Detroit needs tree trimmers, hundreds of them. Fallen trees are responsible for nearly 70% of the time customers of DTE Energy, the local utility, spend without power; tree trimming reduces power cuts by 60%, according to the company. Every year, the company’s more than 31,000 miles of power lines grow, and so do the trees. Detroit Local 17 and DTE have been remarkably successful in filling out their ranks. Their 1,300 line clearance-tree trimmer members make up one of the largest LCTT units in the country. They run one of only two Labor Department-certified apprenticeships for the trade. (The other is the Northwest Line JATC in Vancouver, Wash.) They have more than 200 apprentices in some stage of the two-year program. The average journeyman can easily earn six figures, the benefits are good, and so is retirement. But they can’t keep up.

“There’s a shortage of tree trimmers because of the nature of the job,” said Detroit Local 17 Business Manager Dean Bradley. “What we’re doing here is very, very physically demanding and very, very dangerous.”

Even if DTE and the IBEW wanted to lower standards and try to handhold the not-quite-up-to-snuff onto the job, there simply is no faking your way through the apprenticeship, Bradley said.

“The job has its own yardstick,” he said. “If you panic at 60 feet, you’re not going to make it. For a fair number of people, the tracks stop there. The road is closed. The washout rate in the apprenticeship is nearly 50%.

Bringing in nonunion workers hasn’t worked either, Bradley said. Even if they come from arborist backgrounds, they haven’t proven productive enough, safe enough or prepared to work around the wires. They just don’t stick.

“The company doesn’t want to hire anyone who didn’t make it through our apprenticeship,” Bradley said.

The truth is, the company said, it faces “a critical shortage of qualified people.”

There is another truth. Nearly everyone in the Michigan prison system will go home one day. And when they do, even in an economy approaching full employment, former inmates find a wary world. People coming out of prison have an unemployment rate of 60% — more than 15 times the state’s average.

Here’s a dark truth. In Michigan, without stable employment, roughly one-third will reoffend. Some of

James Son, left, pictured working with student Corey Boerner, is the lead instructor for the pre-apprenticeship line clearance tree trimmer program in the Parnall Correctional Facility in Jackson, Mich., a joint project of Detroit Local 17 and utility DTE.

Michigan Partnership Offers Second Chance
Power in Numbers

Last month, we celebrated the 125th official Labor Day in both the U.S. and Canada. It was a day set aside to honor workers and the labor movement, and for many years it did just that. Politicians on the left and the right—even CEOs and Wall Street types—knew that North America’s workers powered the mightiest economy the world had ever seen.

At some point, our political and business leaders lost sight of that, and they convinced a majority of Americans and a significant portion of Canadians that labor unions were the enemy. Unions hampered economic progress, they said. What they really meant was that unions were the only thing standing between corporate special interests and billions more in profits, built on the backs of working people struggling to make a living. But they didn’t mention that part, and a good number of people believed them.

But tide is turning. In a recent Gallup poll, approval of labor unions in America was at a near 50-year high—46% compared to 48% just a decade ago. Now, why do you think that is?

Workers today are working harder than ever for a shrinking piece of the action. More and more are being classiﬁed as “independent contractors” so corporations can avoid paying beneﬁts, and the billionaire class is spending like crazy to sideline unions from standing up to their hold on power.

On page 9 of this issue, you’ll read that workers’ share of total economic output is at historic lows. Meanwhile, CEO pay has grown at a rate 78 times that of regular workers over the last 40 years.

Interestingly, the decrease in workers’ share of the economy tracks pretty closely with the decline of organized labor. I, for one, am glad people are starting to notice.

At the end of August, we held our annual Membership Development Conference in Chicago, and I’m proud to report that our “A” membership is at an all-time high. We’ve scored some huge organizing victories recently at utilities and among public employees.

The IBEW is strong—we’ve had six straight years of growth—and the changing public opinion toward labor is a big part of that.

Each of you has a role to play in that, too. When you display your union membership with pride, when you embrace the Code of Excellence and let your IBEW pride shine through in the quality work you do, you’re making it easier for the next generation of workers. When you tell young people about how the IBEW has improved your life or when you volunteer in your community, you’re showing the world what we in the labor movement stand for.

Keep it up. You’re making a difference.

And for our sisters and brothers in Canada, there’s one more way this month you can make a difference for working people in your nation. You’ll read more in these pages, but I hope you’ll take the upcoming federal elections on Oct. 21 very seriously.

A Fair Economy Needs Unions

The Business Roundtable, which represents some of America’s top corporations, issued a signiﬁcant policy change in August that gives a lot of insight into the thinking of corporate America these days.

It reversed decades of established practice, declaring that a corporation shouldn’t exist just to make money for its shareholders but to create value for all its stakeholders—customers, employees, communities and shareholders alike.

Now, this might sound like parsing words, but it represents a big shift in corporate America’s approach.

For decades the ofﬁcial line of corporate America was that a business exists for one purpose and one purpose only: to make money for stockholders and Wall Street.

The problem with this approach, as Washington Post Columnist Steven Pearlstein puts it, is that “maximizing shareholder value has meant doing whatever is necessary to boost the share price . . . over the years it has been used to justify bumbling customers, squeezing workers and suppliers, avoiding taxes, and slashing stock options on executives.”

This vision has led to an economy where the bull market, while lining the pockets of the 1%, has bypassed too many working families, and where Wall Street looks on any company that’s loyal to its workforce and pays them a living wage as heretical.

So, the Business Roundtable’s statement is a welcome change. But if corporate America is truly serious about changing its ways, more is needed than good intentions.

First and foremost, workers need a voice in today’s capitalism.

Many economists view the 1950s through the beginning of the 1970s as the golden age of capitalism, where the American people at all income levels shared in the increasing prosperity and wealth that marked this period. There was a reason for that: strong labor unions.

It was organized labor that fought for and won good wages, decent beneﬁts, and quality training that made sure that wages grew in tandem with productivity growth.

In the 1980s that link was broken as widespread union-busting and outsourcing devastated labor’s power and drove down wages and beneﬁts. The Business Roundtable could put its money where its mouth is if it discarded the dogma that unions are bad for business and respected employees’ right to join a union.

Every day, the IBEW is proving in practice that labor and management can work together to support both successful companies and good, living-wage jobs. That’s what our Code of Excellence is about, and it’s why some of America’s top energy CEOs are proud of the relationship they have with us.

Building an inclusive capitalism means giving workers a voice and a place at the table. That’s what the labor movement is all about, and the IBEW is ready and willing to work with corporate America to build an economy that works for everybody.
The Electrical Worker | October 2019

Canadian Election Offers Chance for Members to Show Who ‘Shares Our Values’

Toronto Local 353 Vice President Jeff Irons views the upcoming Canadian federal elections much like an organizing drive. There’s been plenty of outreach to members — much like there is to potential members during an organizing campaign — telling them what’s at stake and encouraging them to vote.

“I come down to member education,” Irons said. “It’s one-on-one conversations.”

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s Liberal government, which won a majority in 2015, will try to stay in control, but it won’t be easy. The Conservative Party or its allies took over provincial assemblies from the New Democratic Party in Alberta and the Liberals in Ontario during the last year. In late August, CBC’s Poll Tracker gave the Liberals a 33% chance of winning a majority and the Conservatives a 25% chance.

Then there’s the possibility that neither of the two leading parties will get to form its own government. Experts estimate there is a better than even chance neither the Liberals nor Conservatives will win a majority, forcing a coalition.

“We never tell anyone what to do,” Irons said. “Union members are smart, Type-A people and we don’t like to be told what to do. But I do tell them what the issues are and who shares our values.”

In many ridings, that means the most pro-worker candidate is usually — but not always — from the ruling Liberals.

In some ridings, it could mean the NDP candidate — such as Winnipeg’s Elmwood-Transcona Riding, where Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 208 and NDP member Daniel Blaikie is running a close race for re-election to Parliament. The NDP is expected to lose seats overall but still might form a coalition government along with the Liberals.

But Martin and Irons both noted the IBEW and other unions had virtually no access to the levers of power when the Conservatives held power for nearly 10 years before the Liberals triumphed in 2015. Those 10 years under the Conservatives resulted in an assault on organized labour and workers’ rights and an increase in income inequality.

That’s changed during the last four years. The IBEW now has a seat at the table and Trudeau and the government along with the Liberals.

With apprentices from Ottawa, Ontario, Local 586, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau snips a copper wire to signify the opening of a monument dedicated to Canada’s building trades members in May 2017. Trudeau’s four-year tenure has seen gains for the country’s working families.

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That’s changed during the last four years. The IBEW now has a seat at the table and Trudeau and the Liberals have followed through on many of the pro-worker policies they promised, including:

- Reversed bills C-377 and C-525 — a pair of anti-union bills pushed by Conservatives that placed onerous reporting requirements on unions and made organizing new workers more burdensome.
- Expanded the Canada Pension Plan and increased the Guaranteed Income for the country’s poorest senior citizens.
- Prohibited the presence in construction materials of asbestos, a carcinogen known for decades to cause cancer. The previous Conservative government resisted efforts to do so.
- Reduced the employment insurance waiting period from two weeks to one.
- Created a Just Transition Task Force to reduce the impacts of Canada’s move away from coal-fired power generation on those workers and their communities.
- Created the advisory council on the implementation of National Pharmacare. This led to a national dialogue on how to implement an affordable pharmacare plan for Canadians and their families, employers and governments.

Nearly 2,000 miles from Toronto, near the Pacific Ocean, the goal is the same but the path to reaching it is different for Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 213 Business Manager Jim Lofty.

The Local 213 and most unions have a very good relationship with the NDP, which controls the provincial government, Lofty said. But with the NDP expected to do poorly on the national level, he’s advising his members to strongly consider the Liberal candidate if it looks like the NDP candidate in their riding has little chance to win.

“Given the climate of this election, we have to tell our members that while we won’t tell you how to vote, you’re going to make it harder for us to do our job and to defend you if you vote Conservative,” he said.

“We’re telling them to remember what it was like when [former Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who was notoriously anti-union] was here,” Lofty added. “We’re trying to bring back those memories.”

Like Irons, Lofty is concerned the Conservatives will reopen the Canadian constitution if they win a majority of the provincial governments and a majority in Parliament. That could lead to even more draconian proposals than under Harper.

“If you’re looking to support the people that support labor and working people and the middle class, don’t be distracted by the rhetoric around gun control and immigration,” Lofty said.

The IBEW’s access to the Trudeau government was on display in the days leading up to the election. Matthew Wayland, the director of governmental relations in Canada and an executive assistant to First District Vice President Thomas Reid, was recently named to a newly formed three-person committee that will advise the prime minister on promoting apprenticeships and the skilled trades. The IBEW and other trades likely would be frozen out of such a committee under a Conservative government — if one was formed at all.

“Canadians count on tradespeople every day,” Trudeau said when announcing the committee. “They power our industry, keep our vehicles and public transit moving and build the places we call home. By promoting in-demand careers in the trades, we can help young people find good, well-paying jobs and build a stronger economy for the benefit of all Canadians.”

“People sometimes come out of the woodwork and vote in a protectionist mode and think politicians are helping them when they are actually doing nothing of the sort,” Martin said.

Plus, as Martin pointed out, newly elected governments that displaced the worker-friendly assemblies in Alberta and Ontario made it a priority to turn back initiatives that have supported working families.

In Alberta, the ruling Progressive Conservative Party has formed a corporate-dominated committee that will study rolling back the province’s $15 minimum wage.

In Ontario, the ruling Conservative Party and Premier Doug Ford tried to force cities in the province to do away with agreements that would prioritize bids from union contractors on public infrastructure projects. Those agreements guarantee a high quality of work for taxpayers, a living wage for workers and training opportunities for apprentices.

“You’ll sometimes hear people say it doesn’t matter who gets elected,” Irons said. “That’s easy to say, but it’s not true. The Trudeau government has done some good things for Canadian workers, and we know what we’re going to get from a Conservative government.”
Michigan Partnership Offers Second Chance

Continued from page 1

those people — maybe not all, but some — made a commitment in prison to never come back. Once outside, however, many find no way to make good on that promise. No job, no prospect, no chance.

Three years ago, the Michigan Department of Corrections rebuilt a unit at Parnall Correctional Facility in Jackson. They call it the Vocational Village, and inside the walls of the segregated unit are three buildings built to meet industry standards for certifications in, among others, welding, electrical, masonry, plumbing, automotive repair, carpentry, CNC control, even a CDL license using a truck simulator. Inmates have to apply and pass interviews. The programs last from six months to two years and students must be within that range for release.

If an inmate meets those rigorous standards, they can be transferred from anywhere in the state to the Parnall unit to live, work, eat and learn together.

The Michigan Department of Corrections has so far invested $7 million into the Vocational Village, and inside the walls of the segregated unit are classrooms built to meet industry standards for certifications in, among others, welding, electrical, masonry, plumbing, automotive repair, carpentry, CNC control, even a CDL license using a truck simulator. Inmates have to apply and pass interviews. The programs last from six months to two years and students must be within that range for release.

The centerpiece is an IBEW-designed and-built climbing structure that towers over the razor-wire-topped prison walls, a jarring and unexpected sight in a maximum-security prison.

Jeff Gunnels, a former journeyman tree trimmer in Local 17, said the program lets him, “prove myself a man worthy of trust again.”

The center piece is an IBEW-designed and-built climbing structure that towers over the razor-wire-topped prison walls, a jarring and unexpected sight in a maximum-security prison.

Parnall’s newest program, a line clearance tree trimmer certification program with a specialized curriculum, developed specifically by Local 17 for the opportunities and constraints of a program behind walls. Bradley and Anderson were there, as was the director of MDOC and her boss, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

The first class of 14 men began training in early June and a second group of 10 began in August.

Over six-to-nine months of in-class and practical work, students will learn to safely climb trees, use tree trim equipment including electric chainsaws and obtain a Commercial Driver’s License.

The Electrical Worker | October 2019
Local 17, a journeyman tree trimmer. He hit his left wrist with a topping saw in 2009. After surgery, he spent more than a year on heavy doses of pain killers.

“Emarrassingly, it spiraled out of control into an opioid addiction,” Gunnels said. “I went from a husband and a tradesman and a father to somebody with his hand in a robbery.”

Gunnels will be released on parole next April, and Pittman expects that Gunnels will not only get back to work, he will be a mentor to former inmates who are new to the trade.

“This program does give me hope that I can provide for my family and prove myself a man worthy of trust again,” Gunnels said.

There are no shortcuts. They will be kept to the same high standards as anyone well be farther for them. Bradley thinks kept to the same high standards as anyone

Inmates learn rigging, climbing technique and how to use chainsaws.

I ask you to vote for politicians and parties that support and promote good union jobs and quality union training programs. That doesn't mean the Liberals in every riding. Seek your local’s guidance if you have questions in your area. Our business leaders and political action committees have worked incredibly hard to build relationships with leaders across Canada, and they know who listens to us and who doesn’t, regardless of party.

Most importantly, please vote. The IBEW’s ability to effectively fight for our members comes from the collective power of each and every one of us, but it’s amplified when you’re politically engaged and exercise your right to vote in each and every election. Together, we can make a difference for working families — especially when we elect politicians who make sure we have a seat at the table.

UN MESSAGE SPÉCIAL POUR LES ÉLECTIONS AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

Our Seat at the Table

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sters and brothers, we’re weeks away from a federal election that will chart the course of our nation for the next several years. So, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your work. You do for the IBEW and the labour movement and to talk to you for a few moments about what’s at stake on Monday, Oct. 21.

“Together, we can make a difference for working families — especially when we elect politicians who make sure we have a seat at the table.”

– First District Vice President Thomas Reid.

Four years ago, the Canadian labour movement had endured nearly 10 years under Stephen Harper. It was a decade marked by attacks on unions and the middle class, a decade of rising inequality between the ultra-rich and the working class, and a decade when working families and the unions representing them had no access to Ottawa’s halls of power. We were shut out.

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Liberals took over in 2015, they promised us that working people would once again have a seat at the table, that the attacks on labour would stop and that we’d be treated as partners in an effort to rebuild our country’s middle class.

There’s an old saying in the labour movement: “If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu. Well, I’m here to say that things have been very different since we’ve been at the table the last four years.

The current government has sought our advice and counsel and delivered on many of its promises to working people. Since 2015, Trudeau’s government has expanded the Canada Pension Plan and increased the Guaranteed Income Supplement for the country’s poorest seniors. It’s reduced the employment insurance waiting period from two weeks to one and made good on its promise to repeal bills C-377 and C-275, two terrible pieces of Conservative legislation that tried to bury unions in paperwork so we’d have less time to spend looking after our members.

This current government has ratified a treaty recognizing the rights of working people to organize and collectively bargain and worked alongside labour to make sure there’s a just transition for workers and communities as coal-generation is phased out of the power supply.

This government has invested heavily in union apprenticeship training right across the country — including many IBEW-run programs. To date our locals have received close to $2 million. It has also finally banned asbestos in construction materials after we tried and failed for years to get Harper’s government to do the same.

I’m telling you all this again because Conservative provincial governments have been hell-bent on reducing labour’s influence over the last several years. Politicians like Doug Ford and Brian Pallister have actively worked against the best interests of unions and union members with punitive legislation and hardball politics, and now they want to turn back the clock on workers at the federal level, too.

I hope as you consider your vote over the next several weeks that you’ll put aside the political rhetoric from all sides and consider the facts. Unions and union members have a chance to remain at the table and to work with this government to continue to make things better.

Cônes consécutifs et chers confrères, nous sommes à quelques semaines de la tenue de l’élection fédérale qui tracera la voie de l’avenir de notre nation pour les prochaines années. Je profite de cette occasion de vous remercier pour tout le travail que vous avez accompli pour la FIOE et pour le mouvement syndical et je tiens à prendre quelques instants pour mieux vous informer au sujet de ce qui est en jeu le lundi 21 octobre.

Il y a quatre ans, le mouvement syndical canadien a enduré la prise de pouvoir de Stephen Harper pendant dix ans environ. La décennie passée a été marquée par des attaques contre les syndicats et la classe moyenne, une décennie qui a vu l’accroissement des inégalités entre les ultra-riches et la classe ouvrière, et une décennie où les familles de travailleurs et les syndicats qui les représentent n’avaient pas accès aux coulisses du pouvoir d’Ottawa. Nous avons été complètement exclus.

Lorsque le premier ministre Justin Trudeau et le gouvernement libéral prennent le pouvoir en 2015, ils nous ont promis que les travailleurs auraient à nouveau un siège à la table, que les atteintes aux libertés syndicales ne continueront pas et que les gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux ne pourront pas agir à leur état pur. Cela n’a pas eu lieu, et nous avons été obligés de faire face à un gouvernement qui tentait d’enterrer les syndicats sous la papierasse pour consacrer moins de temps à nos membres.

Le gouvernement actuel a ratifié un traité qui reconnait le droit d’organisation et de négocier collectivement et a travaillé au côté du syndicat en vue d’assurer une transition équitable pour les travailleurs et les collectivités pendant l’abandon graduel de l’alimentation au charbon. Le gouvernement a énormément investi dans les formations d’apprentissages destinées aux syndicats partout au pays, y compris plusieurs qui sont dirigés par la FIOE. À ce jour, nos locaux ont reçu près de douze millions de dollars. Il a aussi interdit la présence des matériaux de construction contenant de l’alliant en nylon qui nous a causé des problèmes pendant des années et échoué auprès du gouvernement federal de Harper de faire la même chose.

Je vous demande de voter pour des politiciens et pour des Partis qui encouragent et qui font la promotion de bons emplois syndiqués ainsi que pour des programmes d’apprentissages de qualité pour les syndicats. Ce n’est pas dire tous les libéraux mais dans chaque circonscription. Demandez conseil auprès de votre section locale pour vous guider si vous avez des questions dans votre région. Nos députés d’affaires et nos comités d’action politiques ont travaillé d’arrache-pied pour établir des liens avec des dirigeants parlementaires au Canada, et ils savent qui nous écoute ou pas, peu importe le Parti.

Et surtout, votez s’il vous plaît. La capacité de la FIOE à se battre de manière efficace au nom de ses membres repose sur le pouvoir collectif de chacun d’entre vous, mais son importance augmente lorsqu’il est engagé politiquement et qu’il exerce notre droit de vote à chaque élection. Ensemble, nous pouvons faire la différence aux familles, plus spécifiquement lorsqu’il est des politiciens qui assurent notre siège à la table.

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Delaware, Oregon Step In to Protect Public Employees

The IBEW joined with other unions in two states – one on the East Coast, the other on the West – to pass legislation that strengthens public employee unions following last year’s Janus decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The laws were passed and signed into law in Delaware and Oregon. Last year, in a 5-4 decision, the Court reversed more than 40 years of judicial precedent in Janus v. AFSCME, ruling that members of public employee unions no longer were required to pay membership fees even though they received all the benefits of a collectively bargained contract.

In Delaware, Wilmington Local 2270 helped other unions and allies pass legislation that gives greater protection to public sector unions and allows more state employees to collectively bargain. It was signed into law by Gov. John Carney on May 30.

The IBEW does not have a large public employee presence in Delaware, but Local 2270 represents about 60 mechanics and service personnel at the Delaware Transit Corporation and 250 school crossing guards in New Castle.

Study: West Virginia’s Prevailing Wage Repeal Lowers Wages, Not Costs

Students at Mountain Valley Elementary School in southern West Virginia’s Mercer County were forced to wait more than a month beyond the start of the school year for their facility’s grand opening. Construction delays were at fault, the state’s Affiliated Construction Trades reported in August. At Ravenswood High School, along the state’s border with Ohio, not even a signed license could keep a million-dollar renovation project away from the low-bid subcontractor, who also had failed to keep current on workers’ compensation and unemployment insurance coverage.

Before 2016, public works projects in West Virginia stood a better chance of being finished by qualified contractors on time and on budget thanks to the fair wages and standards demanded by the Mountain State’s prevailing wage law. But that year, the state’s overwhelmingly anti-labor Legislature repealed the 80-year-old law, and perhaps unsurprisingly, problems with public works projects have been multiplying ever since.

Too many businesses and politicians claim that prevailing wage laws prevent them from saving time and money on public works projects,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “But over the last 20 years, study after study has found that prevailing wage laws actually do prevent expensive delays and costly redo-overs by putting those projects in the hands of fairly compensated and highly trained construction trades workers.”

Prevailing wage laws set a fair standard of pay and benefits for contractors and workers that stays in line with what local businesses normally would provide for similar private sector work. Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia have prevailing wage laws for public works projects. Most are modeled after the U.S.S. Davis-Bacon Act of 1931, which calls for such wages on federally funded projects.

In West Virginia, a recent study published by the University of Missouri-Kansas City looked at dozens of public works projects there over the past three years and concluded that the 2016 repeal of prevailing wage “has had negative impacts for West Virginia’s construction workers, contractors, and communities while failing to deliver any meaningful cost savings.”

Having witnessed the effects of prevailing wage repeal around the country, construction trades activists from the IBEW and other unions in West Virginia fought for years against business interests that lobbied lawmakers and backed the election campaigns of anti-labor candidates who pushed repeal in the Mountain State.

“When all the talk of repeal was going on, we were warning everybody that lower wages and benefits would make bad contractors more competitive,” said Charleston, W.Va., Local 466 Business Manager John Epperly.

Not only did Epperly’s prediction come true, after prevailing wage was repealed in 2016, the study found that scores of skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen chose to drive hours away in pursuit of more lucrative prevailing wage jobs in neighboring Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The cost savings repeatedly promised by repeal proponents never materialized. A School Board Authority analysis of 107 West Virginia school construction projects found that average school project cost savings remained roughly the same since repeal ($255 per square foot) as they had been before repeal ($252 per square foot), with expensive project re-do’s and missed deadlines all but wiping out low bids.

Epperly said that a good number of Local 466’s signatory contractors are merely surviving these days, instead of thriving as they had been before repeal. “They believe, though, that as more stories like the ones out of Mercer County and Ravenswood come to light, it can only help electrical workers and others in the construction trades to bolster their cause for bringing prevailing wage back to West Virginia.

The real opportunity to do so will come when the state’s 2020 legislative session gets underway in January. Bringing back prevailing wage with the current, mostly anti-union Legislature in power could prove difficult, Epperly said:

“Democrats are out numbered 59-41 in the House [of Delegates] and 20-14 in the Senate,” he said, “which gives you an idea how close we are.”

But fortunately during the 2018 midterms, “Democrats managed to take back four seats in the House and two in the Senate,” Epperly said, something that raises his optimism about the chances that more friends of organized labor and the construction trades will be rewarded with seats in the lawmakers bodies during next year’s general election. “A lot more seats are winnable.”

“Prevailing wages bring better jobs, better working conditions and a better quality of life for all of us,” Stephenson said. “In places where it’s been repealed or where it’s threatened to be, let your candidates know prevailing wage is a working people’s issue, not a political one — and that electrical workers always remember on Election Day who’s been in our corner, and who hasn’t.”

Union-Busting App Backed by Billionaires

It’s an important signal that unions are working when the rich and powerful spend billions trying to silence them. Unions can now call to allow public employees to opt out of paying membership fees with one click is the latest big-dollar attempt by anti-labor special interests to muzzle working people and starve unions of their power.

“Our enemies haven’t found a way to beat us yet, but that isn’t stopping them from trying,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “That they’re so clearly threatened by any organization which works to balance power between working people and management should only strengthen our resolve to keep fighting.”

The same anti-union groups behind the new web tool were buoyed by the U.S. Supreme Court’s Janus v. AFSCME decision in 2018. They predicted that the landmark ruling, which allows public sector workers to benefit from union representation without having to pay for it, would finally starve unions into bankruptcy.

Janus was a dangerous decision, but reports in the year following the ruling show that it has not actually spelled doom for public sector labor unions. Earlier this year, for example, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees announced that, from March 2018 to March 2019, it had retained 94% of all represented workers and actually gained more than 9,000 dues-paying members. A Politico review in May of nine other unions representing public employees found similar results.

Now that the predicted post-Janus exodus from public sector unions has failed to materialize, labor’s enemies have turned to spending their money on technology to do the job for them. It’s been happening in New York State, where an organization called Edunite recently launched a web tool targeting members of...
Unions Step Up Fight to Block Executive Orders

In a fierce battle against anti-worker executive orders issued by the Trump administration last year, federal unions have asked for a hearing before the full U.S. Court of Appeals.

Unions filed the request the Friday before Labor Day weekend, six weeks after a three-judge panel upheld the orders corralling federal workers’ rights and their unions’ ability to fight for them. Additionally, the panel barred the government from enforcing the orders immediately, allowing the American Federation of Government Employees and allied unions time to respond.

In practice, unions representing federal workers, including the IBEW, say fighting back, Stephenson said. “These outside groups want to divide workers, to turn us against one another instead of joining together to fight for better wages, benefits and treatment on the job.”

“If they weren’t worried that unions were helping tip the balance of power back toward workers, they wouldn’t be spending billions to shut us up,” Stephenson said.

Unions fighting the anti-worker content of these orders, we’re concerned that a number of federal agencies have essentially been implementing them anyway,” Government Employees Director Paul O’Connor said.

The IBEW is not part of the lawsuit but is working with a coalition of labor unions to oppose the orders and the recent court decision, while also fighting a barrage of other attacks on all working Americans.

The far-reaching federal orders would let agencies more easily impose unfair contracts, weaken employees’ bargaining rights, slash the time for workers accused of underperforming to improve, and significantly curtail long-established “official time” that allows workers with union duties to represent their colleagues when issues arise.

“The anti-worker executive orders are in violation of the law and, if implemented, would send the federal workforce into disarray,” AFGE President David Cox said. “This case is vitally important with far-reaching implications for every American and deserves a hearing before the full court.”

The orders were issued in May 2018, but a federal district court judge struck down most of the provisions three months later. That decision was reversed by the Janus panel from the D.C. Circuit.

In a small victory for workers, the panel in mid-August refused the administration’s demand to lift the injunction immediately and allow agencies to enforce the orders on the books.

Whether the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit would agree to hear the unions’ case wasn’t decided by publication.

“The administration’s attacks on federal workers don’t stop with executive orders,” Another target is the seven-member Federal Service Impasse Panel, established by the Federal Labor Relations Authority as a binding arbitrator where contract talks hit a stalemate.

POLITICS & JOBS continued on page 8

Federal workers rally in Washington, D.C., in July 2018 to protest the Trump administration’s executive orders targeting their union rights.

ORGANIZING WIRE

Hotel Employees in the IBEW? In this Iowa Community, They’re a Perfect Fit

Dubuque, Iowa, Local 704 Business Manager Tom Townsend won’t take any credit for a successful organizing effort and first contract for workers at the city’s Hilton Garden Inn along the Mississippi River.

“This might have been the easiest organizing drive I’ve ever been a part of,” he said.

In a sense, it’s hard to argue. Employees from the hotel walked into Local 704’s hall one afternoon earlier this year, telling Townsend and organizer Pete Hidt that he and his colleagues wanted a union.

Within a few days, they had signed enough authorization cards to turn into the National Labor Relations Board seeking IBEW representation. The vote was unanimous in favor of the union. A first contract soon followed, and about 30 hotel workers became the newest members of what is traditionally an inside construction, electrical manufacturing and cable television local.

“We’re a pretty small hotel,” said Tiffany Trowbridge, who works on the Hilton Garden Inn’s housekeeping staff and now serves as a steward for the bargaining unit. “We all talked, and we all wanted a little better working environment than what we were getting. That’s when someone mentioned the IBEW.”

While Townsend said the organizing drive wasn’t particularly difficult, he credits that to work done over a number of years. Local 704 has had a visible presence in the community for decades. Even people not involved with unions are familiar with it and understand it represents quality, he said. Members have long been involved in charities.

Like his predecessors, Townsend is active not just on labor committees, but with groups like the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, where he’s developed contacts with the local business community —

included leaders from the Hilton Garden Inn and the attached Q Casino, which are both owned by the city. The city hires an outside contractor to take care of the day-to-day operations at both facilities.

“It’s a small enough town (population 58,000) that everyone knows who you are anyhow,” Townsend said. “We’re so involved in so much stuff. I think that really helps, and it definitely helped with this.”

Townsend said the casino’s manager called him back within a few minutes of learning about the drive. He told him the company would remain neutral and honor the vote.

“The casino is a union facility,” Townsend said. “They deal with machinist operators and steelworkers all the time. The one question they had was, ‘Why didn’t [the hotel employees] pick one of the unions over here?’

“I believe 100% that’s because we’re here all the time. Some other unions don’t have a full-time staff or a full-time agent. We do. We’re here. We follow up on things.”

He was impressed that employees from across the hotel — from the front desk to housekeeping to maintenance — showed up for his initial meeting with them.

“That showed a true motivation,” he said. “Everyone really wanted it.”

He also brought along a representative from the University of Iowa’s Labor Center, who explained the importance of labor unions in a community. That also added credibility to the organizing effort.

The three-year contract, which was negotiated with the help of Eleventh District International Representative Tad Guzda and went into effect on July 1, guaranteed an increase in wages and vacation and provided the staff with holiday pay for the first time. It also formalized grievance procedures and guidelines on when and why supervisors can change the work schedule.

“Iowa is a right-to-work state, but nearly 90% of the covered employees have joined Local 704,” Trowbridge said. “The staff’s morale has increased now that the employees know they have the power of union representation.

“We gained a lot more than I thought we would,” she said. “The holiday pay, we weren’t even expecting to get. Everyone is happy with the pay raise. I haven’t heard any bickering about it.”

Trowbridge, whose mother and an uncle were union members while working for the city of Dubuque, supported the organizing effort, but she’s surprised herself by how much more she’s become involved. She agreed to serve on the negotiating committee and learned from Townsend and other IBEW officials just how many rights she has on the job.

Now, she wants to pass on that knowledge to her colleagues and others looking to unionize, she said.

“We have someone fighting with us, so now if we do have issues, we have someone who can help us out,” she said. “That’s really great.”

The work of Trowbridge and others has led to even more new IBEW members. Hidt said workers at the Holiday Inn Express in Dubuque heard about the successful organizing effort and contacted Local 704 about representing them as well. Last month, those employees voted for IBEW representation and contract talks are in the works.

“Industries have changed,” he said. “With the loss of manufacturing jobs in this country, we have to organize workers any way we can, especially in an industry like this, where in our area, not a lot of workers have been able to find representation.”

Pam Leitzinger, left, and Tiffany Trowbridge were leaders in the successful organizing campaign. They now serve as stewards.
POLITICS

& JOBS

continued

The current panel is stacked with Republicans historically hostile toward federal workers and unions. “FSIP decisions are having a sweeping impact on all federal employees, including members of the IBEW,” O’Connor said. “The panel is siding with management at every turn.” For example, the union representing 14,000 workers at the Department of Health and Human Services recently lost the majority of its arguments before FSIP, involving telecommuting, leave requests and billing the union for office space that has always been rent-free.

In essence, the panel unilaterally rewrite large portions of the workers’ contracts.

“Union supporters say such changes are a bigger deal than they might seem,” wrote Dave Jamieson for the Huffington Post. “Federal unions generally cannot bargain over pay and major benefits. If agencies succeed in chipping away at the matters the unions can bargain over — like the discipline process, telework arrangements and other work rules — then some workers might not see a point in being members anymore.”

O’Connor said that IBEW members, who work in federal jobs and for federal contractors throughout the country, haven’t been targeted as aggressively by agency overreach as other federal workers — yet.

“Within the IBEW’s jurisdiction, we helped to clarify the intent of the ruling and minimize agencies’ attempts to violate the district court judge’s order,” he said, referring to the 2018 ruling.

The July decision from the appeals court panel puts everything back in play, raising significant challenges for all unions, the IBEW included, he said. But led by AFGE and the National Treasury Employees Union, labor is preparing to fight for workers and the public at large.

“This isn’t just about federal employees and their unions,” NTEU President Tony Reardon said. “This case is about preserving our merit-based civil service system and making sure that taxpayers can count on federal agencies being staffed by highly qualified employees who are treated fairly as they go about the business of delivering important government services to the public.”

O’Connor urged IBEW members to see the connection between their votes on Election Day and the consequences for working people across the public and private sectors.

“The sooner working men and women realize that their voices are being ignored, the sooner we can begin to repair the significant damage done by this and past administrations that have weakened the public sector,” he said. “We can’t arrive at meaningful change in this or past administrations if we don’t have a voice.”

Pennsylvania’s New Juneteenth Holiday Extra Special to One IBEW Member

On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers finally arrived in Galveston, Texas, bearing news that had taken months to wend its way through the South: American slaves were free.

It became a day of celebration known as Juneteenth, now commemorated in 46 states. Pennsylvania is the latest, a legislative victory Carolyn Mills fought for over most of a decade.

The Harrisburg woman didn’t live to see her dream realized. But her son, Third District International Representative Larry Mills, was there in his stead this past June 19 as Gov. Tom Wolf signed the bill making “Juneteenth National Freedom Day” a state holiday.

“It meant the world to me,” said Mills, past business manager of Reading, Pa., Local 777. “I regretted my mother wasn’t there to see it, but I know she was there in spirit.”

“[Mom] was always trying to make a better workplace and create opportunities for everyone. That rubbed off on me.” — Third District International Representative Larry Mills

Inspired by her brother’s success establishing a Juneteenth holiday in Iowa, Carolyn Mills approached Pennsylvania state Rep. Sue Helm in 2010. As reported by Harrisburg’s Patriot News, Helm never forgot her constituent’s words, spoken years before the cancer diagnosis that took her life last October.

“Before I die,” Mills told Helm, “I want this to be a law.”

Over years of legislative starts and stops, Mills’ health deteriorated. When she entered hospice care, “She looked at Rep. Helm and said, ‘Please don’t give up,’” Larry Mills said.

Helm and her allies charged ahead, winning unanimous bipartisan support for the bill in the House and Senate. The rocky road to victory took eight years longer than the fast lane that opened up for Larry Mills’ uncle, Gary Lawson, in Iowa.

Lawson had been coordinating Juneteenth celebrations in Des Moines for a decade when he met with the chairman of the Iowa Senate’s state government committee in 2002 about making June 19 an official holiday. With both parties on board, lawmakers put it on the state calendar within a year.

Carolyn Mills couldn’t have imagined how much more complicated things would be in Pennsylvania. She’d come home with a mission after traveling to Iowa with her son for one of Lawson’s festivals in the early 2000s. “They came out and observed all the activities such as enjoyed it,” her brother said. “She was encouraged and inspired to do likewise in Pennsylvania. It was all grassroots at first, clinging on dozens of votes.”

Soon, Mills had set up a foundation and was building support among community and business leaders. By the time she went to Helm, she’d created a movement. Her name, well, it is said, her resolve was never in doubt.

“This is her legacy,” Larry Mills said. “Mom was very involved in community service and the church, and more than anything she wanted a special day for African-Americans. She had a dream of making Juneteenth state law and she never gave up.”

Her uncle noted with pride that “we’re the only known siblings who have each worked on this in our individual states. Even though my sister’s gone, we’ll always have that connection.”

They grew up in a big family with a rags-to-riches father who didn’t let a second-grade education get in the way of business success. He gave back to his community, and so have his children.

For Carolyn Mills that included many years as an AFSCME steward while working in state government.

“She was always trying to make a better workplace and create opportunities for everyone,” Larry Mills said. “That rubbed off on me. I carry those values with me every day.”

Patience Pays as New Missouri Members Finally Get First Contract

Barack Obama was still president when Springfield Local 753, a bargaining unit representing the road maintenance crews and work- ers throughout the state of Missouri, put an end to a three-year stand-off in 2015 to join Springfield Local 753.

This summer, nearly four years later, the bargaining unit approved its first contract with city officials. It had seemed like a rags-to-riches tale as Springfield, with a population of about 170,000, is located about 30 miles north of the Arkansas border.

The contract also provides improved benefits to individual groups of workers. For instance, Dustin Garber, an arbitor for the contract for the city last 13 years and now a Local 753 steward, noted that outdoors workers saw large increases in stipends to purchase work clothes.

Garber, who served on the negotiating committee after being a leader in the organizing process, said he wasn’t surprised negotiations took as long as they did.

“It takes a while to get something done,” he said. “This was all new to us. It wasn’t like we had a copy of an old contract and we could use it as a template. We were kind of learning as we went.”

Parish said the city’s human resources director retired just as negotiations were set to begin and Springfield officials didn’t want to start negotiations until a new one was hired. That pushed formal discussions back to 2017. The city also hired outside counsel for negotiations instead of relying on its own attorneys.

No detail was too small. Parish said the city even wanted language on how many stewards Local 753 would have in the bargaining unit.

“I would suggest things like, ‘Let’s meet again next week’ and they would say, ‘Oh that’s too soon, we’re not going to be ready, let’s do it again four weeks down the road.’ So much time was going by, but I can’t physically make them meet me. It shouldn’t have taken near as long as it did, but it was just a combination of things.”

Another thing that Parish suspects hampered the process: a controversial Missouri law designed to damage public-sectior unions.

The state Legislature passed and disgraced former Gov. Eric Greitens signed House Bill 1437 in 2017 that says union-covered public employees must opt-in for their bargaining agent to be able to withdraw membership fees from their paycheck. Historically, union dues are withdrawn when an employee becomes part of a bargaining unit.

Earlier this year, a Missouri circuit judge ruled the law can’t go into effect until the conclusion of a lawsuit filed by a group of public employees challenging it. The judge, with Greitens’ signature, also passed a right-to-work bill, but that was overturned in a statewide refer- endum in August 2018. Greitens had resigned his position by then after become- ing embroiled in a sexual misconduct scandal and criminal investigation.

Parish said the specter of that pay- check law also likely slowed negotiations. Springfield officials felt like they had an advantage at the bargaining table, he said. They refused any attempts for the new unit to be a closed shop.

“In my opinion, that law was worse than right-to-work,” Parish said.

Eleventh District International Represent- ative Darrell McCubbins, who assisted with the negotiations, credited Parish and his staff for keeping lines of communication open with bargaining unit members during the four-year period. The workers approved the contract by a nearly 2-to-1 margin and 24 decided to become “A” members.

“It was a good process, but there’s still a lot of work to be done to pull them together as a unit,” McCubbins said. “People are spread out and working in all different locations. Tony did a very good job of going out and keeping in contact and working with them.”

Making sure as many of the new employees join Local 753 as possible is the priority. About 300 employees are covered by the contract.

“We’ve got some pretty good people here,” Garner said. “They’ve heard from a lot of other people who are trying to politi- ce unions, and that’s a shame. I’m hoping as time goes by, they’ll realize it’s not about politics. It’s about having a voice. It’s a benefit, and I hope they will see that.”

Road maintenance crews and work- ers at the parks department and Spring-
Soaring CEO Pay a Growing Threat to U.S. Economy

CEO compensation has skyrocketed 940% over the past 40 years in the United States, 78 times the growth in workers’ pay and benefits, according to one of two new studies that challenge the upbeat conventional wisdom about today’s economy.

“Exorbitant CEO pay is a major contributor to rising inequality. This escalation...has fueled the growth of top 1% and top 0.1% incomes, leaving less of the fruits of economic growth for ordinary workers and widening the gap between very high earners and the bottom 90%,” the Economic Policy Institute said in its August report.

“The economy would suffer no harm if CEOs were paid less (or taxed more),” it adds.

A report published the same week by the Center for American Progress observes what’s missing from economic headlines roiling about booming corporate profits, off-the-charts executive pay and record amounts of stock buybacks.

“Wages and family wealth have barely budged after decades of stagnation,” the “Corporate Governance and Workers” report states. “This is a dangerous situation, as the deep imbalances in how the U.S. economy works — and which it fails to work well for — increasingly expose America to social and political division.”

The erosion of workers’ bargaining power after decades of political and court attacks on unions is high on CAP’s list of reasons for the compounding disparities.

“Unions were, in large measure, the most important check on corporate management” when union density was high in the 1950s and 60s, the report argues.

Companies in that era that refused to pay fair wages or meet union demands risked costly, disruptive strikes. But as labor’s density declined, so did its leverage. Increasingly, corporate boards and executives were less motivated to do right by their workers.

Their strategies today prioritize Wall Street and corporate executives over the rest of the stakeholders,” CAP asserts, a group that includes “the consumers who buy their products and services; workers and suppliers who produce them; investors who provide capital and other know-how; and even communities who provide a clean, safe environment and educated workers.”

Strong contracts negotiated by the IBEW and other unions are a buffer against the worst of the struggles facing millions of working families. But International President Lonnie R. Stephenson urges members to consider the big picture.

“The good wages and benefits we bargain for don’t isolate us from economic realities,” he said. “Doing well individually isn’t enough. If the economy doesn’t start working for everyone, all of us outside the 1% are going to feel the pain.”

Data in both reports illustrate how the extreme income gap has become. One indicator is labor’s share of economic output — the percentage of compensation that workers receive relative to the total value of goods and services produced in a given year.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows a moderate decline from the 1970s to the end of the century, and then a sharp plummet from about 2000 onward.

“Notably, the gap between the 1950s and today may be even starker,” the CAP report clarifies, “as these data do not break out higher-income workers whose wages are growing at a faster pace than mid- and low-wage workers.”

EPI’s paper suggests the gap may be wider yet, based on changes in stock offers that comprise the largest share of compensation for CEOs and top executives.

Stock options are being replaced with stock awards that can go up or down, giving CEOs personal incentive to increase share prices. But the long vesting period for stock awards makes their value harder to gauge.

“There is increased likelihood that measures of CEO compensation will not fully capture CEOs’ gains going forward,” EPI said.

Stephenson said the only way things will begin to change is at the ballot box, by electing lawmakers who will fight for economic justice. “What we do on Election Day next November will determine whether we start to close those pay gaps, or whether they keep getting bigger.”

Wages have soared for those at the top but barely moved for those at the bottom

Cumulative percent change in real annual wages of the top 1% and the bottom 90%, 1979-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Top 1% Change</th>
<th>Bottom 90% Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
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Source: Economic Policy Institute

A relatively small wage gap between top earners and the rest of the workforce began to soar in the early 1980s, rising to today’s staggering disparity.

Trayer Workers Put ‘Rolls-Royce’ Switchgear in Linemen’s Hands

Every step of the way at Trayer Switchgear near San Francisco, IBEW members treat the products they make as if their own family will use them.

After all, linemen around the globe who rely on the top-quality parts include the workers’ brothers and sisters at Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245.

“Our switchgear goes all over the world, but at the same time it is used by our local linemen and by most of the utilities across the country where IBEW members work,” said steward Arnold Lizarraga.

“We make sure it is safe for them, and for the public.”

From assembly to testing, painting and packing the parts for shipping, he said members take pride in producing what he calls “the Rolls-Royce of switchgear.”

“When you open it, it doesn’t have to be an eyesore — the way the wires look, the way everything is connected,” Lizarraga said. “We want it to look good outside and so customers won’t have any doubt about the quality inside.”

That work ethic and attention to detail is recognized in a strong union-contract and growing transparency under new management, said Local 1245 business representative Cruz Serna.

“Out of all my 11 shops, I have a good relationship with everybody, but Trayer has been very open,” he said. “I’m able to pick up the phone and call the CEO if there’s an issue, and we try to resolve it. I’ve told him that we’re here to help, and that we can offer a lot if they work with us.”

A few months ago, Serna suggested to CEO Keith Thorndyke that workers could use more recognition for jobs well done, under pressure and on deadline. “I told him employees are doing a great job. They’re working their butts off and work all the overtime that’s offered. Once in a while they’d like a high-five.”

Thorndyke took it to heart, he said, visiting the assembly line to give workers the credit they deserve.

Long represented by the IBEW, the Trayer workers came into Local 1245 via a merger with an earlier union.

“This small but mighty workgroup embodies all of the characteristics that the IBEW stands for — commitment to excellence, unwavering dedication, collaboration, and undying brotherhood,” Local 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzel said.

“We’re proud and honored to represent these highly skilled makers of some of the finest switchgear in the entire world.”

Serna said Trayer has shown interest in entering into a formal Code of Excellence agreement with the IBEW. He and Lizarraga are signed up for Code of Excellence training in November.

Meanwhile, trust continues to grow.

Management has been good about giving the union a heads-up before major decisions, Serna said, and routinely calls on Lizarraga to help convey what’s ahead to the nearly 70-member unit.

In June, with the clock ticking on a two-year contract negotiated in 2017, the union agreed to delay bargaining for six months to help Trayer balance the books.

“They were coming up in the red, and we know that a healthy company is better for all of us,” Serna said. “We agreed to a contract extension and they agreed to give us an update every month. And they’ve done that.”

Now, back in the black, the company is considering new hires. Serna has been gathering résumés from other IBEW shops and sending them to Thorndyke.

“It’s one of the ways Trayer benefits from its union’s strong contracts: superior wages and benefits mean it can attract the best possible job candidates.”

“Many of union-busting companies out there could learn from Trayer’s example,” said Manufacturing Director Randy Middleton.

“The fact is, it doesn’t make good business sense to fight your workers every step of the way. Imagine if more employers invested all that wasted money, time and negative energy into their workforce and bottom line.”

At Trayer, that investment includes a platinum medical plan covering 100% of medical, vision and dental. “One of the things I’ve seen,” Serna said, adding that workers increasingly have opportunities for overtime, cross-training and promotions.

“They’re grateful to Trayer and show it with hard work. But they know things wouldn’t be the same without the IBEW at the bargaining table and beyond.”

“Like having the union here; they really support us,” Logan Crump, who works in the final test area, said in a story published on Local 1245’s website. “A lot of times when I’m wearing my union sweatshirt out, people will come up to me, shake my hand and say, ‘Hey, how ya’ doin’ brother?’ With the union, we know that someone’s always got our back.”

Lizarraga, who has worked at Trayer for eight years and been a steward for six, fosters solidarity by making sure every new worker in his unit learns about the IBEW’s history and values.

“I talk about what we stand for,” he said. “I tell them what we do here for security and quality and safety, and why we’re proud to be IBEW members.”

Local 1245 members at Trayer Switchgear near San Francisco produce state-of-the-art components for IBEW linemen and electrical workers throughout the world.
DECEASED
Larry Hogan
Retired Fourth District International Representative Larry Hogan, who also served as business manager of Washington, D.C., Local 26 and later saw his son George Hogan elected to the same position, died on July 17 after a bout with cancer. He was 91.

George Hogan was recently re-elected to a second three-year term as Local 26’s business manager. Five generations of the Hogan family have been Local 26 members, beginning with George’s grandfather and father and George’s great-grandfather in the early part of the 20th century.

Anytime I needed advice, or someone to turn to, he was there.

– Washington Local 26 Business Manager George Hogan

DECEASED
Anthony “Tony” Makris
Retired Third District International Representative Anthony Makris died in May at age 90. Brother Makris was born in Bayonne, N.J., and served two years in the U.S. Army, including a deployment in the Korean War. He was initiated into Kearney, N.J., Local 140 in the month he left the Army and went to work as a tool and die maker at Western Electric’s Kearney Works.

Twelve years later he was elected business manager of the local, which, at the time, had close to 14,000 members. Makris held that position from 1965 to 1973 and was president of the system council, representing about 90,000 manufacturing members working for Western Electric.

“Tony was a real link to those old days when the IBEW had 1 million members and more manufacturing members than any other classification,” said retired Third District International Vice President Don Siegel, who worked with Makris at the district office for three years. “That was the heyday of American manufacturing, and he saw the decline.”

In 1973, Makris was appointed an international representative in the Third District by then-International President Charles H. Pillar. He stayed in that position for 26 years until his retirement in 1999.

“We didn’t have a lot of legal help when they cut their teeth. Those guys at the big manufacturing locals handled everything,” Siegel said. “A lot of lawyers from management would come in not knowing what they were up against. I’ll tell you what, they were always ready the second meeting if they were unprepared the first. Tony always used to say it was good to be underestimated.”

Western Electric was founded in 1896 and, from 1915 on, it was the only manufacturer of telephones and switchboards for AT&T-owned local telephone systems. At its peak, it had more than 165,000 workers.

Third District International Representative Pasquale “Pat” Gino mort Makris in the late ’50s, when Gino was business manager of Laureldale, Pa., Local 1891 and president of System Council EM-3. “Tony was a great guy, well-suited for the job and very prominent in getting the company to turn around after a long strike,” Gino said.

Starting in the 1980s, Western Electric, under new management, changed its manufacturing strategy, leading to plant closures and negotiations on transfers, pensions and other agreements. “The council had negotiated a plant closure agreement which was very, how can I say, which was very rich in benefits, but it was just a cushion,” Gino said.

Only 4,000 workers were left when AT&T announced the closure of the Kearney plant in 1983 after the double ham-mer blows of the AT&T breakup and the deep recession that marred President Reagan’s first term.

By 1986, the company had moved all home phone production overseas. “It was devastating,” Gino said. “About the plant closures that rippled across the country.”

In those years, much of the work that Makris did was servicing the four Western Electric locals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, enforcing the national agreement on plant closures and negotiating rules on transfers, pensions and other agreements. “I represented a lot of members, and they wanted to keep their position. The company was not always ready to negotiate, but no more arguing,” Gino said.

“Tony always used to say it was good to be underestimated.”

– Former Third District VP Don Siegel

In 1996, a year before Makris retired, the company was again renamed, this time as Lucent Technologies, and spun off from AT&T. Factories continued to close. By 2001, AT&T announced the closure of the Kearney plant and began sending manufacturing work overseas.

For Assistant to the President for Membership Development Ricky Oak-land, it is hard to overstate the impor-
tance of coming to agreement on a consis-
tent way of measuring success. Nearly every slide he presented at the Member-
ship Development Conference this year in some way referenced market share and the data collected and explained by Brother Yockel’s work.

“He was an expert at showing us where we were and where we need to go. He knew his union as well as anyone in it, and he always made it interesting. It was beautiful. He just blew me away,” said Yockel. Yockel was at the heart of several oth-
er crucial initiatives from the international officers, including the Family Medical Care Plan and the prescription drug plan.

“Tony was decent and honest; a throwback… you knew he would tell you the truth.”

– Research Department Director Jim Voye

“Tony was decent and honest; a throw-
back; the kind of guy you wanted to be in charge of the numbers because you knew he would tell you the truth,” Voye said. “He never wanted the spotlight and you never won anything unless he told you what his work meant to the movement.”

In recognition of his importance to the IBEW, then-International President Edwin D. Hill appointed Brother Yockel an international representative in 2010, an honor rarely given to a staff member who didn’t come up through the union. He joined Local 86 in his hometown, and it was, Newman said, one of the proudest days of his life.

“It was a huge deal in his life. He was so proud to be a member of his hometown local,” said the bottom line, no exag-
geration, is that he loved working for the IBEW and the loved the IBEW; it stood for the people, what his work meant to the members. He loved how strong it is, how large it is, and that it keeps on growing.”

In Voye’s case, Yockel is survived by his wife, Anne, and daughters Elizabeth, Mary Rose and Courtney, the three of whom he talked about with pride almost daily to co-workers. He is also survived by his father, two sisters, in-laws and many nieces and nephews.

On behalf of the IBEW’s members and staff, the officers offer our deepest sympathies to Brother Makris’ family, colleagues and many friends.
Notice to Employees Covered by IBEW Union Security Agreements: Fee Payers Objection Plan for 2020

Many collective bargaining agreements between private sector employers and the IBEW or its local unions include "union security" provisions stating that employees must become and remain members of the union as a condition of employment. The National Labor Relations Act permits employers and unions to negotiate these clauses where they are not otherwise prohibited by state law and the Railway Labor Act permits these provisions in all states. Under these laws, employees may fulfill their "union security" obligations either by joining the union and thereby enjoying the full rights and benefits of union membership or by simply fulfilling their financial obligations to the union.

Employees who elect to become agency fee payers—that is, who choose not to become full-fledged IBEW members— forfeit the right to enjoy a number of benefits available only to union members. For example, only union members are entitled to attend and participate in union meetings; to run for union office and to nominate and vote for candidates for union office; to participate in contract ratification and strike votes; to participate in the development and formulation of IBEW policies; to participate in the formulation of IBEW collective bargaining demands; and to serve as delegates to the International Convention.

Agency fee payers are generally charged the same dues and initiation fees uniformly required of IBEW members. However, agency fee payers who object to supporting certain union activities may pay a reduced fee to ensure that none of their money is used to support those activities. In particular, objectors are charged only for those activities or projects that are reasonably related to collective bargaining. Examples of "chargeable" activities are negotiating collective bargaining agreements; meeting with employer representatives; meeting with employees on employment-related issues; participating in proceedings on behalf of workers under the grievance procedure, including arbitration; and managing internal union affairs.

Among activities considered "nonchargeable," which objects are not required to support, are support of political causes, general community service, legislative activities, certain costs of affiliation with non-IBEW organizations, and members-only benefits.

The IBEW Agency Fee Payers Objection Plan establishes the procedure for obtaining a fee reduction and is set forth in full below. By way of summary, fee payers must file their objections during the designated open period (usually the month of November) or within 30 days of becoming agency fee payers. Current fee payers may file objections for calendar year 2020 must do so during the month of November 2019. Objections must be addressed to the International Secretary-Treasurer, IBEW, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, and must be postmarked during the November open period. Objections filed during this open period will become effective on January 1, 2020, and will remain effective for as long as the objector remains in the bargaining unit.

No special form is required to register an objection. However, please include your full name, your mailing address, the local union to which you pay fees, your nonmember identification number (if known), and your Social Security number. In addition, if you move, please advise the International Secretary-Treasurer of your new address.

Dues and fees paid by employees covered by IBEW bargaining agreements consist of a portion retained by the IBEW and a portion transferred to the International. During January of each year, or as soon as possible after receiving a timely mid-year objection, the International will mail a check reflecting the reduction in the International's portion of the fees to each objector who has filed a timely objection with the International Secretary-Treasurer, along with a detailed explanation of the basis for the fee reduction. Dues and fees paid by objectors will be issued the same time frames, the local union that represents the objector will provide him or her with a reduction in its portion of the fees, either by sending a reduction check or by adjusting the amount of the objector's periodic payments, and will provide information explaining the basis for its reduction.

The reductions are based on the percentage of the union's expenditures that were devoted to "chargeable" and "nonchargeable" activities during the previous fiscal year, as defined above. For example, the International determined that during its 2017-18 fiscal year, 47.83 percent of its expenditures were for "chargeable" activities and 52.17 percent were for "nonchargeable" activities. The locals' portions vary, with most locals devoting 90 and 95 percent of their annual expenditures to "chargeable" activities. In no year has any IBEW local union spent a smaller percentage of its expenditures on "chargeable" activities than the International, although some of the locals use the International's percent-age to calculate their own annual reduction, thereby giving objectors a larger reduction than if the locals used their own figures.

The IBEW Agency Fee Payers Objection Plan

1. Nonmembers' Right to Object.

Any employee who is not a member of the IBEW and who pays agency fees to an IBEW local union (LU) pursuant to a collectively bargained union security provision in the United States has the right to object to expenditures of his or her fees for activities that are not reasonably related to collective bargaining. For purposes of this plan, such activities will be referred to as "nonchargeable activities." The agency fees paid by a fee payer who perfects an objection under the procedures set forth below will be reduced to reflect the expenditures of the LU and the IBEW that are used for "chargeable activities" (including, for example, negotiating and enforcing collective bargaining agreements, dealing with employers on employment-related concerns, and union administration).

2. Procedure for Filing Objections.

Each fee payer who wishes to file an objection must do so in writing, addressed to the International Secretary-Treasurer (IST) at the International Office of the IBEW, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. In registering their objections, objectors must include their name and address, the LU to which they pay fees, their nonmember identification number, if known, and their Social Security number. Objections must be postmarked during the first 30 days after an employee becomes an agency fee payer (either by being hired or transferred into the bargaining unit, or by resigning from union membership) and becomes obligated to pay agency fees to an IBEW LU under a collective bargaining agreement or, for current agency fee payers, during the month of November. (The open period may be extended in Convention years.) Objections will be effective as of the first day of the month in which the IST mails the objector his or her per capita reduction check. The IST may mail objectors an explanation of the basis for the reduction determined by the arbitrator.

3. Reduction in Agency Fees.

No later than January 31 of each year (or as soon as possible, in the case of timely mid-year objections), both the International and the LU to which the objector pays agency fees will mail to each objector who has perfected his or her objection under this plan a check reflecting the reduction in payments to which he or she is entitled for that calendar year, or will otherwise advise the objectors how their payments will be reduced for the year. Unless advised otherwise by their respective LUs, objectors will be expected to remit the full amount of fees charged by their respective LUs.

Agency fees are composed of a portion forwarded to the International as per capita payments and a portion retained by the LU. When the IST receives timely objections, he or she will forward to the International as per capita payments and a portion retained by the LU. An objector who has filed a timely objection a check representing the reduction in per capita payments to which he or she is entitled for the entire calendar year. The reduction checks will be accompanied by a description of the major categories of expenditures, an explanation of how the amount of the reduction was determined and an explanation of the appeal procedure.

6. Appeal to Impartial Arbitrator.

An objector who has filed a timely objection and who believes that the per capita reduction provided by the IST does not accurately reflect the International's expenditures on chargeable activities may appeal to an independent arbitrator.

The appeal must be made in writing and must be received in the office of the IST within 30 days of the date on which the IST mails the objector his or her per capita reduction check. The appeal should explain the basis of the challenge.

If the arbitrator agrees that the objector's appeal has merit, he or she will be entitled to a greater reduction in their fee payments than that calculated by the IST, additional checks will be issued for the balance of the reduction due, as determined by the arbitrator.

7. Appeals from Local Union Fee Reductions.

An objector who has filed a timely objection and who believes that the reduction provided by the IST to which he or she pays agency fees does not accurately reflect the LU's expenditures on chargeable activities may appeal through procedures established by the LU. An objector challenging both the International's and the LU's reductions must appeal through the procedure specified in paragraph 6.a., except that the appeal must be received in the IST, additional checks will be issued for the balance of the reduction due, as determined by the arbitrator.

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Apprenticeship Graduates; RENEW Program
L.U. 16 (es), EVANSVILLE, IN — The IBEW congratulates Local 16 graduates of the class of 2019 inside w ireman apprenticeship program. The graduates are: James Alfred, Phillip Beaumont, Brandon Bergner, Kyle Blum, Casey Boyer, Joseph Brooks, Nickolas Carrel, David Cates, Jared Cole, John Cole, Tyler Crow, Phillip Dauby, Michael Davis, Clifford Donaldson, Bradley Evans, Jacob Gehlhausen, Jacob Griggs, Andrew Johnson, Brian Koenier, Joshua Lane, Wade Mayer, Zachary McCalister, Christopher Meeks, Tyler Meyer, Zachary Nalley, John Parker, Caleb Perkins, Jacob Petrig, Jared Pfister, Richard Schrock, Aaron Seiler, H. John Seiler III, Brian Smith, Shad Smith, William Smith, Eric Tenbange, Adam Wagner, Eric Ward, Eric Weiss, Steven Young and Jordan Zuber. This year’s academic award winner is Phillip Beaumont, and the John D. Brenner Memorial Award went to Jared Pfister. On July 24, 28 young journeymen and apprentices came together to launch the Local 16 RENEW program. This group plans on helping to inform members about negotiations, contracts, fringe benefits, and community affairs. The team anticipates receiving their charter this fall. Hopefully, RENEW will help advance the spirit of brotherhood and solidarity with a strong sense of purpose, while building a solid base for Local 16’s future. Thanks to Brandon Wongnamnit, Ryan McCroberts, Greg Hebbeler, and all who made this possible.

Don Beavin, P.V.

Officers Elected
L.U. 24 (es,em,govt), BALTIMORE, MD — On June 15, the local held its election of officers. Except for the Executive Board and other positions open to the floor, all other positions were unopposed. Once the votes were counted, all of the current offices were reelected. We have a good mix of officers and staff about negotiations, contracts, fringe benefits, and community affairs. The team anticipates receiving their charter this fall. Hopefully, RENEW will help advance the spirit of brotherhood and solidarity with a strong sense of purpose, while building a solid base for Local 16’s future. Thanks to Brandon Wongnamnit, Ryan McCroberts, Greg Hebbeler, and all who made this possible.

Don Beavin, P.V.

Transitions & Election of Officers
L.U. 26 (es,em,govt,i&mps), WASHINGTON, DC — With great sadness we announce the passing of retired brother and former business manager Lawrence C. Hogan Sr. Brother Hogan passed away on July 7 this year, at the age of 91. He was a member since March 2, 1951, and he served as business manager from 1974-1976. Local 26 offers its condolences to all of the Hogan family and friends.


Several members have passed away since our last article: Gary L. Annan, George Wozniak, Larry E. Humphries, James M. Walko, Alvin L. Moran, Robert E. Donaldson, Marvin E. Hamrick, Steven M. Boyer, James E. Gordon, and Luis M. Delgado. They will be missed.

From left: Tom Rieke, Midwest Food Bank; IBEW Local 34 Bus. Mgr. Paul Flynn; Local 34 retired members Ed Kaiser, Jaye Rinkenberger and Roger Roeschley.

IBEW Community Service
L.U. 34 (em,i,mt,rtb&spa), PEORIA, IL — Our Local 34 membership is extremely generous in giving back to the community, and we send a shout-out to some retired members who are representing us well. Special thanks to retirees Ed Kaiser, Jaye Rinkenberger and Roger Roeschley for donating many hours to the Midwest Food Bank in Peoria. Also, thank you to Local 34 signatory contractor Kaiser Electric for donating tools and materials.

Midwest Food Bank needed electrical upgrades to make alterations to office spaces and increase warehouse floor space to better serve central Illinois and beyond. Kaiser Electric and Local 34 retirees helped get the job done.

The food bank collaborates with Red Cross disaster relief programs to provide food and safe drinking water to thousands of Americans in disaster areas. A custom food product, “Tender Morsels,” created by Midwest Food Bank is distributed to those in need. The high-protein rice and bean product can feed four adults, providing 25% of their daily nutritional needs for about 35 cents each.

We are very proud of the ways Local 34 members give back to the community. Our annual Lee Hall Memorial Golf Outing on Aug. 10 raised over $4,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Knox County, which directly serves our youth in the community through after-school programming and resources. Since its inception, the golf outing has donated over $63,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Our members care about their neighbors, community, youth, and brothers and sisters in need across the nation. Thank you, Local 34, for giving back to your fellow man.

Paul Flynn, B.M./P.S.

5th Annual Car Show
L.U. 40 (em,i&mps), HOLLYWOOD, CA — On July 20, IBEW Local 40 along with Teamsters Local 399 and other basic crafts held a 5th Annual Car Show. This event gave Local 40 an opportunity to show our support and solidarity with all the unions involved as well as promote our RENEW, Helmets to Hardhats and apprenticeship programs.

The car show is a fun-filled family event that features activities for kids and provides food, live music, and booths offering information on the different crafts as well as pet adoptions. This show is filled with not

Trade Classifications

| (as) | Alarm & Signal | (es) | Electrical Equipment Service |
| (ars) | Atomic Research Service | (em) | Electrical Manufacturing |
| (bo) | Bridge Operators | (en) | Environmental |
| (cb) | Cable Splicers | (es) | Electrical Signs |
| (c) | Communications | (et) | Electronic Technician |
| (cr) | Cranemen | (r) | Railroad |
| (eens) | Electrical Equipment Service | (rm) | Radio-Television Manufacturing |
| (es) | Electrical Signs | (rt) | Radio-Television Service |
| (et) | Electrical Inspection | (ms) | Motion Picture Studios |
| (etb) | Electronic Technicians | (mp) | Motion Picture Studios |
| (e) | Electrical Service | (nps) | National Parks Service |

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

Work Picture Update
L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OHIO — The work picture continues to be very good and so is the outlook for future projects. Einheit Electric was just awarded the new addition at Parma Hospital. Herbst was awarded the outage on the Hot Dip Galvanizing Line at Mittal Steel. Gem Industrial has the switch-gear replacement job at Ford in Brookpark. Conti Electric has the new presses at the Chevy Plant in Parma. Lake Erie has the 3KV cable replacement at Mittal. Lakeland has the Taxiway Project at Hopkins Airport. Multiple other projects are either getting ready to be awarded or going out to bid. The stewards meetings started up again in September and will be the third Tuesday of every month.

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

Local Lines

Local Lines are printed monthly on an alternating even/odd schedule. They can be submitted by designated press secretaries or union officers via email (locallines@ibew.org) or U.S. Mail. We have a 200-word limit. We make every effort to assist local unions in publishing useful and relevant local union news; however, if all final content decisions are based on the editor’s judgment. Our guidelines and deadlines are available at www.ibew.org/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Submitting-Local-Lines. Please email or call the Media Department at (202) 728-6294 with any questions.
Opportunities for Members

Seattle/Tacoma International Airport — Local 46 will remain strong and is expected to stay strong well into L.U. 46 (as, c, cs, em, es, et, i, mar, mo, mt, rtb, rts, st), Mike Glueckert and Bobby Stewart; and Local 44 Bus. Mgr. Bill Ryan.

The Electrical Worker | October 2019

Montana Lineman's Rodeo

L.U. 44 (catv, ltt, a, rtb, sku), BUTTE, MT — The 2019 Montana Lineman’s Rodeo was a huge success! The event took place Saturday, July 20, in Butte.

“Slim the Lineman” has always been, and will continue to be, the role model, inspiration and idol of line hands across America. But standing here right now (photo below) with Bobby “The Legend” Stewart, Mike Glueckert and Chuck Dixon, and the trophy winners Clay Grant, Curt Norris, Chad Henzley; Local 44 retirees winners of this year’s rodeo, Slim himself has come -

Steady Work Picture

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO — Greetings, sisters and brothers. The books at Local 68 have been slow and many of our recently deceased members: Andrew P. Molendor, Frank G. Shipman, John G. Batchler, Jerry L. Greening, George lendor, Frank G. Shipman, of Local 191, was utilizing the Temporary Electrician Permit program. We note this information in case it might be useful for any IBEW travelers.

“The work picture has been steady and continues to grow. As of press time, some of our projects have been put on hold with a later spring start up.”

Local 46 has an active DIMEC, chapter, a Wom-en’s Committee, a Member Volunteer Organizing Committee, a PAC, a Retirees Club, a Motorcycle Club, and many other activities and committees. Please find something that interests you and get involved!

Warren Shill, V.P.

Golf Outing Fundraiser — Benefit for Cancer Patients

L.U. 82 (em, mt, rtbts), DAYTON, OHIO — On July 13 this year, three members of Local 82 put on a golf outing to raise money for patients with cancer in the Dayton area! The fundraiser was a benefit for the Dayton Physicians Foundation for Hope. Local 82 Bros. Tony D’Angelo, Jody Stienbarger and Doug Searcy — along with prime sponsors IBEW Local 82, IBEW Local 648, ESI Electrical contractors, the Dayton Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC) and Titan Graphics — got in the fight against cancer!

Twenty-four teams participated. Out of the 96 golfers participating, four shot for a million dollars, 25 putted for a new car, and all 96 had a chance to shoot for a $25,000 new Harley!

Thank you to our hole sponsors: IBEW Local 38, IBEW Local 58, IBEW Local 212, Buckeye Harley Davidson, Dayton Building Trades, Vandalia Gun Range, UCFW, Dayton Physicians, United Rehabilitation Services, Keller Williams Realty, and the Dayton AFL-CIO. Also, a special thank-you to all the golfers who participated.

Thank you all for helping us raise $8,000 for cancer patients who are in the fight for their lives.

Next year’s event will be bigger and better!

Doug Searcy, P.S.

Graduating Class of 2019

L.U. 136 (i, ltt, sku), BIRMINGHAM, AL — The first half of the year has been steady with more work than we can handle and the rest of the year is looking the same. Thanks to all the traveling brothers and sisters for all their hard work and for helping us man our work.

Thanks to Bro. Ricky Oakland, assistant to the international president for membership development, and Bro. Virgil Hamilton, director of construction organizing, for helping our local put together a strategic organizing plan that will help turn our jurisdiction around.

Congratulations to all our new journeymen men and women who completed their apprentice training through the Birmingham Electrical JATC. With a graduating class like this, our future is bright. The Local 136 class of 2019 apprenticeship graduates are: Chad Stubbfield, Kyren Belser, Matt Klein, David Selfert, Chris Norvel, Jacob Pate, Roxanne Turner, Houston McDuffie, Sara Parson, Don Poe Jr., Joshua Hunt, Daniel Whatley, Mason Graves and Lee Abts.

The Local 136 bowling teams would like to give a big thanks to Local 369 for hosting the 75th annual bowling tournament. We also thank Local 1573 for stepping up to host next year’s tournament. Local 136 looks forward to hosting the 77th annual tournament here in Birmingham. In brotherhood everybody wins!

Ross Roberson, Pres.

Activities & Transitions

L.U. 146 (i, jsr), DECatur, IL — We thank the volun-teers who worked the Decatur Celebration in early August. We also enjoyed a nice day for the Labor Day parade followed by a picnic at Fairview Park. The annual John V. Workman Steak Fry is Oct. 5.

IEBW Service Pins Awarded

Kansas City, Missouri, Local 124 congratulates 25-year pin recipients. From left: Richard Stock, Brian McMichael, Steven Morales, Larry Smith, Thomas Bishenar, Roger Lake, Jim Lynch, Charles Leroux, Darren Reardon, Dan Hoffman, Frank Mathews, Jock Bell, Dan Devine and David Boldridge.
Clinton Nuclear Power Station's refuel outage was a success. Thank you to the numerous IBEW travelers and Local 146 brothers and sisters who made it possible.

We are saddened to note the passing of six members: John DeAngelis (who was age 64, and a 20-year member); Michael Simmons (who was age 56, and a 32-year member); Robert Schlau (age 69, 44-year member); Christian Thomas (age 42, 47-year member); George Cripe (age 74, 54-year member); and Wes Watson (who was age 49, and a 20-year member). These wiremen will be forever grateful to you, my friend.

Executive Board for 21 years, 15 years as chairman. His longtime IBEW service. Bro. Shores served on our member; George Cripe (age 74, 54-year member); and Wes Watson (who was age 49, and a 20-year member). These wiremen will be grateful to you, my friend. Good luck in retirement, Bro. Shores.

Stefen L. Tilford, R.S.

Apprenticeship Graduates; Scholarships Awarded

L.U. 150 (es,js,tsk,gpa), WAUKESGA, IL — The following recently became Journeyman wiremen: Astir Guadarrama, Brian Harden, Robert Hubka, Joshua Howe, Dallis Kamine, Michael Knapi, Steven Niskanen, Paul Poirier, Andre Sippy, Ricardo Villarreal, Steven Vizcarra, and Zachary Wachter. The VDW graduates are: Robert Beddia and Jeramy Garth. The outstanding Journeyman wireman apprentice (highest cumulative five-year average) is Michael Knapi. The outstanding VDW apprentice (highest cumulative overall four-year average) is Robert Beddia. The graduation ceremony and dinner took place at the Illinois State Beach Resort in Zion this year. A hearty congratulations to all and best wishes for a long, healthy and profitable career.

At the June 2019 general meeting, $500 scholarships were awarded to the following students who are children of local union members: Lynsedye Bassett, Samantha Schild, Melissa Tekampe, Emily Davison, Monica J. Redler, Jeremy Schneeblick, Heather Houghton, Lisa Torres, Jack Robbins, Dana Herman, Matthew Fool and Molly Robbins. Congratulations to all.

The Local 59 picnic was Aug. 10 at Lakewood Forest Preserve. It was a lovely day, and everyone had a great time.

Tournament was administered by prior Andy Hartmann; elected alternate delegate — Kevin Rategan. The oath of office was administered by prior Andy Hartmann, our outgoing business manager.

By serving on various local community boards — will move our local from recent threats of difficult financial times into both prosperity and growth. We are proudly a third-generation, 40-year member of Local 146. As a labor leader, Dan is well respected by his 3,000 plus members, the contractors, and politicians in Local 164’s jurisdiction of Hudson, Bergen, and Essex counties. Under Dan’s leadership, Local 164 continues its record of promoting gains for working people in the electrical industry by: increasing benefits and protections for our members; working to ensure an increasing majority of the electrical work done in our territory is done union; conducting political organizing in Local 164’s territory to help elect politicians who support union labor; and keeping Local 164 on the cutting edge of technology and training by expanding our training center to keep it state-of-the-art.

Local 164 Pres. Tom Sullivan (formerly honored as the 2016 Labor Leader of the Year), was honored to present Dan the award. The members, staff and officers of Local 164 congratulate Dan. We are proud of him and grateful for this recognition of his tireless work on behalf of our membership and union labor as a whole. Congratulations, Dan!

Thank you to Bill Jones, Local 164 COPE Committee member, for contributing information for this article.

Successful Organizing — New Contractors & Members

L.U. 236 (bud,sew,nys,cb,si,or,pa,tn), ALBANY, NY — Our work picture is very strong for the summer with many calls going to Book 2. We hope to continue that trend into the cooler months. Our organizing efforts have paid off, with Local 236 acquiring seven new contractors and many new members since July 2018.

A wave of service pins went out to our members to honor their years of service to the IBEW. The service award recipients included James Riley, proud member of 70 years. Local 236 is getting more involved in local politics, gaining seats on the Industrial Development Agency’s (IDA) and school boards in an attempt to stay informed, promote the value of union labor, increase IBEW influence in the area and gain market share.

We are also engaging the membership with several summer season family events including the Great Escape Day, attended by well over 400 people. This year’s Steak Bake is looking to be bigger than ever! At press time, also upcoming are the 21st annual Golf Outing and the first ever Local 236 Camping Trip.

Thanks to everyone who has been a part of Local 236 and we strive to make it a better place for electricians to be every day.

Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 236 (bud), CASTROVILLE, CA — Election results are in! The newly elected Local 236 officers have been sworn in. Officers elected to lead our growing local for a three-year term are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Adams, Dennis “Mike” Hoot, Vice Pres. Albert Randall, Rec. Sec. Stephen Slovacek, Treasurer Nicholas Preglovick, Executive Board members John Agra, Andy Gattis, Gale Michealke and Ryan Porter; Examining Board members Paul Gutierrez and B1. Heading. Elected delegate to the International Convention — Andy Hartmann; elected alternate delegate — Kevin Rategan. The oath of office was administered by prior business manager Ray Nicholls and additionally witnessed by Ninth District Int. Rep. Ken Scheperski, former business manager.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Rick Keating for his 12 years of service on the E-Board. Andy Hartmann, our outgoing business manager who also previously served as organizer and president — and brought the voice of labor to many tables by serving on various local community boards — will be missed. He certainly has been a stellar example of what our younger members are doing to carry on and build on the work of our predecessors. He has moved our local from recent threats of difficult financial times into both prosperity and growth. We are pleased to commend him on his well-earned year of cultural immersion in Ecuador with his family and sincerely thank him for his years of devoted service.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

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Stephen Slovacek, P.S.
2019 Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OHIO — On June 7, an award ceremony and banquet to honor our 2019 apprenticeship graduates was held at Tomaro’s Party Center. Opening remarks were given by JATC Chmn. Thomas Wright, invocation by fifth-year graduate Chad Moore and introduction of guests by Training Dir. Martin Helms.

Guest speakers included Local 306 Bus. Mgr. Michael Might and NECA Chapter Mgr. Jason Walden. Keynote speaker was Eric Grant, contractor sales manager, B-Line Solutions, Eaton Corp.

Diplomas and awards were presented to the following apprentices: Inside — Caleb Austin, Matthew Broggs, Bryan Bowman, Brent Buchwalter, Brandon Golden, Chad Moore, John Newcomer, Brandon Proudfoot, Joshua Shanholtz, Daniel Szwierczek, Jason TenWydd and Lisa Veneziano; Residential — Michael Conley, Thomas DeCoro, Alexander Graham, Michael Lane Jr. and Logan Powers; and Tele-Data — Anthony Annotto and Eric Papp.

Recognized for highest grade point average: Tele-Data — Eric Papp, with a 91.35 GPA; Residential — Alexander Graham, 96.23 GPA; and Inside — Lisa Veneziano, 95.85 GPA.

In addition, Lisa Veneziano received the Outstanding Apprentice Award and was selected to attend the 2019 National Training Institute outstanding apprentice graduation. Congratulations to our new journeymen and good luck to all in all your future pursuits.

On a sad note, we report the passing of several retirees; William May, Donald Kromet, Edward Fenton, James Carney, John Spangler, Richard Cooey, Daniel Popa and Donald Combs. We send our deepest condolences to their families.

Thomas Wright, P.S.

Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 340 (iortska), SACRAMENTO, CA — This year I was elected for a second term as Local 340 business manager/financial secretary. Thanks to all the members who did their due diligence by taking the time to vote in this year’s local elections. I don’t take for granted the faith the members have placed in me.

The last three years have been both enjoyable and very educational watching Local 340 grow healthier and stronger. As a new business manager in 2016, that is all wanted and now in 2019, I can say that we got there! All Local 340 members and many traveling IBEW members are working steady in our jurisdiction. I am, along with Local 340’s awesome business office staff, committed to continue that upward momentum going into the next three years.

I also look forward to working with the officers who stood alongside me as we took the oath of office in July as a result of the votes cast by Local 340 members and many traveling IBEW members.


Welcome to new officers and a special thanks to the outgoing 2016-2019 officers: Bros. Warren Adsit, Jesse Naranjo, Nazario Valverde and Mike Falconer. Their service during Local 340’s time of tremendous change and growth will never be forgotten.

Robert D. Ward, B.M.

2019 Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 446 (i), MONROE, LA — IBEW Local 446 congratulates our 2019 inside apprenticeship graduating class on a job well done!

It is with pride and admiration that we have turned out 12 trained, qualified and hardworking journeyman wiremen into the electrical industry. The graduates are: Kyle Crenshaw, Hunter Floyd, Keith Gray, Garrett Landry, Chad Massey, Hunter Morgan, Heath Parker, Eric Robinson, Rocky Stephens, Anh Tran, Allen White and Jacob Wilson. Graduates, it is your dedication and hard work that will inspire future apprentices and young members to go for a dream and conquer that dream!

We are honored that these young men will be representing the IBEW for many years to come with their skills and eagerness to learn with a professional disposition. Union electricians are not only electricians but are also a brotherhood that will stand up and stand by their fellow brothers! Please remember to work safely and cautiously!

Best wishes to the graduates from IBEW Local 446 members, officers, retired members, our families, fellow apprentices, instructors and Monroe JATC staff.

Ken Green, B.M.

Service to Community

L.U. 494 (em.gov,1ntrts,spaiki), MILWAUKEE, WI — IBEW Local 494 has a proud tradition of service. Recently, members of the RENEW, EWMC and Women’s committees partnered with the Community Services Committee of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, AF-CIO, to prepare and serve a meal for 300 homeless and working poor at the St. Ben’s Community Meal site in Milwaukee. Over 90,000 meals are served there each year. All are welcome and are considered family in a community that shares a warm, safe environment. We’re building a future where people in need have greater opportunities to be able to provide for their families.

John T. Zapfel, Political Dir.

Mazda/Toyota Project; Annual Labor Day Festivities

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,lctt,mt,o,rtb,rtst,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

We are happy to announce that the Mazda/Toyota project in Huntsville, AL has kicked off strong. Four signatory contractors were awarded contracts to build one of the largest single stand-alone projects in this local union’s 101 years of existence. Also, to stay ahead of the calls for manpower, Local 558 and the Electrical Training Alliance selected 107 inside apprentice wiremen to facilitate the demand for the Mazda/Toyota project and other projects ongoing in the jurisdiction.

In other news, Local 558 along with all the other area Building Trades crafts celebrated 100 years of annual Labor Day festivities at Spring Park in Tuscumbia, AL. The celebration opened up with a great parade down Main Street, followed by festivities in the park. U.S. Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.) was the guest speaker. The day of celebration included great prizes given away and trophies presented for the car show with over 200 entries.

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations and to the Shoals Area Central Labor Council delegates for their hard work and dedication to make the event a success.

Congratulations to the 2019 apprenticeship graduating class of outside journeyman linemen from the Electrical Training Alliance.

Robert Melton, B.M.


Union Brothers Step Up To Assist Retired Member

L.U. 602 (lokuu), AMARILLO, TEXAS — I received a phone call in February about a Local 602 retired member in need of help. Paul Kocel, son-in-law of retired member Lorenzo Mares, reached out to us for help with an electrical installation.

Lorenzo Able Mares was initiated into IBEW Local 602 in 1982. He worked as a power plant mechanic at Harrington Station in Amarillo. Bro. Mares retired in 2011. Soon after retirement he fell into bad health and needed extensive medical attention.

Upon learning that Bro. Mares needed a long-term generator at his residence in Waco, Texas, Paul reached out to us here at Local 602. Paul himself comes from a longtime union family out of Cleveland, Ohio, Local 38. So, he thought, “This is exactly what union brothers do for each other.” And he was right! We visited with Paul and, after working with federal grants, the generator for Bro. Mares was ordered and plans were made to install the equipment. Bro. Mares had moved to Waco, so I called Waco Local 72 Bus. Mgr. Craig Miller, who jumped on board and set up a signatory contractor, KMG Electric, to pull the permits and assist with the materials and tools to do the job. This summer, both locals came together and worked to install the 20-kilowatt backup generator. All the material was donated by KMG Electric, owned by Kurtis Gerath, an IBEW member turned local contractor. Local 602 second-year apprentice Daniel Bishop and I together with Craig Miller and Kurtis Gerath spent a day installing the generator and associated equipment for Bro. Mares.

It was one of the best days I have spent in the trade, working with my brothers to help our retired brother. I will forever treasure the memories made and time-shared working with my union family, for our union family.

Robert Melton, B.M.
Work Outlook Strong; Award for Organizing Success

L.U. 640 (em,govt,um,nt,tt,spak), PHOENIX, AZ — The work outlook is still strong for our future. The work at Intel is leveling out, but we have data centers, hospitals and various other projects ongoing. As of the July union meeting, our membership numbers have topped 2,300. Thanks to our organizers for their hard work and diligence, and to our members for reaching out to the unrepresented brothers and sisters.

We were very proud and honored to accept an award given to us at the Seventh District Progress Meeting for organizing the most new members.

Also, once again, we thank all of our traveling brothers and sisters for their help manning our work.

‘Focus on Strength & Unity’ A Voice for Working People

L.U. 666 (Lmt&l), RICHMOND, VA — Work continues to be abundant in the jurisdiction. As always, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the travelling brothers who have come to Richmond to help us man our many projects. Brotherhood is abundant in Richmond, VA, so keep us in mind when travelling this fall.

We celebrate the life of past president and longtime member Danny Garner, who passed away in July after a long and hard-fought battle with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Garner family along with our appreciation for his many years of service.

As we near the one-year mark before the 2020 election, we encourage the membership to focus on the common ground that unites us, rather than the divisive rhetoric put forth by candidates on both sides of the aisle. The labor movement has never been a passive endeavor and now, more than ever, it is important that we are heard with strength and unity. Our brotherhood was built with the sacrifice of our founding brothers. Honor that tradition by making your voice heard in the halls of power this election season.

Jeremy Davis, P.S.

Softball Tournament Champs; New Contract Agreements

L.U. 702 (axc,cac슬,em,es,gt,gw,lckk,mnt,mt,nt,ppq,psl,nt,psp,pt,ru,ts,as,psp,dt,su,unwkn), WEST FRANKFORT, IL — On Sunday, Aug. 4, IBEW Local 702 captured its third championship in the Upper Division of the 48th IBEW Midwest Softball Tournament in Evansville, IN. The IBEW Local 702 Regulators then solidified that victory with their seventh consecutive title at this year’s 48th Illinois State Tournament, hosted by Local 601 in Champaign.

The inside construction members have a new four-year agreement with increases of $1.82, $1.89, $1.90, and $1.99 with no concessions or significant language changes. We have a new three-year agreement at the City of Fairfield, IL, with 2.75% annual language changes. We have a new three-year agreement at the City of Miner, MO, that has a 0.50% wage increase and another possible 1.5% wage increase on Jan. 1, 2020, if the tax issue is passed by the city’s voters.

On Saturday, Oct. 19, we will host our second Retirement Planning Workshop this year, held by Scarborough Alliance Group, for our inside members from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the union hall. We will follow that up with our Southern Illinois University Football Tailgate event that afternoon. The game will be SIU vs. Youngstown State.

As of this writing, our referral books are as follows: Inside Construction — 90, Outside Construction — Line Clearance — 1.

Mark Baker, B.R./P.S.


IBEW Members at NASA; 2019 Labor Day Celebration

L.U. 716 (em,lt,tt,ks&p), HOUSTON, TEXAS — Hello, sisters and brothers. I hope all are well and working with plenty of jobs in your jurisdictions. The work situation in Houston is still a little slow, but we expect work to pick up soon. We thank other jurisdictions for our members to work, and thanks to our members helping those locals who need the manpower.

Having just celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first manned spacecraft to the moon, I can’t help but think about the work performed by the members of IBEW Local 716 working at NASA who contributed to the success of that mission. We thank those members for their service and also the members working at NASA today. We are extremely fortunate to have this opportunity.

Thanks to all the volunteers, cooks and attendees who helped make the Harris County AFL-CIO Labor Day Celebration a great success. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the fellowship and also the ability to meet the visiting candidates running in the upcoming elections.

Which reminds me, we are encouraging all our members, their families and friends to get registered to vote and then to exercise that right.

Congratulations to our newly elected and reelected officers. Thanks to all the candidates who chose to seek office — we appreciate your effort.

David R. Alley, Pres.

Graduating Class of 2019

L.U. 728 (em,lt,tt,ks&p), FORT LAUDERDALE, FL — Local 728 would like to give a shout-out to the apprenticeship graduating class of July 2019.

Congratulations, graduates, on this accomplishment that you’ve put your time, effort and energy into. May your achievements carry you far in your career with the IBEW and in life. Thank you for your dedication to our trade!

Effie Cruz, Organizer


Focus on Workers’ Interests

IBEW Members at NASA; 2019 Labor Day Celebration

L.U. 761 (lt,tt,ks&p), CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA — Hello, sisters and brothers! First, we were happy to hear a candidate from a certain overcrowded political race mention at a primary debate that his father was in the IBEW and how that afforded their family a good life with great health insurance that no one would want to give up. What a great advertisement for our union and all unions that was! Of course, we want everyone to have health care, but we don’t want to trade what we have either. A sensible point of view. You’ll have to check to see who said it; I don’t want to appear to be one-sided. That candidate wasn’t even my main choice, but they are all worth listening to. Get your head into it. It’s our livelihood that may be at stake.

Our hearts go out all the way across the country to our sisters and brothers in Castrovilla, Calif., Local 234 where the recent shooting at the nearby Garlic Festival killed three people and wounded several more including family members of some of our brothers and sisters out there. We are thinking about you. The whole country. One prayer.

Andy Weiner, P.S.

School Supply Drive a Success

L.U. 804 (lbo), TAMPA, FL — IBEW Local 824 members, together with IBEW Local 95 and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 487, all located in Tampa, had a very successful back to school supply

Pre-apprenticeship training program for new Local 804 recruits boosts success for future.
drive. This effort was spearheaded by our local chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC).

Much-needed supplies were distributed to Howard W. Blake High School in Tampa, Jennings Middle School in Selfridge, and Gideon Elementary School located in Gideon. All three are Title 1 schools and the back to school supplies were very much appreciated. The annual school supply drive is just another great way to get the IBEW name out in the community.

We also had our annual family fun day to help kick off bargaining with Frontier. We had over 400 people come out for the picnic. There were bounce houses for the children, cornhole games, raffle prizes and award-winning BBQ from our very own Bobby Bellott. It was a great day of solidarity, food and fun.

Keith LaPlant, P.S.

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‘Welcome to New Members’ Linemen Gain Representation

L.U. 1136 (em,lt,ct,lu), TUCSON, AZ — Greetings, brothers and sisters!

Please join IBEW Local 1136 in welcoming a new group of Linemen at Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative have elected to join the union. SSVEC is the largest cooperative in the state of Arizona, covering parts of Cochise, Graham, Pima and Santa Cruz counties. These linemen maintain more than 4,100 miles of energized line. We ask all our members to continue to support them during contract negotiations. The local also thanks Bus. Rep. Sarita Morales and State Organizing Coordinator Robert Sample as the Volunteer Organizing Committee (VOC) members who worked so hard for this victory. We are still focusing on internal organizing, so speak to your co-workers about joining the union. It is everyone’s responsibility to help grow our membership.

Congratulations to the new journeymen: electronics technician — Johnny Khanapi; shop electricians/ERTF — Steve Canez and Andrew Dosch; and substation electrician — Scott King. Brothers, you have all achieved a great milestone. May success follow you through your careers.

At press time, the picnic was scheduled for Oct. 19 at the hall. Plans included adding a Halloween costume contest for the kids, along with the other fun games and prizes.

Thanks to all members who attend union meetings and stay involved. Remember, this is your local and you have a voice.

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

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IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

www.ibew.org

Get the latest IBEW news, the online version of the Electrical Worker and more at IBEW.org.

YouTube

For this IBEW member, an electrical career was the right choice to help her raise a family and avoid crushing college debt. See her story at YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker.

Vimeo

For 30 years, the IBEW has partnered with Skills Ontario to promote the trades to young people through mentoring, competitions and more. Learn more at Vimeo.com/IBEW.

HourPower

Each year the National Sisterhood United for Journeymen Linemen holds a linemen’s rodeo to honor those who have fallen. Learn more about the NSUJL and their support of line-families at IBEWHourPower.com.

ElectricTV

The 2019 National Training Institute graduated over 100 new instructors for the organized electrical industry’s training programs. Watch the excellence in action at ElectricTV.net.

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IBEW MERCHANDISE

Retirement Pin $2.50
Silver lapel pin with “Retired” below the IBEW fist and lightening bolts. Measures 3/4” Diameter with standard grade clutches.

Camouflage Hat $12.00
Orange and green twill camouflage hat with custom IBEW lettering. Adjustable size to fit all.

Black Long Sleeve Shirt $11.00
100% Freshman cotton long sleeve t-shirt with white IBEW initials printed on the left chest.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

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Win for Workers in New Mexico

L.U. 1988 (io), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — During the previous New Mexico legislative session earlier this year, regional “right-to-work” ordinances were abolished, thanks to the voters who showed up and supported a labor-friendly governor and state legislature. The practice of individual counties establishing right-to-work measures was banned with passage of House Bill 85, Union Security Agreement. I am proud to say New Mexico is a pro-labor state.

[Editor’s Note: To read more about the win for workers in New Mexico, see May 10, 2019, news story “With More Allies in State Capitols, A Sunnier Future,” at www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles.]

The PAE agreement was ratified, providing a substantial increase in benefits. The company will now match contributions to a 401(k) program. This was the first agreement negotiated since PAE was organized under the Chenega contract with Kirkland Air Force Base. Members employed with PAE were at $21.32 per hour before they organized and became IBEW union members. At the end of the new contract, they will be at $32.09. That’s pretty good over a six-year period.

Cesar Maestas, B.M.

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Campaign spiked some interest, and fun activities also included face painting and pony rides for the kids.
## In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in August 1989

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Corcoran, O. E.</td>
<td>5/10/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bagley, R.</td>
<td>5/11/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Johnson, J. F.</td>
<td>5/12/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Holtzclaw, W. B.</td>
<td>5/13/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Simmons, J. E.</td>
<td>5/14/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Little, W. W.</td>
<td>5/15/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Allgood, R. W.</td>
<td>5/16/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Moore, J. D.</td>
<td>5/17/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Hines, R. H.</td>
<td>5/18/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Welch, J.</td>
<td>5/19/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Local Surname  Date of Death

| 11 | Leonard, B. W. | 5/20/19 |
| 12 | Nance, J. W. | 5/21/19 |
| 13 | West, C. D. | 5/22/19 |
| 14 | Moore, R. L. | 5/23/19 |
| 15 | Mertz, J. W. | 5/24/19 |
| 16 | Barr, R. L. | 5/25/19 |
| 17 | Siemers, H. J. | 5/26/19 |
| 18 | Kayden, J. E. | 5/27/19 |
| 19 | Brandon, M. E. | 5/28/19 |
| 20 | Aiu, D. D. | 5/29/19 |
| 21 | Elkins, B. J. | 5/30/19 |
| 22 | Allen, H. W. | 6/1/19 |
| 23 | Freeman, J. A. | 6/2/19 |
| 24 | Wiens, J. R. | 6/3/19 |
| 26 | Dellen, J. L. | 6/5/19 |
| 27 | German, C. L. | 6/6/19 |
| 28 | Hummer, E. | 6/7/19 |
| 29 | Hull, C. W. | 6/8/19 |
| 30 | Johnson, J. H. | 6/9/19 |
| 31 | Mitchell, W. R. | 6/10/19 |
| 32 | Parks, R. W. | 6/11/19 |
| 33 | White, K. W. | 6/12/19 |
| 34 | Brown, E. | 6/13/19 |
| 35 | Black, R. G. | 6/14/19 |
| 36 | Fulks, B. W. | 6/15/19 |
| 37 | Hanes, F. W. | 6/16/19 |
| 38 | Franklin, C. E. | 6/17/19 |
| 39 | Bollinger, D. F. | 6/18/19 |
| 40 | Conner, B. A. | 6/19/19 |
| 41 | Simpkin, J. W. | 6/20/19 |
| 42 | Magee, T. H. | 6/21/19 |
| 43 | Foster, J. A. | 6/22/19 |
| 44 | Kitter, L. R. | 6/23/19 |
| 45 | Correction, B. J. | 6/24/19 |
| 46 | Koger, D. E. | 6/25/19 |
| 47 | Peterson, D. | 6/26/19 |
| 48 | Satterfield, F. | 6/27/19 |
| 49 | Page, H. L. | 6/28/19 |
| 50 | Stanford, J. D. | 6/29/19 |
| 51 | Kerr, J. M. | 6/30/19 |

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### Local Surname  Date of Death

| 52 | Wilson, B. | 7/1/19 |
| 53 | Russell, R. E. | 7/2/19 |
| 54 | Black, J. | 7/3/19 |
| 55 | Hollenbeck, R. A. | 7/4/19 |
| 56 | Todd, J. D. | 7/5/19 |
| 57 | Todd, T. W. | 7/6/19 |
| 58 | Gehrman, C. F. | 7/7/19 |
| 59 | Keyl, G. W. | 7/8/19 |
| 60 | Eichhorn, J. A. | 7/9/19 |
| 61 | Kugler, J. | 7/10/19 |
| 62 | Oram, M. J. | 7/11/19 |
| 63 | O'Brien, J. | 7/12/19 |
| 64 | Spalding, T. | 7/13/19 |
| 65 | Bee, J. | 7/14/19 |
| 66 | Moeller, R. | 7/15/19 |
| 67 | Simms, G. | 7/16/19 |
| 68 | Ewing, R. | 7/17/19 |
| 69 | White, R. G. | 7/18/19 |
| 70 | Jones, J. H. | 7/19/19 |
| 71 | Breese, E. | 7/20/19 |
| 72 | Waters, E. F. | 7/21/19 |
| 73 | Williams, H. | 7/22/19 |
| 74 | West, C. D. | 7/23/19 |
| 75 | Oldham, W. J. | 7/24/19 |
| 76 | Kimbrell, L. | 7/25/19 |
| 77 | Wright, G. | 7/26/19 |
| 78 |立刻, G. W. | 7/27/19 |
| 79 | Keck, J. C. | 7/28/19 |
| 80 | Rieke, R. W. | 7/29/19 |
| 81 | Colvito, J. T. | 7/30/19 |
| 82 | Morley, D. | 7/31/19 |

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### Local Surname  Date of Death

| 83 | Wilson, D. | 8/1/19 |
| 84 | Terry, J. | 8/2/19 |
| 85 | Wofford, C. | 8/3/19 |
| 86 | Clary, T. | 8/4/19 |
| 87 | Arnold, R. J. | 8/5/19 |
| 88 | Bestor, G. | 8/6/19 |
| 89 | Brown, C. | 8/7/19 |
| 90 | Terry, T. | 8/8/19 |
| 91 | Fitch, R. | 8/9/19 |
| 92 | Johnson, W. G. | 8/10/19 |
| 93 | Jones, H. | 8/11/19 |
| 94 | Clark, W. | 8/12/19 |
| 95 | Clark, W. | 8/13/19 |
| 96 | McGraw, L. | 8/14/19 |
| 97 | Wright, G. | 8/15/19 |
| 98 | Wright, G. | 8/16/19 |
| 99 | Wright, G. | 8/17/19 |
| 100 | Wright, G. | 8/18/19 |
| 101 | Wright, G. | 8/19/19 |
| 102 | Wright, G. | 8/20/19 |
| 103 | Wright, G. | 8/21/19 |
| 104 | Wright, G. | 8/22/19 |
| 105 | Wright, G. | 8/23/19 |
| 106 | Wright, G. | 8/24/19 |
| 107 | Wright, G. | 8/25/19 |
| 108 | Wright, G. | 8/26/19 |
| 109 | Wright, G. | 8/27/19 |
| 110 | Wright, G. | 8/28/19 |
| 111 | Wright, G. | 8/29/19 |
| 112 | Wright, G. | 8/30/19 |
| 113 | Wright, G. | 8/31/19 |

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### Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Notes

- The list includes names of members who were approved for death claims in August 1989.
- Dates range from May 10 to August 31, 1989.
- Members are listed alphabetically by local and surname.
- The document serves as a memorial to these individuals.

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### Acknowledgment

This document is a tribute to the members of the company who were remembered for their contributions and service. Their legacies live on through the continued support and dedication of their colleagues and successors.
A Lifetime of Service Propels Colorado Member’s Candidacy

Eppie Griego and his wife, Rayann, fostered more than 150 children in addition to raising four of their own. Now, Griego, a Pueblo, Colo., Local 12 member, is running for a seat on the Pueblo Board of County Commissioners.

Pueblo, about a two-hour drive south of Denver, has a population of just over 100,000, with about 280,000 people in the metropolitan area. It’s long been known as a strong union town, primarily because of the steel industry’s presence there, and it has been recognized nationally for its affordable housing. Some organizations, such as AARP, have listed it among the 20 best American cities to live.

Griego came up short when he first ran for a commission seat in 2012. He proudly played up his union credentials when announcing his candidacy, telling a local paper he’s the “labor candidate.” So far, he has been endorsed by Local 12 and Pueblo’s steelworkers and laborers unions. The general election is not until November of next year.

Currently, Griego serves on the Pueblo County & Zoning Board and as a delegate to the Southern Colorado Labor Council (AFL-CIO). If elected, one of his priorities will be helping to bring good-paying jobs to Pueblo — which means they likely will be union jobs.

“Unions have taken care of me,” he said. “I’m going to do the best I can for them.”

Rayann is a lifelong member union as well. She works as a psychiatric technician at the Colorado Mental Health Institute in Pueblo and is a member of Colorado WINS, which represents about 35,000 public employees in the state. They have four children — Eppie Jr., Raquel, Janelle and Eric, an Army veteran who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom — and five grandchildren.

“They were young when we first got married,” she said. “We’ve had heartaches and tragedies in our lives. We know the importance of union wages and benefits. We both have good jobs with good benefits and know how much it’s helped out.”

HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, The Electrical Worker, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001 or send by email to: media@ibew.org

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Building Detroit’s First New Car Plant in a Generation

At one time, more than a dozen auto plants dotted the sprawling city limits of Detroit. It was Motor City, the engine room of a nation that made for the rest of the world. That changed. Detroit shrank. Factories closed. More than a million people have left the city, and nearly a decade ago, when the U.S. auto industry was hanging in the breeze, unemployment hit nearly 30%.

But now, sunlight is shining out of Detroit’s long winter. For the first time in nearly 30 years, a ground-up auto plant is underway in Detroit, and it’s only one piece — albeit a big one — of a $4.5 billion investment in new manufacturing announced earlier this year by a resurgent Fiat Chrysler.

The $1.6 billion Mack Avenue Assembly plant will be the home of the Jeep Grand Cherokee as well as an all-new three-row, full-size Jeep SUV. The company said that when the time comes, Mack will also produce plug-in hybrid versions of the Jeep Wrangler, Ram 1500 and the new four-door pickup Jeep Gladiator.

The transformation of the Mack site from engine production to truck assembly has cascading effects on five other FCA plants, four — Jefferson North, Warren Truck Assembly, Warren Stamping and Sterling Assembly — in or near Detroit, and the Dundee Engine Assembly plant, halfway between Detroit and Toledo.

Fiat Chrysler expects the investment will create more than 6,000 new jobs, nearly 5,000 at the Mack Avenue site alone, all under a United Auto Workers collective bargaining agreement, though about a dozen IBEW members from multiple contractors have historically been onsite under the National Maintenance Agreement.

Fiat Chrysler’s investment in Detroit contrasts sharply with other auto manufacturers. For decades, when foreign companies built in the U.S., they built in the South, where unions are kept weak, wages are low and worker protections are limited.

Worse, GM recently announced it will shutter its Detroit-Hamtramck plant next year, and four others in the U.S. and Canada will follow.

Most of those plants had produced slow-selling sedans. Fiat Chrysler announced it was killing nearly all of its sedan production a year ago. But instead of closing shop, the company discontinued compact car production and retrofitted plants in Illinois, Ohio and Michigan to launch the new Jeep Wrangler, Ram 1500 and the new four-door pickup Jeep Gladiator.

The company’s chief financial officer told investors in June that trucks and SUVs would account for 80% of revenue by 2022.

Mack Avenue started life a century ago as a stamping plant making parts for Plymouth, Ford and other companies. It has been owned by Chrysler since 1953, but it closed in the late ’70s for 11 years. New Mack was built in the early ’90s, first to produce the Dodge Viper, and then as an engine assembly plant, first making V-8 truck engines and then, for the last 15 years, the Pentastar six-cylinder engine.

Next, Fiat Chrysler will retool and modernize the Warren Truck Assembly Plant just across Detroit’s northern border, the celebrated 8 Mile Road. When complete, the plant will produce the all-new Jeep Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer.

The $1.5 billion investment will be heavily biased towards retooling instead of construction, but Preuss said he expects several hundred Local 58 members will be needed for the conversion.

The Warren and Sterling stamping plants, also north of the Detroit line, will receive $245 million in upgrades, and continue making hoods, roofs, liftgates, floor pans and other parts for Jeep and Dodge vehicles.

Finally, the company will begin work on the Jefferson North plant, a few blocks away from Mack. The $900 million retrofit and modernization of the existing plant is expected to begin in late 2020. Jefferson North will build the Dodge Durango and next-generation Jeep Grand Cherokee. Fiat Chrysler said it expects to need 1,100 new workers when construction is complete.

The engine production lost from the conversion of Mack to assembly will not be sent out of the region. The Dundee Engine Plant, halfway between Detroit and Toledo, will get nearly $120 million in improvements, also built by members of Local 58, and begin turning out the engines for the Jeep Gladiator.

It’s hopefully just the start of the auto industry’s comeback in the Motor City, civic and union leaders say.