

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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SAFETY UNDERGROUND

Manhole Training Goes Mobile

Washington Local 70 member Torray James, left, and Chicago Local 9 member Andy Chomor lift a 180-pound dummy through a manhole built into the top of a training trailer designed by Aldridge Electric in conjunction with the IBEW.

IBEW members working underground have experienced sweeping changes in recent years. Private contractors are performing an ever-larger share of the work once done by public utilities. Increasingly technical equipment has put more demands on everyone. And concerns about safety linger, in part because there's been little standardization throughout the industry.

But Bill Sullivan and his colleagues with Aldridge Electric, a signatory contractor based in Libertyville, Ill., are working to change that. In a coordinated effort with IBEW members, Aldridge designed a pair of trailers that will provide state-of-the-art training for underground workers across the country in a safe environment.



"Previously, training on utility projects was done on the job," said Sullivan, a former member of Downers Grove, Ill., Local 15 who is now Aldridge's utility training manager. "It was the sharing of tribal knowledge from whoever you were working with. If you were with someone who was really an ace, you might be fine, but it wasn't standardized. You were working in a dark space and it was kind of a trial-and-error thing."

"Now we have an official training program through the use of the training trailers," he said. "Everyone is being trained by the same manual and same trainer. The program creates a level playing field so everyone is on the same page."

The two trailers made their debut last fall at a Pepco service center in Washington, drawing IBEW members from across the Eastern seaboard. Along with the training team, the units will move across the

country, heading to multiple sites this spring.

"I was really impressed," said Washington Local 70 Business Manager William Tipton, whose membership is primarily comprised of underground workers and Pepco employees. "It's a step forward. I think every company doing this type of work should have something set up like this."

Aldridge is one of the nation's leading electrical contractors with annual revenues approaching \$500 million. The company is well known for its work on complex infrastructure projects, including significant contracts with utilities and large-scale public contracts. "It's pretty simple," said the company's owner, Alex Aldridge. "We want everyone to go home safe every night. That's our culture and the reason we invested in developing this training program."

"Giving underground workers state-of-the-art training in a safe environment is a priority," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "It's essential for our members, and it gives our partners another tool when pursuing work on underground projects that are becoming more common in the elec-

MANHOLE TRAINING *continued on page 6*

FROM THE OFFICERS

Safety: Job No. 1



Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

One reason I'm proud to serve as International President is our leading role in making the electrical industry safer. Safety was one of the primary motivations for Henry Miller and our founders when they conceived of this great union in 1891, and it's an enormous part of our success to this day.

In this issue of *The Electrical Worker*, you'll read about how the IBEW worked with our partner Aldridge Electric, a signatory contractor based in Libertyville, Ill., to develop safety training trailers that will travel North America teaching our members how to work safer and more efficiently underground.

Manhole work remains some of the most dangerous work we do, but the demand for this kind of work continues to rise.

The result is that more and more linemen are performing underground work, and that means that the IBEW and our partners need to adapt, to keep up with industry changes.

We've always been on the cutting edge of the industry and technology — whether it was Henry Miller climbing a telegraph pole or members of Lansing, Mich., Local 665 building a nuclear particle accelerator.

But it's fitting that "S" is the first letter in "SPARQ," the acronym embodying our Code of Excellence, because safety has always been priority No. 1 at the IBEW.

There is absolutely nothing more important to the officers, the members and the families of the IBEW than making sure each and every one of you comes home safe at the end of a workday. It's why we invest in the best, most up-to-date training and why we hold every member, every employer, every government official accountable for the decisions that affect your well-being.

Every day, I want you to ask yourself, "What can I do to make my job safer? What can I do to ensure that my co-workers and IBEW brothers and sisters are as safe as they can be on the job?"

Alan Aldridge and the leaders at Aldridge Electric did that when they decided to take an idea for better underground training and run with it. We're proud to have been part of their project, and I hope those of you who perform this sort of work take advantage when the training trailers come to your area.

But we can all do more. Because of your union, you can speak up when you're asked to do something that makes you feel unsafe. You can be a part of the solution, knowing that you're protected by your union contract.

It takes all of us, looking out for ourselves and for one another, to create a true culture of safety. I'm lucky to have each one of you as partners in that effort. ■

Voting Matters

If you have ever doubted the power of one person's vote, pay close attention to the story on the page opposite this column. You'll read about last November's election in Virginia, where control of the entire state House of Delegates — and the future of pro-worker legislation — came down to just one vote.

A delegates' race ended in a tie, with the final decision of who would take the seat left to a random drawing of names from a bowl. The Republican candidate won, leaving the GOP with control of Virginia's legislature by a single seat.

Just one vote would have made all the difference in the world when it came time to pass pro-worker legislation.

It is just another reminder of the importance of every single member of the IBEW getting out to vote in every election.

Because when it comes to issues that matter to working families — whether it's health and safety regulations, protecting the right of employees to collectively bargain, or prevailing wage laws — elections have consequences.

It is important that not only do we vote, but we make sure our families vote as well. There are too many politicians out there coming after the good wages and our strong health care and retirement benefits for your family to stay home.

But the Virginia election is also a reminder of the political maxim made famous by former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill: "All politics is local."

It is at the state and local level where some of the most important decisions are made regarding the issues that matter to the IBEW. Issues like right-to-work, prevailing wage and public workers' rights are being fought in statehouses across the country. And we need to be part of that struggle.

It is also on the state level where congressional and state legislative districts will be redrawn in just two years. Some politicians have abused the redistricting process to draw district boundaries which serve only to maximize their party's votes at the expense of the public will. The process has driven out moderates and left us with no space for compromise and working together, two of America's founding principles.

Gerrymandering has also minimized the voices of union members and encouraged the election of politicians more interested in appeasing ultra-right wing special interests than building a bipartisan commitment to help our middle-class.

Even on the county or city level, issues like project labor agreements, infrastructure spending and workplace protections are increasingly on the top of many lawmakers' agendas. And the IBEW must be part of the discussion.

But we can only do that if IBEW members and their families vote.

Many men and women gave their lives so we could enjoy the right to vote. And as easy as it is to be cynical about politics, it can only change if each and every one of us exercises that right and makes sure the IBEW is heard at the ballot box. ■



Kenneth W. Cooper
International Secretary-Treasurer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IBEW: A Proud Family Tradition

I am writing to you to see if you will put this picture of these two old retired IBEW members in the *Electrical Worker*.

I'm the taller of the two in this picture. The other man is my cousin, Curtis Brown. The picture was made November 30th, 2017, at his 100th birthday party. Curtis served in WWII. He went ashore at Omaha Beach and fought across France, Belgium, and Germany.

After he got out of the Army in 1945, he went to work for Arkansas Power and Light Co. in El Dorado, Ark., as an apprentice lineman. In early 1946, he joined Local 436, which was a construction local. Later, the power company formed their union, Local 1703. After several years as a lineman, he moved to Magnolia, Ark., and worked as a serviceman until he retired.

Curtis has been a union member for 71 years. He and his wife live in Magnolia. She turned 95 years old January 20th.

I worked as an electrician at International Paper Co. in Pine Bluff, Ark., for 40 years, where I was a member of Local 2033. I served as treasurer of my local for over 25 years and retired in 1999. I have been a union member for over 57 years.

I am a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in Germany from 1957 to 1959 during the Cold War.

*Elton A. Garris, Local 2033 retiree
Pine Bluff, Ark.*



Run For Something

It is common knowledge that union workers are the most productive, safe, informed and intelligent in the United States.

We should be picking the cream of the crop and encouraging them to be more active in public life.

Support them. Get them elected to local, state and federal office.

Who better to represent working America?

*Ron Schocal, Local 53 retiree
Kansas City, Mo.*



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

It's 2018. Time to Be Heard.

IBEW brothers and sisters, vote for your job security, vote for your wages, vote for keeping your benefits, vote for keeping our work honest. Most of all, vote for your well-being and bettering you and your family.

*Samuel Hall, Local 71 apprentice
Columbus, Ohio*

Safety is Our Responsibility

[Responding to the OSHA inspectors story on page 8 of this issue]

For our own protection, we need to be our own inspectors. Like it or not, IBEW members have the most education and safety training of all the crafts. We need to bring violations to the attention of management and we need the backing of the halls to ensure those individuals who whistleblow are not retaliated against. This will become even more important as the NLRB loses its teeth and places anti-labor individuals on the board. Just as we have the ability to be our own stewards, we must also have the courage and competence to be our own safety stewards.

*Lori Valdez, Local 415 member
Cheyenne, Wyo.*



Every Vote Counts:

How Workers Are Shifting the Political Landscape

My vote won't make a difference."

You hear it every election season. Maybe you've even said it yourself.

But after what happened in Virginia's 2017 general election, none of us can ever say it again. One ballot, a single additional vote for a Newport News, Va., school teacher, would have ended GOP control of the statehouse and opened the door to a worker-friendly legislative agenda.

In fact, a lone ballot nearly did flip control until a three-judge panel controversially intervened, deciding its confusing markings showed intent to vote for the Republican. That left the 94th district race between Democrat Shelly Simonds and incumbent David Yancey tied at 11,608 votes apiece.

The race was decided in the end by random drawing, with election officials pulling Yancey's name out of a bowl, leaving his party in control of the House by a single seat. Had they drawn Simonds' name, the parties would have shared control, each with 50 seats.

"I think we'll be using this as an example from now until the end of time on how important it is to get out and vote," said Jeff Rowe, business manager of Newport News Local 1340.

"One of the direct, positive benefits of the election was to have a labor voice in those meetings ... to put an emphasis on things that are important to working people."

— Local 1340 Business Manager Jeff Rowe

"There's no doubt in my mind that there were one or two people who planned to vote for Shelly and for whatever reason didn't make it to the polls," Rowe said. "Their votes would have made a world of difference."

Even so, a 51-49 split in the House of Delegates represents epic gains in Virginia, where IBEW members were among thousands of volunteers knocking on doors, making phone calls and otherwise helping turn out voters last Nov. 8.

"I think that there was a reawakening since the 2016 election," said Rowe, who is also president of the Virginia Association of IBEW. "A lot of our members believe it's time for a change."

Before the election, Republicans controlled the House by a 66-34 margin, an imbalance that made it all but impossible for pro-worker bills to gain traction. The exhaustive grassroots effort to educate voters and get them to the polls cut the lopsided deficit to a single seat.

"I feel great about that," Rowe said.



Lobbying in Richmond, Va., in late January, Jeff Rowe, center, and Jim Avery of Newport News, Va., Local 1340, discuss workers' issues with state Senator Monty Mason, pictured at desk. Rowe is the local's business manager and also president of IBEW's Virginia State Association.

"Anybody who knows how the system works knows that you have to get legislation through subcommittees first, and now we're only a one-person minority. All we have to do is get one other person to agree with us and we can at least get it out of committee. In the past, we'd have

wouldn't have come up. We didn't have labor people, for instance, on Bob McDonnell's transition team," he said, referring to Virginia's most recent GOP governor, who served from 2010 to 2014.

Virginia isn't the only state where unions and workers declared victory in November and the months since.

In New Jersey, an army of union volunteers helped pro-worker candidates take back the governor's office and add to their majorities in the state House and Senate. More than a dozen IBEW members were elected and re-elected to state and local offices last November. New Jersey and Virginia are two of the only states with regular elections in odd-numbered years.

As one of his first orders of business, newly sworn-in Gov. Phil Murphy signed an executive order Jan. 16 in support of equal pay for women. His Republican predecessor, Chris Christie, vetoed three equal pay bills during his two terms as governor.

Murphy's order bars managers in state government from asking job applicants about their previous salaries. He pledged to sign the rule into law and extend it to private businesses if the legislature sends a bill to his desk.

"We don't have to wait to make our economy stronger and fairer, to attack income inequality, and to protect and grow our middle class," Murphy said in his inaugural address.

Special elections are also boding well for workers' interests. In Washington state, a race to fill a late lawmaker's seat tipped the Senate to Democrats with a decisive victory by political newcomer Manka Dhingra. The Stand, a state labor news website, was optimistic in January on the eve of hearings about equal pay, safety for workers at the Department of

Her victory marked the 34th time nationwide that a state legislative seat had flipped from red to blue since the start of 2017.

But the big test comes this November. All 435 U.S. House seats and 33 of the 100 U.S. Senate seats will be on the ballot, along with 36 governors' races and the majority of statehouse seats.

Critical judicial seats are also up for grabs. Thirty-two states will hold state supreme court elections in 2018, all but three of them on Nov. 6. Deciding who sits on the bench are some of the most important choices that voters make, as the Pennsylvania Supreme Court illustrated in January.

The court struck down a partisan map of the state's congressional districts, which represented an election system rigged against working people, and ordered a new map in time for May's primaries. Although Pennsylvania is a swing state with more registered Democrats than Republicans, the gerrymandered map resulted in the GOP holding 13 of the state's 18 congressional seats.

The ruling gives pro-worker U.S. House candidates a fighting chance to represent Pennsylvania, and it could have ripple effects nationally. But it wouldn't have happened if voters hadn't gone to the polls in 2015 and elected three Democratic justices, for a 5-2 majority on the state court.

Leading up to all the state and local elections Nov. 6, voters across the country can expect to hear the story of how just one more ballot — one — cast for a pro-worker candidate in a Virginia House district could have changed everything.

"We beat that drum constantly — that every vote counts," Rowe said. "Now we've got proof." ■



During the 2017 campaign, gubernatorial candidate Ralph Northam, center, campaigned in Virginia with former Vice President Joe Biden and Washington Local 26 President Tom Myers.

THE IBEW'S 19TH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Nearly 1,776 feet above Manhattan, Joe Buonocore did something very few others would: he looked down.

Instead of vertigo, Buonocore, a journeyman wireman and specialist climber for New York Local 3, captured his mind-bending view of fellow member Chris Bugeaunu hanging from the spire of One World Trade Center.

Don't worry, the iPhone was attached to a lanyard. When you are more than a quarter-mile off the ground, everything is.

"It's like working Pinocchio up there," Buonocore said.

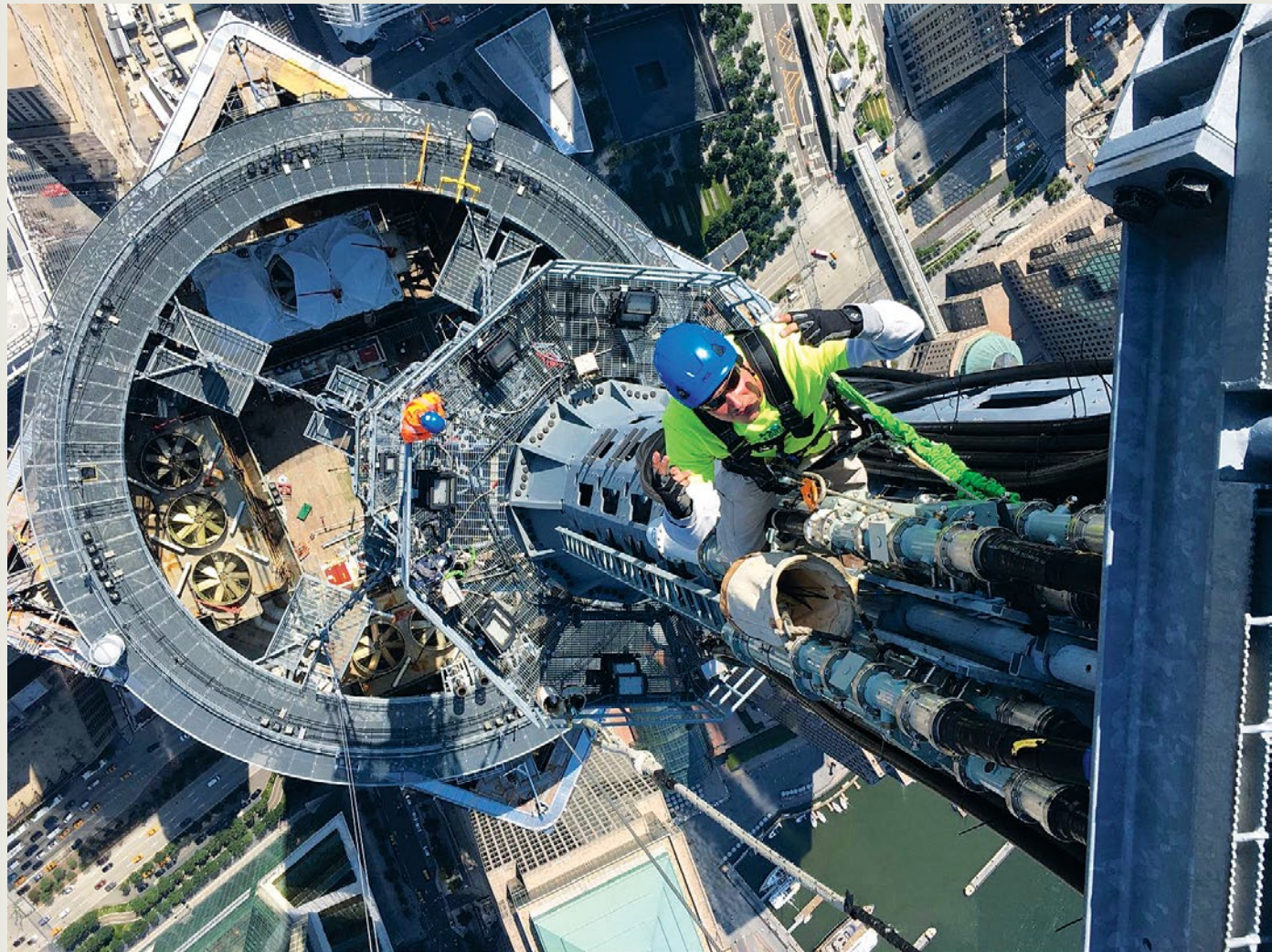
His picture was one of hundreds submitted for the 19th Annual IBEW Photo Contest, and it rose high above the other 14 finalists during the month-long online vote. It won nearly one in five of more than 7,000 votes cast.

The finalists this year included new takes on classic subjects that show up year after year, including "power lines against a glorious sunset," and "members at work in beautiful places."

But this year's finalists went far beyond the expected. How many of us have seen a nuclear reactor refueled or dawn's light reflecting off water erupting from cliff-side spillways?

More than any recent contest, portraits featured prominently among the finalists and two were voter favorites. The second-place winner's subject is unmistakably an individual, Honolulu Local 1260's Cyana Stevens, captured doing what binds the members of the IBEW together: hard work, skillfully done.

We'd love to see more. So, turn your phones to landscape, max out the resolution, and start capturing your brothers and sisters close-up. Let the world see who we are, and in our faces, our strength.



WINNER

JOE BUONOCORE
NEW YORK LOCAL 3

From the street, the spire atop One World Trade Center looks impossibly delicate and far away, a slender needle hung with what look like small silver spheres.

Not for Buonocore and the other eight members of the Local 3 climbing crew. For them, the 408-foot spire — which on its own would be taller than the tallest building in at least 14 states — is a vertical job site and second home. For two years they have been transforming it from a decorative flourish into the indispensable heart of New York's media, radio, television, and communications system.

In this picture, taken in July, Buonocore and Bugeaunu were replacing HDTV antennas. On another day, they installed dishes to receive broadcasts from TV trucks or relays for the NYPD's communications system. And most days, when they take their breaks, out come the cameras.

"We all take pictures. When we are above the clouds; when fog rolls in from Brooklyn; the sunsets and sunrises," Buonocore said. "Our phones are full of them."

It's one of the advantages when your work starts where the office building ends.

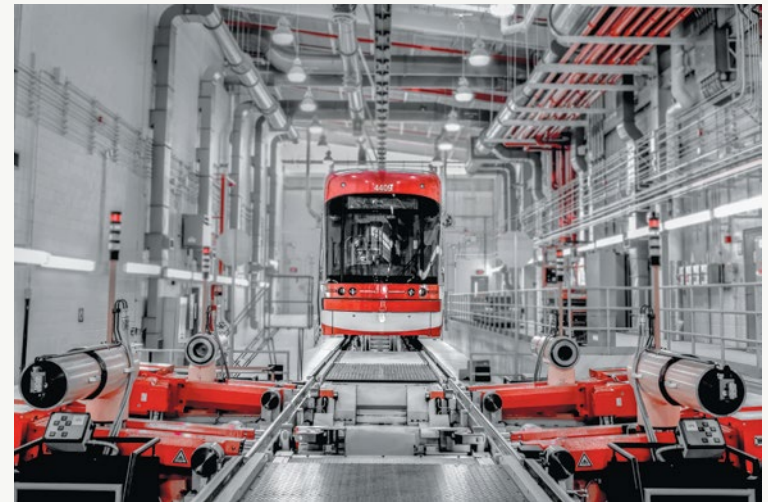
Buonocore said several of the crew submitted pictures for the contest and agreed that any money they won would go to the Local 3 strike fund to support the thousands of members who have been striking against Charter Communications for nearly a year.

HONORABLE MENTIONS



JOHN SCHALK
DOWNERS GROVE, ILL.,
LOCAL 15

There is a stillness in Schalk's picture of a Local 15 line crew repairing faults in a high-voltage transmission line. Each member of the three-man crew is so purposeful and concentrated that the moment seems almost frozen. The reality of the noise and power from the helicopter, the vibrating platform and wires and insulators swinging under the downdraft was anything but, says Schalk, a photographer for ComEd and Exelon for nearly four decades.



FRANCESCO IMPERA
TORONTO
LOCAL 353

Impera's image of a Toronto streetcar in for maintenance looks like a transmission from the future. Everything is spotless, the red erupts out of the monochrome background. It looks impossible and real at the same time. In a way, both are true. Impera digitally transformed his picture of the Leslie Barns Street Car Repair facility, dimming every color but red into an industrial gray, lending a surreal air to the newly built shop.

Retiring Early? Don't Make This Mistake

Thinking about retirement can be overwhelming. The list of things to consider often seems endless.

But the most important calculation is the same for everyone: how to squeeze every last dime out of your retirement savings, leaving nothing on the table.

That's why International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper wants to make sure that — for "A" members, at least — maintaining your IBEW international union membership finds a prominent place on your planning checklist.

"Failing to stay on the union's rolls could mean losing out on the payments you've earned through the Pension Benefit Fund," Cooper said. "It's not the biggest pension you'll receive, but you worked hard for it, and you deserve to have it."

The IBEW established the PBF in 1927 to provide for electricians, wiremen and linemen what was then considered a rare retirement benefit. Over the last 90 years, the fund has grown to become an important supplementary pension for the IBEW's "A" members.

Despite its relatively small size, Pension and Reciprocity Department Director Bruce Burton says the PBF represents some of the best value for money you're likely to find in retirement. "In about four years, you get back every dime you put into the PBF," he said. "And that's before you factor in the plan's death benefit, which can help ease the burden on your family."

But problems arise, Cooper said, when some members who reach retirement age or who take an early retirement stop paying dues before receiving a letter from his office confirming they have been approved for a PBF pension.

"Whether they mistakenly believe that they no longer need to pay dues once they reach the retirement age for their local's pension plan," Cooper said, "or perhaps they are simply unaware of the benefits available to them through the PBF — either way, we want to make sure they get what they're owed."

According to the IBEW Constitution, members who stop paying dues to the International Office must be dropped from the union's rolls within six months. When this happens, they forfeit what they have accrued toward the PBF.

About half of the union's membership starts as "A" members — primarily in the construction branch — but any member can upgrade their status to participate in the PBF. Having more "A" members results in a stronger pension fund for everyone.

Besides the PBF, other benefits of "A" membership include a death benefit of at least \$3,000, which requires just six months of IBEW service for a member's beneficiary to receive payment. Also, many local unions require "A" membership to run for leadership positions.

Burton pointed to the 4-year return on investment as evidence of the uniqueness of the PBF, which is one of the only union pensions around that is entirely funded by members' dues — unlike local pensions or corporate plans where company contributions are part of the collective-bargaining process.

At \$4.50 per month for each year of service, the PBF might not seem to be a lot of money. But say you started working in the trade at age 25. If you retire 40 years later and maintain your IBEW membership all the way through, upon retirement you would be eligible to receive a PBF benefit of \$180 a month at current levels. By age 75, that 40-year member will have received more than \$21,000 from the PBF.

"That's real money," Burton said. "It's easy to forget how quickly it can add up."

That monthly PBF payment is in addition to any other retirement funds at your disposal — your monthly Social Security check, for example, or pension payments from your local union or your employer's pension plan. (Those taking early retirement between the ages of 62 and 64 experience a reduction in monthly PBF payments until they reach age 65.)

"In retirement, every bit of income helps," Cooper said. "You've been paying into the PBF every month for your entire career. You deserve to enjoy its benefits."

Call your local union office with any questions about early retirement or about your membership type and how to make changes to it. For questions about the PBF or to apply for benefits, contact the Pension and Reciprocity Department at pension@ibew.org or (202) 728-6206. ■

4 YEARS
Rough amount of time in retirement it takes to **earn back** every cent a member puts into the PBF.

A 40-year member will have received this much in **PBF payments within 10 years** of taking normal retirement.

\$21K

5X
The average IBEW retiree will **return a 500 percent investment** on their PBF contributions over their lifetime.



SECOND PLACE
REGINALD LEE
HONOLULU LOCAL 1260

Here's what we know about Honolulu Local 1260 member Cyana Stevens. She is strong, focused and skilled. Lee, a junior control officer, took this picture while assisting Stevens, who was changing out burner guns on a generating unit at Oahu's Kahe Power Plant. The concentrated effort resonated with hundreds of voters. Lee said the picture was about more than the work Stevens was doing, though. "I wanted to show that not only are our brothers working hard on a daily basis, but also our sisters out there in the field," Lee said.

THIRD PLACE
NEIL MILLER
LOS ANGELES LOCAL 11

The symmetry of Miller's remarkable photograph provides stability in a year that often seemed off-kilter. Miller, the Local 11 press secretary, took this picture of inside wireman Alton Wilkerson holding the flag during the annual May Day march to downtown L.A. Everything outside the frame may be in flux, but Wilkerson is a still point in the center of this image. The buildings, rigidly checked with windows, rise straight and true. The stripes of the flag flow calmly into the horizon.



ERIC MOKAN
TRENTON, N.J.,
LOCAL 269

Journeyman wireman Eric Mokan was standing on a ladder installing solar panels on a Princeton, N.J., office when he caught sight of his Local 269 brother Marco Sciarrotta hovering in the clouds. Mokan was about 10 feet below the sloping solar array Sciarrotta was installing. "I saw the reflection of the sky and it looked like he was floating," said Mokan, who grabbed his phone and captured this stunning image.

The **20TH ANNUAL IBEW PHOTO CONTEST** kicks off in a few short months. Keep an eye on ibew.org, our Facebook page and the Electrical Worker for details on how to enter. In the meantime, be on the lookout for special images of IBEW sisters and brothers in action.

Continued from page 1

Safety Underground

Manhole Training Goes Mobile

trical industry. We are on the cutting edge of something special thanks to our partnership with Aldridge.”

Sullivan was named the project’s lead developer in February 2017. Two weeks later, he had a proposal down on paper. Within a few short months, the two trailers were up and running, having been built by IBEW members employed by Aldridge.

“The first thing I thought of was, ‘What can I do to improve safety?’” Sullivan said. “If I am going to set up a trailer that goes throughout the country, what can I do to support individuals who have already been trained to work on the infrastructure in their area and also people who want to work for a utility company?”

The first trailer is 53 feet long and includes a network transformer and network protector. The trailer is set up for normal maintenance training following established procedures. Or, Sullivan and other Aldridge administrators can bug it to show how to correct a particular problem. A generator under the trailer frame allows them to send power to the secondary network cables.

To teach how to properly assess a manhole, multiple cable joints are collapsed or cracked and workers use infrared cameras to determine if they were damaged by elevated temperatures or other abnormalities. The environment simulates the enclosed space underground workers usually find themselves in, but in a better-lit area. Instructors have an easier time teaching than they would in a dark vault below the surface.

The safety trailer is about 23 feet long and is a converted auto racing car hauler. It simulates training for removing a disabled worker during an emergency, complete with a 180-pound dummy wearing a work belt and helmet that workers hoist atop the trailer.

“I don’t know of any other contractor that has this,” Sullivan said. “Utilities have a luxury in that they have training centers that are brick and mortar. A contractor that works across the country doesn’t have that ability. To have this go nationwide, it’s important for the safety of the workers.”

Sullivan relied on Chicago Local 9 member and Aldridge general foreman John Ficetti and other IBEW members for input.

Newer electrical construction, Ficetti noted, is increasingly done underground instead of building overhead power lines. Initial costs are more expensive, but local officials believe it saves money over time. It’s also more visually pleasing, a top selling point for developers.

“It keeps it out of sight, it keeps it out of the weather and the elements and it makes the reliability stronger,” he said.

That provides more work for IBEW members, but it makes the training they receive even more critical. The trailers simulate the compact environment they’re likely to work in while helping members learn from instructors in a safe setting. Everyone completing the training receives a participants’ handbook they can continually refer back to.

“There is not a whole lot of knowledge regarding the underground networks, which is exactly why Aldridge put this together,” Ficetti said. “It’s why we made this trailer as realistic as possible. When you’re



Clockwise from top: Turray James and Andy Chomor assess conditions on a network protector; Aldridge project engineer Chet Chippie with general foreman John Ficetti; and the Aldridge safety trailer, a converted race car hauler with a simulated manhole cut into the top.



in the trailer, you’re going to do some things you would do down in a vault, but the conditions are a little better and you can ask questions.”

Local 9 member and journeyman lineman Andy Chomor said the trailer serves as a needed reminder for experienced members, too.

“Just being able to get your hands on some things that you may or may not experience on a daily basis is extremely important,” said Chomor, who has worked underground around the country for nearly 20 years. “As far as seeing everything you would see in a manhole situation, and physically testing everything in the manhole prior to going out and getting yourself potentially injured, you can be trained properly. You can’t put a dollar figure on safety.”

That’s the point made by Local 70’s Tipton, who noted that even experienced linemen might feel overwhelmed when asked to work underground for the first time. They increasingly are being asked to do so because of changes in the industry. The trailers should make that transition smoother, he said.

“If we sent a lineman that has been working overhead or in transmission or in a substation, if they go into a manhole, they’re going to be lost,” Griffin said. “They don’t know what they’re looking at.”



Fourth District Vice President Brian G. Malloy saw the trailers firsthand when they were in Washington. “I think it shows the commitment from Aldridge to our members’ safety,” he said. “I was quite impressed with it and I was quite impressed by our good relationship with the employer and the customer.”

Sullivan said the trailers aren’t designed to replace apprenticeship programs. But they do provide an additional tool by giving a more realistic simulation of working underground.

James enters data from a manhole assessment into a tablet computer.

“I had one general foreman tell me, ‘I’ve been underground and been in manholes my whole career, but you’ve added another layer of training and showed me something I didn’t know before,’” Sullivan said. “That’s the best compliment we can get.” ■



CIRCUITS

'Building Futures' Offers Second Shot at Life

The U.S. economy has been on the upswing for years. But finding a solid middle-class job can still be a struggle for some, especially for someone who has spent time behind bars.

But Kenneth Davis found help — and success — landing good union-represented work, in part because of the Metropolitan Washington AFL-CIO Council's Building Futures program, which offers free training and certification to ex-offenders like him, as well as to military veterans and low-income men and women interested in pursuing careers in the building trades.

"It's a great program for people who don't know anything about construction," said Davis, a D.C.-area native and former prison inmate who is now a residential wireman apprentice at Washington Local 26.

Davis, who spoke about his positive experiences with the program to a recent Building Futures class, said he already had an interest in electrical work when a friend talked to him about the program.

"I heard so many good things about the IBEW that joining it was an easy decision."

— Washington Local 26 member
Kenneth Davis

For nearly 10 years, Building Futures has worked to train, certify and place participants in the electrical and construction industry in Washington and in the city's close-in Maryland and Virginia suburbs.

"Think of it like 'Construction for Dummies,'" Davis said. "It gives you a good rundown of all that's involved."

Building Futures instructors cover a wide variety of topics from construction math to blueprint reading to job readiness, and they work with building and construction industry leaders to help graduates gain apprenticeships and entry-level positions. Course participants also can earn certifications in areas such as flagger safety and OSHA compliance. They are coached on how to write effective resumes and how to conduct themselves during job interviews, and they visit job sites and hear from representatives of a number of construction trade organizations and unions.

A 2014 Arizona State University survey of hiring managers showed that job applicants with criminal histories tend to be among the least likely to be hired, but more recent studies by Northwestern University and Johns Hopkins Hospital separately found evidence suggesting that ex-offenders tend to stay employed longer than their record-free counterparts.



Washington Local 26's Kenneth Davis talks to a Building Futures class about his own success with the program.

Research by the conservative Manhattan Institute think tank showed the benefits of steady work to former inmates, determining that the sooner ex-offenders found work, the lower the likelihood that they might wind up doing something that landed them back in jail.

The 30-year-old Davis graduated from Building Futures in December of 2016; within two weeks, an opportunity opened up for him to join Local 26 as a residential class apprentice and to work on a new mixed-use commercial/residential project on southwest Washington's waterfront.

"I heard so many good things about the IBEW that joining it was an easy decision," he said. "Since I joined the union, I have had no bad days."

More recently, Davis has been working with an electrical contractor on a new 31-story office building in nearby Tysons Corner, Va.

The free, six-week Building Futures program, offered four times a year, is open to qualified candidates who have either a high school or general equivalency diploma. Program organizers say it has an 80 percent placement rate.

"Participants like Kenneth succeed because of their own drive and the intensive case management they receive in Building Futures," said the AFL-CIO's Sonthe DuCote.

This program is made possible largely through funds provided by the Department of Labor's Green Jobs Innovation Fund and other local supporters. Visit communityservicesagency.org to learn more. ■

Union-Made New Year's Gift Will Play in Peoria for Years to Come

On the coldest New Year's Eve in the history of Peoria, Ill., members of Local 34 gave residents a dazzling reason to brave the weather.

The city's annual winter festival became a smaller, but no less enthusiastic, version of New York's Times Square as a giant ball bursting with more than 2,000 points of light descended 130 feet from a crane, first at 7 p.m. so that youngsters could enjoy it and again at midnight for

celebrating adults.

Those were proud moments for Local 34 and its apprentices, who configured the lighting design and brought it to life — even building a 225-foot, three-phase custom extension cord.

"It was really cool to see it lit up in the night sky, with kids ice-skating below, and to know that with short notice we were able to pull it off," Local 34 Business Manager Paul Flynn said. "That's what unions do. We come together and meet deadlines with any sort of resources we have."

The 6-foot-wide, 1,550-pound stainless steel ball was a union project start to finish. And a rapid one, as Flynn indicated. "It was August or September when our civic center approached us and asked if we wanted to be a sponsor," he said. "The building trades thought it would be a good opportunity to showcase our talents. But we had to scramble."

Local 34 is part of a Peoria labor-management coalition known as Better Built — the Union Construction Network. The IBEW, Sheet Metal Workers and Operating Engineers — who ran the crane — were involved directly while other trade unions contributed money and supplies. Employers did as well, Flynn said, thanking signatory contractors Kaiser Electric for help with the LED lighting plan and Oberlander Electric for donating materials, rigging equipment and manpower.

"Absolutely a cooperative effort," Flynn said. "It really was a fun project, even though we ran into a few problems and had to do some redesign."



Local 34 Training Director Brandon Currie, whose apprentices configured and installed the lights on Peoria's New Year's Eve ball, talks about the project with Clare Zell of the Peoria Civic Center on Facebook Live.

It was so cooperative, in fact, that Peoria Civic Center staff told Flynn they'd never had a partnership work out so well. "They said they usually end up doing all the work, but 'you guys just took off with it and made sure it was on time and safe,'" he said.

The Sheet Metal Workers designed and welded the ball, taking inspiration from New York and several small Midwestern cities that have fashioned their own ball drops. Then, with barely a month to go, it was IBEW's turn.

The lighting design was a challenge, as was the cost. Flynn said the fixture they originally wanted was priced at an impossible \$34,000. But Kaiser tracked one down for \$3,000 and the civic center paid the tab.

IBEW apprentices, under the tutelage of Local 34 instructors and Training Director Brandon Currie, figured out how to install, wire and power the fixture, which had 220 LEDs, each with 10 points of light. "It's the best hands-on training an apprentice can get," Flynn said.

The ball is being stored at the local's training center and will continue to be a teaching tool. Being rust-proof, it can be reused indefinitely, allowing future apprentices to design, install and program new lighting.

A trial run the week before Christmas confirmed the crane could lift the ball and lower it in a 59-second countdown. Although the crane rental site didn't have a strong enough power source to illuminate the ball, Flynn said the lights had been tested throughout the building process and worked perfectly.

But to see their creation light up the night sky, IBEW members had to wait with other hardy souls on a New Year's Eve when the wind chill hit minus 30. Asked by the Peoria Journal Star if it was worth the frigid wait, one beaming family said, "Yes," without hesitation.

A civic center spokeswoman told the newspaper that while the bitter cold kept some people away, the unions gave the city a gift that area residents will enjoy for many years to come.

"It was really important to still have the ball drop even though it was very cold," Megan Pedigo said. "The men and women of the union construction network put a lot of hours into this ball. It's beautiful. The tradition starts now." ■

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

www.ibew.org

Get all the news IBEW for and about members, including the online version of The Electrical Worker, at IBEW.org.

YouTube

New Brunswick Power won Canada's Best Health and Safety Culture award with the help of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37 and the Code of Excellence. See how they did it at bit.ly/IBEW_NBPower

Vimeo

San Francisco's Transbay Transit



Center is a five-story hub of 11 different transit systems right in the city's downtown — and it was built by San Francisco Local 6 members. Check out the project at bit.ly/IBEW_SFTransit.

HourPower

With the help of IBEW's Business Development team, locals across



Pennsylvania worked on the 350-mile long Mariner II East natural gas pipeline. Get the story at IBEWHourPower.com.

ElectricTV

San Diego Local 569 members are powering the high-rises transforming the city's skyline, and they're doing it with a blended workforce. Learn more at ElectricTV.net.



TRANSITIONS

DECEASED

Thomas A. Hannigan



The IBEW is saddened to announce the death of Brother Thomas A. Hannigan, an assistant to three International secretaries who

represented labor on important federal panels. He died Jan. 5 at the age of 82.

“He was an amazing guy,” said retired International Representative Michael D. Nugent, who worked alongside Hannigan for 10 years and remained close friends after. “He was tenacious.”

Brother Hannigan served in the U.S. Army for two years before being initiated into Chicago Local 134 in 1956. He worked as a journeyman wireman until May 1966, when he moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as the Research and Education Department’s assistant director.

He was promoted to department director in 1970 and was named an assistant to then-International Secretary Joseph D. Keenan two years later. Hannigan was named administrative assistant to the International Secretary in 1977 and executive assistant in 1987. Besides Keenan, he also served under International Secretaries Ralph A. Leigon and Jack F. Moore before retiring in 1988.

That was just a small part of Hannigan’s service to the Brotherhood.

He was a consultant to both President Lyndon Johnson’s Committee on Urban Housing and President Richard Nixon’s Committee on Low Income Housing. In 1977, he was nominated by President Jimmy Carter and confirmed by the Senate to serve on the U.S. Metric Board.

It came at an important time. The United States was considering joining the rest of the industrial world in using the metric unit of measurement. Construction groups and trade unions largely opposed such a move, noting that high-end tools and manufacturing facilities were designed using the traditional United States customary system. Converting to a metric system would create an overwhelming amount of additional costs, they said. Unions also were concerned it might increase the offshoring of jobs.

In the end, the U.S. never adopted the metric format and President Ronald Reagan disbanded the board in 1982. Nugent, a former curator and archivist for the IBEW Museum at the International Office in Washington, said Hannigan’s role was crucial.

“He was our voice and the voice of all of labor,” said Nugent, also a Local 134 member. “He’s the one that kept the country from going to the metric system.”

Robert Wood, who succeeded Hannigan as director of the research and education department, said he was ideal for his role on the metric board because he was accustomed to doing extensive research and successfully advocating for a position.

“He was always interested in moving us forward,” Wood said. “Sometimes,

that is not easy. The labor movement is a big movement and it sometimes turns like a flywheel. There’s a whole lot of inertia and it doesn’t want to turn easily.”

Former Computer Services Department Director Jim Brock remembered Hannigan always was interested in improved technology and urged the brotherhood to embrace it. Brock worked with Hannigan in organizing the 1982 International Convention in Los Angeles, the IBEW’s first in which votes were recorded by computer.

“When we were at work, he was the boss,” Brock said. “When he was in charge of something, you knew it. But when you got away from work, you didn’t think of him that way. He was just a regular guy.”

Hannigan hardly slowed down after retiring from the IBEW. He worked in private business and earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland in 1991 at the age of 56. He completed an executive education program at Harvard Business School. He was the author of a book, “Managing Tomorrow’s High-Performance Unions.” Released in 1998, in it he urged labor leaders to adopt successful management principals used in private industry to make their unions more effective.

Hannigan also was an avid skier and hockey player, even winning a hockey gold medal in Maryland’s Senior Olym-

pics. He was a longtime season ticket holder for the NHL’s Washington Capitals and University of Maryland sports and was involved in several political, civic and youth organizations in the Washington area.

Brother Hannigan is survived by Del Rita, his wife of 57 years; four grown children; and four grandchildren. He had been battling Parkinson’s disease in recent years and was buried at the Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Crownsville, Md.

The IBEW’s officers and staff send their deepest condolences to Brother Hannigan’s family and many friends during this difficult time. ■

RETIRED

Larry Schell



Following a 46-year career with the IBEW, First District International Representative Larry Schell retired, effective Dec. 1.

Employees at Electrohome, a consumer electronics firm, had only recently voted to join Kitchener, Ontario Local 804 when Schell started work there and

joined the IBEW in October 1969. His father had previously served as treasurer for the company’s employee association.

The younger Schell worked in Electrohome’s engineering department, using lathes and milling machines to make prototypes of new products before they went into manufacturing.

“Our tolerance level was thirty-thousandths of an inch,” Schell said. “All of this is done by computers now, where we did it by hand using micrometers for our final sizing.”

As a member of Local 804, Schell worked on committees dealing with organizing, leadership and negotiating. He also was active in his local’s Community Outreach program.

Schell became a full-time business agent in 1973. “We had grown to 3,300 members and had 18 units with almost 30 collective-bargaining agreements,” he said, which spanned a number of utilities, manufacturing and service industries. “I was servicing and bargaining from the start.” Schell said he brought in four companies the following year.

In 1978, Schell moved to Edmonton, Alberta, to work as the first full-time organizer for Local 424, which represents a number of trades in that province’s capital city. “And I never looked back,” he said. “My average was 10 new companies a year and 440 new members.”

Six years later, the Alberta Government appointed Schell to its Labour Board, where he served for 27 years. In addition to presenting hearings to the board, Schell’s experience there led him into arbitration work.

“I loved sitting on the Alberta Labour Board and I was on many high-profile cases,” he said. One such case — which dealt with a meat-industry employer charged with trying to take money away from his company’s defined-benefit pension plan — was found to have breached Alberta’s Labour Code.

“Sitting on the Labour Board was beneficial to the IBEW and me,” Schell said. “I learned so much about the code and cases that affected labor in Canada.”

Working on the board, Schell said, gave him and then-First District International Representative Vair Clendenning the chance to prepare schools designed specifically for “salts” — union members who work on non-union jobs to organize those workplaces. The schools eventually were made available for locals in all of Canada’s provinces.

“People had learned why they needed to organize,” Schell said, “but they didn’t know how to organize a worksite.”

Schell recalled that he and Clendenning, who retired in 2007, went on the road in the early to mid-1990s to teach locals about unfair labor practices and

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Are Fewer OSHA Safety Inspectors Putting Workers at Risk?

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is down at least 40 workplace safety inspectors since early 2017, a troubling trend attributable to Donald Trump’s hiring freeze coupled with attrition. Budget cuts under consideration by the White House are likely to make matters even worse for worker safety.

Worksite inspections in southeastern states dropped by as much as 25 percent during the first eight months of the Trump administration, an NBC News investigation found, reporting that “critics warn that the staff departures have crippled small, regional OSHA offices that were already short-handed.”

Safety and Health Director David Mullen said the vacancies are disturbing, but it’s too early to determine if fewer OSHA inspectors are correlating to more workers being injured or killed on the job.

Mullen said many factors have to be evaluated before drawing conclusions about worksite accidents. Still, OSHA’s ability to investigate incidents and complaints, issue citations and enforce laws protecting workers is fundamental.

“Generally speaking, the fewer inspectors, the more you’re asking for trouble,” he said. Determining the degree of trouble requires data, and that’s where IBEW locals can play a vital role. If OSHA isn’t swiftly responding to imminent danger complaints, Mullen and his staff want to hear about it.

“In my experience, depending on the severity of the complaint and OSHA’s availability in that part of the state, an investigator should arrive within one to three days,” said Dan Gardner, an international representative for safety and health.

Mullen asks that locals report any OSHA delays directly to him by email or phone, allowing his department to compile data, look for patterns and assess the effects of the vacancies.

International President Lonnie Stephenson encouraged locals to share any rele-



IBEW members do many dangerous jobs, like these linemen testing fall-protection equipment. OSHA cutbacks could be putting their lives at risk.

vant experiences. “Our members’ work is already hazardous. If OSHA’s failure to fill safety inspectors’ jobs is putting them at greater risk, we need facts to back that up,” he said. “We want to make the strongest possible case to stop the bleeding.”

NBC News began looking into OSHA’s downsizing when it obtained a letter the Labor Department sent to Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, who’d requested data about the agency’s workforce. She told NBC that OSHA “is far too understaffed to fulfill its mandate of reducing workplace injuries.”

Nationwide, 21 states and Puerto Rico run their own OSHA-approved workplace safety and health programs that cover the private sector as well as state

and local government employees. Programs in five additional states and the Virgin Islands cover public-sector workers only.

The remaining 24 states depend entirely on OSHA for inspections and enforcement. Among them is Mississippi, which has one of the nation’s highest worker injury and fatality rates and has seen the steepest drop in inspections. The former head of OSHA’s Jackson office said he’s especially concerned about risks to workers at the state’s smaller shipyards and construction companies.

“They really need close oversight because the ownership in those companies doesn’t likely have a dedicated safety staff to make sure they’re controlling their injuries and illness — they’re more likely to fall off the train,” Clyde Payne told NBC.

Is OSHA taking longer to respond to your local’s safety complaints? If so, please contact IBEW Safety and Health Director David Mullen by email at david_mullen@ibew.org or by phone at (202) 728-6040. ■

LOCAL LINES

IBEW Community Service; Multiple Contracts Negotiated

L.U. 9 (catv,govt,lctt,o&u), CHICAGO, IL — 2017 was an exceptional and busy year for Local 9. The members of our local enjoyed a year of steady work. Bus. Mgr. Bill Niesman and his assistants successfully negotiated the following agreements for our membership: a four-year agreement with the Middle States Electrical Contractors Association for our outside construction and telecommunication work; a three-year agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; a five-year agreement with the City of Chicago; a three-year agreement for our line clearance tree trimmers; and a one-year extension with the Chicago Park District.

Thank you to Local 9 members and their families for their continued generosity in supporting: Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, the Letter Carriers Food Drive, West Suburban Cook County Boys and Girls Club, and the Veteran Women's Health and Wellness Day. We look forward to continued community outreach by supporting these organizations in 2018, as well as support for the 50th Anniversary of Special Olympics.

Congratulations to former Pres. John Conroy and former Fin. Sec. Phil Dote, who both retired in 2017. We thank them for their longtime union service and we wish them a happy, healthy retirement. We welcome Bro. Todd Pierson as president and Bro. Brian Lewis as financial secretary.

Phase II of construction at our Training Center is complete, and as of this writing we are breaking ground on Phase III. Education is the key to success and an investment in the future of our local.

As 2018 gets underway, we look forward to a prosperous year.

Mary Beth Kaczmarek, P.S.



IBEW Local 9 members supported 2017 Letter Carriers Food Drive. From left: Local 9 Asst. Bus. Mgr. John Dowling, Bus. Mgr. Bill Niesman, Asst. Bus. Mgr. John Burkard and then-Fin. Sec. Phil Dote.

2017 Holiday Meeting

L.U. 19 (u), AURORA, IL — On Dec. 20 last year, Local 19 brothers and sisters got together for our annual holiday meeting. We would like to thank Lisle, IL, Local 701 Bus. Mgr. Frank Furco for allowing us to use the Local 701 facility for the event. Congratulations to Bros. Norm Tatum and Mike Matlock, who went home that evening with new TVs that were donated to raffle off. Thank you all who made contributions for donations.

Please make sure to attend your local union monthly meetings and don't forget to visit us on Facebook for updated information on Local 19.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and prosperous 2018!

Natalia Guzman, Exec. Board



Local 19 members attend annual holiday meeting in 2017.

Worker Solidarity; Elect Friends of Labor

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY — The president of the United States has made it very challenging for the future of unions with his lifetime judicial appointments to numerous U.S. District Courts. Many of the candidates he has appointed have little experience, but have extreme ideals that include destroying unionized labor.

The impending decision of the Supreme Court in the case known as Janus vs. AFSCME most likely will go against public-sector unions. The court's deci-

sion in that case will affect us all and we must prepare for what comes next. **[Editor's Note: As this article went to press, the U.S. Supreme Court was scheduled to hear oral arguments in the case, Janus vs. the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, in late February 2018. To read more, see news article "Facing Hostile Court Ruling, How to Save Your Union," posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles.]**

In the November 2018 midterm elections, we must elect individuals who share our ideals regarding the right to collectively bargain for a decent wage, health insurance, a pension, and the ability to retire with dignity.

This past winter had some terribly cold spells, but as we welcome the thaw and look forward to spring and summer, keep an eye out for our upcoming events. These events allow sisters and brothers to get to know each other in a different light and help to create a stronger bond of brotherhood. Please join us to meet some new sisters and brothers at one of these events and have fun too!

Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.

Fire Restoration Work; Contract Negotiations

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Our IBEW Local 47 members did another great job on the Ventura Thomas fire restoration work. The fire, which started Dec. 4 last year, covered over 283,000 acres and burned 1,000 buildings.

Local 47 members employed at Morongo Casino voted by a vast majority in favor of a tentative contract agreement, following lengthy contract negotiations. However, subsequently, we were informed by the Morongo lead attorney that when presented to the tribal members for acceptance and ratification, the contract was rejected by the tribal members. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Region 21 has issued a complaint against the tribe for bad-faith bargaining.

A Southern California Edison (SCE) NLRB hearing was conducted to determine proper work groups allowed to vote in a SCE representation election.

Update for City of Anaheim engineers: At the time of this writing, negotiations continue for the new engineer group.

Our IBEW Local 47 Holiday & Christmas Party

last year was a great success. Over 2,500 attended. Santa did a great job. Thanks to all who attended.

We are saddened to report the death of members Robert Ochoa, Patrick Ross, Martin Escamilla, Kenny Bechtol, Daniel Stengle, Randy Bierl, Samuel Casillas and Don Vela. Condolences and prayers go out to their loved ones.

Live free and safe. Work hard and buy union.

Mitch Smith, P.S.

Award for Heroism

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — In December 2017, Frontier Communications offered a voluntary separation package to all our construction members. The construction group at Frontier is already in a bare-bones state; as of this writing, no members had expressed interest in the offer.

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission recently announced its award winners. One of the winners awarded posthumously was an IBEW member, the late Thomas Petruszak. Bro. Petruszak was a member of IBEW Local 9 and worked as a traveler in Local 51's jurisdiction, employed by Wright Tree Service, performing line clearance for Ameren and ComEd. Thomas passed away in September 2016 while trying to save a man who fell into a Lake Michigan bay.

Dale "Bud" Fallon, journeyman tree trimmer, was seriously injured earlier this year due to a fall out of a tree. Dale attended our Construction Unit meeting in December to receive his five-year pin and thanked the members for their monetary and moral support while he recovered.

Construction line work is slowing with layoffs at press time. Meter changing work is moving to Local 309's jurisdiction. Lack of sufficient amounts of distribution work could cause some of our apprentices to have to travel out of our jurisdiction to find distribution work. We have full employment in line clearance tree trimming (LCTT) with Wright Tree doing some hiring.

Karlene Knisley, B.R.

Service to Community — Generosity of IBEW Members

L.U. 109 (u), ROCK ISLAND, IL — IBEW Local 109 members purchased gifts for two families at Christmas. We sponsored a family from Iowa and a family from Illinois. With monetary donations, and actual items purchased by some of our members, we were able to provide over \$2,000 worth of gifts to the families. Member Al Shafer provided his Santa services to a shelter for young children as well.

The amazing contributions and generous hearts

Submitting Local Lines Articles

Local Lines are printed monthly on an alternating even/odd schedule. They can be submitted by designated press secretaries or union officers via email (locallines@ibew.org) 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

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

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

of our members allowed two families in need to enjoy a very bountiful Christmas. We look forward to being able to provide for more families in the future. This wouldn't be possible without our hard-earned union dollars!

Denise Newberry, P.S.



Local 109 members provided holiday gifts for two needy families. Member Al Shafer played the role of Santa.

Contract Negotiations; Community Outreach Project

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO — We ended the year 2017 with our annual Feed the Homeless event. This community outreach project is a huge undertaking. Members and their families volunteer, and some of our signatory companies provide the tools necessary to make the event such a successful contribution to the less fortunate and those who are suffering through tough times. Thank you to all who participated in the preparation and service — we could not do this without you.

As we usher in 2018, we celebrate the 111th Year Anniversary of IBEW Local 111. The contentious negotiations with PSCO/Xcel Energy continue as of press time, and the union is holding steadfast to keep the traditional working-class values like medical, pension benefits, and job security as our top priorities. The current political environment has sparked a wave of employees contacting Local 111 for representation in an effort to combat corporate greed. Our membership is growing and solidarity is only making us stronger and more vigilant in fighting for workers' rights.

In 2018 make a point to attend your union meetings, Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) events, and the quarterly Union Safety Meetings. Be proactive and make your voices heard.

Patrick S. Quinn, P.S.

Union Sportsmen's Alliance Dinner & Fundraiser

L.U. 113 (ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — In the fall of 2017, IBEW Local 113 hosted a Union Sportsmen's Alliance dinner and fundraiser with many hunters and fishermen from different local unions participating. Attendees were treated to a fabulous steak and chicken dinner, as well as a night filled with lots of raffles and a live auction. This was a great chance for many members of all trades with similar interests to get together for a common cause, and win some fantastic prizes.

About \$40,000 was raised, with half of it going toward a conservation project of our local's choice, which is still to be determined at the time of this writing. With so much interest and the popularity of the fundraiser, we plan to host the event again next fall.



Attendees enjoy Union Sportsmen's Alliance dinner/fundraiser hosted by IBEW Local 113.

As of this writing the work picture is steady. Some of the jobs are winding down, while other jobs will be starting to man up. We hope 2018 will be a safe and profitable year for everyone across the IBEW.

Keep in mind that on March 17, we will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, with a barbecue afterward at the hall. It's a good time for members and their families to get together and show the community that we are IBEW strong! As always, work safely. In solidarity.

Brian Putnam, P.S.

Stand for Working People; Focus on Safety & Solidarity

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR — Change occurs in all aspects of our lives, and it is happening in our workplaces. In 2018, we must focus on safety, solidarity and leadership. Everyone is responsible for his or her actions each day. Use your knowledge, skills and abilities to make sure that you go home safely each day. Acknowledge the positive things that happen each day.

It is time to stop letting things divide us. You took an oath to uphold the IBEW Constitution. To stop the political, legislative and regulatory attacks on working people, we must stand up and protect our interests. That means focusing on our common interests: wages, hours and working conditions.

Leadership does not occur because of a title; it is earned. People may not like what you do or say, but you must do it for the right reason at the right time, not only when convenient or easy. Our country faces threats to our economic, political, racial and social justice. So-called "right-to-work" legislation is designed by anti-worker foes with the goal of destroying unions. As union workers, we do things right. Let your voice be heard to educate, engage and communicate with friends, family, neighbors and communities about our interests. You are a leader. We need you.

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.



Local 177 members and their families celebrate the season at the local's Annual Children's Christmas Party.

'Thanks to Volunteers'

L.U. 177 (bo,ees,i,mo,o,pet&govt), JACKSONVILLE, FL — Local 177 thanks the many volunteers and officers who made our Children's Christmas Party and Retiree Christmas Party a huge success. Retired Bro. Bill Gehm just finished his 42nd year playing the part of Santa for the Children's Christmas party. Everyone who attended seemed to have a wonderful time.

Work in the area has slowed up again, after we

enjoyed a busy November that actually helped out a few travelers for the month. We look forward to the possibility of some new projects in the area for 2018. A big thank-you goes out to all those locals that have been able to employ our traveling brothers and sisters.

We hope the new year brings prosperity and good health to all our brothers and sisters.

Alan Jones, B.M.

Holiday Festivities; 'A Bright Future'

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA — IBEW Local 191 members and their families enjoyed three different holiday parties, all with great attendance. Wenatchee (274 attendees), Bellingham (305 attendees) and Everett (353 attendees) enjoyed food, gifts and a visit from Santa.

Special thanks to the chairs for each of the holiday events: for Wenatchee — Aaron and Londa Van Kirk; Bellingham — Tony and Sheila Wilson; and Everett — Colleen O'Brien.

We also want to let members and retirees know the dates for the upcoming awards banquets: Westside banquet (at Skagit Casino) — May 12; and the Eastside banquet (at Chateau Faire Le Point) — May 19. Please call the office for more details and to register.

Our organizers continue to plan and conduct "Mini Blitzes" in different parts of our jurisdiction recruiting several classifications.

Our work picture remains strong and we thank our members and travellers for manning the work.

Lastly, remember our Member Volunteer Program, where you can earn points by helping out. There are many great prizes including weekend get-aways, apparel and gift cards. It is open to all members. Give it a try!

Bill Mirand, P.S.

New Solar Energy Incentive

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rtb,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Here in the Land of Lincoln we are still feeling Gov. Bruce Rauner's attacks on unions and the middle class. This hurts funding for working people including IBEW Local 193. It might help to contact the governor?

We have a project at Levi, Ray & Shoup Inc. coming out of the ground. Two hospitals in Springfield, St. John's Hospital and Memorial Medical Center Hospital, have projects just starting. Employment has improved for this time of year in Local 193.

A flagger training school is in the works for safety training.

A new solar energy incentive program is being funded for Local 193's jurisdiction. Projects at Lincoln Land Community College and Springfield High School are among the first such projects, with funding from Ameren and Commonwealth Edison. \$600 million is being earmarked for this progressive new statewide program, with projects being funded at six high schools and six community colleges.

We hope everyone managed to stay safe and warm this winter while working in the frigid temperatures!

Our condolences go out to the families of the following members who passed away: Tom Schafer and Mike Keafer.

Don Hudson, P.S.



Local 193 Bus. Mgr. Neil Hervey (fourth from right) and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Chad Vacek (right) present 70-year awards. Displaying awards are: Gregory "Chad" Fitzpatrick (far left), who picked up an award for his grandfather Gregory Fitzpatrick; Robert McAffe, Harry Paull and James Enlow.

2017 Food Bank Drive — Apprentices Serve Community

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL — Local 197 members celebrated the Christmas season at year's end and welcomed the new year of 2018. We had our annual Christmas Party & Service Pin Ceremony in early December. We thank all the members and families who could come and take part in the festivities. Congratulations to those who received service pins for their commitment and dedication to the IBEW. The ceremony provides us an opportunity to reflect on the year and get together to spread holiday cheer with our brothers and sisters.

Our apprentices were busy over the holidays taking up canned food donations for a local food bank. It is great to see the apprentices giving back to the community, and we appreciate the effort they put forth. We hope 2018 is a great year for our local and the IBEW. Remember to get involved in the local and stay involved.

Mike Raikes, Pres.



Local 197 members receive service pins: Steve Fuller (left), Chris Neumann, Dirk Banks, Lester Parker, John Lubben, Tim Mattson, Matt Wall, Tom Trunell, Rich Veitengruber, Dennis Rexroat, J. R. Gordon, Clint Miller, Dave Hogenson, Ken McLean, Mark Staples, Mike Raikes and Greg Mullins.



Local 1701 Bus. Mgr. Tim Blandford (left) and Pres. Andy Daniel (right) present a union-made retirement clock to 37-year member Gerald Frey.

were made possible through donations from our signatory contractors and some of the local vendors.

The Local 1701 retirees wish to extend an invite to anyone who would like to attend their monthly lunch get-togethers. The lunches are held the third Wednesday of the month, at 11 a.m., and are \$5 for all you can eat. The menu varies every month and attendees always enjoy it.

Nathan M. Knott, B.R.

'Honor at Vimy Ridge'

L.U. 2067 (o&u), REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA — It is with great admiration and gratitude that IBEW Local 2067 acknowledges the sacrifice of the soldiers who fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in World War I. While armed conflict was and is nothing new, that battle was a defining moment for The Canadian Corps. Just as IBEW Local 2067 is proud to honor



Local 2067 Bro. Danny Malesh (far right) bearing wreath for Prince Charles (center, right) with Gov. Gen. David Johnston (center, left) at Vimy Ridge centenary commemorative service.

that past, we are also appreciative of the present.

Representation of the Saskatchewan Dragoons (a unit of 38 Canadian Brigade Group) at the April 9, 2017, centenary commemorative service of Vimy Ridge was by an IBEW Local 2067 member, Cpl. Danny Malesh from Coronach, Saskatchewan.

An active Canadian Armed Forces reservist, Bro. Malesh was selected not only to attend the ceremony, but was also chosen as wreath-bearer for Prince Charles.

Bro. Malesh spent a week touring the war memorial, World War I cemeteries and other battle sites as part of the experience. Employer Westmoreland Coal has been very supportive of Bro. Malesh's second career in the Canadian Armed Forces. IBEW commends Bro. Malesh for representing at Vimy Ridge, as well as his continued service to our country, and would like to congratulate him on his recent promotion to master corporal.

Curtis Lizée, A.B.M.

RETIREEES

Spring 2018 Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — Greetings and belated good wishes for a happy, healthy, fun new year to all! At this writing, we were experiencing a very cold, snowy winter, as several of our snowbirds had taken off for warmer climates. We continue our monthly meetings and enjoy keeping in touch with each other!

We had a wonderful holiday party in December at Seasons Catering in Washington Township. Everything was great including the food, decor, ambiance, DJ, and of course getting out on the dance floor and having a great time!

We look forward to upcoming activities in the spring, including a casino bus trip, our spring luncheon, and a June bus trip to Niagara Falls and Toronto. Area clubs are welcome to join us on this trip in June!

John Krison, P.S.

entertained us during the cocktail hour and accompanied our carolers during the traditional Christmas carol sing-a-long. Retiree Peter Snyder provided over 50 handmade wooden Christmas tree ornaments, as gifts for the ladies.

Of our eight new Gold Card members reaching their 80th birthdays, only one could attend. Nick DeVito was awarded his well-deserved Gold Card member plaque.

As we have done at our past luncheons, we held a 50/50 raffle, which raised \$400 for the Fisher House Foundation in support of our wounded servicemen and servicewomen and their families.

Dick Mills, Treas.

Meetings Resume in March

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — The Retirees Club had a great Christmas lunch meeting in December. We look forward to resuming our regular meeting schedule on March 14.

Local 35 retired member Charlie Rose has agreed to serve on the executive board of the American Retirement Association. He will fill the position on the ARA board previously held by Paul Venti, of the Plumbers & Steamfitters, who has retired. Thanks to Charlie for stepping up to the position.

At this time of year, we would like to remember those members who passed away in 2017. Included in memoriam are: Robert Arnold, Edward Bolles, Glendon Bonday, Frank Bramanti, Gregory Buell, Steven Coffey, Francois Dupuis, John Ekenbarger, George Forler, Rudolph Hardie Sr., Melvin Hendershot, James Keenan, Robert Kelley, Leslie Kerr, Donald Machol, Richard Sutter and John Wakely.

Happy spring!

Kenneth R. White, P.S.



Local 3, Northern New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club members enjoy a dance at December holiday party.

Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — On Dec. 6, our Retirees Club chapter held its 28th annual Christmas/Hanukkah luncheon at the Leewood Golf Club, in Eastchester, NY. Members and their wives in attendance were treated to an outstanding cocktail hour and a wonderful lunch, including assorted tempting desserts.

At the luncheon, Steve DiDonato, a newly retired member who is an accomplished accordionist,

Strength in Solidarity

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Brothers and sisters, by the time you read this, we will be well into the new year. For most of us it was a very cold and nasty start for early 2018. Hopefully everyone had a great holiday season. If you didn't make it to the 100th anniversary celebration, you missed one heck of an event.

2018 will be a very busy year. We will have our retiree luncheon in May — more information on that to come. We will also have our 30th Annual Crappie Tournament/Fish Fry on June 9. Contact the union hall for more info. This is always a great event and very well attended.

As most of you know, this is a big election year.

We must elect people who support unions and the working men and women in this country. Also, on the November ballot in Missouri is a measure to repeal the anti-worker "right-to-work" law. We must defeat right-to-work and send a strong message to the politicians that we are not buying their lies and deceit. We can do this, but it will take all of us working together. Contact the union hall to see how you can help.

Duane Pearce, P.S.



Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club Treas. Dick Mills (left); Fin. Sec. Dominic Malandro; Press Sec. John Rich; award recipient Nick DeVito; Local 3 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Elliot Hecht; and chapter Chmn. David Torres.

IBEW MERCHANDISE



Retirement Pin \$2.00

Gold-tone pin with "Retired" below the IBEW logo. 1/2" Diameter with standard grade clutch.

Infant Onesie - Pink \$8.00

100% cotton onesie with IBEW initials and "little resistor" screen printed in pink.

Denim Shirt \$30.00

100% cotton long sleeve denim shirt with button down collar and 2 button cuff. IBEW initials along with fist and lightning bolts embroidered above pocket on left chest.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

Club Trips Planned

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 595, DUBLIN, CA — Happy new year from out West! We finished last year strong and jumped into 2018 with both feet. We elected club officers at our January luncheon. Welcome to new executive board member Kay Archuletta. Kay joins Pres. Abreu and fellow board members stepping up to serve another year. We thank former executive board member Mike Schaffer for his longtime participation and service to the club and wish him and his wife, Liz, the best as they relocate to El Dorado Hills.

We look forward to some neat day trips in upcoming months. We'll head to San Francisco and Fisherman's Wharf to tour the Boudin Bakery and Museum; to Pacific Grove with lunch at Fandango's; and take a trip to Filoli Gardens in April. We plan over-nighters to Reno on the train in March, Yosemite and Chukchansi Gold Resort in June, and our 11-night cruise from Quebec City to New York City in October. We also have fun at our monthly themed luncheons, held the second Friday of each month, 11 a.m., at the union hall in Dublin. Sign up for our club if you haven't already done so and join the fun.

Congratulations to club Treas. Linda Bratset! At our Christmas luncheon, Bus. Mgr. Dan Chivello presented Linda with a certificate, and later a plaque, giving her honorary membership in the IBEW. Linda is the backbone of our Retirees Club, serving as longtime treasurer and go-to person for everything. She is only the fifth person in the 110-year history of our fine local to receive this well-deserved honor. Congratulations, Linda!

Tom Mullarkey, P.S.



Local 595 Bus. Mgr. Dan Chivello presents certificate of honorary IBEW membership to Retirees Club Treas. Linda Bratset.

2018 Workers Memorial Day

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM — In December, Local 611 held its annual family Christmas Party at the old Wool Warehouse on First Street. About 500 attended, and plenty of delicious food was served by Hacienda Restaurant. A separate company was in charge of decorations, disco, face painting etc. for the kids, as well as the cleanup afterward. So, it was nice that rather than having a team of Local 611 members responsible for all the work involved, everyone could instead just enjoy the festivities. Many retirees and their families attended and everyone had a wonderful time.

We retirees, when able, should volunteer to help fellow retirees who may need assistance because of age or health problems. Generally, retirees are reluctant to ask for help, so we need to reach out and assist when we see the need. Our famous slogan is: "Brothers Helping Brothers."

Saturday, April 28, is the annual Workers Memorial Day event at Workers Memorial Park. Every year on this date, we honor those workers who have died on the job. The City of Albuquerque donated a piece of land for our Memorial Park on San Mateo



Among Local 611 retirees attending the local's annual family Christmas party are: Carl Brown (left), Joe Romero, Tracy Hall, "Santa," Ralph Molina, Chuck Garcia and Al Trujillo.

Boulevard a few years ago, and it is an excellent way to pay tribute to those who lost their lives at work.

We extend condolences to the families of retired members who recently passed away: Jimmy L. Elliott, Milton E. Sifford, Russell E. Bolin and Vivian "Rainbow" Romero.

Tracy Hall, Pres.



At Local 702 union meeting in December, Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughard (second from right) and Pres. James Sanchez (far right) present service awards to retirees with 50 or more years of service. Award recipients, front row, Gary Killion, Donald Wheat, James Haggler; back row, Gary Bickings, Joseph Smith, Jim Nolen and Gale Sizemore.

Retirees Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — The Retirees Club met on Thursday, Dec. 7, at the Golden Corral in Carbondale, IL. Pres. Gary King opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. with a welcome to everyone.

The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. The financial report from the last meeting was read and approved. Lunch orders were taken and the meeting subsequently resumed.

An announcement of deaths for the months of November and December 2017 was presented, followed by a moment of silence.

Under new business, it was announced that the next meeting will be the Annual Retiree Luncheon, scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, in Mt. Vernon, IL, at the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts.

New member Mark Hubbard and his wife were introduced to the club and welcomed.

Winners of two large poinsettias, donated by Gary King, were Arroll Mandrell and John Skaggs.

Additional door prizes donated by Jr. Marlow were won by Arroll Mandrell and Jim Nolen. Bro. Bob Cabby won the 50/50 drawing and the total deposit was announced. The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Mark Baker, P.S.

and Paul E. Woodard.

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

Diane Gibbs, P.S.



Local 760 retirees receive service pin awards at 2017 Christmas party.

Service Awards Ceremony

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — In December we had our Service Pin Ceremony. Two service award recipients were present to accept their pins, 60-year members Dow Graham and Wilbur Wright.

Notably, Dow Graham, Wilbur Wright Jr. and John W. Scott Jr. are the last remaining members from the apprenticeship class of 1961. We had pins for years of service ranging from 45 to 70 years. We thank all the honorees for their longtime dedication and service to the IBEW and Local 756.

Our chili cookoff winner will be announced in our next article. We look forward to seeing you all at our

upcoming meetings.

With sadness we report that since our last article two members have passed. We send our condolences to the family and friends of Fred G. Lindsay



Local 756 retirees Dow Graham and Wilbur H. Wright receive 60-year pins at December ceremony.

Pin Ceremony & Party

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 760, KNOXVILLE, TN — The IBEW Retirees Club's Christmas party and pin ceremony took place at Local 760's hall on Dec. 2.

We thank everyone who had a hand in organizing the event and appreciate everyone who celebrated with some of our most loyal members. Congratulations to the retirees and service-pin recipients. Sharing their wisdom and experience as members of the IBEW is of vital importance to our brotherhood and sisterhood. The passion and strength of one's convictions are valued traits that must always be passed from generation to generation.

"I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death." — Thomas Paine

Jason Leary, P.S.

2017 Holiday Luncheon; IBEW Service Pins Awarded

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA — Our club's 2017 Christmas luncheon was Monday, Dec. 4, with spouses also attending. The excellent meal included barbecue chicken and ribs along with covered dishes brought from home.

For the special occasion, we had a picture made of our group. (See photo below.) Among those pictured are: Bro. A.D. Carter, who received a 65-year service pin; Kenneth Barbier, who received his 60-year pin; and Paul LaSalle, who received a 55-year pin.

Quite a few of us received our 50-year pins and watches the first week in December, myself included. Wishing all a blessed new year.

W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.



At the Local 995 Retirees Club's 2017 Christmas luncheon.



Daniel Best/St. Louis IBEW Local 2

Rebuilding Paradise:

IBEW Crews Bring Light, Livelihood Back to Virgin Islands

As cruise ships returned to St. Croix last November, tourists seemed surprised to see so many work crews busy on the largest of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"Everyone knows what the hurricanes did to Puerto Rico, but they don't know how hard they hit here," journeyman lineman J.D. Griffith said in mid-January, talking by cell phone from an island cemetery where he was running new power lines to a church.

Just hours before Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, its Category 5 force laid waste to St. Croix. Neighboring islands St. Thomas and St. John were in ruins already, battered less than two weeks earlier by Hurricane Irma's 175-mph winds.

Power lines, trees, roofs, glass, cars, appliances, furniture and bits of every other imaginable debris were strewn everywhere. Travel was treacherous, especially in the pitch-black when the sun went down.

"There was so much carnage here the first month," Griffith said. "I'd never seen devastation like it. Every pole here is new now. Picture where you live and every pole is on the ground. Where do you even start?"

Griffith, a steward at Hartford, Conn., IBEW Local 42 and acting steward for more than 450 IBEW members working for Haugland Energy on St. Croix, arrived on the island in early October. In the months since, he said crews have "completely rebuilt the whole infrastructure. We've set tens of thousands of poles, we've run hundreds of miles of wire."

St. Thomas and St. John have been similarly revived thanks to IBEW crews,

who, like Griffith, were stunned by what they saw at first.

"With Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, you had more water damage, more flooding," said Daniel Best, a member of St. Louis Local 2 and general foreman for BBC Electrical on St. Thomas and St. John. "This was more like a tornado hit, a really bad tornado. The damage was colossal."

Brian Adams, a Western Area Power Administration line foreman, arrived on St. Thomas within days of Maria's wrath with six other members of Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245. Interviewed by his local's website, he said he worked on Hurricane Sandy recovery but "this was completely different. When we got to St. Thomas, there was nothing — no power at all anywhere throughout the island. The amount of work that was needed just to get their basic infrastructure — water desalination facilities, hospitals, that kind of stuff — back up, it was amazing to me."

Overcoming those obstacles and many more, IBEW members had restored power to more than 90 percent of residents on the three islands by mid-January. "We're finishing up, getting more or less to the last customers, getting them hooked up," Eric Jack, a co-owner of BBC Electrical and member of Topeka, Kan., Local 304, said Jan. 18 while working on St. Thomas.

While they hail from virtually every state, all IBEW members working under contract in the Virgin Islands are being represented by Orlando, Fla., Local 222, which set up a temporary office in the capital, Charlotte Amalie.

Local 222 business representative Donnie St. John, who runs the office, said he can't get over the kindness and generosity of people who were living in poverty even before the storms.

"I've never, ever worked for customers that treat us the way these people treat us," he said. "They say that angels brought these men to their island. They would be happy even if they had nothing, and what little they have to give away, they give you without batting an eye. Your heart just melts helping them."

Griffith had been on the island for 120 days as of Feb. 6, not counting a



Matt Lord/Chicago IBEW Local 9

10-day trip home to Connecticut for the holidays, where he briefly traded sweltering heat and humidity for 14 inches of snow and below-zero temperatures.

While he may go to Puerto Rico from St. Croix for more restoration work, he's committed to head home for good by March 31. "We work every day, seven days a week, 12 hours a day. Every day is Groundhog Day," he said with a laugh.

Most crews on the islands worked through Christmas. Best, the BBC foreman, was on St. John at the time and said the outpouring of appreciation from locals showed how fitting the island's "Love City" nickname is.

"They couldn't believe we were working," Best said. "They opened up restaurants. They opened their doors to us. They fed us, they nourished us."

The St. John crews restored power for six or seven customers on Christmas Day. Compared to what linemen typically accomplish in a day of recovery work on the U.S. mainland, "the numbers don't sound great," Best said. "But there you don't have to build a mile of line through a volcanic, mountainous region."

Best's crews were spread among resorts on St. Thomas and St. John, while Griffith and most IBEW linemen on St. Croix were living on a Carnival cruise ship rented by FEMA. Once the island reopened to tourists, their ship had to pull out of

Above, IBEW linemen working for Haugland Energy make repairs along the Caribbean shore in St. Croix. At another waterfront site, right, J.D. Griffith of Hartford, Conn., Local 42 works with brothers Kyle Tyrrell, Dan Million and Sean Matthews.



An IBEW crew on St. Croix equipped a young friend and future lineman, Francisco, 10, with a vest and hard hat.

port most days to make room for boatloads of vacationers. "No stragglers," he said. "We have to be off by 6:30 in the morning and can't return until 6:30 p.m."

Though they could eat all they wanted for free on board, and took lunch to go, Griffith said he and many of his IBEW brothers began to favor fresh, local island food and were happy to support the restaurants and stores that began to reopen as restoration progressed.

Like other linemen, Griffith was overwhelmed by the warmth and values of the islanders. "They're happy that they woke up this morning and that they're

with their families," he said. "They have nothing, and they say, 'Come in, come in.' They cook for you, they catch tuna and make you dinner, they give you beer. They're just so grateful you're there."

He said he has videos of children chasing his crew, "screaming with joy — loving, loving, loving us. The memories I have will be in the back of my brain for the rest of my life."

One especially eager and curious 10-year-old boy befriended Griffith's crew, who equipped him with a vest and hard hat. "He keeps telling me, 'I want to be a lineman, J.D. I want to be a lineman.'" ■

WHO WE ARE

IBEW Members Bring Holiday Joy to an Island in Ruins



Some of the 40 local flaggers assisting IBEW crews on St. Croix pose with supervisor Bobbie Lynn Mayfield, a Detroit Local 17 journeyman lineman who organized a Christmas gift drive for residents of an island orphanage, right. Mayfield is pictured in back, left side, wearing a ball cap.

One of Bobbie Lynn Mayfield's greatest joys is making Christmas special for people who otherwise would have little or nothing under the tree.

But last Christmas she was 2,000 miles away from home, one of hundreds of IBEW linemen working 12-hour days, seven days a week to restore power to the hurricane-ravaged Virgin Islands.

Mayfield, a member of Detroit Local 17, decided she'd use whatever spare moments she had to make Christmas magic happen there, enlisting scores of enthusiastic union brothers to help.

A journeyman lineman for 27 years and one of just two women among signatory contractor Haugland Energy's crews on St. Croix, Mayfield arrived in early November to a landscape of wreckage "like nothing I've ever seen before in my life," she said.

She's loved most every minute of it, describing her time as "an experience that will never be relived, so unique and absolutely amazing" — especially Christmas.

She was straightening a power pole in a woman's yard one day, chatting about the tradition she and her daughter share of adopting families in need for the holidays. Aware that many Crucians — as St. Croix natives are called — were impoverished even before Hurricane Maria tore their island apart, Mayfield wanted to know how best to help.

The woman told her about the Queen Louise Home for Children, a Lutheran Social Services facility that has provided residential foster care for abused, abandoned or neglected children since 1904.

Mayfield went there on Thanksgiving, the only day off for linemen in all their months on St. Croix.

Queen Louise Director Dana Holtz said donors have given generously at Christmas over the years, but it can be an uncertain period of wait-and-see and last-minute gifts. She worried that the 2017 season would be more precarious, with hurricane recovery still everyone's top priority. Then she met Mayfield.

"I interface with a lot of donors and many of them are a little bit set in stone about how they want to donate or what they want to do to assist," Holtz said. "Bobbie was so open-minded about meeting our needs."

Holtz was relieved, knowing the holiday tradition was on track. The children "need routine, things they can depend on, because there have been so many things in their lives that they haven't been able to depend on," she said.

After the home's 22 youngsters wrote their annual letters to Santa, Holtz converted them to lists that included each child's initials, age, gender, clothes size, favorite color and favorite cartoon character. She also sent wish lists for 16 disabled adults, most of whom live in another Lutheran Social Services home on St. Croix.

"I told her I'd like to get a list from every child, every young adult — everyone," Mayfield said.

A few things listed were furnishings — beds and dressers — to replace items destroyed by flooding. Bicycles were

a popular wish. But mostly, "the lists were so simple it kind of broke my heart," Mayfield said. "Some kids only wanted two things, like costume jewelry and socks."

Mayfield received the lists Dec. 12 and quickly distributed them. "I'd been prepping the guys, asking them if they'd be interested in helping," she said. "They were out-of-this-world excited. They were practically standing in line to get their lists."

With just 12 shopping days until Christmas, lineman scoured the island's Kmart's while wives and other helpers hit mainland stores and websites in search of toys and games, T-shirts and tiaras, small electronics, CDs, DVDs and more.

Everyone came through, filling every wish on every list, and more. If a bicycle and a teddy bear were listed, for instance, Holtz said, "the linemen took the next step and got a bicycle and a bicycle helmet and a teddy bear and they would also buy maybe five outfits."

Holtz and volunteers wrapped the gifts late on Christmas Eve, and stacked everything under the tree while the children slept.

The thrilled youngsters thanked Santa Claus in letters that didn't quite make it to the North Pole. "We got all kinds of thank-you cards," Mayfield said.

Holtz said what the linemen did for the children, alongside their many other kindnesses on the island, are helping to heal St. Croix.

While the hurricanes were an "angry" force of nature, IBEW members, she said, "were a force of hope, a life preserver." ■



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

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

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NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

IBEW Members Near Completion on Massive Canadian Hydro Project

One of the largest transmission projects in North America is coming to an end, and when it does, it will have connected two Canadian provinces for the first time and employed approximately 3,500 IBEW members along the way.

“This project put us on the map,” said Halifax, Nova Scotia, Local 1928 Business Manager Jim Sponagle.

The Maritime Link project is the final stage of the larger Lower Churchill project, named for the river in Newfoundland and Labrador that is supplying the hydroelectricity that will power more of maritime Canada and even parts of the northeastern United States. It also connects the power grids of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia for the first time.

The first stage involved building a dam and generating facility at Muskrat Falls in Labrador and constructing a transmission line that connected Labrador to the island of Newfoundland, another first. The entire project, which includes crossing two straits, stretches approximately 1,400 kilometers across northeastern Canada.

“The scope of this project demonstrates the unmatched skill and professionalism of our members,” said First District International Vice President William Daniels. “Everyone involved should be proud of what they accomplished.”

Construction of the CA\$1.56 billion Maritime Link began in 2014 and transmitted the first electrons via a test run in December 2017. The Link begins in Granite Canal in southeast Newfoundland, crosses the Cabot Strait to the south, and terminates in Woodbine, on Nova Scotia’s Cape Breton Island. The project included construction of a new, 500 megawatt high-voltage direct current transmission line as well as a 230-kilovolt high-voltage alternating current line.

The undertaking also includes two 200 kilovolt, 170-kilometer subsea cables, 50 kilometers of overland transmission in Nova Scotia and 300 overland kilometers in Newfoundland. Existing infrastructure will carry the electricity through Nova Scotia and into New Brunswick and the U.S.

Like other parts of the Lower Churchill project, the Maritime project was done under the Code of Excellence on the Newfoundland side, with the IBEW as the sole union involved. Approximately 1,500 St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Local 1620 members did all the transmission construction work and the related electrical station construction, which included switchyards, convertor stations, grounding sites and transition compounds, Business Manager Don Murphy said. Other Canadian locals from across the country assisted by supplying powerline technicians, electricians and assemblers, Murphy said.

On the other side of the Cabot Strait, approximately 250 to 300 members of Local

1928 built the transmission lines that ran from the landing site at Point Aconi to the destination in Woodbine, where members also built the interior of a convertor station. Sydney, Nova Scotia, Local 1852 members also worked on the project, Sponagle said.

Not only did Local 1928’s membership grow by 25 percent, it did so in an economically depressed area of the province, said Sponagle.

Local 1928 also joined with Emera, the power company behind the Maritime Link, and the local building trades to donate \$40,000 to four area nonprofits.

“It was pretty humbling to give back to the community I came from,” Sponagle said.

The transmission work was completed in 2017, with only reclamation and some electrical site construction left to finish, Murphy said.

Connecting Nova Scotia to Newfoundland and Labrador’s hydroelectricity will help the province meet new federal

regulations that require reducing carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2030. The Nova Scotia government also has a target to get 40 percent of its power from renewables by 2020.

The project also replaces a thermal generating station in Holyrood, Newfoundland and Labrador, where members of St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Local 1615 work. The local is currently working to assure that its 80 members are given other job opportunities, said Business Manager Jabez Lane, and that about 15 members will remain as the station is repurposed into a sync condenser plant.

Lane says that the IBEW has jurisdiction over the convertors, sync condensers, switchyards and the 1,100 kilometer transmission line from Soldier’s Pond to Muskrat Falls as well as the power plant at Muskrat Falls. Currently, there are about 30 workers hired and involved in training and commissioning activities, some of whom transferred from the Holyrood plant. ■



The Maritime Link is the final stage of the Lower Churchill project that employed approximately 3,500 IBEW members and laid more than 1,400 kilometers of transmission line, connecting the power grids of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Les membres de la FIOE ont presque terminé l’immense projet hydroélectrique canadien

Un des plus grands projets de transmission achève en Amérique du Nord. Une fois terminé, il aura lié pour la première fois deux provinces canadiennes et au cours du processus, aura embauché environ 3 500 membres de la FIOE.

« Ce projet nous a permis de nous faire connaître, » mentionne le gérant d’affaires Jim Sponagle de la section locale 1928 situé à Halifax en Nouvelle-Écosse.

Le projet de lien maritime est la phase finale de la grande partie du projet du Bas-Churchill, qui tient son nom du fleuve de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador. Il fournira de l’hydroélectricité pour alimenter en électricité les provinces maritimes du Canada et dans certaines régions du nord-est des États-Unis. Et pour la première fois, reliera également les réseaux électriques de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador et la Nouvelle-Écosse.

La première phase nécessitait la construction d’un barrage et l’installation d’une centrale électrique à Muskrat Falls au Labrador ainsi que la construction de lignes de transmissions terrestres qui lit le Labrador à l’île de Terre-Neuve. L’ensemble du projet comprend la traversée de deux détroits qui s’étend sur environ 1 400 kilomètres à travers le nord-est du Canada.

« Un projet d’une telle importance démontre la compétence et le professionnalisme de nos membres, » ajoute William Daniels le vice-président international du Premier District. « Toutes les

personnes qui y ont participé peuvent être fières du travail accompli. »

La construction de 1.56 milliard de dollars canadiens du lien maritime a commencé en 2014 et a transmis ses premiers électrons au moyen d’un test en décembre 2017.

Le lien commence à Granite Canal dans le sud-est de Terre-Neuve, traverse le détroit de Cabot au sud et termine à Woodbine, sur l’île du Cap-Breton en Nouvelle-Écosse. Le projet comprend une nouvelle ligne de transmission directe à haute tension de 500 mégawatts ainsi qu’une ligne de transmission alternative à haute tension de 230 kilovolts.

La réalisation comprend également deux câbles sous-marins d’une longueur de 170 kilomètres de 200 kilovolts, 50 kilomètres de ligne de transmission par voie terrestre en Nouvelle-Écosse et 300 kilomètres de ligne de transmission par voie terrestre à Terre-Neuve. L’infrastructure existante acheminera l’électricité jusqu’en Nouvelle-Écosse et finira au Nouveau-Brunswick et aux États-Unis.

Comme dans d’autres parties du projet du Bas-Churchill, le projet maritime a été effectué en vertu du Code de l’Excellence du côté de Terre-Neuve, la FIOE étant le seul syndicat impliqué. Environ 1 500 membres du local 1620 de Saint-Jean de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador ont effectué les travaux de construction liée à la transmission et à la construction des stations électriques qui comprennent des postes

électriques, des postes de conversion, des sites de mis à la terre et des terminaux aérosouterrains dit le gérant d’affaires Don Murphy. La participation d’autres locaux canadiens à travers le pays a permis de fournir des monteurs de lignes, des électriciens et des assembleurs, ajoute Murphy.

De l’autre côté du détroit de Cabot, environ 250 à 300 membres de la section locale 1928 ont construit les lignes de transmission qui part du site d’arrivée situé à Point Aconi jusqu’à la destination située à Woodbine, où les membres ont également construit l’intérieur du poste de conversion. Les membres de la section locale 1852 situés à Sydney en Nouvelle-Écosse ont également travaillé sur le projet, dit Sponagle.

Non seulement que le nombre de membres du local 1928 a augmenté de 25 pour cent, mais il a ainsi été fait dans une région rurale et économiquement défavorisée de la province, exprime Sponagle.

La section locale 1928 s’est ainsi jointe à Emera, la compagnie électrique derrière le lien maritime, ainsi que les métiers de la construction local pour contribuer 40 000 \$ à quatre endroits à but non lucratif, tels que.

« Ce fut une expérience humble de redonner à la communauté d’où tu viens, » mentionne Sponagle.

Le travail de transmission a été achevé en 2017, il ne reste que la mise en

état et quelques constructions électriques sur le chantier à terminer, informe Murphy.

En reliant l’hydroélectricité de la Nouvelle-Écosse à Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador permettra à la province de répondre aux nouvelles réglementations fédérales qui vise à réduire les émissions de carbone de 50 pour cent d’ici 2030. Le gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Écosse vise également à obtenir 40 pour cent de son électricité à partir des énergies renouvelables d’ici 2020.

Le projet remplace également la centrale thermique à Holyrood, Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador, l’endroit où nos membres du local 1615 de Saint-Jean de Terre-Neuve travaillent. Le local travaille actuellement pour garantir des possibilités supplémentaires d’emplois à leurs 80 membres, dit le gérant d’affaires Jabez Lane, et environ 15 membres y resteront, car la station sera transformée en une centrale pour un compensateur synchrone.

Lane mentionne que la FIOE aura la juridiction sur les convertisseurs, les compensateurs synchrones, les postes électriques et la ligne de transmission de 1 100 kilomètres de long depuis Soldiers Pond jusqu’à Muskrat Falls ainsi que la centrale électrique située à Muskrat Falls. On y retrouve présentement 30 travailleurs recrutés qui participent à une formation et des activités de mise en service, dont certains ont été transférés de la centrale d’Holyrood. ■