The future of organizing is here, IBEW leaders say, and new tools and technology will play a key role in recruiting the next generation to meet the needs of a growing electrical industry.

Since Henry Miller first traveled the U.S. organizing members into the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1891, the mission has been the same: grow the union; increase the strength of workers through solidarity and collective action; and improve their lives.

A lot has changed in 128 years, but the IBEW’s commitment to organizing every worker in the electrical industry is unwavering.

“Organizing is fundamental to who we are as a union and as IBEW members,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “It’s fundamental to getting the jobs that put food on our tables, too, and that’s why we’re embracing technology and methods that will help us revolutionize the way we organize more workers, more work and more contractors.”

Over the last several months, membership development staff have introduced new online tools to support a strategic organizing approach at all levels and in all branches of the organization. A new recruitment website, an online organizing platform and local union strategic organizing plans are designed to work hand-in-hand with existing infrastructure and to enhance and streamline the successful organizing strategies honed over the labor movement’s history.

“These new investments in time and resources build on the tried and true organizing methods that we know work. They broaden our reach and make us more efficient,” said Ricky Oakland, special assistant to the international president for membership development. “After a lot of work behind the scenes, we’re excited to finally be able to share them with organizers at every level of the IBEW.”

Are You an Electrician Looking for Work?

The North American construction industry is booming. That’s great news for the IBEW’s construction journeymen and apprentices, but it means a hard

THE FUTURE OF ORGANIZING continued on page 4
FROM THE OFFICERS

The Tools to Grow

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

Last month, I wrote to you about the importance of each of us taking on the responsibility of recruiting the next generation of electrical workers. We’re all union members, and for the IBEW to grow and thrive, we need each of you to be a part of the effort. This month, I want to talk about the tools we’re providing you to do it. Over the last year, our Membership Development Department has been working with the AFL-CIO to develop the Action Builder organizing platform. You can read more about it in this month’s cover story, but let me tell you, it’s going to revolutionize the way we find, track and contact potential members. When I was coming up back in Illinois, an organizer’s office—and car, and probably their home, too—was a mess. There were binders full of lists covered in notes, piles of paper and half a dozen well-worn road atlases, and keeping track of everything was a chore at best and impossible at worst. It’s been that way for as long as I can remember—until now. With Action Builder, instead of printing out that list, you upload it. Then, from your computer or your smartphone, you can create maps for door-knocking, or assign lists for calling. You can customize this new system to whatever campaign you’re on, whether you’re organizing a nonunion construction site or conducting an internal campaign to engage your existing members. This thing is an organizer’s dream, and it’s available to all of our locals right now. I want to also talk about our new website, WePowerAmerica.org. For way too long, if you were working nonunion electrician or a student thinking about an apprenticeship, it wasn’t always easy to figure out where to get information about the IBEW. Maybe you knew of the local in your area or maybe you thought you had to know someone to get in. With this new website, we’re reaching out beyond those old ways to meet the needs of this booming industry of ours. In many parts of North America, we could put twice as many folks to work if only we had them. So, the website is about the IBEW. Maybe you knew of the local in your area or maybe you thought you had to know someone to get in. It’s been that way for as long as I can remember—until now.

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What We Want in a Candidate

We’re still nearly 18 months away from the next presidential election, but I’m sure many of you, like me, are eyeing the enormous field of candidates for president and wondering how to make sense of it all. There are some declared candidates we’ve known for a long time and others who we’re still getting to know, but we want to assure each of you that we’re listening and asking a lot of questions of the women and men seeking to lead this nation. At some point, we may endorse a candidate, but we’re going to take our time and make sure that the next president is one who will put working families first.

This union changed my life 40 years ago when I joined, and I know it’s done the same for so many of you. These new tools are going to help us improve a lot more lives in the coming years as we rise to meet the challenge of powering North America’s progress.

The Electrical Worker | June 2019

From Facebook:

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

“LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

Preserving History

We were thrilled to see the progress in saving the Willow Run bomber plant in Michigan (Electrical Worker, April 2019), and especially liked seeing that IBEW members had a big hand in it. Naomi Parker Fraley, my husband’s mother, was very involved when she was alive with the ladies’ effort to save the plant. Joe Blankenship, my husband, has been a member of Riverside, Calif., Local 440 for over 50 years.

Naomi Parker is the woman whose picture, taken March 24, 1942, is believed to have been used by the artist who painted the “We Can Do It!” poster for Westinghouse (pictured at right). She passed away on Jan. 20, 2018.

Mannie and Joe Blankenship, Local 440 retiree
Riverside, Calif.

Editor’s note: The “Rosie the Riveter” name, believed to have originated at the Willow Run bomber plant, has always been closely associated with the famous “We Can Do It!” poster, although the two were created separately. Look up “Naomi Parker Fraley” online for more information about how she and women like her helped the U.S. win World War II.

Two Great Careers

As I complete my first year of retirement after 37 years as a journeyman inside wireman in the IBEW, I’m truly grateful for the memories, retirement benefits and the continuing Brotherhood I experience constantly. The IBEW is not just on the worksite; it is in the homes and on the road have been some of my fondest memories. We are a unique group of craftsmen, believing in Brotherhood, solidarity, collective bargaining and a better standard of living.

Phil Coleman, Local 440 retiree
Pocatello, Idaho

Thank God for our IBEW. I have been a member of Toronto Local 353 since 1968. As a young man, I served in the Greek Air Forces for NATO as a jet electrician on F-84Fs and T-33As. At the end of my service, I decided to emigrate to Canada, where I joined Local 353 and took many electrical courses and enjoyed many years of good work with my fellow members. My wife and I are very grateful for our union and we are praying daily for the protection and safety of our brothers and sisters.

Ted Thanos, Local 353 retiree
Toronto

We Want to Hear From You: Send your letters to media@ibew.org or Letters to the Editor, The Electrical Worker, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

Fighting for Safety

(Responding to “Fewer Inspectors, Less Enforcement: OSHA Trend Raises Risks for Workers,” on Page 9 of this issue):

We need to step up and fill this gap with our own brothers and sisters. I insist on safety at every turn not because of some regulatory force but because I want my team to go home safe and sound everyday.

Nicholas Northrop, Local 133 member
Colorado Springs, Colo.
Syracuse, N.Y., Local 97 Members’ ‘Flawless’ Replacement of Diesel Engine at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station

When back-up generators at nuclear power stations stop working, the clock starts ticking before federal rules require the main unit to shut down. So, when the 49,000-pound back-up diesel generator went quiet at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station in upstate New York, the nearly 75 members of Syracuse Local 97 in the maintenance department had a monumental challenge on their hands.

Two years earlier, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed an order saving the state’s nuclear plants and the pressure to keep the lights on and maintain a perfect safety record became Job 1 to maintain public support for nuclear power.

Over the next fortnight, maintenance department mechanics, instrument techs, electricians and operators worked round the clock to remove and replace the damaged diesel unit.

“This operation involved more than 100 people and nearly 75 Local 97 members who needed to work flawlessly together. The stakes are extremely high, the time frame was short and the potential impact of any mistakes is hard to put into words,” said Local 97 Business Manager Ted Skerpon. “And they nailed it. Flawless. A perfect 10.”

Not even a minor injury. No mishaps. Every piece of equipment, every tool, every procedure was accounted for and followed.

“Throughout this evolution, the pride displayed by all involved was amazing,” said Nine Mile Point Site Vice President Pete Orphanos. “There was such teamwork and collaboration.”

He lauded the workers’ craftsmanship and rigorous adherence to safe work practices. Nine Mile Point’s motto is “Pride in the Point,” the company wrote in a statement. “The diesel engine replacement project is a perfect example of what pride in the point really means.”

In less than two weeks, mechanics completed 250 connections, electricians completed 90 terminations, instrumentation technicians completed another 120, operators hung and removed 25 tag-outs and hundreds of new parts were replaced. Not a single nut, screwdriver or pen was unaccounted for, all within the severe security constraints that cover nuclear power plants.

“This is nothing more than what I know we are capable of,” Skerpon said. “But still, when you see everyone performing at the very peak, with not even a minor mishap or error, you have to take a moment and tip your hat to the workforce.”

The nearly 25-ton engine block was craned into the nuclear station during the job, which required hundreds of electrical connections and even more teamwork.
The Future of Organizing: New Technology Builds on the Tried and True

road ahead for organizers. Consider the goal shared by President Stephenson and David Long, NECA’s chief executive officer: to grow our inside market share 10 percent by 2025. “When the industry is growing the way it is, we need to be growing faster,” Oakland said. “The alternative is that someone else gets that work, and we’re greedy about winning jobs for our members.”

In March, the IBEW launched WePowerAmerica.org with a mission to connect electrical workers with quality union jobs and to boost construction locals’ market share. “With this new website, men and women in our craft — or those who would like to join us — have a terrific way to learn about and apply for the thousands of good union electrical jobs that are expected to open up in the near future,” Stephenson said. “We’re reaching out to traditional apprenticeship applicants, but we want the folks already working non-union in the industry as well. There’s a path to a better career with better pay and benefits for those people, too.”

Prospective electricians visiting WePowerAmerica.org can connect with the IBEW as well as with employers, dispatchers and signatory contractors under the jurisdiction of more than 300 of the union’s inside and outside locals. “For the first time, we have a comprehensive, centralized listing of available work for a variety of experience levels across the United States,” said Director of Inside Construction Organizing Virgil Hamilton, who hopes to eventually expand the site’s reach to Canada, too. The website assesses visitors’ experience levels and then routes them to the right resources. Applicants can choose which locals will receive their application information, and those locals will contact the applicants and determine the next appropriate steps.

A separate, regularly updated “Hot jobs” page on the site lists jobs that have a pressing need for electrical workers with inside or outside experience. Hamilton hopes that this page will serve as a magnet for both current and potential members, especially those willing to travel for work. Local leaders can contact their state organizing coordinator to have jobs placed on the page.

But organizing remains the website’s primary objective. Its ability to connect nonunion electricians with IBEW organizers has Oakland and Hamilton excited about its potential. “With corporate-owned temp agencies like Tradesmen International and Associated Builders and Contractors working harder than ever to replace us, this new website will play a crucial part in helping us meet our ambitious market share goals,” Oakland said.

And if an applicant indicates that they have electrical experience with a non-sig-natory contractor or nonunion employer, Hamilton said, that’s a perfect opportunity for locals to dig deeper and perhaps gain more market share.

Organizing new members into apprenticeships is critical to meeting the demands of a growing construction industry.

The website is like a fishing pole,” he said. “We might hook a little fish who knows where the big fish are and can tell us more about them.”

Hamilton noted that a promotional push in the first month the site was live netted locals contact information for nearly a thousand experienced applicants. “Early results have been incredible,” he said. Members should expect to see WePowerAmerica.org showing up soon on T-shirts, business cards and television commercials. “What we’re trying to do with this thing is to get our brand out there and get brand awareness and loyalty through repetition,” Hamilton said.

The Professional/Industrial side of Membership Development has long maintained its own website at IBEWYes.com, aimed at organizing new IBEW members in the government, manufacturing, telecom, broadcast, railroad and utility branches. “The site underwent a bit of an update over the last several months,” said Director of Professional/Industrial Organizing Jamil Suaceca, pointing to a more modern look as well as some under-the-hood updates that improved its functionality.

“Potential members are looking at everything you do when you’re talking the IBEW is the best choice to represent them,” Suaceca said. “Putting a professional face on that is really important.”

So how do organizers apply technology to a basic human interaction that’s around since the beginning of time?

Action Builder, a new tool for construction and professional/industrial organizers, puts the ability to condense hours of labor and mountains of paper into the cellphone already in your pocket, and it makes getting those face-to-face interactions quicker and more effective.

“This is a game-changer,” said Eric Jackson, a state organizing coordinator in the Sixth District. “Doing an organizing blitz now with Action Builder compared with doing it ‘old school’ takes about half the time. It automates nearly the entire front-end planning process.”

The tool’s real advantage is how gathered information can be uploaded easily into the IBEW’s Organizing Accountability Reporting System, Jackson said. “This cuts down on time in front of a computer doing data entry,” he said, leaving more time for the local organizer to get in the field and do home visits.

“We’re trying to make it easier for organizers to get out of the office and organize,” said Adrian Sauseca, an international representative in the Membership Development Department who has helped lead the development and rollout of Action Builder at the IBEW. “You’re having conversations, not making presentations.”

For Carl McPeak, a lead organizer in the Sixth District, the IBEW’s new tech tool has done just that, letting him spend more time on the fun part of the job, interacting with working people.

“Before, I’d get a hotel room with two beds,” he said. “One was just to lay out notes on, with papers stacked all over, and I’d be up until 1 or 2 a.m. getting ready for the next day.”

McPeak used Action Builder recently for the first time on an internal campaign at a Midland Manufacturing facility in El Dorado, Ark., where he found the tool’s ability to display his organizing team’s notes in real time particularly helpful.

“Wow, I can sit down at the laptop after I finish with house-calling,” he said, “and 15 minutes later I’m done with the prep and cutting turf for the next day and can get some sleep like a human being.”

A map function helps organizers more efficiently plan house calls, and the capability to create efficient routing from one call to the next will roll out soon. Action Builder also allows an organizer who spots a new, unsolicited work site to record it for later investigation about the job’s contractors and progress.

Make a Plan and Stick to It

It’s not just technology that is changing the face of organizing across the IBEW. “We can give you all the tools in the world, but if your members or your leaders aren’t bought in to organizing, it’s not going to do you any good,” Oakland said.

And that’s where the real element in the new approach comes in.

His department’s Strategic Organizing Program is a crucial piece of the process, designed to help turn every member into a better organizer.

“Strategic organizing means asking the right questions to spur members into really thinking about what works and what doesn’t,” Hamilton said. “If the
The new WePowerAmerica.org website invites potential members to outline their level of electrical experience with a detailed questionnaire.

members don’t have a say, they don’t have any ownership or passion.”

The new program emphasizes the necessity to organize the workers, the work, and the employers simultaneously. “Putting all your energy into just one of those doesn’t work,” Hamilton said. “And you have to come up with strategies that cover the good times as well as the slow times.”

“Our goal is to start a culture of change where all of the local’s members are accountable. We want them to give some thought about how they get from where they’re at to where they want to be.”

To get buy-in from members, the program, which locals can request through their district office, begins with a full day of gathering information. The next day, Hamilton meets with the district and state organizing coordinators to turn what was learned into an organizing plan. That goes to the local’s business manager and executive board for review and approval. “They’re in control the whole way,” Hamilton said.

“When we’re done, the goal is that a local has a roadmap for growth, an engaged membership and that we’ve planted the seeds to grow a culture of organizing,” Oakland said. “When you put that together with these new tools, we think we’ve constructed a solid foundation for success.”

But growing the IBEW and gaining market share and creating more jobs has to be a shared goal, from the top of the Brotherhood right down to the first-year apprentice, Stephenson said.

“Growing this union is the responsibility of each and every one of us,” he said. “These new tools will help us do that, but it’s the commitment from the sisters and brothers of the IBEW that will help us recruit those new members and win those jobs that can only be done by the best-trained, most professional electrical workers in North America.”

Read more about another organizing tool, the IBEW’s new national advertising campaign, on Page 30 of this issue. 

Together, these new organizing tools will redefine the way we bring new people into the IBEW, brightening the work picture for every member.

Chicago Partnership Promotes Apprenticeships as Alternative to College

Identifying and encouraging high school students who might benefit from a career in the electrical trades is the aim of a new partnership between Chicago Local 134 and a school district in the city’s northwestern suburbs.

“More and more young women and men are coming around to the realization that going to college is only one path of many available to them after graduation,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “A lot of them might be interested in the electrical field, and this arrangement in Illinois could help them learn how to turn that interest into a rewarding, family-supporting career.”

The recently announced partnership came about after months of meetings between Gene Kent, director of Local 134’s IBEW-NECA Technical Institute, and Melissa Damewood, a teacher at Park Ridge’s Maine East High School, part of Maine Township High School District 207. “We’d already been looking into working with schools when Melissa got in touch with us,” Kent said.

Like a lot of people, Damewood had not considered entering the electrical field could be a practical post-high school opportunity. “Students needed more exposure to the trades,” she said. “And too many times, ‘No Child Left Behind’ translated into, ‘if you didn’t go to college, you were left behind,’ which isn’t true.”

Local 134 Business Manager Donald Finn said many of the district’s students might never have learned about the IBEW without this partnership, which makes it a valuable component of his local’s larger outreach strategy.

“What we’re trying to do is get aggressive about changing the way we’re looked at,” Finn said. “We want the average person on the street to know what we do, and that we’re not just about pulling wire, we’re all over the board — in government, manufacturing and more.”

Finn noted that more than half of Local 134’s apprentices racked up debt on college degrees when they perhaps could have saved that time and money had they known about opportunities in the trades earlier. “That’s not to knock college, but it’s not for everyone,” he said.

Kent said that he and his team at the institute worked closely with Damewood to come up with a comprehensive plan. “We made an agreement that some of the classes that are geared toward the electrical industry could be worth points toward the apprenticeship entrance exam,” he said.

Under the program, which starts officially this fall, students will be able to earn credit toward an IBEW apprenticeship test — should they choose to take one — as long as they earn at least a C in selected math, science and technical courses at the district’s three high schools. Of course, students would still have to pass aptitude and other tests before they could be considered for an apprenticeship. Finn estimates that his local receives around 2,000 to 3,000 applications a year for anywhere from 200 to 250 open slots, a number that varies with available work forecasts. The District 207 partnership program could help its students gain a bit of an advantage in the process.

Damewood said that this new partnership with the IBEW is part of a larger, growing initiative that she’s leading in her school district, geared toward providing students with career options and choices by matching their interests with available opportunities.

The connection with the IBEW is among nearly 600 the district has made over the last several years to help students gain authentic career experiences through internships, shadowing and mentoring.

“When you come out of our program, not only are you debt-free, you could be making six figures,” he said.

The program enjoys the full support of the school district’s leaders, she said, and Damewood called the IBEW’s backing “phenomenal.” “Gene couldn’t be more supportive,” she said.

The Local 134 program isn’t the only one of its kind. Many locals across the IBEW are working with local school districts to boost interest in apprenticeships and careers in the trade. At the international level, the new Interim Credentials Program being developed jointly by the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association offers similar benefits. That program allows high school and college students, along with active-duty military personnel, to complete online courses required of all first-year IBEW apprentices before they officially start apprenticeships.

“Those online courses are credited once they enroll in a full apprenticeship program, so they can turn out earlier,” Stephenson said. “It’s exciting to see programs like these working to find new ways to track young people into the trades.”

www.IBEW.org

The new WePowerAmerica.org website invites potential members to outline their level of electrical experience with a detailed questionnaire.
Canada’s Just Transition Task Force issued its report on how to best protect workers and communities as the country phases out coal-powered energy, and IBEW members were there to make their voices heard.

“It was a humbling experience,” said Executive Assistant to the First District Vice President Matt Wayland, who served on the task force. “I’m proud of the work we did.”

The 11-member team was formed last year to help Canada meet its target of phasing out coal by 2030, and to do it in a way that supports the communities and individuals impacted. In addition to Wayland, the group included representatives from the environmental, government, academic and business sectors.

The task force toured the four provinces with coal-fired energy: Alberta, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. They visited seven facilities, hosted eight public sessions, and met with representatives of 15 communities and more than 80 stakeholder groups. In each province, IBEW locals participated in the meetings and discussions.

“Our locals were very well prepared,” Wayland said. “They’re doing everything they can to make sure no one gets left behind.”

One of those locals was Regina, Saskatchewan, Local 267, which the task force visited in June of 2018.

“There will be positives as a result of the recommendations put forth by the task force,” said Local 2067 Business Manager Jason Tibbs, who made a presentation to the group. “However, they will not prevent members from losing their livelihood as well as significant lost values of their homes. The communities will be devastated by the phase out of coal-fired generation.”

Tibbs said that a lot of his members feel that western Canada has been alienated from the rest of the country and that decisions made by the government are done without proper consideration of the effect on places like Saskatchewan.

“It was my desire that the task force go away with a graphic picture as to the true impact the closure would have on the affected families, members and their communities,” Tibbs said. “The decision for some of the communities is a death sentence and I wanted the task force to see the reality of that and to put forth recommendations that would assist everyone who was negatively affected.”

The situation is similar in New Brunswick, where Fredericton Local 37 Business Manager and International Executive Council member Ross Galbraith noted that the province is already “punching above its weight” with regard to reducing emissions. In terms of community impact, however, many members share sentiments with their brothers and sisters in other provinces.

“Nobody’s jumping up and down about the report,” Galbraith said. “It’s hard to get excited about changes coming 50 years down the road. Still, it’s a good road map for getting there and we appreciate the opportunity to be involved upfront and throughout the process.”

In Alberta, the coal phase-out is already underway and many working people have already been laid off, including IBEW members. Following the release of the provincial government’s 2015 Climate Leadership Plan, local leaders organized affected unions to form the Coal Transition Coalition, which included Calgary Local 254 and Edmonton Local 207.

The task force’s report noted that, “The work of the CTC was instrumental in defining the supports that Alberta coal-af- fected workers would need as a part of the transition. This is a concrete example of how ensuring worker involvement throughout the process leads to better policy decisions and ultimately better outcomes.”

The report came up with 10 recommendations that include increasing funding for resources like locally-driven transition centers, a pension bridging program, and infrastructure projects in the impacted areas.

“The report allows the IBEW and other affected organizations to galvanize our support for those members who will be impacted by the policy changes, and to do our part to make sure that no one is left out,” Wayland said.

The report, released in March, also noted the importance of a holistic approach that addresses the mental and societal impacts. As the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment noted in a companion report, planning is required to ensure that the transition’s benefits are not offset by decreases in social determinants.

“It’s our responsibility that we’re dealing with, it’s fears and it’s livelihood,” Galbraith said. “It was good to see that the task force seemed to get that.”

The Just Transition Task Force is the first of its kind, Wayland said, and could serve as a blueprint for other countries looking to move toward cleaner energy without unnecessarily disrupting its citizenry.

“It’s important to remember that the mandate was not to change the position on shutting down coal, but how to transition,” said First District International Vice President Thomas Reid. “A big part of that has to be making sure work- ers are involved from the beginning and not left behind to shoulder the brunt of this change.”

Le rapport du Groupe sur la transition de l’utilisation du charbon du Canada a été publié à l’aide des membres de la FIOE

L e Groupe de travail sur la transition équitable du Canada a présenté son rapport sur la meilleure manière de protéger les travailleurs et les travailleuses et les commu- nautés alors que le pays tente d’abandonner graduellement l’énergie à partir du charbon, et les membres de la FIOE étaient là pour faire entendre leur voix.

“C’était une expérience pleine d’humilité,” exprime Matt Wayland assistant exécutif au vice-président international, qui a siégé au sein du Groupe de travail. “Je suis fier du travail que nous avons accompli.”

L’équipe composée de onze membres a été formée l’année dernière pour aider le pays à atteindre ses objectifs quant à l’abandon de l’énergie à partir du charbon d’ici 2030, et de faire de manière à ce que cette transition vienne appuyer les communautés et les individus directement touchés. En plus de Wayland, le groupe comprend des représentants des secteurs de l’environnement, du gouvernement, universitaire et des affaires.

Le Groupe de travail a visité quatre provinces qui produisent de l’énergie à partir du charbon, tels que : l’Alberta, le Nouveau-Brunswick, la Nouvelle-Écosse et la Saskatchewan. Ils ont visité sept centres, ont tenu des séances publiques, et ont rencontré des représentants de 15 communautés et plus de 80 groupes de parties prenantes. Les sections locales de la FIOE de chacune de ces provinces ont participé aux réunions et aux discussions.

“Nos sections locales étaient très bien préparées,” dit Wayland. “Ils font tout ce qu’ils peuvent pour ne pas laisser personne pour compte.”

La section locale 267 située en Regina à Saskatchewan était parmi celles qui avaient été visitées en juin 2018 par le Groupe de travail.

“De bonnes choses vont ressortir suite aux recommandations présentées par le Groupe de travail,” mentionne le gérant d’affaires Jason Tibbs du local 267, qui a fait une présentation au Groupe. “Cependant, ils n’empêcheront pas aux membres de perdre leur gagne-pain ni de perdre une valeur importante de leur maison. Les communautés seront dévastées suite à l’abandon graduel des installations du charbon.”

Tibbs dit que plusieurs de ses membres ont le sentiment que l’Ouest du Canada a été mis de côté et que les décisions prises par le gouvernement ont été rendues sans tenir compte des effets portés tels que sur la Saskatchewan.

“Les membres voulant que le Groupe de travail quitte en ayant une image de ce que l’im- pact de la fermeture aura sur les membres, les familles et les communautés directement touchés,” dit Tibbs. “La décision rendue pour certaines commu- nautés est une peine de mort et je voulais être leurs consœurs des autres provinces.

“Personne ne saute de joie en raison du rapport,” dit Galbraith. “C’est difficile d’être enthousiaste des changements qui vont avoir lieu dans dix ans. Reste que c’est un bon plan pour s’assurer et nous appré- cions l’occasion d’en faire partie à l’avance ainsi que pendant le processus.”

En Alberta, l’extrait graduel des centrales de charbon est déjà en cours et beaucoup de travailleurs ont été mis à pied, y compris des membres de la FIOE. Suite à la publication du Climate Lea- dership Plan 2015 du gouvernement provincial, les leaders syndicaux ont organi- sé un regroupement pour les syndicats affectés pour former le Coal Transition Coalition, qui comprend le local 254 à Cal-gary et le local 207 à Edmonton.

Le rapport du Groupe de travail indique que, « le travail du CTC (Coal Tran- sition Coalition) a servé à mieux définir l’ap- pui que les travailleurs du secteur de char- bon affectés auront besoin dans le cadre de cet extrait graduel. Il s’agit là d’un exemple concret qui explaine à quel point la participation du travailleur conduit à de meilleurs décisions politiques et finale- ment de meilleurs résultats. »

Le Groupe de travail a formulé 10 recommandations qui incluent : l’aug- mentation du financement pour les res- sources telles que les centres de transi- tion dirigés localement, un programme de prestations de raccroissement et l’investis- sement dans les projets d’infrastructures dans les zones touchées.

“Le rapport permet à la FIOE et aux autres organisations affectées d’encour- age notre appui face à ces membres tou- chés par ces changements politiques, et de faire notre part pour assurer que per- sonne n’est exclu,” dit Wayland.

Le rapport publié en mars indique également l’importance d’une approche holistique qui trace l’impact sur la santé mentale et sociétale. Comme l’Associa- tion Canadienne des Médecins pour l’En- vironnement a indiqué dans un rapport complémentaire, la planification est requise afin de s’assurer que les bénéfices de la transition ne soient pas compromis à cause d’une baisse dans les facteurs sociaux qui influent sur la santé.

“Ce n’est pas juste une question d’emplois, c’est la peur et les moyens de subsistance,” dit Galbraith. “C’est bien de voir que le Groupe de travail s’en s’est aperçu.”

“Il est important de retenir que le mandat n’est pas de changer la position pour fermer les centrales au charbon, mais comment faire la transition,” dit Thomas Reid le vice-président internatio- nal du Premier District. “Assurer la partici- pation des travailleurs et des travail- leurs dès le début en fait une grosse partie et non être mis de côté pour sup- porter les difficultés occasionnées par ce changement.”

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THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

BC Member First to Attend UN Conference on Women

Nicole Biernaczyk scored a first in a crowd of more than 10,000: she was the first Canadian IBEW member to attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 258 Assistant Business Manager Nicole Biernaczyk was the first Canadian IBEW member to attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, one of the largest gatherings held by the esteemed international organization.

“I’m honored to be the first Canadian woman to attend this prestigious annual meeting,” said the Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 258 assistant business manager. “It was an exhilarating experience.”

The two-week-long meeting took place in March at the U.N. Headquarters in New York and was attended by women from across the globe. Biernaczyk, who attended in her capacity as a First District International Women’s Committee representative, was among more than 70 members from the Canadian Labour Congress.

“The IBEW was very pleased to have Nicole attend on behalf of our sisters and our union,” said First District Vice President Thomas Reid. “The conference presents a wonderful opportunity for her to learn and to bring that back to our women’s committees.”

The end result of the conference, which included panels, roundtables and events outside the headquarters, was the Agreed Conclusions adopted by member states that called for concrete measures to “bolster the voice, agency and leadership of women and girls as beneficiaries and users of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure.”

As for what that means in practice, Biernaczyk pointed to an example at provincial utility BC Hydro.

“Sometimes we can’t get the correct fire-retardant gear for our female members,” said the former occupational safety officer. “It’s really about getting women what we need and getting the policies and infrastructure in place to make that happen.”

Biernaczyk also pointed out that there are still incidents of sexual harassment and that, while things are getting better, there’s still room for improvement.

“Every now and then a guy will half-joke about why there aren’t ‘men’s committee’ meetings and I just say, ‘There are: They’re called unit meetings,’” Biernaczyk said.

The global conference also formally recognized the importance of labor rights and protections.

“They get what we’re saying, and that’s empowering,” Biernaczyk said.

She also noted that being around people from so many different countries opened her eyes to the challenges so many women face.

“It’s not all about helping just ourselves. Comparatively, we’re doing pretty good in Canada,” Biernaczyk said. “But something’s got to change, and if this is the way to get it done, then let’s do it.”

If given the chance to go a second time, Biernaczyk says she’d like to sit on a couple of panels.

“I don’t like to just sit,” the former outside construction worker said. “I like to contribute.”

Illinois Bans Local Right-to-Work Zones as Elected Leaders Hit the Gas on Pro-Worker Agenda

An IBEW member’s bill to ban cities and counties in Illinois from passing local right-to-work ordinances has become law, two years after the state’s previous governor vetoed the legislation.


Voters ousted the virulently anti-union Rauner last November and bolstered what were already worker-friendly majorities in the House and Senate to veto-proof supermajorities. The right-to-work bill, called the Collective Bargaining

Summer is almost here, and that means it’s time for this year’s IBEW photo contest. Last year’s winner, Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245’s Nicolas Rains, captured his co-workers on the job in extreme weather conditions, but you don’t need to find the extraordinary to win. Your IBEW sisters and brothers do extraordinary work every day — even on the most routine assignments.

Send us the photos that capture that spirit of excellence and togetherness, the foundations of what it means to be a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Photo Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter up to five photos each.
2. International officers and staff are not eligible.
3. Photos MUST be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, measuring 1,200 by 1,800 pixels at minimum, in color or black and white. Larger files of at least 2,200 pixels are encouraged.
4. All submissions become property of the IBEW Media Department.
5. Photo entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or featuring subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
6. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g., a safety committee, a linemen’s rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
7. Photos previously published in IBEW publications or on the website are not eligible for submission.
8. Entries MUST be submitted electronically via the Photo Contest link on IBEW.org. Please contact the Media Department at media@IBEW.org or 202-728-6102 with additional questions.
9. Up to 15 finalists will be selected and posted on IBEW.org for final judging by the public. The winners will be featured in a future issue of the Electrical Worker.
Freedom Act, passed overwhelmingly in both chambers with bipartisan support. “From the start, right-to-work was an idea cooked up to lower wages, slash benefits and hurt our working families,” Gov. J.B. Pritzker said in signing the bill April 12. “Right-to-work has always meant, ‘right to work for less money,’ and it’s wrong for Illinois.”

A similar bill became law this spring in New Mexico, where voters also elected a new pro-worker governor and strengthened Democratic majorities in the Statehouse.

Since late 2017, pressure campaigns bankrolled by out-of-state billionaires hostile to unions led nearly a dozen jurisdictions in New Mexico to enact right-to-work. The state law invalidates those ordinances and bans cities and counties from passing new ones.

In Illinois, clerks, mayors and other legislators began fighting local right-to-work ordinances after Lincolnshire in suburban Chicago passed one in 2015. A federal district court struck down the ordinance in 2017, a decision upheld last September by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. The new state law, grounded in lower court rulings, should derail the village’s appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, Pritzker said.

“The law as it does not allow a state to hand this responsibility down to the local communities,” the governor said, quoted by the Chicago Sun-Times. “This bill actually just establishes what is the law today, so I believe that would be moot, essentially, at the Supreme Court.”

State Sen. Ram Villivalam, a freshman Democrat who sponsored the bill in the Senate, said it makes “clear that the regulation of collective bargaining is the responsibility of state government.”

“It is an honor to stand here as we declare once and for all that right-to-work has no place in the state of Illinois,” he said at the signing ceremony.

The Collective Bargaining Freedom Act is on a growing list of gains for working people in Illinois since Pritzker took office in January. They include executive orders restoring project labor agreements and fighting wage theft, action to enforce prevailing wage, and a new law that will raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour by 2025, benefitting more than a million workers.

“Electoral changes that can either harm working Americans or help them,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. “Illinois is a powerful illustration of how changes can make a difference for the better when the 99 percent is at least as well represented in government as the 1 percent.”

Pritzker gave special recognition to Stephenson and other labor leaders who have fought Illinois Republicans. He also thanked the local AFL-CIO and the 23rd Local AFL-CIO, which conducted a Toys for Tots drive that raised more than $3,000 in cash and gifts for children in need at Christmas time.

“I’m a white guy with red hair and a beard. It’s important for me to be part of the ENMC, to be an ally for our brothers and sisters of color,” Holmes said.

“They are also excited at the prospect of getting more women involved.

“We don’t want our sisters to deal with catcalls or any harassment,” Holmes said. “This group is about helping people.”

Holmes and Lucero also noted the number of travelers they get and how the group has helped in that regard. One way was by holding a collective bargaining agreement study group. On other occasions, they’ve held meetings where they go over what they call the “12 types of union personalities,” asking members which they want to be.

“It’s good for character building,” Holmes said. “We want to send out not just a linear but a union member, someone who knows the contract, and how to understand different perspectives.”

Even in Right-to-Work Era, Northern Michigan Manufacturing Local Grows Membership

Growing membership in a manufacturing local is a challenge under any circumstances. American jobs continue to move overseas at an alarming clip, so growth in a right-to-work state makes it even more of an achievement.

But Iron Mountain, Mich., Local 2221 — in the state’s Upper Peninsula along the Wisconsin border — has spurred the trend, using the growth of its two major employers and improved outreach by local officers and officials to more than four area kids, including those at a nearby women’s shelter, an organization RENEW 66 has developed a relationship with. They’ve also added food and toy drives.

“The folks at the shelter might not know a lot about unions, but they know that they’re a little happier because of RENEW 66,” Lucero said. “If anything, it’s a bit selfish for us because of the feeling we get being able to help.”

The group is also applying for a charter to the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, the Brotherhood’s initiative to bring more diversity and inclusion into the union.

“Don’t be afraid to go — and they’re showing no signs of slowing down.”

“The IEW in Houston is thriving,” said Local 66 business representative and organizer Ben Holmes, who runs the group. “Hopefully it’ll never end.”

The group, dubbed RENEW 66, received its official Reach Out and Engage Next Generation Electrical Workers status in February. RENEW is the IEW’s initiative to get more young members involved in the union. But before that, they were already holding fundraisers, workshops and meetings, all to get more members invested in the Brotherhood.

“When people talk about the IEW, they’re talking about us, too,” Holmes said of the younger contingent. “We’re the future, and we can’t rely on the old guard forever.”

The rapid growth of the group is due to a number of factors, says Holmes, among them buy-in from leadership. Business Manager Greg Lucero has nothing but praise for RENEW 66.

“The group has got the young members talking union for a change,” Lucero said. “We have given them a spot where they talk to others about their issues and feel like someone is listening.”

Local 66’s Facebook page and Instagram posts regularly feature members. Sometimes it’s a member with a new baby, or someone who’s just earned their Journeyman card. And Holmes says he makes a video of every event they hold and shares it on social media.

“RENEW has helped the local increase participation throughout its 4,300-person membership, for example by having their meetings right before the general membership meetings, so more people stay and participate in both.”

“A lot of members are stepping up their engagement; some are even becoming stewards,” Holmes said.

Last Halloween, the group put on a “trunk or treat” event where people dressed up in costumes and decorated their vehicles and passed out candy for area kids, including those at a nearby women’s shelter, an organization RENEW 66 has developed a relationship with. They’ve also added food and toy drives.

“People are not going to give up the right to join a union,” Holmes said. “It’s absurd that we’re fighting this battle in the 21st century.”

Members of Houston Local 66’s Reach Out and Engage Next Generation Electrical Workers group hold a meeting.
double its membership since Michigan’s right-to-work law passed in 2012.

Perhaps even more impressive is that about 90 percent of the roughly 600 covered employees have remained mem-

bers, Business Manager Pat Dani said. That hasn’t been easy because Dani and other local officers still work full-time for the two main employers, Boss Snowplow and Systems Control.

“I think we’ve done it by stepping in and representing people,” said Dani, a 15-year employee at Systems Control, where he works as a fabricator-welder.

“In years past, we didn’t provide a lot of representation. We didn’t have a lot of training, especially on how to contest things when we had a problem with man-

agement. We got a lot of our stewards trained and we put in a lot of more of them.

We started paying them something and we gave them a decent wage. Otherwise, you can’t get anyone to do the job.”

Founded in 1962, Systems Control builds equipment storage enclosures and control and relay panels used in electrical transmission and distribution substations across North America. The company has long been successful, but Dani said less than 100 employees were covered by the agreement with Local 2221 when he joined the company in 1980.

Now, they number nearly 450. Sys-

tems Control has added an average of six to seven employees a week for the last three years, he said.

“When they started substation work, it took off,” Dani said. “With the amount of work they’re doing right now, they can’t stop hiring.”

The work has proven so lucrative the company was acquired by Convext Partners, a private equity firm, in 2018. Company officials later announced they plan to add another 300 jobs at the Iron Mountain facility.

Boss Snowplow seems to be a per-

fect fit for Iron Mountain and the snowy Upper Peninsula. The company was founded in 1980 and has remained there through ownership changes. Local 2221 has represented its employees from the start and Dani noted that MI Electric—an IBEW signatory contractor based in Iron Mountain—built the facility.

The company now has about 175 employees covered in its agreement with Local 2221. Its growth has not been as explosive as Systems Control, but it has emerged as an industry leader. It’s expanded beyond snow plows to salt and sand spreaders and plows designed for homeowners. Company officials praise the craftsmanship of its workforce in pro-

motional materials.

Dani said the company agreed to give Local 2221 officials 30 minutes to meet with new employees during the hir-

ing process, something they hadn’t com-

promised to the right-to-work law. In the past, they had to wait until new employees began working in the facilities.

At a place like Boss Snowplow, which has a large base of part-time employees, Local 2221 often finds itself re-recruiting employees when they return to the plant.

The best recruiting tool, however, continues to be negotiating favorable con-

tracts. At Systems Control, salaries are well above the average for other workers in the Iron Mountain area, health insur-

ance is paid for and workers have access to a 401(k) retirement savings plan.

“People see that and realize what we have to offer and that their membership dues are being put to good use,” Dani said. “Our biggest lift are young people coming in. A lot of them are just out of high school. They have no idea what the union is all about, so we have to educate them.”

Sixth District International Repre-

sentative Bob Koerschner, who has worked closely with Local 2221, said that while right-to-work remains a threat to organized labor, local unions can mini-

mize its impact by preparing wisely.

“The training the local requested from our office and received has been very helpful, but honestly, the biggest dif-

ference-maker is the dedication of the officers and stewards,” he said. “They already have tough full-time jobs and then they put in more time to work for the benefit of the members and the good of the union. It’s impressive.”

Koerschner said it’s also led to improved relations with both companies, where management understands that Local 2221 is speaking on behalf of its members with a unified voice.

“The overarching message is that the companies need to know that the members — their employees — believe in the union,” he said. “That’s when they really listen.”

Fewer Inspectors, Less Enforcement:

OSHA Trend Raises Risks for Workers

As the number of OSHA inspectors shrinks, enforcement action to safeguard workers is on the decline — at the same time that investigations into workplace deaths and injuries are rising.

A new study of Occupational Safety and Health Administration data since 2016 sug-

gests that record-keeping sleight of hand is masking a significant drop in major cases arising from inspections and the costly penalties that help deter employers from cutting corners.

On the surface, OSHA reports a similar number of inspections in recent years, says researcher Deborah Berkowitz, formerly a senior policy adviser at OSHA who directs the Worker Health and Safety Program at the National Employment Law Center in Washington, D.C.

“But digging just a bit beneath the surface, it becomes clear that this is a false nar-

rative and that the agency is prioritizing quantity over quality, in an effort to disguise what is really going on,” Berkowitz writes.

OSHA’s inspection resources are so limited that it would take the agency more than 100 years to visit every workplace under its jurisdiction just once,” Berkowitz said. In 2010, according to the report, OSHA had 3,016 inspectors, virtually the same number it had three decades earlier. By 2016, the agency was down to 952 inspectors. By Jan. 1, 2019, it had dropped to 875.

A 2016 Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta told a House appropriations subcommittee that OSHA had hired 76 new inspectors in 2018. But none were hired earlier in the Trump administration and the employees training now can’t conduct field investigations on their own for three years. Meanwhile, attrition continues.

“They are deep in the hole of hiring, and the vacancies are sitting there,” Berkowitz told the IBEW. “They have also changed how hiring is done, and that has slowed the process down.”

Overall, workplace fatalities fell slightly in 2017, the most recent data available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But at 5,147 deaths, the tally was still the sec-

ond-highest in nine years.

BLS numbers are always larger than OSHA’s, as they cover more industries and include work-related vehicle fatalities. Federal OSHA is responsible for most construction and general industry workforce in 29 states; others have state-based programs.

Last year’s BLS statistics won’t be published until December. But OSHA data for 2018 show that it investigated 921 fatalities and catastrophes, a classification for incidents that hospitalized three or more workers. That’s 10 percent more than in 2017 and the highest number in a decade.

Yet the agency is conducting fewer of the inspections crucial to preventing deaths, injuries and illnesses on the job.

Berkowitz’s report cites disparities between the 2016 and 2018 fiscal years, which run from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30:

• Inspections to prevent combustible dust explosions dropped by nearly 20 percent, from 491 in 2016 to 396 in 2018.

• Inspections to protect workers from dangerous heat plummeted from 318 to 105, even though 2018 was the hottest-summer year on record in the United States.

• Inspections to measure individual workers’ level of exposure to toxic chemicals decreased by 20 percent.

• Investigations resulting in high penalties for employers were cut in half, from 131 to 66.

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The way OSHA tracks inspections was changed near the end of the Obama administra-

tion to better reflect the time and resources invested in more complicated probes.

Each type of inspection is weighted and given an “enforcement unit” value. Combustible dust, for instance, counts as two units, heat as four units and high-penalty cases as eight units.

Many inspections, those deemed “quick” by OSHA, count as a single unit. Those climbed to 28,322 in fiscal year 2018, an increase of 66%.

But the tally can be deceptive. On one construction site, for instance, an inspector’s visit may involve multiple subcontractors, each counting as separate inspection.

There’s already evidence that less oversight is putting workers at risk. For instance, Berkowitz cites tragedies at poultry plants, where multiple amputations and other severe injuries were reported in 2018 but never investigated.

Three months after an amputation at one plant, another worker suffered the same fate, but OSHA still didn’t investigate, she said.

That’s detrimental to workers far beyond a single factory or construction site, her report emphasizes, because deterring other employers from making the same mistakes is essential to OSHA’s mission.

Under pressure from big business and its allies in the Trump administration, the report states, OSHA has limited its public statements dramatically — going far beyond the drop in inspections themselves.

“In fact, OSHA has all but halted the issuance of press releases on enforcement actions,” Berkowitz writes, citing just 38 releases in 2018, one-third of the 70 issued in 2016.

International President Lonnie L. Stephenson said that federal OSHA is on a slip-

pery slope under current leadership.

“Workers’ safety should never be a political issue,” he said. “For nearly 50 years, OSHA inspections have helped prevent employers from taking shortcuts when it comes to safety and health. You can’t put a price on the peace of mind that gives workers and their families.”

BSS SNOWPLOW EMPLOYES 175 FROM IRON MOUNTAIN, MICH., LOCAL 2221. THE MANUFACTURING LOCAL HAS SEEN EXPLOSIVE GROWTH SINCE 2012.
KENNETH R. JOHNSON

Retired Ninth District International representative Kenneth R. Johnson died on Feb. 28. He was 85.

According to family lore, Johnson’s grandparents moved by covered wagon from Texas to Southern California sometime in the late 1880s. His father, Verel, became a member of El Centro, Calif., Local 447 and later served as a Ninth District International representative. Local 447 was amalgamated into San Diego Local 516 in 1918.

Kenneth was born in 1935 in Imperial, Calif., and was initiated into Local 447 in 1952. In the mid-1960s, he served as the local’s recording secretary and on its executive and bargaining boards before beginning a four-year stint as business manager in 1968.

In 1972, then-President Charles H. Pillard appointed Johnson an international representative for the Ninth District. At the time, retired Local 569 business representative Rick White was a young journeymen wireman serving on the Southern California staff in Los Angeles.

“Kenneth approached me about running for the business manager position,” said White, who ended up winning election then and twice more after that. “He mentored me for several months and assisted me with tactics to use in negotiations with the Imperial Irrigation District.”

Two of Johnson’s brothers were journeymen wiremen as well, his son, King, a member of Local 569 who died in 2013.

“For us, the union has been a family affair,” said Johnson’s daughter, Paula. “The IBEW took care of our family for sure.”

Although he was a dedicated and busy unionist, Paula said that her father always managed to spend time with her, her son, Ryan, and the rest of the family. “He was a really good dad and a great provider,” she said. “I remember a lot of times on a Saturday or Sunday, he would tell us, ‘We’re going for a drive.’”

Johnson was an avid hunting and fishing enthusiast, and Paula recalled how on one more than one early Thanksgiving morning he would take his family pheasant hunting.

“My dad was a union man through and through,” she said. “He was very generous with everybody, just one of those guys who would stick by you.”

Johnson was a long-time member of the IBEW and its members, White said, a sentiment seconded by former Local 569 Business Representative Kris Hartnett.

“Kenneth was a dominating presence in any setting, but he was also a quiet listener,” said Hartnett, who remembers working with Johnson on the negotiating committee for the local’s residential agreement and at a grievance hearing.

“When he met you, he would shake your hand and look you in the eye,” he said. “The handshake was very firm, so you knew who you were dealing with.”

Hartnett recalled being dispatched by Johnson to deal personally with poor conditions at a job site where Johnson’s son, King, was working, a long five-hour drive away in the Palo Verde Valley desert near I-20’s crossing into Arizona. “I believe the contractor was afraid that Kenny might show up on his front porch,” he said.

“It respected him for always telling it like it was even when I disagreed with him, and he always told the truth,” Hartnett said.

Before his appointment as an international representative, Johnson served on a number of his local’s committees, including the negotiating, safety, and apprenticeship/inside committees. He also was a one-time executive secretary/business manager for the Imperial County Building and Construction Trades Council, and he was a member of the IBEW-Carpenter National Joint Jurisdiction Committee.

“Kenny lived and breathed IBEW,” said Cecil Wynn, a retired Ninth District staff in 1963. His local amalgamated with Atlanta Local 84 in 1971.

Robinson, who was on the road in the South as a representative most Mondays through Fridays, helped his daughter understand the value of unions. “He told us how unions were not only for a good wage, but they were for safety — in the mills, shipyards, everywhere, safety was a big concern, and that was something unions stressed,” Brock said.

She called him “a godly man who knew right from wrong,” thanks to a strong woman who raised him and his five sisters on the farm after their father died. “She taught them all to go out and work hard,” Brock said.

Retirement gave him welcome time to spend with his family and pursue his hobbies. An enthusiastic baseball and basketball fan, he also enjoyed golf, pool, fishing and hunting. He was an avid reader of the newspaper every day until his failing eyesight made it impossible.

Except for near-blindness, Brock said, he was still sly at 93. He had an apartment in an assisted living center where he loved playing Bingo — they let him use the same two cards, which he’d always keep in his wallet. “He’d tell people he was always ready to defend someone,” Brock said.

Robinson’s survivors include his three children, six grandchildren and a great-grandchild. His wife died in 2011. She called him “a godly man who always be found on the front lines defending good wage, but they were for safety — in the mills, shipyards, everywhere, safety was a big concern, and that was something unions stressed,” Brock said.

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“He called him “a godly man who knew right from wrong,” thanks to a strong woman who raised him and his five sisters on the farm after their father died. “She taught them all to go out and work hard,” Brock said.

Retirement gave him welcome time to spend with his family and pursue his hobbies. An enthusiastic baseball and basketball fan, he also enjoyed golf, pool, fishing and hunting. He was an avid reader of the newspaper every day until his failing eyesight made it impossible.

Except for near-blindness, Brock said, he was still sly at 93. He had an apartment in an assisted living center where he loved playing Bingo — they let him use the same two cards, which he’d always keep in his wallet. “He’d tell people he was always ready to defend someone,” Brock said.

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<td>Bransfelter, M. W.</td>
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Festive Celebration/Benefit

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSTON, IL — Local 16 celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with a cookout to benefit the sick and needy. The building was well decorated and full of festive “Irishmen.” Paddy the Leprechaun Piñata was a big hit with the younger crowd. Thanks to Bros. Stephen P. “Bubba” Fenton, Nick Vaugh, Ricky Rickerson, Paul Lamb, and all who helped make this possible. Local Caring Services is bringing a new facility to Evanston. The Crisis Care Center will be a drop-off/sta- bilization unit that will provide frontline intervention to people overwhelmed by substance abuse and co-occurring mental illnesses. These are key contributing issues to homelessness and economic uncertainty. This effort is a major collaboration between health services, social agencies, government and law enforcement. Local 16’s support, advocacy and volunteered labor have been integral to the success of this worthy project.

On April 1st, the Wage and Benefit Package was increased. For new rates, please contact the union hall or go to the IBEW Local 16’s Facebook page. Local 16 will host this year’s IBEW Midwest Regional Softball Tournament. This premier event, a great opportunity to build the brotherhood, will be held Aug. 24. For more information, call 812-867-9670.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Spirit of Brotherhood; Int. Pres. Keynote Speaker

L.U. 22 (r,lpt,rtb), OMAHA, NE — In March, Local 22 was honored to host IBEW Int. Pres. Lorrin R. Stephenson for a “meet-and-greet” with the general membership. Attendees included many local labor leaders, elected officials, and candidates for office. The social event preceded the William Brennan Institute for Labor Studies’ annual Promoting the General Welfare Conference at the University of Nebraska in Omaha. Int. Pres. Stephenson was the keynote speaker for this year’s WBLCS conference.

As you may have heard, Local 22’s jurisdiction was impacted by disastrous flooding this spring. Many of our members and traveling brothers and sisters were affected. Local 22 collected donations and money to help those IBEW members most impacted by the flooding. On behalf of the members of Local 22, we would like to thank all the brothers and sisters who took time to donate, collect, and deliver much needed supplies to our members affected by the recent flooding in Nebraska. They embody the true spirit of brotherhood!

Joel Anderson, P.S.

New Projects Underway

L.U. 34 (em,mps), PEORIA, IL — IBEW Local 34 has been busy with a flurry of manpower requests and a packed schedule of local activities for our members. Work in our local has seen a sharp increase in need of manpower, and we currently sit under 100 on our out-of-work list for the first time in roughly two years. The work outlook remains strong for the foreseeable future with the beginning stages of OSF Hospital’s plan to spend roughly $800 million over the next eight years. We also have another $100 million in work beginning in Peoria Heights. These two projects along with upcoming wind, solar and our usual industrial work should mean that our local brothers and sisters have ample opportunities to stay home and working.

Local 34 recently had our first Career Signing event take place at Illinois Bluffs High School. Congratulations to Canton High School senior Logan Bayer and Illinois Bluffs senior John Randles for signing on the dotted line to take their education to the next level and enter our apprenticeship program. It was definitely a memorable day for these young men and their families — their future is definitely bright.

Tim Sprout, A.B.M.

Work Picture Updates; Union Medical Centers Open

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OHIO — We are pleased to announce the opening of our Union Medical Centers, which are for the exclusive use of IBEW Local 38 and Laborers Local 380 members and their dependents. The centers opened on April 17 this year. To get complete information about our centers including eligibility, location, hours of operation, and contact information go to www.ibew38.org.

Using our Union Trades Medical Centers is not only free, but also the Labor Management Coopera- tion Committee (LMCC) is offering all members a $500 Giant Eagle gift card if they schedule a physical in 2019. If a member and his or her spouse both schedule a physical, they will receive a total of $1,000. This is a limited time offer, so make your appointments soon. Please pass this information on to your spouse. Work continues to be good and several more projects were recently announced including the next phase at the East Bank Flats. The new $210 million building will include apartments, retail and cinemas. Lake Erie Electric has the project and work is scheduled to start this summer. The new multi-use project including apartments and retail at Church and State roads has started, and Gateway Electric has the project. Crews from Lake Erie Electric are also on site at The Lumen. The new 34-story apartment building located in Playhouse Square is starting to rise as they are pouring a floor every five days now.

Dennis Meany, B.M.,P.S.

‘LA Kings Night’ — Solidarity & Success

L.U. 40 (em,mps), HOLLYWOOD, CA — On March 2, our members came together to enjoy the excitement that the NHL and

Submit 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

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<td>Atomic Research Service</td>
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<td>Bridge Operators</td>
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Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.


Pension Improvements

L.U. 24 (es,mps), BALTIMORE, MD — We are happy to report that the labor trustees were able to secure the following pension improvements: increase the future benefit amount; increase the reduced benefit that some members had to the full benefit amount; and increase the retirees’ monthly benefit all while securing its future funding.

As previously reported, the state’s prevailing wage survey had issues. We contacted the state and our attorneys, and our rates now prevail for the two counties in question as well as the rest of our entire jurisdiction.

On March 23-24 we held our annual drug testing, and tool and boot sale. I would like to thank the 336 members who took part.

On March 25, over 40 Local 24 sisters and brothers let their voices be heard at the Maryland state Capitol. We called on our elected officials to listen to our voice if they want to count on our vote.

I am pleased to announce that we have reached an agreement with Clear Channel Outdoor (CCO). I would like to thank our members employed at CCO, especially our shop steward Bro. Ricky Keffer.

Peter P. Demchuk, B.M.
the Los Angeles Kings ice hockey team bring, as well as to experience the strength of union solidarity. Such events also highlight the importance of coming together to enjoy a day with friends and family, made possible as a result of IBEW members having great jobs with the union standing behind them. [Photo at bottom, left]

A special thanks to second-year apprentice Josh Leder, who led the charge to get this event off the ground. He donated his time to help fellow union sisters and brothers enjoy a day of hockey, while he also continued all of his work and apprentice education obligations.

The local also thanks all those who attended the LA Kings Night event. We encourage our entire membership to get involved in one of our many future events or committee activities and opportunities. These opportunities include participation in: the Helmers to Handballs program, the Basic Craft Car Show, the Volunteer Organizing Committee, the RENEW program, and the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus.

Michael Courtois, Treas.

IBEW 44 RENEW; Raffle for Brotherhood Fund

L.U. 44 (catv,lctt,o,ntb,sku), BUTTE, MT — Last July, IBEW 44 RENEW officers were elected, forming IBEW 44 RENEW. Their first major fundraiser, a local-wide gun raffle, raised over $3,000 to help start a brotherhood fund. Kudos to the prize winners: Logan Davis won “bonehead” art by Bro. Tucker Serich; Josh Kizran won a Smith & Wesson .357; and Gregg Marlenee won a Henry Rifle .357.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who has supported this effort!

IBEW 44 RENEW made their first benefit donation to Collon Walter, whose son was life-flighted to Kalispell. MT. Collin was diagnosed with transverse myelitis. IBEW 44 RENEW is proud to have set up the brotherhood fund and to start assisting the IBEW 44 family!

IBEW 44 RENEW is currently looking to create a T-shirt to continue to build the brotherhood fund. The T-shirt design will be on www.ibew44.org under the RENEW module if anyone is interested.

IBEW 44 RENEW has taken on reaching out to area job fairs, talking to students about the Mountain States Line Constructors apprenticeship school, and discussing what kind of education interested students should be seeking while in high school and how to apply.

Dwight Rose, Mbr. Dev.

Upcoming Events; Strong Membership Growth

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,ems,es,set,Lm,ma,mo,mt,tbt,ts&l), SEATTLE, WA — Summer is approaching and Local 46 has a number of events planned. If you would like more information on any of these events, please contact the union hall.

Our annual Organizing Blitz will take place Tuesday, June 18, and Wednesday, June 19. This event is a great opportunity to get out and talk with unrepresented electricians about all the advantages that IBEW membership offers.

Industry Night will be Wednesday, June 26, at Elliott Bay Brewery in Lake City. A number of our NECA partner contractors will be there to talk with unrepresented electricians about work opportunities with IBEW Local 46.

The Peninsula Picnic will be Saturday, July 13, at the Island Lake Picnic Shelter in Poulsbo. This is a family day, so bring the whole family and enjoy the food, fun, and camaraderie!

IBEW Local 46 and Puget Sound Chapter NECA are sponsors of radio station KISW’s Pain in the Grass 2019 concert series. This three-day event runs Tuesday, July 30; Friday, Aug. 2; and Saturday, Aug. 3, at the White River Amphitheatre in Auburn. Our organizers will set up a booth at the event to promote IBEW membership.

The Seattle Picnic returns to Vasa Park Resort on beautiful Lake Sammamish Sunday, Aug. 18. This is a fantastic venue with a designated swimming area with a life guard. Please join us and be sure to bring the kids!

Local 46 is committed to organizing. Our membership has increased by almost a third in the last five years! We currently have over 5,700 members and we are continuing to grow.

Warren Shid, V.P.

Work Picture Busy — Summer Projects Scheduled

L.U. 48 (es,cm,mtb,ts&lml), PORTLAND, OR — Local 48 is currently experiencing a construction boom that is projected to last for quite a while. Of course, in construction we all know that projections don’t equal labor hours, projects do. We do expect to see many calls for journey-level workers continuing through the summer and beyond, and our organizing department is hard at work finding workers to meet the increased staffing demands of our contractors. We also welcome travelers to help us meet this demand.

One often forgotten aspect of a construction boom is the dramatic increase in non-union contractors hiring untrained, unlicensed workers to complete their electrical work. Local 48 organizes and business representatives cooperate with enforcement officers to ensure that projects in our jurisdiction meet the requirements of our licensing law. With the work we are putting in, compliance is going up and non-compliance is getting more costly for the lawbreakers. This ensures that our communities aren’t at an unnecessary risk for electrical fire due to people who don’t know our trade trying to make a quick profit.

Ray Liston, P.S.

Politically Active Members; Annual Bowling Tournament

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

The work picture here in Local 68 is holding steady, with projections for a strong next couple of years. Some calls are still hitting book two.

Local 68 members, along with the Denver Area Labor Federation and AFL-CIO, have been putting potential candidates for various positions in the upcoming Denver County races through the application and interview process. This process along with follow-up accountability will hopefully build strong, friendly relationships and not just money recipients. Check the Local 68 website or the hall for a list of endorsed candidates.

The Wiremen’s Brotherhood Fund annual bowling tournament was held March 16. Congratulations to: Betty Coa, 1st place, women; Christina Romen, 2nd place; and Maxine Bele, 3rd place. Bob Miller won 1st place, men; Collin Clair, 2nd place; and Jeremiah McQueen, 3rd place. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the WBF sick fund. All had a good time!

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased members: Mark A. Brady, Thomas E. Beall Jr. and Timothy C. Armagost.

Morgan J. Buchanan, Pres.

IBEW Local 46 members joined a march in support of UE Local 506 members locked out at Wabtec Corp.

Local 56 Stands with UE Local 506


The work picture here in Local 56 is hard at work finding workers to meet the increased labor hours, projects do. We do expect to see many calls not only for journey-level workers continuing through the summer and beyond, but also for journey-level contractors hiring untrained, unlicensed workers to complete their electrical work. Local 56 organizes and business representatives cooperate with enforcement officers to ensure that projects in our jurisdiction meet the requirements of our licensing law. With the work we are putting in, compliance is going up and non-compliance is getting more costly for the lawbreakers. This ensures that our communities aren’t at an unnecessary risk for electrical fire due to people who don’t know our trade trying to make a quick profit.

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IBEW Local 46 members joined a march in support of UE Local 506 members locked out at Wabtec Corp.
Annual Retirees Luncheon
L.U. 80 (Bld), NORTH, OH — On May 4, the Local 80 Annual Picnic took place. There was a good turnout with all of our brothers and sisters enjoying the food and festivities. The kids were “electricified” with the face painting, bounce house fun and a petting zoo. Bro. Woody Gregory has been in charge of the entertainment committee and always does an excellent job getting these events organized.

The work picture has continued to grow with upcoming projects starting up in late spring. The Wegmans Food Market construction project has been completed and ahead of schedule. This was a Code of Excellence (COC) job. Al Gisner Electric was the contractor performing this work. This project had various classifications and they all worked in a professional, workmanlike manner.

Our organizing campaign continues to be a success. We have signed a couple of new contractors along with new members.

Congratulations to Bro. Ervin “Woody” Gregory on his recent retirement. Bro. Gregory, all your hard work and dedication over the years have paid off.

Will Morris, A.B.M.

Golf Outing Benefit
L.U. 82 (em,Unv,tor) DAYTON, OHIO — Local 82 has partnered with the Dayton Physicians Foundation for Hope to put on a golf outing July 13 at Pipestone in Miamisburg, Ohio. Come out and play, and you might win $1,000 on a hole-in-one challenge! Check out the web page ibew82.itemorder.com to register or sponsor this great event.

The Charlie E Tool Fish Fry was another huge success — great turnout! Thanks to all who participated.

Congratulations to all the service-pin recipients and thank you for your long-term service. Also, congratulations to the new class of inside wiresmen and teledata journeymen. Do us proud!

Doug Searcy, P.S.

Groundbreaking for KCI Airport
L.U. 124 (es,em,Rei,Org,Unr,Travel,pm,sp,sta) KANSAS CITY, MO — IBEW Local 124 and a labor-wide contingent recently celebrated the groundbreaking for our new Kansas City International Airport. (Photo, at right)

This project has been a long campaign for organized labor, starting many years before voters approved the new single-terminal airport in November 2017. It will replace our current three-terminal airport that was built by organized labor in 1972.

The new $1.5 billion terminal will have more than 1 million square feet. There will be shopping and restaurants inside the terminal and 6.3,000 parking spaces across the street. The new terminal is expected to create 5,000 construction-related jobs. This is great news for Local 124 and organized labor.

Steve Morales, P.S.

Local Lines

Local 80 recently retired members Gary Yoshino (left), Michael Caglia, Reginald East, and Troy Guynn.

Longtime Career of Service
L.U. 102 (em,govt,mt,o&ws), PATERNSON, NJ — We would like to congratulate Bro. Gary Pfan on his retirement and thank him for his dedicated, longtime service.

Gary Pfan became a member of the IBEW in 1987. His impact was immediately felt at then-Local 64, and when his former local was amalgamated into Local 102 he didn’t miss a beat. For Gary it was never about the number attached to the local union, it was about making things better for our membership.

Gary served as a trustee on our JATC, Welfare, Surety, and Pension Funds. He was an Executive Board member, Building Trades president, and most recently he has served as our assistant business manager.

He began his career as a business representa tive in 1998. During his career, he has gained the respect of the building trades community, our contractors, and the end users we serve. Gary’s work ethic is without question — at Local 102 we could not wish for a better friend or a stronger advocate for workers’ rights. Gary’s presence in the Union County region of our jurisdiction has had a direct impact on our market share in that area. His presence in our union office has touched us all forever. On behalf of the membership of Local 102 we wish Gary and his wife, Janice, a long and healthy retirement. He will be missed!

Bennie Carriag, Pres.

Local Hosts AFL-CIO Event
L.U. 130 (i, NEW ORLEANS, LA — The AFL-CIO hosted its annual winter Executive Council Meeting here at Local 130 in our Alexander Room. The 2019 meeting was a week-long event, which also utilized three board rooms and two functional staff rooms. Local 130 was honored to host all the AFL-CIO affiliated union presidents from across the continent. Louisana Gov. John Bell Edwards was a guest speaker. He welcomed the AFL-CIO and expressed his support for our mission.

Local 130 Bus. Mgr. Mr. Zulli was appointed to the Electrical Training Alliance by IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stevenson. Bus. Mgr. Zulli attended his first ETA meeting in February. He looks forward to attending our Apprenticeship Committee meeting to discuss different procedures and programs that could benefit our apprentices.

Our apprentices will transition from attending day classes back to attending evening classes beginning next semester. This transition will enable us to re-evaluate how we combine the hands-on education with the scholastic. We will also hire additional instructors who could bring a new dynamic with our hands-on experience.

Election conversation is in the air, and many candidates are entering the 2020 presidential race. Our membership must focus on how we make a living and how politics affects us. We are family oriented, morally involved members who want to do what is responsible. We have friends in both political parties.

What is also important today is supporting candidates who support unions.

So why would we support politicians who support so-called “right-to-work” proposals and union busting? Why would we support politicians who lie to us about tax cut measures that actually prevent us from using travel expenses as write-offs, yet give billionaires a pass on their taxes? Before you pull that voting lever, please research the candidates on how they support your bread and butter.

Buck Bect, P.S.

Elected Mayor
L.U. 134 (catvm,govt,Unr,tor,sta,sp,sta) CHICAGO, IL — After a very crowded field of 14 candidates in the Chicago mayoral primary, Lori Lightfoot received the endorsement of IBEW Local 134 and went on to defeat Cook County Board Pres. Toni Preckwinkle on April 2.

Our endorsement was of great importance to the membership of Local 134 as well as the IBEW. One very telling example of the value of this endorsement and the importance to organized labor is our market share in Chicago. It is well noted that when viewing the skyline of Chicago, the official bird of the city, “the crane”, is visible. With over 60 of these construction cranes in operation last year, all are union job sites. There are hundreds of job sites that generate tens of millions of hours of wages along with health care and retirement benefits.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot has assured Local 134 and the building trades this will continue during her term as mayor. Lightfoot’s commitment to transparent government and building the middle class with jobs, education and the union movement is what we agree with. To outgoing mayor Rahm Emanuel, thank you for your support of Local 134.

Kevin Connolly, R.S.

Graduation Celebration;
Four-Year Contract Ratified
L.U. 134 (em,Jan) DECatur, IL — On May 11, the graduating apprentices enjoyed a nice evening to celebrate their success following five hard-working and studious years. The following received their certificates: Darren Allin, Don Brown, Brandon Bryant, Jon Burkhart, Tyler Cothen, Blake Davis, Antonio Douglas, Adam Genesler, Alan Hardy, Richard Kar, Jon Kosper, Tanner Miller, Alan Presley, Kevin Rhodes, Tom Tripp, Ian Weddle, Jacob Gough, Paul Gribbon and Tyler Murphy.

Congratulations also go to recently retired members: Steve Cunningham, Rodney McClain, Kent Reesor and Bob Sargent. We sincerely wish a long and happy retirement for these four.

June 8 is the date for our annual golf outing, to be held at the Lakeshore Golf Club in Taylorville. Good times, good food, and good brotherhood are in the forecast.

Members recently ratified a new four-year contract with the Illinois chapter NECA, Midstate Division, by a vote of 136-18. Serving on our negotiating committee were: Justin Martin, Ken Musick, Josh Sapp, Steve Tifford, John Warner and Jeff Westendorf.

Our local reports a good picture this summer including two potential wind farms, Decatur Public Schools projects, a Millikin University project, more than 100 electricians at ADM, and a late spring start for our much-anticipated $1.6 billion fertilizer plant project.

Steve Tifford, R.S.

‘Fun Activities & Events’ — Promoting Brotherhood
L.U. 154 (em,Lo&k), JERSEY CITY, NJ — The Local 164 Social Committee has another exciting event coming up June 18, when they hold a trip to see the New York Yankees play the Tampa Bay Rays.

The committee, headed up by Bro. D.L. Heal, runs annual bus trips to see hometown sports teams, including a New York Yankees, New Jersey Devils, and New York Giants game. Also scheduled is an annual fluke fishing trip set for July 27 this year. This is a wonderful committee that works hard year around to put on fun events for our members that
show our support of our tri-state area sports teams. Bro. D.J. Heald said he “sees the committee as a great way to promote brotherhood, solidarity and friendship among members off the job site as well as being great family fun.” This shows in the fact that the games are attended by apprentices, active journeymen and retirees as well as many of their children and family members. D.J. thanks the entire committee for all their hard work coordinating and organizing the events; they include Jim Flaherty Jr., Matt Benevento and Tom DiGiovanni among others. The committee thanks Bus. Mgr. Dan Gumble, Pres. Tom Sullivan, the Executive Board, and the membership for all the support.

Warren M. Becker, V.P.

Apprenticeship Readiness Class Sponsored by Building Trades

L.U. 234 (bkm), CASTROVILLE, CA — IBEW Local 234 proudly participated in our building trades’ sponsorship of another Apprentice Readiness Mult-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) class. The cohort of 25 young men between the ages of 18 and 25 graduated on March 29. Rancho Celio in Salinas, various community groups, the Laborers’ union, and our Local 234 all pulled together to help these young men take a step closer to fulfilling their dreams of obtaining well-paying careers with benefits. Those careers will start as apprentices in unionized trades. The North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU) developed, promotes, and supports MC3. MC3 has been providing an opportunity for individuals to achieve a life goal of being a productive community member. From each of us here at Local 234, congratulations to each of you and we look forward to working together to build a bright future.

Stephen Slowacek, P.S.

“Support Prevailing Wage”

L.U. 316 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&st), ALBANY, NY — Local 316 members attended two rallies at the state Capitol building in Albany to support expansion of prevailing wage to all projects that receive any public financing, including privately backed construction projects. Some of our apprentices replaced an electrical service for a disabled utility inspector who was severely injured in a high voltage accident and fall. Other apprentices participated in their very successful annual canned-food drive.

Brotherhood in Action

L.U. 360 (t, AKRON, OHIO — A local union does not function on its own — it takes brotherhood to survive. Throughout the years many of our members, officers and apprentices have given much of their time and resources to help this local as well as with their own communities where they show neighbors and fellow citizens what labor unions and the IBEW are all about. During the past year, many have rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to help the less fortunate. Some members have helped to build with Habitat for Humanity or to revitalize a home for a disabled woman. Some of our apprentices replaced an electrical service for a disabled utility inspector who was severely injured in a high voltage accident and fall. Many more have given back by assisting with our numerous social events.

Thomas Wright, P.S.

“A Highly Successful Year”

L.U. 340 (t, SACRAMENTO, CA — The first half of 2019 was a very successful time for our local. We have been extremely busy with multiple job fairs, Trade Shows, Pins, Steward Training classes, Open House, local elections, community involvement, signing on new contractors and of course, bringing in many, many new IBEW Local 340 members to fulfill the huge number of job calls coming through our union hall.

Our Organizer, Membership Development Department is working nonstop to ensure that we continue to grow. Their enthusiasm to fill the needs of our signatory employers by filling the many job calls coming in is infectious. They are organizing community events and creating opportunities that result in our local signing up past competitors and their employees in order to show them the IBEW way of life.

Robert D. Ward, B.M.

Dedicated Service Recognized

L.U. 302 (lt&tskpa), MARTINEZ, CA — This January, Bro. Jeff Phillips stepped down after serving as president of the Skillcraft Committee for 35 years. His dedication and commitment have kept our current facility looking brand new for 19 years! Jerry was one of the founding members of our PAC committee and became a member of the IBEW in 1961. He served on the Executive Board from 1989 to 2001. Jerry’s service to this local is a wonderful example to new and younger members of how participation is the key to our success.

Bro. Jeff Lucit retired from the Health and Welfare Committee, where he’s served since 1998. Jeff became a member in 1957 and served from 2004 to 2010 as treasurer and president.

These two brothers have our gratitude for their time and dedication. We have some big shoes to fill!

Melissa Vaughn, P.S.

Steady Work Picture

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL — Throughout the first half of 2019, IBEW Local 364 remained busy with several projects finishing up and new ones ramping up. The 160-room Hilton Embassy Suites project is well underway with several drywall men/women on-site. This $71 million project has a December 2019 completion date. The new Costco superstore is starting to take shape, with manpower estimates up to 20 wimen for this construction project.

The Byron generating station outage is complete. Many thanks go out to our traveling brothers and sisters who helped us man the work.

Bro. Williams, P.S.

Golf Tournament Benefit

L.U. 420 (u), WATERBURY, CT — This year in July we once again will be hosting our annual Charitable Golf Tournament. All proceeds will continue to go to the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. This year we should go over the $200,000 mark, all toward the benefit of children in our local. We would like all members and friends to come out for our third year dedicating the golf tournament in memorial to our friend, our brother, and former business manager Frank Cirillo.

Joseph Malcarne, B.M.

Politicaly Active Members

L.U. 424 (as,es,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

Local 424 members prepared for the election by passing a motion to support the “stop the race to the bottom” campaign. This is an initiative put forward by the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) to address the concerns of unionized construction workers in Alberta. It will contain a series of videos and website information related to regressive labour laws like “double-breasting.”

Local 424 members also passed a motion to endorse Jon Carson as the candidate for Edmon-ton-West Henday for the provincial election. Brother Carson was first elected to the legislature in 2015 as the member for Edmonton-Meadowlark. Thank you to everyone who came out to support Brother Carson during the election.

The local’s new website is near completion and should be operational by mid-June. We thank our members for their patience with its development. There has been a lot of data to be transferred from the three different websites into one user-friendly site for our members to use.

Scott Crichton, P.S.

Training Center Expansion

L.U. 494 (em,catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), MILWAUKEE, WI — Milwaukee Electrical Training Trust purchased former IIT Technical Institute on Layton Avenue in Greenfield. Milwaukee Electrical Joint Apprenticeship & Training Center (JATC) will operate two training center facilities — the south campus on Layton Avenue in Greenfield and the north campus on West Plank Court in Wauwatosa. The training centers are for Milwau-
Annual Picnic & Pin Ceremony
L.U. 646 (Lmt/E), RICHMOND, VA — Local 666 is heading into its 120th year with a continued strong workforce. Many large projects are underway and many more are on the horizon. As always, we extend a heartfelt thank you to all the brothers and sisters from other locals who have come out to give us a hand. The 666 RENEW committee has really taken off, more than doubling in size in the past year. Through various activities such as highway cleanup and charity walks, the committee has done an excellent job of providing a positive community impact on behalf of our local. Thank you to all the brothers and sisters who contributed stickers to the cornhole board project. The boards are ready if you find yourself in Richmond during one of our events!

Several members recently participated in the 16-week Foreman Development class. The class is designed to teach the skills necessary to become an effective leader to people considering a foreman position. With so many seasoned leaders heading toward a well-deserved retirement, we are truly fortunate to have so many younger members willing to step up and fill their shoes. Safe travels to all this summer.

Jeremy Davis, P.S.

New Contracts Ratified
L.U. 7021, L.U. 250C, CATV, EM, IT, LCTT, MO, MT, RTS, SPA, and U, PHOENIX, AZ — We held our annual IBEW Local 640 picnic and pin ceremony on March 9, and it was a huge success, with our largest crowd to date of over 1,000 members and their families. Congratulations to Lonzie Lee, who won the pie eating contest! We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Lionel Webb and all the volunteers who helped to make it a great time for everyone. Congratulations to all the service-pin recipients also! Our work picture is still looking good for the foreseeable future. We would like to thank all our traveling brothers and sisters who have come to help us fill our calls. We have the Intel project, plus several other various commercial and industrial projects.

Tim Wilson, B.R./P.S.

Service Awards Presented; Two Generations Recognized
L.U. 712, B.R., BEAVER, PA — At our December 2018 union meeting, we had 27 honorees who received their IBEW years-of-service pins. Each of these members received a pin for being a member for 50 to 70 years. We had the honor of presenting Richard J. Halicek his 70-year pin. His son, Richard M. Halicek, is also a member of Local 712 and recently received his 35-year pin. Richard J. Halicek served as a journeyman wireman for several contractors until his retirement in 1992. His son, Richard M. Halicek, is currently a journeyman wireman working at the Beaver Valley Power Station in Hookstown, PA.

We thank both members for their dedication and service to Local 712.

Frank E. Telesz Jr., B.M.

‘A Great Place to Work’
L.U. 716 (Lmt, Lctt, RTS, SPA), HOUSTON, TX — Hello, brothers and sisters! I hope everyone is doing well. I am happy to report that our contractors are aggressively bidding work in our jurisdiction, and we are seeing job calls starting to pick up. We appreciate the other locals that have put our members to work. Congratulations to our class of 2019 apprentice-ship graduates. We now have 50 new journeyman wiremen. Job well done, graduates.

The retirees enjoyed a well-deserved luau and service-pin presentation. One retiree, Eli Hudson, received his 70-year service pin. Congratulations to all the retirees who received service pins. Thank you to all for your longtime service to the IBEW. Thanks to all the volunteers and attendees at the St. Patrick’s Day parade. This was the Houston St. Patrick’s Day Parade Commission’s 50th anniversary honoring the parade. Also, thanks to those who joined us for the Cesar Chavez march as well.

Sharon Williams, R.S./P.S.

‘Organizing is Our Focus’
L.U. 1116 (Lmt, Lctt), TUCSON, AZ — Greetings, brothers and sisters! Please join IBEW Local 1116 in welcoming Andy Betancourt as our new TRIO Unit chairman. Andy replaces Chris Neely, who accepted a management position.

Organizing is our focus this year and we are taking another run at Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Co-Op. SSVEC is the largest nonunion co-op in Arizona. Bus. Rep. Sara Morales is working with State Organizing Coordinator Robert Sample, scheduling meetings with those employees. If you’re interested in organizing, please contact Sara at the union hall. Internal organizing is ongoing. If there are any nonmembers in your work area, talk to them about becoming a member, or if you’re not comfortable with that, contact your E-Board representative to speak with them.

The Women’s Committee has been established. Contact Alberta Adrian, Jackie Ehresman, Sue Trumbull or me if you’re interested in joining us! We are working on what our focus will be and what we can do for all of you and our union.

The temperatures are climbing. Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Be sure to use your sunscreen, stay hydrated and get into the shade when you have an opportunity to. Snakes, bees and other creepy crawlers are out and about, so be aware. Stay safe!

Andrew Weiner, P.S./E-Board

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Sharon Williams, R.S./P.S.
Honored for Career of Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — At this early spring writing, it’s finally starting to get warm here... The Retirees Club meeting will be July 12, Sept. 18 (lunchtime), and Nov. 20. We’ll start at about 10 a.m. Come to a meeting and reconnect and reminisce with former tool partners.

Retired member Tom George Sr., former president of Local 1 and former Missouri state representative, was honored by the Missouri Alliance for Retired Americans at a recent luncheon. He was recognized for his many decades of service helping working people of Missouri. Congratulations, Tom.

Spring & Summer Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — Greetings to all! Well, we had a long winter (regardless of the groundhog’s prediction)! But, thankfully, weather-wise, not too bad in our area. As of this writing, we’re enjoying spring weather and looking forward to our “snowbirds” return. Several members attended the 31st Annual Reunion for Local 3 retirees in February. This year it was held at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. It was a great luncheon and opportunity to connect and reconnect with others.

We continue our monthly meetings throughout the year and are looking forward to our spring luncheon at La TerraRestara Restaurant, our visit to Santorini, and our annual picnic at Knuckles Picnic Grove. Plans are in the works for fall season activities. Wishing everyone a great summer!

John Krison, P.S.

2019 Local 3 Retirees Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — This year’s Local 3 Retirees Luncheon was again held in the grand ballroom of the beautiful Sheraton Center in Manhattan on Feb. 22.

New Club Established On Maryland’s Eastern Shore

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 24, BALTIMORE, MD, EASTERN SHORE CHAPTER — In 2018, retired members of Local 24 got together and established a second Local 24 Retired Members Club, the Eastern Shore Chapter, which was chartered in June 2018. Club members have enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with old friends, and to trade stories of the jobs they worked on over the years.

Richard Mills, Tres.

Travel & Events Update

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — It is my pleasure to announce results of the Retired Members Club’s election of officers. At our club meeting on Feb. 9, officers were elected for a three-year term: Pres. Richard “Dick” A. Bissell, Vice Pres. Richard...
\textbf{LOCAL LINES}\hfill

\textbf{Service to Community}\hfill

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 160, MINNEAPOLIS, MN — IBEW Local 160 and the Retirees Club made a $1,000 donation to the Firefighters for Healing organization, presented to FF4H founder Jake LaFerriere. Firefighters for Healing helps to support the Firefighter community, burn-injured children, their families and anyone going through recovery from a fire. The organization helps with replacing essentials when all has been lost in a fire. They contribute financial assistance for corrective surgeries and donate to local burn units.

\textbf{‘A True Brotherhood’}\hfill

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Welcome, summer! The freezing temperatures in Chicago last winter, with wind chills of 50-degrees below zero, caused many problems for us all. With power outages, horrible road conditions, and our first responders like our fire fighters having to work in these conditions, we salute you all.

Here in Chicago we did enjoy a chilly but sunny day for our March luncheon meeting, which had a St. Patrick’s Day theme. About 75 to 80 members enjoyed an excellent lunch of corned beef and cabbage. This was also our first luncheon meeting held in the beautiful Memorial Hall at Local 134’s new building. At this meeting, we also held our Retirees Club’s odd-year election for our Executive Board members. James Martin, Donald Mahoney and Richard Connolly were re-elected and sworn in by Local 134 Bus. Mgr. Don Finn.

The IBEW Local 134 helping hand fund was created to assist brother and sister members in need of assistance. Through all the generous donations we were previously received, we have been able to help over 400 brother and sister members by providing various forms of assistance. Our fundraising party in April 2019 once again proved that we are a true brotherhood.

Have a fun and safe summer.

Sue Kleczka, P.S.

\textbf{Retirees Take Action To Defeat Pension Attack}\hfill

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OHIO — Last April, over 1,000 IBEW leaders visited Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., to inform our legislators that this plan was a really bad idea. The mobilization action was successful in stopping the attack for now. Medicare and Social Security benefits could be next. Don’t wait for this to happen. Contact your elected representatives and senators and let them know you disagree with this type of band-aid legislation. At our March meeting, that is what our Local 212 retired members did. We mailed postcards to our congressmen and told them: “Keep your hands off my pension — I am watching you and I vote.” We need must always remain vigilant. [Editor’s Note: To read more, see December 2018 news article “IBEW Leaders Mobilize on Capitol Hill to Kill Pension Legislation,” posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/articles.]

It is with great sadness that I report the recent passing of several IBEW Local 212 members: Stephan Book, who was a 62-year member; Charles Pleister (58-year member); Robert Channel (68-year member); Daniel Patterson (45-year member); and Charles Buckler (24-year member). May God grant them eternal rest.

The Retirees Club Picnic will be at Fernbank Park on July 3. The Local 212 Family Summer Picnic will be held in early August at Stricker’s Grove in Ross, Ohio.

Bob Scheufer, P.S.

\textbf{Annual Luncheon a Success}\hfill

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — The Annual Retiree Luncheon was April 2 at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, in Mount Vernon, IL, with 110 retirees and guests in attendance.


Bus. Mgr. Sue Hewitt addressed attendees, introduced current and retired staff and Executive Board members, and thanked Cindy’s Catering for the great food.

Door prizes were won by Keith Feely (1922 neon sign) and Duane White (Cardinals tickets), while Frank Baker, Leon Langar, Sue Maculavics, David Pasley, John Prusaczyk and Donna Girten won gift certificates. Mark Nix and Chuck Prusaczyk each won a knife donated by Harley.

Retirees Club Pres. Gary King read the financial statement, reported deaths for March and April, extended the club’s appreciation to Bus. Mgr. Hughart, then mentioned the club’s goal of establishing a scholarship. The next Retirees Club meeting will be June 6 at Golden Coral in Carbondale, IL. For next year, the annual luncheon is tentatively planned for April 7.

Pres. King closed the meeting with a thank-you to all retirees and their families for their dedication and loyalty to IBEW Local 702.

Mark Baker, P.S.

\textbf{‘See You in September’}\hfill

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 375, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — Hope everyone is doing well! We wish you a safe, happy and healthy summer break. We look forward to seeing club members again in September.

Congratulations to our chili cookoff winners, Greg Stone and Bonnie Pettingill, and thank you to our judges. We would like to ask club members that

Ladies Long Sleeve T-Shirt $11.00
100% organic cotton, long sleeve scoop neck t-shirt. Shirt is semi-fitted for the perfect length and fit. Features IBEW initials with fist and lightning bolts on left cuff.

Logo Watch with Date $80.00
Men’s gold-tone watch with black dial, gold IBEW logo and date. Watches have a two-year manufacturer’s warranty.

Gold Umbrella $41.00
Red and black golf umbrella with 62" arc, fiberglass shaft & rubberized handles. IBEW logo on 2 panels.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

Some of the newly retired members of Local 375.

Also, tragically, Local 257 member Mark Hooibrink and his wife, Laura, lost their home to fire in Clayville, NY. Our prayers are with them and with all those who have a speedy recovery from their loss.

For our April 30 meeting, we enjoyed a wonderful trip to Warm Springs Ranch, in Boonville, MO, home to the famous Budweiser Clydesdales.

Delores Melloway, P.S.
The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was $169,579,723. These expenses included $9,999,321 in administrative expenses and $159,580,402 in benefits paid to participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, 900 7th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210.
Rico Albacarys didn’t think or stew when he was turned down for a Baltimore Local 24 apprenticeship back in 2010. Instead, he got back to work—and the right people noticed.

Albacarys, who was unemployed at the time following the closure of the printing facility he worked for, decided not to attend college. Instead, he worked nonunion construction near his home northeast of the city.

A year later, he got a call from Local 24 officials asking him to re-interview for the apprenticeship when they noticed he had met their standard of working at least 450 hours in construction.

“When someone goes out and gets some more experience, we’ll bring them back in for another interview because it shows they’ve taken an interest in the industry,” said Local 24 training director Neil Wilford, who was the local’s training coordinator at the time. “He’s out there working. We don’t want him working against us. Let’s give him a chance to work with us.”

This time, Albacarys was accepted. Now 35, he’s an emerging young leader at Local 24 and the subject of one of the IBEW’s latest national television advertisements. The series of new ads highlights the value of IBEW membership for young people in search of a career that will provide a stable, middle-class life for them and their families.

The commercials, which will air nationally, put a face on a decision many young people across North America are facing today: graduate from college with mountains of debt and no job prospects, or get paid to learn with a career in the union trades. With more baby boomers set to retire during the next few years, the construction industry, especially, is facing a looming worker shortage that must be addressed.

“A lot of people my age are drowning in college debt,” Albacarys says during the commercial, which also features his wife, Lauren, and their two young daughters. “But I chose a different path. I’m a member of the IBEW.”

Albacarys knew job opportunities in the struggling printing industry would be scarce, so he ruled out returning to it. He enjoyed working with his hands, but knew he would be working at a low salary with paltry benefits as a nonunion electrician.

So when he had a chance to be a Local 24 apprentice—where he was paid from the moment his education started—he jumped at it. His pay immediately increased from $9 to $13 an hour.

“Working as an IBEW member was the first time I had a career and not just a job,” said Albacarys, who topped out as a journeyman wireman in 2015 and has seen his salary more than double. “I would have had to keep working if I had gone to college, and if you’re working full time, who knows how long it would take to get a degree. And then, who knows about debt.”

“The first day as an apprentice, you’re starting your career.”

Albacarys was born in Puerto Rico, but his family moved to suburban Baltimore when he was 2 years old. He wasn’t exposed to unions growing up. He now views his time as a nonunion worker as a benefit.

“It’s not just the money,” he said. “It’s a feeling that you can do something with others that can make a difference.”

Today, he works for signatory contractor EASI Electrical in Pasadena, Md., and teaches at the training center where he was a student just a few years ago. He is a member of Local 24’s examining board and was a founder of its Reach Out and Engage Next Generation Electrical Worker committee—the IBEW’s initiative to get members 35 and younger more involved in the union.

“He was a model apprentice,” Wilford said. “I agree with that. I didn’t have and being part of something bigger than yourself.”

That’s how he felt when he took part in a labor rally with union members from across Maryland at the state Capitol in Annapolis. Or, when he attended the Construction Conference and was in the audience for former Vice President Joe Biden’s speech.

“It’s not just the money,” he said. “It’s a feeling that you can do something big. It’s a reminder of why it’s important to be active in the local. The benefits of being part of the Brotherhood need to be protected, he said.

“He was a model apprentice,” Wilford said. “He seemed to take command in class. If people needed help, he would try to help them out. He asked questions and we got good reports on him out on the job.”

Today, he works for signatory contractor EASI Electrical in Pasadena, Md., and teaches at the training center where he was a student just a few years ago. He is a member of Local 24’s examining board and was a founder of its Reach Out and Engage Next Generation Electrical Worker committee—the IBEW’s initiative to get members 35 and younger more involved in the union.

“International Secretary Kenneth Cooper always says IBEW membership was his ticket to the middle class,” Albacarys said. “I agree with that. I didn’t grow up dirt poor, but we weren’t very well off. It means giving to my family what I didn’t have and being part of something bigger than yourself.”

“Working as an IBEW member was the first time I had a career and not just a job.”

Rico Albacarys, Local 24

“I can do that, too. I can change my life – Rico Albacarys, Local 24

Faces of the IBEW: Second-Chance Baltimore Wireman Headlines New Ad Campaign

Baltimore Local 24 wireman Rico Albacarys is one of the faces of the IBEW and Local 24 apprenticeship campaign. See the new ads at YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker.