Has the NLRB Lost Its Way?

“Everybody needs a law that is precise and certain.”

Sen. Robert F. Wagner was matter-of-fact in his call for Congress to pass the National Labor Relations Act in 1935: The New Deal’s labor board was failing American workers.

The oversight agency had become a “maze of confusion and contradictions… a sham and a delusion,” Wagner said. Workers were struggling to survive while business and industry reaped the rewards of the nation’s recovery from the Great Depression.

With the stroke of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s pen that July, the NLRB was law. It laid the foundation for a National Labor Relations Board with the power to enforce the right of workers to organize, bargain contracts and lawfully strike when management refused to play by the rules.

The Act wasn’t perfect. It excluded many workers and its remedies were weak. But it was a huge step forward. As union membership grew over the next 40 years, so did the economy. Working families prospered, able to buy homes, send their children to college, take vacations and look forward to a secure retirement.

If unions were the nails in building America’s middle class, the NLRB was the hammer. Wagner, who authored the Social Security Act that same year, understood that. What would he think now?
Speaking Up for Workers

This was a busy summer for those of us committed to bettering the lives of working families.

Here in Washington, we were able to push several of our highest priorities to passage in the House of Representatives, and we just wrapped up a major effort to preserve the quality of IBEW apprenticeships at the Department of Labor.

We asked each of you to help through stories here in the Electrical Worker, on IBEW.org or in messages from your local union, and you delivered.

To those of you who made calls or wrote letters, thank you. In the late days of July, the U.S. House passed the Butch Lewis Act, something you've read about many times in these pages. It's a loan program to help preserve retirement security for millions of Americans who have multiemployer pensions like many of those run by the IBEW.

International Secretary-Treasurer Cooper's column below will go into more detail, but I'll just say that we were only able to get that bill passed because IBEW leaders showed up when we asked and members made calls and sent emails to their representatives of Congress.

Days before that, the House overwhelmingly passed a repeal of the “Cadillac Tax,” a well-meaning but misguided tax on high-quality health care plans like many of those negotiated by IBEW locals. The tax was meant to curb excessive health care giveaways to CEOs and corporate executives, but it eventually swallowed up union members who'd given up raises or other compensation to negotiate for better benefits. Republicans and Democrats in the House were able to agree that punishing working people was a mistake, and IBEW members were a key part of the coalition that made that happen. But now, as Labor Day is here and lawmakers are back in Washington, we need your help again. Both of these bills could end up like mountains of other legislation — stuck in the Senate without a vote on the floor.

No matter what party your senators represent, you need to pick up the phone or fire up your email and let them know that Butch Lewis (Senate Bill 2254) and the Cadillac Tax repeal (House Resolution 768) deserve a vote and that business managers can only do what we do if we're backed up by all of you. An engaged, collective voice speaking out for working people is what union brotherhood is all about.

But these troubled plans in other industries are in trouble. It’s not the workers’ fault. In most cases, it’s not even the pension managers’ fault. Instead, the once-plentiful jobs that helped balance outgoing pension payments with incoming paycheck contributions are vanishing as the economy evolves. But if we’re not out there speaking up for important issues, then no one is looking out for working families. We don’t have armies of highly-paid corporate lobbyists. You have us, and when you’re speaking out with a single voice, there’s nothing more powerful.

Thank you for sticking with us and speaking out for working people.

Find your senators at Senate.gov.

A Win for Pension Promises

Back in July, many of you helped pull off something that’s pretty extraordinary in Washington these days: a bipartisan victory for workers.

For months, we’ve banded together with our brothers and sisters in other unions to support the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pension Plans Act, better known as the “Butch Lewis Act.” Amazingly, a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives voted for the bill — every single Democrat and 29 Republicans.

As your International Secretary-Treasurer and a trustee of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, I’m happy to report that nearly all of the IBEW’s multiemployer pension plans have been wisely invested and are doing well. We’re in good shape because our industry is strong.

But several major multiemployer plans in other industries are in trouble. It’s not the workers’ fault. In most cases, it’s not even the pension managers’ fault. Instead, the once-plentiful jobs that helped balance outgoing pension payments with incoming paycheck contributions are vanishing as the economy evolves.

Let me tell you, it’s a recipe for disaster.

For 45 years, the federal government’s Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation has served as a safety net for working people’s pensions. It guarantees that if a plan collapses, workers won’t be left holding the bag.

But these troubled plans in other industries all go under — and without intervention, that’s almost a certainty — it would bankrupt the PBGC, endangering every single pension in the whole country, including yours.

That’s where Butch Lewis comes in. It’s designed to help take pressure off of the PBGC by creating a new federal loan agency tasked with figuring out how to bring troubled plans back to solvency. You can read more about it on Page 7 of this issue.

But here’s the important thing. It’s not a bailout; these loans would be fully repaid. You and I know, a pension is a promise that if you work hard and put away a little from each paycheck throughout your career, you’ll be able to retire securely and comfortably when the time comes. Imagine having that promise destroyed. Without a fix, millions of our brothers and sisters in other unions could be facing just that.

For the past year, we’ve lobbied, rallied, written and called, and we came on top in the House. Thank you for that.

But the Senate is where good bills go to die. We need to keep up the pressure, and that means we need you to call your senators at 202-224-3121 and tell them to support Sen. Sherrod Brown’s SB 2254, the Butch Lewis Act. Together, we can help ensure that everyone’s pension promises are kept promises.

“Letters to the Editor”

Fighting Addiction

Thank you for your cover story on opioid abuse in the construction industry in August’s Electrical Worker. There are so many people suffering, and no one wants to talk about it.

This is a great start.

I work at Local 1245 with a program called the Peer Volunteer Program. It’s been run by Pacific Gas and Electric since 2000 and is available to all employees to help those with substance abuse issues have a safe place to seek help. We have over 30 union and management employees who volunteer with the program that’s available 24/7. All of our volunteers are in recovery from alcohol and addiction and are at least two years clean and sober.

We reach out to employees through annual safety meetings and have helped hundreds of PG&E employees over the years. I’m retired now, but I work as a presenter on behalf of Local 1245, I’m always struck by how quiet rooms get when they learn that the presenters were all active addicts and alcoholics; people start listening because that makes it real.

I just want others to know that we have firsthand knowledge of what it’s like to struggle with addiction and we’re here to help. There’s more information available about our program at www.peervolunteers.org and we’d be happy to talk to other IBEW locals interested in setting up similar programs. The first step to recovery is talking about the issue, and I’m glad to see that happening at the IBEW.

Brent Turner, Local 1245 retiree
Vacaville, Calif.

Adventures Past

I enjoyed July’s Electrical Worker article about Brother John Murphy’s adventure to Antarctica [The Electrician at the End of the Earth, July 2019]. It brought back a lot of memories of my own time there more than 50 years ago.

In 1963, I was a third-year apprentice with New York Local 3 and also a member of the U.S. Navy. I went active in July of that year, when I was assigned to the USS Glacier out of Boston. We sailed through the Panama Canal and to Christchurch, New Zealand, where we resupplied. We then headed to McMurdo Station in Antarctica, where our ship broke a channel through the ice to allow cargo ships to offload their supplies.

I spent 14 months on the ice, and though I was a third-class electrician on the ship, I spent most of my time installing piping that allowed ships to offload various types of fuel needed to sustain the station.

I was impressed by my fellow Local 3 brother’s great adventure. Thanks for sharing it.

William Horn, Local 3 retiree
New York

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.

Say ‘No’ to Florida Energy Deregulation

Responding to “Florida Activists Fight to Fend Off Deregulation Threat” from last month’s Electrical Worker:

Deregulation is just another word for lining some rich peoples’ pockets.

Roger Eberstein, Local 131 retiree
Kalamazoo, Mich.
the transition from military to civilian life can be a difficult one for servicemen and women. Gone are the regular paychecks, the camaraderie and the shared sense of mission. That first step after military discharge often feels like a leap into the unknown. But for soldiers, sailors, airmen or Marines looking for a career in the trades, the Veterans Electrical Entry Program can solve a lot of those problems. “We’re a great fit,” said Kyle Kaiser, Lead Organizer for Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547, who works with VEEP. “It’s great for the servicemen and it’s great for the IBEW.”

Local 1547’s first JATC to jointly host the VEEP curriculum with the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association’s long-time training arm, the Electrical Training Alliance Executive Director Todd Stafford says ETA is working to expand the program to other locals and training centers close to major military bases.

Anchorage is home to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, where thousands of U.S. servicemen are stationed, often far removed from the places they’ll call home when they leave the service. VEEP works with base leadership to provide an opportunity for servicemen and women in their final six months to complete their first year of apprenticeship training in an intensive, full-time course.

The free, seven-week pre-apprenticeship training works in tandem with the more than 300 JATCs across the U.S. to place servicemen and veterans with the experience and training needed to successfully transition out of the military for electrical careers across the country.

Between the Military and What’s Next

The pre-apprenticeship program run out of Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 trains veterans coming out of the military for electrical careers across the country. he added. At the International Convention in 2016, delegates voted on a resolution to support VEEP. It called on the union to work with the NECA and ETA to assist locals in providing training programs for veterans.

The International Office recently rolled out a veterans committee, with one representative in each district. International President Lonnie R. Stephenson is encouraging locals to set up their own committees as well.

“Our vets have given us so much. This is our chance to give something back,” Stephenson said.

Visit alaskaelectricalapprenticeship.org/veep for more information.

VEEP Bridges the Gap Between the Military and What’s Next

The transition from military to civilian life can be a difficult one for servicemen and women. Gone are the regular paychecks, the camaraderie and the shared sense of mission. That first step after military discharge often feels like a leap into the unknown. But for soldiers, sailors, airmen or Marines looking for a career in the trades, the Veterans Electrical Entry Program can solve a lot of those problems. “We’re a great fit,” said Kyle Kaiser, Lead Organizer for Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547, who works with VEEP. “It’s great for the servicemen and it’s great for the IBEW.”

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Has the NLRB Lost Its Way?

TODAY’s National Labor Relations Board is knocking down workers’ rights and affirming management abuses at a breathtaking pace. Recent rulings give employers a green light to eject union organizers from public spaces, to more easily withdraw union recognition, to discriminate against union members in the workplace, to thwart protests and to run roughshod over the rights of people working for subcontractors and franchises. The list goes on.

“You have a board under this administration that is rolling back policies of an Act that was limited from the outset, interpreting it in a way that continues to diminish the rights and protections of employees,” former NLRB Chairman Mark Gaston Pearce told The Electrical Worker.

NLRB members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate for staggered five-year terms. By tradition, but not spelled out in the law itself, the party in the White House controls three of the board’s five seats and nominates two from the minority party.

The current board is split 3-2, with a lone pro-worker voice drowned out by three GOP appointees, two of them from “union-avoidance” law firms that help management skirt labor law and crush organizing drives.

The fifth seat is vacant. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell blocked Pearce from being reconfirmed when his term expired in 2018 and has indicated he will do the same with any future Democratic nominee.

Pearce, who heads a new Workers’ Rights Institute opening at Georgetown University this fall, is careful to talk about the NLRB in the context of history. For starters, it wasn’t born of altruism.

“The Act states clearly that it was designed to be a constitutional instrument from their obligations to employees. To be sure, Wagner had fought tireless- ly for workers since leading a four-year probe of New York’s deadly Triangle Shirtwaist fire in 1912. As a state senator, he introduced more than 50 labor reforms; 38 became law. Fellow progressives were appalled by reports of fatalities, but what they wanted most of all was labor peace. “There was a lot of strike activity going on,” Pearce said. “It was affecting the economy.”

He stressed the NLRB’s many shortcomings and how the anti-union Taft-Hart ley Act of 1947 made things worse.

Still, the NLRB’s mission to balance the scales for workers is unambiguous. Section 1 cites employers’ “denial” of their workers’ right to organize and makes it the policy of the United States to address the “inequality of bargaining power” by “encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association.”

“The Act was not designed to be neutral,” Pearce said. “It was designed to be a protection for workers.”

On paper, it still is. In practice, it depends on who’s interpreting it.

“What we’re seeing and what we’re hearing from the current chairman is his feeling that the board needs to be sensitive to the quote-unquote ‘job creators,’” Pearce said. “He is specifically stating that the board has a responsibility to interpret the NLRA with those kinds of concerns in mind, which is completely contrary to the language of the Act.”

“The Act states clearly that it was designed to facilitate and foster collective bargaining.”

UNIONS

held out some hope for the NLRB after the 2016 elections, in light of the incoming president’s many promises to workers. Then the board threw out five Obama-era rulings in a single week.

The board was at full strength at the time, late 2017, and had done damage when subcontractors and franchi- see. The board’s biggest target that week was the joint-employer standard. A 2015 ruling against Browning-Ferris Industries had updated it to hold parent companies to account when subcontractors and franchi-

The revelation of a member’s conflict of interest forced the board to undo its reversal. Shuffling that off and ignoring a court decision that affirmed Browning-Fer-

The NLRB’s joint-employer safeguard protects workers by ensuring leading firms will be held to account in the courts for the foreseeable future.

“... The NLRB’s joint-employer safeguard provides an important check on corporate power by helping to ensure leading firms don’t buy off workers by self-censorship or other means,” Karla Walter of the Center for Responsible Corporate governance lawyer s e r v i n g a t i o n a l w o r k e r

Continued from page 1

THE current NLRB is escalating attacks on workers’ rights, but unions have had to fight for fairness from GOP-led boards for decades. Above, union members in Chicago march on the city’s NLRB office in 2006 to protest the Bush-era board’s anti-worker agenda.

The consequences, Karla Walter of the Center for American Progress warned in a column for The Hill. “Corporations can cut pay, lower workplace standards, and increase their own profits by outsourcing their workforce. ... The NLRB’s joint-employer safeguard provides an important check on corporate power by helping to ensure leading firms don’t buy off workers by self-censorship or other means,” Karla Walter of the Center for Responsible Corporate governance lawyer s e r v i n g a t i o n a l w o r k e r

THE current board routinely votes 3-2 against workers. Lauren McFerran is the opposing voice.

In her exhaustive dissent, she blasts the shabby foundations of cases the board picks to review and dissects the majority’s pretzel-like arguments.

“Today’s decision reflects a failure to engage in the reasoned decision-making required of the board,” McFerran wrote when the board sided in July with Johnson Controls against the United Auto Workers.

“There is no rational connection between the reasons offered by the majority for rejecting established law and the new approach it adopts here.”

The board made it easier for employ- ers to withdraw union recognition and refuse to bargain collectively, even “in the face of objective evidence that the union has not lost majority support,” she said.

In June, the board ruled 3-2 for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, asserting that managers had the right to call police to kick out two union organizers who were talking quietly with employees over lunch in a public cafeteria.

The majority bought the hospital’s claim that the visitors violated policies barring solicitation and distribution. In fact, managers cited no such policies at the time. McFerran countered, nor had the organizers done anything prohibited.

“... This fact does not trouble the majority,” she wrote. “In effect, the majority invites employers to post ‘No Union Repre- sentatives Allowed’ signs on property that is open to all other members of the public.”

Among other recent 3-2 decisions:

- The board sided with a San Francisco company that fired a group of janitors who picketed a secondary employer in their fight for fair wages and better working conditions. SEIU is appealing. Bloomberg Law said the case has “major implications for what workers can do to protest their employers’ practices.”
- The board in June ordered a Laborer’s local in Brooklyn to deflate its giant rat balloon, a decision quickly reversed by a federal judge on free-speech grounds. The board’s general counsel is pursuing similarly vigorous, determined to extirpate the rat permanently.
- In May, the board found that pharma-
ceuticle giant Merck did nothing wrong by giving nonunion employees an “appreciation” day off — to celebrate soaring profits — while requiring union members to work. McFerran decided the ruling as discriminatory and punitive.

Adding to the alarm, watchdogs warn that the board’s decision-making process is moving further from public view. The Johnson Controls case in July was at least the 10th time the Trump-era board reversed settled law without giving prior notice or seeking public input, Bloomberg Law reported.

“Not providing notice or inviting additional input en route to overruling precedent without being asked feeds criticism that the Trump NLRB is advancing its pro-management agenda more aggressively than past boards pushed their policy priorities,” the article states.

The escalating hostility goes beyond the board itself. Behind the scenes, general counsel and former construction industry lawyer Peter Robb is putting precedent-shattering cases on the front burner, calling for vast structural changes to give the central agency more power over regional offices, and seeking to slash staff and investigatory budgets, among other upheaval.

“He seems to be on a mission that’s really unprecedented,” past NLRB Chairman William Gould told Bloomberg News in June.

HOW big an impact specific rulings will have on the IBEW’s organizing efforts isn’t clear, but organizers say the NLRB’s hostility toward unions is validating their workers’ worst instincts.

“It seems under the current board that companies are bolder in fighting every little issue they can,” said Bert McDermitt, a Fourth District regional organizing coordinator. “They are less concerned about any objections we may file.

He noted how an electrical company in Maryland recently sent its HR director to call the police, who tell them Skinner isn’t interested in the IBEW. Managers often legally, and at the request of workers who are interested in the IBEW. Managers often call the police, who tell them Skinner isn’t breaking any laws.

But he can foresee employers being emboldened by the public-space ruling, and fears the consequences.

“It would limit our abilities drastically,” Skinner said. “Any little thing that hurts us. If you take away any of our points of communication, it hurts us.”

The board has also resurrected the issue of employer email with a case brought by a Crypto’s hotel.

It targets a 2014 ruling against Purple Communications affirming that employers have the right to discuss union issues via their work email accounts. That ruling clogged a decade of litigation by Purple and an Oregon newspaper fighting to restrict workers’ access.

The board reasoned that email had become essential at work beyond strictly business purposes — the electronic version of public spaces where off-duty employees meet on breaks and lunch hours.

Few people realize the case is in play again, with scant media coverage beyond employment law and HR websites eager to block unions from using email to announce political activity; a public comment period on the announced rollbacks is now underway. He has successfully reversed settled law without giving prior notice or inviting additional input en route to overruling precedent without being asked feeds criticism that the Trump NLRB is advancing its pro-management agenda more aggressively than past boards pushed their policy priorities.”

Peter Robb

**NLRB General Counsel**

Attorney Peter Robb cut his teeth as a union-buster by drafting the legal arguments Ronald Reagan used to fire the striking air traffic controllers in 1981. He returned to the NLRB as general counsel in late 2017, let loose his anti-worker aggression on a national scale. He swiftly set plans in motion to kill the 2014 quick-election rule that narrowed the window for employer interference; a public comment period on the announced rollbacks is now underway. He has successfully pushed the board to undo other rules and precedents to the detriment of workers and is clamoring for more.

Meanwhile, he is plotting a pro-business overhaul of the agency, schemes that have sparked staff revolt. He has lived up to the worst fears of Democrats who opposed his nomination. “Working men and women... have enough to worry about,” Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow said in 2017. "They shouldn’t have to worry that the person who is supposed to have their back is, instead, looking for ways to strip away their freedom to organize on the job."
A Win in Ontario, but Labour’s Battles Continue

T oronto’s leaders stood defiantly in June against an anti-union attempt by Ontario’s Conserva-
tives to erode the city’s relationship with its construction work-
force. In doing so, city leaders reinforced and expanded their commitment to work-
ing people and voted overwhelmingly to maintain longstanding relationships with the IBEW and other construction trades.

“This decision will help ensure Toronto’s continued high safety stan-
dards,” said Toronto Local 353 Business Manager Steven Martin. “It allows the public to have the risk to the public that improperly trained workers would have a hand in the construction of the city’s public works projects.”

Historically, the Ontario municipali-
ties of Toronto, Hamilton, Waterloo and Sault Ste. Marie held agreements that permitted them, if they wished, to only accept bids on publicly funded infrastruc-
ture projects from union contractors. This made those municipalities construction employers under provincial law.

But since Ontario Premier Doug Ford’s Progressive Conservative party came to power in 2018, lawmakers in the province have prioritised passage of a number of anti-worker measures. In December, Ford introduced Bill 66, an omnibus measure that sought to repeal a number of pro-worker provincial laws — for example, shifting overtime rules in favor of employers.

For members of the IBEW and the other construction trades, perhaps more worrying was the bill’s call to reclassify those four municipalities as non-con-
struction employers and to cancel their long-held agreements with trades organi-
sations, thus freeing any given contractor, union or nonunion, to bid on publicly funded projects.

“Workers were left out of the consul-
tation process entirely and ignored” as Bill 66 was being crafted, Martin said. Nevertheless, activists from the IBEW and other labour organizations locally made their objections known. In March, the Ford administration agreed to an amendment giving the leaders of those municipalities the freedom to vote in favor of remaining construction employ-
ers and maintaining their existing agree-
ments. But they were given just three months from the bill’s receiving royal assent to do so — a July deadline.

The push to take away municipali-
ties’ construction employer status was influenced by claims from Ford’s anti-
union allies that work performed by union workers was costing municipalities too much money.

“Anti-union forces have been work-
ning for a number of years in the cities of Hamilton, Sault Ste. Marie, Waterloo and Toronto,” said First District International Vice President Tom Reid, “to elect politi-
cians who buy into their desire to remove the construction employer status for those municipalities, selling them bogus claims of substantial cost savings.”

But when the city’s councilors took a closer look at those claims, they determined that if the city were to become a non-construction employer and end its relationships with the IBEW and eight other unions, the city’s savings would be nominal, at best.

With that in mind, Toronto’s council-
lors voted 20-to-4 to hold on to the city’s status as a construction employer. Fur-
ther, they added a tenth union, LIUNA, to their preferred list.

In a statement, the IBEW Construc-
tion Council of Ontario applauded Toronto’s decision, saying that the move will ensure “a continued relationship that allows our highly skilled electricians to deliver a professional and safe service that benefits both the public and workers.”

Regrettably, the leaders of Hamil-
ton, Sault Ste. Marie and Waterloo also voted Ford’s way. In those cities, unionised con-
struction workers have had their fairly negotiated agreements with the local gov-
ernments essentially erased.

Sault Ste. Marie, employing contractors in those places, now bid on public proj-
ects classifying workers as “subcontrac-
tors,” paying rock-bottom wages with limited benefits — if any. And thanks to

Bill 66, future public project bids from such contractors almost certainly will come in lower than the fair and equitable bids submitted by union contractors.

But there remains a question about whether Bill 66 is even legal. Ontario’s Supreme Court has upheld the part of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms stating that the rights of workers to deter-
mine union representation belong in the hands of workers, and activists in the con-
struction trades believe that a case can be successfully made that Bill 66’s con-
struction employer amendment restricts that right.

“We’re willing to take a charter chal-
gen to the Supreme Court, if necessary,” said Martin.

Meanwhile, IBEW members are con-
tinuing to protest Bill 66’s implementa-
tion, culminating in a national rally alongside our allies in Ontario’s other building trades and labour organizations.

“Our struggles in Ontario should send a message to all IBEW members in every province and territory about how we should be aware of who we are support-
ing and electing at each level of govern-
ment,” Reid said. “Clearly, electing men and women who aren’t willing to back our best interests can result in unfortunate consequences for all working people.”}

Une victoire en Ontario, mais les batailles du syndicat se poursuivent

E n juin dernier, les dirigeants de la ville de Toronto se sont opposés à la tentative antisyndicale du Parti conservateur de l’Ontario desti-
tée à requalifier la relation profession-
nelle de la ville avec les travailleurs de la construction. Ceci a permis à la ville de réfléchir et d’élargir son engagement envers les travailleurs qu’elle a voté avec une écrasante majorité en faveur d’entre-
tenir les relations de longue date avec la FIOE ainsi qu’avec les autres métiers de la construction.

Cette décision garantit le respect des normes élaborées en matière de sécu-
rilité de la ville de Toronto, dit le gérant d’affaires Steven Martin du local 353 de Toronto. « Elle éloigne le risque qui touche le public lorsque des travailleurs mal formés participent à la construction des projets de travaux publics de la ville. »

Dans le passé, les municipalités ontariennes de Toronto, de Hamilton, de Waterloo et de Sault-Sainte-Marie bénéfici-
aient des accords qui leur permettaient, si elles le souhaitaient, de seulement accepter des soumissions des entrepreneurs de la construction et d’utiliser leurs recommandations à la construction et de maintenir leurs conventions collectives actuelles. Ils ont cependant eu jusqu’au 3 juillet pour le faire, un délai de seulement trois mois à être accordé une fois que le projet de loi a reçu la sanction royale.

Le fait de pouvoir retirer ce statut aux municipalités a été influencé par les allégations des alliés antisyndicaux de Ford selon lesquelles le travail exécuté par les travailleurs syndiqués causerait de très graves conséquences au public et aux travailleurs.

“Les forces antisyndicales travail-
naient dans les villes de Hamilton, de Sault-
ne-Marie, de Waterloo et de Toronto depuis un bon nombre d’années en vue d’ôter l’influence des syndicats influencés par leur désir de retirer le statut d’employeur de la construction à ces municipalités, en leur vantant de fausses idées qui leur permet-
aient de réaliser des économies considérables, ajoute le vice-président international Tom Reid du Premier Dis-
trict. Lorsque les conseillers municipaux de Toronto ont examiné ces allégations de plus près, ils ont déterminé que si la ville devenue un employeur non syndiqué et met fin à sa relation professionnelle avec la FIOE et avec les huit autres syndi-
cats, l’économie réalisée par la ville serait, dans les meilleurs cas, marginale.

Et en ayant à l’esprit cette conclu-
sion, les conseillers municipaux de la ville de Toronto ont voté 20-4 en faveur de garder leur statut d’employeur de la construction. Le syndicat LIUNA a égale-
ment été ajouté comme dixième syndicat à leur liste privilégiée.

Le Construction Council of Ontario de la FIOE a félicité la décision de Toronto en déclarant que : « cette décision garan-
tie à maintenir les relations de longue date avec les travailleurs de la construction et de maintenir leurs conventions collectives actuelles. Ils ont cependant eu jusqu’au 3 juillet pour le faire, un délai de seulement trois mois à être accordé une fois que le projet de loi a reçu la sanction royale. »

Entre-temps, les membres de la FIOE continuent à protester contre l’appli-
cation du projet de loi 66 en tenant des manifestations à but éducatif ouvertes au grand public accompagnées de nos alliés dans de nombreuses villes en Ontario ainsi qu’avec d’autres organisa-
sions syndicales.

Les leaders de la FIOE ont envoyé un message à tous les membres de la FIOE dans chaque province et terri-
toire sur la manière dont nous devrions être conscients à qui nous apportons un soutien et quel candidat ou quelle candi-
date on veut élire à chaque palier du gou-
vernement, » ajoute le vice-président international Tom Reid du Premier Di-
trict. “Il nous faut être à l’écoute des hommes et des femmes qui ne sont pas prêts à défendre nos intérêts peut entraîner des conséquences fâcheuses à tous les tra-

NORTH OF 49 | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

The Electrical Worker | September 2019

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CIRCUITS

IBEW Effort Helps Move ‘Butch Lewis’ Closer to Passage

Intensive lobbying by activists from the IBEW and other labor unions paid off on July 24 when a bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pension Act by a vote of 264 to 169. The legislation, which would restore retirement security to hundreds of thousands of working people in troubled multiemployer pension plans, is one of labor’s highest priorities.

“Nearly all of our own pension plans are in great financial shape,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “But a few plans for our brothers and sisters in the mining, trucking and other industries are in serious danger of going under, and that could drain healthy plans like ours down with it.”

House Resolution 397, known informally as the Butch Lewis Act, calls for creating a Treasury agency to help keep troubled pension plans solvent through long-term, low-interest federal loans. Lewis was a Teamster whose death was blamed on the stress he experienced after his own local’s pension plan went bankrupt.

“This win is a clear victory in our long battle to protect workers’ pensions, but the fight is far from over,” international Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper said. “We can take a moment to congratulate ourselves, but we also need to gear up for the Senate fight that lies ahead.”

There are about 1,400 multiemployer pension plans in the U.S. Most are financially stable, but if even a few of the larger at-risk ones went under, it could effectively destroy the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the federal agency covering pension plans that are no longer able to meet their obligations.

“Our plans are among the strongest in the nation and our members’ retirement savings are secure,” said Cooper, whose duties include oversight of the IBEW’s National Electrical Benefit Fund. “But we stand as always in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in other unions whose promised pensions are being threatened.”

The PBGC is healthy at the moment, but within the next few years more than 20 underfunded pension plans are predicted to need the agency’s help to survive. If enough of those plans need rescuing, it could wipe out the PBGC’s cash reserves, spelling the end of a comfortable retirement for millions of American workers and retirees. That’s why the IBEW and others have been urgently lobbying legislators in the House and Senate for years to come up with a fair fix.

There have been a number of obstacles along the way. Last fall, as a special congressional committee was considering a solution that would have unfairly penalized solvent plans, the IBEW’s Political and Legislative Affairs Department called on leaders from locals representing nearly every state in the union to travel to Washington and meet with members of the House and Senate. Stephenson and Cooper recorded a special video in which they urged all members to call their representatives and demand a just solution.

House Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal of Massachusetts introduced HR 397 in January, and support for the act, from legislators and labor unions alike, gained momentum over the following months. On July 10, hundreds of activists representing the IBEW and other unions rallied on Capitol Hill in support of Neal’s measure as a key committee was set to consider it.

When the measure was at last scheduled for consideration by the full House on July 24, Rep. Haley Stevens of Michigan spoke passionately in favor of it.

“The bill before us today is not a bailout,” Stevens told her fellow members. “It is a backstop, and it is a solution to a boiling point that we ignore at the peril of more than a million workers who are now faced with financial catastrophe in retirement.”

In floor remarks of his own, Rep. Donald Norcross of New Jersey noted his 37 years of experience with multiemployer plans as an IBEW member and former business agent for Folsom, N.J., Local 351.

“I understand how they work,” he said. “These are deferred dreams, deferred wages that [workers] say ‘put aside during their active career so that they can live out the American dream.’

Rather than being a handout, the Butch Lewis Act is “about doing the right thing,” Norcross said.

“The people that earned these [pensions] … played by the rules,” he said. “It’s important for us to pass this because they did nothing wrong.”

Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio introduced Senate Bill 2254, the Butch Lewis Act, in the upper chamber at the end of July. Members and their families are urged to contact their senators and demand they stand up for working people’s retirement security.

Visit senate.gov/senators/contact to find your senators and follow IBEW.org for more developments on the Butch Lewis Act.

IBEW, Entergy ‘Sticking’ with Code of Excellence

A simple sticker on the side of a work truck could be easily overlooked, but for IBEW members at Entergy Arkansas, that bit of plastic represents something more: a sign of growing pride on the job and an improved relationship with management; a symbol of the values embodied in the IBEW’s Code of Excellence.

Little Rock, Ark., Local 647 Business Manager Shannon Walters has been working with Entergy officials and local unions throughout the state to get special decals explaining the Code and its values attached to the company’s fleet of vehicles, which it uses to deliver power to more than 700,000 customers in 69 of Arkansas’ 75 counties.

“We want these stickers to be a reminder to each of us of the behaviors we hope to exhibit every day,” said Walters, an IBEW member for 35 years and Local 647’s business manager for the last six. “This is what the culture we want to create. We want to be the best in our business.”

The Code of Excellence is the IBEW’s five fundamental values of safety, professionalism, accountability, relationships and quality — better known as SPARQ. One of the Code’s most dramatic success stories is at Entergy’s Nuclear One facility in Russellville, a carbon-free base-load energy plant that employs hundreds of members in a variety of capacities.

Nuclear One’s embrace of the Code in 2016 at Local 647’s suggestion, was instrumental in the plant’s flip from failing to thriving within just two years.

The IBEW’s contributions to this dramatic turnaround have been appreciated not just by Entergy executives and employees, Walters said, but also by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and by INPO, an independent international nuclear plant consulting firm.

“We continue to have respectful dealings with management,” the business manager said. “Everyone appreciates the work we’re doing.”

IBEW members and locals throughout Arkansas have since helped take the Code company-wide; its logo and the SPARQ acronym are easily spotted on posters, bulletin boards and information monitors in many of Entergy’s facilities — not to mention on the first-ever Code of Excellence flag that flies outside Nuclear One.

Walters’ sticker idea came to him after delivering a speech about the Code during the union’s annual nuclear conference last December.

Walters’ good friend Ross Gabraith, business manager of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37 and a member of the International Executive Council, sent Walters a local’s challenge coin after returning home from the conference. And he included with it an index card outlining Local 37’s commitment to the Code.

“It sparked — no, intended — this idea of making something of our own like that card,” Walters said. “I wanted something that, every time we get into a vehicle or go to our toolbox, is a reminder saying, ‘Here’s what we stand for; here’s how we roll.’”

Because IBEW locals in Arkansas have a variety of agreements with Entergy covering nuclear and fossil-fuel generation along with transmission and distribution operations, Walters collaborated on his sticker idea with leaders from El Dorado Local 1973 and Pine Bluff Local 250 in Arkansas and St. Louis Local 1439, which represents Entergy workers in the northern part of the state.

Together, officers and stewards brainstormed some descriptive bullet points to explain the five SPARQ values. They also settled on the design: bold text and the Code’s logo overlaid on a patch of red in the shape of Arkansas.

Next, Walters approached an Entergy vice president of oversight of the company’s linereworker and distribution crews about placing 10-square-inch versions of the SPARQ stickers on the driver’s side tool box of the company’s bucket trucks.

Entergy surprised Walters with a counter-suggestion: How about adhering the decals instead on the driver- and passenger-side doors of those trucks? And why stop there? Could a 5-inch-square version go on the company’s cars, vans and pickups?

“So, all employees getting in and out of their vehicles will soon get a daily Code of Excellence reminder,” Walters said. “It’ll also be a reinforcement tool, reminding our members to be on their ‘A’ game all the time.”

All told, 863 vehicles, at last count, are set to receive SPARQ stickers, with an option to place even more decals on Entergy’s trailers and other equipment.

“The public is going to see what we stand for when they pull up next to one of these vehicles at a stoplight,” Walters said. “Hopefully it’ll educate people that we’re the good guys.”

It’s an admirable goal, considering Arkansas was one of the first to become a right-to-work state in 1947, almost immediately after Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act. The act allows states to pass laws permitting workers who benefit from collective bargaining agreements to opt out of paying their share to help negotiate and enforce those agreements.

For now, the SPARQ stickers are being placed and distributed statewide. More will continue to get installed as Entergy’s mechanics gather for their monthly safety meetings.

“It’s been kind of a neat little journey,” Walters said. “It shows how our Code of Excellence resonates with both labor and management.”

Leaders from Entergy Arkansas and the IBEW locals representing the company’s employees pose with a truck emblazoned with the IBEW’s Code of Excellence.
New Senate Energy Bill Supports Union Jobs, Priorities

An IBEW-backed bill introduced in the U.S. Senate would ensure that the country’s growing number of clean energy construction jobs will be filled by unionized electrical workers and by highly trained brothers and sisters in other union trades.

“Across North America, our members are constantly maintaining and improving an energy grid that balances baseload and renewable energy sources to achieve maximum efficiency and reliability,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “We support this and other legislative efforts to guarantee that future construction jobs in the carbon-free nuclear, wind, solar and hydroelectric sectors will be filled by educated and experienced union men and women.”

Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon introduced the Good Jobs for 21st Century Energy Act S. 2185 on July 18. Among the bill’s provisions is language that establishes prevailing wage and prevailing labor agreement standards for employers on clean energy generation and capture construction projects. Those employers also would be required to guarantee to fill at least 20% of their construction craft jobs with apprentices.

A new bill in the U.S. Senate could help guarantee that future construction jobs in various carbon-free sectors will be filled by educated and experienced IBEW members, such as the men and women from Australia, Ga., Local 1579 who are working on this Plant Vogtle nuclear facility.

“The world transitions to clean and renewable energy, America has a huge opportunity to lead that transition and to create millions of jobs in the process,” Merkley said in a statement. “We need to make sure the jobs powering our economy for the next century are good paying, family-wage jobs.”

Additionally, Merkley’s bill calls for properly classifying workers on such construction projects and for giving individuals with criminal histories a fair chance at getting hired.

To help give employers incentives to adopt the bill’s pro-labor priorities, the bill would grant tax credits of up to 10% to companies working on qualified projects. The bill also offers those employers opportunities to apply for grants and government-backed loans.

The plan further calls for the creation of a “Clean Jobs Workforce Hub” made up of unions, and for giving individuals with criminal histories a fair process, “We need to achieve maximum efficiency and reliability,” said Senator-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper touted the union’s resolution on Capitol Hill that afternoon. “The work that lineworkers do is dangerous and important work, and they are an integral part of our communities.”

July 10 is significant because it’s the date in 1896 that the IBEW’s founder and first president, Henry Miller, died from injuries he sustained while working to restore power in a northwest Washington, D.C., neighborhood.

“Our hardworking lineworkers put their lives on the line every day to ensure our nation has the power it needs to keep moving forward,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. “It’s never easy, but they know that the job needs to be done. July 10 is the day to say thanks for all they do for us and our communities.”

Sanchez, a former compliance officer and member of Santa Ana, Calif., Local 441, noted with pride of customers across North America,” said Utility Department Director Donnie Colston. “Their skill and their sacrifice get overlooked too often.”

Many other utilities this year participated in Lineworker of the Year. This year, supporters kept it simple, seeking to increase the number from one to three, each going to describe what it’s like living in the cab of a truck. The resolution is really a messaging piece which talks about the value, the dedication and the dignity of work,” Sanchez said at a ceremony on Capitol Hill that afternoon. “The work that lineworkers do is dangerous and important work, and they are an integral part of our communities.”

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“On the emergency position — almost like a first-responder — for a multitude of problems, including proper laws, power, power, wires down, public safety, broken poles, entrapments, things like that, making the area safe before the fire and EMS can get in,” said Butler. After serving in the Army, Butler became a Journeyman Lineman with Local 94, working in PSEG’s line department for nearly 20 years before becoming a troubleshooting. “We’re usually the only contact people have with the power company,” he said.

There have been a number of attempts in Congress over the last several years to set aside a day for lineworker appreciation, but the effort to set aside July 10 is the only one backed by the IBEW.

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The victim, a 25-year-old woman sent to turn off the customer’s power, was knocked to the ground and suffered facial injuries. According to news coverage, the assault was elevated to a felony from a misdemeanor because of the 2016 law.

Local 77’s success with the assault bill follows a hard-fought victory last year to add utility workers to Washington’s “move-over” law, which requires motorists to change lanes or slow down on single-lane roads when first responders and other emergency workers are on scene.

A move-over law in Tennessee has protected utility crews since 2011. At least 30 states have similar laws, most passing with bipartisan support. In Washington, however, Senate GOP leaders blocked Local 77’s efforts for two legislative sessions. The move-over bill didn’t pass until a special election in 2017 flipped control of the chamber to Democrats.

“Our IBEW brothers and sisters from Washington to Tennessee and all over the country have been working extremely hard in recent elections to elect candidates who put a priority not only on our rights at work, but also our safety at work,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said.

“Ultimately, the right to go home safe and healthy at the end of the day is the most valuable right of all,” he said. “We have to continue to fight for candidates who care about that as much as we do.”

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signs a bill championed by Seattle Local 77 that increases penalties for assaults on utility workers. Stepping from left, pictured with utility partners and lawmakers who sponsored the bill, are Local 77 leaders and activists Rick Luitten; Damian Hernandez; Luitten’s son, Robert; Sean Bagby; new Business Manager Rex Halpern; President Rick Johnson; and Karl Freudenstein.

Instead, they rallied union allies in police and fire departments to lobby and testify on their behalf, helping lawmakers understand that utility workers face many of the same dangers as first responders.

The bill passed 98-0 in the House and 27-5 in the Senate.

“I was ticked to death, especially after the previous year,” Clark said. “I give a lot of credit to Quenton and our other lobbyists, and the lawyers and police officers who had our backs.”

In Washington, IBEW representatives were on hand April 30 as Gov. Jay Inslee signed the bill into law.

“Utility workers do their jobs under extraordinarily dangerous conditions and hellacious hours,” Inslee said. “This measure will help keep our utility workers safe, working extremely hard in recent elections to elect candidates who put a priority not only on our rights at work, but also our safety at work,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said.

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Benny Hunnicutt

Brother Hunnicutt was born in Anderson, S.C., and moved around the state during his formative years while his father, a minister in the Assemblies of God denomination, worked at various churches. He graduated from high school in Wagener, S.C., and was hired by South Carolina Electric & Gas in 1974 to work in its natural gas department.

He became a member of Charleston, S.C., Local 398 upon his hiring, but the young Hunnicutt had little appreciation for what that meant. The Palmetto State has the lowest union membership rate among workers in the country.

“Growing up in South Carolina, unions were not something I was accustomed to,” Hunnicutt said. “No one talked about them. If it was mentioned, it was kind of on the negative side.”

His appreciation grew after a few years on the job. Hunnicutt was transferred to work in Lexington, S.C., where he was the company’s first gas service man in the area. By that time, gas employees for SCE&G had their membership transferred to Columbia, S.C., Local 772.

Hunnicutt wasn’t pleased with some of the company’s actions, and he learned that other employees — who worked in everything from billing to electrical distribution — felt the same way. He decided to become a steward and his career as a union activist was on its way.

“1 saw what unions did as far as standing up for the rights of working people,” he said. “That made me want to get involved and help the people I was working with.”

He served on Local 772’s executive board and also as president and financial secretary before being elected business manager in 1995, while also continuing to work full time for SCE&G.

The big reason I ran for business manager was helping people, and that’s why I stay involved,” he said. “A lot of people have issues we may not think about much, but if they came to talk to me, I knew it was important to them and it was something I needed to check out.”

Hunnicutt took on further responsibilities when he was appointed to the Committee on Electric Power Industry Restructuring at the 1996 International Convention in Philadelphia. The committee, which was composed of utility business managers in each of the IBEW’s districts, made recommendations on how to deal with deregulation in the utility industry.

Three years later, he was appointed an interna-
tional representative in the Eleventh District, where his work included servicing local unions in all branches. He stayed in that role until his retirement, traveling across the Carolinas, Arkansas and Tennessee.

“Benny’s got what I have to call a ‘good boy’ presentation of himself,” said retired Eleventh District International Representative Gene Ruff, who Hunnicutt considers a professional mentor. “He’s quiet. He generally doesn’t say anything until he’s thought it out pretty well.

“During negotiations, I saw he had the intestinal fortitude to step up for our members, but at the same time, he was very thoughtful. I love teaching, and one of the things I try to teach anyone representing members is they have to listen. Benny is a darn good listener.”

Hunnicutt said he took particular pride in understanding contract language and how it might have an impact on members in unforeseen ways. That skill is helpful no matter if you’re negotiating for a utility or construction local or any other branch, he said.

“I always told our people that ‘I’ll lean on you to discuss something particular about your work,’ he said. “Hopefully, you can lean on me when it comes to contract language.”

In retirement, Hunnicutt and his wife, Gale, plan to keep their home in Gilbert, S.C. — population 15,000 — where they have two grown children and four grandchildren. He and Gale are avid horseback riders and transport their four horses for trail rides across the country.

“1 think the opportunities that came from working for the IBEW, I couldn’t ask for anything more,” he said.

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

James A. McAteer

James A. McAteer, a retired international representative and longtime advocate for members of the union’s railroad branch, died on June 7. He was 92.

“Jim was a kind and loving person who truly cared about the members he represented and the local reps he was responsible for overseeing,” said Railroad Department Director William Bohné, who was one of many brothers and sisters mentored by McAteer over the last 40-plus years.

“The move-over bill didn’t pass until a special election in 1972,” said McAteer. “We were successful, but the law was never strongly enforced. Our IBEW brothers and sisters from Washington to Tennessee and all over the country have been working extremely hard in recent elections to elect candidates who put a priority not only on our rights at work, but also our safety at work,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said.

“Ultimately, the right to go home safe and healthy at the end of the day is the most valuable right of all,” he said. “We have to continue to fight for candidates who care about that as much as we do.”

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Inside Wiremen Ratify Contract

L.U. 11 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), LOS ANGELES, CA — On Saturday, July 27, nearly 2,000 inside wireman members of Local 11 gathered to vote on a new contract. Our negotiating committee started getting together at the end of April to look at suggestions from the membership and form a strategy. The negotiations were tough, taking a toll on our committee, but a fair deal could not happen without voting to approve the new contract.

“We now move forward together as one to further the industry, secure more work for our IBEW members and NECA contractors, and make Los Angeles the greatest union city in America,” said IBEW Local 11 Bus. Mgr. Joel Barton. “This contract could not have been forged without the members’ solidarity, tenacity and steadfast will during negotiations. … The members brought this to the finish and created the best Inside Wiremen’s Agreement in IBEW Local 11’s history. You should be proud of what we have accomplished together.” [Photo at bottom, left] Calls are outpacing our organizing efforts for every book — Inside, Intelligent Transportation, Low Voltage — and with over 2,000 apprentices in classes at our Electrical Training Institute, we are beginning to see a larger share of the work in the Los Angeles area being undertaken by our contractors. Visit our website at www.IBEW11.org and see the changes happening at Local 11.

Chuck Webb, B.A., R.S., P.S.

IBEW Career of Service — Business Manager Retires

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Local 15’s longest serving Business Manager, Dean Apple, retired effective July 1 this year. Dean had served the membership at Byron Nuclear Station since 1984. Initially he was a Local 1555 steward and became the chief steward in 1987. Former Local 155 was amalgamated into Local 15 in 1995. After the amalgamation, Dean was hired as a business representative for the Nuclear Division. Elected to the position of Local 15 business manager/president in 2007, he continued to serve the membership until retirement, having won four consecutive elections.

Dean has represented the best interest of the membership when negotiating contracts, advocating for safety and working with state and local elected officials to best serve the interests of Local 15. While serving the local, Dean was also elected chairman of the Illinois Conference of the IBEW in 2013. This conference represents the interests of 50,000 electrical workers statewide. Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson appointed Dean to the executive board of the Illinois AFL-CIO, where he served until spring of 2015. The members and staff of Local 15 wish Dean a long and well-deserved retirement. Thank you, brother, for all the dedicated service to our IBEW.

Sam Studer, P.S.

2019 Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 43 (em,urts), SYRACUSE, NY — The Central New York Electrical Training Alliance’s annual graduation ceremony took place Friday, May 31, at Drumlin’s Country Club in Syracuse. The occasion marked the graduation of 23 apprentices from the inside wireman program. CNYETA Training Dir. Jon Leubner remarked we should all be proud of the class of 2019, assured them they will continue their careers as some of the best electricians in the nation. This class distinguished itself with an overall GPA over 90% over five years.

The new graduates are: Jotham Adams, John Currier, Justin Naylor, Michael Schlueter, Michael Nichols, Keith Bennis, Garrett Lustrielli, Michael Deuel, Winthrop Wickwire, Jamie Garrard, Jordon Naylor, Michael Morse, Bradley Mundsch, Matthew Hendrix, William Hoffman, Tanner Blikston, Brett Churchman, Patrick Nasoni, Jim Engler, Eric Sullivan, Kristopher Edwards, Michael McQuatters and David Hearn.

Award recipients were as follows:

The Scholastic Achievement Award, courtesy of Pluie, was presented by Instructor Dave Nichols to Jotham Adams, who finished the program with an overall GPA over 90%.

The Perfect Attendance Award, courtesy of Milwaukee Electric Tool, was presented by Instructor Richard Shipland to both John Currier and Tanner Blikston.

The Outstanding Apprentice Award, courtesy of Klein Tools, was presented by Instructor Thomas Murphy to Matthew Hendrix.

The Bill Towsley Union Activist Award was presented by Pres. Kevin Crawford jointly to Jamie Garrard and Tanner Blikston for continued dedication to the IBEW.

Congratulations to the newest journeyman wiremen of IBEW Local 43.

Gene Townsend, P.S.

New Members Welcomed

L.U. 47 (ktt,mo,ui&uuow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

Local 47 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. and Seventh District IEC member Patrick Lavin swore in 49 new members at our Outside Construction meeting on June 15. Congratulations and welcome to all.

City of Anaheim, City of Colton, and City of Vernon negotiations continue. At Abengoa Mojave Solar and at City Light & Power, we have reached tentative three-year agreements as of this writing.

The Wildfire Resilience Coalition is meeting weekly. We have made several trips toSacramentoto meet with the Firefighters Association and others to discuss the coalition.

The Injured Workers Fund Golf Tournament on July 15 and the Local 47 Family Picnic on Aug. 10 were both huge successes.

Upcoming events include the Brotherhood Motorcycle Run on Sept. 14, and Local 47’s Christmas celebration at Anaheim Stadium on Dec. 13.

We’re sad to report the deaths of members Mark Thistle, Javier Calderon, Jose Ortega and Larry Cran dall, as well as Local 66 member Dan Podunovich, who was working out of our jurisdiction. Our condolences and prayers are with their loved ones.

Work safe, live safe and free — and buy union!

Mitch Smith, P.S.
Golf Scholarship Outing; Upcoming Wind Farm Projects

L.U. 51 (c,b,tt,opt,rtb,ltakow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Our annual Golf Scholarship Outing was held Saturday, June 1. Taking first place was the team consisting of Walt Wallstadt, Colton Beams, Joe Blanco and Zach Overmyer. The second-place team included Tony Cook, Matt Moore, Andy Buzzard and John Lieb. The dead-last team proudly consisted of Bob Wedell, Jod Dooley, Patrick Shinners and Amanda Hansen. We were fortunate to give out 15 $50 scholarships to our members and their families. Thank you to everyone who supported the tournament.

Results of our local union election of officers are as follows: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec., Bob Wedell; Pres. Robert D. Colby Jr.; Vice Pres. Clay Davidson; Rec. Sec. Stacey Heckman; and Treas. Dan Heney. Delegates to the IBEW convention are: Chris Blount, Robert D. Colby Jr., Tony Cook, Wes Heckman, Tom Hocking, Tim Lynch and Corey Stone.

Five new wind farms will begin construction this fall and next spring. Line clearance tree trimming work remains steady. Keep informed by attending monthly unit meetings. Stay in touch by visiting our website www.ibew51.org and liking our Facebook page.

Karleen Kosler, B.R.

Workplace Safety; Golf Tournament Benefit

L.U. 55 (c,lott,ltak), DES MOINES, IOWA — The local recently held its Annual Retiree Luncheon. Asst. Bus. Agent Shane Nelson honored 14 members who have earned it!

"Breaking Ground in Boston"

L.U. 103 (cbl), BOSTON, MA — Greetings! Another great summer in the books. In Boston, we have been very busy.

We celebrated the grand opening of Encore Boston Harbor, the region’s very first five-star gaming resort. Wynn Resorts invested $2.6 billion in the construction and provided over $1 million man-hours for Local 103 contractors and members.

In addition, Local 103 put on a textbook organizing drive and secured recognition from Encore to become the exclusive representative of the entire maintenance staff in the hotel, casino and convention center. We’re excited to welcome the 100-plus employees as new members!

We were also busy breaking ground on a brand new, 64-story signature office tower for National Real Estate Development and HYM Investment Group. When it opens in 2022, it will be the new global headquarters of State Street Bank, a 200-year-old Boston based company.

Local 103 is also happy to report movement on the redevelopment of Suffolk Downs. On deck are 16 million square feet of development — 10,000 units of housing, along 30 affordable units; 7 million square feet of commercial, retail and hotels; and $300 million in on-site and off-site infrastructure. The Suffolk Downs development will create thousands of good jobs for Local 103 and the trades for the next 20 years. Just more proof that it’s still an exciting time to be an electrician, technician or apprentice in Boston. Let’s get to work!

Organizing Success; Tribute to A Life of Service

L.U. 125 (ltcblott), PORTLAND, OR — Every year a golf tournament is held to raise money for the Oregon Burn Center. A creation of Local 125 member Bill Quimby and Gene Daly, it continues to generate enormous support from sponsors, volunteers and golfers. Thus, it was with heavy hearts, treasured respect and complete gratitude that this year’s event was held on its traditional July 4th date, this year even with its founder missing. Bro. Quimby passed May 11, 2019.

This year the tournament raised $65,000. Members of the Quimby family including Bill’s wife, Chris, and daughter Stephanie were present to receive a gift from the Burn Center as well as visit with longtime friends and tournament supporters.

Bill’s vision, energy and ability to bring people together, along with his union brother and close friend Gene, have helped create an event that will continue serving our community even without his continued stewardship.

Bus. Mgr. Travis’ comments that we were fortunate to have Bill’s vision and leadership, and we will continue the work that Gene and Bill started so many years ago to increase collaboration with the Oregon Burn Center. In Bill’s memory and with the IBEW spirit of service in mind, let’s all commit to continuing this important work.

Local 125 late member Bill Quimby.

Golf Tournament Benefit; Tribute to A Life of Service

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Tribute to A Life of Service

It is with much sadness that Local 141 reports the passing of broccoli. Julius "Junior" Phillips. Bro. Phillips served for many years as Local 141’s apprenticeship director. He will be sadly missed. Local 141 also mourns the passing of Tom Cerra, Mr. Cerra was a founding member of Project BEST, and he served as its chairman for many years.

Kurt "Bug" Reed, P.S.

Vehicle Sports IB EW Logo — Promotes Union Apprenticeship

L.U. 177 (be,v,gt,jo,mo,opo), JACKSONVILLE, FL — The work outlook has slowed with growth on Book 1, but several projects will start in the upcoming months that should provide relief.

Congratulations to the 28 apprentice graduates who recently graduated from the apprenticeship program.

L.U. 125 recently purchased a new vehicle and had the vehicle wrapped with Local 125 signage with contact information. On the tailgate we have our apprenticeship’s web address and www.WePowerAmerica.org for anyone looking for a career with the IBEW. The members love it and the response from the public has been great. We have been approached numerous times in just the first month about the IBEW.

Also, Local 177 has just sponsored "The Athlete of the Week" on TV-12 and TV-35 for the upcoming school year. Each week there will be an athlete from a local high school receiving the award. Local 177 will have a short message on TV each week and have messages on the station’s website.

Alan Jones, B.M./F.S.

Project BEST Hosts Construction Career Job Fair

Local 125’s new vehicle sports a vehicle wrap with the IBEW logo and Local 125 signage, generating increased interest in the union throughout the area.

L.U. 141 (res,ltakurt), WHEELING, WV — Our work picture in the area remains slow, with 47 members on Book 1. We are anticipating a few larger commercial projects to hopefully put our members to work in the fall. We are also still awaiting a final investment decision regarding the construction of an ethane cracker in our area.

Local 141 participated in the Project BEST Construction career job fair held at the Wheeling Park Ice Rink on May 2 this year. This event educates local high school students about careers in the building trades. Project BEST is a labor management organization that promotes the use of local union contractors and tradespeople for major construction projects in the area.

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Kurt "Bug" Reed, P.S.

Local 141 apprentice Maddie Kubanick and then-Vice Pres. Art Oakland (right) discuss career opportunities with a high-school student attending the Project BEST Construction Career Job Fair held May 2, 2019.

L.U. 141 apprentice Maddie Kubanick and then-Vice Pres. Art Oakland (right) discuss career opportunities with a high-school student attending the Project BEST Construction Career Job Fair held May 2, 2019.
Good Work Picture

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL — We are happy to report that for the first time in many years we have had full employment and have even been able to put travelers to work. We thank our members and the travelers who have taken the calls and are showing that an IBEW-trained worker is skilled, productive and efficient. The work outlook for the rest of the year looks promising.

Congratulations to our newest journeyman wiremen and tele-data techs who topped out this spring. We look forward to these apprenticeship graduates having many successful years in the IBEW. Recently we have seen some changes to our JATC. Congratulations to Renee Reddick, who retired as training director, we thank her for many years of service to the program. We also congratulate Tom Peasley as he takes on the role of training director, and we are confident the program will continue to progress. Over the years, instructors Bernie Uzscienski and Jake Knobloch both proficiently taught the curriculum, setting apprentices up for success with their careers. We will miss their leadership and wisdom as teachers and send them a special thank you for their efforts.

Remember to get involved in the local and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, Pres.

Apprenticeship Graduates
Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA — Greetings, brothers and sisters. At the time of this writing, the UPMC Memori- al Hospital project was nearing completion, and an opening was scheduled for August.

Battaglia Electric will be doing the new Penn National “Mini” Casino project in York. This project is expected to start after Labor Day and be open by summer of 2020.

Congratulations to our 2019 apprenticeship graduates. Inside apprentice graduates: Chase Taylor, Doug Ruth, Dustin Wells, Nyeil Ward, Alayna Queray, Matt Bish, Tanner Richardson and Jake Wal- timyer. VDV apprentice graduate: Dalton Byers.

These apprenticeship graduates also volun- teered at a local YWCA summer camp and upgraded wiring and lighting throughout the cabins. We are proud of each of these new journeyman workers and tech- nicians and look forward to seeing their long, suc- cessful careers in the IBEW.

Hope everyone has enjoyed a safe and happy summer!

Steve Selby, B.M.

Crane Qualification Course

L.U. 245 (gvt,ctu,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OHIO — Intro- duction and crane operators on the job will need our cause going forward. Some old faces were reaffirmed in their positions and some new faces received their crane licenses. Congratulations to the local leadership for the first time. The oath of office was given to the newly elected officers by retired business agent George Grant.

At press time, Tole- do Edison Energy Delivery contract negotiations are winding down and we should have a tentative agreement soon. Ten new members from the Power Systems Institute (PSI) program were sworn in at the June union meeting.

On the regular side, Ohio House Bill 6 (Ohio Clean Air Program Bill) has been tossed around in the state Legislature like a hot potato, with no res- olution as of this writing. [Editor’s Note: For more information see news article “Clock Ticking on Bill to Preserve Nuclear Jobs in Ohio,” posted June 6 on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/arti- cles.] Thank you to Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Bri- an G. Malloy, his staff, and our union brothers and sisters who came out to support us at the legislative hearings in Columbus. Also, thank you to Local 245 Bus. Mgr. Larry Tischer and Local 1443 Bus. Mgr. Brad Goetz for their constant lobbying in Columbus; they have been so much the mayor might give them the key to the city.

Until next time, work safe.

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.

Election of Officers; Politically Active Membership

L.U. 269 (bld), TRENTO, NJ — Our members pride themselves on being politically active and engaged, using their voting power to directly affect the future of their careers and their local union. So, it’s no surprise that when the time came to elect the officers for the local, our brothers and sisters turned out in impressive numbers to vote for the new batch of officers that will lead our cause going forward. Some old faces were reaffirmed in their positions and some new faces took their place among the local leadership for the first time.

The oath of office was given to the newly elected officers by retired business agent George Grant. The meeting was then gavelled closed to signal the end of the meeting and the beginning of a new chapter in the local’s long history.

The excitement of the elections was then fol- lowed by what many consider to be the most enjoyable evening of the local’s calendar, the annual retirees dinner. Long-standing members received their service pins, 30-year members received a beautiful commem- orative watch, and the membership got a chance to show their appreciation to the ones who made our local great.

Brian Jacobpo, P.S.

IN WEA continues...
Service Pins Awarded
L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts&spa), ROCHESTER, MN — Congratulations to the following members for earning Service Pins. Nineteen members were tenured in June, with many more to be announced in July. Those in June: Jeanne (10 years); James (15 years); Stuart (20 years); Wayne (25 years); Chuck (35 years); We thank our members for their years of service.

Election of Officers; Apprenticeship Graduates
L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — On May 10-11, IBEW Local 611 held its Annual Softball Tournament at the new Sports Plex in Albuquerque. Randy Cummings has hosted the event for the past 19 years. In previous years the tournament was held at Bullhead Park. This year there were 84 teams in several categories, ranging from the Fun League to the Senior Men League, the first-place and second-place teams all received rings. All of the money collected is donated to Pay it Forward NM. A huge thank-you to all of this year’s volunteers — great job.

Local 611 Family Picnic; Annual Softball Tournament
L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,rtb,rts,spa&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — On May 10-11, IBEW Local 611 held its Annual Softball Tournament at the new Sports Plex in Albuquerque. Randy Cummings has hosted the event for the past 19 years. In previous years the tournament was held at Bullhead Park. This year there were 84 teams in several categories, ranging from the Fun League to the Senior Men League, the first-place and second-place teams all received rings. All of the money collected is donated to Pay it Forward NM. A huge thank-you to all of this year’s volunteers — great job.

Graduates of the joint apprenticeship program of IBEW Local 569 and NECA San Diego class of 2019.

IBEW 569 also thanks all of our families for joining us at our annual picnic — it was a smashing success and will be even better next year when we commemorate our 80th anniversary. To check out photos of the picnic and the graduation ceremony, as well as additional election results, please visit www.ibew569.org.

Gretchen K. Newsam, P.S.

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Gretchen K. Newsam, P.S.
2019 Graduation Ceremony

L.U. 639 (i&ts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — Congratulations to the Local 639 graduating apprenticeship class of 2019. Graduation ceremonies were held June 7 at the Madonna Inn Garden Room in San Luis Obispo.

Graduation keynote speaker was San Luis Obispo County, District 3, Supervisor Adam Hill. Special guest speaker Ellen Beraud is a candidate for the 5th District Board of Supervisors. She is the wife of Local 639 member and electrical contractor Francois Beraud of French Electric. Both Hill and Beraud spoke of the importance of organized labor and committed to working with the Board of Supervisors to negotiate a county-wide project labor agreement (PLA). Local 639 will endorse both candidates in the upcoming primary election in March of 2020.

Apprentice graduate Brett Harradence received the Outstanding Apprentice Award. Brett and JATC instructor Ben Goldman attended the National Training Institute (NTI) in Ann Arbor, MI, for a week in August. Congratulations to all.

Kurt McClave, P.S.

2019 Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 683 (i), COLUMBUS, OHIO — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

On May 3, we welcomed in the second half of the first-year apprenticeship class. We need to be diligent in instructing the apprentices and treating them with respect, to show them the value of what it means to be in the union.

For consecutive years, Local 617 has participated in the Redwood City annual Fourth of July parade. Local 617’s EWMC/RENEW spearheaded the participation of our members and travelers in showing our community involvement.

On Saturday, Aug. 17, Local 617 held our 46th Annual Picnic with over 650 attendees. Children had fun laughing and playing in our fun zone activities, while members enjoyed the food and spending time together sharing with their families and friends. All enjoyed the camaraderie of their union brothers and sisters.

Please be safe while on the job. Wishing the best to you and your families.

Kenn Perfitt, P.S.

Local 639 congratulates the apprenticeship graduation class of 2019.

Local 617 congratulates the apprenticeship graduation class of 2019.

IBEW MERCHANDISE

Black Logo Watch $100.00
Men’s black ion plated stainless steel watch with silver IBEW logo on face. Features ion plated stainless steel band with safety latch and water resistant housing.

Personal Cooler Bag $16.00
Personal cooler bag holds up to 6 cans and contains a thermal lining to keep beverages cold. Embroidered with grey IBEW initials, fishtail and lightning bolts.

Khaki Hat $12.50
Khaki twill hat with black embroidered IBEW lettering and curved bill.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

‘A Busy Fall for Local 697’

L.U. 697 (i), MERIDIAN, MS — Local 697 recently held a pinning ceremony to honor members and present IBEW years-of-service awards. Service pins awarded to members ranged from five-year pins to 65-year pins.

The event was held at the Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Experience (www.msarts.org) — a museum that just recently opened and was wired by one of our signatory contractors, Woodall Electric. Award recipients were proud to receive their service pins and especially proud to have the event take place at a site where local IBEW members performed the electrical work.

Stacy Henderson, B.M./P.S.
JATC Training Program Community Outreach

L.U. 1015 (em,60), WESLACO, TEXAS — IBEW Local 1015 would like to send out a big Texas salute to Mission Options Academy, located at 407 East 3rd Street, in Mission, Texas. Local 1015 teamed up with Mission Options Academy to launch our very first student Grande Valley–Laredo Electrical JATC apprenticeship program with the local school district that produced four students for the graduating class of 2019.

With the help of MOA Principal Dr. Maria Aleman, Local 1015 Bus. Mgr. Sergio A. Salinas and JATC Training Dir. Osvaldo Cabada Jr. put this great learning project together and stayed on top of it to make sure everything fell into place, including the students’ transportation from school, schedules and lesson plans.

Some of our area students find themselves wanting to learn a trade but are not able to afford it or don’t have the right information.

We are very proud of this class, which consisted of the following students: Ethan Gonzalez, Cassandra J. Padilla-Perez, Rodrigo Torres and Justin Zuniga. They worked very hard and showed interest in our program that allowed us to start with other schools in our area.

Tammy Casas, P.S.

IBEW Local 1253 member Alan Kenney takes his seat on the Maine Electricians’ Examining Board. He was appointed to the post by the state governor.

Election of Officers; Appointment to State Board

L.U. 1253 (iki&mo), AUGUSTA, MAINE — Local 1253 held its election of officers this past summer. Congratulations to the elected officers: Pres. Nick Paquet, Vice Pres. Colin Clark, Rec. Sec. Alan Kenney, Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Chuck Fraser, Treas. Tom Tolias; Executive Board members Shawn Chandler, Mark Higgins and John Weed; and Examining Board member Miguel Govea.

Good luck to all for the three-year term of office.

Congratulations to Josh Bragan and Matt Butler on their graduation from the apprenticeship program. As of this writing, Josh has passed his Maine jour- neyman’s exam and is a journeyman wireman. Congratulations!

The local congratulates Bro. Alan Kenney on his appointment by the state governor to the Maine Electricians’ Examining Board. The IBEW position on the board had been unfilled, and the inside locals in Maine are thankful to Alan for stepping up to fill this important position.

Chuck Fraser, B.M.

P.S. 2019 Apprentices Graduates

L.U. 1205 (em,git,uki), GAINESVILLE, FL — The Gainesville JATC apprenticeship graduating class of 2019 was fewer in number than a typical graduating class. However, great things come in small packages.

Led by outstanding apprentice Brett Bennett-Farrell, the graduating class also consisted of Jonathan Howell, Nathan Shawl, Dillon Motes and Zach Parker.

This was the first class to implement the Blend-ed Learning System, so it was a learning experience for teachers as well as students. Congratulations to the graduates on becoming journeymen wiremen — we all look forward to working with you during your long and rewarding careers ahead.

Jonathan Howell, P.S.

Transmission Safety Week

L.U. 1347 (es,em,ma,LU), CINCINNATI, OHIO — Safety week for our Transmission Department took place June 17–21 at the Duke Energy Shelbyville headquar- ters in Indiana.

IBEW members from both Local 1347 and Local 1933 attended the safety week events. We had many demonstrations, such as “hurt man” rescue from tower lines, and confined space tri-pod rescues. There were many examples of equipment brought in by vendors. Safety was the main focus for all partici- pants, as we continue to strive to make our workplace safe and accident free. Both Local 1347 and Local 1933 set up booths to give out all kinds of union apparel and gifts for the membership.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

‘Updates for Unit 2 Members’

L.U. 1513 (es,em,mo,pet,rt&ru), BALTIMORE, MD — Members of Local 1510—Unit 2 at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, recently met to discuss the possibility of a change of contractors at the site by the government. It is always possible that every five years there can be a change in the contrac- tor that we do business with.

Right now, as of this writing, the company we have a contract with is Sierra Lobo, but numerous contractors have bid on this contract. One of which is Northrop Grumman Corp., which also has a contract with IBEW Local 1510 at the Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) site near the Baltimore airport for its electronic systems. We do get parts from Northrop for some of our space projects.

We don’t yet know how this will turn out; howev- er, we have been through this process five or six times over the years, and Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion Guth- rie and Vice Pres. Fred Richards have done an excel- lent job working with the new contractors, no matter who the contractors are. Our existing union contact goes until October of 2020.

James Boyd, F.S., P.S.

Good luck to all for the length of the contact.

IBEW members from Locals 1347 and 1933 attended Transmission Safety Week events in June.

Local 1510—Unit 2 members at a meeting with Bus. Mgr. Dion Guthrie and Vice Pres. Fred Richards regarding a possible change of contractors.

Local 1512—Unit 2 members at a meeting with Bus. Mgr. F. S. Johnston.

Plant Vogtle Project; Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 1579 (iki&mo), AUGUSTA, GA — Local 1579’s apprenticeship graduation was May 17. These new journey- men worked hard over the last five years and are proud of them. When the 19 graduates first began their apprenticeship, there were 61 in their class. Con- gratulations to the 19 graduates in the class of 2019 on their persever- ance and success. Thank you, graduates, for your dedication to the IBEW — you are the future.


New Staffing Agreement At Maine Power Company

L.U. 1837 (nt&ru&), MANCHESTER, MAINE — IBEW Local 1837 and Central Maine Power Company (CMP) have agreed to an extension of their staffing agree- ment, which, coupled with a staffing plan submitted to the Maine Public Utility Commission, includes a substantial increase in the number of union workers employed at Maine’s largest electric utility.

Local 1837 Bus. Mgr. Dick Rogers has been advocating for increased staffing for several years in

IBEW members from Locals 1347 and 1933 attended Transmission Safety Week events in June.
**Local Lines**


Discussions with CMP and the Public Advocate's office as well as in testimony before the Maine PUC and the Legislature's Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

"I signed an extension of the staffing agreement that I believe, along with the staffing plan submitted by the company to the Maine PUC, will have the impact CMP's customers and our members deserve, including restoration efforts, new construction/customer service, and safety," Rogers said.

The "minimum" number of union employees at CMP will increase from 540 to 606. That includes the addition of 12 new line apprentices and four new station apprentices. By 2024, the fully implemented minimum staffing number will be 665.

Matthew Beck, Organizer, B.R.

**'Keep On Riding' — Snowmobile Ride Fundraiser**

L.U. 2067 (o&u), REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA — IBEW Local 2067 has been a proud sponsor of Prairie Women on Snowmobiles (PWOS) since 2010. PWOS has its 19th consecutive ride this year, from Feb. 3-8.

The team of 10 women rode over 1,200 kilometers in Saskatchewan, starting at Meadow Lake, heading south to Maple Creek, then returning north to Prince Albert (with many stops along the way). Over the past 19 years, PWOS has heightened awareness of the importance of early detection of breast cancer. They have also raised funds for research and for the purchase of equipment.

"The most rewarding part of Prairie Women on Snowmobiles is meeting the survivors, seeing their faces, and receiving their hugs — knowing that you are doing something that touches so many people," states PWOS Pres. Kelly Rea. "It is a blessing to be able to do this for everyone who has ever been affected by cancer."

Local 2067 Pres. Randy Moeller attests: "Almost everyone knows someone who has battled breast cancer. It's an important battle to fight!"

Curtis Léée, A.B.M.

**Health Fair in October**

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — Hello from Local 1 retirees in St. Louis. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Autumn is upon us.

We had our annual retiree golf tournament in June. Weather and camaraderie were excellent. We would love to have more players participate next year.

September 28 is the annual luncheon. There is always great food and the drinks are cold.

I encourage all to attend the Health Fair Oct. 12. There will be blood analysis, flu shots, hearing tests and much more available — and you’ll be able to see our newly renovated hall.

There will be another important election in November next year. Please help all the worker-friendly candidates. Attend the labor club in your area. Nov. 20 will be the next Retirees Club meeting after the September luncheon.

Neal McCormack, P.S.

**Spring & Summer Activities**

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER — After a wet spring season, we were glad to see summer arrive. Our summer luncheon was held June 19, after our monthly meeting.

We had two BBQ picnic outings to Monmouth Park Race Track — on June 21 and July 19. Bobby Fisher, Pat Miele and Press Sec. Nancy Savarese were the big winners at the racetrack.

**Fishing Trip & Picnics**

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER — After a wet spring season, we were glad to see summer arrive. Our summer luncheon was held June 19, after our monthly meeting.

We had two BBQ picnic outings to Monmouth Park Race Track — on June 21 and July 19. Bobby Fisher, Pat Miele and Press Sec. Nancy Savarese were the big winners at the racetrack.

**February International Executive Council Meeting**

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chairman Erikson, on Monday, Feb. 4, 2019, in St. Pete Beach, Fl. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgbam, Riley, Furco, Wine, Lavin, and Galbraith.

International President Stephenson

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

International Secretary-Treasurer Cooper

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

Legal Defense

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

Financial Reports

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

Appeals Filed with The International Executive Council

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 26 member Warren R. Cobean III, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Cobean’s appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 98 member Michael A. Welsh, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Welsh’s appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 131 member Richard A. Van Eck, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Van Eck’s appeal.

Article XX and XXI Cases

In 2018, the IBEW was involved in three Article XX disputes, and no disputes under Article XXI.

International Charge

IBEW Local Union 969 was placed under Trusteeship on July 3, 2018. At the December 2018 IEC meeting, the trusteeship was extended. Form LM-15 Trusteeship Report was filed on Jan. 22, 2019.

Review of Letter

The IEC reviewed the letter addressed to retired International Vice President Joseph S. Davis in relation to the action taken at the previous IEC meeting. In December 2018, the International Executive Council took action to ensure that the pension benefits provided in the IBEW Constitution will be paid to a retitled International Vice President.

IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement

Covering the 6-month Period Ending December 31, 2018

Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets/Changes Covering the 6-month Period Ending December 31, 2018

Reviewed and Filed

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned, on Friday, Feb. 8, 2019, at 12:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, June 24, 2019, in Hoboken, N.J.

Patrick Lavin, Secretary

February 2019

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW pension fund. For a complete listing, consult www.IBEW.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "Who We Are" page.
Members of Local 5, South Jersey Chapter and Staten Island Chapter, Retirees Clubs enjoy a June 26 fishing trip. Among the participants: South Jersey Chapter Chmn. Anthony Savarese, South Jersey Chapter Vice Chmn. Charles DeSara, and Staten Island Chapter Chmn. Dwight Millman.

Activity & Service Awards

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER — Our chapter had an active winter and spring. We chartered a bus to go to our Union Retirees Luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Over 1,000 retirees attended. It was great to see friends, and all had a great time.

Thank you to Patricia Duva and Olivia Schmidt for arranging for our chapter to go to the Bellport Theater to see a Legends Show. Everyone had a wonderful time.

At our Union Luncheon, 10 of our members received IBEW service awards. One of our members, Robley W. Jarvis, received his 70-year pin. He received a standing ovation.

Other members of our club who received awards are: 60-year members — Harvey S. Goldman, Richard Speruggia, Mike Katz; 55-year member — Raymond J. Gotta; and 50-year members — Ralph G. Richard Speruggia, Mike Katz; 55-year member — Raymond J. Gotta; and 50-year members — Ralph G. Raymond J. Gotta; and 50-year members — Ralph G. Raymond J. Gotta; and 50-year members — Ralph G. Raymond J. Gotta; and 50-year members — Ralph G. Raymond J. Gotta; and 50-year members — Ralph G. Raymond J. Gotta; and 50-year members — Ralph G. Raymond J. Gotta; and 50-year members — Ralph G.

Activities & Events

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 42, HARTFORD, CT — The retirees of Local 42 are looking forward to reaching out to all our retired brothers and sisters throughout the country and let you know we are thinking about you all. At our meetings, which are held every other month, we get together to see how everyone is doing and talk about the old days. While the work has changed for the better, Local 42 is and will always be a big part of bringing light to America.

Local 42 is looking forward to seeing our retirees on our Dinner Cruise, Golf Tournament and our Annual Family Picnic. Also, this year is Local 42’s 50th Anniversary, and we are having a huge dinner gala at Foxwoods Resort and Casino to be held on Dec. 7, 2019.

We hope all our retirees are enjoying retirement and good health. If you are reading this letter and you wish to send us a letter letting us know how you are, we would love to read it at our meetings. We always love hearing from friends from the past. If you do want to write us a letter, you can mail it to I.B.E.W. Local 42, 379 Waveny Street, Manchester, CT 06040.

John D. Shane, Pres.

Crappie Tourney/Fish Fry; Spring Luncheon & Awards

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — At this writing, summer has arrived in the Midwest and the heat is on. Everyone, take care, don’t get too hot and drink lots of liquids.

On May 4, we had our annual Crappie Tournament/Fish Fry. Fishing wasn’t great but we had enough for the fish fry. As usual it was a good time.

On May 25, we held our spring luncheon and attendance was great. It was good to see everyone and catch up on things. Service pins were handed out to the following: 55-year member Jim Gaylord; and 50-year members Ed Williams, Gary Shields, Ron Schock, James English, Leroy Bosso, Paul Barry, Gary Crews, Tony Bratcher, Phil Duncan and Jerry Finnell. Congratulations to all.

A big thank you to Local 53 and the staff for all their hard work in making both of these events such a success.

Sadly, since our last article we have lost several brothers: Mel Simmons, Paul Akers, Rick Johnston, Virgin Endicot, Cotton Steele and Jerry Severt. Rest in peace, brothers.

Duane Pearce, P.S.

New Meeting Location

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — Retired members of Local 60 have a new place and time for their monthly meetings. Starting Sept. 12 this year, the club will be going home to their new local union hall located at 3558 N. Loop 614 E., San Antonio, starting at 11:30 a.m. Club members would like to thank the Plumbers & Pipefitters for their hospitality extended to us over the years, but there is no place like home at the new IBEW Local 60 union hall.

Long Island Education Center

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — This past summer, from June 24-27, our club visited the Long Island Education Center, as guests of the Joint Industry Board and IBEW Local 3. The JIEC, a state-of-the-art facility, has been made available to Local 3 members, through the efforts and forethought of our leadership.

The members and their spouses attended seminars on healthy living and enjoying healthy meals, integrated with managing health issues. Both the topics discussed, and the moderators, Judy Blake and Erica Vinues, were excellent. Stephanie Salandino and her staff, as always, were very accommodating and gracious toward our members.

The Tuesday barbecue was planned and carried out by members John Baranski, Mike Cernecki, Al Mica, Ken Dorsch and Joe Doherty. Many of the wives pitched in also. Our spare time was spent dining out, visiting local wineries, and enjoying the sights and ambiance of Long Island’s North Fork. Aside from one rainy morning, the weather was absolutely beautiful.

Unfortunately, this year attendance was down, as many of our members were unable to attend due to health issues. Hopefully, next year will be better.

Dick Mills, Tres.

View of Long Island Education Center from water’s edge.

Maryland’s Eastern Shore Club

Chapter Now Meets Monthly

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 24, BALTIMORE, MD, EASTERN SHORE CHAPTER — Our chapter members have enjoyed getting together so much that we voted to meet on a monthly basis, effective as of the June 2019 meeting.

We send special greetings to our Bro. Bert Mullins, 70 years; club Pres. Richard Bissell; Timothy Wilson, 55 years; and Liscard “Willie” Bryce, 30 years. Not pictured: Paul R. Yannicelli, Mike Katz, Raymond J. Gotta, Vincent Ferraro and Michael C. Carriere.

Local 26 retired members receive service pins. From left: Robert “Snuffy” Holcomb, 50 years of service; Eugene Miller, 45 years’ service; Joel Junervil, 50 years; Gervis H. “Moon” Mullins, 70 years; club Pres. Richard Bissell; Timothy Wilson, 55 years; and Liscard “Willie” Bryce, 30 years. Not pictured: 45-years member John Nolly and J. Smith.

‘Greetings to All’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Local 35 is very proud of member Gregory Hopkins, who received an IBEW Life Saving Award. He performed CPR on an Eversource contractor who had a heart attack and collapsed to the ground. Four other union members received the IBEW Recognition Award for their help: Local 35 members Ryan Pafalhi and Peter Cunningham, and Local 90 members Brendan Smiles and Ron Schock.

With the quick thinking and fast action of Gregory Hopkins and the team from Local 35, the contractor was revived.

As more members retire and decide to stay in the area, our paid membership is now over 500! Of course, not everyone attends every meeting, but participation is growing.

In April we took our annual cruise, this time to the Caribbean, with 72 members and their families. Stay tuned for more trips. 2020 is already filling up for Europe. Details available on our website.

In June we attended Labor Night at the National Balloons. And this year we added Labor Night in Baltimore to see the Orioles play!

During June, July and August we take a break from our monthly meetings, which are held at the union hall every second Saturday at noon, except for October. In October we hold our annual crab feast. Mark your calendar now for Oct. 12. For details contact retired Sister Susan Flashman via email at flashmanbesseli@aol.com.

If interested in our travels, please contact our travel coordinator, retired Bro. Rick Warner at 240-272-0438.

Susan Flashman, P.S.

Charles DiSaro ran our trip to Santorini, Long Island, on July 11-13. South Jersey and Staten Island retirees joined together on June 26 for a fishing trip out of Sandy Hook, NJ (see photo).

On July 10, some members attended the Lake-wood Blue Claws Baseball game.

Nancy Savarese, P.S.

with the apprenticeship classes on their last day of school. We shook hands with all the graduates and wished them luck in their career as journeymen.

We would love to have more retirees attend our monthly Retirees Club meetings. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Elks Club in Rocky Hill. Best wishes for a wonderful upcoming season!

Kenneth R. White, P.S.

Activities & Events

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 42, HARTFORD, CT — The retirees of Local 42 would like to reach out to all our retired brothers and sisters throughout the country and let you know we are thinking about you all. At our meetings, which are held every other month, we get together to see how everyone is doing and talk about the old days. While the work has changed for the better, Local 42 is and will always be a big part of bringing light to America.
In addition to your monthly issue of The Electrical Worker, check out the wealth of IBEW-related information online.

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

YouTube
National LAMPC honored two U.S. congressmen for their bipartisan work on an energy grid safety and reliability bill. Learn more at YouTube.com/IBEW.

Vimeo
The successful fight against energy deregulation in Nevada saw two IBEW locals share the inaugural Edwin D. Hill Award. Watch at Vimeo.com/IBEW.

HourPower
Before we can do the work, we have to get the work. A new Business Development video series at IBEWHourPower.com spotlights some recent IBEW wins.

ElectricTV
Building more affordable housing is one way the IBEW/NECA Powering America Team is helping to fight homelessness in Oregon. Check out ElectricTV.net to find out how.

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

2018 Retirees Luncheon & Service Award Recipients

At the Sept. 12 meeting, IBEW years-of-service pins will be awarded to the following members: 50-year members — Glen Barnett, Thomas J. Huckeba, Patrick A. Reyes, Sammy L. Beat, Robert E. Garner, Norbert B. Silka, John E. Squier and Anton R. Kyrillos; 55-year members — Guadalupe Galindo, William E. Stipp, Gary Van De Walle and Rigelio Calderon Jr.; 60-year members — Richard G. Chamberlain, Robert D. Wolff, Royce L. Appelt and Charles W. Tueseii; and 65-year member — Hillel I. Merz. Congratulations to all.

Meetings are still held the second Thursday of the month, September through May; the only change will be the time and place. Retirees from Local 60, please attend.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Happy Anniversary

At annual luncheon meeting in June, Local 134 retirees were honored for their IBEW years of service.

Koerner, Philip Murphy, Thomas Powers, Allen White; 65-year members — Gerrett Meade, Ralph Mellert, Charles Meyer, Joseph Pace, Robert Turek Sr., Michael Vopinek, Henry Wagner; 70-year member — Edward Swanson; and 75-year member — Lawrence Wolfschneider. Congratulations to all honorees.

We thank Local 134 and are grateful for their support of our Retirees Club.

Sue Klecka, P.S.

Updates & Transitions

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — The Retirees Club met Tuesday, June 25, at the American Legion in Hartsburg, MO. At this writing, summer temperatures here were close to 100 degrees. Missouri has had a lot of flooding, and a tornado hit Jefferson City. Although the tornado spared Local 257, many other businesses located close by were destroyed. At press time, the city is still cleaning up and some people are still without homes.

The Eleventh District Progress Meeting was June 18-21 at Lake of the Ozarks, MO, with Local 257 and Local 2 hosting.

Paul Meyer, a lifelong IBEW member, passed away on May 28 this year. Paul was one of the largest electrical contractors in mid-Missouri. During his many years in business, he put a lot of IBEW members to work. For many years he served on the apprenticeship committee, and he was instrumental in getting the IBEW/NECA Training Center built for Local 257. Also, we were sorry to hear that one of our retiree members, Vera Burks, passed away on June 27 this year at age 101.

The Eleventh District Progress Meeting was June 18-21 at Lake of the Ozarks, MO, with Local 257 and Local 2 hosting.

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June Luncheon Meeting

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — The Local 702 Retirees Club met Thursday, June 6, at the Golden Corral in Carbondale, IL, with almost 20 retirees in attendance.

Pres. Gary King opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. He wel-

ored everyone and extended a thanks to all for coming. The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. The financial report was read and approved.

In the raffle drawing, $84 worth of tickets were sold. Bro.

Bob Calby won the 50/50 drawing of $42. It was announced that the total deposit would be $42. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Mark Baker, P.S.

Retirees Serve Community —
Donation of Electric Box Fans

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1245, VACAVILLE, CA — In the Reno-

Sparks, Nevada, area, triple-digit temperatures in late summer aren’t uncommon. Unfortunately, many seniors simply cannot afford to pay for air conditioning, and the sweltering heat makes summertime uncomfortable and potentially life-threatening for low-income seniors.

Four years ago, IBEW Local 1245 Reno-Sparks Retirees Club

Pres. Ron Borst challenged the members of his club to take up a fan collection to address this very serious issue. The collection has become an annual tradition for the retirees, and this year, they donated 43 box fans to the Washoe County Human Services Agency, which will in turn distribute them to seniors who cannot afford air conditioning.

“I would like to thank you for your generous donation of 43 box fans to our Senior Services Division,” Washoe County Human Services Coordinator Abby Badolato wrote in a letter to the Retirees Club. “We are committed to enriching the lives of our participants by providing quality services while preserving their dignity and independence. Washoe County seniors, who have contributed so much to quality of life in our community, deserve no less. Thank you for making a difference with your gift. Everyone appreciates your generosity.”

Over the past four years, the Reno-Sparks retirees have donated a total of 163 fans to needy seniors.

Rebecca Band, P.S.

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

The Electrical Worker was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union’s members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.
Lisa Bagalay was, by all accounts, an exceptional member of Detroit Local 17’s Line Clearance and Tree Trimmer apprenticeship program. But, before we get to her story, Business Manager Dean Bradley wants everyone to understand something important: Lisa Bagalay isn’t special because she’s a woman doing a job that’s mostly done by men. Yes, by Bradley’s reckoning she is the first woman to top out of the local’s program in at least 20 years, and yes, that is extraordinary.

She also isn’t special because she did it after being a stay-at-home mom for a 15 years. Though a fair number of her fellow apprentices were in their 20s, it’s not unusual to have apprentices closer to 40, like Bagalay.

What Bradley wants people to understand, from the first, is just how special anyone is who makes it through Local 17’s line clearance program, whoever they are.

“We have a 25% washout rate just in the nine-day bootcamp before the apprenticeship starts and 50% during the full program. The line clearance trade is exceptionally hazardous, technical and physically demanding,” he said.

Not many people want to climb to the swaying top of an 80-foot tree in the dead of a Detroit winter with a chainsaw and plans to bring that tree down, piece by controlled piece. Even fewer succeed.

“The strength, the extreme weather, the hazards, the challenges anyone to try it,” he said.

Once you understand that, Bradley said, now he can tell you about Lisa Bagalay. He is at pains to say Bagalay isn’t exceptional simply because she finished. Roughly 20 women have topped out of the only other IBEW Line Clearance Tree Trimming apprenticeship — run by the Northwest Line JATC in Vancouver, Wash. — since 1995.

What makes Bagalay special is that even among the crew that succeeded, she stood out.

“Everyone who leaves this program knows how to do it right, but Lisa always went further to do it the best way using the best techniques. It was going to be over and above correct, every time,” said Line Clearance Tree Trimming Trainer and Safety Instructor Winston Likert.

Likert has known Lisa and her husband, Eric, for decades, since Eric was an apprentice. But Likert — and it turns out, Eric — were surprised when Lisa announced she was signing up. And surprise quickly turned to concern.

“Eric wasn’t happy. He was nervous for me. I just told him he had no chance of stopping me,” Bagalay said. “I’ve been told my whole life to work hard and set goals. A few people told me I would never be a journeyman. I am.”

Likert says he wasn’t one of them. After training apprentices for more than 15 years, he has concluded that successful tree trimmer apprentices come from all different kinds of jobs, or this may be their first. There are a handful still shaking off the last traces of teenage years and others who feel accumulation of life in knees that click and backs that ache. The only traits he thinks they all share is that they love a life outdoors and they’re all physical. Some are big and powerful, some are wiry and small, but as long as they understand how to control their movement in an effective way, it can work.

“We didn’t know what it would look like,” he said. “We knew it was a male-dominated world she was coming into, and it was new for all of us.”

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“We didn’t know what it would look like,” he said. “We knew it was a male-dominated world she was coming into, and it was new for all of us.”

From the beginning, she said, she knew her best chance to get where she wanted was to work smart.

“We have so much equipment available to us that we don’t have to muscle anything, but you have to learn how to use it. You can do the rigging to move a 2,000-pound log with one person and one rope,” she said. “This is a mental game more than a physical one. You have to think 10 steps ahead or something will go wrong, and you will get hurt.”

Happily, this is exactly what Likert wants to see in apprentices.

“There is a lot of stored up energy in a tree, kinetic energy, dynamic energy, tension, compression. She never stopped studying how to engineer the structure to take the stress out of the tree and off of her body,” Likert said. “You can body the work, but you won’t last.”

Bagalay’s biggest supporters in her quest to work smart, she said, were three Local 17 journeymen who trained her well — Cory van Kuren, Matt Nichols and Terry Leitch — and Likert. Because her husband was on the apprentice board at Local 17, they decided to keep work and home completely separate, so no one could say she didn’t earn it.

And then she made sure everyone else earned it too, Bradley said.

“Leaders always surface in apprenticeships. And she asserted herself from the beginning. There was never a lot of questioning about would they follow a woman. Lisa made it clear that she was someone they could all rely on,” Bradley said.

But before anyone comes to the wrong conclusion, Bagalay is far from “all clipboard, no chainsaw,” Likert said.

She did the grunt work same as everyone else. Sometimes brush just needs dragging and it doesn’t require anything other than sweat. And there were ways, Likert said, that Bagalay’s physical skills exceeded the norm.

Bagalay climbs without hooks. Everyone climbs without hoops sometimes, but Bagalay always did. While they might be a necessity when working on poles, they are damaging to trees and can do long-term damage to the back and knees. Bagalay’s knees are a mess from her time as a youth gymnast, and she tore her ACL and meniscus during the apprenticeship.

She was only out for three months. Athletes routinely take a year to recover from the same injury.

Likert, who also climbs without hooks, thinks it’s easy to rely on them as a short-term cover, using productivity as an excuse to not learn the most sustainable way of doing things.

In all his years, he has never seen anyone work all the way up to journeyman without using hooks.

“There are a lot of guys who climb hookless, and we are promoting it a lot. People do it more than ever before, but in my 14 years, I’ve never seen anyone go to that degree,” he said. “She made it a point.”

The most surprising part of the job, Bagalay said, is how much more than just a job it has turned out to be.

Eric and Lisa’s home is now host to Christmas parties in winter and pool parties in the summer for crews she’s worked with, past and present. They make annual pilgrimages to events like ArborCon, Arborfest and Tree Jam, and she is a frequent presence at Local 17 union meetings.

She didn’t get a job, she said, she got a tribe.

“All these people are my family,” she said.

Bradley hopes Bagalay is an inspiration for people who wouldn’t think this job or the trades is for them.

“Anyone who is all in, there for their brothers and sisters and willing to put in the work, with the right training and attitude, the trades are for everyone,” Bradley said.

Lisa Bagalay is the first woman to top out of Detroit Local 17’s Line Clearance and Tree Trimmer apprenticeship in at least 20 years, but it’s her dedication to her craft that sets her apart, colleagues say.