 years, Bro. Dixon proudly served Local 40 in many different capacities, including as business manager. In 1998 he began a new challenge, utilizing his knowledge and years of experience gained at Local 40, when he was appointed as an IBEW international representative.

As we reflect on our local's history, Bro. Dixon's lasting impact on this local is extensive and cannot be overstated. For over 30 years, Bro. Dixon has been an invaluable resource for our local and a champion for IBEW workers' rights. His commitment to Local 40 and the IBEW is a model that we all should strive to replicate as union members.

On behalf of the brothers and sisters of Local 40, we thank Bro. Tim Dixon for his years of service to the local and his continued service to the IBEW.

*Stephan Davis, R.S.*



*Local 60 RENEW committee displays chapter charter.*

## Benefit Bike Run 2017; 'Climb for Lost Lineman'

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT — On June 3, Local 42 hosted its annual motorcycle benefit ride for the Bridgeport Burn Center. The weather and the turnout were great. We thank the following IBEW



*Local 42 Rodeo Team conducts a climb in tribute to late charter member Red Sharpe.*

locals for participating: Locals 3, 99, 103, 104, 1049, 1249 and 2323. Any IBEW members looking to participate in next year's event, please contact our hall.

Climb for Lost Lineman: On June 16, Local 42 paid tribute to one of our charter members, Red Sharpe, who passed away Dec. 19, 2016. The Rodeo Team and three generations of the Sharpe family gathered together to participate and watch Red's grandson hang his lantern in his honor. Local 42 thanks the National Sisterhood United for Journeyman Linemen (NSUJL) for all their hard work with organizing this memorable event.

*Ebony DeJusis, P.S.*

## RENEW Chapter Chartered

L.U. 60 (i), SAN ANTONIO, TX — With great pride, we are pleased to announce our local's newly formed RENEW chapter, which was chartered March 2 this year by the IBEW international office. RENEW/Next-Gen is the IBEW's initiative focused on young members' participation in the union.

With the direction of Bus. Mgr. Paul Garza and RENEW Committee leader Christopher Vaquera, these young members have been involved in projects sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, the San Antonio Building Trades, and the San Antonio AFL-CIO.

Since formation of the chapter, we have 21 members representing our youth, which is proof that this Renew Committee is well on its way to becoming future local union and IBEW leaders.

*Mike D. Hernandez, A.B.M.*

## Contract Ratified; Summer Picnic in August

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO — Greetings, sisters and brothers.

After 30 hours of negotiations over nine days with our Rocky Mountain Chapter NECA counterparts, IBEW Local 68's negotiating team reached a tentative agreement on a new three-year contract. It was brought to the membership for a ratification vote on Friday, May 5, and was accepted and approved by the body. Thanks to our negotiating team: Jim Mantele, Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Morgan J. Buchanan, Robert Delgado, Jim Perizzolo, Jeremy Ross and Lavell Flamon.

The IBEW Local 68 summer picnic is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 19, so please mark your calendars. If you are willing to volunteer to help with the setup and/or cleanup, contact me at: 303-591-9932.

*Morgan J. Buchanan, Pres.*

## Local Union Updates

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA — Local 80 has had a busy few months. Former Local 734 was merged into Local 80 effective April 15 this year.

As of now we currently represent nearly 700 workers at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY), Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), and the Portsmouth Coast Guard Station.

We also hosted our Annual Spring Picnic in April. We would like to thank all our brothers and sisters and



## LOCAL LINES

their families for coming out and making it a great day.

Our local is also excited to announce we have signed a new contractor, Godwin Electrical LLC, effective in May.

We will also have a busy summer with the JATC graduating class of 2017. We have nine graduates this year! All their hard work and dedication have paid off. Congratulations to all.

*Wil Morris, A.B.M.*

## Graduates & Volunteers; Memorial Fish Fry a Success

L.U. 82 (em,i,mt&rtb), DAYTON, OH — Local 82 was out in the Dayton community participating in a recent community service event at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center. IBEW members turned out to help with the AFL-CIO's annual project to clean up around a lake on the campus of the medical center. Thanks to all the members who gave up their Saturday and time with their families to come out and help. You guys did a great job!

Congratulations to the class of 2017 apprentice graduates. It is time to put your skills and knowledge to work. Good luck in the years to come and don't forget to get involved with your local!

The Charlie Toon Memorial Fish Fry — which was started by the local's softball team to help raise money for the teams and donate money to a fund to award apprentices for their hard work by paying for their books — was a big success again this year. Thanks to the softball players, retirees and volunteers who came out to help. Great job!

*Doug Searcy, P.S.*



*IBEW Local 82 volunteers participated in community service project at campus of the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Ohio.*

## 75-Year Service Award; RENEW Committee Formed

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT — IBEW Local 90 wishes to recognize Bro. Bob Grossman for 75 years of service as an IBEW member. After Bob's family presented him with his IBEW certificate and 75-year pin, they noted that: "We got a tremendous smile of pride from him."



*Local 90 retired Bro. Robert "Bob" Grossman receives IBEW 75-year service award presented by his sons Mark and David.*

Bob is 93 and proud to be a member of IBEW Local 90. We wish Bob and all our retirees and their families the best. We thank all of you for your dedication and work paving the way for all those who follow in your footsteps. Our local is stronger due to all your efforts.

Recognizing the need for our younger members to become involved in our local's future, Bus. Manager Sean Daly asked the E-Board to set up a RENEW committee. There has been a lot of interest, and the committee will be educating the membership soon on what RENEW is about and how to get involved. Local 90 and our JATC have teamed up to provide mentors to our apprenticeship classes. We are in the final stages of structuring the program and plan to have it available to the apprentices attending school in September.

We anticipate that more members will want to get involved with local activities and projects — and we are confident our members will embrace RENEW and the mentoring program along with our Code of Excellence program, and that they will all lead by example.

*Bob Woytowich, Pres.*

## NxtUp94 Food Drive — Young Workers Show Dedication

L.U. 94 (lctt,nst&u), CRANBURY, NJ — On Friday, May 5, NxtUp94, the young workers committee of IBEW Local 94, donated over \$7,000 worth of food to Rise Food Pantry, located next door to Local 94 headquarters in Hightstown, NJ. Heavy rain and high winds that day could not impede their strong sense of dedication to their community, as they worked tirelessly to pick up and deliver their donations. This was the fourth annual food drive organized by NxtUp94.

Leslie Koppel, executive director of Rise Community Services and vice chair of Monroe Town Council, said that NxtUp94's contribution will greatly benefit the area households that her organization serves, especially during this time when donations are at their lowest. She noted that food donated in the drive will help to feed 400 families for a month and a half.

New Jersey Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, president of IBEW Local 269, commended his union brothers and sisters for putting together this much-needed food drive. "This is a great way to get our young members involved, and to help our community at the same time, DeAngelo said."

*Frank Brennan, P.S.*



*NxtUp94, young members of IBEW Local 94, conducted a food drive for Rise Food Pantry. From left: Nicholas Alessando, Joe Buchmuller, Matt Nee, Mike Garcia, Mike Langham, Leslie Koppel, Shawn Sawicki, Mike Butler, Adam Neuman, Joe Itri, Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, Robert Sheppard, Ed Cody and Joe Checkley.*

## Goethals Bridge Project; Local Hosts Candidate's Visit

L.U. 102 (em,govt,i,mt,o&ws), PATERSON, NJ — On behalf of Bus. Mgr. Patrick DelleCava and all the officers, I would like to thank our membership for the vote of confidence we received at our May 2017 nomination meeting. All incumbent officers were unopposed, and re-elected by acclamation. We are truly humbled by your support and look forward to working together with all of you for the next three years!

In state politics, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, won the primary to be the Republican candidate for governor. On June 7, the day after the primary, Local 102 was one of her first stops. We were proud to host the lieutenant governor. Over 200 of our members enjoyed face-to-face time with Kim Guadagno that day. Her advocacy for private sector growth in New Jersey has directly resulted in major projects in our area, including, to name a few: Bayer, Nestle, Allergan, Ferring and Honeywell. These sites, among others, have all provided quality jobs for our brothers and sisters. We wish her well in the upcoming election!

Out in the field, our brothers and sisters are hard at work on the new Goethals Bridge, one of the newest and most technologically advanced structures in the state. Their hard work will be showcased in the upcoming days as a ribbon cutting takes place for the opening of the east bound lanes. Great job!

*Bernie Corrigan, Pres.*



*Local 102 members display IBEW banner during construction of Goethals Bridge.*

## 'Local of the Year'

L.U. 126 (catv,lctt,o&t), PHILADELPHIA, PA — The Lehigh Valley Labor Council named Local 126 "Local of the Year." This annual award was presented at a labor council event, with numerous other trade locals and several local politicians in attendance. Lehigh Valley Labor Council Pres. Gregg Potter praised Local 126 for its continued support in the fight against lower paying jobs, limited worker benefits and the continued mistreatment of unrepresented workers.



*Local 126 Bus. Mgr. Richard Muttik speaks at Lehigh Valley Labor Council event.*

Bus. Mgr. Richard Muttik proudly accepted the award on behalf of Local 126 members. In his acceptance speech, Bus. Mgr. Muttik energized the audience talking about organized labor in today's age, placing an emphasis on organizing, supporting local labor, the value of union apprenticeships and the importance of electing labor friendly candidates.

Thank you to all the members and guests who attended this special night, and to those who have helped Local 126 stand out in the labor community.

The current work picture in Local 126 continues to be positive, with many members working overtime. The most recently held Boot Camp welcomed 31 new apprentice linemen to help with the impending workload.

*Michael Simmonds, B.R.*

## Election of Officers

L.U. 130 (i), NEW ORLEANS, LA — The Local 130 election of officers took place June 10, 2017. It was a beautiful day for the election process. Members turned out to place their votes. Attendees enjoyed plenty of food, beverages, good conversations and fun. We thank everyone who participated, including election judge Butch Naquin and his tellers. We thank the membership for their support and we

pledge to always work for your best interest.

Elected officers are: Bus. Mgr. Paul Zulli, Pres. Corky Cortez, Vice Pres. Kenny Bauer, Rec. Sec. Billy Buckel and Treas. Sean Maubert. Executive Board: Tommy Chestnut, Julius Gray, Jeff Johnson, Otto Munch and Rodney Wallis. Examining Board: Frank Accardo, Carlo Antoine, Keith Black, John Navarre and Brian Torzewski.

*Billy Buckel, R.S./P.S.*

## Power Station Refuel Outage; 2017 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL — We had a very successful refuel outage at the Clinton Power Station. We thank the traveling sisters and brothers who helped us. It was nice to meet and get to know them!

June 10 brought a lovely day for our annual golf outing. Everyone had a good time, as we enjoyed a day of brotherhood.

Congratulations to John Shores Jr. and Brian Miller on their recent retirement. Also to Al Green, who has retired from his apprenticeship instructor position after 25 inspiring years of service.

Local 146 congratulates the class of 2017 apprenticeship graduates: Josh Flood, Greg Pruemer, Brandon Reininger, Jodie Botts, Nick Delahunty, Josh McLain, Tyler Pieschalski, Dillon Lewis, Tyler Smock, Darin Hill, Kaleb Swarts, Robert Jonquet, Christopher



Leming, Zach Buchanan and Kanen Reed. Kudos to all on your success.

Welcome to the 14 incoming apprentice wiremen: Cody Beckman, Zachary Culp, Garrett Hockman, Matt Lewis, Thomas Lutrell, Andrew McWhorter, Cory Meyer, Brock Oyler, Brandon Presnell, Joe Risby, Joseph Rotz, John Sexton, Drake Todd and Patrick Utter.

Steve Tilford, R.S.

## Positive Work Picture; Active RENEW Volunteers

L.U. 158 (i, it, mar, mt & spa), GREEN BAY, WI — Local 158, like most locals in the state, is very busy. We have many jobs going on, with many more yet to start. Calls have gone to Book II. We have settled most of our contracts that were about to expire and feel we have done well. Looks like a prosperous year for all involved.

Our local once again, like we do every year, has volunteered our skills to help out in area communities. With the guidance of Business Development agent Jeremy Schauer, our local RENEW Committee helped do some electrical work for area housing projects for the Rebuilding Together of Greater Green Bay program. Those who shared their time and efforts were: Jeremy Pingel, Alex Klingbeil, Nick Borkovec and Andrei Oleinic. Our RENEW Committee is doing great work on many functions to get our younger generation members involved in the local and the community as well.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.



IBEW Local 158 RENEW participants display banner. From left: Alex Klingbeil, Jeremy Pingel and Nick Borkovec.

## Construction Industry Career Day a Success

L.U. 164 (c, em, i, o & t), JERSEY CITY, NJ — The Local 164 JATC instructor staff attended the Construction Industry Career Day in Edison, NJ, on May 30-31. The purpose of the career day is to introduce high school

and vocational-technical students to career opportunities in the construction industry. Many different trades and local unions were represented including multiple New Jersey IBEW locals.

The event was a great opportunity to showcase what we offer in employment opportunities, education and training and to recruit young, talented future electricians to come and apply for apprenticeship. It was also a good opportunity to educate students to what union labor is all about and what membership can offer them. It was an opportunity for us to demonstrate the kind of work they would be taught to do with various interactive displays including a full residential service, three-way switching and Programmable Logic Controllers. It was an exciting event.

In attendance were: Training Dir. Richard Paredes, Asst. Training Dir. Paul Lagana and instructors Warren Becker and Roch Lepage.

Warren Becker, V.P.

## Apprenticeship Prep Classes — Multi-Craft Core Curriculum

L.U. 234 (i & mt), CASTROVILLE, CA — In collaboration with the building trades, our local has run three Apprenticeship Preparation classes, one in each of our three counties. The Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) program, developed by the North America's Building Trades Unions ([www.nabtu.org](http://www.nabtu.org)), is designed to prepare interested individuals for apprenticeship in any of the trades. This program helps to meet our nation's growing demand for skilled craft workers by cultivating individuals who appreciate unions and the middle-class wages.

The students, of varying ages, backgrounds and genders all share a common desire to improve their skills and lives. They are truly motivated, as evidenced by their enthusiastic willingness to attend over 140 hours of training, held evenings and weekends over a four-month period.

In addition to receiving CPR/First Aid and OSHA-10 certifications, they also learn other subjects. These include: Orientation and Industry Awareness, Tools and Materials, Blueprint Reading, Construction Math, and Heritage of the American

Worker. We also help them develop interview and leadership skills.

With the increasing attacks on unions, these individuals are seeing first-hand the benefits of thorough training and good wages and benefits that allow them to raise a family, buy a home, buy vehicles, have medical insurance and save for retirement.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

## IBEW Retiree Serves As Advocate for Veterans

L.U. 280 (c, es, em, es, i, mo, mt, rts & st), SALEM, OR — Local 280 is proud to have a retired member like Bernie Pasqualini. Bernie has been active in the Vietnam Veterans of America organization for years. Recently, he stepped into an even bigger role as an advocate for veterans through the Vets Helping Vets organization.

Early in his career, Bernie apprenticed in IBEW Local 654 in Chester, PA. He traveled for approximately 10 years before landing in Riverside, CA, Local 440. Bernie eventually settled here in Local 280.

Since taking on his new role as VHV advocate for veterans, Bernie has been hard at work to further their purposes. The VHV and its trained advocates assist veterans with the benefit claims process,

emergency needs, comfort to families and overall guidance on putting together fully developed claims — at no cost to the veteran.

With this job came volumes of legal study and procedures for Bernie to learn. A goal of the VHV now is to build its own facility in the Albany, Oregon, area. Eventually Bernie wants to start networking and turn this into a national organization. For more information about Vets Helping Vets, please visit website [www.vetshelpingvetshq.com](http://www.vetshelpingvetshq.com). The VHV headquarters is currently located at 1215 Pacific Blvd. SE, Albany, Oregon 97321. VHV is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. "It's not a hand out — it's a hand up."

Drew Lindsey, B.M./F.S.



Local 280 retiree Bernie Pasqualini serves as a VHV advocate for veterans.

## 'Lineworker Appreciation Day'

L.U. 300 (govt, i, mt & u), MONTPELIER, VT — Vermont Gov. Phil Scott issued a proclamation designating April 18, 2017, "Electrical Utility Lineworker Appreciation Day." In attendance at the Vermont State House were electrical utility members of IBEW Local 300 and their respective management counterparts. Although the proclamation is specific to the line worker, I would like to extend thanks and praise to all utility members, as well as to the women and men in support roles, such as police, fire, highway and EMT personnel who maintain security and safety throughout storm-related events. It is with the help and support of all groups that we can safeguard your fellow sisters and brothers, our communities and the American dream.

Congratulations to Local 300's newest organized group — the Morristown Highway Department. The 12-member group seized an opportunity to better their working conditions and improve their standard of living for themselves and their families. Congratulations to all.

Congratulations also to Roger Donegan on his recent retirement from Burlington Electric Department. Roger served as chief steward for 90+ IBEW members. His leadership, dedication, loyalty and selfless service to his IBEW sisters and brothers bestowed great credit to himself, the IBEW and Burlington Electric Dept. We wish Roger well in his new endeavors.

Local 300 continues to develop and negotiate

the first agreement for 120 workers employed by Asplundh. With fingers crossed and negotiating efforts at maximum effort, we hope to complete the negotiating process by late summer.

Wishing all IBEW members a safe and happy summer, a good Labor Day and a prosperous year. Be well and be safe.

Jeffrey C. Wimette, B.M./F.S.

## Bike, Car & Truck Show; 2017 Apprentice Graduation

L.U. 302 (i, rts & spa), MARTINEZ, CA — On June 1, our local had its 31st Annual Apprenticeship Completion Ceremony. We congratulate the 16 inside apprentice graduates who became journeymen, and the five sound and communications graduates who became installers. The graduates are: Michael Corpus, Nicole Capell, Eric Dahl, Ivan Elias, Michael Fields, Justin Flynt, Shane Granfors, Antonio Hernandez, Bryan Hicks, Oscar Iniguez, Samson Kearney, Sean Kelly, Michael Knott, Nicolas Lawry, Kristopher Marti, Ryan Moynihan, John O'Connor, Andre Picou, Jason Polt, Shaun Shahan and Don Wills.

The 3rd Annual Bike, Car & Truck Show on May 24 was a great success. We thank Show Chmn. Bryan Pridmore and all the participants, including: Terry Baldwin, Daryl Fly, Marty Viramontes, Richard Watley, Fred Spencer, Ed Loe, Mike Troxell, Todd Watson, Ryan Oxford, Zack Guess, Aaron Redford, Nik Pridmore, Chester Holm, Mr. & Mrs. Morrison, and Sharon Spare. And a big thank-you goes out to Young Workers Committee members Scott Morrison, Bryan Hicks and Steve Jelich for the fantastic BBQ before the local union meeting.

Tom Hansen, B.M./F.S.

## 2017 Graduation Ceremony

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH — Our 2017 Apprentice Graduation and awards ceremony was held June 2 at Today's Party Center. [Photo, pg. 14.]

Bus. Mgr. Michael Might presented opening remarks and the invocation was given by graduate Louis Oliver. We were honored to have as guest speaker Patrick Reardon, executive administrator of the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council, Dept. of Job & Family Services.

Diplomas and awards were presented by Apprenticeship Committee Chmn. Larry Thompson, Training Dir. Paul Zimmerman and Asst. Training Dir. Martin Helms. Closing remarks were given by Jason Walden, NECA executive director, North Central Ohio Chapter.

The graduates are: David Braswell, Julie Cass, Brian Cook, Robert Duplain, Chad Evans, Jeffery Grubbs, Mike Karl, Mark Lickert, Zachary Lindeman, Thomas Lingo, Paul Mason, Louis Oliver, Van Runyon and Benjamin Thompson.

The award for highest grade point average went to Julie Cass, with a 98.36 GPA. Graduates recognized for perfect attendance were: D. Braswell, B. Cook, M. Lick-



IBEW Local 300 members and management personnel from Burlington Electric Department, with Vermont Gov. Phil Scott (third from left) stand in recognition of "Electric Utility Lineworker Appreciation Day."

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## LOCAL LINES



Local 306 congratulates the local's newest journeyman wiremen, class of 2017 graduates.

ert, P. Mason, L. Oliver, V. Runyon and B. Thompson. Congratulations from Local 306 to all our graduates, and best wishes to our newest journeyman wiremen!

Lastly, it is with sadness that we report the passing of Bro. James McMillen, and retired Bros. Frank R. Davis, William Mallery and William Hose. We extend our condolences to their families and friends.

*Thomas Wright, P.S.*

## Steward Training

L.U. 340 (i,rt&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA — In late May, Int. Rep. Michael Meals provided steward training at our hall for three Local 340 stewards who work for BAE Systems Technology Solutions & Services Inc. at the Solid-State Phased Array Radar System (SSPARS) Site 2, PAVE PAWS. This national defense mission is located at Beale Air Force Base in Marysville, CA, and we have close to 40 Local 340 civilian technicians employed at that military site. These technicians provide direct operation and maintenance functional support in separate classifications. Negotiating a contract on a military site for civilians can be a real challenge, but I believe we are on the right path now with this steward training and the fact that Local 340 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Andrew Meredith, an excellent agent and organizer who is definitely comfortable with military lingo,

is now representing these hard-working members.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our neighboring IBEW locals that provided work to our members when jobs were scarce in our jurisdiction. However, now I am happy to report that the Sacramento work picture has vastly changed. As I write this article in late May, our referral books are heading into single digits and we are looking at a whole lot of future work for IBEW members in all classifications in our jurisdiction.

Rest in peace, Bros. Bruce Craighton, Richard Dobos and Andrew Mellmer.

*Robert D. Ward, B.M.*



Local 340 Bus. Mgr. Bob Ward (left) with BAE stewards Thor Campbell, George Gardner and Todd Welch.



Local 364 class of 2017 inside apprenticeship graduates with Bus. Mgr. Alan Golden (far right).

## 2017 Apprentice Graduates; Spring & Summer Events

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rt&spa) — ROCKFORD, IL — Congratulations to our newly topped out inside apprenticeship graduating class of 2017. The recent graduates are: Kerwin Randolph, Matt Leopold, Carl Kisling, Mike Kelly, D.J. Kampas, Eric Feuillerat and Tim Fair. (See photo above.) At the swing of the gavel at our May meeting, these new journeyman wiremen became the future of the IBEW. We wish them a safe and prosperous career.

On June 9, we held our graduation ceremony for our new journeyman wiremen. Attendees enjoyed a nice dinner followed by an awards presentation for our top apprentices.

On July 8, Local 364's summer picnic for our 100th year anniversary was a great success. Several hundred Local 364 members and their families attended. Rides and games for the kids were provided and everyone had a great time.

Our 16th annual IBEW Local 364 Golf Playday was July 22. Over 100 golfers attended. There was a grand prize trip to Vegas as well as a chance to win a Harley and a Jeep Cherokee along with other smaller prizes. This event keeps growing

and getting better each year. Proceeds from the event help fund Local 364's scholarship program for members' children attending college.

*Brad Williams, P.S.*

Day festivities.

This year's celebration was notably special due to events that transpired at the Memorial Day ceremonies. On Memorial Day weekend, the City of Waterbury and the Waterbury Veterans Committee honored deceased former Local 420 business manager Frank Cirillo, who was a U.S. Navy veteran, with a dedicated monument that will forever rest at the foot of the flagpole in recognition of his service to our community and our country.

Thank you once again to the IBEW 420 members, retirees and their family members who showed up and worked hard for this great cause.

*Joseph Malcarne, B.M./F.S.*

## 'The Big Bike Ride' — Fundraisers a Success

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — May 11 saw Local 530 compete again this year in The Big Bike Ride. This event is held yearly to raise monies for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Our team raised \$1,472.85.

Mother's Day weekend was busy again this year with our members selling carnations to support the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. We raised \$3,778.75. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time, and especially to Bro. Darren Vail, who spent many hours organizing the event.

After 20 years of service, our office administrator/dispatcher Sue Tracey has retired. A retirement celebration for her on June 1 at Stokes Bay Bar & Grill was well-attended.

Local 530 is saddened to report the recent passing of Bro. Bill Waybrant.

*Al Byers, P.S.*

## IBEW Volunteers for Veterans Memorial Park Event

L.U. 420 (u), WATERBURY, CT — On May 20 this year, IBEW Local 420 members once again participated in their annual "veterans clean up" project in preparation for Memorial Day ceremonies. Every year Local 420 members help get the park ready for Memorial



Annually, Local 420 members clean up an area park for Memorial Day events. A monument installed in 2017 honors late business manager Frank Cirillo Jr.

## Apprentice Graduation Banquet

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rt&spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL — Greetings, brothers and sisters. On Thursday, May 18, we celebrated the graduation of the Electrical Training Alliance apprenticeship class of 2017. [Photo, pg. 15.] This program is the first line of defense for the IBEW in an ever-changing and competitive market. This night was a reflection of the graduates' labors of the past, their accomplishments of the present, and their possibilities for the future. We are proud to announce that 36 wiremen and four linemen graduated. This class had some of the highest scores to date for their entire apprenticeship. There was basically a three-way tie for "Wireman of the Year," and we recognized all three: Tyler Skidmore, Matt Price and Michael Shedd. The "Lineman of the Year" was Chad Cabaniss, from Florence Electric Department.

We also had a great IBEW Local 558 Spring Picnic on May 6. This was possibly our largest crowd to date. We enjoyed a time of brotherhood and fellowship, as well as great food and door prizes. The cookoff winners were: for 1st Place in BBQ and ribs — William Crosswhite; 2nd Place BBQ — Brandon Slay; and 2nd Place ribs — Jonathon Ozborn.

# IBEW MERCHANDISE



### Motorcycle Licence Plate Frame \$6.00

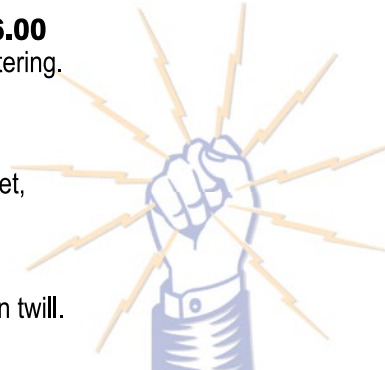
Chrome motorcycle frame with black IBEW lettering. Fits most standard tag sizes.

### Orange T-Shirt \$9.00

100% cotton orange t-shirt with left chest pocket, crew neck, and IBEW initials.

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Local 558 congratulates class of 2017 apprenticeship graduates.

We thank everyone for their assistance with this event and look forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary next year.

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

## Job Fair a Success; Class of 2017 Graduates

L.U. 640 (em,govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ — Greetings, brothers and sisters. We would like to congratulate our 2017 graduating class of apprentices, and welcome them as new journeyman wiremen.

Local 640 and Arizona Chapter NECA held a job fair recently with very positive results. We want to thank all our IBEW Seventh District "sister" locals and I.O. organizers who were an integral part of the success. We also thank NECA for its help hosting the event.

The work picture in our jurisdiction is very good and we expect it to "boom" for an extended period of time. Brothers and sisters who are heading West, stop by and sign our books.

*Tim Wilson, P.S.*

## Kudos to Graduates

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA — May 17 was the last day of class for the local's fifth-year apprentices. We commend the 2017 apprenticeship graduates on their success. [Photo at bottom, left.] Upon successfully completing their final test and obtaining the required training hours, they are now our newest journeyman wiremen. Congratulations, graduates, and best of luck. You will be proud journeymen of IBEW Local 654. Thanks again to all for your hard work and dedication to the trade. We look forward to your continued success.

*John Bondrowski, P.S.*

## 'Step Up & Share Knowledge'

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA — In the last couple of years, retirements have picked up as the economy improves and the baby boomers reach that age.

All these retiring members take knowledge with them, some of them vast knowledge. The burden of replacing this rich resource is and will continue to be ours. Step up on that next job when asked, or take a class to further your knowledge and always keep learning. Be sure to share your knowledge of the

trade and our Brotherhood with the apprentices. We market ourselves as the best electricians out there — let's make sure that is always true!

Congratulations and best wishes to recent retirees: Joseph L. Bradshaw, Bradford W. Bullock, Ivy S. Hill, Gary L. Lancaster, Douglas L. Meece, David J. Sorah and Phillip D. White.

*Charles Skelly, P.S.*

failed miserably due to fraudulent signatures, double signatures and nonexistent signees. The State Board of Canvassers determined that of the 390,000 signatures, 162,000 were invalid. Some 50,000 signatures were duplicates. We hope the company conducting the drive is equally inept as they were the last two times. If you see anyone gathering signatures, don't sign but call the union hall to let us know. We need to know where they are and when.

I hope this summer finds you well and gainfully employed. Work is slow right now, but sizable projects are in the planning and bidding stages. Many thanks to our sister locals for employing our members.

We regret to inform you of the deaths of retired Bros. Steven J. Swiercz and Henry C. Sage.

Have a safe and wonderful Labor Day. Maybe attend a parade or some other labor event.

See you at the union meetings.

*Mark Thompson, P.S.*

## Organizing Blitz at PSGC

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,ltt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL — With the assistance of the International Office, on May 17, 18 and 19, we house-called every Prairie State Generating Company (PSGC) worker during daylight hours to discuss the benefits of union representation. This power plant — a two-unit, 1,600-megawatt supercritical powerhouse that showcases the latest

in technology and efficiency for coal-fired power stations, and was union built with over 700 IBEW members on site during construction — is the only non-represented plant in the state of Illinois, and the local's jurisdiction. We gained a lot of valuable information and continue to hold weekly meetings for the interested employees to attend to discuss the benefits of being an IBEW Local 702 member.

We continue to strengthen and solidify our contracting relationships in Indiana, and were pleased to learn that Henkels & McCoy has been awarded some Underground Residential Distribution (URD) work on Vectren property, with the possibility of more work being allocated to H&M in the future.

All our members are invited to join us on Labor Day at the Du Quoin State Fair, where we will announce all eight winners in this year's Solidarity Drawing.

Our referral books are as follows: Inside Construction — 116, Outside Construction — 51, Line Clearance — 2.

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



Local 692 fifth-year apprentices kick off United Way food drive: Jason Clements (left), Ethan Rau, Kevin Shooltz, Ben McFarland, Michael Dzurka and Jim Hunt.

## Stand Up for Workers — Defend Prevailing Wage

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

Here we go again — the Republicans and their allies are once again starting a petition drive to repeal prevailing wage protections for state-funded projects.

Gov. Rick Snyder has vowed to veto the measure, but the anti-union Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) is attempting to go around the governor with another petition drive. The last two drives



Local 654 apprenticeship graduates Chris Schieler (left), Dan Kelly, Tim McLaverty, Jon Melone, Matt Slesicki and Dan Metzger, with instructor Mike Anderson (right).



Regional Organizing Coordinator Lynn Arwood briefs IBEW organizers from throughout the Midwest on house calling blitz protocol for Local 702's organizing drive at Prairie State Generating Company.

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## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

### www.ibew.org

Visit the official IBEW website for news about our members — including the online version of the Electrical Worker.

### YouTube

IBEW is partnering with the National Child ID program to offer DNA kits to IBEW members. See how it works at [Youtube.com/TheElectricalWorker](http://Youtube.com/TheElectricalWorker).

### Social Media

Join the conversation through our popular social media sites, Facebook and Twitter

[www.facebook.com/IBEWFB](http://www.facebook.com/IBEWFB)

<https://twitter.com/IBEW>

### HourPower

The linemen from Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 transport to their job sites by dangling from a 100-foot rope attached to a helicopter. Watch now on [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com).



### ElectricTV

The Penn State NECA chapter encourages students to pursue a career in electrical construction. Watch and learn more now on [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net).



## LOCAL LINES

### Annual Career Expo For High-School Students

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA — Local 704 wishes to congratulate two members on their recent retirement. Bro. Ron Heitzman retired in May after 44 years in the trade. Bro. Heitzman was press secretary for 24 years and served on the Executive Board for nine years. Bro. Bob Schmidt also retired in May, after 25 years in the trade. Members like these are what keep a union strong.

Local 704 recently participated in the Construction Industry Career Expo with other local construction trades. The two-day expo allowed over 300 area high-school students to perform hands-on activities and learn the benefits of being a union member.

In April, we honored the memory of 34 workers in Iowa who lost their lives in the workplace in the last year. City of Dubuque Mayor Roy Buol, Iowa state Rep. Abby Finkenauer (D-Dubuque), Iowa Federation of Labor Pres. Ken Sagar, and Local 704 Bus. Mgr. Tom Townsend spoke at the event. The ceremony ended with bagpipes, color guard, taps and the release of doves. Thank you to those who attended.

Local 704 is at full employment as of this writing and looking forward to a busy summer.

David Becker, P.S.



Local 704 journeymen Spencer Pins (at left, in white sweatshirt) and Charlie Sisler (center, in Local 704 sweatshirt) teach high school students proper pipe bending technique, at Construction Industry Career Expo.

### Apprentice Graduation Ceremony

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN — The Electrician Training Academy of Knoxville (ETAK) acknowledges 17 recent apprenticeship graduates, now Local 760 journeymen. All graduates passed the five levels of the National Electrical Certification Board (NECB) Craft Certification Exam.

Congratulations to the class of 2017 apprenticeship graduates: Jay Box, Jeremiah Chandler, Cole Coker, Jacob Daniels, Jeremy Dorsett, Colton Durham, Nathan Finley, Chadwick Freeman, Bradley Lowe, Ross MacBean, Jeremy Maples, Cassius Minefield, Alexander Reagan, James Reagan, Logan Worsham, Randall Wright and Kyle Wuellenweber.

At the graduation ceremony, NECA field representative Frank Piatt presented special remarks. Two representatives from Pellissippi State Community College presented certificates and noted that the graduates had earned 45 semester hours of credit toward an associate degree. Approximately 150 IBEW apprentice graduates from various locals are currently studying to complete a degree at PSCC.

IBEW 760 Bus. Mgr. Tim Tate and East Tennessee Chapter NECA Exec. Dir. Chase Pendergraft addressed attendees and presented a gift to the Outstanding Apprentice Award recipient, Randall Wright. Randall was also presented a meter from Ideal Industries and a quality power tool from Milwaukee Tool.

Congratulations to all on the success of the



IBEW Local 760 and the ETAK congratulate the class of 2017 apprenticeship graduates.

2017 apprenticeship graduating class.

Jason Leary, A.B.M./Organizer

### 2017 Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 934 (catv,i,o&u), KINGSPORT, TN — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

On behalf of Local 934, I would like to congratulate the 2017 inside wireman apprenticeship graduating class. [Photo, at bottom.] The recent graduates are: William Benton, Branden Hale, Dawn Hawkins, Marcus Noto, Shawn Snodgrass, Joshua Tolbert, Mathew Willison and Kevin Upp.

With their hard work and dedication, the graduates have shown that they possess the character necessary to join this great Brotherhood that our founding forefathers dreamed of and built. It has been a privilege to

get to know these fine men and women as they pursued their trade. We are proud that they have become such true craftsmen and ambassadors for the IBEW.

Jonathan Van Bremen, P.S.

### Officers Elected; Upcoming Volunteer Events

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ — The local would like to thank former treasurer Juanita Mata for her service to the local. Juanita decided not to seek another term as treasurer. She has been a tremendous asset to our team, and we wish her the very best



Local 934 apprenticeship graduates William Benton (left), Branden Hale, Dawn Hawkins, Marcus Noto, Shawn Snodgrass, Joshua Tolbert, Mathew Willison and Kevin Upp, with Training Dir. Jonathan Van Bremen (standing, far right).

in her future endeavors.

We also wish the very best to Ron Petersen, who retired after 50 years of service to the IBEW and Tucson Electric Power (TEP).

The Local 1116 election of officers took place in June this year.

Election results: Jacqueline Ehresman was elected treasurer, and Richard Maldonado was elected to the newly created Executive Board chairman position. There were no other changes to the local's leadership. Thank you to our Election Judge Josh Necas and the tellers, Alberta Adrian and Greg Skaggs, for volunteering their time to count ballots.

We indentured apprentices in: Line Construction, Substations, Design, and Heavy Equipment & Transport.

Our new IBEW "community volunteer" T-shirts are in, so contact Greg Carter if you'd like to get one. We'll be sponsoring some IBEW exclusive volunteer events in the future, so check the newsletter and website for details. Retirees are included!

Regular unit meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. The best way to find out what is going on is by attending a meeting. As always, we invite our members from Asplundh and TRICO to join us.

Sharon Williams, P.S.

### Annual Fall Gathering

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH — Local 1466 is proud to remind our members that our Annual Fall Gathering is coming up the last weekend in September.

This will, once again, be an event for the entire family! We will have free food, as well as door prizes and activities for families and children.

The gathering will be held at our union hall in Reynoldsburg. Please look for a flyer on your union board, as well as information on our Facebook group. A lot of planning has gone into this event, so we're hoping for another great turnout!

Hope to see you there!

Jimi Jette, P.S.



# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in June 2017

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Malugen, G.	5/27/17	41	Adelmann, C. F.	2/1/17	124	Stevens, C. L.	1/11/17	275	Church, J. L.	1/16/17	527	Williams, R. W.	4/16/17	1141	Bryan, A. R.	1/19/17
1	McNelly, J. A.	4/20/17	44	Hornick, A.	4/7/17	124	Thomann, R. C.	3/29/17	278	Jones, L. P.	3/30/17	532	Pope, J. V.	4/30/17	1186	Kamaura, M.	9/11/16
1	McWilliams, K. W.	5/22/17	44	Pitman, H. L.	5/3/17	124	Whiting, R. J.	5/10/17	292	Arm, D. A.	5/9/17	540	McCahill, H. L.	4/8/17	1186	Nakashima, G. K.	3/21/17
1	Reynolds, M. E.	5/11/17	44	Plunkett, T. W.	3/21/17	125	Belanger, D.	2/26/17	292	King, M. B.	4/22/17	551	Schultz, R. E.	1/30/17	1228	Linell, H. S.	3/13/17
2	Phelps, G. A.	4/4/17	46	Freund, D. A.	4/9/17	126	Lewis, J. C.	4/24/17	292	Zobava, J. E.	4/24/17	553	Sweeney, P. C.	4/20/17	1245	Horvath, J. J.	3/23/17
3	Aitken, N. G.	4/5/17	46	Hutton, E. G.	4/1/17	127	Falduto, J. R.	3/16/17	295	Boulard, J. D.	4/3/17	558	Kimbrough, D. G.	4/29/17	1245	Reger, B. T.	3/24/17
3	Alvarez, A. A.	4/15/17	46	Kalma, M. C.	5/8/17	130	Kiefer, S. B.	3/9/17	301	Bradshaw, W. R.	5/23/17	567	Drinkwater, L. I.	3/30/17	1253	Simmons, A. B.	3/19/17
3	Barkley, B.	4/10/17	46	Lemmon, C. J.	4/2/17	130	Schrieffer, R. E.	5/14/17	302	Keena, R. D.	5/4/17	568	Hilker, D. C.	3/28/17	1316	Dillaman, R. G.	4/16/16
3	Beaudrot, J. A.	4/18/17	46	Musgrave, O. A.	4/15/17	131	Fuller, R. D.	10/22/16	302	Winther, C. W.	2/4/17	568	Mercier, R.	2/3/17	1316	Holcomb, E. L.	4/6/17
3	Caputo, S.	5/12/17	46	Selby, E. P.	2/1/16	131	Verity, E. C.	7/9/14	303	Roach, P. V.	4/25/17	569	Dolmage, G. W.	4/15/17	1340	Fornwald, M. W.	3/11/17
3	Cassata, M. J.	4/21/17	47	Tenenbaum, J. M.	1/10/17	134	Battistella, P. A.	5/15/17	305	Cieslik, J. L.	2/13/17	569	Vorhies, R.	5/20/16	1392	Goddard, A. P.	5/7/17
3	Chovel, R. A.	4/16/17	48	Crane, B. C.	2/27/17	134	Billie, J. L.	5/2/17	306	McMillen, J. L.	4/30/17	574	Culver, D. E.	5/17/17	1393	Holland, M.	3/31/17
3	Cunningham, J. C.	3/10/17	48	Kolehmainen, H. W.	4/14/17	134	Bolger, J. W.	3/4/17	309	Houtz, D. W.	4/30/17	583	Matthews, A. B.	4/3/17	1426	Johnson, W. R.	2/12/17
3	Dicks, J. C.	1/23/17	48	Kraemer, C. C.	12/14/16	134	Broccardo, M.	5/5/17	313	Schiavoni, C. E.	4/29/17	584	Razor, C. E.	3/15/17	1426	Price, A. G.	11/1/16
3	Eich, J. R.	5/1/17	56	Kinney, M. D.	4/3/17	134	Bucci, A. J.	4/23/17	317	Williams, T. J.	2/2/17	586	Legault, F. R.	3/22/17	1426	Shulind, E. D.	4/19/17
3	Fain, H.	1/28/17	56	Mitulski, D. J.	4/6/17	134	Burke, R. K.	1/19/17	329	Bell, D. D.	3/1/17	595	Gianecchini, S. J.	5/1/17	1501	Hess, K. B.	3/19/17
3	Franjola, A.	4/12/17	57	Hinckley, T. J.	12/30/16	134	Claver, G. J.	5/23/17	332	McIntosh, C. P.	5/8/17	595	Vanlandingham, R. L.	4/11/17	1525	Hazledine, R. H.	2/11/17
3	Gardner, E. J.	4/14/17	57	Mike, A. G.	3/24/16	134	Ganszer, L. K.	4/18/17	332	Mulcahy, W. L.	5/29/11	601	Wonders, D. E.	4/14/17	1547	Bowles, B. I.	11/12/16
3	Hartt, R. A.	11/13/16	58	Barkiewicz, C. A.	4/9/17	134	Henrys, J. M.	4/14/17	332	Quijada, F.	4/1/16	606	Sconyers, W. D.	4/29/17	1547	Hanson, F. W.	4/16/17
3	Hecker, T.	4/30/17	58	Chelmicki, R. S.	4/18/17	134	Kountz, W.	3/14/17	332	Stoltenkamp, D. R.	5/1/17	606	Williams, J. E.	3/31/17	1547	Maier, H. E.	3/26/17
3	Ineson, W. T.	5/11/17	58	Dudek, D.	5/7/17	134	Lany, D. A.	4/12/17	332	von Dohlen, D. M.	4/13/17	611	Avery, R. W.	3/29/17	1547	Wright, L. D.	4/12/17
3	Intravaia, S. J.	4/24/17	58	Kredo, T. F.	5/8/17	134	Leonardo, D. F.	4/19/17	340	Craighton, B. E.	4/2/17	611	Brunner, E. W.	3/7/17	1579	James, D. L.	4/7/17
3	Kelly, G. A.	8/19/15	58	Munir, B. S.	4/20/17	134	Madej, R. P.	4/7/17	340	Dobos, R. A.	4/25/17	613	Beatenbough, J. E.	4/24/17	1579	Ponder, G. V.	5/17/17
3	Knudsen, T. A.	5/4/17	58	Rowe, R. V.	4/23/17	134	Magnuson, D. O.	5/3/17	340	Hepworth, T. E.	5/19/17	613	Hewatt, J. R.	4/6/17	1579	West, W. E.	4/28/17
3	Kurpakov, V.	4/8/17	58	Sagaert, R. C.	4/12/17	134	Maly, J. E.	5/16/17	340	Irvine, R. W.	2/23/17	613	Mathis, H. E.	1/27/17	1600	Bronokoski, M. R.	2/24/17
3	Limprecht, W. E.	4/13/17	58	Snow, W. C.	4/22/17	134	Matonik, I. J.	4/24/17	340	Mellmer, A. C.	4/23/17	613	Royal, W. J.	4/17/17	1650	Arnold, J. W.	4/14/17
3	Lombardi, M. G.	4/22/17	58	Zimberg, R. L.	2/20/17	134	Mayer, J. A.	4/14/17	340	Toney, R. T.	2/28/17	613	Sanders, J. M.	5/7/17	1687	St Pierre, H.	4/19/17
3	Mai, F. H.	5/13/17	66	Lisbony, W. C.	4/23/17	134	McDermott, T. E.	4/14/17	340	Waugh, G. A.	2/15/17	625	Crowell, W. A.	3/17/17	1925	Corley, C. R.	3/12/17
3	Mc Donough, J. C.	5/28/14	66	McDaniel, D. A.	4/6/17	134	Nowatski, R. D.	2/2/17	342	Cobb, D. C.	5/5/17	633	Aubrey, R. C.	12/11/16	1937	Fuller, D. E.	5/22/17
3	Patti, C.	4/19/17	66	Shafer, M. A.	1/22/17	134	Parker, A. W.	4/9/17	345	Dannelly, J. L.	10/22/16	640	Broeder, B.	5/8/17	2085	Kowal, E.	7/13/16
3	Pisano, F. J.	3/15/17	68	Correa, S. C.	3/13/17	134	Rosenstein, D.	4/4/17	347	Daughtrey, J. E.	4/30/17	640	Buchert, G. H.	4/28/17	2150	Cook, M. J.	3/30/17
3	Ross, E. C.	4/20/17	68	Hewins, J.	12/18/16	134	Slattery, K. J.	5/14/17	349	Olson, H. A.	3/10/17	640	Larson, D. E.	5/17/17	2150	Kind, S. R.	10/20/16
3	Safonte, T. J.	4/1/17	68	Shull, L. T.	4/7/17	134	St John, C. A.	5/16/17	350	Hoddy, D. W.	3/24/17	649	Bellovich, L. D.	3/18/17	2166	Munn, B. W.	3/31/17
3	Salamone, A.	4/13/17	68	White, R. T.	4/15/17	134	Vitullo, R. L.	5/9/17	351	Bullock, R. T.	3/3/17	654	Minnick, L. J.	5/14/17	2295	Chambers, J. V.	1/6/17
3	Tartaro, F. C.	5/6/17	70	Clark, J. R.	4/16/17	134	Willis, K. L.	5/5/17	351	Jobes, D. A.	5/8/17	659	DeGrandis, D. F.	4/18/17	I.O. (5)	Hintemeyer, L. J.	4/13/17
3	Thompson, P.	1/28/17	72	Kuehne, O. W.	4/20/17	134	Zenner, J.	5/15/17	351	Lins, F. K.	4/14/17	659	Watson, J. R.	4/17/17	I.O. (134)	Stocker, R. R.	2/14/17
3	Vanderwerff, A. J.	5/9/17	76	Addy, W. G.	5/20/17	134	Zielinski, D. J.	5/5/17	351	Scarpa, L.	3/14/17	665	Frese, P. E.	4/22/17	I.O. (747)	Solimene, R. J.	4/12/17
3	Welch, E. L.	3/7/17	76	Birkland, R. A.	5/12/17	139	Morton, P. F.	4/25/17	353	Bell, G. J.	3/14/17	665	Schulz, R. L.	4/27/17	I.O. (820)	Hanson, R. A.	9/26/16
5	Carroll, J. R.	4/14/17	77	Arney, K. O.	11/16/15	141	Armstrong, J. E.	4/26/17	353	Takano, T. T.	3/17/17	666	Currie, S. J.	5/20/17	I.O. (949)	Bussell, M. L.	4/15/17
5	Fry, K. V.	3/12/17	77	Cooper, R. R.	3/4/17	141	Valloric, C. S.	5/9/17	354	Green, H. L.	5/5/17	666	Ware, J. N.	4/23/17	I.O. (1134)	Emihl, W. A.	3/16/17
5	Hornberger, T. A.	3/22/17	77	Eggen, L. D.	5/20/17	143	Fackler, E. E.	3/7/17	354	Harris, J. P.	10/22/15	676	Justice, W. D.	4/23/17	I.O. (1379)	Logan, L. L.	3/2/17
5	Joe, L. W.	5/30/17	77	Sonstegaard, T. E.	5/5/17	143	Hockley, T. E.	4/12/17	354	Johnson, L. D.	5/5/17	676	Watson, R. D.	5/11/17	I.O. (1996)	Vernarsky, E.	3/9/17
5	Matz, D. E.	5/21/17	82	Coffey, T. G.	5/27/17	145	Fuller, G.	4/27/17	357	Montes, F.	4/29/17	682	Bennett, W. F.	2/8/17	Pens. (353)	Grant, R. G.	5/1/17
5	Myers, C.	12/30/09	82	Walters, F. M.	5/8/17	150	Bock, W.	4/19/17	357	Tawalbeh, W. A.	3/30/17	682	Heptinstall, R. A.	11/21/16	Pens. (637)	Materne, M. O.	5/19/17
7	Lafrennie, W. J.	1/16/17	86	Machia, J. D.	5/12/17	150	Smith, R. A.	11/27/16	364	Hesterberg, P. E.	4/15/17	682	Putnam, R. W.	5/6/17	Pens. (637)	Poff, D. T.	4/17/17
8	LaVoy, G. L.	5/15/17	90	Hale, L. F.	1/21/17	153	Weldy, P. D.	5/9/17	364	Shepardson, L. S.	1/21/17	683	Lang, W. E.	5/2/17	Pens. (637)	Sult, W. T.	3/25/17
9	Menke, F. F.	2/8/17	90	Lipp, F. J.	3/30/17	158	Brault, R. D.	3/12/17	369	Empson, R. B.	5/19/17	688	Goodson, E. T.	5/17/17	Pens. (840)	Maier, R. J.	4/30/17
9	Szatkowski, P. N.	5/7/17	95	Bequette, L. A.	4/20/17	159	Johnson, E. J.	5/15/17	369	Hildebrand, W. E.	4/15/17	692	Swiercz, S. J.	4/4/17	Pens. (1136)	Parks, G. A.	3/30/17
11	Camargo, L. E.	3/3/17	98	Bauer, H. J.	4/25/17	163	Soudas, H.	5/9/17	369	Love, J. G.	5/20/17	702	Garrison, H. L.	8/28/16	Pens. (1788)	Cassidy, R. J.	2/22/17
11	Garth, F. D.	10/27/16	98	Delviscio, A.	10/22/16	164	Dorn, W. C.	1/11/17	369	Marshall, E.	2/16/17	712	Allen, J. B.	3/14/17	Pens. (1788)	Mackowiak, S.	3/31/17
11	Hartin, R. T.	3/22/17	98	Detwiler, J. P.	4/8/17	164	Fredricks, R. E.	5/2/17	369	Williams, C. K.	3/17/17	712	Kerr, R. B.	5/7/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Ambrose, C. N.	4/4/17
11	Kane, J. P.	2/13/17	98	Ehrmann, F. D.	3/16/17	164	Johnson, D. A.	5/2/17	375	Burnhauser, J. D.	1/19/17	716	Butler, G. E.	5/4/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Armonda, P. R.	5/8/17
11	Lacy, H. C.	5/10/17	98	LaGreco, M. A.	4/21/17	164	O'Neill, D.	9/26/16	379	Gregory, A. L.	4/21/17	716	Kirtley, J. E.	6/7/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Arreola, S.	4/16/17
11	Sommerfeld, B. A.	4/13/17	98	Monica, S. C.	3/28/17	175	Anderson, R. T.	5/17/17	387	Farris, K. A.	4/22/17	725	Barbee, E. E.	5/6/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Blue, K. D.	3/2/17
11	Tseng, T.	3/26/17	98	Nichols, K.	2/21/17	175	Key, J. G.	4/23/17	387	Ramos, P.	11/21/16	728	Boswell, W. E.	4/28/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Collins, J. M.	4/26/17
11	Wellcome, K. R.	1/3/17	98	Randall, W. J.	5/5/17	191	Metz, J. M.	4/23/17	401	Champion, M. E.	5/1/17	728	Ferraz, A. E.	12/10/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Dearman, J. P.	1/27/17
11	Whitehead, B.	4/28/17	98	Scavone, L.	5/18/16	194	Boyd, M. E.	3/6/17	423	Kary, D. D.	3/13/17	728	Martin, J. D.	4/2/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Fitzgerald, F. R.	3/31/17
14	Hanson, E. E.	5/2/17	98	Taylor, D.	3/19/17	212	Fester, C. E.	4/6/17	424	Gamroth, P. D.	3/25/17	753	Young, E. L.	2/27/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Floyd, E.	3/13/17
16	Barnett, P. A.	4/17/17	99	Forward, R.	11/10/16	212	Holthaus, F. E.	3/7/17	428	Janzen, J. M.	3/22/17	760	Ballard, C. R.	5/11/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Forbes, L. R.	8/22/12
16	Vaught, F. M.	5/4/17	99	Simeone, A.	4/29/17	212	Peet, J. C.	4/17/17	428	Jones, D. L.	5/21/17	760	McCammon, W. C.	3/24/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Hicks, J. G.	4/13/17
17	Garlick, J. A.	11/13/16	102	Vergura, J. A.	4/5/17	212	Ruehl, R. D.	4/18/17	429	Adcock, S. R.	4/18/17	760	McClung, B. R.	4/13/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Johannsen, J. J.	5/3/17
17	Riley, R. D.	3/17/17	103	Connors, J. W.	3/29/17	212	Steagall, J. L.	3/22/17	440	Scheidemantel, J. D.	2/21/17	760	Moser, M. L.	1/1/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Johnson, K. F.	12/18/16
18	Noel, J. P.	12/7/16	103	Downing, W. J.	5/2/17	212	Tuttle, K. M.	4/10/17	446	Broom, B.	3/31/17	763	Gammell, D. F.	12/8/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Jonas, S.	4/20/17
20	Crutchfield, H. L.	5/16/17	103	Duoba, P. V.	3/13/17	213	Babcock, N. B.	3/22/17	446	Lambert, J. W.	4/18/17	769	Montanesi, A. T.	8/31/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Kinney, D. R.	2/18/17
20	Fowler, M. E.	2/14/17	103	Honeycutt, S. C.	3/27/17	213	Fedorchuk, E.	2/5/17	456	Dechert, R.	4/1/17	77					





International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

# The Possible Dream



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

One of the main reasons we watch sports is to see people strive for the impossible and reach it. In every moment, with commitment, hard work and belief in themselves, people can accomplish outcomes that everyone else says couldn't happen.

Maybe that is what inspired the newest members of Boston Local 1228 to launch their organizing drive in our cover story this issue. Their jobs are to bring the sights and sounds of Boston's sports teams — the Celtics, Patriots, Revolution, Bruins and Red Sox — to millions of fans in New England and the rest of the country.

And for as long as most of them can remember, even though Boston is one of the densest union cities in North America, these were nonunion, freelance jobs. Anyone who has worked that kind of job knows the drill: no benefits, the same work gets different rates for no reason, and getting hired was at the whim of the manager.

Except, in this case, when the technician was hired to work for a visiting team that had a contract with a union back home, they were required to pay the

Boston techs the union rate.

Which is to say, more.

Most of the techs were happy with the windfall and left it at that. But some were not. Some wanted to know why all jobs weren't union jobs. And the response was, basically, because it's impossible to change it.

So I want to draw some attention to the new members of Local 1228 for doing what other people said couldn't be done.

Because here is the secret: it never was impossible, it just wasn't easy. These weren't professional union organizers. They were nonunion rank and file workers who decided that they were worth more than they were getting and decided to do something about it. Now they've done it, from zero to 100 percent organized.

That is why I say it so frequently: every member of this Brotherhood has it in them to be an organizer. Every member has it in them to fight for their worth on the job. If you work in a right-to-work state, talk to the people who aren't members about why they should join. If you know nonunion wiremen and linemen, talk to them about the power of joining together in union. And if you know some nonunion broadcast technicians, slip them a copy of this story and help them achieve the not-so-impossible, too. ■

# GOP Health Fiasco

The labor movement was built on a few simple guiding principles.

Working people fare best when they join together. An honest day's work deserves a fair wage that allows a person to provide for his or her family. And people should be able to retire comfortably when the time comes, and have the coverage required to stay healthy and deal with life's unexpected illnesses without ending up in the poor house.

That's why it's so outrageous to me that Republicans in Congress have spent much of the summer working to take health care away from honest, working Americans.

First, Paul Ryan and the House passed a bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act and replace it with a system that would mean 23 million fewer people have coverage in 10 years' time. The bill would massively increase premiums on people in their 50s and 60s and endanger the Medicare system, all to fund a \$700 billion tax cut for the richest Americans.

The Senate bill, which was supposed to be an improvement, turned out to be just as bad for working people. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office predicted that bill would cut 22 million Americans from the health care rolls and give millionaires and billionaires an even bigger tax cut — almost \$1 trillion over the next decade. Neither bill does anything to repeal the disastrous Cadillac tax on hard-fought benefits.

Make no mistake. The Republican plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act has little to do with your health. It's about a gigantic giveaway to insurance companies, corporations and rich people, and they'll leave our working poor, our seniors and anyone with pre-existing medical conditions out in the cold.

In 2010, Democrats banned lifetime limits on insurance payouts — limits that meant a child born with serious medical conditions could exhaust his or her lifetime insurance expenses before they could even walk. The Republican plans bring those limits back.

If you're counting on Medicare to help with health care in retirement, good luck under the GOP plan. Experts predict the Medicare trust fund will get weaker, not stronger, if Republicans get their way.

Want to start a business of your own or retire early? If you're over 50, your premiums are going to skyrocket by thousands of dollars, costing as much as five times more than those for younger people.

Ordinary Americans can't afford the Republican health care plan. We won't stand by while politicians line the pockets of millionaires and billionaires at the expense of working people. Health care is too important.

I urge you to call your members of Congress and tell them to protect the Affordable Care Act, fixing it where it needs to be fixed, but leaving in place the protections for working-class Americans. Find your representatives at [www.whoismyrepresentative.com](http://www.whoismyrepresentative.com). ■



**Kenneth W. Cooper**  
International Secretary-Treasurer



## “LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

### A National Strike?

I am tired of reading the Electrical Worker where we, as union members, are told over and over how our rights as workers are constantly being trampled on by the Republican legislators not only in Congress, but in many states as well.

Here's a novel idea. Why don't ALL labor union leaders call for a one-day shutdown of our country? Think of Teamsters, construction unions, railway workers, airline pilots, food service workers etc., just to name a few, bringing this country to a halt. All this whining and hand-wringing is accomplishing nothing! The unions in Europe have the right idea in shutting down their countries and we see what strong unions they have.

Now I realize that this may not endear us to the public, but we are in a war for our very lives. Will there be collateral damage? Yes, but in any war it is necessary for the furtherance of ideals.

If you call yourselves union leaders, then lead and call for a nationwide strike to call attention to our plight as American workers. Stop crying and start fighting!

*Joe Bauer, Local 102 retiree  
Paterson, N.J.*

### Living the IBEW Objects

I now realize how different we are within the IBEW. Reading the Constitution of the IBEW should be enough to know how we should treat one another in this organization. Reading the Bible is enough to know how we should treat one another in our everyday lives.

Working together for the good of this organization, sharing knowledge, showing compassion when in need (the fifth object of the IBEW), giving back when asked and saying “thank you” when someone does for you or your local.

The eleventh object of the IBEW Constitution (elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members and their families in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship) is the most powerful of them. We must live it, want it bad enough, expect nothing less than the intentions of the forefathers who crafted these objects. We are humans and we will make mistakes. Accepting the judgment of others is particularly difficult when you are in a position of leadership. How can members carry forward and promote these objects with a sense of resolve when many are lacking knowledge and really care mostly about themselves? Let's stir up a sense of urgency.

*Jimmy Burk, Local 479 business manager  
Beaumont, Texas*

### Memorializing a TV Trailblazer

Joseph Michael Sokota, an award-winning cameraman for CBS Sports, who did pioneering studio work in the early days of broadcast television, died on April 15. The New York Local 1212 member died four days shy of his 90th birthday.

Sokota was hand-picked to be the lead cameraman for the Jackie Gleason Show by the CBS president in the 1960s. By then, Sokota, who spent 38 years at CBS, was a 10-year veteran of the medium.

“Oh, Joey, Joey, it's so good to see you!” Helen Hayes (known even then as “First Lady of the American Theatre”) would say as she walked onto a set.

His credits include shows starring Ingrid Bergman, Yul Brynner, Arthur Godfrey, Jason Robards and Orson Welles. He smoothly made the transition from black-and-white broadcasts to color technology: a first was “Cinderella” starring Julie Andrews.

Declining offers to move to film in Hollywood, Sokota won five Emmy awards for Outstanding Individual Achievement shooting for CBS Sports. Following race cars with his camera on the fourth turn of the Daytona 500, Sokota wore a crash helmet himself. His manned position was later replaced with a robotic camera because of the physical dangers working so close to the curve.

Sokota enlisted in the Army in 1945, spending many off-duty hours photographing scenes of architectural beauty amid the devastation in Europe from World War II.

Sokota was behind the camera at Cape Canaveral (called Cape Kennedy in the 1960s and early 1970s) for NASA launches. He covered political conventions and worked on CBS News programs, including “60 Minutes.”

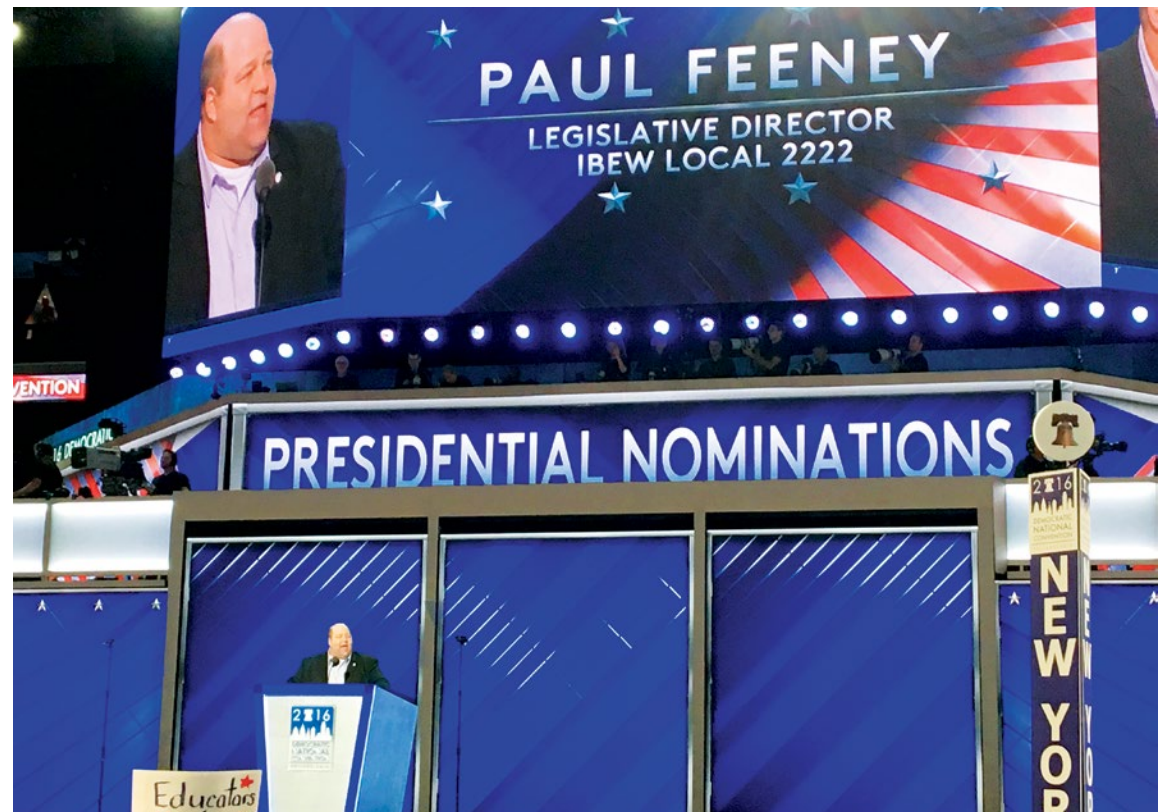
*Janice Sokota, Local 1212 member  
New York*



*Joseph Michael Sokota*

## WHO WE ARE

# IBEW Brother Aims for Higher Office in Massachusetts



*Paul Feeney addressing the Democratic National Convention in July 2016.*

**P**aul Feeney is a little surprised to be a candidate for the Massachusetts State Senate.

It's not that the Boston Local 2222 member isn't enthusiastic — he is, incredibly so — but running for state office this year wasn't part of the plan.

In July of last year, Feeney, 39, stood on stage at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia to second the nomination of Vermont senator and erstwhile presidential contender Bernie Sanders, and to urge the liberal icon's exuberant supporters to unite behind the party's nominee, Hillary Clinton.

Months prior, he'd walked the picket lines with his IBEW brothers and sisters working at Verizon, who were striking for fair wages and better treatment. And before that, he'd been on leave, running Sanders' presidential campaign in the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Having gone back to his day job as a central office technician at Verizon, 2017 was supposed to be a return to normal.

But around Easter, Feeney's phone started ringing. State Sen. Jim Timilty was planning to step down to take another job, and a special election would be held this fall to fill his seat.

“I was teaching a class at the Labor Guild School, run by the archdiocese of Boston,” Feeney said, “and state Rep. Paul Mark, [a member of Worcester, Mass., Local 2325], came to talk to the class about the importance of running for

office. The thing is, labor has a lot of friends in government, but there aren't many of us — actual union members — who've been elected to public office.

“So my wife and I talked about it, and I realized this opportunity is exactly what I've been talking about,” Feeney said. “I've always wanted to give back, and this state Senate opening is my chance.”

It's not the first time Feeney has run for office. He served as a selectman, the New England equivalent of a city councilor or county commissioner, for the town of Foxborough from 2007 to 2010. But running to represent his neighbors on Beacon Hill in Boston is of a different magnitude.

Back in 2005, Feeney worked for Timilty, taking a leave of absence from his day job to serve as the senator's chief of staff. “I know what the work entails,” he said, “It's a huge job and an enormous responsibility, but I'm ready to give it everything I've got.”

Local 2222 Business Manager Myles Calvey, who is also a member of the International Executive Council, says Feeney is exactly the kind of voice working people need in the State House. “Paul is a guy who gets things done, and he knows what it's like to work for a living,” he said. “He's a guy who understands the struggles real people go through, and that's a perspective that's not often represented in government.”

For now, Feeney is focused on collecting signatures from constituents of the Bristol and Norfolk district, located

about 20 miles southwest of Boston, to officially get himself on the ballot. He's also raising the significant amount of money he'll need to compete in both the primary and general elections, scheduled for Sept. 19 and Oct. 17.

His primary opponent, for now, is Ted Philips, a legislative aide to a local member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Feeney is taking the challenge seriously and sticking to talking about why he's running for the open seat.

“Our message is a simple one,” Feeney said. “I want to go to Boston to stand up for the middle- and working-class values that built this country. Working people want someone to fight for them, and I'm that guy.”

IBEW members and labor allies who want to help Feeney's campaign amplify that message can visit his website, [www.votefeeney.com](http://www.votefeeney.com).

He expects his many friends and volunteers from the Sanders campaign will be a large and motivated core of his election effort, but the labor community is already pitching in to help put one of their own in office. In May, Feeney was endorsed by three central labor councils in the district and he received the unanimous endorsement of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

“I can promise people one thing,” Feeney said. “Authenticity. I'm going to run as me — win or lose — and if I'm elected, I'm going to serve as me. In the meantime, I could use all the help I can get.” ■



# IBEW Members Power the Motor City's Renaissance



## Detroit locals are boosting the energy and optimism in Motown

IBEW members have been an integral part of the Motor City for more than 100 years, and now they're part of its resurgence.

Once a destination for music and good-paying jobs, Detroit had become more a symbol of urban blight than revitalization. Decades of flight to the suburbs and the decline of the domestic automotive industry left deep scars.

The Great Recession, which hit Michigan particularly hard, culminated in the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history in 2013. Windowless houses on long-neglected streets sold for less than the price of a new car.

But today, with bankruptcy in the rearview mirror, the city's long-awaited renaissance seems to finally be here.

"Optimism has never been higher," said Detroit Local 58 Business Manager Michael Richard. "It's a good time to be in Detroit."

At the heart of the revival is the District Detroit, a multibillion-dollar rebuilding of downtown Detroit encapsulating 50 blocks with six entertainment venues, residential and business space and, most notably, a new sports venue, the Little Caesars Arena, which will be home to the NHL's Red Wings and the NBA's Pistons. It will also include the largest residential development in more than 20 years.

"This has been a long time coming," said Sixth District International Vice President David J. Ruhmkorff. "A lot of our guys were unemployed for years. This is a great comeback story for the city and for our members."

With a price tag of nearly \$900 million, the arena is employing up to 400 Local 58 members, with more working on other projects including a new business school, apartments and the headquarters of the Little Caesars Global Resource Center.

Local 58 electricians at the arena, employed by Motor City Electric, are working on power supply and support systems within the facility, lighting, wireless and sound and communications. They're also wiring signs inside the arena. Close to 20 members will be employed permanently.

"If you're a skilled tradesperson, you're working right now," said Local 58 Business Representative Ric Preuss.

The arena will be finished by September, in time for the start of the 2017-18 NBA and NHL seasons.

### Excellence, Distinction

As members rebuild Detroit, they're also leading the way with the Code of Excellence, the IBEW's signature commitment to high-quality work and effective labor-management relationships. Detroit Local 17 members have all completed the utility training and Local 58 members are working under the Code — and getting the other trades on board, making the project one of the first in the country to have a Code of Distinction, a multi-trade pledge to provide the highest-level craftsmanship and professionalism.

"When you've got everybody moving in the same direction, it makes the jobsite more productive, and that's a

great marketing tool," said International Representative John Bzdawka. "The other trades understand just as we do that you're not just here for this job, you're also looking forward to the next."

Local 17 members have been making substantial upgrades to the area's grid to accommodate the increased load on the system, building a new substation and installing underground and overhead power and fiber optic cables. They're also working on a city-wide upgrade, which they'll be responsible for maintaining, and line clearance tree trimming.

Additionally, Local 17 members, working for Motor City Electric as well as DTE Energy, Asplundh Construction and Energy Group, are working on an extension of Interstate 94, which cuts through downtown.

"This [District Detroit] project is one of many we've been working on to repower Detroit," said Local 17 Business Manager Dean Bradley. "We're happy to be a part of our city's revitalization, just as we always have for the past 125 years."

Local 17's leadership of the Motor City's electrical modernization includes the replacement of almost 70,000 street lights.

### Powering the Next Chapter

The high-profile District Detroit project is bringing thousands of jobs back to the city, increasing membership for Local 58, which represents electrical, telecommunications, broadcast and manufacturing workers.



Photo credit: District Detroit

*Detroit is making a long-awaited comeback and Locals 17 and 58 are essential players in its success, powering new developments including the Little Caesars Arena, shown under construction, top, and in an artist's rendering.*

"It's producing a lot of excitement with our members," Preuss said. "A lot of them want to work on it because they know they're building a legacy."

While some members of Local 58 have been around long enough to remember construction of the historic Joe Louis Arena in 1979, predecessor to Little Caesars, others are cutting their teeth on the new landmark, part of an effort to get city residents back to work and ensure they're among the beneficiaries of the new development.

"I am so lucky to have this be my first project," said first-year apprentice and Detroit native Kanaan Pinkard. "I'm a sports fanatic too, so being able to build something like this, that's part of Detroit's history and that I can share with my family, it's incredible."

The District Detroit project requires that at least 51 percent of employees be local residents, which has spurred Local 58 to increase its outreach and recruitment for its apprenticeship program. Currently, nearly 15 percent of the local's more than 500 apprentices are city residents who applied in part for the project, said Jennifer Mefford, director of business development for the IBEW Local 58 South-

eastern Michigan NECA Labor Management Cooperation Committee.

Local 58 is part of the project's \$2.2 million investment in recruitment that included advertising and roughly 200 job fairs, one of which brought in second-year apprentice Voncaira Williams. She was working at a tool and die plant when she heard about the job fair and applied for Local 58's apprenticeship.

"A lot of my excitement comes from my daughter's excitement," Williams said. "She loves seeing what I do and when we drive by the site, she points and says, 'That's mommy's building.'"

A highly publicized project, District Detroit has become an advertisement for the skilled trades.

"More people are talking about the building trades as a career," Richard said. "More and more, it's becoming a part of policy discussions."

Indeed, IBEW members and their contributions seem to be experiencing their own renaissance, says Ruhmkorff.

"This is a huge boost for our brothers and sisters and it's well-deserved," Ruhmkorff said. "These locals are a part of the city and their success is Detroit's success." ■