With crucial midterm elections drawing near, America’s working families are being squeezed tighter every day by anti-worker policy decisions from every branch of government. From the aftershocks of tax cuts to a perilous new era for union members, choices being made by the White House, Congress, the Supreme Court and many state legislatures are threatening family budgets, affordable health care, retirement security, rights at work and other ways working people measure their quality of life.

Voters will decide in November whether the pain recedes or deepens.

“This is the most consequential election of our lifetime.”

– International President Lonnie R. Stephenson

“Shocking the American worker is the most perilous time,” said Stephenson. “For the first time in my lifetime, I’m seeing unprecedented policy decisions that are harming workers and their families. Every worker knows that the most direct impact of tax cuts was a huge windfall for the wealthy, while the average worker’s wages have dropped or remained flat.”

What kind of harm? Average non-management wages are down, not rising as politicians promised when they sold last year’s GOP tax cuts. Companies are using the lion’s share of tax savings to buy back stock, with little, if any, trickling down to workers.

Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are targeted to lose a shattering $1.5 trillion, putting their long-term viability at risk if lawmakers fail to act. And Obamacare’s most popular provision — the protection of more than 100 million Americans with pre-existing medical conditions — is hanging by a thread after the Justice Department refused to defend it in court.

New laws, executive orders, agency-level rulings and court decisions are steamrolling worker protections. States are repealing prevailing wage laws and pushing right-to-work laws. Federal agencies, led by political appointees openly hostile to workers and unions, are revoking rules that keep workers safe on the job and ensure they’re paid what they’re owed.

The Labor Department late last year killed an Obama-era rule that made 4.2 million deliberately underpaid workers eligible for overtime.

The most brutal blow to unions was delivered by the Supreme Court in late June in Janus v. AFSCME. On top of a rash of rule changes making it harder for workers to organize and bargain collectively, Janus is a crushing decision for public sector union members — including tens of thousands in the IBEW — that is reverberating throughout the labor movement.

There’s nothing abstract about the ramifications, Stephenson said.

“With workers facing cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, limits on the ability of workers to organize and negotiate for higher wages, and the gutting of the ACA, workers are facing unprecedented challenges that can be traced directly to the efforts of our political leaders to limit workers and their families’ ability to support themselves and their communities.”

With these challenges, the IBEW is calling on its members across the country to stand up for working families as we face one of the most critical elections in our lifetime.”
Diversity is Our Strength

Forty years ago, President Jimmy Carter issued an executive order calling for more women in the building trades. But today, still only about 3 percent of the construction workforce is female. That’s bad for women, and that’s bad for the industry. This month, you’ll read about Boston Local 10’s Susan Eisenberg, a retired journeyman wireman and author, who thinks that number should have risen more by now. That it hasn’t means we’re losing a lot of smart and capable people, she said, and I couldn’t agree more. Missing out on quality potential electricians isn’t something we can afford to let happen.

Eisenberg was among the first class of women to enter the trades back in 1978, and she and her sisters proved that women are just as capable as men of doing the work. But increasing the ranks of women, and other underrepresented groups like people of color, takes more than just an executive order. We need to be intentional about recruiting — and retaining — those who have been historically underrepresented in the IBEW.

We’re in the midst of a construction shortage. There’s more work than there are skilled workers to do it, and a lot of those workers are about to retire. To put it simply, we need more people. And as the head of an international union, I want those people organized. I want them to have a voice on the job and a contract to ensure they’re paid what they’re worth and treated with dignity and respect.

This union — our union — was founded with the goal of organizing everyone in the electrical industry. Today more than two “new” unions means men and women of all races and backgrounds. The millennial generation is the most racially diverse in U.S. history, and they accounted for 76 percent of the increase in union membership last year. That’s good news. The next generation sees the power in a union.

This year, we held the first meeting of our Diversity and Full Inclusion initiative, which delegates called for at our International Convention in 2016. We’re working at the international and local levels to reach beyond our traditional ranks. It’s no easy task. It means having sometimes uncomfortable conversations and swimming against the stream. But being in the labor movement has never been easy. Our entire history is one of rising up against powerful forces designed to keep us down. And we don’t shy away from something just because it’s hard.

There are a lot of qualified people out there who deserve a good wage and benefits, a secure retirement and the safety — and solidarity — that comes with a union. We need to let them know that our doors are open. The IBEW has been around for more than 125 years, and we plan on being here for another 125, at least. That means recognizing that diversity is a strength, and that we are stronger together.

After Janus

In late June, the Supreme Court issued one of its most anti-worker rulings in history.

In the case of Janus v. AFSCME, the conservative majority ruled that public-sector unions could no longer collect “fair share” dues from nonmembers who benefit from a collectively bargained agreement.

The Court claims the case is about free speech. There could be nothing further from the truth. No worker can be compelled to join a union or support political causes they disagree with. What the Janus case is really about is politically motivated union busting.

For years, deep-pocketed right-wing think tanks and wealthy donors like the Koch Brothers have funded politicians and bankrolled lawsuits with the goal of destroying the power of the labor movement.

Their substantial investments paid off big time last year, when President Trump appointed known union-buster Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, giving conservatives a solid majority. It’s funny that an organization that’s one of the largest supporters of the idea of right-to-work isn’t interested in letting me have a free ride with them when that’s what they want unions to do for non-members.

I’ll never understand why IBEW members don’t vote for their paychecks and working conditions. What ever could be more important?

James H. Ward, Local 969 retiree
Grand Junction, Colo.

Trump Should Step in to Save IBEW Jobs

[Responding to “Take Our Jobs to Mexico? Massachusetts Members Fight Back,” from July 2018’s Electrical Worker]:

President Trump should step in and stop the Phillips Lighting plan to move their Fall River, Mass., plant and its 360 jobs to Mexico. He promised he’d keep American jobs in the USA.

Joseph Pavelski, Local 213 retiree
Vancouver, B.C.

Grateful for the Brotherhood

I was awarded my 60-year pin for service in May of this year at Local 68’s old timers’ luncheon. I served my apprenticeship in Chicago at Local 354, and ended my career in Denver when I retired in 2005. It gives me great pleasure to be a member of such a fine organization. I learned many things about life and many life skills from my relationships with other members.

The training that I received in the IBEW, the Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of America helped me save a life on the way to the union picnic in 1998. I helped pull a gentleman from an airplane that had crashed just seconds before we got there. I received the IBEW’s lifesaving award soon after. It was one of the proudest moments of my life.

Today, at 79, I’m spending my retirement — made possible by the IBEW — assisting the homeless and those in need.

Wally Von Helms, Local 68 retiree
Denver, Colo.

Janus Was the Tip of the Iceberg

Before you vote next election, here is something to consider. The recent Supreme Court decision on Janus was a step in quieting the working class voice. This is not about dues — look deeper.

Medicare/Medicaid and Social Security are next. Unions stand up for the working class. Efforts to diminish unions are simply a step in taking away your voice. Don’t think this is just about dues, President Trump has already voiced his opinion that child labor laws are too strict. The 40-hour workweek and overtime will be on the list too.

Republi-
cans in 20 states filed a lawsuit in federal court in Texas early this month to rule that the pre-existing condition provisions of the Affordable Care Act are unconstitutional. Do you see the tangled web here?

Make America Great is a smoke screen/diversionary tactic. “Look over here” so you don’t see what is going on over there. Fight back! Union Yes!

Karen Lane, Local 827 vice president
East Windsor, N.J.
When Hurricane Maria made landfall in September, Puerto Rico’s electrical infrastructure was essentially washed away. Only 5 percent of the island’s power system survived the devastation.

PREPA, the perpetually-underfunded state-run electrical company, had little in the way of replacement supplies, and power had still not been completely restored when hurricane season returned at the start of June.

“We wanted to make sure they understand that we are brothers.”

When IBEW members from Orlando, Fla., Local 222 raced to the island to assist in the recovery, they learned that, in addition to the heartbreaking stories of lost homes and loved ones, many of Puerto Rico’s lineworkers had also lost their personal tools. The men and women tasked with rebuilding the island’s shattered electrical grid were piecing things back together without the tools of the trade.

“They were working with hand tools like we had back in the late ’50s and early ’60s,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “Our members worked with them and saw what bad conditions they had and decided to do something about it.”

They began, Stephenson said, collecting money out of their own pockets and then reached out to Local 222 Business Manager Bill Hitt to start collecting at home. The group raised more than $20,000.

“Puerto Rico has a long way to go, and the IBEW will be here to support them.”

In the chaos that followed Hurricane Maria, the officers regret to report the death of former Syracuse, N.Y., Local 57 president Thomas J. Primero. Even though he was retired, when the call went out for volunteers to reconnect the power after Hurricane Maria, Primero stepped up. For three months, the 74-year-old had been doing what he loved best, his family said: helping people. He suffered a fatal heart attack March 18. In lieu of flowers, his family requested donations be sent to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society in Menands, N.Y.

B.C. Local Provides Life-Saving Overdose Training to Members

Illicit drug overdoses are claiming a staggering number of lives in British Columbia, and Vancouver Local 213 members are learning how to help.

More and more people are dying from drug overdoses across the U.S. and Canada and the construction industry isn’t immune. In fact, it’s one of the hardest hit sectors of the workforce. And the epidemic is not showing signs of slowing down. According to Fraser Health, a regional public health authority, men aged 19-59 working in the building trades have been disproportionately represented in the number of opioid deaths, often because the highly physical jobs they perform result in pain management techniques that eventually cross the line into substance abuse.

“The construction industry is losing more workers—specifically men—than any other industry,” said Vicky Waldron, Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan executive director, in the Journal. CIRP is a joint initiative of the Construction Labour Relations Association of British Columbia and the B.C. Building Trades Council. In March, Local 213 offered a free training on how to use Naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

“Communities are being devastated and this is a free and effective way to help,” said Local 213 Business Manager Adam Van Steinburg. “Our members are all for it.”

In British Columbia, more than 1,400 people died from an overdose in 2017, according to the province’s coroners service, and fentanyl, a deadly synthetic opioid that’s more toxic than heroin, was involved in 84 percent of those deaths.

In many cases, people aren’t seeking out fentanyl but are unknowingly consuming it in other drugs like cocaine. This cross-contamination is showing up in almost 50 percent of street drugs, according to a study by Vancouver Coastal Health, reported the CBC.

“It’s a valuable skill to have, just like first aid,” said Local 213 member Emelia Coleman-Shepherd, who took the course. “I’d recommend it to anyone.”

Half of the Naloxone training was dedicated to learning how to use the kits. The other half covered mental health issues.

“Mental health and addiction run hand in hand,” said IBEW International Representative Jim Watson, who runs a two-day workshop on mental health, one that some Local 213 members have taken. “The goal is to let people know that it’s OK to not be OK and we are there to help.”

Waldron says that if a member is experiencing problems with substance use or mental health, they can contact the local for help.

The province offers Naloxone, also known as Narcan, for free to qualifying individuals, and many pharmacies carry it. Members can also contact CIRP for a kit.

“It’s every day people we’re talking about, not just people on the street,” Saggu said of the epidemic. “It could happen to anyone, including a brother or sister.”
Tax Cuts at Six Months: How American Companies Are Spending Their Windfall

As of June, only 402 out of 5.9 million employers had announced raises or one-time bonuses.

ONLY 4.3% of workers are getting bonuses or raises

6.7 MILLION out of 155 MILLION

Corporate tax savings 11 TIMES MORE than raises/bonuses for workers

$77 BILLION vs. $7 BILLION

Companies are spending 70 TIMES MORE to buy back stock than they are sharing with workers through wage hikes or bonuses

$493 BILLION vs. $7 BILLION

IMBALANCE of POWER
One-Party Government Tips the Scales Against Workers

You can draw a straight line from attacks on workers’ rights to the financial anxiety of working families,” he said. “When people are free to join unions and bargain for fair wages and benefits, it changes their lives.”

Below, the Electrical Worker takes a closer look at just some of the fallout for working people 18 months into one-party government.

Falling Wages
Tax-cut evangelists promised working people the moon.

“President Trump and the GOP promised that these huge tax cuts would primarily help the middle class, give workers a $4,000 raise, and lead to major business investment,” said Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness. Six months later, “none of those promises have come true. The law gets an ‘F’ for failing to deliver.”

Even Republican Sen. Marco Rubio — who voted for the bill — doesn’t believe the tax cuts are reaching working America.

“There is still a lot of thinking on the right that if big corporations are happy, they’re going to take the money they’re saving and reinvest it in American workers,” Rubio told The Economist in April. “In fact, they bought back shares, a few gave out bonuses; there’s no evidence whatsoever that the money’s been massively poured back into the American worker.”

Most workers haven’t seen a raise at all. For four out of five non-management employees in the private sector, wages fell 0.1 percent between May 2017 and May 2018, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ June report.

On an hourly basis, that amounts to a few pennies. But they add up. The average full-time worker earning $45,000 annually is losing about $2.50 a week or $125 a year. When compared to the raises they were promised and the effect on the economy at large, that’s significant, experts say.

“The falling wages promise to exacerbate historic levels of U.S. inequality. It means workers who were already making less are falling further behind, (and) gains are going almost exclusively to people already at the top of the economic ladder,” The Washington Post reported June 15, based on interviews with economists across the political spectrum.

In other words, “Paychecks should be getting fatter at a time when unemployment is low.”

“This is odd and remarkable,” Steven Kyle, a Cornell University economist told the Post. “You would not normally see this kind of thing unless there were some kind of external shock, like a bad hurricane season, but we haven’t had that.”

Taking Stock
Corporations are making record profits, but profits and tax savings largely aren’t being spent on wages or investment in job-creation. Rather, they’re being used to buy back stock, lining the pockets of wealthy shareholders and Wall Street.

In the first quarter of 2018, the 500 richest U.S. companies announced $485 billion in stock buybacks. That’s 70 times the $7 billion they have given or promised workers through one-time bonuses and small raises.

Working people aren’t benefiting, even indirectly. “Stock buybacks usually go to the high earners, and high earners usually save rather than spend,” said economist Beth Ann Bovino of Standard & Poor’s. “Whether businesses do invest in areas that improve productivity remains to be seen.”

Consider Harley-Davidson. Peddling the tax cut bill, Republicans heralded the iconic motorcycle maker as a business that would invest its tax savings in new jobs and factories. Instead, the company announced it was shutting down its plant in Kansas City, Mo., costing 800 jobs. That was before the political eruption this summer when Harley executives said the escalating trade war was forcing them to move thousands more jobs overseas.

Companies paid record dividends to shareholders in the first quarter of 2018, which means little to most Americans. Ten percent of households control 84 percent of all stock and the top 1 percent alone own 40 percent of shares, according to a 2016 analysis.

Meanwhile, growth in consumer spending has slowed since last year, with gas prices — about 60 cents higher per gallon and rising still — draining disposable income.

Little wonder that a Monmouth University poll in June showed that only 34 percent of Americans still supported the tax cuts, a 6-point drop from their April survey.

Holes in the Safety Net
With 10,000 baby boomers reaching retirement age every day, Social Security and Medicare face big challenges and fierce battles.

Alarming headlines aside, the programs aren’t going bankrupt. The dispute is about how — or if — to fix and strengthen them.

There are viable long-term solutions that economists say are virtually foolproof, certainly for Social Security. Toward that end, Democrats have introduced more than a dozen bills in the 115th Congress. Republicans have long wanted to slash benefits, raise the age of eligibility and even privatize programs they deride as “entitlements.” Now they’re arguing for swift action, based on the soaring deficit their tax cuts created.

A year budget plan released by House Republicans in June would drain $1.9 trillion from Medicare, combined with cuts to Medicaid and other health programs, and $4 billion from Social Security, more than $5.5 trillion in safety net funds would disappear.

“It’s day and night — the difference between helping working people or hurting them,” Stephenson said.

“One side is fighting to protect the benefits you’ve spent your entire work lives earning. The other wants to cripple Social Security and Medicare and put your retirement security in the hands of the same reckless financiers who collapsed the economy 10 years ago.”

The programs’ annual reports in May forecast that Social Security’s trust fund will dry up in 16 years and Medicare in half that time, predictions that have fluctuated wildly over the years.

Even if Congress did nothing, Social Security would have sufficient funds to pay 77 percent of benefits after 2034 and Medicare could cover more than 90 percent.

Gradually raising the Social Security payroll tax by 1 percent point would go a long way toward balancing its books, as would raising or eliminating the cap on the highest earners. Currently, workers earning more than $128,700 don’t pay any additional FICA taxes.

Both annual reports were signed by the same four trustees, all members of the Trump administration. That’s notable because the reports tie GOP tax cuts and attacks on the Affordable Care Act to the programs’ troubles.

“The trustees made crystal clear that policies of congressional Republicans and the Trump White House have damaged the financial prospects of both programs,” wrote Los Angeles Times business columnist Michael Hiltzik. While “the GOP continually claims that it’s imperative to make both programs healthier, the truth is that Republicans are doing their best to cut the legs out from under both.”

Failing Health Care
One of the most popular provisions of the Affordable Care Act is its protections for Americans with pre-existing medical conditions — a wide-ranging term that can include everything from cancer and heart disease to high blood pressure, depression, migraines, asthma, diabetes, even acne and countless other common maladies.

About half of adults under age 65 have one or more health problems that, until 2014, insurers could use to deny coverage or charge outrageous rates. Now a
federal lawsuit filed by several states would once again put coverage out of reach for tens of millions of people.

Rather than defend the Affordable Care Act in court, as the government normally does when federal law is challenged, the Trump administration has joined the lawsuit — a colossal boost for insurance companies and their already staggering profits.

A bipartisan group of eight governors from Al-aska, Colorado, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania signed a statement in June urging the White House to reconsider.

"We're asking the administration to reverse their decision and instead work with Congress and governors on bipartisan solutions to protect coverage and lower health care costs for all Americans, all while protecting those with preexisting conditions," the governors said.

In the States

States have their own agendas where workers are concerned.

Republican-controlled legislatures have used their power for decades to pass right-to-work laws that impede union organizing and workplace democ- racy. Increasingly, they're declaring war on prevailing wage laws, too.

In June, Michigan became the latest state to repeal prevailing wage. Missouri partially rolled back its law in May, with other repeals the past three years in Indiana, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Four Republicans in Michigan's Senate and seven in the House joined all Democrats in opposing the bill, but there weren't enough votes to overcome the GOP's supermajority.

"A vote for this repeal is a vote to condemn the economic futures of workers across this state," Rep. Sam Singh said on the House floor. "You are telling workers across Michigan that they are not worth the cost of quality work."

Since Indiana repealed its law in 2015, average wages for construction workers have fallen 8.5 percent, according to an economist's study released in January.

Writing about the report in a column for the Kan-sas City Star, Marc Poulos of the Illinois Economic Policy Institute called out the "political lunacy of essentially advocating middle-class wage cuts."

"Repeal," he said, "is a self-inflicted wound on the economy, the construction industry and taxpayers."

Missouri voters go to the polls on Aug. 7 to try to repeal the right-to-work law passed by their Republi-
can-controlled Legislature last year. Union members are banding together to encourage voters to say "No!" to Proposition A.

Supreme Injustice

In a 5-4 ruling by its conservative majority, the Supreme Court overturned 40 years of established law in a case intended to cut off the legs of public-sector unions. The ruling in Janus v. AFSME was the second to last decision handed down on the final day of the Court’s term in June, but there was little suspense.

"With the most hostile anti-union forces in the country driving this case, union-busting billionaires paying the bills and a Supreme Court that is now stacked against workers, we could hardly be surprised by this assault on workers’ rights," Stephenson said.

The ruling means state and local government workers are no longer required to pay the agency fees that make it possible for unions to negotiate con-tracts, handle grievances and otherwise represent the interests of all employees in a bargaining unit. Agency fees cover representation work only, not polit-ical action that unions take on behalf of workers.

In effect, Janus aims to strip public unions of funds and power to fight for workers the same way that states use right-to-work laws to impede pri-vate-sector organizing.

Wealthy anti-worker foundations and powerful corporate lobbies engineered the case, making Illi-nois state employee Mark Janus its public face.

Janus was the third case the court heard on the issue in the last five years, which is virtually unheard of, said Celine McNicholas, labor law and policy director at the Economic Policy Institute.

She called it a "legal strategy by very determined plaintiffs with a lot of money to spend" who weren’t giv-ing up until they got the answer they wanted.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell made sure they did. Abusing Senate protocol, he stacked the court against workers by refusing to hold hear -ings on President Obama’s nominee to fill the late Antonin Scalia’s seat, keeping it open for a Republi-can president to nominate a new justice.

The ruling in Janus was the court’s most far-reaching decision harming workers, but not the only one. Twisting an obscure 1935 law, the same 5-4 majority took away the right of workers to have their day in court. Under the ruling in Epic Systems v. Lew-is, companies can now force employees to settle dis-putes through arbitration.

"The decision not only closes the courthouse door to workers, it effectively bars them from any tri-bunal where they can vindicate their rights," UCLA law professor Katherine Stone wrote in SCOTUS Blog, which covers the court. "It is depressing to see the Supreme Court majority give such short shrift to worker rights without any serious engagement with the issues at stake."

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, a mem-ber of Portland, Ore., Local 125, wrote, “I used to think the Supreme Court was the last institution left that was impervious to politics, but this proves other-wise. Now we have to fight even harder, come together and mobilize."

New York, New Jersey and California, took pre-emptive action to blunt the damage, passing laws that give public-sector unions a better chance of recruiting new members. Union organizers in those states will have access to contact information for workers and can talk to them during the workday about the benefits of joining.

All unions and the causes that matter to workers and working families are going to be hurt by Janus, Huffington Post labor reporter Dave Jamieson said.

"Republican lawmakers around the country have been trying to peel back collective bargaining rights and weaken the political clout of unions," he wrote. "The relative strength of the public employee unions has helped labor as a whole bear back some of those efforts. After Janus, those unions may be less able to provide mutual aid."

It’s bad for the country as a whole, EPJ McNicholas said.

"I fear it will really be destructive to our notions of public services and state and local governments. And I think that eroding government as a force of good in people’s lives is absolutely the end goal for many of these organizations."

I’m Union. I Vote.

Politicians at every level have the power to make our lives better or worse.

Our votes in November will decide who calls the shots over the next two, four and six years, decisions that can start the healing process for working people or inflict further harm.

Some IEW members have been hitting the streets and the phones since primary season to cam-paign for pro-worker candidates on their states’ mid-term ballots, including IEW brothers and sisters.

The entire labor movement is committed to change. In June, the AFL-CIO and thousands of union volunteers kicked off a massive voter education effort for the Nov. 6 general election. Consult your visit vote.org/voter-registration-deadlines.

* denotes the option to register on Election Day

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Are you registered to vote?

Check your state’s voter registration deadline for the Nov. 6 general election. Consult your Secretary of State for additional information or visit vote.org/voter-registration-deadlines.
Canadian recent decision to buy a western provinces pipeline and oversee its controversial expansion has put an end to the IBEW’s First District hoping for an increase in job opportunities for members in British Columbia and Alberta.

“Kinder Morgan to handle, so the company groups representing some of Canada’s defend British Columbia’s interests within tanker traffic on Vancouver Harbour. Horgan remains concerned about the potential of the project, but the federal government has jurisdiction over environmental and interprovincial concerns, provinces retain a say over how their resources get used.

In 2013, Houston-based Kinder Morgan applied for permission to proceed with a CA$7.4 billion expansion, the latest of several over the system’s history. At the time, the national and provincial governing bodies in play were led by political parties that have historically leaned pro-business.

Three years later, Canada’s National Energy Board approved the project, but by then, new leaders at the federal level and in British Columbia and Alberta had renewed concerns about the expansion’s impact on the environment.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was challenged to reach a compromise that satisfied both provinces plus the goals of his 2016 climate action plan. Alberta Premier Rachel Notley eventually was persuaded to accept expansion, but B.C. Premier John Horgan remains concerned about the potential for spills and the effect of increased oil tanker traffic on Vancouver Harbour.

“Our government is determined to defend British Columbia’s interests within the rule of law and in the courts,” Horgan said. A number of local governments and groups representing some of Canada’s indigenous peoples also are challenging the project’s approval.

The controversies proved too hot for Kinder Morgan to handle, so the company announced on April 8 that it was walking away from the whole thing by the end of May unless Ottawa stepped in to smooth things over. “Access to world markets for Canadian resources is a core national interest,” Trudeau responded on Twitter. “The Trans Mountain expansion will be built.” On May 29, the federal government announced it would spend CA$4.5 billion to buy the line and its expansion from Kinder Morgan, while continuing to pay the company to manage operations and construction. “This was a strategic short-term move to keep the pipeline open until the government can find another company to run things,” Cronk explained, adding that one effective way to allay British Columbia’s concerns would be to have the expansion safely built by skilled, unionized tradespeople. “Now that it’s passed the legal hurdles and it appears it’s going to be built with federal funding,” he said, “the IBEW and the other building trades craft need to be on it.”

While much of the current expansion work is taking place under unbelievably open-shop contracts, even temporary federal ownership could help the construction trades gain access to future work through negotiation of community benefit agreements.

“The government has a responsibility to craft CBAs with local labor, sustaining wages, and safety in mind,” Cronk noted. “The expansion project remains complicated, but with the right agreements, IBEW members could gain access to quality, long-term jobs at the pipeline’s pump stations and terminals.” The Trans Mountain Oil pipeline runs from Edmonton, Alberta, through the Rockies, carrying petroleum for export near Vancouver, B.C.

Le plan de Trudeau pour sauver le pipeline est avantageux pour les emplois de la FIOE

Le nouveau pipeline de l'Alberta, cher à Trudeau, a été remplacé par un autre projet. Il s'agit de la construction d'un train de pétrole de plus de 200 millions de dollars qui pourrait être achevé dans les semaines à venir. Ce projet est financé par l'État fédéral ainsi que par l'Alberta, et il s'agit d'une réponse à la pression de l'industrie pétrolière.

Le gouvernement a accepté de financer ce projet pour éviter une crise économique qui aurait pu toucher l'industrie pétrolière. Cette décision est donc avantageuse pour les membres de la FIOE, qui peuvent avoir accès à des emplois de la construction de la ligne de transport de pétrole. Cela représente une bonne nouvelle pour les employés de la FIOE, qui peuvent espérer des contrats de travail à long terme dans le secteur de la construction.

Cependant, il reste des défis à surmonter, notamment la gestion de la construction et la sécurité pour les travailleurs. Les contrats de travail doivent être conclus avec les entreprises locales pour garantir une bonne qualité de travail et des conditions de travail sécuritaires. Les travailleurs de la FIOE peuvent espérer accéder à des emplois de qualité et à long terme aux stations de pompage et au terminal du pipeline.
CIRCUITS

Final Steps in Place for ‘True-up’ Arbitration After Railroad Members Ratify Agreement

IBEW railroad branch members covered under the U.S. National Freight Agreement ratified the proposed 2015-2019 contract in May, International President Lonnie R. Stephenson announced, and arbitration was set to resolve the few remaining issues.

Last December, the IBEW reached a tentative agreement with the National Carriers Conference Committee (NCCC), the freight railroads’ bargaining group. The May 8 ratification, by a vote of 1,292 to 1,560, followed the agreement’s initial, narrow rejection in February.

After months of back and forth, the IBEW’s members working in freight rail ratified a new 4-year agreement in May.

“If we decided to make our final plea.” Bohné said, “We have been strenuously attempting to have the railroads back off this demand — even interrupting a private meeting of their labor relations vice presidents to make our final plea.”

The IBEW retained a top rail labor firm to handle the arbitration case on its behalf, and a decision was set to be rendered after this issue of The Electrical Worker went to press.

The agreement, covering all IBEW members working on railroads involved in national bargaining, is retroactive, effective Jan. 1, 2015, through Dec. 31, 2019, with general wage increases through 2019.

Visit ibew.org/railroad to learn more about the new agreement.

Sportsmen’s Alliance Salutes Local 26 Leader for Conservation Work

For “tireless efforts to rally fellow union members for conservation,” the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance honored Washington, D.C., Local 26 Business Manager George Hogan this spring for accomplishments that include restoring a popular Potomac River fishing pier.

Executive Director Scott Vance presented Hogan with the 2011 IBEW Conservation Steward of the Year Award at the Construction and Maintenance Conference in April. The award honors exceptional volunteers from each of USA’s chartered unions who donate their time and skills in the preservation of North America’s outdoor heritage.

Hogan, a fourth-generation IBEW member, raised funds and enlisted more than 100 highly skilled volunteers last fall to repair the decaying Jones Point Park fishing pier on the Potomac River in Alexandria, Va. It marked the alliance’s 100th Work Boots on the Ground project, a program which last year alone provided skilled labor for 27 conservation infrastructure projects in 15 states.

The award also recognizes Hogan’s leadership roles in events that support USA’s good works. Those include chairing the Capital Area Conservation Dinner the past two years, assisted by Local 26 Business Agent Rich Murphy. One of the organization’s most successful fundraisers, the dinner helped pay for timber and other materials to restore the pier.

“George Hogan exemplifies the spirit, hard work and solidarity that make us stronger together and help us change lives through our mission,” Vance said in presenting the award.

Accepting it, Hogan recalled helping eager children learn to fish: “It’s the only day the pier reopened. Some of these kids had never held a rod or caught a fish. We taught them a little about fishing and they were super elated,” he said to a ballroom filled with IBEW members. “We’ve been involved with the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance, get involved because it’s the greatest thing we have ever gotten involved with.”

Local 26 electricians and other building trades volunteers — including bricklayers, stone masons, elevator constructors and steel workers — rebuilt the pier and made it compliant with Americans With Disabilities Act regulations over six weekends last September and October.

“It’s been a combined trade effort to replace this well-used pier and give it back to this community,” Hogan said in October. “I guarantee you could probably drive a tank on it with no problem.”

IBEW MERCHANDISE

Right Choice T-Shirt $10.00
100% cotton pre-shrunk black t-shirt with full color back & felt chest silk screened logo art.

Black and Silver Logo Patch, 3” $2.00
3” Embroidered IBEW cloth patch - 100% nylon twill. Black and silver logo. Designed to be used on motorcycle vests.

IBEW Motorcycle Tag Frame $6.00
Chrome motorcycle frame with white IBEW initial. Fits most standard tag sizes.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

Visit ibew.org/railroad to learn more about the new agreement.

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www.ibewmerchandise.com
Las Vegas Local 357 members and other activists gather for a labor walk to help elect union sister Jennie Sherman (kneeling with sign) to Nevada’s state Assembly.

THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

‘I Come From Labor’: Tenacious Nevada Sister Brings Working Family Values to Statehouse Race

Jennie Sherwood burst with enthusiasm as she talked about her run for the Nevada state Assembly. It’s plain to see that the first-time candidate has a zest for life that she isn’t afraid to let show, even in the often-stodgy business of politics.

“One of the things I really try to do is continue to be myself,” Sherwood, past chair of Las Vegas Local 357’s sign unit, whose trade craft lights up the glittery, neon Strip and beyond, “I just want to talk from my heart. And listen. It seems like nobody in politics really wants to listen.”

Sherwood won the Democratic primary in June for Assembly District 2 west of Las Vegas. She was on the edge of her seat for hours election night, describing “a mix of shock and jubilation and surprise and happiness” when the race was called.

Her opponent outspent her $52,000 campaign budget by $50,000, but Sherwood’s resolve and charisma proved more valuable, netting her 54 percent of the vote.

Now she’s on the November ballot, challenging a Republican incumbent who’s held the seat for 10 years, including two as Assembly speaker.

As her campaign moved into its new phase and she got ready to knock on Republican voters’ doors, she focused on worries shared by all Nevadans, topped by an education system ranked worst in the nation. She tells voters she’s “not a politician" to fixing our problems, just like you are, regardless of party.”

“When you get down to the fundamentals of issues, we all want solutions,” Sherwood said. “But then we go so caught up in how we do it that we turn against each other instead of working with each other. I want to get into the nitty-gritty of the issues and find that common ground.”

Active in her county and state Democratic committees, Sherwood threw her hat in the ring just before the primary’s March filing deadline.

At the time, she was midway through Emerge America, the party’s months-long training program for future women candidates.

“I was looking to run in a couple of years,” she said. “But then I thought, ‘I’m sitting here in the year of the woman during a blue wave. If I don’t jump in now, I might miss my chance.’”

Jim Halsey, assistant business manager and political director for Local 357, gave Sherwood the reference she needed for Emerge, believing she’d make a good candidate one day. “We’ve had other women from the local go through Emerge, and we usually prefer they complete the whole class and then run,” he said.

But Sherwood was ready and eager. She told Halsey, her friend and mentor, that she wanted to run for state Senate, but the party and labor were already backing a seasoned candidate in her Clark County district. So they looked at Assembly District 2, where a Democrat new to Nevada was running.

Sherwood believed her working-class Las Vegas roots and career as a tradeswoman would appeal to voters in a race against a Harvard-educated doctor, lawyer and professor who’d moved from Indiana in 2007. She was right.

“Her campaign is a perfect example of our members using their commitment to the community to help elect one of their own,” Halsey said. “We truly believe we can make Las Vegas a better place to live. Our sister, Jennie Sherwood, can help make that happen.”

Her platform included fighting on Nevada’s right-to-work law, raising the minimum wage, restoring rights to public-sector unions “that have taken a huge beating” legislatively and other pro-worker reforms, along with tackling economic, education and health care issues.

“Thinking about the state’s public schools crisis and education in general, she believes trades are part of the answer. ‘I come from labor,’ Sherwood said with pride. ‘Not only do I want to strengthen the trade schools, the world needs skilled, talented labor. I want Nevada to be the labor trainer of the country.’”

Local 357 Business Manager Al Davis believes Sherwood could get a lot done. “The leadership skills she acquired as sign unit chairman will serve her well in the state Assembly,” he said. “We look forward to having another voice for labor in elected office.”

In fact, Sherwood said, she held all positions in the unit at one time or another, experience that’s invaluable. “I’ve always been really good at talking sense to people, getting them to see a different view,” she said. “I’ve gotten people who were dead-set against the union to join the union, showing them that it’s better for all of us.”

Halsey said one of Sherwood’s strengths is that she isn’t afraid to take on her party. “One thing she acquired as sign unit chairman will serve her well in the state Assembly,” he said. “We look forward to having another voice for labor in elected office.”

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TRANSITIONS

RETIRED

William Daniels

Capping off a 42-year career, First District Vice President William Daniels retired on July 1. “Bill is one of the hardest-working people I know,” said Fredericton, New Brunswick Local 37 Business Manager Ross Galbraith, who is also a member of the International Executive Council. “He takes his work very seriously, and it’s always been for the benefit of the members.”

A member of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Local 402, Daniels was initiated into the IBEW in 1977. The journeyman wireman was originally a member of Local 339, before inside members were granted their own charter in 1980. He served on Local 402’s executive board from 1987 to 1990, as a past international vice president, servicing 13 contractors. “It wasn’t easy for Paul to leave the utility, nor was it easy for me,” said Paul, who was Petty Officer 1st Class at the time of his discharge in 1983. “It’s also a good educational tool because you learn a trade. Getting out of the Navy, I was qualified as a nuclear power plant operator.”

In 2013, Daniels asked Reid to come aboard as his executive assistant, and the new vice president had nothing but good things to say about Reid. “Bill’s work ethic is really second to none,” said Reid. “Good management knows the value of a partnership,” Paul said. “When you were active in the union, the management at Vermont Yankee, which closed in 2014, knew your value.”

After 10 years at Vermont Yankee, Paul, his wife and three young children moved to the Washington, D.C., area, where he was appointed to be an international representative in the Utility Department, focusing on nuclear and electricity generation and environmental issues.

In 2003, International President Edwin D. Hill, who was a member of the International Executive Council, announced the retirement of Reid, who was appointed as the 42-year-old Daniels’ replacement.

Retirement won’t tarnish those things he’s built, are what Daniels says he’ll miss the most. “I don’t think it was Bill’s aspiration to become business manager, but he stepped up to the plate when we needed him. His predecessor had been out for medical reasons,” said Local 402 Business Manager Ross Drews. “Bill helped 402 get through some lean years.”

In December 2003, the Fort William, Ontario native was appointed international representative, serving 56 construction locals in his home province. He served in that role until 2013 when he was appointed by then-International President Edwin D. Hill, when First District International Vice President Philip Flemming died suddenly on May 25.

“Bill really showed his commitment then. He didn’t have the time to step into the role, he had to hit the ground running,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “He really came through for the Brotherhood.”

Drews said that was Bill’s way, especially being from northwestern Ontario, to not shy away from duty.

“It’s his Northern way of doing business,” Drews said. “No job or assignment was too tough for him.”

As vice president of the First District, Daniels was in the unique position of being vice president for all of Canada, a vast territory that reaches all the way to the Arctic Circle. “He’s vice president of an entire country, and it’s one that takes six hours to fly across,” Galbraith said. “Just speaking logistically, it can be taxing. And yet, he was always available if you needed to reach him.”

Daniels always made sure to represent the Canadian experience, Galbraith said, which is a benefit to both sides of the border.

“We have a distinct perspective and it’s one that brings value to the table,” Galbraith said. “Bill was always good about creating an environment where everyone was heard, and the IBEW is stronger for it.”

Part of that perspective has been on display during the North American Free Trade Agreement negotiations between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Daniels and others in the Canadian labor movement have been helping direct the course of the Liberal government’s actions.

In September 2013, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau demanded a roll back of right-to-work laws in the U.S. The laws, which allow workers to opt out of fees associated with union representation, have been shown to depress wages and weaken collective bargaining power. No such laws exist in Canada.

“We’ve been asked for input from the beginning,” Daniels told the Electrical Worker last year. “After every round of negotiations, the Liberal government has made sure to update us on progress and to listen to our concerns.”

Canada’s membership numbers have grown during Daniels’ tenure, Galbraith noted, while that’s attributable to a number of factors, Brother Daniels’ dedication was definitely one of them. The IBEW currently more than 16,000 members in 11 construction locals across the province, hired Reid to serve as an organizer. “Eastern Ontario was my area,” he said, “because I was centrally located in Belleville.” He worked with three locals: Oshawa Local 894 (since amalgamated with Toronto Local 333), Ottawa Local 536, and his home local. His background, coming from non union contractors, proved useful time and again, as he was able to draw on his experience to help convince signatory contractors and electricians about the benefits of IBEW.

In 1998, Reid appeared before the International Executive Council, the finest work at the General Presidents’ Maintenance Fund. “I think we’ve done there’s phenomena,” Reid said. “Maintenance work is good, steady work.”

In 2013, Daniels asked Reid to come to the district’s offices in Mississauga and work as his executive assistant, and the new vice president had nothing but good things to say about his predecessor. “Bill’s work ethic is really second to none,” he said. “He’s very committed and dedicated to the Brotherhood. He lives and breathes it; he’s very loyal.”

“You make a lot of acquaintances in this business, but very few true personal friends,” Reid said, “and I consider Bill a true personal friend.”

Reid is excited about the next step of his career. “As they say, ‘A change is as good as a rest,’” he said. “It feels like a fitting progression for my career. It’s part of what’s so wonderful about the IBEW.”

Also supporting Reid’s appointment are his wife, Kathy, and his adult children — daughters Kate and Meagan, along with son Peter, an apprentice with Local 115. “Please join the officers, staff and membership in wishing Brother Reid success as he takes on this new leadership role.”

RETIRED

Will Paul

Support Services Director Will Paul, who used the skills he learned while a Naval machinist to become a springboard to an IBEW career, retired effective Aug. 1.

A native of Baltimore who was raised in suburban Timonium, Md., Paul knew little about organized labor while growing up. Neither of his parents were union members.

After one year of college, he enrolled in the U.S. Navy, where he served for six years as a machinist, including a 415-day stint aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

The experience took him to 17 countries and changed his life, he said.

“Who forces you to grow up and accept responsibility,” said Paul, who was Petty Officer 1st Class at the time of his discharge in 1983. “It’s also a good educational tool because you learn a trade. Getting out of the Navy, I was qualified as a nuclear power plant operator.”

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TRANSITIONS continued on page 10
of a group of environmental experts that met in the White House with advisors to then-President Clinton. Paul also went door-to-door during organizing attempts at Baltimore Gas & Electric and traveled to Japan for three weeks in exchange program with the Japan Institute for Labor Policy.

But he was honored that Hill asked him to take on the added responsibility.

“When the international president asks, the answer is ‘Yes sir,’” Paul said.

Paul and his staff were extensively involved in the setup and planning for three International Conventions. He also was in charge of the sale of IBEW merchandise and preventing outside entities from using the IBEW’s copyright-protected logo without permission.

Throughout his tenure, Paul said he always tried to remember that he worked for the members, and that he had a responsibility to wisely use the portion of dues sent to the International.

“We all blessed with IBEW membership,” he said.

Paul and his wife, Janet, plan to keep their home in Olney, Md., and make good use of a boat they recently purchased on Chesapeake Bay. He also plans to remain an avid volunteer in the community. Paul was active in several organizations throughout his career, including 29 years with the Olney Boys and Girls Club and nine years with the Boy Scouts.

The officers, staff and members thank Brother Paul for his service and with him and his family a happy, healthy retirement.

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**TRANSITIONS continued**

It took three more years before he could leave the nonunion contractor in 1977. Ross never waited around for another job. First it was the picnic committee. Within two years of taking office, he was appointed to the executive board.

“I don’t know what they saw in me, but I never missed a meeting, and when they asked for a volunteer, I stood up and asked what the job was last,” Ross said. “I have a sense of gratitude for all I have, and I enjoyed the trade.”

In 1985, only eight years after topping out, he was president of the local. A decade after that, the executive board appointed him business manager.

“After so many years as president I understood the position and really, the question wasn’t why should I be business manager. It was more, ‘If not me, who?’ No one else had the experience,” Ross said.

Local 968 wasn’t big, boasting just six members when Ross took over, but it was active. No business manager ever ran unopposed and Ross ran four times, each one a fight — a fight he won.

“My proudest achievement is beginning the shift in mindset towards growing the membership,” Ross said. “We were buying jobs, and that had to end.”

After the fourth run, the man he succeeded at Local 968, Greg Gore, then a Fourth District international representative, made a recommendation. The Construction Department needed an experienced person who understood the National Maintenance Agreement and the General President’s Project Maintenance Agreement, which Ross did.

“It was stressful, and when the opportunity presented itself, I thought it might be time,” Ross said.

As an international representative Ross managed relationships with contractors, intervening to keep disagreements from turning into disputes. When International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill needed someone to take over the Political Department, Ross again said “yes.”

“I always remember the date: April 1, 2005,” he said. “April Fool’s Day.”

Capital Hill wasn’t a world he ever felt comfortable in, he said. The way he had solved problems on the jobsite just didn’t seem to apply to the world of politicians.

When the Construction Department needed a leader later that year, once again the Brotherhood asked, and Ross said “yes.”

Now, after 43 years, there are no more jobs for Ross. He retired at the end of June to rewards that were impossible to see from that nonunion shop, earned from a career filled with achievements. He and his wife, Valerie, are moving to Colorado to be closer to family and the mountains he has always loved.

Retirement hasn’t come clear in his mind yet after so long rising when needed, but he says he is confident he’ll figure it out. His final message to his brothers and sisters who continue the fight is simple.

“The nonunion electrician isn’t the enemy. I was one of them,” he said. “We should’t take someone who knows nothing, but when 70 percent of the work is being done by the other guy, there are an awful lot of people out there who know more than nothing.”

Please join the officers and staff of the IBEW in wishing Brother Ross a long, healthy and happy retirement.

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**APPOINTED**

**Ed Mings**

International Representative Ed Mings has been appointed Director for Outside Construction Membership Development, effective June 1.

Mings will be the first to fill the new position created by International President Lonnie R. Stephenson.

“If we can’t man a job, we lose the job. Our contractors won’t even bid it. They don’t even try,” Mings said. “My job is simple: we need more people.”

Mings has been the Outside international representative in the Construction Department for nine years. Before that, he was business manager of Rockford, Ill., Local 596, starting in 2001.

Mings joined the IBEW in 1976 as an assembler at Essex Wire and began his outside apprenticeship four years later. He worked with the tools for the next 26 years before he switched his card to Springfield Local 193, where he was appointed assistant business manager and brought on staff as an organizer.

Stephenson created the position, in part, because nonunion contractors have been growing rapidly, as have the ranks of nonunion linemen, especially in smaller jobs.

“You look at the outside work happening out there, and IBEW members are only doing 33 percent of it,” Mings said. “It’s a case of ‘the best at it’ and we are — but at some point, we’ve got to admit we’re not organizing hard enough if the other guy is doing twice the work.”

Mings says he doesn’t think any complicated organizing strategies are necessary.

“There is no reason to recreate the wheel. We can use the round one we’ve already got and have had since Henry Mill- er,” he said.

The biggest challenge the IBEW faces is the absence of smaller contractors.

“Theres a line that is 200 miles plus, it’s rare we don’t get it,” Mings said. “But 6, 8 or 20 miles, we’re getting our butts kicked. We don’t have enough people and very few contractors of that size, so we’ve got a chick- en-and-egg-type problem.”

Mings says he will be putting his travelers’ boots back on after a few years working mainly out of the International Office. He says he will be targeting the pockets of the U.S. and Canada with missing employers and missing workers.

“We will still be stripping people. I love that. Basic organizing. It has worked since the beginning, but we also have to stand up non-union-pop shops that have a dozen people too,” Mings said.

Stephenson said Mings is the perfect person for the new position.

“Unfortunately, union is an ugly word for too many liners out there. Ed is a linermen to his bones. He understands them and our contractors better than anyone in this Brotherhood,” Stephenson said.

“We have 73,000 outside locals and every one just got a huge hand up getting bigger and stronger.”

Please join the staff and officers in helping Brother Mings in his new position.

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**RETIRED**

**Bennie Sandoval**

Bennie Sandoval was attending a nonunion trade school in the mid 70s when he told his instructor that some relatives were members of skilled construction unions.

He got some advice he didn’t quite expect.

“I talked to him about my dad, and he told me to go Jan IBEW apprenticeship a try,” Sandoval said, who retired as a Seventh District International representative on June 1.

“It was very good advice,” Sandoval said. He was doing pretty well in the class, and he was a residential contractor. He said that to further your knowledge, you need to get into an apprenticeship. He was the one that说服 me getting into the IATC program.

It turned into quite a career. Brother Sandoval was born in Santa Monica, Calif., and his family moved to Albuquerque, N.M., when he was 8. His father worked for defense contractor McDonnell Douglas and was a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Sandoval was married, had just turned 21 and was “working at the YMCA making $2.50 an hour,” he said, when he began his apprenticeship in 1976 with Albuquerque Local 611. He topped out as a journeyman inside wireman four years later.

Sandoval served one term on Local 611’s examining board, three terms on its executive board and three terms as treasurer. He also served on the negotiating committee, worked as an organizer and became active in New Mexico politics, all while continuing to work in the field.

“The camaraderie I had with my fellow workers and the sense of accomplishment I had at the end of the day, that was very special,” Sandoval said.

In 2003, he joined the Seventh District staff as an organizer, it wasn’t an easy adjustment at first. New Mexico is the only state in the district without a right-to-work law, and Sandoval had to adjust to organizing in states where organized labor had considerably less respect.

“Getting the locals to be functional in an area where there is very little union work going on and educating the members about what the IBEW can do for your benefits and working conditions was huge,” he said. “It was really about finding the right people to grow the IBEW.”

Sandoval was appointed a Seventh District international representative in 2008. One of his first assignments was serving Westaco, Texas, Local 195, a newly chartered local union in the Rio Grande Valley with little union presence. He helped hire and train staff and calls it the highlight of his career.

“Jim and Tom Davis (another Seventh district organizer who recently retired), both of them taught me a lot of things,” said Local 105 Business Manager Lauren Guzman, who was hired as a organizer by Sandoval in July 2006. “They let me know that one person at a time will make great work. We teach the people they the right way to do things so they know what the IBEW is all about and nev- er, ever make false statements. That will not help anyone.”

Saloins said Sandoval’s being fluent in English and Spanish helped him con- nect with potential members, who have seen their wages double since Local 105 was chartered.

“Someone to talk to about so many positive things,” Saloins said. “He always told me, ‘Don’t listen to the bad apples. Just keep doing what you’re doing.’”

In retirement, Sandoval and his wife, Merlinda, plan to split their time between Albuquerque and a home in Chama, N.M. near the Colorado border. Paul Sandoval, Bennie’s brother, works in the metropolitan department for the Public Service Company of New Mexico and has served as a Local 611 steward and organizer.

“I was on the road for 14 and a half years,” Sandoval said. “I just want to be home for now. Maybe in five or six months, I’ll do some traveling, but I am in no hurry.”

The IBEW officers and staff thank Brother Sandoval for his service and wish him a long and happy retirement.

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**HAVE YOU MOVED?**

Notice us of any address change

www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress or call 202-728-6263
Women’s Committee Chartered

Local 8 now has an officially chartered women’s committee, L.U. 8 (as, em, i, mar, mt, rts, spa), Toledo, Ohio — Women’s Committee Chartered  

Local 8’s inside work is currently at full employment with dozens of traveling brothers and sisters helping on our projects. Bus. Mgr. Roy Grosswiler expects the work outlook to remain busy for at least into next year. 

Please remember to vote and attend your local union meetings. — Mike Brubaker, P.S.

New Signatory Contractors

Local 16 (l), Evansville, In — Local 16 would like to welcome two new signatory contractors into the union family.  

2B Solutions recently signed a national voice-data-video agreement. The company is currently focused on the high-end retail market but has serious intentions of expanding into other aspects of the trade. 

Morton Solar electrical contractor signed a letter of assent for a large solar array project that is installing with a southern Indiana energy company. This public utility has plans for several other renewable projects in the jurisdiction. Hopefully this will lead to a long and prosperous relationship between the customer, the contractor, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. 

The 21st annual Turkey Testicle Festival was held April 28 with over 300 in attendance. Twenty members in need were helped and another $11,945 was sent to the 50th IBEW Reunion. Since the festival’s inception, nearly $50,000 has been raised! Many thanks go to everyone who worked so hard to make this worthwhile event possible. 

2018 marked the 25th year of the Miracle Ride for Riley Kids, and Local 26 was proud to be an active sponsor. For more information, please visit www.miracleride.net. — Donald P. Brovin, P.S.

2018 Apprentice Graduates

Local 22 (U, jpt, ts, spa), Omaha, Nebraska — Local 22 is proud to introduce the class of 2018 apprentice graduates. Please join us in congratulating them for their accomplishments. 


The residential wireman graduates are: Andy Doty, Jesse Graham and Robert Madrigal. 

Congratulations to the class of 2018 Apprentice of the Year Award recipients: Inside wireman graduate Garrett Taub and telecom wireman graduate Paul Euteneuer. 

As these graduates transition from apprentices to wiremen, may we all continue to act as mentors for them and continue to build upon our IBEW heritage. — Joel Anderson, P.S.

Three-Year VDV Agreement; Tributes for Longtime Service

Local 24 (es, ts, spa), Baltimore, MD — We have successfully negotiated a new three-year voice-data-video agreement. Thank you to those members who provided their input during negotiations. If you know of anyone interested in a VDV apprenticeship, please have them contact the apprenticeship office for details. 

I would like to thank retiring Executive Board member Ray Starks for his many years of service and his commitment to the local union throughout his career. Ray served as apprenticeship instructor for cable splicing, as a foreman, and as local union treasurer. Good luck in your retirement, Bro. Starks. 

Bro. Jerome Miller was appointed to fill Bro. Starks’ position on the Executive Board for the remainder of the unexpired term of office. And Bro. Baltuf Albacarys-Roop was appointed to the Examining Board to fill Bro. Miller’s unexpired term. I look forward to working with both as we continue moving the local forward. 

At the May membership meeting, retiring Bros. Dave Hodge, Tim Tacka, Rich Harrison and Bob Fifield received their 50-Year Service Pin Awards. Bro. Ernie Mills received his 60-Year Service Pin Award. Congratulations, brothers, and thank you for paving the way for all of us. — Peter P. Demchuk, B.M.

New Contracts Ratified


Local 26 congratulates the class of 2018 graduates of our Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee program and the “R to A Upgrade” program. There were 139 graduates (see photo below). Best wishes to the graduates, our new journeymen electricians! 

Local 26 is proud to announce the winners of this year’s scholarship award: Michael Bellerose, Jennifer Jenkins, Dinh Tran and Logan Donaldson. Congratulations to all and stay tuned for further details in our next article. 

It is with regret that we report the following members have passed away since our last article: Edward J. Krause III, Donald A. Shaw, Robert E. Simpson, Scott M. Mathison, Stephen C. Baker, Andrew C. Hanks, Robert E. Mundy Jr. and Edward C. Mikel. May they rest in peace. 

Best wishes to the following new retirees: 


Ann Peek and Christina Rademacher, has been meeting with Sisterhood, in the May 2018 issue of The Electrical Worker and posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/articles. 

To read more, email (locallines@ibew.org) or U.S. Mail. We welcome your input. 

Our guidelines and deadlines are content decisions are based on the editor’s judgment. Our guidelines and deadlines are.
Spring Golf Outing; New IBEW Journeymen

L.U. 34 (em,Um,ts,kqa), PEORIA, IL — Thank you to everyone who attended our local’s 7th annual spring golf outing. For the fifth year in a row the outing was held at Quail Meadows golf course in East Peoria and a highlight of the outing was the picture-perfect weather for golf. Members ranging from those with just a year of service to those with all the way up to 40-plus years of service enjoyed swapping stories and the occasional jokes. A big thank you to Bro. Dave Ramaly and his volunteers for once again organizing the event.

Congratulations to our newest journeymen. Local 34 commends the three residential, three telecom and 22 inside members who recently passed their respective journeymen wireman tests. All those long days of work and evening classes paid off and will soon be just a fond memory. Congratulations to the new journeymen: Lucas Loeger, Chris Schrader, Adam Finn, Brian Schwind, Leonard Pamson, Sam Boland, Chase Whitten, Roger Burton III, Daniel Cannon, David Conde, Michael Crady, Chad Cunningham, Wayne Dev Jr., Cory Ford, Joshua Fuller, George Hill III, Brent Lovell, Timothy Madison, Steven Nelson, Nathan Konna, Derek Stoller, Jacob Sydam, Gregory Umlch, Zachary Zimmerman, John Kellog, Jason Shaw, Kenneth Page, Chase Shank and Adam Smith.

Multiple Projects Underway; November 2018 Elections

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OHIO — The current work situation is good and the outlook for work remains strong. We currently have about 90 travelers working in our jurisdiction. Amazom in North Randall has about 180 of our members working on that project and the Euclid Amazon project is just getting started. Zenith Systems has the Euclid Amazon work.

Zenith Systems was just awarded the massive MetroHealth Hospital project. With the end of the baseball season, the Q Arena expansion will balloon up to 50-60 more members working for Einheit Electric. Sargent Electric has the Pitt Ohio job on Chevy Boulevard in Parma and it is scheduled to start at the end of the year. Several large projects are underway in Cleveland, Euclid, Westlake and North Olmsted. The electrical and the technology are being done by IBEW members working for Contemporary Electric, Einheit Electric, Zenith Systems, US Communications, Legacy Electric and Harlington Electric.

It is very important that all members and their families support labor-friendly candidates this November. As we have been talking about at the union meetings, there are many important issues at stake. If you are not registered to vote or you have moved since you last voted, you can contact our IBEU, Bus. Rep. Jim Embrescia, at jembrescia@ibew38.org and he will get the forms to you.

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

District Progress Meeting; Unit Contract Negotiations

L.U. 46 (asc,sc,es,me,es,lt,mr,mo,mt,rtb,ts,kt,ts81,at), SEATTLE, WA — Local 46 was recognized for our organizing efforts at the Ninth District Progress Meeting in May. Local 46 received the Henry Miller Award for 2017 in recognition of our local’s commitment to organizing. While membership in the IBEW increased by 3 percent overall in 2017, the membership in Local 46 increased by 6.4 percent, twice the national rate! Additionally, Local 46 was second in the Ninth District for the number of new contractors organized. Local 46 congratulates Bro. Allan Waud, who received the Above and Beyond Award at the progress meeting. This prestigious award is in recognition of Bro. Waud’s commitment to “organizing and furthering the purposes for which the IBEW was instituted.” As of this writing, our Wireman Unit Negotiating Committee has received NECA’s “last, best, and final” offer of $35.00 per hour over three years. The committee did not recommend accepting this offer, and on June 9 the Wireman Unit members voted overwhelmingly to reject NECA’s offer and to give the business manager strike authorization. Local 46 is one of only a few locals that does not have a mandatory CIR (closed shop) clause in our collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

Over 30 wiremen participated in a Bannering Campaign to encourage our signatory contractors to join NECA at the bargaining table. Local 46 thanks all the members who helped with the Banning Campaign.

Warren Shill, V.P.

RENEW Active & Involved

L.U. 60 (i), SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — Congratulations to RENEW 60 for reaching its one-year anniversary in March of 2018.

With the guidance of Bus. Mgr. Paul Garza and the direction of RENEW leaders Christopher Vaquez and James Wiemers, RENEW is becoming an important part of Local 60’s community involvement. From volunteering on Habitat for Humanity projects to political volunteering and leadership training, RENEW is actively involved and well on its way as a force within the local. The future looks great because of these young leaders.

Mike D. Hernandez, A.B.M.

Recent Job Fairs & Organizing Success

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA — Congratulations to our 2018 apprenticeship graduates. Their hard work and dedication has paid off. The recent graduates are: Bryan Brooks, Quentin Cressman, Joshua Crowther, Kevin DeCarlis, Corey Nash, Zachary Tabor, Tyler Whiteley and Shahied Williams.

Asst. Bus. Mgr. Dispatch-er Wil Morris and Membership Development Coordinator Shawn Bruce successfully completed COMET Train-the-Trainer classes. Local 80 will continue to train the members and apprentices on why organizing is so important to our industry. Local 80 has continued our organizing campaign and has organized 25-plus new members and is targeting open-shop electrical workers on the benefits of the IBEW.

The work picture continues to look good, with many projects already starting and more to start over the next couple of months.

Wil Morris, A.B.M.

IBEW Bowling Tournament; Class of 2018 Graduates

L.U. 82 (em,Um,rtb), DALLAS, OHIO — Congratulations to the electrical and teledata apprenticeship graduating class of 2018 for successfully completing their apprenticeship program! Graduates, it is now time to become a journeyman and to apply the skills you have been taught over the past five years on the job and in the classroom. Get involved and be a positive addition to Local 82!

Local 82 hosted the IBEW International Bowling Tournament in June. Thank you to all the brothers and sisters who came out to help make it a success — couldn’t have done it without you! A big shoutout to Johnny “Porkchop” Morris for all the hard work and time he put in to it. You did a great job, Bro. Morris, and I bet you can’t wait to do it again! We hope everyone who participated had a great time.

Doug Seary, P.S.
Lifesaving Action Rewarded

Doyle, Mick Collins, Mike Koferl and Leon Larned.

Lifesaving Award to Local 1249 member Michael Koferl and Zack Landmark, Brandon Bullock, Chris Murphy, Pete Kuhn, Murphy, Corky Cortez.


Local 124 congruenses appeticeship graduating class of 2018.

Republican governor has resigned under the weight of multiple scandals. He ran as a family-values candidate and an advocate for the working class. His various scandals and his signing of “right to work for less” legislation into law proved his campaign to be all lies.

The former governor and the current U.S. president have a lot in common. Both are novice politicians. Both are very deglamorized and not very anti-labor.

Webe members active all across the state of Missouri were a large part of a successful campaign to get the repeal of anti-worker RTW legislation on the ballot for a vote. Now we are working hard to get our members out to the polls this August. I predict we will prevail in this effort.

Our jurisdiction is poised to have full employment. Many large projects will be starting soon.

Congratulations to the class of 2018 apprenticeship graduates — our newest journeyman wiremen.

Steve Morales, P.S.

‘Built to Last’ TV Show Highlights IBEW Members’ Work

L.U. 134 (atv,em,gov;tm,rb,ts,spa), CHICAGO, IL — IBEW Local 134 partnered with “Built to Last,” a TV show on ABC, to positively highlight the unionized electrical industry of Chicago.

Local 134 produced three stories to highlight the IBEW-NECA Technical Institute and the unique work our members do.

The first piece highlighted Rico Smart, now a second-year apprentice, who decided by high school that being an electrician was the career path for him. Rico got a head start by joining Chicago Builds, a training program for high school students, to gather as much knowledge as he could before becoming an IBEW apprentice.

“Built to Last” highlighted the incredible work Local 134 does during Rebuild Chicago, an annual event aimed at helping those less fortunate receive the upgrades to their homes necessary to live safely and comfortably.

Finally, Local 134 members were highlighted for the work they do on the most iconic bridges that line Chicago’s windy river. Each season, as sail boats come out of storage, they must pass through the Chicago River where suspension bridges are raised and lowered to allow them through. Local 134 members play a critical role in making sure these bridges operate smoothly with the City of Chicago’s Department of Transportation.

Kevin Connolly, R.S.

2018 Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 124 (eel,atb) DECATUR, IL — IBEW Local 124 congratulates the local’s 2018 apprenticeship graduating class. The recent graduates are: Travis Dillé, Jacob Dust, Benjamin Garrett, Irey Hass, Kyler Moore, Tyler Sicks and Travis Will.

We commend the graduates on their success and wish them all the best in their IBEW careers.

Steven Tilford, P.S.

Local 124 congratulates the apprenticeship graduating class of 2018.

Contract negotiations begin in August. Bus. Mgr. Zulli has also been busy working on an outline. Our members recently received a survey and questionnaire package to assist in the process. Their suggestions and answers reflect our concerns and actions. Bus. Mgr. Zulli looks forward to another successful result.

The future looks exceptionally well for Local 130. Many large projects are planned; however, we are still awaiting their release.

Billy Buckel, P.S.

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We commend the graduates on their success and wish them all the best in their IBEW careers.

Steven Tilford, P.S.
Memorial Scholarship Awards

L.U. 234 (81mt), CASTROVILLE, CA — Our local is honored to announce the results of our first Christopher Burditt Memorial Scholarship awards. The recipients by county are: Monterey County, Maia Rose Harper; San Benito County, Joseph Howard; and Santa Cruz County, William Marlatt. Congratulations!

In partnership with the Burditt Family, Local 234 offers each recipient a $5,000 scholarship. Award criteria require the student to have an immediate family member affiliated with any union (past or present membership) and to submit a 500-word essay based on one of three topics regarding unionism and organized labor.

On behalf of our members, their families and the local, we all join in congratulating the recipients on their thoughtful and well-written essays on labor. We are pleased to support their academic endeavors and wish them well for their futures.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

Work Picture Good

L.U. 280 (i,es,em,es,Lo,mt,mt&spa), SALEM, OR — At Local 280, change and progress are underway and continuing. We have a new training center facility on the east side of the Cascades in Redmond, and we are progressing in the direction of day school for our apprenticeship. We recently hit a record high in membership. Our organizers continue to hold new-member dinners to explain our organization, the benefits of union membership and how it works for them. Member retention remains strong.

We do have concerns regarding solar installation work projected in the state and a need for manpower to meet the demand. A gigawatt of solar fields in the state by 2050 is projected and manpower is a concern. We are optimistic that things will play out in a way to cover this work.

Another challenge at the time of this writing is being able to man all the data center work our local currently has going on. It has been a walk-through at the Facebook data center project since the middle of May and it’s expected to continue in that way for the foreseeable future.

Congratulations to our graduating apprentices!

The graduation was June 20. Twenty-seven newly licensed IBEW Local 280 journeymen are now in the field, helping advance our organization’s future.

Thanks to all members who voted in the May 2018 elections — labor votes do count! Not voting is submission to those who would harm your standard of living if they are not kept in check.

Stay “hungry,” active and engaged even in good times.

Lynn McDonald, P.S.

LOCAL LINES

May 2018 Job Fair;
Lambeau Field Project

L.U. 158 (i,um,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI — Local 158 had a job fair in May, and though the numbers were down, the number of qualified applicants was impressive. Our local will be needing more manpower in later summer and fall, with a scheduled nuclear plant outage in the fall and a very large project we are waiting to be released in midsummer. The whole state will be looking for this same manpower.

On one of our ongoing projects at Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers, our local members were involved in switching over eight high-pressure sodium light poles with 1,200-watt LED light poles. They were remounted with the use of a helicopter. See accompanying photo (at bottom, left) of Local 158 electricians who worked on the Lambeau Field project. We have been fortunate to have had a lot of work at the Packers’ stadium throughout the years.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

Hockey Team Championship

L.U. 164 (i,em,Lo,es), JERSEY CITY, NJ — We congratulate our local 164 recreational hockey team, the “Local 164 Wirens,” for putting together a perfect 17-0 record and winning the championship in this, their inaugural season.

The Wirens play in the Montclair State University, Ford Hall Adult League. The team includes journeymen and apprentices of varying ages but of the same dedication to excellence. The team captain is second-year apprentice Matt Reilly and the co-captain is second-year apprentice Skyler Izzo — both of whom helped organize the team and manage the season and schedule.

We again thank the Wirens for their collective effort and congratulate them for a great season. We wish them luck in the future.

Warren Becker, V.P.

Local 164’s recreational hockey team, the Local 164 Wirens, won a championship in their inaugural season. (Credit: Garrett Englishman.)

Cincinnati’s Pro Soccer Team Receives MLS Franchise

L.U. 212 (4), CINCINNATI, OHIO — The long-awaited announcement on Cincinnati’s pro soccer team, FC Cincinnati, receiving a Major League Soccer franchise came May 29. It took six months of lengthy negotiations with the city and others, all hinging on the location of the new stadium. The new stadium will be built on the site of an old high-school stadium, and the FC Cincinnati franchise will build the high school a new stadium close by. This could turn out to be another great stadium project for Local 212.

Local 212 congratulates the class of 2018 apprenticeship graduates. We are proud of the graduates and wish them all the best in their IBEW career.

Work continues to be steady in our area. Multiple projects at University of Cincinnati, along with two power-house substations and the Union Terminal remodel have made for a busy spring. Our union is not a spectator sport. Get out there and get active.

Phil Bovard, P.S.

Local 212 congratuulates recent apprenticeship graduates for 2018.

The picnic is scheduled for Aug. 21 at Lakewood Forest Preserve.

See you at the meeting. In solidarity.

Wendy J. Corfis, P.S.

Local 280 lead organizer Kail Zuschlag addresses new members at informational dinner.

Local 234 Pres. Mike Ihnot presents Maiya Rose Harper her scholarship at North Monterey County High.

Apprenticeship Graduates; Fish Fry for Retirees

L.U. 270 (i&es), OAK RIDGE, TN — At this writing, our work picture is looking somewhat better. We still don’t expect our work to really pick up until spring 2019.

Local 270 recently hosted a fish fry for our retirees. We would like to thank retired member Rick Berg for catching all the fish that was served. We had close to 100 people in attendance and the event was an enormous success.

Local 270 congratulates our newest IBEW journeymen retirees. These recent Oak Ridge Electrical (JATC apprenticeship graduates are top-notch and have a bright future in store. [See accompanying photo at bottom, right.)

Kevin Webster, R.S.

LOCAL LINES

‘Congratulations to All’

L.U. 510 (es,js,ks,spa), WAUKEGAN, IL — Recently the following members became journeymen wiremen: John Harris Jr., Justin Hoffmann, Justin Howe, Nick Lehman, Trevor Morgan, Cameron Ruth and Brandon Tenegul. Best of luck to all in your careers and may you enjoy many profitable and healthy years in the trade. The following apprentices received the 2017-2018 Hansen Award: 1st year apprentice Eric Morales, 2nd year Mark Scales, 3rd year Jordan Mahoney, 4th year Mike Krapil, 5th year Justin Howe; VDV apprentices — 1st year Allan Miller and 2nd year Robert Beddia. The Outstanding Apprentice Award went to Nick Lehman. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

The scholarship winners were chosen by random drawing at the June meeting. This scholarship program is funded by the local and available to any member’s child. We had 21 applications returned this year, which represents an uptick in participation. The winners are as follows: Melissa Tekampe, Dominic Rivas, Gina Stoll, Kristina Kauth, Maile Dunn, Leah Anderson, Jeremy Schwingbeck, Natalie Konrak, Skyler Morley, Lyndsey Bassett, Cara Dollenmaier and Molly Robbins. All were contacted and will be joining us at the July meeting. Congratulations to our 2018-2019 $500 scholarship winners!

The picnic is scheduled for Aug. 21 at Lakewood Forest Preserve.

See you at the meeting. In solidarity.

Wendy J. Corfis, P.S.

Local 164’s recreational hockey team, the Local 164 Wirens, won a championship in their inaugural season. (Credit: Garrett Englishman.)

Local 234 Pres. Mike Ihnot presents Maiya Rose Harper her scholarship at North Monterey County High.

Apprenticeship Graduates; Fish Fry for Retirees

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Kevin Webster, R.S.

Work Picture Good

L.U. 280 (i,es,em,es,Lo,mt,mt&spa), SALEM, OR — At Local 280, change and progress are underway and continuing. We have a new training center facility on the east side of the Cascades in Redmond, and we are progressing in the direction of day school for our apprenticeship. We recently hit a record high in membership. Our organizers continue to hold new-member dinners to explain our organization, the benefits of union membership and how it works for them. Member retention remains strong.

We do have concerns regarding solar installation work projected in the state and a need for manpower to meet the demand. A gigawatt of solar fields in the state by 2050 is projected and manpower is a concern. We are optimistic that things will play out in a way to cover this work.

Another challenge at the time of this writing is being able to man all the data center work our local currently has going on. It has been a walk-through at the Facebook data center project since the middle of May and it’s expected to continue in that way for the foreseeable future.

Congratulations to our graduating apprentices!

The graduation was June 20. Twenty-seven newly licensed IBEW Local 280 journeymen are now in the field, helping advance our organization’s future.

Thanks to all members who voted in the May 2018 elections — labor votes do count! Not voting is submission to those who would harm your standard of living if they are not kept in check.

Stay “hungry,” active and engaged even in good times.

Lynn McDonald, P.S.

Local 158 members worked on a big lighting project at Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers. The use of a helicopter was required for the project.
IBEW Volunteerism — Aiding Homeless Veterans

Officer Transitions

(IBEW and your fellow IBEW brothers and sisters.

Sixteen members of Local 292 and four members of Local 110 made the final push in less than ideal conditions to get the project completed on time. Just another example of union Brotherhood giving back to the community.

Eric Peterson, P.S.

Local 302 congratulates the class of 2018 apprenticeship graduates.

Apprenticeship Graduation

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Scott Crichton, P.S.

IBEW Service Awards

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Jeffrey C. Winnette, B.M., P.S.

Local 302 service award recipients Charles Blackwell (left), William Olmman and Donald Baker.

Local 358 journeyman wireman apprenticeship graduates class of 2018.

Apprentice Graduation Banquet

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Local 350 former business manager Jeffrey Winnette (left) and Local 530 member Eric Grettton (center), with hiking companion Grant Blanchard, celebrate hiking Vermont's five highest mountain peaks.

Michael Byers, P.S.

L.U. 530 (lo,ar,br), SARAW, ONTARIO, CANADA — At the recent Annual OPC Hockey Tournament in London, Local 530 once again took home top honors. In a heated final we sent Ottawa to the showers to become the winningest local in tournament history. Thanks go out to the coach and trainers who helped us not only win but bring home all the available hardware this year.

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der of this year. We would like to congratulate the Fifth District team and the International Office on a huge victory at the Atlanta Gas Light Campaign in Georgia.

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

**Tribute to Life of Service**

L.U. 602 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA — At press time, we offer a loss of Local 602. Bro. Dale Hulsey was a dedicated mentor to all the members he knew. Dale is remembered and loved for his accomplishments, his valor and his legacy.

Brother Dale has set the bar in Local 602 for being a top-notch union man. A small electrician and dedicated mentor to all the members he knew, Dale is remembered and loved for his accomplishments, his valor and his legacy.

Dale is survived by his union family of 300+ brothers and sisters. When God Almighty in his infinite wisdom calls me home, I hope and pray that I can be remembered like Dale. Bro. Dale Hulsey! A man among men, and brother to the end! Rest in peace, brother!

Robert Melton, B.M./P.S.

**Tribute to a Brother**

L.U. 760 (i,rt&spa), KNOXVILLE, TN — The Electrician Training Academy Knoxville (ETAK) along with committee members, local officers, family members and guests celebrated the class of 2018 apprentices’ graduation and subsequent completion of the apprenticeship program.

The 12 new journey level members proudly displayed their journeyman wireman ticket, the Electrical Training Alliance and Department of Labor (DOL) certificates, and transcripts from Pellissippi State Community College, where they earned 45 semester hours of college credits.

The graduates each received a special gift from Sue Wojciechowski, wife of Wayne Wojciechowski, our JATC chairman. Sue paid the fee so each graduate would receive the 57 semester hours of recommended college credit from the American Council on Education. Other gifts and awards were presented by IBEW Local 760 and the East Tennessee Chapter of NECA. Additionally, awards were presented by some of our traditional partners including Ideal Industries, Klein Tools and Milwaukee Tool.

The class of 2018 apprenticeship graduates are:

Christopher Beckerlde, Andrea Boyd, David Clifft, Howard Crowe, Russell Hancock, James Holman, B.M./F.S.

**IBEW Members Laundered — Successful Water Main Repair**

L.U. 776 (i,rt&spa), CHARLESTON, SC — Vaniel Dancy, known to all here in Charleston simply as “Tee,” is gone. He was a union brother, teacher, foreman and active member loved by everyone, bar none. There is a major void where he once stood. Bro. Tee was 42 years old with a wife, five children and a large family. The man practiced and demonstrated quality in every way.

Take care of yourselves, brothers and sisters. You know how it is with us. Most of us have a little something to eat in the morning, at breaktime, lunchtime, afternoon break and then dinner. That’s five meals. I don’t know what Tee did, but I know he looked like a lot of us do. About middle age and a little bit on the large side, like myself. We have to be here to take care of our families and to teach others what we know. The first reality about the Code of Excellence is that we have to be here to practice it. We have to take care of ourselves. We can’t worry about safety and think nothing of our health; that just does not make sense. Believe me when I say I am not preaching. I just never thought of it myself — until now. Rest in peace. Bro. Tee.

Andy Weiner, P.S.

James Holman, B.M./P.S.

Greg White, Pres.

**Officer Transitions**

**IBEW Careers of Service**

L.I. 666 (unltko), RICHMOND, VA — At press time, we are on the eve of significant transitions in our local. For those in those transitions are certainly our longtime business manager and our longtime financial secretary.


Both Bus. Mgr. Underwood and Fin. Sec. Jarvis retire Aug. 1, 2018. Thank you, brothers, for your many years of dedicated service to our local!

Charles Shelly, P.S.

**Apprenticeship Graduation**

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The class of 2018 apprenticeship graduates are:

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**COMET Class for Apprentices**

L.U. 952 (i), VENTURA, CA — This past April, Local 952 held its COMET (Construction Organization Membership Education Training) class to teach first- and fifth-year apprentices the importance of union labor, as well as hands-on training on how to talk to unorganized workers about union labor and the benefits of organizing. A special honor was the presence of Ninth District Int. Rep. Ken Scherpinski. Recently appointed, Int. Rep. Scherpinski gave the local’s apprentices a wealth of knowledge, including how to respond to harsh criticism when speaking to unorganized workers who are wary of “going union.”

The “Above and Beyond Award” for 2017 was presented to Local 952 organizer Bro. Chris Huston. Huston was honored for his outstanding work and commitment to organizing workforce labor in Ventura County.

Dane A. Sutherland, P.S.
The Electrical Worker | August 2018

75th Anniversary Banquet; ‘Welcome to New Journeymen’

L.U. 1340 (i&o), NEWPORT NEWS, VA — Our 75th Anniversary Banquet & Oyster Roast will be held at the Virginia Living Museum, 524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd., Newport News, on Saturday, October 6, beginning at 6 p.m. Catering will be provided by Silver Service Catering. Please make your reservations early by calling the office at 757-875-1340, so we can get a count of all attendees.

The construction work picture continues to be slow in the jurisdiction, but most of our members seeking employment have been able to find work on the road. Many thanks to those locals providing opportunities for our brothers and sisters in other areas!

Several Local 1340 journeymen recently completed a Module 1 Motor Controls class. Congratulations to all. For information on upcoming classes, please contact Jerry Goddard at 757-875-1344.

Local 1340 and EMCOR Government Services will be negotiating this summer for the third contract of the Langley Air Force Hospital maintenance unit.

Congratulations to all new journeymen in the class recently completing our apprenticeship program: Antwain Carey, Chase Conner, Marcus Frey, Nicholas Hendley, Nicholas Maday, Stewart Mattson, Robert Pacheco, Paul Smith, Robert Thorson and Luis Vazquez. We welcome them to the ranks of qualified electricians!

James Avery, P.S.

Local 1340 journeymen who completed the Module 1 Motor Controls class in March: Lewis Inge (left), Jack Barrett, Orville Nelson, Nolan Farrell, Lee Sateren and James Grier.

Labor Day 2018

L.U. 1466 (i&o), COLUMBUS, OHIO — Local 1466 would like to say that we hope everyone is enjoying the summer and spending quality time with their friends and families. Thank you for always working hard to keep each other safe and looking out for one another.

We also wish everyone a happy Labor Day in September. It is easy to forget that this holiday is a day to honor the hard work of the members of organized labor. It took a lot of blood, sweat and tears that were shed by those who came before us to help us become the union that we are today. While you are enjoying the holiday with your family, please remember to take the time to think about your brothers and sisters who always have your back, as well as those who set the stage for us to be where we are today.

Jim Jette, P.S.

A Life of IBEW Service

L.U. 2510 (em.gov/LCIT,okl), MILWAUKEE, WI — It is with great sadness that Local 2510 reports the loss of former business manager Forest Ceel.

On April 23, 2018, Forrest Ceel passed away unexpectedly while traveling back to Wisconsin from Arizona.

Local 2510 and the labor movement were always a part of Forrest’s life and who he was. His father, Jerry Ceel, was the founding business manager of Local 2510. During his 33 years as a member of Local 2510, Forrest held many roles and positions, including as a registrar/hobbyist, Executive Board member, unit chair, president, and business manager. Forrest succeeded Dan Sherman as Local 2510 business manager in April 2009 and continued in that role until August 2011, when he resigned because of health issues.

The commitment and dedication that Forrest dedicated to IBEW Local 2510 and the labor movement will continue to be felt for years to come. He will be missed, and our thoughts are with his family.

Nancy Wagner, P.S.

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 “Who We Are” page.

January International Executive Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:00 a.m., by Chairman Erikson, on Monday, January 29, 2018, in Naples, Florida. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Furco, Easton, Levin, 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 Cooper

International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood both in Canada and in the United States.

Legal Defense

Payments for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined, approved, and filed.

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.

Electrical Workers Historical Society

A motion was made, seconded and carried to authorize a contribution in the amount of $3,000,000.00 to the Electrical Workers Historical Society to satisfy outstanding debts, and to provide operating expenses for 2018.

Resolution Regarding Quebec House Investment

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the resolution recusing the International Secretary and International Secretary-Treasurer with regard to any decision to engage NREA as a discretionary manager with respect to the Quebec House asset. Further, if CS Management issues an opinion that such engagement of NREA is appropriate and prudent and determines the full market value of the property and the Trustees of the PBF (other than the International President and the International Secretary-Treasurer) believe it is appropriate and prudent to engage NREA as a discretionary manager with respect to the Quebec House asset, then the Trustees of the PBF approve the delegation of discretionary investment management authority with respect to the PBF’s investment in the Quebec House asset.

Appeals Filed with the International Executive Council

At its December 2017 meeting, the International Executive Council filed an appeal from Local Union 716 member Dennis Lazard. After additional information was provided, the council reviewed the facts pertaining to the appeal, and it is the decision of the IEC to approve Brother Lazard’s appeal.

Article XX and XXI Cases

In 2017, the IBEW was involved in two Article XX disputes, and no disputes under Article XXI.

The IBEW’s 2018 PHOTO CONTEST

For two decades, IBEW members across the U.S. and Canada have been sending us the images that tell the stories of who we are and the work we do. We’ve been proud to share those pictures with you, and this year we’re celebrating a milestone — the IBEW’s 20th Annual Photo Contest.

A few of the rules have changed, but your task is the same: Show us what it means to be a member of the greatest union in the world, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. See official rules and submission instructions at ibew.org/photocontest.

Starting this year, entries MUST be submitted electronically via the Photo Contest link on IBEW.org. Please contact the Media Department at media@IBEW.org or 202-728-6102 with additional questions.

Enter Today! Deadline: Oct. 1

1st Place: $200
2nd Place: $150
3rd Place: $100
Honorable Mention: $50

www.IBEW.org
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Light on Women in the Trades

Boston Member’s Book Shines

The title of her new book of poetry, “Stanley’s Girl,” although the creative license of poetry, which Eisenberg says she’s encouraged by many of the efforts being made today, like the IBEW/EW’s women’s committees, the use of social media to connect with other women and the intentional recruiting by her home local, which recently ran a campaign that brought in a record number of applicants from women and people of color.

Carolyn Williams, director of the Civic and Community Engagement Department, who entered the apprenticeship program at the same time as Eisenberg, noted the importance of telling these pioneering tales.

“Too often we fail to realize the power in stories, how they inspire and motivate others,” Williams said. “Each woman’s entry into the trades is different, and it’s important that these voices be heard.”

For Eisenberg, poetry and prose both have important roles to play in that storytelling. The stories in “We’ll Call You If We Need You” aren’t ordered by individual or chronologically, but by theme, which shows the shared experiences of the different women across trades and states, and how pervasive the harassment was. It didn’t just happen to electricians, or to women in the South. It was everywhere. These women weren’t just building stadiums and office buildings, they were breaking down barriers, often against the will of their male co-workers.

“In a way, we all started as success stories,” Eisenberg said. “You have to remember, we didn’t have anybody ahead of us.”

Much of “We’ll Call You If We Need You” uses direct quotes from the interviews. “Stanley’s Girl,” however, utilizes the creative license of poetry, which Eisenberg describes as a more raw and natural medium.

“It’s less censored,” said Eisenberg, who holds a Master of Fine Arts and has taught creative writing. “There’s an emotional accuracy to it. It can give shape to the chaos.”

Eisenberg says unions like the IBEW are filled with problem solvers who can create a more welcoming environment for women.

“The IBEW has long been at the forefront of a lot of this,” said Eisenberg, who helped plan the first IBEW women’s conference in 1997 and spoke at the 2018 IBEW International Women’s Conference. “It’s great to see how supportive President [Lonnie R.] Stephenson is.”

Unions by design have a lot to offer in terms of creating a culture of equity and inclusivity, Eisenberg noted. Collective bargaining agreements are increasingly including language that addresses workplace discrimination on the basis of gender, race and sexual orientation. And women in unions make more than their nonunion counterparts, with women of color earning an even greater advantage.

“There’s a lot pulling the country back right now, and that’s a great opportunity for unions to step in and be a voice of solidarity,” she said. “But our house has to be in order. We have to acknowledge and address our issues, too.”

Author Susan Eisenberg, right, graduated from her apprenticeship in 1982 in the first Boston Local 103 class to include women. Eisenberg’s apprentice sisters pictured with her are Jill Feiblowitz, left, Margaret Gove, Sara Driscoll and Cathy Cunningham.

lot has changed since Susan Eisenberg’s book, “We’ll Call You If We Need You: Experiences of Women Working in Construction,” was published in 1998. And yet, as she notes in the preface to the recently-released second edition, a lot has stayed the same.

“We still haven’t gotten to critical mass,” said Eisenberg, a Boston Local 103 retiree who entered the trade in 1978 and later interviewed 30 fellow tradeswomen on their experiences as the first generation of women in a male-dominated field for the book.

The Ohio native and her peers were pioneers in a field that had opened up to them through government mandates more than a cultural shift. And as one man, a steward, told Eisenberg in those early years, “just because we have to take you in doesn’t mean anything has to change.”

As the stories recounted in the book detail, that attitude was pervasive. The title itself is the response she got when she attended a hiring hall years, “Just because we have to take you in doesn’t mean anything has to change.”

Fortunately, some of the journey was being made for her by those who entered the trade in 1978 and later, and by those who have continued to support the advancement of women in the trades.

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Union-Run Health Clinics: Solidarity Through Affordable Care

n union-dense New York City, Local 3 has long operated a medical clinic for members from its headquarters in Queens. Its nearly 30,000 members could populate a respectably-sized small town, so it’s little wonder the local has the means to offer its Pension Hospitalization and Benefit Plan participants a wide range of services, from apprentice entry exams to X-rays.

But smaller membership numbers don’t have to mean affordable health care and clinic solutions are out of smaller locals’ reach, and they’re proving it at IBEW locals in Cincinnati and Las Vegas.

Delivering better health care service was something Business Manager Al Davis had long wanted to do for the 3,400 members of Las Vegas Local 357. “I brought it up when I became business manager in 2011,” he said. “But I was told that it wasn’t cost-effective.”

A few years ago, however, at a construction trades meeting in California, Davis had an informative discussion with a leader from another union, who spoke glowingly about his own local’s success with operating a health care clinic.

That conversation made Davis more determined than ever to get something going for his members. “When I got back to Las Vegas, I told our trustees that I wanted to make this happen,” he said.

Davis also learned a great deal about clinics and pharmacies for union locals as the agent on the health care facility built for Nevada’s Culinary Workers Union Local 226, a UNITE HERE affiliate.

IBEW locals in Cincinnati and Las Vegas.

It was crucial for Davis to find an affordable health care—have a clearer understanding of the corporate clients.

Typically, a local negotiates with Activate a fixed per-month price for services, accounting for the estimated number of people eligible to use the clinic — say, the members of the local and their families.

“Without the cost-plus strategy, we were going for our members. It certainly worked out better for us,” the business manager said, noting that Local 357’s members have a clearer understanding of the fixed service costs going forward while Activate keeps a strong handle on its profit margin.

Activate estimates that such partnerships can help locals reduce health and welfare costs anywhere from 10 percent to 25 percent.

“We have the potential to save a ton of money on lab fees because we can buy them in bulk,” Davis said, offering an example. “We’re cutting out the middle man.” He also said that the clinic has helped to lower health care costs for retired Local 357 members, who have free access with no copay and no deductible.

Local 357’s clinic, which opened last September about two miles from the L.U.’s downtown office, is set up to handle about 2,500 visits a month, Davis said, a figure that easily meets its local’s objective of providing a comprehensive line of free, primary-care medical services for members and their families. The clinic employs a doctor, a nurse practitioner, and three medical assistants.

Davis has been pleased with how the clinic encourages Local 357’s members to take an interest in their health. “It does a good job of catching members who might not go to a primary care physician,” he said. “Right now, we’re at 30 to 40 percent usage, well ahead of the curve and growing.”

Cincinnati Local 212 Business Manager Rick Fischer is finding similar health care success thanks to his own local’s experience with Activate.

“A lot of members who’ve never been to a doctor are checking it out,” he said.

Local 212 has jurisdiction in three southwestern Ohio and four northern Kentucky counties and in three counties in neighboring southeastern Indiana.

Leaders of some IBEW locals in Indianapolis had told Fischer about their interest in operating health-care clinics. He’d also spoken about the idea with representatives of other Hoosier State locals, mainly from the Ironworkers and Plumbers unions.

United Association Local 440 in Indianapolis, for example, runs an Activate clinic for its members, as does Cincinnati’s UA Local 392, located just across the Ohio River in Erlanger, Ky.

Fischer worked out a plan for the UA local to share its Erlanger site with Local 212. “We thought, ‘If we could both use the same office for our southern members, it could serve them and save some money at the same time,’” he said.

Shortly before Las Vegas Local 357 opened its clinic last September, Cincinnati Local 212 cut the ribbon both on its Kentucky clinic and on a second location in the local’s headquarters in Cincinnati’s northern suburb of Sharonville.

Both of Local 212’s clinics are conveniently located, and the dual locations mean reasonable driving distances for all of the local’s widespread members. Giving them easy access to the facilities’ doctors, nurse practitioners and nurse’s aides was a top priority, Fischer said.

“The clinic means there are no logistical hurdles to things like pre-employment drug testing, for example. Generic prescription drugs dispensed by the clinic are free for members as well.

“Everybody that uses it has high praise for it,” Fischer said, adding that the number of clinic visits has been steadily growing.

“Right now, it’s more of a benefit for members than a savings for us,” Fischer said, but “we’re getting there. It’s a good thing. It’ll pay off in 24 to 26 months.”

A grand-opening incentive plan helped grow Local 212 members’ interest in the clinics, the business manager said. “Members could get a $50 Visa gift card on their first visit,” he said. “For some of them, this is how they’re finding out for the first time that they have health issues.”

Many locals already have found ways to save money on health care with the Family Medical Care Plan, the health benefit organization operated jointly by IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association. Local-run clinics can work hand in hand with the FMCP, which serves nearly 100,000 participants from about 170 locals, as well as a few larger companies that use it to provide insurance for IBEW members who are covered by a union contract.

“Keeping members healthy and working — and caring for those who need care — have long been top priorities for this organization,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “Getting creative to help take away some of those stresses — by making quality health care available to members — is a can’t-lose proposition.”

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YouTube
The IBEW is partnering with one of the South’s biggest energy companies to train the next generation of skilled power workers. See how at YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker.

Vimeo
The Delaware River’s historic Lower Trenton Bridge is getting an updated look, thanks to members of Trenton, N.J. Local 269. See the 107-year-old landmark in a new light at Vimeo.com/IBEW.

HourPower
Many IBEW locals benefit from the special problem-solving skills that military veterans can bring to electrical work. Watch one veteran’s powerful story at IBEWHourPowers.com.

ElectricTV
Making solar-powered dog houses recently gave some middle schoolers a taste of electrical industry work. See how members of Phoenix Local 640 and NECA made it happen on ElectricTV.net.