The Hudson River crossing between Nyack and Tarrytown, N.Y., is a terrible place to build a bridge. The river is three miles across, one of the widest spots on the entire river, where, in places, the bedrock sits deep beneath hundreds of feet of sandy riverbed.

The river's banks, lined north and south with homes, businesses and vigilantly protected wetlands, offer no place for staging construction materials, and to complicate things further, there was already a bridge in the way — the 60-year-old Tappan Zee, a bridge so underbuilt due to the Korean War-era steel shortage that replacement planning began almost as soon as the ribbon was cut.

Every day, nearly 140,000 cars crossed the rickety four-lane artery, one of the most notorious chokepoints along the New York State Thruway, the lifeline linking New York City to the rest of the state and New England beyond.

So how did such a difficult, ambitious and desperately-needed infrastructure project — a bridge replacement that had been stalled for decades — get delivered on time and under budget?

Without drama.

On Labor Day 2018, after decades of delays and worries, the Gov. Mario Cuomo Bridge, a $4 billion, 3-mile, twin-span cable stayed bridge was on track to be delivered, as promised, built in just five years with union labor and American steel.

"Was there any real bad news once we started building? I didn't hear any," said International Executive Council Chairman and New York Local 3 Business Manager Chris Erikson. "Nothing."

The straightforward, no-drama construction process of the new bridge stood in stark contrast to the white-knuckle experience of driving across the old Tappan Zee, which 30 years ago exceeded its original expected traffic volume by five times.

"You would drive over it, and they would have these large steel plates in front of you in patches on the roadway," said New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo at the opening of the first span last August. "And the vehicle in front of you would go over the steel plate, and it would move just a little bit. And you would see a little sunlight coming through the crack in the roadway. And I would say, 'My luck, that steel panel's going to move, and I'm going right down.' And I would play it out in my mind. Do I take off the seatbelt, do I open the window? I think it traumatized an entire generation."

The main spans of the new Gov. Mario Cuomo bridge over the Hudson River carry traffic while the old Tappan Zee bridge is dismantled in the background.
Back to Basics

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

T

here aren't many news articles dealing with the labor movement that don't pose the question at least once: is labor dying? For years, opinion makers and so-called experts have been writing our obituary, telling us that organized labor is on its way out. Well none of these naysayers were at last month's Membership Development conference. Because, to paraphrase Mark Twain, they would have learned that the reports of our death are greatly exaggerated.

The IBEW has experienced five straight years of unbroken growth in our total membership. This year, more than half of our districts met the benchmark we set for a per year growth in “A” members—and others are close behind. Last year, not one district met that mark.

Our “A” membership has hit an all-time high, while we keep adding professional and industrial members in every branch. And it doesn’t matter where we are. In fact, some of our biggest victories have come in right-to-work states with low union density.

Despite all the challenges faced by the labor movement—hostile judges and politicians, big CEOs who don’t respect their employees’ right to collectively bargain, and well-funded union busters—the IBEW continues to grow.

And we are doing it by getting back to the basics of good organizing. When Henry Miller and the founding members of the IBEW first set out to turn a handful oflinemen into a continent-wide union of all electrical workers, organizing was not just one job among many responsibilities. It was their only job. And they did it by getting out into the worksites and communities and talking face to face with workers. It took a lot of patience and determination, but as the message spread, the IBEW began to grow.

These days, IBEW locals have a lot to deal with, from contract negotiations to managing benefits. But the old truth still holds that organizing must be our top priority.

We have access to new technology that Henry Miller could never have dreamed of, like our new Mini Van app, which allows organizers to connect with workers in the community, or social media tools, like Facebook and Instagram, which organizers are using to reach out to the unorganized.

But while technology is changing, the basics remain the same. And that means building a spirit of solidarity with every single worker. It means educating them on the importance of the IBEW, and, perhaps most importantly, teaching them that the union is not just some dues-collecting institution, but a family of brothers and sisters who look out for each other and work together to better our lives and the lives of everyone who works for a living.

New members are signing up not just because being in the IBEW means better wages and benefits, but because they know there is power in numbers.

We have one more year before the next Membership Development conference. By continuing to stick to the basics, we are laying the foundation for our biggest year ever.

A Justice for the Rich

Kenneth W. Cooper
International Secretary-Treasurer

T

here’s a saying, “When people show you who they are, believe them.” For 12 years on the federal bench, U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh has been showing us exactly who he is, siding with corporations over workers whether it’s a matter of our rights or, literally, our lives.

Judge Kavanaugh’s track record shouts that he would be an even more reliable vote for the interests of CEOs and the wealthy than was now-retired Justice Anthony Kennedy. In other words, Judge Kavanaugh could do even more harm to working people than the justice whose swing vote gave us the devastating 5-4 ruling in Janus v. AFSCME in June.

Fueled by Janus, the deep-pocketed enemies of unions are plotting more legal assaults on workers’ rights, and you’d better believe they’re counting on Judge Kavanaugh to be their rubber stamp.

And his attitude toward workplace safety is truly dangerous. In a well-known case, he sided with SeaWorld against our members and their families.

In 2016, Judge Kavanaugh stood with Verizon against our own members in Springfield, Mass. Overturning the NLRB, he declared that workers parking in the company’s lot couldn’t display signs in their cars urging their employer to honor the union contract—in their own personal vehicles.

And his attitude toward workplace safety is truly dangerous. In a well-known case, he sided with SeaWorld against our members.

The White House is bringing the business community about Judge Kavanaugh’s hostility toward regulations, many of which protect our members and other workers from injury and toxic exposure on the job. The administration also believes his vote could dismantle what’s left of the Affordable Care Act and deliver the fatal blow to life-saving protections for pre-existing conditions.

Working people seeking justice won’t even have a wobbly swing vote to hang their hopes on if the nation’s highest court becomes a 5-4 rubber stamp against them.

And we know the odds of keeping Judge Kavanaugh off the court aren’t good. But Americans on many fronts are fighting his appointment. His confirmation hearings are scheduled to start Sept. 4, but it’s not too late. I hope you’ll join me and call your senators and tell them that workers and their families can’t afford the pain that Justice Kavanaugh would inflict.
GOV. MARIO CUOMO BRIDGE
BY THE NUMBERS
6.2 miles of roadway
$3.8 billion
5 years 3 months – original timeline
4 years 10 months – time from main pile installation to opening
8 towers, 419-feet tall
700 miles of cable
74 million pounds of steel and concrete
18,000 commuters a day in 1955 when the Tappan Zee first opened
138,000 commuters each day now
$1.2 billion in wages
100% American made steel
40,000 total jobs created
7,000 direct jobs
$2 billion in primary and secondary wages
6 million hours without a recordable accident
1,400 multi-colored high-powered LED lights
7,000 sections of pre-cast concrete roadbed

The Electrical Worker | September 2018

Continued from page 1

In 2012, after 30 years of planning and more than 400 meetings, a replacement was agreed on and construction began.

Electrical work was split between three signatory contractors: Welsbach Electric, Schupp Line and LB Electric. Local 5 and New City Local 363 divided up the work nearly along the jurisdictional border which runs down the Hudson River.

To meet the tight cost targets and tighten confines, the winning contractors came up with an audacious plan: build the bridge in sections 100 miles north at the Port of Coeymans and float the pieces 20 hours downstream to the construction site.

Bridge piles, steel pipes three to six feet in diameter in 12-foot sections, were welded together — the longest was more than 300 feet long — at Coeymans. A thousand of them were driven into the river bottom until they hit bedrock. Then they were drained and refilled with steel-reinforced concrete.

After the piles were laid, work began on the bright blue girders, 9 feet high and in sections a few dozen feet long. Iron-workers bolted them together upright until they were hundreds of feet long and 40 feet wide. Then the wiremen took over, installing the substations, conduit, fiber optic communication and electrical lines for bridge lighting and components.

Instead of hanging 130 feet above wind and water, the IBEW wiremen did their work just over a ladder’s climb from the ground.

“There were substations on the bridge and conduit work that was all attached to the girders while in Coeymans,” said Local 5 Business Representative Tom Capurso. “If a girder was going to Local 3’s side of the bridge, we did the work. When a girder would be on Local 363’s side of the bridge, they did. It was all worked out in the project labor agreement before we started.”

When the girder sections were complete, they were loaded on barges, ready to ferry thousands of tons of steel to the bridge site. As construction got into full swing, with more than 125 IBEW members working, there were always three barges on the river. One, lading, heading down, one unloading at the crossing and one on its way back north for more.

The essential tool that made it all possible was the massive floating crane known as I Lift NY, with a 360-foot-tall, 64-foot-wide boom that could lift nearly 2,000 tons at a throw. The crane has no equal in the Western Hemisphere and was sailed 6,000 miles through the Panama Canal after it finished work on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge replacement.

Everything that made the new bridge came by boat, including the workers. The river was like a dancehall, with the crane working, there were always three barges — one unloading at the crossing and one on its way back north for more. The crane was weaving between first one, then two, then three bridge spans and the normal bustle of commercial shipping and pleasure boats. Work only slowed when the river froze solid or wind whipping down from Canada covered the stairs and approaches with a glassy shell of ice.

“Some individuals were on boom lifts 120 feet in the air on the barges,” Capurso said. “A boat throws off a 2-foot wash and the barge would rock with you out at full extension. All you could do was duck down and ride it out.”

Much of the IBEW’s work is invisible, except the 1,400 color-changing LEDs that shine from the concrete pier caps floating the bridge on rays of light. The New York State Thruway Authority can change the colors of the lights to mark holidays or championships by any of New York’s professional sports teams.

Unlike Boston’s Big Dig — which started with a $2.6 billion price tag and ended with a $4.8 billion one — or the new San Francisco Bay Bridge, which started with a $500 million estimated cost and ended north of $6 billion, the Cuomo Bridge had an initial planned cost of a hair over $4 billion and never budged.

All that’s left is for the thousand-ton sections of the old bridge to be cut apart, lowered to barges and then dumped off the coast of Long Island, forming the foundations of ocean reefs that will help protect New York’s coastline from the savagery of future hurricane seasons.

At the opening of the first span, Cuomo thanked the men and women on the job.

“I thank them. Once again, the 7,000 workers who we pushed to work holidays and weekends, they did over 9 million hours in the cold, in the snow, in the sleet, the union workers who built this project,” he said.

“This is a 100-year guarantee bridge,” Cuomo said, noting that it could have been done more easily and cheaply, like the Tappan Zee it replaced. “But our responsibility as parents and citizens is to leave this state a better state for you. And that’s what was done for us, and this is our investment and our gift to you and to your children.”

Despite the complicated planning process and decades of political hand-wringing and delays, the remarkable thing for Local 363 Business Manager Sam Fratto was how unremarkable the job was.

“It was a good job. It employed our members for a few years and showed what we can do,” he said. “It was nice to get those calls from the contractors telling us how good our electricians were, but we knew. We know who we are.”
Supreme Court Nominee's Track Record: Corporations Win, Workers Lose

Judge Brett Kavanaugh has been ruling against workers’ rights from the federal bench for more than a decade, notably deciding against an IBEW local in 2016 and siding in an earlier case with Donald Trump to crush a casino organizing drive.

Now nominated by President Trump to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, Kavanaugh would fortify the court’s big-business, anti-worker majority for years to come, squarely positioning all three branches of government against the rights and economic security of working people.

“Judge Kavanaugh has run roughshod over workers his entire career,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. “A seat on the Supreme Court would give him the ultimate power to rule against unions, against job safety, against affordable health care for people with pre-existing conditions — in short, against justice, fairness and decency whenever and wherever they conflict with the interests of the rich and powerful.”

In the casino case, Kavanaugh was one of three Republican-appointed judges who voted unanimously to set aside an NLRB order requiring one of Trump’s Atlantic City properties to bargain with the United AutoWorkers. Similarly, he sided with billionaire GOP donor Sheldon Adelson in a labor dispute at the Venetian hotel in Las Vegas.

“Judge Kavanaugh has run roughshod over workers his entire career. In November, we have a chance to shift the balance of power.”

— International President Lonnie R. Stephenson

“Kavanaugh, along with [Justices] Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch — and Roberts along for the ride — will comprise the most radical, anti-labor law Supreme Court in my lifetime,” University of Wyoming law professor Michael Duff, a former National Labor Relations Board attorney, told Bloomberg.

Kavanaugh was nominated July 9 to fill the seat of retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was considered the court’s swing vote in many 5-4 decisions. Those include the devastating Janus v. AFSCME decision in June, allowing public workers to stop paying the fees that make it possible for unions to negotiate contracts, handle grievances and otherwise fight for all members of a bargaining unit.

Kavanaugh clerked for Kennedy in the early 1990s and later served in George W. Bush’s White House. He was appointed to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2006.

His history on the federal bench is so solidly weighted in favor of corporate interests and deregulation that a leaked document shows the Trump administration urging industry lobbyists to pressure senators to confirm him.

The White House boasts to the business community in the memo that “Kavanaugh has oversized federal regulators 75 times on cases involving clean air, consumer protections, net neutrality and other issues.” Politico reported.

In the Venetian case, the AFL-CIO said Kavanaugh reversed an NLRB ruling “that the hotel engaged in unfair labor practices when it requested police officers to issue criminal citations to union demonstrators who were legally protesting.”

He attacked workers’ free speech rights again in 2016, ruling for Verizon against Springfield, Mass., Local 2342. The NLRB had ruled that workers had the right to display signs in their personal vehicles in the company parking lot that simply said, “Verizon, Honor Our Existing Contract.” Kavanaugh decided the signs constituted an illegal picket in violation of the union contract.

He also has argued in favor of allowing the Secretary of Defense to abolish collective-bargaining rights, dissenting from a majority opinion upholding a safety citation against SeaWorld after the death of a trainer and declared the structure of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau unconstitutional, an attempt to put corporate foxes in charge of the henhouse.

Though that decision was overturned, the Trump administration has effectively dissolved the agency, a watchdog established after the Great Recession to protect Americans from unscrupulous banking and investment practices.

Signaling its ongoing efforts to destroy Obamacare, the White House assigned pharmaceutical lobbyists and former Republican Sen. John Kyl to move Kavanaugh through the confirmation process.

“If I were the White House, I’d deploy the same strategies that the White House used to fight popular legislation,” AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said.

“I am so proud of our members in Missouri and throughout the nation who helped make this a reality. It’s a powerful reminder that when we work together, we achieve great things.”

St. Louis Local 1 Business Manager Frank Jacobs noted the Legislature moved the vote up to the August primary from November because it thought it would help Proposition A’s chances of passing. Instead, it was voted down in 99 of the state’s 114 counties, most of which are dominated by Republican politicians.

“Right-to-work laws allow employees covered by a collectively-bargained contract to enjoy its benefits without paying their fair share to cover its costs. They also suppress wages. Missouri workers are paid at a higher rate than six bordering states with right-to-work laws.

“Right now, all we can do — and must do — is fight Kavanaugh’s nomination is call our senators, and call and call again, to make the case that a Supreme Court majority cemented against working Americans isn’t good for anyone.

“We know that winning this one is a long shot. But in November we have the chance to shift the balance of power. Our votes can ensure that our voice is heard in the next confirmation hearing, and all the other coming fights in Congress and statehouses that threaten our rights and our future.”

IBEW Members Help Kill Right-to-Work in Missouri

In a resounding victory for the IBEW and working families, Missouri voters overwhelmingly rejected a right-to-work law on Aug. 7 that had been passed by the GOP-controlled state Legislature and signed by former Gov. Eric Greitens.

More than 67 percent voted “no” on Proposition A, which repealed the law passed in February 2017.

The state’s constitution allows for a referendum on any legislation passed by the General Assembly if approximately 200,000 voters sign petitions requesting one. Right-to-work opponents gathered more than three times that number, setting up August’s election.

“Missourians reaffirmed what we’ve known for a long time,” said International President Lonnie O. Stephenson, who visited the Show-Me State and assisted with get-out-the vote push. “Right-to-work is bad news for all working Americans, not just union members. That’s the message you get when you put this issue in the hands of the people instead of the politicians.”

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“The fight captured the attention of working people across the country, many of whom took part in phone-banking operations to get out the vote. They also put their money where their mouth was. Pro-corporate organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, which are accustomed to having a financial advantage, complained about not having as many resources as right-to-work opponents.

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, a member of Portland, Ore., Local 125, traveled to the state several times and was in Kansas City during the vote.

“The victory in Missouri follows a national wave of inspiring activism that is leading to life-changing collective bargaining agreements and electoral triumphs that remind America the path to power runs through the labor movement,” AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said.

Missouri political director Rudy Chavez, a former Kansas City Local 124 president, said the win will be even more significant if the momentum continues and voters vote out politicians who supported right-to-work and other measures that harm working families.

Some Republican politicians have said they will bring right-to-work up again when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

“We voted our pocketbooks,” Chavez said. “We need to remember in November.”

International President Lonnie R. Stephenson and St. Louis Local 1 Business Manager Frank Jacobs knocked on doors the weekend before Missouri voters’ resounding rejection of right-to-work.
Calling All Canadians: Now Hiring in Georgia

The Plant Vogtle nuclear facility in Georgia needs hundreds of electricians, as well as welders and other tradespeople, in order to meet its construction deadline — and it looks like it’s going to take a few good Canadians to make that happen.

“Construction is booming at unprecedented levels,” said Fifth District International Representative Gene O’Kelley. “We anticipated this years ago. It took a little longer than expected, but there’s no doubt that it’s here now.”

To meet the demand, Bechtel, the project contractor, has applied for H-2B visas for 350 journeyman wiremen and 150 welders to work on Units 3 and 4 of Plant Vogtle. The visas are given to foreign, non-agricultural workers coming for temporary work, such as a peak load need or on a one-time basis.

The call went out in July across Canada for available members willing to travel south this fall, where they’ll get a per diem along with their regular pay. That’s a good deal for a lot of reasons, said First District International Representative Paul Dolsen. For an out-of-work member, not only are they getting a $450-per-week attendance bonus, they’re being paid in American dollars, which are currently stronger than Canadian dollars.

With major projects winding down in Atlantic Canada and continued unemployment in some western provinces, including around Alberta’s oil sands, there are a lot of members in need of work.

“Given some of the pockets of unemployment in our country and the winding down of those major projects, we shouldn’t have any issues with getting enough members,” Dolsen said.

While powerline technicians are able to cross the border without visas for work, often after disasters like Hurricanes Katrina or Maria, it’s a different story for journeyman wiremen. That classification of Canadian worker must apply for a work visa. It’s an issue the IBEW has addressed with both countries’ governments. Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland has also raised it in the current renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

“Our Red Seal journeymen get the best possible training and can work anywhere in the country with that certification. There’s no reason they shouldn’t be able to offer their skills in the U.S. when it’s needed,” said First District Vice-President Thom Reid.

The IBEW is working with fellow trade union United Association, along with Bechtel, to secure the visas. The two unions represent the largest number of in-demand skilled craftpeople.

Prior to getting permission for Canadian members to work at the plant, O’Kelley says the IBEW petitioned job site in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. They also ran television and radio ads.

Part of the reason Georgia Power, Vogtle’s part owner, has had trouble attracting workers is the comparatively low wage rate versus other booming parts of the U.S.

“The wages at Plant Vogtle are lower than they are in other parts of the state... A lot of these other jobs pay more incentives, so they do get more manpower before Vogtle,” Augustzia, Ga., Local 1359 Business Manager Will Salters told The Atlanta Journal Constitution.

The Vogtle project has drawn controversy for delays and for going over budget. Units 3 and 4 have been under construction since 2011 and were originally scheduled for completion in 2016 and 2017, with a $14 billion price tag. Based on current estimates, they aren’t expected to be done until late 2021 or early 2022, with costs likely to double.

Salters and O’Kelley say many of the delays were due to engineering issues and using subpar materials, which didn’t always make it to the site on time.

“The delays never had to do with manpower,” Salters said.

The units are the first to be built in the U.S. in decades. While they can be expensive to build, nuclear plants are prized for their zero-emissions energy and reliability, something that’s become increasingly important as states scramble to meet emissions standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

“Quite the opposite,” Reid said. “Just the opposite. From the beginning, the plant has been a civic responsibility, a national civic responsibility all the way from Augusta, Ga., to Paris, France. President Thomas Reid the vice-president international of the Premier District.

The FIEE workforce in collaboration with the syndicate United Association and Bechtel for the work, the two syndicats represent the largest number of gens de métiers qualifiés in demand.

“Pour répondre à la demande, le contrat du projet Bechtel, a déposé une demande pour des vis H-2B pour 350 compagnons électriques et 150 électriens-soudiers pour travailler sur les unités 3 et 4 de la centrale de Vogtle. Les visas sont accordés à des travailleurs étrangers des secteurs non agricoles pour un emploi d’une durée déterminée, comme dans le cas d’une demande élevée ou à titre d’occasion unique.

Cela a été fait au mois de juillet à travers la centrale pour les membres disposés à voyager au sud cet été, où un per diem sera également accordé avec leur salaire. C’est un bon accord pour plusieurs membres, notamment le représentant international du Premier District Paul Dolsen. Pour un membre sans emploi, non seulement qu’ils reçoivent une prime de présence de 450 $ par semaine, mais ils se payent en dollars américains qui est présentement plus fort que le dollar canadien.

Alors que d’importants projets prennent fin dans les provinces de l’Atlantique et la persistance du chômage dans les provinces de l’Ouest, y compris dans les sables bitumineux en Alberta, il y a beaucoup de membres qui ont besoin de travailler. « Étant donné les poches de chômage dans notre pays et la fin de ces importants projets, nous n’avons aucun problème à trouver des membres, » émet Dolsen.

Bien que les monteurs de ligne puis- sent traverser les frontières sans visa pour le travail, souvent à la suite desouragions comme Katrina et Maria, c’est une autre histoire pour les compagnons électriques. Cette classification de travailleurs canadiens doit faire une demande de visa pour le travail. C’est un problème que la FIOE a soulevé aux deux gouvernements de ces pays. La ministre des Affaires étrangères du Canada Chrystia Freeland a également soulevé dans les renégociations de l’Accord du libre-échange nord-américain.

« Nos compagnons certifiés Soudeurs du Groupe Rouge reçoivent la meilleure formation et peuvent travailler partout au pays. Il n’y a aucune raison pourquoi ils ne peuvent pas partager leurs connaissances dans les É-U lorsque c’est nécessaire, » affirme Thomas Reid le vice-président international du Premier District.

La FIOE travaille en collaboration avec le syndicat United Association et Bechtel pour obtenir les visas. Les deux syndicats représentent le plus grand nombre de gens de métiers qualifiés en demande.

Avant d’obtenir la permission d’offrir l’emploi aux membres canadiens pour travailler dans la centrale, O’Kelley a dit que la FIOE a participé à une foire à l’emploi en Géorgie, en Caroline du Sud ainsi qu’en Floride. Ils ont également diffusé des annonces publicitaires à la télévision et à la radio.

C’est notamment à cause d’un taux faible de rémunération que Georgia Power, corporatif et propriétaire de Vogtle a de la difficulté à attirer des travailleurs à comparer à d’autres parties de l’État des États-Unis et à d’autres régions en pleine effervescence.

Dans une entrevue accordée à Atlantic Journal Constitution, le gérant d’affaires Bill Salters de la section locale 1359 située à Augusta en Géorgie explique que « Les travailleurs sont plus faibles à la centrale de Vogtle à comparer à d’autres parties de l’État. De nombreux emplois payent plus d’avantages, alors le nombre de leur main-d’œuvre est plus élevé que Vogtle. »

Le projet Vogtle a attiré des controverses pour les délais et pour avoir dépaysé le budget. Les unités 3 et 4 sont en construction depuis 2011 et ont initialement été prévu pour 2016 et 2017, avec une facture de 14 milliards de dollars. Selon les prévisions actuelles, on s’attend à les terminer à la fin de 2021 ou 2022, avec de coûts susceptibles de doubler.

Salters et O’Kelley avouent que les nombreux délais sont dus à des troubles reliés à l’ingénierie et à l’utilisation de matériaux inférieurs; d’ailleurs, ces pièces n’arrivaient pas toujours sur les lieux en temps voulu.

« Les délais n’ont aucun lien avec la main-d’œuvre, » soutient Salters.

Les nouvelles unités sont les premières à être construites aux États-Unis depuis des décennies. Alors que la construction peut s’avérer coûteuse, les centrales nucléaires sont réputées pour avoir une énergie à zéro émission et fiabilité, c’est une chose qui est devenue plus en plus importante puisque les États se préparent à satisfaire les normes établies par l’Agence américaine pour la protection de l’environnement (Environmental Protection Agency).

Si les délais continuent de retarder, le public pourrait davantage bouder le projet ce qui pourrait nuire à l’avenir de l’énergie nucléaire.

« Le pays observe ces deux unités de près, » avise Salters. « Si tout se passe bien, cela peut mener à plus de travaux de construction, et nous devons remédi er un bon nombre de membres de la FIOE des deux pays, tout en étant formés pour le prochain. »

Out-of-work Canadian members could get the chance to work on construction of Plant Vogtle, a nuclear station under construction in Georgia, alongside members from Augusta, Ga., Local 1359.
RETIREM ENT
Carolyn Williams

Carolyn Williams, whose IBEW journey began in the great underbelly of Atlanta, was one of the first women to complete Atlanta Local 663’s apprenticeship program as a journeyman wirewoman. Later, she became the local’s first woman and person of color to serve as an assistant business manager.

“Her mother grumbled about money ‘wasted’ on her college education while her father beamed at the idea of his daughter being an “electrical engineer’” — not quite, she told him.

“She was hired as a summer helper, assigned to a crew that plunged deep underground twice a day to manage power lines for miners blowing open future train tunnels. Williams was laid off after four days — along with others, she thought — and sent to a construction site at the city’s airport. ‘It was scary, but it helped me understand what women bring to the table and their voice. She never has to raise her voice. She’s very calm, but also very commanding, very powerful when she speaks. ‘She’s the strongest person I’ve ever known.’”

“Mr. Honea came down to the job site, said, ‘Fellows, these pictures on the wall — golly pictures from magazines — I want them torn down. I’ve got a female coming tomorrow and I don’t want her to have any problems.’”

“She’s a Jedi master,” said Ann Peek of Toledo, Ohio, Local 8, who first heard her speak at an IBEW women’s conference and agreed, at Williams urging, to represent the Fourth District on the International Women’s Committee.

She has this aura around her,” Peek said. “You see people who need to raise their voice. She’s very calm, but also very commanding, very powerful when she speaks. ‘She’s the strongest person I’ve ever known.’”

“She made an impression from the beginning when she applied to be an apprentice,” retired Local 663 Business Manager Lonnie Honea said. “That job you worked on — that was a mock layoff. Everybody else but you came back to work on Monday, “a union source said. ”Well, she handled her funereal a decade later: “Mr. Honea came down to the job site, said, ‘Fellows, these pictures on the wall — golly pictures from magazines — I want them torn down. I’ve got a female coming tomorrow and I don’t want her to have any problems.’”

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Williams rose to be a job foreman, winning respect then and throughout her career with composure and dignity. “She’s a Jedi master,” said Ann Peek of Toledo, Ohio, Local 8, who first heard her speak at an IBEW women’s conference and agreed, at Williams urging, to represent the Fourth District on the International Women’s Committee.

She has this aura around her,” Peek said. “You see people who need to raise their voice. She never has to raise her voice. She’s very calm, but also very commanding, very powerful when she speaks. ‘She’s the strongest person I’ve ever known.’”

“She’s the most qualified. I’m kidding myself trying to find somebody else.”

“In six months’ time, she had gained the respect and admiration of every business manager in the district.”

Williams handled agreement approvals as an international representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department until 2006, when Hill promoted her to director of what is now the Civic and Community Engagement Department. Building on the IBEW’s commitment to diversity, she created and strengthened programs and activities for women, minorities and younger members. Her efforts raised awareness throughout the union about civil and human rights issues, inspiring activism and community service.

Her persistence over the years led International President Lonnie R. Stephen son to establish the International Women’s Committee and to preside over a resolution at the 2016 convention urging locals to launch their own. It passed unanimously.

With trademark humility, Williams says she’s proud of her role in the emerging committees and the biennial international women’s conference, both of which “are helping leadership understand what women bring to the table and how they support the IBEW and the work of the labor movement.”

Her influence and contributions made a mark far beyond the IBEW. As director, she served on the boards of the Construction and Maintenance Department, the IBEW’s Railroad Department gave a united presentation during a recent U.S. Department of Labor meeting about protecting whistleblowers from employer retaliation.

“In a perfect world, companies wouldn’t create an environment where whistleblowing was needed.”

— William Bohné

Whistleblower protection laws also cover workers’ participation in safety and health activities as well as the reporting of work-related injuries, illnesses, or fatalities. Federal law forbids employers from discriminating against workers when they exercise their rights by filing OSHA complaints, talking to inspectors, seeking access to employer exposure and injury records, reporting injuries, and raising safety or health complaints with employers.

In 2007, the Federal Railroad Safety Act was amended to transfer authority to railroad carrier worker whistleblower protections to OSHA and to include new rights, remedies, and procedures.

If you need assistance getting started, talk to your business manager or shop steward. And for help in filing a claim, contact an IBEW Federal Employees Liability Act (FELA) designated legal counsel. For details, visit ibew.org/railroad.
Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and the A. Philip Randolph Institute and chaired the NABTU’s Committee on Women in the Trades, persuading them to support an annual tradeswomen’s conference.

Williams is returning to Atlanta after 16 years of making weekend trips home. When she moved to Washington, her husband, retired NFL linebacker Joel Williams, stayed in Atlanta to care for their aging parents.

She’s misty-eyed about leaving her job and Washington-area friends but looking forward to having time to support the work of Local 615 and other labor and pro-worker political campaigns in her hometown. A body builder since college, she also plans to lift weights again on a regular basis.

The IBEW family thanks Sister Williams for decades of outstanding service and dedication to our union and wishes her a long and happy retirement.

APPOINTED

David Salazar

International Representative Jan Schwingshakl retired, effective Aug. 1, 2019.

From 1975 to 1980, Schwingshakl served as a regional representative based out of the International Office in Washington, D.C., to oversee the education and development of IBEW members in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.

A native of Milwaukee, Schwingshakl began her career in 1975 with Wisconsin Electric Power Company, now known as We Energies, as an accounting analyst in the company’s finance department, where she joined the local division of the Independent Association of Office, Sales and Technical Employees union. Although Schwingshakl managed to survive the electricity utility’s 1993 downsizing, almost half of the workforce were not as fortunate. Those who remained voted to merge with the IBEW’s Waukesha, Wis., Local 250 a year later.

From the start, Schwingshakl had been active in developing and providing training programs for new members and stewards, and she continued to do so with Local 250. She also served as an IBEW representative on a team that worked on a proposed merger of Wisconsin Electric and Northern States Power (now Xcel Energy), and in 2000, she developed and maintained Local 250’s first website.

“The better trained our members are — the more they understand about how their union benefits them, their employer and their communities — the better we are able to fend off baseless attacks and create more activists,” she said. “That creates a stronger IBEW for workers and their families.”

In 1998, Schwingshakl was appointed by then-Business Manager Tim Driscoll to be Local 250’s coordinator for education, research, and training. She also served on the local’s organizing and human rights committees, and in 2000, she was appointed to serve as central registrar, helping to extend the role of education into the political and legislative process.

In addition to her considerable work with Local 250, Schwingshakl served on the Wisconsin chapter of the AFL-CIO’s state election committee and education committee. She also found time to serve on the faculty advisory committee for the University of Wisconsin’s School for Workers, and on the Laborfest and Union Label committees with the Milwaukee County Labor Councils.

“Without the knowledge of what your rights are in the workplace, you’re pretty much at the mercy of the employer,” she said. “And you can be sure they know their own rights are.”

In 2003, International President Edwin H. Driscoll appointed Schwingshakl to be an international representative and assigned her to head the education side of what was then known as the Education and Research Department. There, she developed and facilitated training programs in organizing and strategic campaigns. Three years later, when IBEW split the department into separate units for education and research, Schwingshakl remained in charge of the Education Department, developing and implementing new training programs addressing membership development and political organizing.

“One of our first really big projects was the creation of the two-week long business manager training, still in use today,” she said.

In 2013, Schwingshakl returned to her first love — hands-on classroom training — and became a regional trainer. “There’s nothing more gratifying than standing up in front of a class and seeing light bulbs go on,” she said. “That’s the best part, when you really make a difference, and someone got it.”

A member of the United Association of Labor Educators, Schwingshakl continued her education by taking classes at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, at Upper Iowa University, and at the National Labor College.

Although work travel has somewhat dominated Schwingshakl’s life for the last five years, in retirement she plans to take on some pleasure travel, as well as spend time with her family and focus on getting healthier. “It’s hard to eat healthy when you’re out on the road for work,” she said with a laugh.

The Brotherhood wishes Sister Schwingshakl a restful, well-deserved retirement.

DECEASED

Patricia Cote

Retired International Representative Patricia Cote, a longtime steward and leader in the telecommunication branch, died on June 9, 2019, in Easton, Mass., following a brief illness. She was 76.

“She was very dedicated and respected,” said Broadcasting and Telecommunications Director Martha Pultar, who first met Cote in 1988. “Pat came along at a time when there were not a lot of women in leadership positions. She was always someone that I looked to for advice. She was passionate about the IBEW and was very outspoken about that to her membership. When someone speaks to you from the heart, you tend to listen.”

Sister Cote was born in Eldorado, Ill., but moved with her family to Manchester, N.H., as a child and later attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

By 1969, she was employed in New England Telephone’s accounting division and joined an organizing committee looking to join the IBEW. The effort succeeded and Cote became a member of Boston Local 2397 in September 1970.

Two years later, Local 2397 was amalgamated into Boston Local 2222 and Cote was named an assistant business manager. She also served on the policy committee during Schwingshakl’s tenure and helped with the IBEW’s state election coalition and education activities.

“I’ll always remember her telling me, ‘You can really take care of people and be nice at the same time,’” Cote said. “Those were words to live by. She was just tremendous.”

The IBEW’s officers and staff send their condolences to Sister Cote’s family and many friends during this difficult time.

DECEASED

Bonnie G. Crawford

Bonnie G. Crawford, who served manufacturing locals as an international representative in the South before retiring 20 years ago, died May 26, 2019, at age 84.

“He was dedicated to the Brotherhood,” said Nathan Edgar, also a retired representative from the region that is now the Tenth District, formerly the Twelfth District. “That was the kind of man he was. He believed in his job and he believed in the work we were doing.”

Crawford was involved in IBEW’s organizing drive in the 1950s at Gould National Battery in Tennessee, where he worked after serving in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

In 1957, he was initiated into Memph- is Local 2227, which no longer exists, and joined its executive board two years later. He was elected local president in 1961, a position he held until coming aboard the international staff in 1986.

Crawford retired in 1986, freeing him to spend time fishing and hunting. He was an active member of the Germantown Church of Christ in Memphis and had been married to his wife, Betty, also known as Neel, for 59 years. In addition to Betty, he is survived by three children, numerous nieces and nephews, and great-grandchildren, and five brothers and sisters.

While most of Crawford’s colleagues from his era are gone, Edgar said, they held him in high regard. “He always did his best for the Brotherhood,” he said.

The IBEW family extends its deepest sympathy to Crawford’s family and friends.
Local Lines

Congratulations to Graduates

L.U. 1 (arc,res,ele,em,es,at,ft,mt,rs,s,se,spa,shw,wo), ST. LOUIS, MO — IBEW Local 1’s first graduating class, with the new Skilled Trades Associate of Applied Science degree from St. Louis Community College proudly celebrated at a dinner on Thursday, May 31, at Favaza’s Restaurant. The recent graduates are from our inside, Residential and Communications apprenticeship programs.


You are eligible to receive your Skilled Trades AAS degree if you completed one of the Local 1 apprenticeship programs with the IBEW/NECA Electrical Training Center and completed the required classes at St. Louis Community College.

For more information about the program, please call the IBEW/NECA Local 1 St. Louis office at 314-644-3587.

We mourn the loss of Local 1 members who passed away in recent months. Regrettably, space limitations prevent our listing all their names in this article. Local 1 extends heartfelt condolences to their families.

Jan Bresnan, P.S.

David became an IBEW member in 1982, serving as chief steward and business representative.

Local 15 wishes both gentlemen the best in their well-deserved retirement. Both Bro. Cagney and Bro. Sergenti served the membership at the highest level and will be missed.

New Bus. Reps. Ben Busser (nuclear sector) and Fabian Vela (clerical sector) fill the posts formerly held by Bros. Cagney and Sergenti. The new representatives started on April 30, 2018. Busser is a former steward from Byron Nuclear Station. Vela was a steward, a chief steward and then served the local as treasurer prior to moving into the business representative position.

The Local 15 Executive Board appointed Bro. George Longoria to replace Fabian Vela as the local’s treasurer.

Congratulations to all. Local 15 welcomes the new appointees and wishes them the best in their new roles.

Jan Stader, P.S.

‘ Elections Have Consequences’

L.U. 17 (catv,um,ctt,ok,au), DETROIT, MI — As we approach midterm elections, it’s time to reflect on what has happened to working people across our country and, specifically, here in Michigan.

A few years back, a Republican-controlled state House and Senate made Michigan a “right-to-work” (for less) state. This past June, those same folks repealed Michigan’s prevailing wage law.

One month later, the conservative right-wing justice appointed by Trump tipped the scales on the Supreme Court enough to make the entire United States “right to work” for public sector employees.

A lifelong appointment to the Supreme Court by Donald Trump continues the attack on all public-sector unions.

[Editor’s Note: To read more, see news story “Supreme Court Ruling in Janus: An Attack on Every American Who Works for a Living,” posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/articles.]

They are taking one brick at a time, brothers and sisters. That’s how they are attempting to destroy labor unions.

What will it take for us to unite behind labor-friendly candidates? What do we, and our families, have to lose before we vote anti-labor jerks out of office?

I am fond of the idea that one day I will retire with enough money to live comfortably, i.e., as will all of you, enjoy a solid middle-class lifestyle until that day comes. That is thanks to this great union — and I am willing, as many of you are, to fight like hell to keep it.

Brothers and sisters, elections have consequences. Anti-labor attacks are harming our members and working people across this great nation.

Please vote for labor-friendly candidates this November! Visit our website at www.ibewlocal17.org for a list of candidates who fight for our way of life!

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

Officer Transitions

L.U. 19 (u), AURORA, IL — Please join the members of Local 19 in congratulating our former Bus. Mgr./Pres. Christopher Harris on his recent appointment as an IBEW international representative assigned to the Utility Department at the International Office in Washington, D.C., effective July 1, 2018.

Bro. Harris, your perseverance, dedication, determination, and commitment to the members of Local 19 will never be forgotten.

We also congratulate Bro. Mark Klinefelter, who was appointed by the Local 19 Executive Board as business manager/president to fill the unexpired term of office until the local’s next regularly scheduled election.

On behalf of Local 19 brothers and sisters, we wish Int. Rep. Harris and Bus. Mgr. Klinefelter the best of luck in their new positions!

Natalie Guzman, B.R.

Career of IBEW Service

L.U. 43 (em,ak,rt,s), SYRACUSE, NY — As many of you have already heard, former Bus. Mgr. Don Morgan retired from Local 43 at the end of June, after 45 years with the IBEW.

We will miss him and his dedicated, devoted work for our local union and the labor movement.

We will miss his morning and afternoon greetings to each of us as he passed us in the office hallway.

We will miss his humor, and his willingness to listen to us — especially when we were facing some real obstacles. Thank you, Don, for that.

Many of you may not know that Bus. Mgr. Morgan also has served Local 43 as president, vice president and Executive Board member. He also served as trustee of the Pension, Annuity & Health Plans Trustee of the Central New York Joint Apprenticeship & Training Fund. Thank you, Don, for all you have contributed to this organization.

We wish you well, Don. I know you plan to go hunting more, enjoy time with your family and grandchil- dren, and take plenty of walks on the beach with the sand between your toes. Retirement can hold the most meaningful years of life. You deserve all the best, Don.

We wish you a healthy, long lasting retirement. Enjoy!

Alan Marzullo, B.M.

Steward & Safety Conference

L.U. 47 (tt,lmt,mo,uk,lkw), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings, brothers and sisters.


At Anaheim, negotiations continue with new engineering and management groups.

We are still bargaining the UI/Quest cable locators and Irvine Ranch Water District contracts.

More new jurisdictional battles with LIUNA and IUOE have sprung up in solar and LA Mass Transit projects.

We lost the Southern California (SC) planners conference by 247-352 votes.

The Tribal labor relations order election took place June 27. Once certified, the tribe has agreed to the original three-year agreement and to give 30 days of back pay.

Our 88th Annual Local 47 Members Memorial Golf Tournament was July 27, and the picnic took place Aug. 11. Our 15th Annual Brotherhood Motorcycle Run is Oct. 6.

We are sad to report the death of several members: Kevin Smith, Jay Fisher, Jim Weir and Steve Armitage. Condolences and prayers to their loved ones.

Live free & safe — work & buy union.

Mitch Smith, P.S.

Recent Staffing Changes

L.U. 35 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Greetings, brothers and sisters, from Local 35. We recently went through some staffing changes. Lifetime business representatives Terry Cagney and Dave Sergenti have retired.

Terry became an IBEW member in 1972, serving as steward, chief steward, vice president and presi- dent of former Local 1539. After then-Local 1539 was amalgamated into Local 15 in 1994, Terry began serving Local 15 as business representative.

Dave became an IBEW member in 1982, serving as chief steward and business representative.

Local 15 wishes both gentlemen the best in their well-deserved retirement. Both Bro. Cagney and Bro. Sergenti served the membership at the highest level and will be missed.

New Bus. Reps. Ben Busser (nuclear sector) and Fabian Vela (clerical sector) fill the posts formerly held by Bros. Cagney and Sergenti. The new representatives started on April 30, 2018. Busser is a former steward from Byron Nuclear Station. Vela was a steward, a chief steward and then served the local as treasurer prior to moving into the business representative position.

The Local 15 Executive Board appointed Bro. George Longoria to replace Fabian Vela as the local’s treasurer.

Congratulations to all. Local 15 welcomes the new appointees and wishes them the best in their new roles.

Jan Stader, P.S.

Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

Trade Classifications

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<th>(a) Alarm &amp; Signal</th>
<th>(et) Electronic Technicians</th>
<th>(mms) Motion Picture Studios</th>
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<td>(ars) Atomic Research Service</td>
<td>(fm) Fixture Manufacturing</td>
<td>(nmt) Nuclear Service Technicians</td>
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<td>(bo) Bridge Operators</td>
<td>(gov) Government</td>
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<td>(cab) Cable Television</td>
<td>(ft) Instrument Technicians</td>
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<td>(cr) Cranemen</td>
<td>(lb) Lightning Protection Technicians</td>
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Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.
Annual Graduation Ceremony

L.U. 81 (S), SCRANTON, PA — On Oct. 25 last year, the IBEW Local 81 Scranton Electricians JATC held its annual graduation ceremony for the class of 2017. Among the guests were: IBEW Third District Int. Vice Pres. Michael D. Welsh, NECA Exec. Dir. Jeffrey Scarpello, JATC committee members, Local’s officers, graduates, current apprentices, and other representatives of local agencies including the Department of Labor.

Completion certificates were handed out and awards were presented. Timothy Leber received the class of 2017 Outstanding Appren- tice Award. Tyler Chesko received the Frank O’Neill Jr. Award, which recognizes dedication, courage and commitment. We thank Klein Tools and IDEAL Tools for providing awards to help recognize our outstanding apprentice and award recipients. Congratulations to the class of 2017! (Photo above.)

Michael Brust, P.S.

Powering Fenway Park
Union Night & Family Outing

L.U. 103 (c&u), BOSTON, MA — Local 103 contractors and members have been providing all the electrical and telecom expertise needed to power Fenway Park for many years. This year is different, except that IBEW Local 103 has taken on more of a partnership role with the Red Sox organization this season.

June 22 was Union Night and Local 103’s Family Outing at Fenway Park. A few hundred Local 103 members and their families came out to the old ball park to enjoy dinner and drinks outside on the exclusive Vineyard Vines deck. We watched Bus. Mgr. Lou Antonelli throw the ceremonial first pitch along- side Wally and NECA Boston Chapter Mgr. Glenn Kingsbury (a strike, of course). We were able to see, up close, the IBEW bug and union label on the Green Monster! We also held an equipment drive and col- lected new and used baseball/softball equipment as part of the Red Sox Baseball Tomorrow Fund for inner city kids. The Red Sox won a slugfest over the Seattle Mariners, 15-10. Everyone had a great time singing Sweet Caroline and dancing on the jumbotron.

You can win tickets for an upcoming Sox game at a Local 103 union meeting. The powering Fenway partnership has really been a great way for 103 fami- lies to see their beloved Red Sox and see IBEW repre- sented proudly in Fenway Park.

Step Up for Your Union — ‘There is Much We Can Do’

L.U. 113 (i, m, l), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — During former Pres. John F. Kennedy’s inaugural speech, he said: “And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.” I chose the Labor Day issue to echo his words and ask: What can you do for your union?

Too many of us are what I call “the silent majori- ty.” We pay our dues, do our job and are well-rounded members, but that is it. Most get comfortable with this routine and that is perfectly fine, is it? If we are to be a stronger union, members must accept the need to do more. There is much we can do! It can be as simple as going to a union meeting and signing up for a committee or volunteering when asked to do so. We can start by giving back to a union that has been so good to us all.

Lastly, we must, especially today’s political climate, be knowledgeable and educate others on pol- iticians and affairs that affect us the most. No longer can we afford to install politicians who promise the world, only to find out their agenda is to destroy us. In solidarity we trust.

Brian Putnam, P.S.

New Contract, New Building

L.U. 915 (c, m, t&b), EVERETT, WA — Local 915 recently completed negotiations for our Inside Wire Agreement. Effective June 1, 2018, the three- year agreement features an $1/hour increase for Zones 2, 3, and 4, and $2/hour increase for Zone 4 work. Our members approved the contract by a large margin. The current amount on the check is $44.95/
hour for the Zones 1, 2, 3 with total package of $66.89. The current Zone 4 amount on the check is $42.45/hour, with a total package of $68.35.

Thank you to our negotiating committee, who worked right up until the final week to secure this package. The agreement also includes sufficient amounts to keep our medical and pension plans healthy.

Our other big news is that after months of searching and many presentations to our Executive Board and membership, we have voted to purchase property and build a new main office. The new location will have more parking, office space and room for training and social events. There is also space for a second building, should our IATSE decide to collocate with us. We recently received I.O. approval to move forward on this project.

Lastly, special thanks go to all our many stewards and volunteers for doing the hard work on the ground of building the local. You are appreciated!

Please check the local’s website and newsletter for information on the fall and winter social activities and political events. Better yet, come to one of the monthly meetings — it’s a great way to connect with old friends and make new ones.

Bill Minard, P.S.

‘Make Your Voice Heard’

L.U. 193 (U-I-C, U-13, Spakku), SPRINGFIELD, IL — A long, hot summer is in progress! We are used to that here in “The Land of Lincoln.” We are not used to organizing labor taking it on the chin from the anti-union factions in our state! Make your voice heard at the polls in November and take along a friend. Please pay attention to all the world around you. Remember: “All politics are local!”

Several City Water Light and Power linemen went to western Illinois and the St. Louis area after the heavy storms moved through in June to help get the electrical power back on.

Seventy members were organized at City Water Light and Power under a Professional & Industrial Agreement. Agility Data Telecom Inc., along with six new members, has been organized. Lincoln Heating and Cooling became signatory to the Inside Agreement. Agility Data Telecom Inc., along with six members, has been organized. Lincoln Heating and Cooling became signatory to the Inside Agreement. Agility Data Telecom Inc., along with six members, has been organized. Lincoln Heating and Cooling became signatory to the Inside Agreement.

Welcome to Local 193.

The Labor Day Picnic will be a combined event with Locals 21 and 193 at the Anchor Boat Club. Come on out — like last year, it will be a good time for all.

Good luck to all the Cardinals, Cubs, and White Sox fans out there.

Our sympathies go out to the families of Harold Booker, Gregory Fitzpatrick and Robert McAfee, who have passed since our last article.

Don Hudson, P.S.

Work Picture Updates

L.U. 245 (gov’t,latt,br,bl,&b), TOLEDO, OHIO — On the generation side of the business, discussions between FirstEnergy and Olympus (the new owner of the plant) and Local 245 are ongoing and should conclude soon. FirstEnergy and Olympus (the new owner of the plant) and Local 245 are ongoing and should conclude soon. FirstEnergy and Olympus (the new owner of the plant) and Local 245 are ongoing and should conclude soon.

Negotiations with newly organized Nelson Tree Service and the RENEW Committee, new areas of interest and participation among the local’s group of retirees and was a familiar face at the monthly meetings.

Denny will forever be remembered for his hard work, dedication, and above all his unwavering commitment to the betterment of his local union and the welfare of its brothers and sisters. Goodbye and rest easy, brother.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

Work Picture Solid; Active RENEW Committee

L.U. 317 (i,o,rts,t&u), HUNTINGTON, WV — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

We would like to thank the National Sisterhood United for Journeyman Linemen (NSUL), IBEW member and contractors across the country who came to the aid of the family of our local Bro. Shane Flinn. Bro. Flinn passed away tragically in a helicopter accident while working on a transmission job in Pennsylvania. Many reached out to the family to extend both emotional support and monetary contributions. Bro. Flinn will be deeply missed.

We thank Klein Tools for helping one of our apprentice linemen who is currently in the ALBGT program. The work tools of Bro. Tim Sparks went missing while he was working storm restoration in Florida, and he posted to social media for his friends to be on the lookout. It caught the attention of Kevin Klein, who sent nearly $4,000 worth of tools to Tim.

It’s with deep sadness that IBEW 317 also announces the passing of our former retired business manager Greg P. Grey. Bro. Grey passed away in May. In solidarity.

Danny Doss, P.S./Organizer

November 2018 Elections — Support Friends of Labor

L.U. 343 (i,pakstt), LUE SUER, MN — The Mankato training facility is fully functional for apprenticeships classes and occasional retiree lunches. The new exterior stairs improve access to the lower level and the new patio. Local 343’s brick and mortar presence in town will benefit organizing new members and let the city know who we are and what we stand for. We are an asset to and an investment in the community.

The summer was busy and prosperous for members filling calls off the book. The ride on the money train is unpredictable for members filling calls off the book. The ride on the money train is unpredictable.

Keep America working. Buy “Made In USA.”

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 376 (i,Untike), LAS VEGAS, NV — The Electrical JATC of Southern Nevada is pleased to announce that the 2018 annual apprenticeship graduation ceremony took place May 5 this year at the IBEW Local 375 union hall.

Guest speakers U.S. Rep. Dina Titus and IBEWIEC member Patrick Lavin addressed the apprentices and guests in attendance. A dinner sponsored by the Southern Nevada IBEW/NECA Labor Management Co-Op Committee (LMCC) followed the ceremony later that evening at the Culinary Academy of Las Vegas.

This year’s Outstanding Apprentice Award went to Cory D. Randuzzo. The Mike Laux Award (for most union members given) was presented to Josie R. Morales. The Clyde Green Sr. Memorial Award (for grade-point average) went to James Huynh. Perfect attendance awards went to Joshua A. Blagg, Paul-Robert Deitz and Slade L. Morgan.

Training Dir. Madison Burnett and Asst. Training Dir. Robert Buntler were honored to present this year’s 29 inside wiremen. The wireman graduates are: Gabriel J. Alderman, Mario C. Armenta, Richard
The Electrical Worker  | September 2018


Strong in IBEW Solidarity — ‘A Career & a Brotherhood’

L.U. 363 (ct,md,va,govt,il), NEW YORK CITY, NY — With everything going on today geared toward hurting labor unions, I was thinking about when I first came to the IBEW 40 years ago. I was young and had nothing. I wanted to belong and be part of something that was strong and powerful. I wanted the strength and security of it and I said out loud that I would do anything for it.

I knew that the IBEW was not just a job. It was a career and a Brotherhood. The IBEW took me in and gave me something I could never dream of earning otherwise. The IBEW educated me. The IBEW planned my retirement when I didn’t even realize what a retirement was. The IBEW made me into a union electrical worker who could work and live with dignity. If you remember back to when you came to the IBEW, I will bet your story is very close to mine.

So, I ask you, brothers and sisters: What law could anyone ever pass now to make you reject the union? I say there is none and there never will be! God bless the IBEW!

Sam Fratto, B.M.

June 23 Membership Meeting

L.U. 369 (ct,y,vt,ctt,hi,ltt,brt,b,spak), LOUISVILLE, KY — On June 23 this year, Local 369 held its monthly union meeting at the satellite office in Lexington. This was the first general membership meeting held in Lexington since former Local 183 was amalgamated into Local 369 in 1998.

Almost 100 brothers and sisters helped make this special day a terrific success.

Local 369’s membership meeting on June 23 took place at satellite office in Lexington, KY.

Summer Celebrations

L.U. 375 (ct,ct,es,et,govt,il,mn), ALLENTOWN, PA — The summer months are always filled with brotherhood, starting with our Dorney Park Picnic on Memorial Day weekend in May. This year over 600 members and their families experienced the rides and catered barbecue for a fun-filled day.

For Father’s Day June in, the District Youth Committee (DYO) organized a Lehigh Valley IronPigs baseball game at Coca-Cola Park. Members brought their families to delight in a close win and enjoyed some great food.

In July, the fifth-year apprentice graduates participated in a celebration of their completion of their apprenticeship program. Congratulations, graduates! The summer will then wrap up in September with our annual members only clambake, which has been a tradition in Local 375 for over 60 years.

Justin Grimsaw, A.B.M.

Organizing Blitz & Job Fair

L.U. 379 (Utah,ut), CHARLOTTE, NC — It has been a great summer so far for Local 379. Work at our large jobs is fully ramped up and our small shops are busy as well. For those not familiar with our jurisdiction, we cover 15 counties in North Carolina, 13 counties in South Carolina and five counties in Georgia. We have two satellite offices, one in Hickory, NC, and one in Greenville, SC.

We recently conducted a very successful blitz and Industry Night/Job Fair in the Greenville area to help man work going on there. Organizers and volunteers hit 63 non-union jobs and turned out 54 prospects to the Job Fair. We organized 15 new IBEW members, getting them hired on to union jobs in that area.

We had our annual picnic in June and saw a great turnout of brothers and sisters and retirees. The biggest news coming out of the local is still in progress. We are in contract negotiations currently. Our negotiation team is working at press time and looking for favorable outcomes. The market is certainly working in our favor as construction continues to boom and wages continue to rise.

Ashley Hawkins, Organizer

Welcome to New Organizers; Years-of-Service Awards

L.U. 429 (ct,ct,em,i,lctt,o,ptc,rtb&u), NASHVILLE, TN — On June 13, at the IBEW Tenth District Progress Meeting Local 429’s liquidation, Agent James Shaw Jr. was presented an Honorary Membership plaque for his son James Shaw Jr. Presenting the plaque to James Shaw Sr. was our IBEW Int. Pres. Ronnie R. Stephenson. On behalf of the friends, members, officers and staff of Local 429 — thank you to the IBEW for honoring our brother and friend. To James Sr., Karen, and James Jr., thank you all for who you are. For more information about our new honorary member, Google “James Shaw Jr.”

Mark Poole, A.B.M./Organizer

Local 429 Ass’t. Bus. Agent James Shaw Sr. (right) with his son James Shaw Jr.

IBEW MERCHANDISE

Moisture Management T-Shirt $13.00
100% polyester, black moisture management t-shirt with white IBEW initials. Wicks moisture away from the body by using rapid dry interlock fabric.

Union Yes Lapel Pin $1.50
Rectangular pin with gold-tone edge, 7/8” X 1” with IBEW initials and military grade clutch.

IBEW Wallet $10.00
Slim Black leather wallet with magnetic money clip. Features embossed IBEW logo on front and strong magnet action to hold bills.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com
At Local 465 Member-to-Member workshop, members display signs stating: “I’m IN — I’m Staying IBEW Strong.”

**IBEW Members Say: “I’m IN — Staying IBEW Strong”**

L.U. 465 (Ibtx), SAN DIEGO, CA — We recently hosted multiple Member-to-Member workshops focusing on the threat of so-called “right-to-work” legislation and the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Janus vs. AFSCME.

(Editor’s Note: To read more about the ruling, see news article “Supreme Court Ruling in Janus: An Attack on Every American Who Works for a Living,” posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles.)

At the Member-to-Member workshops, we were honored to have Int. Rep. Tracey Prezeau from the I.O. Education Department, who shared personal stories about how the IBEW has changed her life and talked to our members about building power in the workplace and different ways to stay IBEW Strong!

Our member-organizers will be hitting the streets to talk to all 950 sisters and brothers who represent at San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, sent at the Imperial Irrigation District, and the 185 we will reach in the next few months as we continue our efforts, and all returned home safely. Thank you to all the IBEW crew members involved for the great job they did. Thank you, Tyler, for sending us the picture and helping others out.

Sarah Fader, R.S.

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**2017 Storm Restoration**

L.U. 499 (a), DES MOINES, IOWA — In September 2017, journeyman lineman Tyler Hansen, from Waterloo, Iowa, was one of several IBEW Local 499 members who were sent to Florida to help with storm restoration efforts after a big hurricane struck last year. Tyler was away for 11 days assisting in Florida and he snapped the accompanying picture (below) of utility trucks on the scene in Naples, FL.

IBEW Local 499 had several crews in Florida for various amounts of time assisting with restoration efforts, and all returned home safely. Thank you to all the IBEW crew members involved for the great job they did. Thank you, Tyler, for sending us the picture and helping others out.

Sarah Fader, R.S.

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**Railcar Upgrades**

L.U. 531 (l), LAPORTE, IN — Rail companies across the country have been working on upgrading their equipment to comply with federal regulations. Members of Local 531 in LaPorte, IN, along with two members of neighboring Local 697, have been working on modernizing all 72 of the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) railcars. The Positive Train Control (PTC), program is part of a mandated program designed to reduce accidents in locomotives and passenger railcars. The upgrades program needs to be completed by Dec. 31, 2018.

In other news, congratulations to the apprenticeship graduating class of 2018. We are proud of these new journeymen. The graduates are as follows: journeyman wiremen — Eric Cusick, Keeney Perry, Matt Cody, Shawn Servaty, David Patek II, Maxwell Kessler, Jacob Crawford, Brandon Wieman, Dean Tillemans, Robert Rodgers, Luis Acuna, Art Steward and Corey Casto; residential graduates — Nathan Jackson and William Witte; and voice-data video graduates — Thomas McInerney, Scott Petersen and Taylor Tuholski. Congratulations and good luck to all of you.

Jeremy Woelever, P.S.

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**Tribute to A Life of Service**

L.U. 595 (cs,govt,i,lt,mt,se&st), DUBLIN, CA — It is with a heavy heart I report, on behalf of Local 595, that our member, IBEW 569 and NECA graduate, IBEW Local 595 late Bro. Thomas D. Mullarkey, passed away on April 28, 2018. He passed away after a long battle with cancer. He left behind a family that adored him. His dedication to his family and to his religious community proved to be one of many positive characteristics he demonstrated regularly in his professional life as a journeyman inside wireman.

After graduating from the inside apprenticeship program, Tom worked in the field as a journeyman and general foreman before accepting an appointment as Local 595’s business representative in 2006. He proudly served Local 595 as business representative until his retirement in 2013. He is survived by his wife, Jane Drummond-Mullarkey, and their children, Elizabeth Pilara and Matthew Mullarkey. He leaves behind four adoring grandchildren, Juliana, Nico, Lilia and Luca Pilara as well as two sons-in-law, Ricky Pilara and Quincy Myers.

**Local Celebrates 100 Years**

L.U. 611 (lctt&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — The IBEW Seventh District Progress Meeting, held at the Buffalo Thunder Resort in Santa Fe, was hosted by Local 611. The event took place May 15-18. Attendees included delegates from Arizona, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. During the four-day event, we heard speeches from Int. Pres. Ronnie Stephenson, Seventh District Int. Vice Pres. Steven M. Speer and Int. Rep. Gary Buresh. John Harrel Jr., a Local 513 member, gave a great speech on the topic of “Member-to-Member Mentor-ing” about the struggles he went through to become an IBEW member and the importance of working together and being a team member. Attending the Progress Meeting was a great experience for participants. A huge thanks to the staff and especially Santos Griego for putting together a great event.

Bennie Sanderval and Tom Davis, both Local 611 members, recently retired as Seventh District interna-tional representatives. Thank you, Bennie and Tom, for your years of service — we hope retirement serves you both well.

If you are not registered to vote and would like to register, please call the union hall so they can put you in contact with a registrar.

Local 611 extends condolences to the family of Bro. Darrell J. Blair, who recently passed away.

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**Graduates of the joint apprenticeship program of IBEW Local 569 and NECA San Diego class of 2018.**

At the Four Corners Hall in San Carlos, the National American Indian Trade Schools (NAITS) celebrated the graduation of 36 new members from the joint apprenticeship program. This is the second-largest joint apprenticeship program in San Diego, and the class of 2018 joins the ranks of being the best in the industry.

We also want to recognize our 2017 apprenticeship recipients of the IBEW 569 Union Strong Award, each of whom have stepped up to strengthen communities and change lives. Our apprentices have also volunteered at countless union events and walked hundreds of miles to help elect candidates who support working families.

Congratulations to: Cristina Marquez, Rajal Walker and Christopher Cortez.

IBEW 569 extends heartfelt thanks and congratulations to our IBEW 569 members for their tremendous volunteer hours during the primary election — we won over 90 percent of our campaigns! Volunteers, you did great work and we’re about to do it again for the Nov. 6 general election.

Mark your calendars and VOTE! Help pass a $5.5 billion school bond with a project labor agreement (PLA) provision, and elect candidates who support our priorities such as local-hire policies, job creation, and investment in our communities.

Gretchen K. Newsom, P.S./Organizer

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**District Progress Meeting**

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Darrel J. Blair, P.S.

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**Local Celebrates 100 Years**

L.U. 611 (lctt&u), SAN MATEO, CA — Spring and summer have been a busy time for our local. The work picture continues to be strong, with most work running overtime. Not since 2000 have we experienced such growth. Thanks go to all our traveling brothers and sisters helping us man the work.

The local celebrated our 110th anniversary and joint apprenticeship program! This is the second-largest joint apprenticeship program since we opened our doors in 1983! The local also hosted the Second Local Union Conference, which featured aa variety of speakers, including National Representatives. Thank you, Bennie and Tom, for your years of service — we hope retirement serves you both well.

Mark your calendars to register, please call the union hall so they can put you in contact with a registrar.

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Darrel J. Blair, P.S.
Ironman Fundraising Tourney
22nd Annual Ironman Fundraising Tournament. Building Market Share; Motorcycle Club led off the parade, followed by veterans of 617 and supporting members. Sister DJ Siegm was honored as the 2017 IBEW Instructor of the Year, at the April 2018 IBEW Construction & Maintenance Conference held in Washington, DC. Congratulations, Sister Siegman. Thanks to our brothers and sisters who give up their free time to support and give back to our union's many events and community projects, including the "rebuilding together" project, the July 4 parade and more. 

Fernando Salceda, P.S.

RENEW Committee Success: Food Drive & Highway Cleanup
L.U. 965 (em,govt,p&c,b), MADISON, WI — The month of May was very busy and fruitful for the IBEW 965, RENEW Committee. First up was the Adopt-A-Highway cleanup that took place in Portage, WI, on Highway 51. It was a solid turnout this year, which was followed by a gathering with food, drinks and laughs shared at a local park. The second part of May was the inaugural Summer Hunger Food and Fund Drive for the Second Harvest of Wisconsin. With the help of the membership and Alliant Energy, the RENEW Committee was able to collect almost $6,000 and 1,650 pounds of food! Put together, that provides 19,280 meals for people in need. The Food and Fund Drive was capped off by members going to grocery stores in Janesville and Beaver Dam to get donations from local patrons. A special shout-out goes to members who put in a lot of hard work for this event: Randy Jacob, Dillon Gorman, Tyler Bergstrom and Matt Tegt.

Roger Zimmerman, P.S.

Paper Mill Rebuild Project
L.U. 1253 (b&c&d), AUGUSTA, MAINE — With the completion of the Sappi Mill rebuild of its No. 1 machine, Local 1253 wishes to thank all the traveling sisters and brothers who helped our local sisters and brothers complete the job. Sappi had saleable paper coming off the machine at the end of May, which at times seemed an impossibility. This was a tough job due to the lack of engineering — so thank you to all sisters and brothers, local and traveling, for your successful efforts to complete the project.

I hope everyone had a happy and safe summer. Work should be picking up as fall arrives.

Chuck Fraser, B.M.

Transmission Safety Week
L.U. 1347 (es,em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — Safety week for our transmission department took place June 4-7 at the Duke Energy Shelbyville headquarters in Indiana. IBEW members from Local 1347 and Local 1393 attended. We had many demonstrations on the safe use of hardware and accident-free. Both Local 1347 and Local 1393 set up booths to give out all kinds of union apparel and gifts for the members. Pictured in the photo below are some of those who attended the event.

Andrew A. Kirk, B.M.,F.S.

Recently, a resounding call to enhance our in-house expertise and acquire more work for the Local 627 workforce has been made. This is music to our members' ears as we are committed to being the preferred provider of labor, now and in the future. Working with our employers to ensure the proper training, tooling and staffing to perform the work is a strong demonstration of our Code of Excellence principles. We look forward to the challenge and welcome the opportunity.

Brothers and sisters, with storm season already upon us, please continue to be your "brother's keeper" — look out for yourselves and each other and always plan and incorporate safety into every task performed.

Safety & Solidarity!

Suzanne M. Wallin, R.S.

Approximately 100 golfers turned out for the event, which was arranged by Local 827 Treas. Glenn Puzo. After the golf, everyone enjoyed a barbeque luncheon at the club. There were many “silent auction" prizes such as 60-inch television and an iPad. With the donations collected and raffle tickets sold, Local 827 raised over $5,000 to put into the PAC Fund to support our local legislative issues. We would like to thank all our supporters for helping to make this a successful day.

Suzanne M. Wallin, R.S.

Building Market Share; Ironman Fundraising Tourney
L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL — The local hosted our 22nd Annual Ironman Fundraising Tournament. Despite the rainy Florida weather that week, the tournament was a great success! Good times with some good people, all while fundraising for our Community Affairs Fund. Thank you to all who participated. Congratulations to the past graduates of our Linemen & Substation Electrician Apprenticeship programs (pictured below). Local 627 remains committed to ensuring that the most highly skilled and safest workforce is provided through our apprenticeship programs.

Local 627 congratulates recent graduates of the Linemen & Substation Electrician Apprenticeship programs.

The Local 697 Motorcycle Club club for the Miracle Ride fundraiser to benefit a downtown Indianapolis children's hospital.

L.U. 697 Motorcycle Club — ‘Riding for a Good Purpose’
L.U. 697 (c,es,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN — The IBEW Local 697 Motorcycle Club was launched earlier this year and participated in the Miracle Ride to raise money for Riley's Children's Hospital in downtown Indianapolis.

We raised $3,125 for the event, strengthened our brotherhood with a group ride down on Saturday, June 2, enjoyed our stay in downtown Indianapolis, and respectfully patronized the local establishments.

On Sunday, June 3, was the Miracle Ride, where we met participating brothers and sisters from IBEW Local 16 and IBEW Local 725. We also will be planning next year's ride in conjunction with them.

As part of the Miracle Ride, we went one lap around the Indianapolis 500 track, with most of us reaching speeds of 110 mph. Most importantly, the looks on the faces of the children, families and staff — as the Miracle Ride rode past the Riley's Children's Hospital — made the whole experience amazing.

Thank you to Local 697 Motorcycle Club Pres. Dirk Decker and Bros. Scott Funk, Brian Grooms, Curt Hilligans, John Hiet, Jason Sankowski, Rich Sankowski and Jason Valasic for representing our local at this event.

Ryan Reithel, B.M./F.S.

Annual Fishing Tournament; Apprenticeship Graduation
L.U. 1250 (m,govt,p&c), GAINESVILLE, FL — The Annual W.S. Brown/Clayton Graves Bream Tournament held March 10 this year was a successful gathering of Local 1250 active members and retirees. The event was held at the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Landings just west of Gainesville, which provided the ideal location for our fishermen of all skill levels.

We would like to give special recognition to the members who make this tournament fun for all attendees year in and year out. The day began with breakfast at dawn cooked by Warren Marshall, John Luke and Billy Marshall and coordinated by Richard Diffender, Raleigh Veal, James Brown, Wayne Sparkman, Wayne Hinson, Letcher Worley, Charlie Ponder, Ray Yanie, Charles Worley and Jamie Weach.

On May 12, Local 827 celebrated the graduation of its 50th annual graduating class. Dedicated to Marcia Foreman, who has been a staple of our apprenticeship for decades. Keynote speaker was Florida AFL-CIO Pres. Mike Williams. We wish these fine young graduates the best as they begin the next chapter in their lives. Congratulations also to Outstanding Apprentice Danny Bax for excellence in the classroom. Graduates, we look forward to the positive impact you all will have on not only the industry but also the community at large.

Jonathan Howell, P.S.

COPE Golf Outing
L.U. 827 (u&v), EAST WINDSOR, NJ — On Thursday, May 31, this year, Local 827 held its first COPE Golf Outing Fundraiser at the Pebble Creek Golf Club in Colts Neck, NJ. The local union plans to make this an annual event.

Local 827 Bus. Mgr. David M. Mauro (left) with 75-year member Lin Cordelli and his wife, Gloria.

On March 24, Local 617 participated in the 50th Homecoming Parade in San Mateo, honoring the 102nd Airborne Screaming Eagles. Our Journeyman Motorcycle Club led off the parade, followed by veterans of 617 and supporting members.

Get your ELECTRICAL WORKER delivered each month via email.
It’s convenient & helps cut down on paper waste. Go to www.ibew.org/gogreen and sign up today!
Registrar Training; 2018 Midterm Elections
L.U. 501 (ees,em,mo,pet,nts), BALTIMORE, MD — On April 23 this year, Local 501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion Guthrie attended the IBEW Conference on Registrar Training held at the IBEW Local 26 union hall in Lanham, MD.

As we head into the fall midterm election period, we need to maximize our voting strength, and the only way to do this is to register as many of our members and their households as possible. Then get them out to vote. It will be our effort to get no less than 95 percent of our members registered. The April 23 session at Local 26 was excellent training for this all-out effort. Bus. Mgr. Guthrie stated that he was very pleased with Local 26 facilities and the union hall effort. Bus. Mgr. Guthrie stated that he was very pleased with Local 26 facilities and the union hall effort. Bus. Mgr. Guthrie stated that he was very pleased with Local 26 facilities and the union hall effort.

I am very appreciative of the support given to me during this election and look forward to working with all of these officers as we continue to serve our membership.

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

Local Union Election
L.U. 1579 (l&v), AUGUSTA, GA — Local 1579 held its May 16 election of officers in June. The officers were sworn in at our July 6 meeting and we have a new vice president, recording secretary, treasurer and two new Executive Board members.


I am very appreciative of the support given to me during this election and look forward to working with all of these officers as we continue to serve our membership.

Until next time, God bless.

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

“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.

THE IBEW’s 2018 PHOTO CONTEST

Enter Today!
Deadline: Oct. 1

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

IBEW contingent picketed New Hampshire Electric Co-op’s headquarters in Plymouth, NH, every day during the strike earlier this year.

‘Walking the Safety Talk’
L.U. 2067 (mg), REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA — On June 13 this year, IBEW Local 2067’s commitment to safety was affirmed when the local was presented a third-place 2018 “Mission: Zero” Award, small-employer category.

Local 2067 qualified with high employee engagement in a safety survey, and an exemplary Workers Compensation Board Injury-rate score. (In Local 2067’s case, this was zero injuries or fatalities in the past five years).

IBEW Local 2067 Bus. Mgr. Jason Tibbs was also interviewed during the process and was required to answer four key questions regarding the local’s commitment to safety inside and outside the workplace.

Mission: Zero, an initiative that launched in 2008 in response to Saskatchewan having the second worst injury rate in Canada, is promoted in part by The Saskatchewan Health and Leadership Charter. IBEW Local 2067 has been a signatory in the charter since its 2010 inception.

Bus. Mgr. Tibbs was pleased with the recognition for Local 2067’s achievements. He noted that: “This award is a positive reflection on IBEW Local 2067; IBEW was founded on safety, and we are advocates for safety on the jobsite every day. We expect our members to work safe every day, and our members should expect us to walk our talk.”

‘Spring Fling’ Event
IBEW Service Awards
L.U. 2173 (em), LYNCHBURG, VA — A Local 2173 “Spring Fling” event was held June 13 at Delta Star Inc. in Lynchburg to thank all the workers and to recognize local union members for their years of service to the IBEW.


Dayton Morell Sr., B.M.
Service Award Luncheon

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — We enjoyed a wonderful spring and summer season of activities! Several of our members were honored at the June Service Award Luncheon at the Joint Industry Board in Rutherford, NY. Top honors went to Anthony La Bate (pictured in photo below, third from right), who received an 80-year award. Congratulations, Tony! Also honored were: 55-year award recipients Ronald DePolo, Edward Frison and Marcus Lehman; and 50-year award recipients Stuart Finn, Kenneth Hilleinsey, William Losquadro, William Parc, Harry Rigos, Arthur Saladino and Carl Soreco. Congratulations, everyone!

We enjoyed our spring luncheon at Bellisimo Restaurant and a fun summer picnic at Kruckers Picnic Grove. Several of us enjoyed a five-day bus trip to Long Island! Wishing everyone a great fall season!

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John Kristo, P.S.

Officers Sworn In


John Schoenig chairs the Entertainment Committee, Barbara Serpe serves on the Sunshine Committee, and Harvey Goldman is the club’s public scribe. Chmn. Duva then presented a plaque on behalf of the chapter to Jack Foley to thank him for all his hard work as chairman for over 10 years. Jack received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Our club’s new officers include: Chmn. Anthony Savarese; Vice Chmn. Lou Cohen; Treas. John Adams; Rec. Sec./Alternate Vice Chmn. Charlie DeSano; Trustees Don Gallagher, Tom Viola and Bobby Zawada; and Paul Gross, Dues Renewal. (See photo, above.)

Nancy Savarese, P.S.

RETIREES Club Officers

The Electrical Worker | September 2018
Retiree Luncheon & Awards

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Once again we went straight from winter to summer. Everyone stayed cool despite the heat and drank plenty of liquids. We need everyone to stay healthy.

Our retiree luncheon, hosted by Local 53, was May 3. We had a very good turnout, and everyone had a great time. We presented service pins to the following retired members: 50-year members Jerry Senter, Carl Terry and Donnie Wright; and 55-year members Joe Padilla and Mel Simmons. Congratulations to all. A big thank-you to Local 53 for hosting these luncheons.

On June 9, Local 53 held its 30th annual crab- and shrimp-festive lunch at the newly opened The North Shore Inn in Independence, MO. We thank the organizers and everyone who joined us.

There will be a celebration of life for late Local 53 retiree Robert “Shula” Sherman on Friday, Sept. 28, at 6 p.m. It will be held at the Milestones Barn, which is about 3 miles north of Warrensburg, MO, on Highway 13.

We have a group of retirees who meet at the Lumberyard Bar & Grill in Urich, MO, on the odd-numbered months at around 11 a.m. Please feel free to come join us.

Duane Pearce, P.S.

Projects to Serve Community

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — With the club’s approval at their Sept. 12, 2018, meeting, IBEW Local 60 and the Local 60 Retirees Club will be working in conjunction in the future, to help improve the livelihood of our community and surrounding counties. A committee of retirees and the RENEW committee have met to discuss future potential projects that we can work on together.

At the time of this writing, the club is taking a summer break. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month, starting up again Sept. 12, 2018, at 12 p.m. After a short business meeting, a themed dinner (depending on a holiday or special occasion for that month) is served. After lunch, attendees enjoy 10 games of bingo with modest cash prizes.

The Local 60 retirees wish to thank everyone who was involved in the golf tournament fundraiser held this past April. Without all the sponsors, prizes, and donations (cash and goody bag items), the tournament would not have turned out as well as it did. A special thanks to Betty Cannon and the volunteers who spent hours planning and working this event.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Stop By & Join Us

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 82, DAYTON, OHIO — Greetings from Local 82 retirees. For most people, September and Labor Day represent the end of summer. For IBEW members, it is also a time for us to reflect on the day-to-day lives of our retirees.

On July 12, after our regular monthly meeting, we enjoyed a day trip to the Dayton Art Institute. TheArt Institute of Ohio is a wonderful place to spend an afternoon. It has a beautiful collection of art, and the visitors were treated to a wonderful buffet lunch at the Art Institute.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended. We look forward to seeing you again next month.

Denny Wells, Pres.

Don’t Wait — Participate

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, OHIO — Congratulations to our IBEW over 40 Hockey Team for winning the championship cup this year. It has been many years since we could call ourselves a true team. The team is stronger than ever.

We closed the season with a round-robin competition on Saturday, March 24, 2018, at 6 p.m. It was held at Milestones Barn, which is about 3 miles north of Warrensburg, MO, on Highway 13.

We have a group of retirees who meet at the Lumberyard Bar & Grill in Urich, MO, on the odd-numbered months at around 11 a.m. Please feel free to come join us.

Eden McLean, P.S.

September Golf Outing

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 334, CHICAGO, IL — Our club’s Annual Jim Collins Memorial Golf Outing is Sept. 19 this year. Eighteen holes of golf with a cart for each golf team.

Our Annual Luncheon meeting honoring our members for IBEW years of service was held at our new Local 334 home. [See photo, at bottom.] We thank Local 134 for all they do to support our Retirees Club. We are grateful for their support.


Sarnia Happenings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — At the time of this writing, regrettably, club Pres. George Mathieson was in the hospital having suffered a stroke. As of July, he had started rehabilitation, and we Retirees Club members send him our warmest wishes for continued progress in his rehabilitation program. We are all keeping him in our thoughts and praying for his continued recovery.

We enjoyed a good summer and had the opportunity to attend many interesting events, thanks to the efforts of our local committee.

On July 12, after our regular monthly meeting, 24 members enjoyed lunch at Victory Buffet. On July 18, we traveled to Grand Bend, to Huron County Playhouse for a performance called “Oh Canada!.” On Aug. 14, we traveled by bus to the famous Stratford Festival Theatre to see the musical “The Music Man,” with dinner enjoyed for our local committee.

Always on the first Wednesday in September, which this year is Sept. 5, we hold our annual golf tournament at Mooretown Golf Course, followed by dinner in the spacious dining room. All golfers enjoy the challenge of this course as it is an exceptionally fine course to play.

We are all trying our best to stay well and wish all of you good health also.

Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.

2018 Midterm Election

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM — The Workers Memorial Day event in April, to honor our members who died on the job, was an inspiring occasion. It’s something we should take part in every year.

Well, the primary elections have taken place, and here’s hoping the good candidates made it through. It’s now time to take the upcoming 2018 midterm election seriously. Except for health problems or important family issues, I can’t think of any reason that we retirees should not be registered and vote in every election.

Remember to vote! Don’t let someone else decide for you. We retirees do make a difference and must make our voices heard. Responsible voters took care of us when we were younger. Now it’s time for us to vote for the future of our children and grandchildren. They should not have to pay the consequences of our current mistakes.

We extend condolences to the families of our retirees who recently passed away: Alan B. Shepherd, Jerry S. Lynch, Charles Cleverger, Graham Smith and Danny F. McCarson. We also...
mourn the loss of Local 611 lineman Royce M. Mogensen and apprentice wireman Claudia T. Martinez.

Tracy Hall, Pres.

**In Memoriam**

**Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in July 2018**

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June 2018 Club Meeting

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — The IBEW Local 702 Retirees Club met Thursday, June 7, at Mackie’s Pizza. Club Pres. Gary King opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Meetings from the previous month were read and approved. The Financial Report from the last meeting was also read and approved. Deaths were announced, and a moment of silence was held.

There was no “old business” to consider. “Under new business,” Pres. King requested that the Retirees Club purchase two solidarity tickets. After a brief discussion, it was agreed the club would purchase two tickets again this year. It was announced that the Labor Day event will be at Rent One Park in Marion again this year.

Attendees were informed that the August 2, 2018, meeting was scheduled to be held at the Golden Coral at 11:30 a.m.

Bro. Kevin Pyle won the 50/50 drawing. It was announced that the club has three new members, and the total deposit to be made was announced. Also, a pocket knife donated by Carol and J. Marlow was won by Leisa Rainis.

There being no further business, the June 7 meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Mark Baker, S. P.
WHO WE ARE

Although he seemed to have planned the crowd of nearly 22,000 concert-goers across Las Vegas Boulevard and into the modified assault rifles to rapidly fire a shooter barricaded himself in his room. The shots were fired from far enough away that they didn’t sound that threatening to Burton. But once he and other concert-goers figured out what was happening, everybody dropped to the ground, he said.

Hesselton, an Air Force veteran, pulled Cindy and Noah down and used his body to shield Paula. “As soon as I hit the ground, I got hit,” he said. A bullet grazed his back. “I heard a lot of popping sounds,” Robertson said. When more gunfire followed, “I realized this is something one shooting,” he said, and he instinctively used his body to shield Paula.

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Hesselton, an Air Force veteran, pulled Cindy and Noah down and used his body to protect them from the gunfire. “As soon as I hit the ground, I got hit,” he said. A bullet grazed his back. As Codemo and his friends ran for cover in the ensuing chaos, he spotted a seriously injured woman lying on the ground, helpless. As he carried her to a rapidly overflowing first aid tent, he thought about his own wife. “I’d want someone to do that for her if she was alone,” he said. Codemo applied pressure to her wounds while they waited for medical attention.

Meanwhile, as Burton directed his wife, Jade, and a couple of their friends toward a gate near the venue’s south end, two bullets struck him in his lower back. Both narrowly missed his spinal cord, although he learned later that one cracked his pelvic bone. “I got really lucky,” said Burton, who safely shepherded his group through an open gate. The shots were fired from far enough away that they didn’t sound that threatening to Burton. But once he and other concert-goers figured out what was happening, everybody dropped to the ground, he said.

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Burton was placed into a crowded ambulance. When another arrived near the tent where Codemo and the critically injured woman had found refuge, he convinced the driver to take them both to a hospital. Because there was almost no room inside, Codemo had to stand in the back of the ambulance and hold her.

"Wounded people occupied just about every available space" at the hospital, Robertson said. There, he learned that a bullet fragment had sliced across his lower digestive tract. He spent almost three weeks in the hospital and underwent four surgeries, including an ileostomy that temporarily rerouted part of his small intestine to an external bag. The bullet wound healed, but complications kept doctors from reversing the ileostomy for several months. Robertson has not yet returned to work; his last surgery is scheduled for next month.

Doctors had to wait for some swelling to subside before removing shrapnel from Berling’s body. His painful injuries and subsequent rehabilitation kept the helicopter lineman off the job for several months.

Burton’s doctors, meanwhile, judged it safer to leave the two bullets embedded on either side of his spine rather than risk permanent injury trying to remove them. After two days in the hospital, Burton was released, and he was back to work about a month later. “I have a little bit of a numb feeling, still,” he said.

Closing Hesselton’s grave wound required 20 surgical staples — with “no anesthesia,” he said. After a brief overnight hospital stay, Hesselton and his family returned home; he was on the job a week later.

Codemo took only a couple of days off after the massacre. “Work keeps me busy," he said. “I’m not going to let it faze me.” The woman he rescued was released after about two weeks in the hospital, he said, and they have stayed in touch since. Each of these Life Saving Award honorees said they have access to contract-provided employee assistance program benefits should they need counseling or other help.

Lots of IBEW members, of course, work in potentially dangerous situations and areas that can be out of easy reach of quick medical treatment. That’s why a good number of brothers and sisters prepare themselves to handle emergencies by taking first-aid, CPR and other safety training courses.

“Some of that training and quick thinking clearly kicked in for these honorees,” Stephenson said. “Without their heroic efforts, this already awful tragedy could have been even worse.”
Powering the Padres
IBEW, Signatory Contractor Puts Petco Park atop the Majors

Thanks to the hard work and expertise of San Diego Local 569’s members, the city’s Major League Baseball franchise kicked off the 2018 season leading the league — at least when it comes to solar power.

Erin Brady is a native San Diegan and fan of his hometown Padres. But the Local 569 first-year apprentice admits he wasn’t sure what he’d gotten into when he learned he was assigned to work at Petco Park.

“It went to one of my supervisors and thought it was a pet store,” Brady said, mixing up the baseball stadium with its sponsor, the national pet food and supplies chain based in the city. “He said, ‘No, we’re going out to the baseball stadium.’ It was really cool and unexpected.”

That supervisor was journeyman inside wireman Cesar Chaidez, a 23-year employee of Sullivan Solar Power, the project’s signatory contractor. Chaidez has been on job sites but he can remember, but he agreed with Brady that this one was special — despite the fact he grew up in Los Angeles rooting for the Padres’ division rival Dodgers.

“I’ve been going [to Petco Park] since it opened in 2004,” said Chaidez, a Local 569 member for 18 years. “What an awesome place.”

Brady and Chaidez were two of the 27-person Local 569 crew that installed a 336,520-watt solar lighting system at Petco Park. Work started in late December and was finished by the home opener on March 29.

“As a baseball fan myself, being able to come to a game once the season started and saying to my friends, ‘Those are the panels I worked on,’ is kind of a dream come true,” said Brady, 32, who worked as a bartender in the Washington, D.C., area for 10 years before returning home and beginning his electrical career last year.

The Padres are projected to save more than $4 million in utility costs over the next 25 years due to the project. Petco Park now has more solar power than the seven other major-league stadiums that use solar combined, thanks to the work of seven other major-league stadiums that use solar combined, thanks to the work of Sullivan Solar Power, which is a longtime partner of the team and sponsored Padres Solar Day for the second consecutive year.

“I founded Sullivan Solar Power 14 years ago to create a case study in San Diego, proving that we have the technology, financing and skill to fundamentally change the way we generate electricity,” said the company’s president, Daniel Sullivan. “This solar project reaffirms San Diego’s leadership in solar and the city’s commitment to 100 percent clean energy by 2035.”

Mayor Kevin Faulconer said, “We are leading by example for the country to see that solar power is the future today.”

Yes, the project has an eye toward the future. But it also continues a commitment to the community.

“Safety is always the No. 1 concern,” Chaidez said. “That’s a little more difficult having to be tied off. We had to go out there with our safety contractor and figure something out. It didn’t slow us down too much, and we made sure everyone was safe.”

Brady thought working on open beams would be nerve-racking. Instead, he learned he enjoys it and looks forward to continuing it throughout his career.

“It was eye opening,” Brady said. “It really confirmed that I made a good decision in joining the IBEW. When you work on a project like that, it opens your eyes to the scope of the work you can do as an electrician.”

Sullivan’s president, Daniel Sullivan, went through Local 569’s apprenticeship program and was a member until he started the company in 2004. He later taught the solar photovoltaic course at the San Diego Electrical Training Center.

“I have taught the solar photovoltaic course at the San Diego Electrical Training Center since it opened in 2004,” said Chaidez, a Local 569 member until he shipped program and was a member until he started the company in 2004. He later taught the solar photovoltaic course at the San Diego Electrical Training Center.

“I found many challenges with the project,” said Sullivan. “There are many challenges with the project, but when you have a task you’re concentrating on, you know it needs to be done and you understand you’re safe and tied off. You realize you’re a lot more comfortable than you thought you might be,” he said.

The project’s benefits extend to the community, too.

The new panels will produce 12 million kilowatt hours over the next 25 years, according to Sullivan Solar Power officials. That is the equivalent of taking 1,200 homes off the electrical grid.

It also helps the city meet the goal of its climate action plan, which calls for it to be using 100 percent renewable energy by 2035.

“This solar project reaffirms San Diego as the leader in solar and the city’s commitment to 100 percent clean energy,” Mayor Kevin Faulconer said. “We are leading by example for the country to see that solar power is the future today.”

Yes, the project has an eye toward the future. But it also continues a long-standing IBEW tradition of securing good-paying, union jobs with the help of signatory contractors that have a strong commitment to the community.

Local 569 members and members of other IBEW local unions in the San Diego area saw it firsthand when they gathered for the annual IBEW Night during a Padres game at Petco Park earlier this season.

“Mention the grid. Visit Vimeo.com/IBEW to learn how some IBEW members helped remedy that situation.

HourPower
Camaraderie and giving back: This year’s IBEW East Coast Motorcycle Ride raised awareness of — and money to help fight multiple myeloma. Check out IBEWHourPower.com to learn more.

ElectricTV
Women in the construction industry exemplify three pillars of the IBEW: hard work, solidarity, and diversity. Find out how on ElectricTV.net.