Charter/Spectrum is doing just fine. The cable television company took in $29 billion in revenue in 2016 and the stock price has gone up about 70 percent during the last year. Yet it continues to make demands that would devastate about 1,800 members of New York Local 3, who have been on strike against the company since March 28. Charter/Spectrum refused to come to the table despite the entreaties of a federal mediator. It finally met with Local 3 negotiators on Aug. 7, the first negotiating session in more than 2½ months. It has ignored New York City political leaders, including Mayor Bill de Blasio, who called on the company to negotiate a fair contract.

“It's pretty draconian what they are trying to do,” said Kevin Curran, an international representative in the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Department. “If they want to attack everything you have, it seems the end game is to get rid of the union instead of getting concessions.”

Now, IBEW members around the country are helping out. They started handing out leaflets at Charter/Spectrum bill-pay centers in mid-July, letting customers know that while cable and internet rates go up, the company isn't sharing the profit with employees or consumers.

“Any pressure points that we can put on the company to get them back to the table is appreciated,” said Local 3 Business Manager Chris Erikson, who is also chairman of the International Executive Council. “I am sure they are feeling the heat. The public is becoming more aware of what Charter/Spectrum is actually doing.”

One pressure point may be coming from New York City officials. Many believe Charter/Spectrum is violating its franchise agreement with the city by bringing in workers from outside New York during the strike. The mayor's office has initiated an audit of the company. The agreement expires in 2020.

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Charter Turns its Back on Customers, Union Members

Curran said it’s always preferable to work with a company, noting the five-year contract agreement the IBEW reached with AT&T earlier this year with no public acrimony. But Charter/Spectrum is making that difficult.

“We would much rather be partners with companies we do business with, but IBEW members are battling a corporation that has little regard not just for its employees’ welfare, but also for the customers it serves,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. “That’s disheartening, but it’s a battle we can win.”

“All we are asking is to keep our benefits at what we have. … Without my union benefits, even visiting the doctor is out of the question.”

— Local 3 member Karega Bennett

The company was known nationally as Charter, but changed its name to Spectrum after merging with Bright House Networks and Time Warner Cable, New York City’s longtime cable franchise, last year. Industry consolidation continues, as published reports surfaced in August that a telecommunications conglomerate is weighing the purchase of Charter/Spectrum. Local 3 member Karega Bennett is a field technician for Charter/Spectrum. A U.S. Navy veteran, Bennett was hired by Time Warner in 2010. He remembers being known as the “kid who can fix anything” while growing up in Queens. He thought working with his hands would be perfect for him.

“It’s not a job for me,” Bennett said. “It’s a career. I truly enjoy it.”

But as the strike entered its fifth month, he’s wondering if he will have to get into negotiations, you find some common ground,” Curran said. “What they’re basically telling the local is ‘We’re not negotiating.’”

“Many employers start negotiations with crazy proposals, but when you get into negotiations, you find some common ground,” Curran said. “What they’re basically telling the local is ‘We’re not negotiating.’”

“Those are trying times for the Local 3 members on strike and their families, but this is about fairness and justice,” he said.

“This is a fight they must win not only for themselves, but for all union members fighting to protect the progress that we have attained and to hold onto the high benefits that we have earned.”

Bennett says one of the things he enjoys most is learning that a customer has contacted management to tell it how good a job he’s done. Charter/Spectrum probably needs more of that.

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 Charter/Spectrum CEO Tom Rutledge earned $98.5 million last year, making him highest paid CEO in the United States.

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organizing campaigns can be long and combative and leave scars on all sides. But it doesn’t have to be that way. Cincinnati Local 1347 Business Manager Andrew Kirk wanted some union-made T-shirts, walked into a shirt printer’s store in a local mall and, nine months later, had 14 new members with 30 more on the horizon, a happy owner and a signed first contract.

“They signed the contract and the next week they had a booth at the progress meeting. I just wish all companies were like them,” Kirk said.

Kirk needed T-shirts to give away at monthly meetings, an incentive for the local’s 900 members to show up. But everything he found online was made overseas. That didn’t sit right.

“We want that union bug, but we need made in America,” Kirk said. “We have a lot of older members and retirees in our local and they don’t mess around about that.”

He was walking around Eastgate Mall, and happened to see a store called Blackout Tees that had their own print shop. They weren’t union, but they were local, and Kirk explained what he wanted. And while he was there, he asked the employee if he’d ever thought about joining a union.

The worker called the company’s owner, Jamie Madden, to the front. Madden, a former member of the National Nurses Union, threw his support behind the organizing drive and next thing Kirk knew, Madden volunteered to join. A vote was held and passed June 21 and by the first of July, the new members ratified a first contract.

“Jamie wants to grow and he saw the structure that our contract provides — the grievance procedure, classifications, shifts and overtime — and he liked it,” Kirk said.

“It just went smooth after that.”

Kirk even said that the negotiations were an opportunity to share the union’s expertise on best practices in labor management with an eager, but new, entrepreneur.

“Scaling up is difficult, and we can help. We did help,” Kirk said. “We can establish shifts and classifications that can clear up how they can best organize themselves. Workers and production is something we understand and we are happy to share what we’ve learned so our employees succeed.”

Blackout tees is now waiting for its official union bug. It has a page of officially licensed IBEW themed T-shirts, available at ibewblackouttees.com.

And, most importantly, it has a new 20,000-square-foot warehouse and production space to expand into and plans to go from one shift to three, nearly tripling the workforce.

“he is making a big investment, and he knows the expectations we have for our workers,” Kirk said. “There is a right and day between union and nonunion quality. We bring a certain class to the field.”

Kirk has been through many organizing campaigns. But none like this.

“It was just one of those things,” Kirk said. “It’s like a fairy tale almost.”

Correction

The link to purchase additional kits from the National Child Identification Program is www.childidprogram.com/order-now. The URL printed in the August Issue of the Electrical Worker was incorrect.
Meeting at the Corner of Opportunity and Growth

D ave Fashbaugh’s jurisdiction is mostly rural, save for the influx of vacationers along Lake Michigan during the summer months.

He’s the business manager of Traverse City, Mich., Local 498, an area where organized labor’s roots aren’t nearly as deep as in and around Detroit, about a four-hour drive away. It’s a place where the recovery from the economic recession has come a little slower.

That’s why Fashbaugh asked to be included in Intersections, a program developed by the Business Development Department targeting local unions with opportunities to grow their market share. It helped Local 498 land a contract to build a Costco store — a job that likely would have gone to a nonunion contractor in the past.

“Our people still have bills to pay,” he said. “If I sit around waiting for two or more contractors of any size to bid on a project, I’m not going to get any members because they will hit the road and not come back.”

John Bzdawka, the Sixth District’s international representative for business development, said the IBEW learned the store would be built before most potential competitors did. That allowed him and Fashbaugh to get a meeting with Costco’s head of construction and introduce him to Local 498’s signatory contractors.

The Business Development Department staff examines construction trends within a jurisdiction and identifies potential opportunities. It provides a market analysis to determine what contractors have been most active during the last few years. They share the information with local business managers.

“Instead of taking a scattershot approach, how do we develop a plan to measure outcomes where everyone is moving in the same direction?” Business Development Department Director Ray Kasmark said.

Preference is given to locals where the “opportunity for growth is identified over the next 6-24 months” and “where a spirit of cooperation and innovation exists.”

“Get the work, get the people, grow the local,” Kasmark said. “The next challenge is how do you keep the business going.”

Albany, Ga., Local 535 ups its membership from 49 to more than 80 when it landed a contract to do some of the work on a Constellation biomass plant. Fifth District International Representative Bill Dover signed an agreement promising the IBEW would supply the workers, even while knowing Local 535’s signatory contractors.

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“Get the work, get the people, grow the local,” Kasmark said. “The next challenge is how do you keep the business going.”

Fashbaugh is now in search of more work. Potential opportunities are harder to spot in a largely rural area, especially for a business manager at a small local without a staff.

“I can’t spend a lot of time doing

### IBEW Fixer Saves Nonunion ‘Zoo’ at Tampa Manatee Preserve

The first grid-scale solar installation built by Tampa Electric Co. was supposed to be the opening chapter of the company’s green energy future. It all nearly fell apart because of one of the oldest stories there is: shoddy work by nonunion contractors.

“When I got there, it was a zoo,” said David Mulkey, a retired member of Chattanooga, Tenn., Local 721 who was called out to Tampa Electric’s Big Bend power station, which is already a nature reserve for endangered Florida manatees.

It was the obvious place to launch a green future because Big Bend is an industrial site, a nature reserve and a tourist beacon.

Since the fourth coal unit came online in the mid-’80s, hundreds of endangered Florida manatees — slow-moving herbivores that look like tuskless walruses — congregate in the discharge canal each winter, drawn by the warmed water flowing out of the plant and into Tampa Bay.

It is such a valuable resource for the endangered manatee that the canals have been a federal sanctuary since 2002. And with hundreds of the charismatic animals bobbing in the shadow of the smoke stacks come millions of visitors.

The electrical contractor for the job was Sachs Electric, a St. Louis-based signatory contractor with a national network of partners. But General Superintendent John McAtee said Sachs had not worked in Tampa since the 80s and needed a local partner to staff the job.

Signatory contractors have an easy way to find trustworthy partners: call the business manager of the nearest local.

Sachs had to tear up its work plan more than once.

“I made more money being an electrician than as an engineer and had to put up with less crap than if I’d gone into management,” Mulkey said. “I had the best of all worlds.”

Davis was the Tennessee Valley Authority’s emergency construction manager, brought in when money was burning and the finish date was a mirage on the horizon that never came closer. It should have been a management position but Mulkey told the TVA he would never leave the IBEW.

“ar I’m a very good electrician and had to put up with less crap than if I’d gone into management,” Mulkey said. “I had the best of all worlds.”

After retiring from TVA, he worked as an independent consultant. Then he retired from that, though he admits he isn’t very good at being retired yet.

TECO was watching Big Bend fail and called Mulkey. He agreed to come to Tampa, and look around the site.

“I was impressed with Electro Design,” he said. “But [the nonunion contractor]? You couldn’t even talk to those idiots. I’ve never seen such a circus.”

He made his home in the mechanical contractor’s office and “rode them.”

They staffed up and stopped hiring people off the street. They caught up and the 24-megawatt system was to be built at TECO’s iconic Big Bend generation station. The nearly 50-year-old power station has one natural gas and four coal burners. TECO plans to only build solar and natural gas in the future and Big Bend was its first step.

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Mulkey is now back in retirement.

“I hope TECO learned the lesson,” Mulkey said. “The IBEW, we had our [stuff] together.”

A 50-megawatt biomass facility owned by Constellation Energy under construction in Albany, Ga.

Meeting at the Corner of Opportunity and Growth

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Vancouver Pre-Apprentice Program Expands Access

In collaboration with the aboriginal community and the building trades, Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 213 led a pilot program to recruit and train aboriginal youth interested in pursuing a career as an electrician.

In many cases, aboriginal students aren't offered high enough levels of math, science and English to qualify for an apprenticeship. The Alternative Pathways to Electrical Careers program was designed to bridge that gap — and it graduated 14 students on June 29 in its inaugural class.

“We're showing the aboriginal community that we see the challenges they face and that we want to help,” said Local 213 Business Manager Adam Van Steinburg. “We don't want to turn anyone away because they didn't have the same level of access as someone else.”

The program began in January with individualized training from Skillplan Instructors. Skillplan is the training arm of the British Columbia Building Trades and it conducted an analysis of provincial math and science programs as compared to apprenticeship requirements. It then crafted a course designed to offer the necessary training to students who were essentially falling through the academic cracks in their school's curriculum.

“Our trade is very technical, the training is tough,” said Andy Cleven, training director of the Electrical Joint Training Committee. “The students really proved themselves. They worked incredibly hard.”

The program, funded by a grant from the Canadian government, includes eight weeks of preparatory work to get students on the same level in math and science, followed by a 15-week entry level course in electrical theory and practice.

Once the students have completed both components, they then move on to 10 weeks of paid, hands-on work with signatory contractors. Once that is complete, they can start their apprenticeship, joining Local 213's current group of 900 apprentices.

The graduates are currently working in marine, commercial, industrial and data sectors.

The students, who come from all areas of the province, responded well to the program, Cleven said. “What I learned in this course surpasses what I learned in post-secondary courses,” said student Kristy Jacobs. “The teachers really care about you. You're not just a number.”

Due to the success of the pilot, the program was given the OK for a second run, set to begin in October.

Some of the current contracts in British Columbia are on First Nations land and project labor agreements may require a certain number of aboriginal people. Cleven and Van Steinburg said that the main reason for conducting the outreach is to grow the trade and level the playing field.

“We're here for the industry, and for the people who are under-represented,” Cleven said.

Local 213 isn't alone in its outreach efforts. Locals in Newfoundland and Labrador have established a relationship with the Innu Nation.

The program was given the OK for a second run, set to begin in October.

Through the IBEW College, the Innu have access to resources including skills assessment, pre-apprenticeship training, career counseling and mentorship. The long-term goal is to eventually have a program run by the Innu, modeled on the IBEW’s, said Kelly Power, IBEW College training director.

“It's a legacy project,” Power said. “The Innu Nation will be by our side for every aspect. And we'll help bridge their relationships with other trades as well.”

IBEW’s, said Kelly Power, IBEW College training director.

Le programme de formation préparatoire à l’apprentissage élargit l’accès

Étudiant.e.s autochtones pour être admissibles à une carrière à titre d’électricien.e. Les étudiants provenant de toutes les régions de la province, ont bien assimilé le programme, mentionne Cleven. « Ce que j'ai appris dans ce cours sur-passe ce que j’ai appris dans les cours post-secondaires, », avoue l’étudiante Kristy Jacobs. « Les enseignants se soucient vraiment de toi. Tu n'es pas un numéro. »

Étant donné le succès du projet pilote, un feu vert a été donné pour mener un second tour, prévu commencé en octobre.

Certains contrats actuels en Colombie-Britannique sont sur les territoires des Premières Nations et certaines conventions collectives peuvent exiger l'emploi d'un certain nombre d'autochtones. Cleven et Van Steinburg informent que la raison principale qui mène à cette approche a pour but d’accroître le métier et d'égaliser les chances.

Nous sommes ici pour l'industrie, et pour les personnes qui sont sous représentées, » spécifie Cleven.

La section locale 213 n’est pas la seule dans cet effort de formation. Les sections locales à Terre-Neuve et au Labrador ont établi une relation avec la Nation Innu. À travers le collège de la FIOE, les Innu ont accès à des ressources telles qu’un bilan de compétences, une formation préparatoire à l’apprentissage, un service d'orientation professionnelle et d'encadrement. Le projet à long terme est d'avoir un programme dirigé par les Innu, selon le modèle de la FIOE, dit Kelly Power, la directrice du collège de la FIOE. « C'est un projet d'héritage », confie Power. « La Nation Innu sera à nos côtés, à tous les niveaux. Et nous allons les aider à tisser les liens avec d'autres métiers également. »

Cleven et Power ont été invités à parler à la conférence pour la formation du Conseil national des métiers de l’industrie électrique de cette année au sujet de leur programme respectif. Cette conférence annuelle réunit des professionnels dans l’ensemble du Canada pour partager les meilleures pratiques de formation et d'apprentissage. Le CNMEC est une association qui unit l'association canadienne des entrepreneurs électriciens de la FIOE Canada. « On se fait approcher par des enfants si passionnés de joindre les rangs de la FIOE, et on doit leur dire “ désolé, retourne sur les bancs d'école.” » Ceci n’aide pas. Et à ce moment qu’il travaille dans un environnement non syndiqué, renseigne Van Steinburg. « Il doit exister plus qu’un moyen d’avoir accès, plus qu’un moyen de donner à ces enfants accès à l’industrie de même que moi. C’est ce que le programme fait. Voilà comment procède la FIOE. »
New IBEW Newsletter Highlights Code of Excellence Values

The Code of Excellence is the backbone of everything the IBEW does. That importance is underscored with the launch of a new quarterly newsletter.

The IBEW SPARQ newsletter highlights one of the Code’s five values in each issue. They are Safety, Professionalism, Accountability, Relationships, and Quality.

The goal of the newsletter is to keep the Code of Excellence’s values at the forefront of everything IBEW members and officers do on the job. Each edition will have the same format, including a cover story that highlights the importance of the Code’s values, a section devoted to each branch of the IBEW, and a section that allows local unions to share their own Code of Excellence success stories.

Safety is the topic of the first issue, which is available at ibew.org. Look for the COE tab at the top of the homepage.

The Code of Excellence was introduced in 2008 in construction and other branches have implemented it since then. Every day, IBEW members demonstrate their commitment to excellence by showing up for work on time, respecting employer and customer rules, demonstrating zero tolerance for drug and alcohol abuse and exercising proper safety practices.

The Code backs up the idea that IBEW members are the best-trained and most skilled in the country. Its values make the IBEW the best choice for any job.

Delegates to the 39th International Convention last September passed a resolution calling for a renewed commitment to the Code of Excellence and for local unions to implement it with updated training materials. This newsletter is part of that initiative.

“We’re SPARQ,” they said, “we’re not only with our skills, we compete with our character,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said, “Choosing the IBEW is choosing to invest in the highest quality craftsmanship, and that is what SPARQ represents.”

Lobbying 101: How To Be an Agent for Change

A group of young IBEW members from New York held their first “lobby day” in Albany, meeting with their elected representatives and getting the chance to sway them on a current piece of legislation.

“They learned that their voices are powerful, and can make a difference. Change will happen if you want to make it happen, but you need to do the work,” said Third District International Representative Ellen Redmond.

The group included 21 members from 10 local unions. They discussed a bill that proposed mandating infrastructure projects in New York use American-made materials in the construction process.

The members met with Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan and New York State Senate labor committee chair Marisol Alcantara and others about the Buy American bill. State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento addressed the group about the importance of working members being politically active in the labor movement.

“Young members were able to see how difficult the process of creating and passing a bill is. They saw the effort that our state reps put forth in hopes of passing the bill,” said Timothy Daley, Syracuse, N.Y., Local 1249 organizer, who is also an elected official as a trustee of the village.

The bill passed the Senate and Assembly on June 20, less than a month after the group’s lobby day, which made the day memorable, said Third District Youth Caucus co-chair Chris Ellisson Jr.

“Members got to see that effective lobbying can make a change.”

In the Upper Peninsula, IBEW Local Leads the Way in Helping Others

About 310,000 people live in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, spread out over more than 16,000 square miles — making it geographically larger than nine states.

Outside of driving for several hours through three other states, one could reach the rest of Michigan only by air or ferry until 1957, when the five-mile Mackinac Bridge was opened.

Longtime residents say that fostered a spirit of looking out for each other. Upper Peninsula Local 906 Business Manager Tom Hogan, who headed off to Killbuck, Ohio, on a quest for whitetail deer. The episode, which originally aired on July 11, will be re-broadcast at 11 a.m. (Eastern) on Nov. 12.

You can also catch new shows, including two featuring IBEW members, this fall. Gainesville, Fla., Local 1205 member Shawn Graves will travel far north to Saskatchewan, Canada, to hunt bear and squeeze in some fishing action too. That show airs at 12 a.m. Oct. 8.

And watch Jonesboro, Ark., Local 1546 member Shawn Phares head to Florida to fish for tarpon and other saltwater species, at 1 a.m. on Oct. 22.

Active and retired union members can apply to be on the show by submitting the online application at http://union-sportsmen.org/brotherhood-outdoors.

To view episodes from past seasons, visit www.thesportsmanchannel.com/shows/brotherhood-outdoors.

RENEW/NextGen members from 10 New York locals meet with their elected representatives in Albany.

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To view episodes from past seasons, visit www.thesportsmanchannel.com/shows/brotherhood-outdoors.

Pope Francis: ‘There is No Good Society Without Good Unions’

Speaking to representatives from Italian organized labor, Pope Francis blessed the work of labor unions.

Pope Francis compared the work of unions to the biblical prophets and called on them to expand their “essential function” to all people.

“There is no good society without a good union,” he said in his June 28 address to a coalition of labor unions similar to the AFL-CIO.

The pope criticized capitalism for losing sight of “the social nature of the economy.” People need meaningful work, the pope said, to become fully human, but they also need rest. Denial of both opportunity and leisure were, he said, inhumane.

“Labor is the most common form of cooperation that humanity has generated in its history. Every day, millions of people cooperate simply by working,” he said. “But a person is not only formed by labor, because we are not always work and we must not work always.”

He particularly criticized child labor, endemic unemployment and the massive retirement packages handed out to CEOs.

“Children should be neither too poor nor too rich: golden pensions are no less an offense to labor than pensions that are too low, as they ensure that inequalities during the time of work become permanent,” he said.

As the pope spoke, unions across the world are facing headwinds. In the U.S., as in Europe, membership is shrinking — excluding, interestingly, Italy, where it has grown in the last five years.

The pope said organized labor had two major issues to “face and defeat if it is to continue to perform its essential role for the common good.”

One was to listen to a voice to those who have none, denounce those who would “sell the needy for a pair of sandals”, unmask the powerful who trample the rights of the most vulnerable workers, defend the cause of the foreigner, the least, the discarded.

Second, he called on labor to become advocates for people excluded from work, most especially the young, women and migrants.

“The union does not carry its essential function of social innovation if it watches over only those who are inside,” he said. “This must be done, but it is half of your work. Your vocation is also to protect those who do not yet have rights, those excluded from work who are also excluded from rights and democracy.”

{{iframe width="645" height="525" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/7huDcZ01Y00?rel=0&showinfo=0" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen="allowfullscreen"></iframe>"}}
Prime Minister Brian Mulroney appointed Michael J. Kwashnik to the position at the 1991 convention in Philadelphia before retiring in 1997. Woods accepted an administrative position in the district office in 1975 and was named administrative assistant to then-First District Vice President William Ladyman in 1976, servicing utility and manufacturing members in Ontario. Local 548 was amalgamated into Toronto Local 636 in 1977.

Derek Woods said his father was the consummate self-made man, "he did not have a mentor. He had to figure things out himself." Woods was survived by his wife, sons Derek, Greg and Kevin; daughter Colleen Davies; and eight grandchildren. The IBEW officers, members and staff extend their deepest sympathies to his family. **APPOINTED Michael J. Kwashnik**

Effective Aug. 1, International Representative Mike Kwashnik has been appointed director of the Council on Industrial Relations, Bylaws and Appeals Department, replacing Darrin Golden, who was promoted. Kwashnik grew up in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in the heart of union country, but joining the IBEW was never his plan. "My parents were middle-class people — my father managed a car lot and my mother was a nurse — and the schools pushed most students in the direction of college," he said. "So that's exactly what I did."

After graduating from King's College with a Bachelor of Science in business administration, Kwashnik landed a job with a nonunion construction firm doing estimating and running crews. But as crew sizes grew, he found it hard to find good people. Meanwhile, his younger brother, David, had completed an electrical training program and gone to work as a nonunion electrician at a large local firm. But David saw the benefits of union membership and worked to organize that company into Wilkes-Barre Local 163. "David started as a second-year in the apprenticeship program, and he started talking to me about everything the IBEW had to offer," Kwashnik said. "I didn't know much about unions, but I could see the IBEW had much more to offer me as a career path."

After completing his apprenticeship with Local 163, Kwashnik traveled for several years, chasing the booms, but after buying his first home, the bottom dropped out of the construction industry. "A bunch of us ran out of unemploy- ment and had to tap our annuity to make ends meet," he said. And that's when he began to get involved more actively with the local. "I wanted to do everything I could to prevent that kind of thing from happening to my brothers and sisters."

In 2004 he was elected treasurer of the local, and in 2006 he went on staff as a business agent. The next year he was appointed business agent, a job he held through several elections until 2005. "As business manager, Kwashnik flexed his political muscle, helping put allies into office and securing project labor agreements across the jurisdiction. He served as treasurer of the Luzerne County Democratic Party during that time. He was also a trailblazer in using alternative classifications to get work signatory contractors would have otherwise struggled to win. A 1.6-million-square-foot Lowe's distribution center in 2008 was one of the first projects in Pennsylvania to be built using new crew mixes. "You have to be aggressive," he said, "especially with developers who bring in the American workers, their practices and their culture to work on our projects."

"At the IBEW, I see the battles working people go through every day," Cavanaugh said. "No one represents us better than we can represent ourselves, and that's why I'm running special election," he said. "Someone gets cancer and the company wants to take away their health care because they've been out of work too long, or gets hurt on the job and their employer wants to reduce their benefits. I have a unique perspective that I can bring to the state Senate." Cavanaugh, 43, has been a state senator since 2007, representing 32,000 workers. "I'll join just nine other Democrats in the 25-member Senate, where Republicans hold the majority by four seats, but he says he's up to the challenge.

"We've been fighting for working people my whole life, only now I'll have a little bigger platform," he said.

"I'd love to see more of our members following Kevin's lead," Stephenson said. "No one represents us better than we can represent ourselves, and that's why I'm always encouraged when IBEW members step up to run for public office."

In neighboring Massachusetts, Boston Local 2222 brother Paul Feeney is also running in a state Senate special election, with his primary set for Sept. 19. Members who'd like to find out how they can help his effort are encouraged to visit his website, www.votefeeney.com.
**Local Lines**

**Henry Miller Museum Award; Celebration of Honorees**

L.U. 1 (as,c,e,e,em,es,et,fm,Unt,tt,ss,spa,sls,wi), ST. LOUIS, MO — On May 25, the Landmarks Association of St. Louis presented its 2017 Most Enhanced Award to the Henry Miller Museum.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of members from IBEW Locals 1 and 1439, the former residence of 1891 founder Henry Miller was completely reconstructed into the Henry Miller Museum, which honors the Brotherhood’s 10 founding fathers. Bro. Miller dedicated his life to organizing electrical workers.

The museum, a former brick boarding house, located at 2216 Martin Luther King Dr., includes an adjacent lot that features a Founders Park with 10 utility poles, each with a statue of a lineman to represent the 10 founding fathers. The museum opened its doors on Sept. 25, 2016.

The Landmarks Association award winners are selected based on: the difficulty of the project, the capacity of the project to have a transformational effect on the surrounding area, the historical or architectural significance of the building, and the project’s power to inspire.

And on Saturday, June 3, the Henry Miller Museum hosted an inspiring celebration to honor Local 1 former president Tommy George Sr. (who held office from 1998-2016) and former business representative Tim Murray (who was business rep from 2011-16).

Proclamations from the Missouri General Assembly were read honoring Bros. George and Murray, recognizing their milestones as Missouri citizens who distinguished themselves in their careers through dedication and professionalism. Bro. George was a journeyman wireman for over 40 years. Bro. Murray, a third-generation member, was a journeyman wireman for 36 years. Thank you, gentlemen, for your years of service to Local 1 and its members.

We mourn the death of several members: Andrew Barry III, Michael Reynolds, Glenn Smith, Christopher Hantak, Frank Intagliata, Robert Stoverock, Keith McWilliams, Michael Jorgovan, Mike Hasenbeck, Roger Grellner, Guffrie Malugen Jr., Stanley Huels, Kenneth Strumpfer, John Garasica, Leantis Little, Ronald Rueter, Vaughn Kirk, Danny Richardson, Donna Mae Brown, Harry Evans, Nearly, Paul Gibbas, Paul Schleeper, Frankie Speer and Richard Meyer.

**Scholarships Awarded**

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Local 15 Pres. Dean Apple is pleased to announce that our ninth annual Scholarship Award winners have been chosen. This year the local distributed twelve $1,000 scholarships. As usual, 10 scholarships were awarded from Local 15; one additional scholarship was made available from all Local 15 leadership and another was generously made available from retired member Ricky Johnson. The lucky recipients were selected by a committee of members who tirelessly evaluated the 80 applications received. Congratulations to all the winners.

Work continues to be strong because of the Exelon Infrastructure Modernization Act passed in Springfield. The Automated Meter Installation (AMI) program continues moving forward. Well over 3.3 million meters have been installed to date, and completion is planned for mid-2023. Nearly 95 percent of these installations were completed with Local 15 workers. Thanks to the AMI team for your commitment to the work.

Sam Studer, P.S.

**125th Anniversary Celebration**

L.U. 17 (ch,em,ctt,ctt,dl,pctt), DETROIT, MI — Our 125th Anniversary BBQ in June was nothing short of a complete blowout celebration. Local 17 decided to have a membership only event at the ball and in the north to reach as many members as possible. Approximately 1,500 members and retirees attended this momentous event. The membership enjoyed themselves immensely. We had entertainment by bagpipers, all you could eat BBQ and music, and a history presentation of our past. This was probably the biggest Local 17 gathering I’ve seen in my 28 years of membership. The air was thick with solidarity! It was truly one for the history books! I’d like to thank all those who helped make the celebration a great success. Thank you to our staff volunteers, the staff of Local 17, and everyone involved for their selfless donations and the tireless work it took to pull this off. Thank you to all.

Our work picture is outstanding, with open calls for linenmen and line clearance tree trimmers. DTE Energy wants to hire an additional 400 trimmers for the next several years. Please contact the local if you need more information.

Hope everyone had a happy Fourth of July. Please work safe. Demanding safe work practices from each other on the job is expected and supported by Local 17, DTE Energy, all our contractors and, most importantly, your family!

Dean Bradley, B.M./F.S.

**Contract Ratification**

L.U. 19 (u), AURORA, IL — On May 4 this year, the Local 19 membership ratified our recent contract with Nicor Gas. The term of the new agreement will be Local 19 worked to negotiate wage increases, relief in medical premiums, improve the short-term disability plan, and secure a defined pension plan for employees hired after 1998. Special thanks to our negotiating team: Bus. Mgr./Pres. Chris Harris, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Al Talkington, Vice Pres. Terry Haggerty, Bus. Rep. Mark Klinefelter and Bus. Rep. Andy Nacze. Accompanying this article is a photo (at left, center) taken at a Local 19 IBEW Lifesaving Award presentation. As reported in our “Local Lines” article published in the July 2017 issue of The Electrical Worker, four Local 19 members received a Lifesaving Award for saving the life of Bro. Thomas Smith, who was injured on the job. Life-saving Award recipients were: Ernie Garcia, James Sargent, Tim Erickson and Dale Vanderbough. To read the July 2017 article, “IBEW Lifesaving Award,” visit the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/articles/17ElectricWorker/EW1707/index.html.

Remember to stay active and involved, and attend your monthly meetings!

Natalia Guzman, Exec. Board

**2017 Apprenticeship Graduates**

L.U. 25 (atv,lt,rs,cs), LONG ISLAND, NY — Another year and another great class of electricians. We congratulate the class of 2017 apprenticeship graduates for all their hard work and many long hours of studying. They are our future, and we wish you all well. Please keep in touch with IBEW News Media Center and visit the www.ibew.org website to keep up with the upcoming apprenticeship graduates. We would also like to recognize Bro. Dennis Shea for challenging himself on June 4 this year to participate in the Steven Siller Tunnels to Towers Climb, an event held to honor the memory of New York police and firefighters who lost their lives on the job, and also to raise funds to benefit disabled veterans. Bro. Shea ran up 2,216 steps and 104 stories to the top of the Freedom Tower to raise $1,580 for the cause. Great job, Dennis!

Tom Lawless, P.S.,E-Board

**Trade Classifications**

**Local Lines**

**Notices**

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

L.U. 37 (em,ovk), FREDERICTON, CANADA — The New Brunswick Lineman Rodeo is an event IBEW Local 37 looks forward to supporting each year. On June 2, it was our pleasure to welcome all competitors, with members from both IBEW Locals 37 (New Brunswick Power) and 524 (Saint John Energy).

IBEW Linemen are some of the toughest, most dedicated and talented power line technicians (PLTs) working today. They’re committed to the IBEW Code of Excellence and its core values represented by SPARQ (Safety, Professionalism, Accountability, Relationships, and Quality). The rodeo gives them an opportunity to showcase this commitment alongside their pride and safety is never compromised.

Congratulations to the winning team from the journeyman event, which included Local 37 members from NB Power: Michael Thomas, Ryan Paul and Peter Scott as well as the writing apprentice, Ryan MacKasy, also from NB Power. In October, they’ll be traveling to compete at the International Lineman’s Rodeo in Bonner Springs, KS. We wish them all the best!

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

Class of 2017 Graduates; Officers Elected

L.U. 42 (em,es,gvtd,es2p), BUFFALO, NY — Local 42 held its election of officers on June 20. Elected were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Mike Gaiser, Pres. Matt Hilmy, Vice Pres. Shawn Creighton, Rec. Sec. Curtis Johnson, Treas. Marko Lopere; Executive Board members: Jim Chmura, Jim Devany, Matt Gaiser, Rick Guerra, Greg Inglut, Gino Matter, Ken Scheflin; and Examining Board members Brett Armstrong, Chris Bow, Juan Negron, Nick Peters and Aaron Rider. Thank you to all who ran and congratulations to all who were elected. Frank Goettelmann was our election judge again and did an outstanding job as always. Frank holds the highest standards when taking on any project and being election judge is no different. Thanks, Frank! On the ballot this November will be a question as to whether New York State should convene a Constitutional Convention. The New York State Constitution holds some of the strongest labor language in the country. The right to collectively bargain and prevailing wage are some of the items in the Constitution that we hold dear. A no vote on this referendum will be the choice we recommend. There are many entities who want to diminish what labor and working people have achieved. Please vote no on the Constitutional Convention.

Congratulations to our newest journeywoman and journeyman on their graduation. Graduates, you have graduated from our apprenticeship, but do not let your learning cease. Our trade is always evolving, and continuing education will enable you to become a better, more valuable journeyperson. Congratulations again to all!

Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.

Golf Scholarship Outing

L.U. 51 (catv,uctc,ptc,rtb,lu4w), SPRINGFIELD, IL — At this writing, the Illinois General Assembly had concluded their regular spring session for the third year in a row without a state budget. Gov. Bruce Rauner continues to hold the budget hostage over his “reform” items; these items are aimed directly at organized labor. Please attend your unit meetings and stay informed. [Editor’s Note: After 736 days, Illinois finally passed a budget on July 6 this year, over the veto of Gov. Bruce Rauner.]

On June 3, the local held our annual golf scholarship outing. Twenty-five teams participated, and 12 $500 scholarships were given by random draw. Scholarship winners: Ranae Spannagel (daughter of Jim Spannagel), Brittney Lewis (stepdaughter of Tony Himmell), Kaitlyn Neison (daughter of Kendra Kittner), Mackenzie Wilson (daughter of Randy Wilson), Isabelia Chandler (daughter of Stracy Chandler), Candice Feldmann (wife of Dustin Feldmann), Erin Wildman (daughter of Mike Wildman), Alex Harrison (son of Doug Harrison), Morgan Calvert (daughter of Molly Calvert), Alyssa Rook (daughter of Mike Rook), Landon Thomas (son of Rick Thomas), and Aubrey Testa (daughter of Brian Testa). A special shout-out to our “Dead Last” trophy winners: Jason Trower, Chet Utterback, Bryce Hayes and Tyler VanVleet. Thank you to all the sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers.

Mitch Smith, P.S.

Salute to Recently Retired Business Manager Schraeder

L.U. 81 (il, SROANTAN, PA — On March 21 this year, Local 81’s officers and members presented then-Bus. Mgr. Richard Schraeder with a plaque commemorating his last unit meeting as business manager. Rick retired March 31, after 48 years as a member of Local 81. He has been an officer for 35 years and served the last five years as business manager. Rick was instrumental in getting the new Jessup Powerhouse built. It is a 5.2 billion-gallon powerhouse (5,000 megawatts). He attended numerous meetings leading up to the start of the project. Rick’s main goal was getting all of his members out to work and treating everyone fairly. At this writing, we only have 10 members seeking work, with the outlook for the summer being very good.

Local 81 wishes Rick the best of luck on his retirement and many more years of good health.

Mike Brust, P.S.

Mobilization & Solidarity

L.U. 89 (catyv,mlctt,ovt), SEATTLE, WA — At a mobilization event on Saturday, May 13, nearly 100 IBEW Local 89 members along with family and friends gathered across two states, dressed in red and holding signs, as a show of solidarity to Frontier Communications.

After six weeks of tense bargaining, the negotiators at the Western Digital Corp. negotiated a three-year contract with wage increases of 3.5 percent the first year, 3.5 percent the second year, and 3 percent the third year. The new contract, which goes into effect May 1, is expected to save the company about $7 million annually.

The union, which represents about 2,600 workers at the company’s headquarters in Richfield, Minn., said the contract also includes increased benefits, including higher health insurance contributions from the company and a new profit-sharing plan.

The union said the contract also includes increased benefits, including higher health insurance contributions from the company and a new profit-sharing plan.

O’Rourke were among our guest speakers.

Upcoming is our 14th Annual Brotherhood Motorcycle Run on Sept. 23. The Local 47 Members’ Memorial Golf Tournament was July 22, and Local 47 picnic was Aug. 12. Thanks to all who participated.

We are saddened to report the death of members Kent Davis, Rick Harris, Ronald Flores, Gerry Kirby and Gary Goring. Condolences and prayers go out to their loved ones.

Live safe, live well — work IBEW!

Mitch Smith, P.S.

Election of Officers; Contract Ratifications


The Local 53 membership recently ratified contracts with several companies, as listed below.

• Associated Electric Cooperative — a four-year contract with wage increases of 3 percent for each consecutive year of the contract.

• WDAF-TV/Tribune — a three-year contract with wage increases of 3.5 percent, 3 percent, and 3 percent.

• WSAT-FI/Tribune — a three-year contract with wage increases of 3.5 percent, 2 percent, and 2 percent.

• New Mac Electrical Cooperative, Nenomo, MO — a five-year contract with wage increases of 3.5 percent the first year, 3.5 percent the second year, and 3 percent for each of the following three years.

• Manchester Electric Coop, Manchester, IA — a three-year contract with wage increases of 3.5 percent, 2 percent, and 2 percent.

• WDSAT-FI/Tribune — a three-year contract with wage increases of 3.5 percent, 2 percent, and 2 percent.

Local 53 Rep. Chad McGregor helped negotiate the contract with:

• Southwest Electric Coop — a four-year contract with wage increases of 3 percent for each consecutive year of the contract.

Alyssa Rook (daughter of Mike Rook), Landon Thomas (son of Rick Thomas), and Aubrey Testa (daughter of Brian Testa). A special shout-out to our “Dead Last” trophy winners: Jason Trower, Chet Utterback, Bryce Hayes and Tyler VanVleet. Thank you to all the sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers.

Karinee Knixley, B.R.
The month of July brings the Local 111 tradition of honoring our yearly Vince Perry Ellis Scholarship winners; 103 members, including many first-time voters, rights. Antonellis ran on a detailed 20-point plan for our community for his tireless efforts on the frontline with his fellow Local 103 members and the broader labor movement. For 18 years, he has shown of support from the public was a simple reminder that IBEW is part of our local community, but the message to the company was much stronger.

Local 98 members continue to stand together in solidarity!

Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 103 (csbk), BOSTON, MA — The membership of Local 103 overwhelmingly elected Lou Antonellis as business manager on May 6.

Bus. Mgr. Antonellis has been a member of IBEW Local 103 for 27 years. For 18 years, he has served as an officer of the union, including 13 as a business agent and the last three years as the local union’s president. Antonellis has been recognized by his fellow Local 103 members and the broader labor community for his tireless efforts on the frontline fighting for decent wages, benefits and workers’ rights. Antonellis ran on a detailed 20-point plan for the local’s future that outlined key areas for union growth and a variety of concrete initiatives.

The May election saw the biggest turnout in Local 103’s 117-year history. Over 56 percent of Local 103 members, including many first-time voters, turned out to usher in an entirely new leadership team to be led by Bus. Mgr. Antonellis, Vice Pres. Frank Aikens and myself, Pres. Robert Sheehan Jr.

Congratulations to Lou and all newly elected officers of Local 103! (Photo at bottom, left)

Robert S. Sheehan Jr., Pres.

Scholarship Award Winners; IBEW Service Pin Honoraries

L.U. 111 (ems,em,lomobo), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — June 10 saw the local hosting its operating Service Pin Dinner and, attendance was great. A total of over 1,200 years of service combined set a new record for us. Thanks to all the members, active and retired, for their dedication to the IBEW. Attendees enjoyed the dinner and the camaraderie.

And on June 24 the local hosted its annual picnic at Wonderland Ranch. It was nice to see all the families having such a good time.

I cannot say enough about the importance of safety. Safety issues affect everyone, not just you, the worker. Loss of time on the job, or even worse loss of life, is devastating to families. Our contractors are hurt too if there are safety lapses, having to pay high premiums to our insurance carriers. The mission of the IBEW is to secure more work and be certain to do the work safely. We are all professionals and, as IBEW members, we are held to a higher standard so we can secure more work and be certain to come home at night to our loved ones.

Bob Putnam, P.S.

Importance of Safety; Service Pin Dinner & Picnic

L.U. 113 (ees,em,lmobso), BLOOMINGTON, IN — Local 113 recently held its election of officers. The line clearance tree trimmers recently held their annual picnic at Legacy Emanuel. This year, $48,000 was raised.

A special thank-you to Gene for his willingness to keep the event going. Bill Quimby, Gene Daily, and Michael Zullo.

Thanks to all the members who voted and all candidates who ran for office — you do make a difference.


As part of our Community Involvement Program, our local union awarded two scholarships to graduating high-school seniors: Jared Anderson (Lynnwood High School), and Savannah Zullo (Anacortes High School). Savannah is the daughter of IBEW 93 member Michael Zullo.

We wish both students much success in their studies. Please look for upcoming notices for our fall and winter events soon.

Bill Minard, P.S.

Work Picture Picking Up; Officers Elected

L.U. 193 (lctt,cttv,rtb,spaku), SPRINGFIELD, IL — It is nice to work on picking up here in Local 193. We won’t be getting to Book 2 anytime soon though, as the State of Illinois is quickly closing in on its last budget without a budget, at the time of this writing. The medical district, the schools and the prevailing wage projects have all suffered because of this. (Editor’s Note: After 736 days, Illinois finally passed a budget, on July 6 this year, over the veto of Gov. Bruce Rauner.)


Former business manager Glenn Baugh and former assistant business manager Paul Moore retired at the end of their terms. Glenn has served the local for 18 years, 12 of which were as organizer and for the last six years as business manager. Paul served as the assistant business manager for over 10 years. We thank them for their service and wish them a long and happy retirement.

The line clearance tree trimmers recently held their periodic safety meeting here at the Local 193 Union Hall. Among those in attendance were: Paul Partiscile, Bill Jones, AJ, Coontz, Tim Gardner, Chris Norvell, Robert McKenzie and Dave Mathews. After the meeting, they talked about their new jobs.

Our sympathies go out to the families of recently deceased members Henry Morgan, Carl Iannacci and William Smith. Work smart and be safe. Attend your union meetings.

Matt Peterson, B.R.

Labor Day Parade; Election of Officers

L.U. 397 (ems), BLOOMINGTON, IL — We are proud to announce our latest JATC apprenticeship graduates for 2017. Congratulations to: Fernando Daily, Ryan McCoy, Brian Stufflebeam and Eric Tagliati.

We look forward to these fine brothers advancing their careers and becoming more involved in the local union. Completing the apprenticeship is no easy task and it opens up the path to a great career. Too often we take for granted the opportunity we have.

Recently our local held its election of officers. Congratulations to: Bus. Mgr. Rich Veitengruber, Vice Pres. Mike Raikes, Vice Pres. Jake Goar, Rec. Sec. Bernie Uzieciuski, Teas. Stephanie Ashenbrenner, and Executive Board members Matt Allen, Keith Ashenbrenner, Shawn Dehavens, Jake Knoblauch, Tom Peasley, Greg Potter and Matt Strupp. We look forward to working with these leaders for the next three years. Thank you to election judge Matt Wall, and election tellers Greg Geshwillim and Scott Schunka, for performing their duties to properly conduct the election.

Labor Day is fast approaching. Everyone is invited and encouraged to walk in the Labor Day Parade. Line up at Front and Center streets at 9:30 a.m.; the parade kicks off at 10 a.m. After the parade, the IBEW will be held at the union hall. There will be games for the kids, a Cornhole tournament, good food and cold drinks. Remember to get involved in the local and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, Pres.
**LOCAL LINES**

**Welcome to New Members; Renewable Energy Projects**

L.U. 223 (em,govt), BROCKTON, MA — Congratulations to all the newly elected officers, who have now been in office for the past few months.

The work ahead for us as a local is going to be a challenge but will be rewarding in the end for all the members.

We have been successful in bringing in new members and would like to welcome them all into the local union.

We hope that by the time this article is published we will have a decision concerning the Mashpee Wampanoag Resort Casino project and that project will be on a construction fast track.

All the solar projects that we have completed this year has helped us forget the closing of Brayton Point Nuclear Plant and allow us to look toward the future this year help us forget the closing of Brayton Point Nuclear Plant and allow us to look toward the future.

**Officers Elected; Upcoming September Events**

L.U. 309 (lctt,mt,o,rt,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL — Local 309 held its election of officers on June 5. The installation of officers took place at the regular meeting on July 10.


Thank you to outgoing president Chris Burns, who served three terms. Chris has been an active member for many years and will continue to be an asset to this local.

Local 309 is wrapping up a sizable project at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in O’Fallon, IL. This project was worked under a project labor agreement. Many man-hours were captured on this project.

As of this writing, Ameren negotiations are continuing with locals 51, 649 and 702.

Our annual Party at The Park is Sept. 19 this year, and the local’s golf outing will be Sept. 22.

Work safe and see you at the next union meeting.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

**Kudos to Local Scholars; ‘Activism is Key to Strength’**


Republican administration has cited The Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. It is a law to prevent local wage standards from being undercut on federal construction projects by low bidders importing cheap labor as a cost-cutting measure. It is important to note that the co-sponsors of the Davis Bacon Act of 1931 — then-Sen. James Davis and then-Rep. Robert Bacon — were both Republicans.

“The Union Workers Bible” poses the following question: “What is a union’s greatest weakness?” Answer: “The indifference of its members to their own affairs.” Knowledge and activism will move our IBEW forward.

Keep America beautiful, buy “Made In the USA.”

**Spirit of Volunteerism**

L.U. 347 (em,lmt,ltb,rt&spa), DES MOINES, IA — Local 347 encourages a culture of volunteerism. The spirit of volunteerism is apparent in our apprenticeship program. The apprentices are required to be of service to our community to the extent of 15 hours a year.

One such volunteer project came about as a result of our IATC acquiring a new building for journeymen wireman and apprentice training. The previous owner had laboratory stations in the building, which they left when they moved out.

Steve Hansen, director of training, found that a rural high school in Iowa had a need for that very equipment. So, on June 10, several IBEW Local 347 journeymen and a few apprentices, joined by some volunteer plumbers from UA Local 33, loaded the equipment and moved and installed it at Twin Cedars High School near Bussey, Iowa.

This kind of interaction with the community is always a plus for everyone; the high school gets new equipment, the apprentices fulfill their requirements, and the journeymen have the opportunity to show a community what brotherhood in organized labor is all about.

Work continues to be plentiful in the local. Have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

**Local 343 Bus. Mgr. Chad Katzung (for right) congratulates scholarship winners:**

**Picnic at Parkside Pavilion; Children’s Oncology ‘Tree’**

L.U. 375 (lctt,sb,al), ALLENTOWN, PA — Local 375 would like to congratulate this year’s graduating apprenticeship class. They have proven to be exemplary in their academics as well as their work ethic. The members, staff and officers wish them well as they continue their careers as journeymen.

On Saturday, May 27, the brothers and sisters of Local 375 gathered with their families for the Annual Picnic at Dorney Park. The newly built Parkside Pavilion, which employed our members in its construction, became a hub of activity throughout the day. This year’s attendance of 600 afforded everyone the opportunity to build stronger bonds as a local and a family.

In addition, we wish to acknowledge the members who worked on the Children’s Oncology Suite at Lehigh Valley Health Network. This project will provide vital diagnostics and treatment of childhood cancer within the Lehigh Valley region. However not all treatment begins with medicine and in this instance it begins just through the entrance. The members worked on construction of a “tree” within the suite that welcomes and comforts children who arrive for their appointments. Built into the canopy are lights formed into the shapes of constellations. This stars-in-the-tree effect provides for the perfect sense of awe as these children enter the suite. As a local we are proud to have a hand in the battle against this devastating disease.

Christopher Kaufman, B.R.

**Membership on the Rise; Nuclear Plant Legislation**

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,tlb)TOLEDO, OH — Our local union membership is on the rise. During our May and June union meetings, 25 new members were sworn in. The accompanying photo shows Pres. Ray Zychowicz swearing in 18 new members at our June meeting.

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**Officers Elected; Upcoming September Events**

L.U. 309 (lctt,mt,o,rt,ti,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL — Local 309 held its election of officers on June 5. The installation of officers took place at the regular meeting on July 10.


Thank you to outgoing president Chris Burns, who served three terms. Chris has been an active member for many years and will continue to be an asset to this local.

Local 309 is wrapping up a sizable project at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in O’Fallon, IL. This project was worked under a project labor agreement. Many man-hours were captured on this project.

As of this writing, Ameren negotiations are continuing with locals 51, 649 and 702.

Our annual Party at The Park is Sept. 9 this year, and the local’s golf outing will be Sept. 22.

Work safe and see you at the next union meeting.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.
Foreman Development Series Class of 2017 Graduates

L.U. 459 (L,0,rtb), CHARLOTTE, NC — Work continues at a robust pace in Charlotte, NC, and is picking up in Greenville, SC, as well. New jobs in Greenville are a direct result of efforts by Asst. Bus. Agent Edgar Brown, who has been working tirelessly to attract union contractors to bid work in that city.

Education continues to be a focus to grow our local. We are proud to have graduated our first two Foreman Development Series classes. We had a fantastic graduation ceremony in May for the 21 members who completed the Core Series and the eight who completed the Advanced Series, which includes 16 modules. IBEW Tenth District Int. Vice Pres. Brent E. Hall and Int. Reps. Benny Hunnicutt and David Hoque spoke to the graduating class. Everyone brought their families and we enjoyed a barbecue dinner together before the ceremony. It was a great event and a proud moment for the local.

Local 379 Foreman Development Series class of 2017 graduates are as follows: Core graduates — Shannon Farley, Reginald Galling, Brian Hutchins, Doug McDaniel, Gilbert McIntyre, Mike Ryan, Michael Owenby, Michael McCann, Roman Hinjosa, Terry Lettle, Patrick Currence, Joe Fedourich, Christian Ramsey, Barry Baker, Dustin Pollitt, Jason George, Jeffery Neu, Russ Clowers, Tom Newcomb, Stacey Ballard, Stacey Lambert and George Fredere; Advanced graduates — Shannon Farley, Doug McDaniel, Gilbert McIntyre, Mike Ryan, Roman Hinjosa, Patrick Currence, Dustin Pollitt and Stacey Ballard.

We are now also teaching the FDS in our Greenville office and have just sent two additional members to be trained as instructors so we can offer it in our Hickory office also.

In June, we had our Annual Spring Picnic, which was well-attended by members and retirees. It was a nice, relaxing activity before the busy summer season!

Ashley Hawkins, Organizer

Leadership Transition

L.U. 449 (l,0,rtb,ru,spdkl), POCKETTLE, ID — This summer started off hot and busy for Local 449. We had Career Fairs in Pocatello and Idaho Falls that were very productive. We also had several local functions as well as our Annual Local 449 Picnic, where we handed out IBEW service pins.

We have a new business manager and a new assistant at Local 449. Ned Jones was appointed business manager, effective July 1. The Local 449 Executive Board appointed Bus. Mgr. Jones to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of former business manager Rodney James, who accepted a position as international representative.

Clay Hirming is now assistant business manager/dispatcher.

Local 449 wishes to thank Int. Rep. Rodney James for his lengthy, dedicated service and the hard work he has done for our local. We wish him the best of luck in his new position with the International.

We also thank the new officers who have stepped up to take on new positions.

Thanks also to all the IBEW brothers and sisters who came from around the country to attend the 49th Reunion and stopped by to sign our books.

With deep sorrow, we report the passing of Bro. Robert “Bobbie” Wetherbee. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Congratulations to recently retired members: Bros. Doug Frugoli, Randy Norman, Daryl Walters, Joseph Robinson and Don Walmight. We thank these brothers for everything they have done for our local. Enjoy that retirement you worked so hard for, brothers!

Joe Maloney, Organizer

Charity Golf Tournament;
IBEW 50-Year Service Pin

L.U. 455 (emku), SPRINGFIELD, MA — At our June union meeting, service pins were awarded for all years of service to the IBEW. Retired international representative and former Local 455 business manager Ed Collins was awarded his 50-year pin. Congratulations, Ed, and thank you for all your years of tireless service to the Brotherhood.

Local 455 also had its first charity golf tournament in June. We plan to hold this event annually. The tournament was a great success with 92 golfers and, more importantly, over $4,000 was raised for charity.

Brian E. Kenney, B.M./F.S.

Election of Officers; Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 455 (fmkus), LMT,RV,TSS,spakpa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — This past June, IBEW Local 455 held its election of officers. Congratulations to the elected officers, and thank you to all those who ran and were willing to put your names out there. To all the newly elected officers, keep doing the good work that the leaders before you have been doing, and let’s continue to make the members of Local 455 proud.

In August, IBEW Local 455 held its annual apprenticeship graduation dinner, celebrating the recent graduates for their success in becoming journeyman inside wiremen. Congratulations to all the graduates and good luck in your future as proud IBEW members.

Remember, you get out what you put in, so be active and involved in your union and do your part to continue making the IBEW the best union there is!

Blake A. Andrews, R.S.

Scholarship Award Winners; Officers Elected

L.U. 499 (w,l,d,McC,rtb,ru,sp), DES MOINES, IA — Our annual Donald D. Krause Scholarship Award winners were selected at our Executive Board meeting in April. Each year, we give out four $500 scholarships to eligible candidates.

This year’s scholarship winners are: Caleb Gubbel (whose father, Scott Gubbel, works in Sioux City); Griffen McBride (whose father, Dustin Mull, works in Knoxville); Jacee Schueman (father, Mike Schueman, works in Avista) and Chelsea Spreng (father, Andy Spreng, works in Sioux City).

In June, Local 499 completed its election of officers and E-Board members.


Executive Board members: Area 1 — Jon San-dage, from Sioux City; Area 2 — Jake Schneider, from Ida Grove; Area 3 — Troy Pecenka, from Waterloo; Area 4 — Jim Carroll, from Council Bluffs; Area 5 — Mike Buntz, from Des Moines; Area 6 — Rick Thele, from Fort Madison; and At Large — Mike Zediker, from Sioux City. Mike Buntz and Rick Thele are the new members on the E-Board. We welcome them on board.

A special thank you to our election judge, Dave Shepley, and election tellers Colby Allen, Jared Merkel, Austin Weber and Chris White.

Sarah Faber, R.S.

Congratulations to All

L.U. 599 (lmar,rtb,ru), SAN DIEGO, CA — IBEW Local 599 extends heartfelt congratulations to Joanium Salas, recently elected to the Imperial Irrigation Dist- trict (IID) board of directors; Michael Zuchet, recently appointed to the San Diego Port Commission; and to Chula Vista Councilmember Steve Padilla, recently appointed to the California Coastal Commission. Each of these positions is of key importance to securing additional work for our members, and each of these persons are significant advocates of working families and have the full support of IBEW Local 599.

Earlier this summer, IBEW Local 599 and NECA graduated 57 hard-working union members from our outstanding joint apprenticeship program! We congratulate this strong next generation of certified electricians, power professionals and sound technicians, and we are proud of their work! (Photo, below.)

We also wish to recognize our 2017 apprentice recipients of our IBEW Local 599 Union Strong Award, Steven Harris and Joe Page. They have stepped up to share their stories on how our apprenticeship pro- gram and opportunity to “learn while you earn” has strengthened communities and changed lives. Our awarders have also volunteered at countless union events and walked hundreds of miles to help elect candidates who support working families! Congratulations, Steven Harris and Joe Page!

Gretchen K. Newsom, P.S./Organizer

Welcome to New LIRR Members

L.U. 589 (f,css,gpr,rw,rtb,ru,sp), DUBLIN, CA — We would like to thank recently retired Bro. Matt Maloon for all his hard work and dedication to Local 599 and the IBEW. Congratulations to Bro. Maloon on his April retirement.

Bro. Maloon started his inside wireman apprenticeship in 1982, and after graduating in 1984, he spent the next 18 years in the field as a journeyman, forearm and general forearm. Matt fully embraced leadership roles. He was elected as Local 599 treasurer, Executive Board member and president. He also accepted numerous committee appointments. He served on the Local 599 Pension, LMCC, IATC and Negotiating committees.

He served as the lead organizer for Local 599 since 2002, and his efforts earned him recognition as one of the best organizers in the IBEW. Bro. Maloon also served as the assistant business manager for the past 10 years.

Bro. Maloon’s contributions to Local 599 and the IBEW will be sorely missed. He is and always will be a true labor champion.

Jason Gumattatosu, Org./P.S.

“True Labor Champion”
Local Receives Award; Election of Officers

L.U. 611 (atv.es.gov.lw,at,spa,18u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — The Local 611 election of officers was held at the beginning of June, and our run-off election was June 22, 2017. Elected officers are: Bus. Mgr. Carl Condit, Pres. Ruben Romero, Vice Pres. Alfonso “Fonzy” Martinez, Rec. Sec. Santos Griego, Treas. Jerome Garcia; and Executive Board members Pete Trujillo, James Archuleta, Baudillia “Bobby” Baca, Julio Vigil, Levi Williams, Mark Strand and David Griego. Congratulations to all the winners.

This year’s Seventh District Progress Meeting was held in Wichita, KS. Our local received the Platinum Award for contributing the most money in the Seventh District into the political action committee. The total amount contributed by Local 611 was $114,943.95, which amounts to $53.69 per member.

Local 611 extends condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Leroy Powers, Elmer Lourenco, George W. Williams, Jay P. Halvorson, Frank R. Walker, W. Kay Reynolds, Ronald D. Farless and Ted McCarrison.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

New Leadership Elected

L.U. 613 (em,lo,18u), ATLANTA, GA — This summer was a busy one at Local 613! We had a new contract to negotiate, and we also had elections for officers. The elections resulted in new leadership for Local 613. We look forward to the great service and commitment to the IBEW and the membership of our new officers.


Local 639 class of 2017 JATC apprenticeship graduates: Kellen Wouters (left), Tony Nuss, Brandon Howard, Jonathan Datson, Chris Robb, Jason Leyden and Chris Von Huss.

Apprenticeship Graduates; Officers Elected

L.U. 639 (t&u), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — Congratulations to the Local 639 graduating apprenticeship class of 2017. Graduation ceremonies were held June 3 at F. McIntick’s Saloon and Dining House in Shell Beach, CA. Keynote speaker was Jeremy Goldberg, executive director of the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council. Goldberg gave an inspiring speech on the need for all unions to get involved and work together to build the strength of the labor movement. “United we stand, divided we fall.”


Kudos to Apprentice Graduates


Officers Sworn In

L.U. 759 (t&u), FORT LAUDERDALE, FL — In June, we held an election for Local 759 officers, Executive Board members and System Council delegates.


Executive Board results: Distribution E-Board members — Justin Stockton and Dan Shaw; Power Generation E-Board member — Robert St. Ledger; Power Delivery E-Board member — Dan Saker; and At-Large E-Board member — Jim Delaware. At this writing, one position remained vacant for Power Generation E-Board member.

System Council delegates: Distribution delegate — Tim Brucker; Power Generation delegate — Jose Castillo; Power Delivery delegate — Charlie Wilbar; At-Large delegate — Hector Benevides.

As of press time Local 759 is still busy with contract talks, as our current contract expires Oct. 31, 2017. Just a reminder: Local 759 holds its monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month. With contract talks under way, come to the meetings to hear the latest on the contract talks.

Kurt McClove, P.S.

‘Touch-a-Truck’ Event

At ‘Touch-a-Truck’ event, Local 949 member Luke Lallemont greets young attendees.

L.U. 949 (em,t&u), BURNSVILLE, MN — Brother Luke Lallemont represented IBEW Local 949 at the Touch-a-

Truck event in downtown Winona, MN, on May 13 this year. Lallemont is a line crew foreman for Xcel Energy.

‘Touch-a-Truck’ is a family friendly event that gives kids of all ages the opportunity to explore the big vehicles they see every day. The event was sponsored by Winona Main Street.

Over 2,000 participants had the opportunity to see and explore a utility bucket truck and equipment up close, learn what it does, understand vehicle safety, ask questions, have some candy and engage in the favorite activity — blowing the air horn! Pictured in the photo above, Bro. Lallemont poses with potential future IBEW members having fun at the event.

Rick P. Oakes, B.M.

Union Communications

L.U. 777 (t&u), READING, PA — Communication is central to a union’s operation, as we all know. Getting and keeping everyone in your local informed can be a complicated process. Especially here at Local 777 because of the vast distance between shops and the five units that make up our structure.

As we are happy to say that this task has been made easier through our relationship with UCOMM Communications.

Kurt McClove, P.S.

Important information — about local union events and operations, contracts and contract issues with various companies; and local, state and federal politics — now goes out to the informed can be a complicated process. Especially here at Local 777 because of the vast distance between shops and the five units that make up our structure.

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Rick P. Oakes, B.M.

Local 1105 apprentice graduates: Joe Hoang (left), Zach Ramage, Adam Haumschild, Ryan Spiker and Drew Boylan.
Political Efforts Yield Win; IBEW COPE Award

L.U. 1245 (ca,em,ms,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA — Local 1245 members demonstrated their prowess at several rodeo competitions this spring. Jordan Chene, Anthony Humbert and Nick Smith of PG&E came in first overall at the National Sisterhood United for Journeyman Lineman Rodeo, where Nick Smith also won the Best Lineman Award; Francisco Garcia came in first place overall in the Gas Division at the International Utility Locate Rodeo; and Greg Fizzell was the first-place apprentice at the American Public Power Association Rodeo.

After enduring the wettest, most storm-ridden winter in almost a century, Local 1245 members are now working diligently through an equally taxing summer season. During the month of June, many parts of California saw some of the highest temperatures ever recorded, which led to more than 1,000 outages and around 270,000 customers left without power.

"Without our members' expertise and tireless work ethic, hundreds of thousands of Californians would have been left without electricity for far too long, and that becomes incredibly dangerous during a heat wave," said IBEW 1245 Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell. "The work that Local 1245 members do is nothing short of life-saving, and they continue to prove that our union is second to none in terms of sheer talent and commitment."

IBEW Local 1245 members Jordan Chene (left), Anthony Humbert and Nick Smith show off their trophies from the NSUJL Rodeo.

Champs at Rodeo Competitions; IBEW Members Restore Power

Political Efforts Yield Win; IBEW COPE Award

L.U. 1141 (em,ln,lonw,t&ksp,a), OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — With help from IBEW Local 1141, the Oklahoma AFL-CIO, the Building Trades, and a coalition of eager volunteers, candidate Michael Brooks claimed victory on July 11 in Oklahoma Senate District 45’s special election. Thanks to all the volunteers who knocked on doors, made literature drops, and phone banked to help bring a true friend of working families to the state Capitol.

"In our hearts, we know we’re better than underfunded schools and underpaid teachers," Brooks told NewsOK.com. "We know we’re better than a budget that places the burden on everyday Oklahomans. We are better than families working two to three jobs just to make ends meet. We all believe we are better than this."

Local 1141 was also honored with a COPE award from Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson on June 14 at the Seventh District Progress Meeting in Wichita, KS. Thank you to our dedicated brothers and sisters for standing up for working families in our great state. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Family Picnic on Sept. 9.


The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8 a.m. by Chairman Erikson, on Monday, January 30, 2017, in Naples, Florida. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Walter, Easton, Lawn and Galbraith.

International President Stephenson

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

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia

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

Legal Defense

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

Financial Reports

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

IBEW Local Union 410

A motion was made, seconded and carried to grant the International the authority of up to $500,000 for the startup of IBEW Local Union 410, as a result of the successful NLRB election of Baltimore Gas and Electric Company. These funds have been contributed unencumbered.

Recent Events

IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement

Covering the 6-Month Period Ending December 31, 2016
Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets/Changes Covering the 6-Month Period Ending December 31, 2016
Reviewed and Filed

Retirement of International Representatives

Michael R. Grunwald, International Representative, Ninth District Effective — January 1, 2017
Ralph Merriweather, International Representative, Seventh District Effective — January 1, 2017

Retirement of International Office Employees

Joseph F. Thole Sr., Programmer, Information Technology Department Effective — January 3, 2017

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned on Thursday, February 2, 2017, at 2:35 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, June 5, 2017, in Jackson, Wyoming.

January International Executive Council Meeting

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

For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lawn, Secretary

February 2017

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW pension fund. For a complete listing, consult www.ibew.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the “About Us” page.
Retirees

Active & Engaged — Stand Up for Workers

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — At this summerwriting, the weather has warmed up nicely in the Midwest.

I hope everyone was contacted and signed the petition for a proposed ballot initiative to seek repeal of Missouri's anti-worker "right-to-work" law. The Repub-
lican-controlled Statehouse in Jefferson City and the governor have been trying to lower wages and working conditions for working people. They tried to rid Missouri of the prevailing wage law. They've banned project labor agreements (PLAs) on some projects, and passed a law that "right to work" means everyone in your family is registered to vote. Keep informed about labor-friendly candidates and vote!

A couple dozen retirees played in our yearly golf tournament in June. Maybe we should have one in the fall.

The last two Retirees Club meetings for this year are on Sept. 28 (the luncheon) and Nov. 19.

Neal McCormack, P.S.

Golf Outing a Success

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU CHAPTER — The Local 3, Nassau Chapter, Retirees Club held its first golf outing on Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14, this year. The chapter plans to make the golf outing an annual event. [Photo at bottom, left]

Event Co-Chairmen Austin McCann and Mark Valencia put together the 8 a.m. shotgun start for 44 golfers at Stonebridge Country Club in Smithtown, Long Island. The weather was perfect. Golf was fol-
lowed by a great lunch and awards for the best golfer, longest drive, and closest to the pins on par threes as well as many raffle gifts. Many thanks to chapter Chairman Ed Weiss for his support on what should prove to be an event we will look forward to each year.

John Miligan, P.S.

Long Island Education Center

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER — Our June meeting was very well-attend-
ed. It was the club's last meeting of the summer and the occasion for the annual luncheon with lots of great food.

At the June meeting, Vice Cmn. Fred Wadding asked for the reports to be read. He then opened the floor for discussion. John Schoening spoke about the Aug. 3, 2017, fishing trip and our Annual Holiday Party scheduled for Dec. 6 this year. Jim Jost spoke about our Aug. 22 Annual Picnic.

Fred Wadding spoke about our trip to the Long Island Educa-
tional & Cultural Center, which took place from June 26-29, 2017. Our trip was once again a great success. When we arrived, Ma-
ureen Steiger, our pension direc-
tor, greeted us. She spoke about the history of the UEC and its importance to IBEW Local 3 members.

Stephanie Saladin, our LIEC director, spoke about the safety of all our members and distributed our room keys.

We attended two informa-
tive lectures providing tips for taking care of our health. Nutritionist Erica Vinas presented one of the lect-
ers, and a doctor also gave a lecture.

The Tuesday night BBQ was a great success, thanks to everyone's help, and all had a good time. Thanks to Stephanie Saladin and her entire staff for a wonderful stay. They wished everyone a happy and safe summer.

Harvey Goldman, P.S.

Fall Activities Scheduled

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — Congratulations to our June service award recipients!

Several of our members were honored at the Elec-
trical Industry luncheon and received their 50-year or 55-year IBEW service award pins and certifi-
cates. The 50-year honorees also received watches. Those celebrating 55 years of IBEW service included: Kevin Courtney, Frank Covino, Paul Eilersen, Abraham Fichtenbaum, John Krisson, Lester Malan, John Senatoro and Ernest Sulzer. Receiving 50-year service awards were Anthony Losquisto and Dominguez.

Our group enjoyed a spectacular June week at the Long Island Educational Center. The educational sessions, as always, were informative and greatly appreciated! On Tuesday, we had our "potluck" din-
ner, and on Wednesday a delicious barbecue. We were fortunate to get in some pool time, and water aerobics were enjoyed by many!

In August, we enjoyed our annual picnic, this year at Krucker's Picnic Grove! Everything was great and we enjoyed catching up with fellow members and spouses.

Future activities include a three-day bus trip to Boston in the fall, a fall luncheon, and a bus trip and Frankie Vaili tribute show at Mt. Airy Casino.

John Krisson, P.S.

Local 3, Northern New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club members at the Long Island Educational Center.
**Fish & Game Club Trip**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Happy Labor Day!

The Local 35 Outing was held in June at the Colchester Fish & Game Club. We had a great turnout! Many retirees and lots of active members attended. Special thanks to those who donated raffle prizes.

I’d like to thank Dennis Machol and Charlie Rose for their dedication in attending meetings of the Alliance for Retired Americans. They keep us informed of issues that may affect retirees.

Congratulations to retired member William Tobin, who recently graduated Rockville High School at age 90! He was unable to finish high school as a boy because of World War II. He served in the Navy. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Northern Kentucky University and is now studying for a law degree.

Dennis Machol and I came in to speak with the apprentices on the last day of school. We spoke about the great benefits of being a member of the IBEW. We encouraged the apprentices to keep working hard in their studies and their career so that someday they also can enjoy a rewarding retirement.

Hope everyone had a great summer.

**Service Pins Awarded; Crappie Tournament & Fish Fry**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, KANSAS CITY, MO — Our spring retiree luncheon was May 5, and we had a very good turnout. Thank you to Local 35 for hosting the luncheon and for the gifts for the raffle.

Club Pres. Bob Stuart reported on the progress of the petition drive: 130 so-called “right to work” and several other issues affecting labor.

Service pins were awarded to: 50-year members — Victor Kimmi, Dave Singmaster; 65-year members — Vergil Endicott, Charles Jones, Elden Simmons, Dick Williams; 70-year members — Bill Roth; 80-year members — Frank’s father, retired Bro. Pat Colucci (center). Bus. Mgr. Michael Flashman before Oct. 9 at Flashman@hsbglobal.com. Our numbers have grown, so if you have friends you would like to sit with, let us know!

Our next cruise will be a return trip to Alaska! Stay tuned for details, or contact our travel coordina-

*Note: This section contains a table of names and years of service. It is not the focus of the document and is not included in the transcription.*

**Golf Tournament Fundraiser**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — As promised, the golf tournament fundraiser was a huge success. The club wishes to thank all those responsible for such a wonderful tournament. Mostly the thanks go to Betty Cannon, who started planning for the next tournament before the current one ends — that is dedication.

The club meets the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Every Mother’s Day we helped Labor Night celebrate the 52nd anniversary of Labor Day!

**Annual Luncheon — Members Honored for Service**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Our annual luncheon honoring our members with 50-, 55-, 60-, 65-, and 70 years of IBEW service was celebrated at our June 14 meeting. Good food and live entertainment is the best way to honor these members who have dedicated over half their lives to our great labor union. Many retirees and lots of active members attended.

**Summer & Fall Activities**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA — Local 105 Retiree Club events started the summer with a Pig Roast BBQ at the Retiree’s Club hall that included salads and delicious desserts — an event enjoyed by many members. At the end of June, the club’s Annual Crab Feast was Oct. 14. If you plan to be in the Annapolis/Washington area, please join us. For details contact retired sister Susan Flashman before Oct. 14. at Flashman@hsbglobal.com. Our numbers have grown, so if you have friends you would like to sit with, let us know!

**Father and Son Honored**

 PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, Local 99 presents a 50-year service pin to retired Bro. Frank Calucci (left) and a 60-year service pin to Frank’s father, retired Bro. Pat Calucci (center). Bus. Mgr. Michael K. Daley (right) presented the awards July 6.

**Tribute to Longtime Members**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH — Our deepest sympathy goes out to families of recently departed brothers: Daniel Johnson (who was an IBEW member for 76 years); James McNerny (a member for 75 years); Richard Ruehl (66 years); Ronald Cook (59 years); Robert Zehner (57 years); Gary Blanchet (53 years); James Peet (52 years); Willie Bishop (50 years); Jimmy Sealaggio (59 years); Gary Combs (24 years); Ken Tuttle (59 years); Gregory Chambers (17 years); and Eric Klosterman (who was a two-year member). “We weep with those who weep.” Romans 12:15

At our May meeting, several club members received IBEW service certificates and pins. Congratulations to: 60-year members Steve Book, Otis Carpenter, Bob Doerger, Bill Heinzelman and Jay Rizzuto; 55-year members Jerry Dickerson, Tom Doerger and Bob Schafer; and 50-year member Denny Dickerson. Bill and Jay were not present for that occasion.

We also extend posthumous congratulations to our late Brothers: Bro. McNerny (who was a 75-year member), Henry Abel (who was a 65-year member) and Duke Lowery (who was a member for 60 years). Jim McNerny’s daughters, Nancy McNerny, and Lucy McNerny, accepted the posthumous award on her father’s behalf.

FYI — I did some research and found that those with the most years of continuous membership are as follows:

- No. 1 — Harry Pharo (82-year member); No. 2 — Walter Salter (79-year member); No. 3 — Stanley Szatke (76-year member); No. 4 — Harry Apelblatt (71-year member); No. 5 — Cliff Rost and Danny Johnson (76-year members); and No. 6 — Fred Ober and Jim McNerny (75-year members).

Anyone up to the challenge?

Bob Schafer, P.S.

**Henry Miller Museum Tour**

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 252, JEFFERSONVILLE, IN. — The Retirees Club had their luncheon/meeting on Tuesday, July 27, in Jeffersonville, IN. On May 9, our retirees group took a bus trip to tour the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis. We thank Local 18 Bus. Reps. Dave Roth and Chuck DeMoulin for giving us a personal tour and history of the boarding house where Henry Miller lived 125 years ago. This boarding house is the birthplace of
of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which became the IBEW. With the generous support of Local 1, the site was converted into a museum. We also thank Connie Hamacher for arranging the tour and our lunch at Red Robin. It was a fun trip.

We thank all members who provided petition signatures for a proposed 2018 ballot initiative to seek repeal of Missouri’s new anti-worker “right-to-work” law. At press time, the state right-to-work law was scheduled to take effect Aug. 28, but could be delayed if there are enough petition signatures for a public vote. I hope you and anyone you know signed the petition.

On a sad note, three members passed away recently: Joan Schulte (wife of Kenny Schulte), Lauren- tia Hamacher (wife of Carlos Hamacher), and Chrisly Bingele. They will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Upcoming events: Labor Day parade - Sept. 9; IBEW Local 257 Annual Picnic - Sept. 16.

Delores Melliroway, P.S.

Club Officers Sworn In

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 393, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA — As Canada makes celebrating our nation’s 150th anniversary, our Retirees Club is start- ing its 32nd year of providing events and trips. At our club’s June luncheon meeting and election of club officers, a record 95 attended and voted. Our North Unit group also continues to grow and thrive.

Retirees Club executive officers are: Pres. Robert Rynyk, Vice Pres. Dave Frater, Rec. Sec. Gwen Slagt, Treas. Bill Slagt, Sgt. at Arms Jack Singleton; and Executive Board members Diana Frater, Holly de Jong, Joan Rynyk, Robert Gullins, Ron Hart and Wayne Lawrence. Officers were sworn in by Local 353 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Steve Martin at our July meeting. Our August executive board meeting was held at Local 353’s newly opened East Unit office in Osha- wa, which will also service our retirees in the East.

At another historical event in our local’s history, I was asked to assist Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Steve Martin in presenting Local 353 RENEW/NextGen their IBEW charter, cementing the bonds among IBEW youth, working members and retirees. RENEW/NextGen seeks to invest the IBEW’s younger members in the future of the union.

We look forward to our annual visit to Kitchener Local 805’s Oktoberfest, as well as our 32nd Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance in November.

We are all part of this great IBEW history. What are you doing?

Robert Rynyk, P.S.

Summer Activities

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 424, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA — The warm weather months usher in a summer of fun. July 7 marked the 20th annual Unit 2 Pancake Breakfast & BBQ Lunch, kicking off the famous 10-day Calgary Stampede & Exhibition. “Executive Chef” Dave Handley, with some “sous chefs” from the E Board, did a great job on the break- fast and at lunch, where Dave served his signature smoked beef brisket.

Next was the annual 24 Family Picnic held July 8. Tina Stevenson has been the impetus behind this event since she started it 10 years ago. Thank you to Tina and husband Scott for another excellent job with the logistics of keeping 240 kids and parents entertained with clowns, face painters, balloon makers, bouncy castles, fun games and activities, BBQ and picnic treats.

Unit 2 in Calgary will sponsor a members golf tournament and steak BBQ at the Silverwing Golf Course on Sept. 9.

The July 21 Unit 1 Pancake Breakfast & Lunch, started 30 years ago by recently deceased former busi- ness manager Bob Lamont, was a success. The annual Breakfast & BBQ heralds the start of Edmonton’s 10-day Show & Chuck Wagon Races. It was followed Aug. 12 by the Unit’s Edmonton members golf tournament & steak BBQ at the Garrison Golf Club.

Thank you to the many volunteers, including spouses of retirees, who made all the events a success. Also, thank you all to those who put up nice prizes for the tournaments.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

Samantha Happenings

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARANNAH, ONTARIO, CANADA — At this writing, Local 530 retirees are enjoying a wonderful summer filled with great turnouts at our meetings, and we have had several enjoyable outings.

On May 26, Local 530 office assis- tant Sue Tracey/retired after 20 years of service. Local 530 hosted a retirement celebration for Sue, and both active members and Retiree- ers Club members presented her with a monetary retirement gift. Sue always took care of our needs with a smile and a kind word. We wish her all the best in her retirement years.

In July, our club members travelled to Bright, Ontario, to see a Waltons Family Dinner Theatre live pre- sentation of “A Modern Tribute to Abba.” While there, we enjoyed a great meal served buffet style with an assortment of food bound to please everyone.

In August, club members visited the village of Apple Hill in Placerville in California. They enjoyed a wonderful week-end with friends and family.

IBEW Local 615 RENEW/NextGen volunteers and assistants participated in a project to help with yard work and repairs at the home of a retired IBEW member.

Update from Albuquerque

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 615, ALBUQUERQUE, NM — Sorry! I didn’t have an article in the June publication. I haven’t seen many of you recently, but what an amaz- ing summer it has been.

At the regular Local 615 meeting in May, 52 new members were initiated. As of June, that makes a total of 114 new members so far this year. That is mostly because more electricians are needed at the new Facebook project in Los Lunas.

In June, Local 615 RENEW/Next Gen volunteers, including a few older members, carried out their first community “helping hand” project by assisting with yard work and repairs at the home of retiree Graham Smith, who has health problems. Bro. Smith and his wife Dolores served Frito Pies to some 25 volunteers. Bro. Smith said, “This really shows what brotherhood is about in the IBEW.” He and his family appreciated the volunteers for all their help.

Our condolences to the families of retirees who recently passed away: David O’Briant, Earl D. Eddy, John G. Moore, Jackson Hayman, Leroy Powers, Elmer W. Brunner, Cipriano Lujan, Robert W. Avery, Manuel Lourenco, George W. Williams, Jay P. Halvorson and Frank R. Walker. We also mourn the loss of journey- man wireman John E. Redveldi.

To view a photo history of the local dating from 2014, step by the hall and see the photo book or attend a regular meeting on the third Saturday of each month. I miss seeing everyone, so call or drop off a note to let me know how your life is going as an IBEW retiree.

Henry Miller Museum Tour

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 649, ALTON, IL — On a sur- prisingly pleasant day in July, the Local 649 Retirees Club embarked on a road trip to visit the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis.

Our tour was conducted by Mike Newton and Dave Roth, representatives of IBEW Local 1. They entertained us with the story of the discovery, acquisition, demolition and reconstruction of the building where the then-National Brother- hood of Electrical Worker- s (NBEW) was formed. The result is an amazing setting. IBEW Local 1 is to be commended for their efforts.

I would encourage the entire membership to tour the Henry Miller Museum and grounds if you travel to, or near, the St. Louis area.

On a somber note, we are saddened to report the passing of Thomas Prullage on May 13 this year. Tom was a second-generation, 50+ year IBEW mem- ber and one of the original officers of the Local 649 Retirees Club. Our condolences go out to his wife, Pat, his children, and grandchildren.

The Local 649 Retirees Club meets on the last Thursday of every month, at 9 a.m., at the Eagles Nest Restaurant in Bethalto, IL. All Local 649 retirees are welcome to attend.

Jack W. Teut, P.S.
Welcome Back!

As we begin our new year of meetings, we want to welcome you all back! We look forward to a great year.

Remember, our Fish Fry starts our year off with our September meeting followed by an October BBQ, November turkey, and ham in December. If you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert to make our meals complete. We hope to see you all there!

We are all very proud of IBEW Local 755 member Michael Warren, son of Local 756 member James Warren, for his promotion to the rank of U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major, prior to deployment for his fourth tour to Afghanistan. Bro. Michael Warren is a 26-year IBEW member, and Bro. James Warren is a 61-year IBEW member.

We invite any retired or unemployed IBEW brothers and sisters and their spouses who are in the area to come and join us. Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month, 11:30 a.m., at the Local 756 union hall, in Port Orange, FL.

Diane Gibbs, P.S.

Annual Luncheon

RETIREE CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — As we begin our new year of meetings, we want to thank you all for coming.

Welcome James Warren! We are all very proud of the stories of the past and present that were shared, along with the deep feeling of what had been accomplished in everyone’s careers. Retirees expressed their gratitude for what the IBEW has done for all of them. Additionally, upon arrival at the museum, it was a tremendous honor to see the 100-year celebration logo of Local 702 embolden the parking lot entry gate.

On June 1, the club met for lunch at Golden Corral in Carbondale, IL. Minutes from the previous meeting and the financial report were read and approved. Known deaths for the months of April and May were announced, followed by a moment of silence. Under “old business,” appreciation was expressed to Bus. Mgr. Charles Hughart for the April 11 Retiree Luncheon, as well as the St. Louis trip. In “new business,” a motion was made and seconded to purchase two of the local’s Solidarity Drawing tickets. A pocket knife donated by Logan & Carolyn Marlow was won by Dave Dittmer.

The 50/50 drawing of $36 was won by sister Diane Gibbs. The 1st Place: $200, 2nd Place: $150, 3rd Place: $100, Honorable Mention: $50.

The 50/50 drawing of $36 was won by sister Diane Gibbs. The 1st Place: $200, 2nd Place: $150, 3rd Place: $100, Honorable Mention: $50.

The 100-year celebration logo of Local 702 was won by Dave Dittmer.

A pocket knife donated by Logan & Carolyn Marlow was won by Dave Dittmer.

Attendees enjoy Local 995 Retirees Club annual luncheon in June.

Mark Baker, P.S.

We regret the loss of former business manager Patrick Michael Clary, who passed away May 29 at age 60. He was a member of Local 995 for 42 years and served for 12 years as business manager before he retired because of medical problems. Bro. Clary was well-liked and will be missed greatly.

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

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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:
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FROM THE OFFICERS

Standing Up to Corporate Greed

As IBEW international president, I have the opportunity to meet with many CEOs who are committed to taking the high road when it comes to workplace relations and understand that good labor-management relations has mutual benefits.

Sadly, Charter/Spectrum CEO Tom Rutledge isn’t one of them. Rutledge is the highest-paid CEO in the nation and his cable company took in $2.9 billion in revenue last year.

But as our cover story for this issue explains, New York City Charter employees—members of Local 3—were forced to strike more than five months ago.

Rutledge, despite his company’s profits, has demanded draconian cuts to the company’s health and retirement funds, the elimination of weekend overtime pay and more flexibility to hire lower-paid, nonunion contractors.

While more money keeps flowing to the top, he wants to punish the men and women who make those profits possible.

And it is not just employees who are victims of Charter’s greed. Customers are hurting as well. Numerous regulators have filed complaints against the company for shoddy service and broken promises to the public.

No union member wants to strike. It subjects the striker and his or her family to enormous hardships. Our members want nothing more than to get back to work doing what they do best: servicing their customers.

But unchecked corporate greed is preventing them from doing so. I always say I would rather be working with employers than against them. But it is hard to work with a company with so little regard for its employees. Or for its customers.

Increasingly, public pressure is building on Charter to do the right thing and end this strike.

Numerous lawmakers, including New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and many members of the City Council and state Assembly have called on Rutledge to return to the bargaining table.

It is time for Charter management to sit down with its workers and negotiate a fair agreement so everyone can get back to work.

But until they do, our brothers and sisters on the picket line can count on the total support of myself and every officer of the IBEW.

Solidarity in Baltimore

Seven months ago, the workers in the utility industry Baltimore Gas and Electric voted to join the IBEW. It was one of the largest victories in North American organized labor in recent memory and I want to update you on their progress.

Chartered in April, IBEW Baltimore Local 450 currently has all its officers in place and appointed and trained shop stewards at all service centers.

The negotiating committee, after being elected by all the workers, drafted a contract proposal after many discussions and a survey of the membership and submitted it to BGE. Local 450 Business Manager Eric Gomez and the other members of the negotiating committee say that BGE is bargaining in good faith, and I expect there will be a contract soon.

An interim complaints procedure was hammered out and put in place for the first time in BGE History. It works almost exactly like a negotiated grievance process and is already protecting BGE workers. Union representatives join any Local 450 member who doesn’t want to go to a meeting with human resources alone.

As a result, a disabled BGE worker, a no vote during the election, had his job saved after the union intervened on his behalf, standing up and presenting the facts of his case using the jointly agreed upon complaint procedure.

He’s a union supporter now.

For the first time in many of their working lives, the IBEW members at BGE are telling us that they can speak up and not have the working rules and working conditions changed at will, they now have a say in the workplace. Now they hold their heads up and leave fear behind.

This has benefited our new members, but it has also benefited BGE. Some of the disciplinary hearings revealed unclear policies and gaps in training. The result are changes that improve everyone’s lives instead of a pointless punishment targeting an individual.

And all of this is BEFORE a contract has been signed.

A legally binding collective bargaining agreement, a contract, is the shield that protects union workers and frees us to concentrate on our work and pay close attention to safety so that we return safe every day to our loved ones. The contract guarantees us good wages, decent benefits, a dignified retirement and work rules that allow workers to have their say on all issues.

Every day, the men and women of BGE feel something new: their own power.

Power to speak to the negotiating committee about what they want in their contract and be heard. The power to stand together when a supervisor has a complaint. The power to appoint their stewards, and soon, elect their business manager.

Most importantly, they have the crucial power to say no when they are asked to break policy or do something unsafe without fearing for their livelihood.

This is how Unions are formed; together we are stronger. When we stand together and speak as one for the rights of every worker, we become as powerful as any company. Men and women who had no voice have one now because they stuck together and joined the IBEW.
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**The Role of Politics**

I am an 88-year-old great-grandfather, and while I may not be the smartest guy in the world, I do have one thing in my favor: experience. I served four years in the U.S. Navy, spent 30 years working with the tools, obtained my electrical masters license then spent seven years as an electrical contractor. I took on a second career before retiring as a vice president of a bank for 15 years. So I have been fortunate to see all sides of the issues I would like to comment on.

I was dismayed by President Stephenson’s editorial, “The Trump Record,” in the July issue of the Electrical Worker, which drew distinctions between President Trump’s campaign trail rhetoric and the reality of his anti-worker policy proposals and safety rollbacks after six months in office.

As individuals, we can support any point of view we choose. However, an organization as large as the IBEW should be apolitical. We have members of every political persuasion. The IBEW president and the organization should not officially support or endorse or finance political candidates or parties.

Whether you or I support or object to President Trump’s actions or words should not be an issue of the Electrical Worker. Our job should not be to join the fray in a political war or in a state vote on right-to-work laws, again a voting booth issue.

As an electrical contractor, I kept my customers happy by installing the cheapest price in town, but by the quality of our work and service. And that’s how the IBEW needs to travel and leave the dog fighting to the professional politicians.

Howard Gelbman, Local 399 retiree

**Who We Are**

**Massachusetts Member Honored for Generosity to Cancer Research**

In the midst of his own battle with cancer, retired Worcester Local 96 member Paul Pratt is doing his part to combat the disease for others like him. Diagnosed with asbestos-related peritoneal mesothelioma in 2011, Pratt and his doctors have been waging war against the disease. His condition, a form of mesothelioma that occurs in the lining of the abdominal cavity, has required three major surgeries, multiple rounds of chemotherapy and endless doctor visits.

But after receiving a legal settlement related to his exposure to asbestos over the course of a 30-year electrical career, Pratt, 56, chose to donate a portion of it to cancer research.

“It took eight long months for doctors to diagnose me,” Pratt said. “No one believed me. One doctor said I was nuts. So when the doctors at Mass General finally figured it out, I promised myself that if I ever got any money, I’d give part of it back.”

He did just that starting in 2014, donating multiple times over the next few years to the research efforts of his surgeon, James Cusack, and his oncologist, Andrew Zhu. Because of the terms of the legal settlement, he’s not allowed to discuss specific dollar figures.

In June, Pratt was honored by Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center as one of 100 individuals or groups whose commitment to the fight against cancer inspired others to take action.

“A lot of people are distraught when they get a cancer diagnosis,” Pratt said. “For me, it was more a sense of relief at finally knowing what was going on and being able to start working toward getting better.”

Getting better has been a long road that’s not over. During his first surgery in 2011, Cusack removed Pratt’s gallbladder, worked to remove cancerous tissue from the abdominal cavity lining and treated the area with a heated chemotherapy called HIPEC. The effort led to four and a half years of improved health.

But last year Cusack had to repeat the procedure, and in July he required another similar surgery. Pratt underwent six months of chemotherapy in the interim, and he’s currently working to get himself into any of a number of medical trials that might accelerate his recovery.

“The cancer is always there,” Pratt said. “They can’t get rid of you, but I hope that by supporting the research of smart people like Dr. Cusack and Dr. Zhu, I can help others in the future who are going through the same thing.”

While Pratt is prohibited from talking about his specific exposure to asbestos, it’s well-established that many jobs performed by IBEW members face substantial risks. Construction sites, power plants, shipyards and other industrial settings are among the first places cited by experts as running high risks for asbestos-related illness, and members are encouraged to use caution and personal protective equipment when there is a chance of inhaling airborne particulate.

But even being careful, there are still risks, and Pratt encourages anyone dealing with a mesothelioma diagnosis to seek the advice of an established lawyer. He also encourages others to support the ongoing efforts to understand and treat the deadly disease.

Howard Gelbman, Local 399 retiree

**Stick with the Union**

I was born in 1930, the 10th child of 12 siblings, eight boys and four girls. In 1936 my dad was working in the Works Progress Administration. There was a phosphate mine near our home in Alafia, Fla., and the employees were on strike because of unsafe working conditions and for better pay. There was an electrician who told my dad he was in need of people to fill these calls. We have a massive electrician/line worker shortage in upstate New York. There you go folks! Another 2,000 jobs for line workers. The IBEW needs to travel and leave the dog fighting to the professional politicians.

I was happy to read the article on ibew.org about IBEW members rebuilding power lines until I was able to get my “A” card. I took night classes for fiber optics, electrical switches, and power. There was an electrician who told my dad he was in need of people to fill these calls. We have a massive electrician/line worker shortage in upstate New York. There you go folks! Another 2,000 jobs for line workers. The IBEW needs to travel and leave the dog fighting to the professional politicians.

Howard Gelbman, Local 399 retiree

**Keep Organizing**

I was happy to read the article on ibew.org about IBEW members rebuilding power lines in upstate New York. There you go folks! Another 2,000 jobs for line workers. The IBEW needs people to fill these calls. We have a massive electrician/line worker shortage in this nation, and every year we are falling behind in manpower. We need people to organize and spread the good word.

Michael Lee Rakes, Local 466 member

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

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**WHO WE ARE**

**IBEW Merchandise**

**IBEW Tie Tack/Lapel Pin** $3.00

Gold-tone bar with centered IBEW initials, features jeweled grade bull skull. Can be used as a tie tack or lapel pin.

**IBEW AKWA Polo Shirt** $28.00

5,0oz black moisture management polo shirt with diamond jacquard pattern, IBEW initials, flat seam lightweight on left chest. Snap resistant material wicks moisture away from the body.

Women's IBEW Initials Watch $100.00

Women's gold-tone watch with embossed IBEW initials on face, expansion band, stainless steel back and water resistant.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

**Editor’s Note:** The good things we are able to enjoy as IBEW members — competitive wages, strong health and retirement benefits or respect on the job — depend in part on the decisions made by our elected officials — from the local level all the way to the White House. We are not, and never have been, a partisan organization. But fights around things like upholding prevailing wage laws, stopping right-to-work or protecting health and safety regulations that keep us safe at work aren’t partisan issues. They are life or death for our members and this union. And it would be irresponsible for any IBEW officer to stay neutral.

Your vote has been and will always be your personal decision. But as an organization that services our membership, we have a responsibility to look at where each political stand on the issues that matter to us as IBEW members and to inform you on them.

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

**Retired Worcester, Mass., Local 96 member Paul Pratt attends Massachusetts General Hospital’s gala in May. He was one of the honorees at the event.**

Local 96 Business Manager Tommy Maloney says Pratt’s personal commitment to cancer research speaks volumes about IBEW members in general. “Being a union member means we look out for one another, and Paul is living that out even with all he’s going through. It’s an inspiring thing he’s done, and I’m glad he’s been recognized for it.”

“For Pratt, it’s about finding a cure. “Things are changing so fast right now, and every year is bringing new treatments, new medical trials, new hope. We need to make sure these doctors have the resources they need to keep doing their important work.”

***

**LL**
Illinois Wireman Turns Author, Filmmaker to Honor Family’s Service

‘Path of the Past’ recalls a man’s heroic service to country during WWII

Lou Baczewski is an electrician with a passion for history.

The second-generation Collinsville, Ill., Local 309 wireman has taken his love for the past to the extreme, authoring a book about the remarkable story of his own grandfather’s fight through war-torn World War II Europe, and then recreating that journey for an upcoming documentary film.

“Louch” is the story of his namesake, Louis J. Baczewski, born in 1922 to Polish immigrants in the tiny town of Pocahontas, Ill. Drafted into the U.S. Army a year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Baczewski was assigned to Fort Knox in Kentucky, where he was trained to drive an M-4A1 Sherman tank.

Known to friends and family as “Louch” (pronounced LOOCH), a nickname picked up thanks to his mother’s strong Polish pronunciation of his name, Baczewski eventually found himself fighting his way across Europe, from the beaches of Normandy, France, to Frankfurt, Germany, after the fall of the Nazi Third Reich.

In his book, the younger Baczewski describes in vivid detail the struggles faced by his grandfather and his compatriots in the 3rd Armored Division, where American tanks were badly outgunned by their German counterparts, and where they only ultimately prevailed by throwing more tanks — and more lives — at the enemy.

“In the weeks following the Nazis’ unconditional surrender — V-E Day — were Baczewski and a young assistant gunner, Les Underwood. The two served in the same Sherman tank from the Battle of Saint-Lô in July 1944 through the infamous Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest seven months later.

After the fighting stopped, the two were roommates in Frankfurt during the U.S. occupation of that city, but when they returned home — Louch to Pocahontas, Les to Lancaster, Pa. — they lost touch.

In one of the book’s most touching moments, the younger Baczewski got in touch with Underwood and arranged a reunion. In 2011, Underwood, with his wife and adult daughter, made the 800-mile drive from Pennsylvania to Illinois.

“It was an emotional moment,” said Leslie Baruffi, Underwood’s daughter. “These two men just hugged one another and cried. They’d been through so much together during the war. It took 65 years, but they finally had a chance to reunite, and it was like they’d never been apart.”

After coming home, Louch joined the Laborers union and later worked as a millwright and a steelworker. Underwood spent nearly 40 years as an IBEW wireman and member of Reading, Pa., Local 243.

“It’s amazing how their lives paralleled one another, even after they lost touch, both being union guys, working with their hands,” Baruffi said. “My father never really talked about the war, but with Lou, they relived the whole thing in a week.”

Stories of the underpowered Sherman tanks, called “death traps” by the troops who operated them, flowed from the two men that week, including recollections of one particular day that haunted both of them for 60 years.

“It was the worst day of our lives,” both men told the younger Baczewski of the fight during the Battle of the Bulge. As D-Company approached the Belgian border-town of Cherain, 10 Shermans and their crews met five superior German Panther tanks and one German Mark IV tank, backed up by loads of infantry and a battery of 170 mm anti-tank guns. By the end of fighting on Jan. 15, 1945, only Baczewski’s tank remained. Underwood’s tank was hit, killing his driver and assistant driver instantly. The turret crew bailed out and Les was forced to dive into the snow and play dead as German infantry overran their position.

As he lay motionless, a mortar shell exploded nearby, setting Underwood’s jacket on fire, and moments later a German soldier kicked him hard in the ribs to see if he was still alive. The Nazi soldier then lifted the motionless Underwood, said “Kaput,” and threw him back in the snow. It was the longest day of his life, he recalled, as he lay freezing in deep snow, afraid to move as bullets ricocheted around him. At nightfall, he crawled back to U.S. lines past two German sentries to regain what was left of D-company.

Underwood later received the Belgian military medal, the Croix de guerre, for his bravery that day.

The two would soon cross the Rhine River into Germany, liberating the Dora-Mittelbau concentration camp as nearby units captured the nearby Nazi rocket factory responsible for the V-2 missiles that killed nearly 3,000 civilians and injured 6,900 more during the Blitz in London.

“The younger Baczewski and his grandfather had always talked of going to Europe and retracing his unit’s steps, but Louch’s failing health and death in May 2013 ended those dreams. In the summer of 2015, Baczewski decided to forge on alone, bringing along a cameraman to document his bicycle journey through the hedgerows of France, the forests and towns of Belgium and the cities of Germany.

Baczewski, along with co-director Kyle Gisburne and assistant producer Aaron Aubuchon, is near completion on a feature-length documentary about the trip and the book, titled “Path of the Past,” that he hopes will be donated to H.E.R.O.E.S. Care, a charity that assists military families before and after deployment.

Local 309 Business Manager Tim Evans said Baczewski has been active at the local and present the film project to the executive board, where members took a lot of interest. “Lou’s so passionate about this, and we were glad to support him in it. I hope lots of people read this and buy the book. It’s an amazing story.”

Those interested in the film’s progress can follow “Path of the Past” on Facebook.com/LousRide and order the book, “Louch: A Simple Man’s True Story of War, Survival, Life, and Legacy” on Amazon.com.