

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## IBEW News

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## A \$14 Billion Facelift for One of America's Busiest Airports



*The largest public works project in Los Angeles history is a \$14 billion upgrade to the city's international airport. In addition to upgrading the flying experience, the extensive remodel aims to reduce traffic and consolidate acres of parking, all while encouraging use of the city's public transportation system.*

(All photos courtesy Los Angeles World Airports)

Person A takes off from San Francisco for a 389-mile flight to Los Angeles International Airport's Terminal 4. At the same time, Person B exits the 405 freeway bound for the same destination just 2.5 miles away.

Who gets there first?

The answer, to the frustration of millions of Angelenos each year, is that those two trips can, and often do, take the same amount of time. The solution is expected to be the largest public works program in Los Angeles history.

"I have been there where it took an hour to go around the horseshoe," said Local 11 President Rusty Roten, referring to the airport's layout, which consists of nine terminals arranged around a looping central roadway. "There are so many cars, everyone is pulling over waiting, buses are everywhere. And then the person you're coming for doesn't come out and the curb

## LAX: READY FOR ITS CLOSE-UP

cops move you along and its: 'Oh God, no.'"

The traffic is one of the reasons that LAX — the fourth busiest airport in the world — ranked 72nd in the annual Skytrax survey of customer satisfaction below Quito, Ecuador, and Delhi, India. Cars and shuttle buses circling the terminal ring are the only way 85 million passengers a year can get to or from their planes. Even in car-centric LA, that's unsustainable.

With the city set to host the Olympics in 2028, Los Angeles World Airport, LAX's owner and operator, has begun a nearly \$14 billion rebuild. To use an LA metaphor, this is no mere botox here or a little nip there; this is a Kardashian-level reconstruction.

That is excellent news for the members of Los Angeles Local 11, who will see millions of man-hours of work over the next decade, said Business Manager Joel Barton.

"Typically, we look at a \$1 billion project and think '10% is our work.' That hasn't been the case at LAX," Barton said. "With all the sensors, conveyors, surveillance, fire alarms ... everything is electrical. It's not just lights, plugs and audio. It's very inclusive.

We see 20 to 25% is going to be our work."

And it's often highly technical work with challenges that will test even the most seasoned electricians.

"Some of the locations are crazy busy or hard to service with equipment," said Roten, who was a business agent in the territory that includes the airport before he was elected to his new post. "The airport has helped us secure work with the airlines because they need work to be done right and they need minimal impact on airline operations. So, they say to the airlines, 'We will pay to have the union install it, and then you pay us back.'"

When complete, it will be the largest project in Local 11 history, employing hundreds of members for more than a decade.

"No doubt, 1,000 members will work there comfortably for quite a long time," Roten said. "A good portion of their careers will be spent here."

With the new collective bargaining agreement nailed down last year, the Rams-Chargers shared NFL stadium nearing completion, the NBA's Clippers looking for a new home and a planned convention center expansion attracting dozens of cranes for downtown hotels, Local 11 now has the largest apprenticeship class in its history. It will near 2,300 apprentices by the end of the year.

LAX GETTING READY *continued on page 4*



## FROM THE OFFICERS

# Building the Grid of the Future



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

Last month in Washington I joined a group of energy industry leaders from across North America to talk about the future of the electrical grid. It's something I think about every day, and here at the IBEW we work hard to make sure working people's voices are always a part of these important discussions.

The thing is, no one is better positioned to talk about our future energy infrastructure than the men and women who will build it.

Now our outside construction and utility members know firsthand the challenges we're up against, but the truth is that every IBEW member is going to be needed to meet the energy demands of the 21st century.

You all understand more than most that the way we generate electricity is changing. Cheap natural gas is wreaking havoc on coal and nuclear. And the rise of renewables like wind, solar and hydro are changing the ways we distribute power.

For some of our members, these changes have been hard. And that's why we continue to argue that baseload generation — especially the type of generating stations whose middle-class jobs support entire communities — must continue to be a critical part of our energy mix.

But the changes are also presenting opportunities. Abundant hydro, wind and solar power is rarely located in the communities that need that energy, so long-distance transmission projects are demanding increasing numbers of our outside construction members. Whether it's moving wind power from the Midwest, solar from the Desert Southwest, geothermal from the Rocky Mountains or hydro power from Canada, IBEW members will lead the way.

Those projects also demand more from your leaders. District and local leaders are involved from the very beginning of these massive projects, working with companies to sign PLAs and guarantee that new transmission is IBEW-built, and then coordinating with state, provincial and federal officials and regulatory bodies throughout the complicated approval processes.

A study I saw recently forecasts an increase in transmission investment from \$7 to 10 billion per year in the upcoming decade to as much as \$40 billion per year between 2030 and 2050. That's tens of thousands of jobs, and we're going to put IBEW members in the best position to make sure they're good union jobs, done by the best-trained electrical tradesmen and women in North America.

That means organizing, and I'm proud of the effort and resources we're putting into outside construction organizing. It also means that if you know young people looking for direction and a path to the middle class, you should be pointing them to [WePowerAmerica.org](http://WePowerAmerica.org) or to one of our local unions.

I've never felt more optimistic about the future of this brotherhood, and it's because of you, sisters and brothers. Together, we're going to make sure North America's energy future is IBEW-built. ■

## Message Sent

Union voters in Kentucky and Virginia sent a clear message on Election Day last month: Ignore our issues at your peril.

Kentucky has been trending Republican for years now. But Kentucky is still a union state, and union families had enough of Gov. Matt Bevin's attacks on workers' rights, health care and pensions.

Following in the footsteps of former Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Bevin prioritized repealing prevailing wage, passing right-to-work, and attacking public-sector workers, especially teachers.

But the Kentucky labor movement and the IBEW didn't take it lying down. We focused on educating our members and getting out the vote for Attorney General Andy Beshear who, in one of the highest turnout elections the Bluegrass State has seen in years, defeated Bevin on Nov. 5.

And while the labor movement has historically been much weaker in neighboring right-to-work Virginia, union voters there played a critical role in electing a pro-worker majority in both legislative houses.

Here's why last month's election is so important. Not only did union voters help defeat known opponents of labor, we helped elect candidates who openly spoke to our issues and priorities.

Andy Beshear made it clear that he supports the repeal of right-to-work and the re-establishment of a state prevailing wage law. He also vowed to nominate a card-carrying union member as his Labor Secretary.

And in Virginia, labor-backed candidates openly talked about raising wages, expanding health care coverage, and even repealing the state's more than 70-year-old right-to-work law.

For the IBEW, the issue is not whether you are a Democrat or Republican, a liberal or conservative. It's whether you are pro- or anti-worker. And you can't be pro-worker if you're anti-union.

And that theme resonated in both conservative, rural communities in Kentucky and in more liberal Virginia suburbs on Election Day.

Voters in both states made it clear that they were fed up with politicians more interested in attacking workers' rights and handing out tax cuts to the rich than investing in their communities and good jobs.

They wanted a government that took the side of working people, not the top 1 percent or big-money special interests.

Of course, Election Day is only the first step. We still need to bring pressure on all newly elected officials to keep their promises.

But November's election were signs that the victories the labor movement scored in 2018 weren't flukes. They once again prove that when union members get active and vote, labor can make a positive change and elect politicians who are focused on putting the government on the side of working people.

It's on us as IBEW members to keep that momentum going in 2020 as well. ■



**Kenneth W. Cooper**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

## “LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

### Ignoring the Rules

I don't know if I'm missing something or just not understanding. How can Mitch McConnell just bend, change or ignore rules set in place at the National Labor Relations Board? I was totally amazed after reading the article “Has the NLRB Lost Its Way?” in the September Electrical Worker. He did the same things with Merrick Garland at the Supreme Court. It's time to stand up to Mitch McConnell and his anti-union obstruction.

*M.B. Hughes, Local 9 retiree  
Chicago*

### Erasing the Stigma

Thanks for your story on the opioid crisis in the construction industry in the August Electrical Worker. I'm writing to talk about another issue that needs addressing: depression.

I want to tell my IBEW brothers and sisters dealing with depression, you're not alone, and you are valued. The “D” word sometimes doesn't get the same response as “cancer” or other illness. The stigma prevents us from getting the message out that depression is as legitimate an illness as any other. We're fortunate that we've fought together for good medical coverage, so use it. If you're suffering from depression, please don't be afraid to seek treatment. You're not alone.

*Michael R. Brady, Local 3 member  
New York*

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



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

**Editor's Note:** There were many great responses to last month's cover story, “The IBEW Changed My Life.” Here are a few of our favorites:

### Promises Kept

I worked very hard during my years in the union. I'm retired now and collecting the rewards that were promised when I joined. Thanks IBEW.

*Scott Januik, Local 164 retiree  
Jersey City, N.J.*

### 52 Years, Going Strong

Fifty-two years IBEW, still working and loving it more than ever. I'm well paid with great benefits, insurance and retirement.

*John T. Jacobsen, Local 577 member  
Appleton, Wisc.*

### My Secure Retirement

I'm proud retired IBEW. Thanks to my union I have a pension!

*Mary Emry, Local 2366 retiree  
Lincoln, Neb.*

### Best Thing to Happen To Me

I'll hit my 20-year mark next month. Joining the IBEW was the best thing that could have happened to me professionally to support my family.

*Mike Bancroft, Local 1 member  
St. Louis, Mo.*





Young leaders of the IBEW came from every district in the U.S. and Canada to the birthplace of the Brotherhood in St. Louis for the fourth RENEW/NextGen Conference.

# History Hosts the Future at the 2019 RENEW Conference

## Henry Miller Museum welcomes the IBEW's young leaders

**K**evin Mack, a low voltage technician out of Detroit Local 58, knew how everyone else in the room was feeling when they walked into the St. Louis boarding house where Henry Miller and nine other delegates founded the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1891.

"It's overwhelming at first," Mack said. "This story, my life changing, my family's life changing, millions of lives changing because of what happened here, in this place. It's not just stories, and here I am. This place has an effect on people."

Mack was surrounded by members in town for the fourth Reach out and Engage NextGen Electrical Workers Conference and for most, this was their first visit to the birthplace of the brotherhood. This was the second time Mack, the RENEW/NextGen Advisory Council delegate from the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, had been to the Henry Miller Museum; he was there in 2016 as an alternate to the IBEW's 39th International Convention when the boardinghouse-turned-museum first opened to the public.

And he knew, he said, what comes after the awe, and he was waiting for it.

"You get over 'This is where it started!' and then you see it is just a room. They weren't these big figures at that moment; they were just people who wanted better lives," Mack said. "They came together with an idea, and with a lot of

effort, made the foundation for what we have today. That's inspiring. People who gave a damn, putting the effort in, created this and changed millions of lives. It's inspiring to think we can do the same."

Mack and hundreds of the brotherhood's young leaders came together to learn, share and plot future successes. And they did it all in the IBEW's birthplace, capped off with a celebration in the very building where the union was founded 127 years before.

"You aren't the IBEW leaders of the future anymore. You're the IBEW leaders of today," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson told them, noting that no generation in decades has faced the obstacles to joining the middle class that they have and, not coincidentally, that no age group has a higher approval of unions.

"Politicians and big-money special interests have thrown everything they can to stop young people from exercising their right to take collective action and join a union. The good news is that Millennials get it and they haven't stopped organizing," he said. "That's why, despite all the challenges in our way, I can't think of a more exciting time to be a young activist in the labor movement than now."

This year's conference offered opportunities for young activists to learn from one another, whether a local's RENEW/NextGen chapter is just getting off the ground or has been established for years.

"I want people to understand that you are not alone; you can answer someone else's questions and get your answers too, from your peers," said Civic and Community Engagement Department Director Tarn Goelling. "We are a big union. Every local has different circumstances, but someone here can help you find your way."

On the first day, more than 400 attendees participated in a massive clean-up of O'Fallon Park in north St. Louis.

"There are only a handful of park managers keeping watch over 125 acres, so you can imagine how grateful they were," said International Representative Areana Tate. "It's an example of the kind of thing RENEW/NextGen committees can easily accomplish back home."

"These are the go-getters, and we do have a lot of people getting in positions of power in their local, but mostly its rank-and-file," Tate said. "Organizing a park clean-up, running a food drive, these make a real difference, but they are also practice for union leadership: running organizing campaigns and getting contracts approved."

There were district meetings and workshops from Thursday afternoon, Oct. 17, through to the closing session Saturday morning. Workshop topics included everything from the structure of the IBEW, political organizing and voter registration strategies to prioritizing and time management.

Goelling said she received the most comments from attendees about a session called "Personal Is Powerful! Telling Your Story."

"All of our workshops were, 'You can do this now,'" Goelling said. "We are

learning this together, but you have to feel brotherhood and sisterhood to live it."

Speakers included Missouri Senate Minority Leader Gina Walsh, Stephenson, Eleventh District International Vice President Curt Henke and Missouri AFL-CIO President Mike Louis.

St. Louis Local 1 Business Manager Frank Jacobs took the opportunity to remind everyone at the reception that fundraising for the museum is continuing and there are still many opportunities for locals and individuals to support the birthplace of the IBEW.

"The rooms and poles are all sponsored but there are still benches, custom

brick pavers and places for the display of locals' emblems," Jacobs said. "This place was forgotten for a while and we want to make sure it never is again and stays an inspiration to our members."

There are also T-shirts and commemorative coins that individual members can buy that benefit the museum, he said. Anyone can come and visit the museum when they come through the city, he said.

"We have members stop by for tours nearly every day of the week," he said. "During normal business hours, we can open the gate and we will get a rep there in 10 to 15 minutes. But try and call ahead."

Donations can be made or items purchased via the museum's homepage, <https://nbew-ibewmuseum.org>. All revenue raised goes to the nonprofit Electrical Workers Historical Society, which owns and runs the museum. ■



Toronto Local 353 member Aaron Zboch-Alves, New York Local 3 member Kenneth Cohen and First District International Representative Jenn Schneider speak on a panel about sustaining momentum in their local RENEW/NEXTGen committees.



# A \$14 Billion Facelift for One of America's Busiest Airports



Construction is underway on a new midfield terminal connected to the international terminal (above) and the Automated People Mover (far right) that will put hundreds of Local 11 members to work for the better part of a decade.



## Continued from page 1

"These are good times to be a union electrician in Los Angeles," Barton said. "Our organizers are out there and getting aggressive."

## Solving the Car Problem

The estimated \$14 billion LAX budget covers more than a dozen individual projects across nearly every part of the airport, from how passengers get to the terminals to how planes take off and land. More than one-third of the funds are earmarked for the traffic-fixing Landside Access Modernization Program, and the largest single component — the \$4 billion piece that ties it all together — is the Automated People Mover.

An elevated train — think rubber wheels instead of steel rails — will glide over the traffic snarls below, linking existing terminals to new rental car facilities, transportation facilities and more. Nearly 40% of the traffic on the core horseshoe is shuttle buses, according to LAWA. They will be exiled, unneeded as the driverless electric APM takes over.

The contractors are just completing geological studies to make sure the system will survive the occasional earthquake, Local 11 business representative Mike Costigan said. Once underway, Roten believes the APM will put several hundred Local 11 members to work, most visibly on the millions of multi-color LEDs that will pinstripe the side of the guideway.

Total travel time from one end to the other: 10 minutes.

LAX opened as Mines Field in 1928, but it wasn't until 1961 that Los Angeles Airport was truly a Jet Age destination. The airport was expanded and the iconic Theme Building, like a UFO hung from reinforced concrete arches, was set soaring above the largest airport parking lot in the world. And since everybody flying into LA needed a car to see LA, planners made a then-astonishing 1,000 "drive-yourself" cars available daily.

As the airport reinvented itself over the next 60 years, like the city it serves, it spread to fill every space available. Car rental companies fled the dense core and scattered to 20 lots around the airport.

LAMP will end the thousand little commutes and combine them into the colossal ConRAC, the Consolidated Rent-a-Car building. At 6 million square feet, not only will it be larger than all the terminals combined, it will be larger than the Mall of America and only 10% smaller than the Pentagon. Forget about 1,000 cars a day; ConRAC will have room for 20,000 cars, and it won't spill them onto a multitude of industrial surface streets but nearly straight onto the freeway.

But what about self-driving cars, asked the project planners. Won't a giant parking garage be pointless someday in the future when your car drops you off and heads home by itself? The garage is being built with flat floors, external ramps and ceilings high enough to hold HVAC so

electricians of the future can transform the vestigial garage into a hotel or office if that future need arises.

The total cost for the ConRAC is nearly \$2 billion.

One of the primary goals of LAMP is to end the tyranny of the shuttle bus and the private car. When complete, Angelinos will be able to do the unthinkable: skip the drive and take the Metro.

Future passengers will no longer brave the core. Arrivals to the airport will be consolidated just east of the horseshoe at two temples to transportation choice: the new Intermodal Transit Facilities, one near the ConRAC to the east mostly for cars, one to the west near the Metro Green Line and the future Metro Crenshaw/LAX Line. Both will serve as homes for regional and local bus lines.

Yes, Los Angeles has a rail transit system and, yes, Local 11 has the PLA for that work, too.



Today, it can take 1 hour to get from the entrance of the airport to the terminals; after the two-dozen car rental lots are consolidated (left) and the APM is complete (above), that trip will take minutes.

(All photos courtesy Los Angeles World Airports)

for people, one for luggage — the MSC's 12 gates will cost a cool \$1.6 billion.

Alongside the LAMP project, the five major carriers and the many smaller airlines that call LAX home will reshuffle themselves around the horseshoe. By 2023, all nine terminals will have undergone nips and tucks at an average cost of \$760 million each. Some companies, as with Delta's planned "SkyWay," are more ambitious: a nearly \$1.9 billion project that will link Terminals 2 and 3 with the international terminal, bringing an end to inter-terminal shuttle bus transfers. But everyone from Southwest to United to American have something in store. A quarter billion dollars will be spent on escalators alone.

Behind the scenes, a billion more is being spent on automated luggage processing.

There are even rumors that a Terminal 10 will rise across Sepulveda Boulevard to the east, Roten said, and Southwest Airlines may double its footprint by building the so-called Terminal Zero where a parking lot now sits. If all goes according to plan, there will be much less call for that parking lot in the years ahead.

"It's so much work, so much work and for 10 years," Roten said with a laugh. "It's nutso. Crazy." ■

"You could be in Pasadena and get all the way to LAX on light rail," Roten said of the city nearly 30 miles by freeway from the airport. "It's incredible, really."

The total cost for both ITFs is below \$1 billion.

## Upgrading the Passenger Experience

No Hollywood relaunch would be complete without at least one completely new character, and for LAX it is the Midfield Satellite Concourse, a terminal floating out away from the existing Tom Bradley International Terminal. The MSC will handle the largest intercontinental long-haul planes, including the 555-seat double-decker A-380. Today, passengers deplane mid-airfield and are bused to terminals, a slow and unpopular process. With its wave-shaped roof and twin tunnels — one



# NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

## Winnipeg Member Returned to Parliament in a Good Night for Working People

**W**orking families scored big wins in Canada's federal elections on Oct. 21 — and the IBEW held an especially important seat in Winnipeg's Elmwood-Transcona riding.

That's where Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085 member Daniel Blaikie was re-elected to the House of Commons. Blaikie, 35, a New Democratic Party MP and the only IBEW member in Parliament, beat Conservative Party challenger Lawrence Toet by 8 percent in a race that was expected to be much tighter.

"He's a star in the making," Local 2085 Business Manager Russell Shewchuk said. "I firmly believe that one day he will be the leader of the NDP, and I've told him that on several occasions."

"If anyone meets him personally, they can tell immediately he's a great person. He's very articulate. He's an electrician by trade with several [university] degrees. He gets up and speaks out on issues [during Parliament sessions] probably more than any other MP in the opposition."

International President Lonnie R. Stephenson congratulated Blaikie on the win.

"It's important to have a seat at the table and I'm confident Daniel Blaikie will continue to be a fierce advocate for trade unions and all of labour," Stephenson said. "He's shown it's possible to defend the interests of working families while also addressing other important threats to his constituents' well-being. Our brothers and sisters throughout Canada will be well served by him in the years to come."

First District Vice President Thomas Reid noted that Blaikie has been "a proud union member who has always supported his IBEW brothers and sisters."

"He has spoken at several of our district progress meetings, including when we met in Vancouver this past August," Reid added. "Our members worked hard, volunteering countless hours to help him get elected in 2015 and 2019, and we are pleased his constituents in Elmwood-Transcona sent him back to Parliament. We look forward to working with him for years to come."

Toet was the incumbent in 2015 when Blaikie beat him by just 61 votes, the closest race in that year's federal election. That and the expectation the NDP would struggle in this year's election had some observers thinking Blaikie was in for a close race.

Election night was tough for the NDP nationally. The party lost 15 seats overall and will have just 24 members when Parliament returns to Ottawa. But that didn't trickle down to Blaikie, who said he won because the residents of Elmwood-Transcona — a primarily working-class riding on Winnipeg's northeast side — saw that he was responding to their needs.

**"[Blaikie is] a proud union member who has always supported his IBEW brothers and sisters."**

— First District Vice President Thomas Reid

"Gratitude is the main feeling," Blaikie told the CBC.

The ruling Liberal Party lost its majority but still won the most seats, meaning Prime Minister Justin Trudeau remains in office but must call on opposition parties for support in getting legislation passed. That will give Blaikie an even more important role, Shewchuk said.

"We have an NDP that can prop up

the Liberals on tougher issues where they will need the support," he said.

Blaikie's win was part of a strategy employed by the IBEW and other unions that urged members to vote for the best candidates, regardless of party, to avoid a Conservative takeover.

Under former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the Conservatives passed major legislation that harmed unions and working families during their nearly 10 years in power. They were voted out when the Liberals won a majority in 2015. Andrew Scheer, the Conservatives' current leader, is farther to the right than Harper on some issues and Canadian union leaders thought another Conservative majority would prove disastrous.

Trudeau's government has followed through on most of the promises it made four years ago to strengthen unions and organized labour. Blaikie and other NDP members now will be needed to help cap-



italize on that success.

"Dan understands that business, the environment and jobs go hand-in-hand in this country," Shewchuk said. "We have to build on that now." ■

Winnipeg Local 2085 member, the Hon. Daniel Blaikie, M.P.

## Blaikie retourne au Parlement, une bonne nouvelle pour les travailleurs

**L**es familles de travailleurs et travailleuses ont remporté de grandes victoires aux élections fédérales canadiennes le 21 octobre et la FIOE a gardé son siège particulièrement important dans la circonscription d'Elmwood-Transcona à Winnipeg.

C'est à ce comté que le membre Daniel Blaikie du local 2085 situé au Manitoba à Winnipeg a été réélu à la Chambre des communes. Blaikie, âgé de 35 ans, le député du Nouveau Parti démocratique et le seul membre de la FIOE à siéger au Parlement, a été élu par une majorité de 8 pour cent sur son adversaire Lawrence Toet du Parti conservateur dans une course qui devait être beaucoup plus serrée.

«Il a un grand avenir devant lui,» mentionne le gérant d'affaires Russell Shewchuk du local 2085. «Je crois fermement qu'un jour il va devenir le chef du Nouveau Parti démocratique, et je lui ai mentionné à plusieurs occasions.»

«Si vous faites sa connaissance en personne, vous allez immédiatement constater que c'est un homme bon. Il a une manière de parler très sensée. Il est électricien de métier et titulaire de plusieurs diplômes universitaires. Pendant les sessions parlementaires, il se lève et exprime ses idées sur des sujets, probablement plus que les autres députés qui siègent dans l'opposition.»

Le Président international Lonnie R. Stephenson a félicité Blaikie pour

**«[Blaikie] est un membre fier qui a toujours appuyé ses confrères et ses consœurs de la FIOE.»**

— Le Vice-président international Thomas Reid du Premier District

sa victoire.

«C'est important d'avoir un siège à la table et je suis convaincu que Daniel Blaikie va continuer à défendre les intérêts de manière acharnée du mouvement syndical et pour l'ensemble des métiers,» dit Stephenson. «Il a démontré que c'était possible de défendre les intérêts des familles de travailleurs et travailleuses tout en affrontant les menaces importantes pour assurer le bien-être des électeurs. Tous les confrères et les consœurs à travers le Canada seront bien servis par lui dans les années à venir.»

Le Vice-président international Tom Reid du Premier District souligne que Blaikie «est un membre fier qui a toujours appuyé ses confrères et ses consœurs de la FIOE.»

«Il a pris la parole à plusieurs de nos conférences canadiennes annuelles, y compris à celle qui a eu lieu à Vancouver en août dernier,» ajoute Reid. «Nos membres ont travaillé fort, ils ont fait un nombre incalculable d'heures pour le faire élire en 2015 et en 2019, et nous sommes heu-

reux que les électeurs d'Elmwood-Transcona l'aient renvoyé au Parlement. Nous avons hâte de travailler avec lui dans les années à venir.»

Toet était le député sortant en 2015 lorsque Blaikie a remporté la majorité par seulement 61 votes, la course la plus serrée dans l'élection de cette année. Et le fait qu'on s'attendait à ce que le NPD éprouve de la difficulté dans les élections de cette année, ce qui donnait l'impression aux observateurs que Blaikie était dans une course serrée.

La soirée des élections pour le NPD a été difficile à travers la nation. Le Parti a perdu 15 sièges au total et en aura seulement 24 à la reprise du Parlement à Ottawa. Mais ceci n'a pas découragé Blaikie, il a dit que sa victoire reposait sur le fait que les résidents ont vu que Blaikie répondait à leurs besoins, une circonscription qui est principalement composée de travailleurs et travailleuses dans le nord-est de Winnipeg.

«La gratitude est ce que je ressens en ce moment,» Blaikie dit à CBC.

Le Parti libéral au pouvoir a perdu la majorité, mais a remporté le plus de sièges, c'est-à-dire, le premier ministre Justin Trudeau reste en poste, mais doit faire appel aux Partis en opposition pour faire adopter des législations. Ceci va donner à Blaikie un rôle encore plus important à jouer, dit Shewchuk.

«Nous avons le NPD qui peut éclaircir les idées du Parti libéral sur des prob-

lèmes plus difficiles là où les libéraux vont en avoir besoin,» dit-il.

La victoire de Blaikie faisait partie d'une stratégie utilisée par la FIOE et les autres syndicats, qui demandaient aux membres de voter pour le meilleur candidat, peu importe le Parti, pour éviter les conservateurs de rentrer au pouvoir.

Sous le règne du premier ministre Stephen Harper, les conservateurs ont adopté des législations majeures qui ont causé des torts aux syndicats et aux familles de travailleurs et travailleuses pendant les dix années au pouvoir. Ils ont perdu les élections lorsque les libéraux ont remporté la majorité en 2015. Le chef actuel du Parti conservateur, Andrew Scheer, est encore plus à droite que Harper sur certains sujets et les leaders des syndicats canadiens ont pensé qu'une autre majorité remportée par les conservateurs aura des conséquences désastreuses.

Le gouvernement de Trudeau a tenu une grande partie de leur promesse dans les quatre dernières années pour venir renforcer les syndicats et l'organisation syndicale. L'aide de Blaikie et les autres membres du NPD seront nécessaires pour miser sur ces réussites.

«Dan comprend que les affaires, l'environnement et les emplois vont de pair dans ce pays,» dit Shewchuk. «Nous devons désormais nous appuyer sur ces bases pour avancer.» ■



# CIRCUITS

## Rail Workers' Safety, Jobs in Jeopardy as Precision Scheduled Railroading Expands

An efficiency scheme being adopted by most large freight railroads threatens the safety and job security of members in the IBEW's railroad branch, and International President Lonnie R. Stephenson is appealing to the Transportation Department to take a closer look at the practice and its potentially dangerous outcomes.

"We are seriously concerned about the long-term effects of 'precision scheduled railroading' on the rail workforce and on services as a whole," Stephenson wrote in an October letter to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao. "We ask for robust analysis and monitoring of the safety of PSR operations."

PSR, which was first experimented with on the Canadian National railroad, is a business strategy that calls for consolidating rail services, cutting craft headcount by the hundreds and deferring equipment and facility maintenance, all in a rush to slash companies' operating ratios — that is, the difference between the amount of money a railroad makes and the amount it spends on operations.

In the U.S., CSX, Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific have been implementing PSR over the last 18 months, something the IBEW's Railroad Department believes is the continuation of a dangerous philosophical shift away from the freight rail industry's longstanding objectives.

"These railroads are pursuing profit at any cost, even when the effort seriously risks the safety of workers and the public at large and hurts customer service and jobs," said Al Russo, an international representative in that department. "Activist investors love this. It's lining their pockets at the expense of everyone else. PSR is reducing operating ratios from the 80% range to around 50%, but at what cost?"

With most large U.S. railroads actually reporting increases in net income and traffic between the first quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019, "it makes PSR look like a shallow attempt to boost quarterly returns by cutting every available corner on

labor, safety and service," Russo said.

In reality, he said, the railroads are using PSR as an excuse to lay off IBEW members and rail workers in other crafts at an alarming pace, leaving the employees lucky enough to have kept their jobs struggling to deal with heavier and longer trains, maintenance reductions and closed facilities.

**"These railroads are pursuing profit at any cost."**

— International Representative Al Russo

"As the railroads are letting critical equipment degrade and deteriorate, many of our members are forced to work in the unsafe conditions that result," said Jim Meyer, who also serves as an international representative in the Railroad Department. Managers are demanding that the shrunken workforce spread out to cover for vacancies, he said, which often means they are taking on tasks well outside of their craft and experience.

"Think about how scary that is," Meyer said. "Workers from other trades are being ordered by management to perform electrical work that they are in no way trained for or qualified to do."

Mandatory overtime is also on the rise, he said, and that's more bad news for an industry that's historically been plagued by reports of accidents brought on by chronic employee fatigue.

"And, of course, they aren't allowed to refuse overtime or sign off on incomplete work, even on the grounds that doing so could risk their safety or the safety of other employees and the public," Meyer said.

With workers frequently told to skip train maintenance or inspections in favor of rushing PSR-optimized trains into service, Russo worries about the repercussions as the depleted workforce tries to keep up with an increasingly demanding workload.

"Our members who are working on the front lines fully expect that workplace accidents, equipment breakdowns and even derailments will increase under PSR," Russo said.

Rail customers, too, are feeling PSR's effects. Consolidation of service locations is leading some railroads to refuse to service for some routes and shippers, including rural business customers for whom rail has been the sole freight transportation option for generations.

Some railroads, though, have yet to climb aboard the PSR bandwagon, Russo said. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway is not ruling out deploying PSR in the future, but for now it is focusing on investing in and expanding its shipping business.

"BNSF seems to understand that it's hard to cut service and still retain quality workers and paying customers," he said.

To be clear, Stephenson said, the IBEW does not object to railroads' pursuit of precision or profitability.

"What we fear is that, without some sort of oversight, railroads will continue to use PSR to trade safety for profits at the expense of workers and the public at large," he said. "Our hope is that Secretary Chao and the DOT will take our letter to heart and step in to keep that from happening." ■

## Search for Fairness Leads Florida Battery Recycling Employees to Tampa Local

Many of the workers at Gopher Resource's battery and recycling plant in Tampa, Fla., were perplexed by the company's message after it was sold last year. They were a little angry, too.

Gopher was acquired by Energy Capital Partners, a New Jersey-based private equity firm, in June 2018. Soon after, company officials launched a "One Gopher" campaign to the workforce, emphasizing company pride and reduction of safety violations.

That was all well and good. But workers at the company's other plant in Eagan, Minn., are represented by the Teamsters. The Florida employees didn't have a union.

Why couldn't they have their own representation?

"If it's 'One Gopher,' we want to be treated like the other plant," said Britan Glenn, who has worked at the Tampa facility for three years and is now a kettle operator. "The other plant is union and has been that way for a long time."

Glenn and others learned the Minnesota plant had job classifications — something the Tampa plant did not — and employees understood the requirements to receive a promotion or a boost in pay. That was missing in Tampa, where assignments often were made based on whether an individual supervisor liked a particular employee, he said.

They also learned that an entry-level employee in Minnesota made more than a lead man in Tampa, Glenn said. Even with the higher cost of living, that struck many of the Florida workers as odd.

"Once we started showing people that, they got right on board," he said. "They were like, 'We'll sign that card.'"



Britan Glenn, yellow shirt, and other newly-elected representatives of the Gopher Industries bargaining unit are joined by Tampa, Fla., Local 108 assistant business manager Chris Parsels, far left, and Fifth District lead organizer Kathy Smith, far right.

After failed attempts in the past, the Gopher employees voted 137-87 for representation by Tampa Local 108. Officers were scheduled to be elected in November and negotiations for a first contract are on the horizon.

"Like anything else, it's all about educating people and teaching them what their rights are and what a union can do for them," Local 108 assistant business manager and organizer Chris Parsels said of the victory. "That's all we do. Just try to lead them in the right direction. They had to have the desire to do it."

Parsels and Business Manager Doug Bowden, along with other Local 108 officials, saw that desire early. A previous effort by Local 108 to organize the Tampa plant fell short in 2016, but it wasn't forgotten by those employees. One walked in unannounced to the Local 108 office after the sale asking for certification cards. He returned the signed cards one week later, took some more and got those signed.

Yet, despite those efforts, it looked for a time like the drive might stall. Parsels said only about 57% of the plant's employees had signed cards. Like most organizers, he wanted it to be at least 65% before asking the National Labor Relations Board to certify a vote.

At the urging of Glenn and others, he asked for a vote anyway.

"Our business manager told us, 'If they think they can get it done, who are we to stand in their way?'" Parsels said. "We explained the consequences. We told them if it was a 'no' vote, they couldn't even talk to another union for at least a year. But they were confident they could win."

Glenn said the organizing effort was slowed by the fact that he and others had to reach out to their colleagues in secret. Managers regularly held meetings discouraging the union. He and others approached fellow workers discreetly during breaks. The plant has 12-hour shifts around the clock, making it difficult for some employees to meet outside of work.

With that in mind, winning with 65% of the vote was impressive. Glenn said he's made it a priority to seek out those who voted against representation to tell them their input still is valuable during contract negotiations.

"The company was under the impression this is all about money," he said. "It's not. It's about equal opportunity. When I apply for a promotion for a job, I want to walk out feeling like I've been given a fair shot at it."

Fifth District lead organizer Kathy Smith, who was also part of the 2016 drive at Gopher, said it was obvious the employees were fired up from the start.

"We had awesome [volunteers on the organizing committee] that helped keep people together," she said. "That really made it a tight group."

Fifth District International Representative Joseph Skinner, assisted in the organizing effort, said the employees had done much of the work before he even got involved.

**"If it's 'One Gopher,' we want to be treated like the other plant. The other plant is union and has been for a long time."**

— Britan Glenn, Gopher kettle operator

"It was a successful campaign because the VOCs took control and did the work," Skinner said. "These people took ownership of it. I don't think anyone could have stopped it even if they wanted to."

Challenges remain. Florida is a right-to-work state, so even after negotiating a first contract, Glenn, Parsels and others must convince employees in the bargaining unit to become Local 108 members.

Smith, who lives in the Tampa area, said the power of IBEW membership will soon become apparent to members of the new bargaining unit.

"I've been an IBEW member since 1972 and I know how blessed I've been to be a part of this great union," Smith said. "Whenever I help get a unit organized, I know how blessed they're going to be. Their future is so much brighter now. They've helped change their lives for the better." ■



Credit: Creative Commons / Flickr user Matthews-Photography

For now, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway is investing in its shipping business rather than adopting an efficiency scheme, embraced by some other large U.S. railroads, that risks worker and public safety.



## Ohio Member Turns Fly Fishing Passion into Dream Trip, Television Appearance

Like many skilled trades workers, Paul Hughes wondered how he would make ends meet following the economic collapse in 2008. Construction came to a near standstill in his hometown, so the Columbus, Ohio, Local 683 member became a traveler and took to the road.

Not only did the experience provide a financial boost, it led Hughes to rediscover a love of the outdoors he had as a child. He was introduced to fly fishing while working in Wyoming.

**“I’m not sure we could have had a better representative of our great union in the great outdoors than [Paul.]”**

— Columbus, Ohio, Local 683 Business Manager Ed Moore

That turned into a passion, and a decade later, it has led to an adventure that was televised nationally.

Hughes traveled to Mexico in February for a fly fishing trip off the Yucatan Peninsula that was featured this October in an episode of “Brotherhood Outdoors,” the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance series that profiles union members on fishing and hunting trips to legendary locations.

“It was the trip of a lifetime,” said Hughes, a journeyman inside wireman and 24-year member of Local 683. “It was amazing, and it all comes back to union membership. That’s astounding.”

The show aired in mid-October on the Sportsman Channel, which is available on a variety of cable and satellite providers, including DirecTV, Cablevision and Comcast. Viewers can stream the show at [myoutdoortv.com](http://myoutdoortv.com).

“This is something you might do when you get your house paid off and when you retire,” Hughes said. “For me to be down there while still paying the bills was like winning the lottery.”

Hughes began working as a traveler in the Ohio River Valley, not far from where he grew up in southern Ohio. He wired and did maintenance work on industrial chimneys as an employee of Bronder Technical Services in Prospect, Pa.

He worked four 12-hour days each week, so Hughes had time to get back into fishing, mostly in nearby West Virginia. It also provided a distraction from dangerous work. Hughes and his co-workers sometimes were suspended in the air nearly 1,000 feet above the ground in the dark smokestacks.

“You couldn’t ask for a better place to fish. And honestly, it probably kept me out of trouble,” Hughes said with a laugh.

“I had a lot of time on my hands when I wasn’t working.”

After that assignment, he went to work for Chicago-based F.E. Moran installing smoke alarm systems at gas compression plants in Wyoming. One weekend, he drove to nearby Grand Teton National Park and got introduced to fly fishing.

He quickly fell in love with it.

“It’s something about the action between the fisherman and the rod,” Hughes said. “You have more control over that line in your hand than when you’re spinning a reel. It’s a more intimate approach to it.”

“A well-placed fly is effortless, just like a good golf swing,” he added. “You know it when you do it and you feel it. There is more of an impact than I expected when you toss a fly that weighs maybe a gram and the fish explodes after it just as it hits the water. It’s more immediate. It’s more direct. It’s more of a shock when the fish comes up to the line.”

The economy improved and Hughes eventually returned to Columbus. In late 2017, he responded to an online advertisement asking union members interested in appearing on the show to apply.

Hughes wrote the application essay and learned nearly a year later he would be on his way to Mexico with Union Sportsmen’s Alliance Conservation and Communications Director Forrest Parker for a four-day trip.

“Ascension Bay is not an easy place



Paul Hughes, far right, watches as Union Sportsmen’s Alliance Conservation and Communications Director Forrest Parker casts his reel during their trip to Ascension Bay.

to fish,” Parker said. “It’s quite demanding, in fact. Constant winds test casting skills and hours of standing on a rolling boat deck tax both your physical stamina and mental focus. But stepping out of your comfort zone is a big part of what makes a great adventure so great.”

Hughes and his companions fished for bonefish, baby tarpon and snook in deeper waters and windier conditions than he usually faces in the United States, he said.

“To judge where a fish is while dealing with that cross wind is not an easy task,” he

said. “It’s extremely challenging.”

Television crews also traveled to Columbus to film segments with Hughes, including a trip to his local fly shop, and to Local 683’s hall, where other members were interviewed. Hughes credits fellow member Jeff Deckard and recently retired member Doug Stewart for organizing an active Union Sportsmen’s Alliance chapter at Local 683.

“Everyone here was so happy and excited when Paul was chosen to appear on the show,” Business Manager Ed Moore said. “He’s a valued member who

brings energy and excellence to everything he does both on and off the job. I’m not sure we could have had a better representative of our great union in the great outdoors than him.”

The alliance promotes outdoor activities and encourages union members to volunteer their time to projects that conserve wildlife habitats, improve the nation’s parks and participate in programs that introduce children to the outdoors. IBEW members can sign up for a free bronze-level membership at [free.union-sportsmen.org/main-memberships](http://free.union-sportsmen.org/main-memberships). ■

## THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

### Fight Continues to Protect Apprenticeships as DOL Prepares to Issue Rule

The IBEW and its allies in Congress are continuing their fight to protect the building trades’ unparalleled apprenticeships as the Labor Department prepares to issue a rule as soon as this month that could usher in substandard journeyman training.

A U.S. House subcommittee is planning to hold a hearing on the DOL’s proposed Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program (IRAP), which is supported by cost-cutting, nonunion contractors.

Rep. Bobby Scott, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee said, the union-run programs, which are registered with the DOL and date back as far as a century, are invaluable to workers and the public good.

“Unlike IRAPs, registered apprenticeships have strong bipartisan support and are proven to be effective in offering workers a clear path to the middle class,” Scott said in a statement when the DOL issued the proposed rule in June.

“Instead of wasting money on unproven IRAPs, the Department should support innovation and expansion already taking place with registered apprenticeships in a way that does not compromise quality and accountability,” he said.

A subcommittee under Scott planned to take up the issue at a hearing originally set for Oct. 24. Memorial services for their late House colleague, Rep. Elijah Cummings, forced them to postpone, but they are expected to reschedule.

“We appreciate that House members understand what’s at stake,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. “The fact is, lower-tier contractors are ready to sacrifice safety and experience for profit, taking away work from the best-trained electricians in the world.”

More than 65,000 IBEW members and another quarter-million from other trades weighed in during the public comment period over the summer, urging the DOL to leave their union-run construction apprenticeships and stringent standards alone.

As originally proposed, the building trades are exempt from IRAPs, which would create apprenticeships in largely white-collar industries that pose less danger to workers and demand less expertise.



Apprentices like these at Portland, Ore., Local 48 could see their training devalued if the Labor Department chooses not to exempt the construction industry from its proposed IRAP rule.

However, the DOL made clear that the final rule — taking comments from both sides into account — could revoke the exemption, allowing contractors to run apprenticeships with far fewer hours of training and non-standard curricula.

Graduates of those programs would qualify as “journeymen,” undermining the hard-earned title and wealth of experience that IBEW and other union-trained workers bring to jobsites nationwide. Those programs would also be able to pay so-called apprentices minimum wage and require little actual training to take place, effectively substituting poorly paid unskilled workers to pad apprentice ratios and drive down the cost of non-union bids on construction projects.

“Everyone’s safety would be at risk,” Stephenson said. “Our jobs demand meticulous attention to detail and a skill level honed through years of intense classroom and hands-on training.

We build schools and hospitals, office towers and sports arenas, highways and bridges and the utility infrastructure that powers North America.

“Imagine working on those projects alongside people who could endanger you, not to mention the risks when those buildings and roads are opened to the public.”

Thousands of members who spoke out to protect the union’s top-quality construction apprenticeships also responded to an IBEW survey that asked them about their training and how their union membership has changed their lives.

Stephenson encourages members in every branch to visit [IBEW.org/MyIBEWStory](http://IBEW.org/MyIBEWStory) to share how the IBEW has impacted their lives.

“My membership in this brotherhood has meant everything to me and to my family, but I was filled with pride reading the responses from so many of you who felt the same way,” he said. ■



# TRANSITIONS

## DECEASED

### Harry Bexley



Harry Bexley, a renowned Georgia labor leader who served 21 years on the International Executive Council and 33 years as business manager of Atlanta Local 613, died Oct. 8. He was 97.

Bexley's influence is still felt today, from the pension and health and welfare funds he established for his members — and pushed to improve at the international level — to fighting for workers' compensation benefits in Georgia; masterfully horse-trading to buy the land that became Local 613's headquarters and home to major labor events in Atlanta; organizing large manufacturers; and developing an apprenticeship program that is the gold-standard for the area's building trades.

He could be fierce if he had to, but it wasn't his defining quality, said his son-in-law Lonnie Plott, who also served as Local 613's business manager and on the IEC.

"He was a very kind gentlemen, very soft spoken with lots of wisdom," Plott said. "Throughout his life, people would call and ask for his input."

Bexley grew up on a farm in Georgia, the grandson of a man who was discharged from Civil War combat to make shoes for Confederate soldiers.

While working as a pipe welder at a Savannah shipyard, Bexley was drafted into the Army Air Corps to serve in Europe during World War II. On a ship home in 1945, a fellow soldier talked about becoming a union electrician like his father.

"He said, 'You ought to come try it.' So when I got back here, I did," Bexley told an interviewer in 2007 for an oral history project at Georgia State University. "I went down and applied for an apprenticeship. And I was sent on a job at 50 cents an hour."

He decided to go to law school, too, training simultaneously to be a journeyman and a labor attorney. In 1948, he finished his apprenticeship and passed the bar.

A year earlier, Congress had passed the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act, and Bexley soon found himself fighting its assaults on workers' rights as legal counsel for his local and the Georgia AFL-CIO.

He began his tenure as Local 613's business manager in 1955, first appointed and then elected. Members returned him to office for three decades until he retired in 1988.

At the 29th International Convention in 1970, Bexley was elected to represent the Fourth District on the IEC. He retired during his fifth term in 1991.

Bexley served on numerous boards and commissions, including presiding over the associations of Georgia State Electrical Workers and the Southeastern Building Trades. He was a sought-after speaker dedicated to "encouraging and enlightening the public on the labor movement, its aims, purposes and accomplishments," a colleague recalled at his retirement.

Inside the IBEW, Bexley was a protégé of the legendary New York City Local 3 Business Manager Harry Van Ars-dale. He teamed with him to improve the union's pension benefits, largely by persuading contractors to contribute more. "That was quite a chore to do," he said. "I enjoyed going all over the country, though, selling it. And I did."

He was passionate about safety and workers' compensation. "He always said never to accept anything on face value," Plott said of Bexley's views on an employer's version of a job injury or illness.

Two of Bexley's proudest achievements, he said in the Georgia State interview, were being admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court and his role in the evolution of Local 613's apprenticeship training.

"I always contended that the apprenticeship program was the most important factor of the whole setup of the IBEW," but it was tough to get contractors on board, Bexley said. "They were a drag on the system because they didn't want to see their employees having more knowledge about the industry than they had. But we finally convinced them, and they started financing the school, and they finally saw where it was paying off great dividends of having highly trained people."

The interviewer told him that people in labor circles often talked about "the foresight of Harry Bexley" on everything from workers' financial security to the land deal for Local 613's offices to his insistence "on high standards that has allowed the IBEW to be as competitive as perhaps the top building trades union in Georgia."

Bexley responded, "Well, you know, I don't feel like I've done enough. That's my feeling. Maybe I failed in a lot of areas I should have done more."

Bexley is survived by his wife of 71 years, Harriett; their daughter, Sandra, who is married to Plott; sons Stan and Ken; four grandchildren and a great grandson.

On behalf of officers, members and staff, the IBEW honors Brother Bexley's tremendous legacy and sends our deepest sympathy to his family. ■

## DECEASED

### Anthony Salamone



The IBEW regrets to report the Oct. 2 death of retired Administrative Assistant to the International President Anthony Salamone.

Brother Salamone was born June 13, 1926 in Norristown, Pa. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he was initiated into Philadelphia Local 1448 in 1952 when he went to work at one of RCA's factories.

Almost immediately, Brother Salamone took on leadership positions, serving as an organizer starting in 1953. Within 18 months of his initiation, he was serving on the executive board. It was the begin-

ning of a meteoric rise to the very heights of the brotherhood in a 50-year career serving his brothers and sisters.

After a brief stint as financial secretary, Salamone was elevated to business manager for a single term from 1955 to 1958 before he was appointed an international representative by then-International President Gordon Freeman in 1959.

For 10 years, Salamone serviced the many RCA manufacturing and service locals from the International Office, when then-International President Charles Pillard made him director of the RCA Operations, Sound, Public Address and Intercommunications Systems Department.

Brother Salamone was the chief negotiator for the national agreements with RCA from 1969 to 1975. He organized the technicians at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, as well as the technicians on the White Alice Communications system in Alaska and the on the Distant Early Warning Line in Canada and Alaska.

In 1975, Pillard split his job between the Manufacturing, Broadcasting and Recording and Construction and Maintenance departments and appointed Salamone to be his assistant. Pillard again promoted Salamone in 1981 to be his primary advisor as Administrative Assistant to the International President.

At the same time, Salamone took on a series of new leadership roles, including secretary of the IBEW/RCA Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, member of the NEBF National Employees Benefit Board and vice president of the IBEW Electrical Workers Benefit Association.

Salamone often spoke for the IBEW before Congress about trade and telecommunications policy, notably in 1982. The telecommunications industry was still finding its way after "deregulation" threw open the market to competition, including from foreign manufacturers with little to no labor standards in their home countries. Salamone spoke in the name of the hundreds of thousands of IBEW members in telecom and telecom manufacturing facing uncertain futures.

"We need a comprehensive bill that will guarantee employee benefits and rights and in addition provide for an equitable transition to an unregulated industry with sufficient resources to make our employers economically stable," he told the Congress.

Sadly, Salamone's desire to protect workers from the predations of unrestricted corporations is still not reflected in our nation's laws.

In 1980, he served with the U.S. Government Labor Task Force, traveling to Asia to negotiate marketing agreements for color television manufacturing between the U.S. and Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

In 1987, Salamone retired from the IBEW to take up leadership of the National Electric Benefit Fund, IBEW/NECA District Ten and the NECA Equity Retirement Plan. He served as secretary-treasurer for 15 years, finally retiring completely in 2002.

Upon his retirement, the NEBF board lauded Salamone's stewardship of the NEBF, which saw "phenomenal growth of a fund that has become one of

the foremost of its kind in the world."

"Retirement can be a burdensome process, and the pension is only part of it. Sal's goal was to streamline it as much as possible, and he made great strides," said NEBF Executive Secretary-Treasurer Larry Bradley. "He knew what people went through to get those pensions and he brought that into every conversation."

On behalf of the IBEW's members and staff, the officers offer our deepest sympathies to Brother Salamone's four children Daniel, Joanne, Harry and Dennis, his four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. ■

## RETIRED

### John "Keith" Craig



After nearly four decades of work with the IBEW and the Tennessee Valley Authority, one of the union's largest employers and partners,

Tenth District International Representative John "Keith" Craig retired effective Aug. 1.

"I was pretty much with TVA my whole career," said the Humboldt, Tenn., native, noting that he had briefly attended Jackson State Community College before taking a job in 1980 with the TVA, the massive federally owned electrical utility chartered by Congress in 1933.

Craig was hired into the TVA's Student Generating Plant Operator training program and was initiated into the IBEW in 1980 as a member of New Johnsonville, Tenn., Local 1749. After successful competition of the training program, he qualified as an assistant unit operator, and he was certified as a control room operator in 1985.

Craig quickly took an active leadership role within his local, serving stints on its health and safety, wage data and grievance committees before joining the local's executive board in 1990. Three years later, Craig was elected recording secretary, and in 1996 the local's members elected him business manager and president.

In 2003, Craig was appointed by then-International President Edwin D. Hill to serve as an international representative for the Tenth District, which serves members in Craig's home state as well as in Arkansas, North Carolina and South Carolina. And because of Craig's work at the TVA, he was assigned to be the IBEW's representative at the agency.

"You'd be hard pressed to find anybody who knew more than Keith about how the TVA runs," said Tenth District International Vice President Brent Hall, who was serving as an international representative in the district office when Craig was appointed.

"When I came to work at the TVA, we had a general agreement with them that was first negotiated in 1940," Craig said. "It was a good deal, a good agreement, and over all the changes over the years, we tried to maintain the same core

agreement and positions and treat people the right way."

Craig said that the IBEW's relationship with the TVA, which covers five states and three IBEW districts, involved other crafts and trades unions, and that the 13 IBEW locals covered under this agreement operated much like one of the union's system councils. "The IBEW was always the biggest union, though," he said. "We always led the overall direction of the council."

Craig was the IBEW representative on the Agency Level Health and Safety Committee, which was the oversight body for TVA's safety program, and in 2012, he was elected to be the first labor representative to chair this committee.

Hall said that Craig was highly respected at the TVA, serving IBEW members particularly well during negotiations at the agency's annual wage conference. "He was good when things got contentious," Hall said. "He could break the ice, but they knew he meant business."

During Craig's Tenth District tenure, IBEW members gained a significant amount of work refurbishing the agency's Browns Ferry and Watts Bar nuclear plants. With Craig's guidance, the IBEW and the TVA in 2018 formalized a Code of Excellence partnership designed to strengthen the ties between the agency's unions and management. Craig personally conducted training sessions on the Code for the agency's union-represented workers.

"At the TVA, one of the advantages was that we were intertwined with all of their job training programs," Craig said. "We jointly selected [with management] anybody they hired. For the most part, it's a pretty tight-knit group."

Craig also was detail-oriented, Hall said: "Walk in his office and nothing was out of place."

"Keith was the kind of guy who was really quiet, really calculated in how he made his moves," Hall said, adding that his "very dry, subtle" sense of humor often crept into his reports, something he'll miss.

Most people did not know until Craig announced his retirement that their union brother had also been a top college golf prospect, Hall said.

"My dad was a little more serious about golf than I was," Craig said with a laugh. "I pretty much hung it up after high school."

Retirement has helped get him back on the links, however, as has living near his former boss: retired Tenth District International Vice President Robert Klein, also an avid golfer.

"I'm back in a maintenance mode now, doing a little golfing, working on a few to-do lists," Craig said. He also bought a four-seat Cessna 182 a few years ago, which he keeps at a small airfield north of Chattanooga. In his free time, when he's not golfing with Klein, Craig said he takes the plane out for some sightseeing and spends more time with his wife, Debra, and their two children, Jayson and Brittany.

The officers, staff and members of the IBEW wish Brother Craig a long and happy retirement. ■



# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in October 2019

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Boland, H. L.	6/19/19	38	Grealis, J. C.	9/9/19	125	Long, D. J.	8/9/19	254	Muhlberger, H.	7/15/19	405	Higgins, C. L.	8/1/19	701	Zartler, F. J.	8/26/19
1	Heidemann, C. H.	9/14/19	38	Herman, T. R.	9/8/19	130	Gonzales, S. J.	8/20/19	254	Olson, W. O.	8/12/19	405	Williams, R. E.	8/15/19	714	Henderson, W. W.	7/3/19
1	Murphy, A.	8/16/19	38	Patton, J. J.	7/30/19	130	Hotard, E. H.	8/3/19	254	Tarnowski, J.	5/28/19	413	Aandal, L. K.	8/14/19	716	Mahon, J. O.	8/17/19
1	Pelham, C. D.	9/2/19	38	Spendal, T.	8/18/19	130	Munch, W. C.	8/13/16	258	Sim, W. J.	7/4/19	413	Phillips, J. M.	7/20/19	716	Savelle, M. C.	5/22/19
1	Weller, J. D.	12/26/18	41	Bucklaew, J. M.	8/28/19	130	Vassall, L. L.	11/17/18	265	Kirk, R. E.	9/5/19	429	Cathey, L. F.	9/17/19	725	Smith, D. J.	6/5/19
3	Anderson, J. M.	8/4/19	41	Jeffery, M.	8/18/19	131	Berner, W. O.	8/25/19	265	Kucera, M. D.	9/2/19	429	Jonas, D. K.	7/21/19	756	Dahlgren, L. F.	8/6/19
3	Bamberger, R. L.	8/3/19	41	Kegler, D. J.	9/1/19	134	Burke, J. F.	6/18/19	266	Honeycutt, C. D.	3/1/19	429	Newby, P. W.	7/24/19	768	Beckner, D.	8/30/19
3	Beck, L.	7/21/19	43	Pierce, C. R.	3/18/19	134	Decker, D. D.	8/12/19	269	Mara, F. J.	11/5/15	440	Kugler, D. V.	8/22/19	769	Larive, A. G.	9/12/19
3	Crawford, R. W.	7/27/19	46	Boswell, W. B.	7/28/17	134	Dillon, R. W.	9/14/19	270	Acuff, R. V.	6/27/19	440	Risner, H. C.	9/15/19	769	Wood, D. R.	8/22/19
3	Davis, W. R.	9/3/19	46	Fanning, R. M.	6/4/19	134	Fishback, R. D.	4/2/19	271	Lemon, J. W.	5/19/19	446	Cheney, W. H.	9/11/19	807	Moler, C. D.	7/29/19
3	Declerck, J. J.	8/30/19	48	Cox, L. E.	7/11/19	134	Jager, D. C.	12/24/18	278	Squyres, S. V.	8/12/19	449	Evans, L. V.	8/21/19	890	Luetten, R. F.	7/25/19
3	Deng, W. J.	8/15/19	48	Dalsing, M. A.	4/16/19	134	Johnson, J. R.	8/8/19	280	Carlton, M. W.	8/28/19	449	Sandberg, R. H.	9/4/19	903	Smith, R. J.	7/17/19
3	Devine, P. J.	8/20/19	53	Dymond, E. D.	9/14/19	134	Kujawa, G. H.	6/25/19	280	Emmons, D. E.	8/13/19	453	Price, J. D.	8/5/19	906	Somes, W. R.	7/31/19
3	Herrmann, R. F.	11/20/18	57	Derbidge, C. S.	9/4/19	134	McEnerney, W. P.	8/20/19	280	Finnell, D. C.	8/21/19	461	Hope, L. C.	7/16/19	915	Gordon, J. N.	5/20/19
3	Howard, J. J.	8/28/19	58	Acord, W. T.	7/18/19	134	Murphy, W. P.	8/10/19	280	Scofield, R. E.	6/30/19	465	Parsons, R. D.	8/10/19	915	McDonald, R. M.	9/2/19
3	Jefferson, T.	7/4/19	58	Beaton, M. F.	8/16/19	134	O'Neil, T. E.	7/22/19	292	Carlson, V. G.	7/30/19	474	Simmons, B. M.	9/6/19	915	Prill, R. J.	8/17/19
3	Katchusky, M. J.	5/27/19	58	Driscoll, E. C.	7/13/19	134	O'Shea, K. T.	8/21/19	292	Klungseth, T. S.	8/3/19	477	Ellis, R. D.	8/10/19	934	Quillen, O.	9/15/19
3	Kemins, A. B.	9/13/19	58	Dunklee, J. A.	6/3/19	134	Piper, F. E.	8/18/19	292	Roy, H. E.	8/11/19	477	Sotelo, P.	7/18/19	948	Sabo, C. E.	4/18/19
3	Klemm, J. H.	7/29/19	58	Fabrizio, A.	8/22/19	134	Poetzing, D. T.	8/30/19	292	Schreiner, L. L.	6/23/19	479	Hastings, E. L.	8/14/19	953	Rubesch, E. J.	7/27/19
3	LaFleur, E. F.	9/9/19	58	Kane, T. M.	9/6/19	134	Reet, T.	9/13/19	301	Galbraith, R. M.	5/13/19	479	Noack, M. E.	8/8/19	956	Peltoniemi, R.	3/1/19
3	Liotta, J. M.	8/14/19	58	Lesh, D. P.	8/21/19	134	Riojas, D. R.	9/20/19	301	Stevens, L. L.	9/14/19	479	Nunez, D. A.	8/12/19	993	Penner, H. B.	7/18/19
3	Machules, K.	4/29/19	58	Moore, D. K.	9/8/19	134	Taylor, G. N.	8/8/19	302	Dutra, P. A.	7/29/19	480	Bolin, R. C.	8/16/19	1042	Herbold, H. L.	7/27/19
3	Mannarino, A.	8/17/19	58	Moroni, R. W.	7/30/19	134	Wheeler, W. L.	9/1/19	303	Tait, G.	8/21/19	481	Connelly, L. L.	8/12/19	1077	Parker, J. E.	8/1/19
3	Marasia, V. A.	8/6/19	58	Nutaitis, K. E.	6/2/19	136	Vincent, E. H.	9/7/19	303	Wales, S. D.	6/5/19	481	Coonce, C. D.	8/9/19	1205	Clinard, T. D.	8/24/19
3	Panzica, L.	5/21/19	58	Rickard, M. A.	9/2/19	139	Schroth, R. E.	2/24/19	305	Krummen, P. R.	9/19/19	494	Carter, D. L.	3/8/19	1245	Birchfield, V. F.	8/16/19
3	Pena, A.	9/5/19	58	Scaglione, N. M.	8/13/18	143	Spahr, L. M.	7/30/19	306	Muha, R. F.	8/24/19	494	Warsh, D. A.	6/24/19	1245	Frank, D. L.	6/4/19
3	Rigogliosi, A. R.	9/7/19	58	Truxal, M. L.	9/4/19	143	Tiday, R. R.	9/12/19	307	Blake, C. A.	8/9/19	518	Easley, D. C.	8/15/19	1253	Mayo, P. D.	8/27/19
3	Scanlon, S. J.	8/8/19	58	Velez, P. G.	5/27/19	143	Witmer, R. H.	11/29/15	307	Klingler, R. G.	6/17/19	531	Klint, R. I.	8/2/19	1316	Wright, C. A.	8/30/19
3	Wecker, L.	3/6/19	58	Vokes, T. A.	9/8/19	145	Arp, T. A.	8/27/19	307	See, F. E.	7/16/19	540	McKenna, D. R.	9/8/19	1340	Carmine, H. W.	7/1/19
5	McIntyre, J. F.	7/31/19	58	Willis, D. R.	8/23/19	145	Ceurvorst, D. P.	9/5/19	325	Smith, T. I.	7/14/19	558	Peeden, W. T.	9/1/19	1340	Jarrell, J. A.	1/11/19
6	Oliva, J. R.	8/3/19	58	Wintermantel, W. W.	8/21/19	145	Rodriguez, R. E.	8/8/19	325	Trago, E. J.	7/29/19	558	Thomas, H. C.	8/29/19	1340	Kinzie, D. R.	9/21/19
6	Stroman, C. L.	3/10/19	58	Yuschak, A. N.	8/23/19	145	Schiesl, W. J.	8/14/19	332	Fisher, R. W.	8/1/19	567	Brousseau, R. H.	9/15/19	1393	Topa, J. E.	3/28/19
8	Barthel, E. A.	6/19/19	58	Zimberg, S. M.	8/11/19	146	Danaha, T. W.	8/11/19	332	Gettinger, A. C.	8/22/19	569	Castellanos, M. D.	11/1/16	1426	Dockter, S.	6/29/19
8	Beck, J. A.	8/27/19	64	Brocius, J. C.	9/13/19	146	Strange, C. M.	8/21/19	340	Steele, R. G.	7/19/19	569	Snelson, C. L.	11/27/16	1426	Moen, M. A.	8/7/19
8	Holtfreter, R. C.	8/17/19	64	Passewitz, T. R.	9/10/19	146	Watson, W. J.	7/21/19	343	Born, C. R.	7/22/19	570	Ward, H. G.	7/26/19	1426	Moen, G. C.	5/31/18
8	Whelan, R. J.	9/14/19	66	Jackson, K. L.	7/25/19	150	Gear, A. E.	9/4/19	343	Shane, S. R.	8/26/19	573	Hite, C. P.	9/1/19	1547	Herzog, M. M.	6/17/19
9	Gallagher, M.	8/4/19	68	Perez, T.	8/13/19	150	Taylor, K. W.	6/2/19	343	Simmons, P. H.	8/20/19	583	Montes, P.	7/30/19	1547	Tasky, B. M.	8/9/19
9	Kostush, K. D.	8/17/19	71	Boring, C. J.	5/12/19	153	Hall, H. H.	9/7/19	345	Wilson, G. D.	6/3/19	584	Fowler, J. A.	9/1/19	1547	Wilton, D. S.	9/20/18
10	Laboda, J. E.	8/4/19	73	Kirtner, R. N.	7/11/19	160	Shafer, K. P.	8/2/19	349	Annis, R. W.	5/29/17	584	Jones, D. L.	7/29/19	1852	MacLean, C. G.	2/22/19
11	Burrus, C. F.	6/2/19	73	Zintek, R. C.	6/11/19	164	Caruso, R. L.	9/9/19	349	Simone, D. W.	8/15/19	586	Parsons, D. J.	8/17/19	1996	O'Grady, J. F.	9/11/19
11	Carlson, D. M.	8/4/19	76	Jones, M. E.	2/8/19	164	Guillaume, C. J.	8/23/19	351	Cummins, D. L.	3/5/19	595	Pashote, D. A.	5/7/19	2150	Guenther, G. E.	8/12/19
11	Dennis, D. M.	8/12/19	77	Keaton, J. T.	8/2/19	164	Lehe, J. M.	2/6/16	351	Gross, J. A.	7/28/19	596	McBee, C. T.	7/16/19	2286	Snider, C. H.	3/30/17
11	Doherty, P. J.	7/27/19	77	Nolander, R. F.	4/3/19	164	Nisler, C. E.	7/16/19	353	Briganti, A.	8/28/19	605	Coleman, W. D.	8/20/19	I.O. (21)	Brunke, L. R.	8/11/19
11	Elias, A. J.	7/27/19	77	Stevens, C. F.	7/30/19	164	Wright, N. L.	8/20/19	353	Cowling, C.	6/27/19	606	Ashley, D. L.	8/19/19	I.O. (134)	Brand, R. J.	8/7/19
11	Everett, T. M.	6/12/19	81	Hobbs, M. E.	7/3/19	191	Koester, L. H.	7/5/19	353	Harrison, R. J.	8/7/19	606	Billings, P. J.	6/8/19	I.O. (134)	Cullerton, J. A.	8/7/19
11	Garcia, L. S.	8/2/19	82	Tamaska, R. A.	5/23/19	193	Laurent, R. G.	9/26/19	353	Hay, W. N.	8/13/19	606	Hebert, D. M.	8/22/19	I.O. (134)	Hough, R. G.	3/25/19
11	Goins, W. F.	6/26/19	94	Mills, J. A.	8/1/19	194	Washington, S. L.	7/23/19	353	Lindeman, H.	9/21/19	607	Williams, P. T.	7/4/19	I.O. (663)	Marjamaa, R. F.	7/31/19
11	Kuhn, K. W.	1/20/16	94	Paris, D. G.	8/19/19	206	Porter, D. R.	8/12/19	353	Micallef, L. M.	8/25/19	613	Barfield, J. V.	6/15/19	I.O. (747)	McArdle, J. F.	8/22/19
11	Little, J. E.	9/3/19	98	Kelly, J. J.	7/1/19	212	Bruns, W. H.	8/21/19	353	Polvere, C.	8/30/19	613	Knowles, D. L.	9/4/19	I.O. (776)	Winningham, C. G.	8/29/19
14	Roshell, W. J.	7/24/19	99	Harrington, J. J.	9/13/19	212	Kraus, R. G.	8/12/19	353	Rowland, J. N.	11/25/18	613	Sprewell, Z. F.	7/27/19	I.O. (1393)	Draper, R. D.	11/13/18
16	Wildridge, E.	8/9/19	102	Franke, W. B.	3/7/19	212	Minnich, J. M.	7/8/19	353	Slaght, J. W.	8/24/19	613	Wadsworth, S. C.	2/3/19	Pens. (353)	Farrell, P. G.	5/17/19
17	Lambert, J. C.	4/30/19	102	Shedlock, B.	6/9/19	212	Oster, J. T.	8/18/19	353	Wasson, C. D.	4/3/19	625	MacEachern, H. B.	1/22/19	Pens. (1068)	Kitzler, T. J.	6/28/19
18	Sathoff, G. R.	9/1/19	103	Connell, R. A.	4/27/19	212	Pritchett, W. F.	8/10/19	353	Wyers, C. J.	9/17/19	625	Newell, J. A.	7/17/19	Pens. (1788)	Chensue, E.	8/14/19
20	Archer, J. B.	8/8/19	103	Evans, N. L.	8/14/19	212	Seay, W. K.	8/17/19	354	Clark, R.	1/25/19	639	Dennerlein, C. E.	1/5/16	Pens. (1788)	Siemers, H. J.	10/12/15
20	Brown, B. E.	8/13/19	103	Fay, J. T.	9/3/19	213	Bakalic, A.	11/20/18	354	Lewis, G. A.	5/23/19	639	Ponzetti, J.	4/27/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Cordell, F. M.	5/1/19
20	Cahill, C. D.	6/28/19	103	Harrigan, P. R.	1/27/19	213	Erickson, F. E.	7/6/19	354	Petersen, D. D.	8/30/19	640	Stump, D. C.	11/5/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Dahlin, D. P.	7/26/19
20	Hernandez, L. D.	8/14/19	103	Pollino, E. A.	8/3/19	213	McMorland, D. G.	5/31/19	357	Bates, R. L.	4/16/19	648	Stephens, G. P.	8/12/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Day, D. D.	7/20/19
20	Miller, L.	8/26/19	103	Ryan, R.	7/30/19	213	Vicic, A. T.	7/18/19	357	Battiste, R. D.	8/29/19	649	Huhsman, J. M.	8/31/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Frankowski, J. G.	8/23/19
22	Koch, S. L.	9/9/19	103	Sheehan, D. J.	8/11/19	213	Williamson, R. E.	6/11/19	357	Howe, G. D.	8/24/19	665	Jeffrey, J. E.	6/29/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Kelley, W. A.	8/18/19
24	Prettyman, J. R.	9/8/19	103	Strickland, J. S.	7/19/19	214	Dulanas, L. B.	5/28/19	363	Stewart, R.	8/27/19	666	Collier, M. D.	9/13/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Kreger, L.	7/8/19
24	Sarkin, W. J.	7/18/19	105	Gill, A. L.	9/21/19	222	Getsee, M. F.	8/1/19	364	Stoddard, R. A.	7/21/19	666	Guyton, S. W.	8/18/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Lane, M. A.	8/11/19
25	Jordan, D. M.	4/29/19	105	MacIntyre, D.	9/29/19	230	Saccucci, A. F.	2/14/19	369	Baysinger, E. I.	8/1/19	666	Seitter, E. L.	7/7/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Leach, B. J.	7/31/19
26	Bryson, S. Z.	7/13/19	109	Castrey, A. W.	8/8/19	230	Woodward, G. S.	5/26/18	369	Brown, J. P.	9/6/19	666	Taylor, H. F.	8/24/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Lipsius, P.	6/9/19
26	Desmond, R. B.	7/19/19	110	Butina, F. J.	9/17/19	231	Hartin, D. A.	3/20/19	369	Caddwell, L. O.	5/18/19	676	Courtney, J. D.	8/19/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Schiefer, F. L.	8/31/19
26	Long, B. M.	7/18/19	110	Gable, D. F.	7/20/19	233	Clemencig, C. R.	8/23/19	369	Dutton, R. A.	12/28/18	682	Schee, J. R.	4/22/19	Pens		



LOCAL LINES

IBEW Lifesaving Award

L.U. 10 (u), JOHNSON CITY, NY — Bro. Matthew Huette was presented the IBEW Lifesaving Award by Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson at the Third District Progress Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

Matt Huette was on a rafting trip with friends on the Colorado River when they observed an unconscious kayaker who capsized upriver. Huette and his friends intercepted the kayaker by rowing across the river to him just before he floated past them. They then lifted him into their boat and called 911. They navigated the remainder of the rapids and arrived at the take-out point. Good job and congratulations, Bro. Huette!

At this writing, contract negotiations are ongoing at Steuben Electric Cooperative and at Watkins Glen for their first contract. Also, Local 10 members attended the RENEW/Next Gen Conference in St. Louis, MO.

Don Tuttel, P.S.



Third District Int. Vice Pres. Michael D. Welsh (left), IBEW Life Saving Award recipient Matthew Huette of Local 10, and Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson.

Labor Day Celebration; December Anniversary Gala

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN — The 133rd Labor Day Association’s Celebration was held Aug. 30 through Sept. 2 at the Gibson County Fairgrounds in Princeton, Indiana. This year’s festivities included free carnival rides, live music, contests, car shows, and a very well-attended parade, after which all of southern Indiana’s IBEW locals shared a meal together. Congratulations to Camberlynn Schmidt for winning the Little Miss Pageant and to Jordan Nichole Beshears, who was named first runner-up in the Labor Day Queen Pageant, Miss Congeniality, and Miss Union Knowledge.

The hall would like to thank everyone who put together the first annual Cub Grub. Money from this event went to help the sick and needy and for a tombstone for one of the founding fathers, Harry S. Fisher.

On Dec. 13, 2019, Local 16 commemorates its 120th anniversary. This local has provided some of the most highly skilled electricians in the country. A gala is planned to recognize this significant mile-

stone. It is hoped that while everyone is having a good time, they will take a moment to acknowledge the sacrifice and commitment given by so many who have made Local 16 the great organization it is today.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Members Rally to Support Pension Bill H.R. 397

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — On July 10, Local 24 members and retirees rallied in Washington to protect our pensions. After a brief rally at the U.S. Capitol, we attended the House Ways and Means Committee hearing on H.R. 397. This bill would help troubled multi-employer pension plans while leaving healthy plans like ours alone. The bill passed the House with bipartisan support and has stalled in the Senate, proving once again that elections have consequences. [Editor’s Note: To read more, see news articles “IBEW, Unions Rally to Keep Pension Promises” (July 11, 2019); and “IBEW Effort Helps Move ‘Butch Lewis’ Closer to Passage” (Aug. 9, 2019) posted on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles).]

The local held its 20th annual picnic on Sunday, Aug. 11. As always, the many volunteers made this day enjoyable for over 1,200 members, retirees and families who attended. Thank you to all for getting involved.

The Scholarship Golf Outing was Aug. 22 and thanks to the hard work of Sam Curreri, Mike Azzarello and all the sponsors, the local was able to award twenty \$1,000 scholarships at the September meeting. Congratulations to all the winners. And remember, union wages helped make your future endeavors possible.

RENEW held its 2nd Annual Corn Hole Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 21. More than 60 participants attended and all had a great time. If you would like to get involved with RENEW, please contact the union hall.

Peter P. Demchuk, B.M.



IBEW Local 24 members rally on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., to save our pensions.

Holiday Festivities; Motorcycle Club Fundraiser

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — Happy holidays! I hope you have planned to enjoy some brotherhood/sisterhood by attending one of our December holiday parties/meetings. This year’s schedule is as follows:

Front Royal party — Friday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m., Shenandoah Valley Golf Club, 134 Golf Club Drive, Front Royal, VA.

Roanoke party — Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., Hunting Hills Country Club, 5220 Hunting Hills Drive, Roanoke, VA.

Maryland membership meeting/party — Friday, Dec. 13, at 8 p.m., Camelot by Martin’s, 13901 Central Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD.

The Electrical Workers Motorcycle Riders’ Club held its 8th Annual Poker Run in Virginia on Saturday, Sept. 21, for the benefit of Special Love for Children with Cancer. Approximately 50 riders participated and over \$18,000 was raised thanks to generous sponsors and participants! The Retirees held their annual crab feast Oct. 12 at Mike’s Crabhouse in Riva, MD, and had their raffle drawing in November.

Best wishes to new retirees: Vernon N. Conley, John S. Hauck, Sergey Arutyunov, Richard R. Worch, Randy T. Donahue, Donald C. Reed, Walter D. Martin, Michael J. Dwyer, Michael D. Lynch, Kenneth M. Brant, Robert Wiecezorek, Dennis M. Lamb, Michael F. Dugan, George F. Bryant, Vincent B. Young, Andre Tamo, Timothy R. Keister, David J. August, Dagoberto M. Bracamontes, Terry M. Bazemore, Thaddeus V. Gerardi, Marie E. Thomas, Paul R. McDuffey, Donald C. Hemmer Jr. and Bruce T. Taghinia Sr.

Several members passed away since our last article: David L. Bower, Keith A. Holt, Willie F. Smith, Shannon P. Lacy, Lawrence R. Williams Jr., Kyle E. Mishou, Banjerd B. Wongcharoenth, Daniel E. Pittman, Darin M. Logsdon and Steve J. Kemp. They will be missed.

George C. Hogan, B.M.

Annual Scroll Party

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OHIO — We recently had our annual Scroll Party where we honored all of our apprentices who have completed their apprenticeships this year, and we also honored members who received their 50-, 55-, 60-, 65- and 70-year pins this year. It is a great event that honors those who helped build Local 38 and those who are its future. It was a pleasure to give pins to so many of the journeymen that I was an apprentice for and worked with over the years. It was a special privilege to award 70-year pins to two of our

members, both of whom are World War II veterans — Orlando “Bill” Marzola and Don Jantonio.

The work outlook remains good as the massive Metro Hospital expansion is underway and more apartments are getting built in downtown Cleveland.

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



Local 38 Bus. Mgr. Dennis Meaney (center) presents 70-year membership pin and certificate to Orlando “Bill” Marzola (left). At right is Bill’s son Bob Marzola, a 38-year member. Photo courtesy of member Ken Busch.

‘That’s a Wrap!’ — 2019

L.U. 40 (em,i&mpps), HOLLYWOOD, CA — Each year during the holidays, Local 40 holds its annual *That’s a Wrap!* holiday event. This event provides an opportunity for active and retired members to reflect back and spend time with other members outside of the workplace. Longtime members receive their service pins, and the local recognizes members who have represented the IBEW with pride and helped the local achieve its goals.

At the holiday party, the local also congratulates the most recent graduating apprenticeship class of 2019. This year’s Outstanding Apprentice of the Year is Kevin Valeros. Bro. Valeros has volunteered his time to help with the apprenticeship program and was instrumental in getting the RENEW program started. He recently was added on staff at Local 40 to help the local with its growing apprenticeship program, which is nearly four times the size it was just a few years ago.

We also congratulate our recently sworn in apprenticeship class, among the largest to date. With the swearing in of this class, Bro. Juan Rodriguez Jr., a fourth-generation member was sworn in. His grandfather, Bro. Lane Stewart, became a member of Local 40 in 1979. Bro. Stewart has served as an Executive Board member, treasurer and fifth-year instructor. We thank Bro. Stewart for his years of service and recognize his dedication. It is great to see the family tradition continue.

Local 40 wishes all our brothers and sisters a prosperous, happy holiday season, and urges members to give back to those in need during the holidays.

Stephan Davis, R.S.

Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

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

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.



## Organizing Blitz a Success; Activities & Upcoming Events

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA — Happy holidays from the officers and staff of Local 46! Please join us for our annual Retiree's Christmas Luncheon. For information, please contact the union hall.

IBEW Local 46 congratulates our 2019 apprenticeship program graduates! A total of 198 apprentices completed one of our three programs. This year we had 147 Inside Wire, 42 Limited Energy, and nine Residential Wire graduates. Please welcome these new journey-level workers.

Local 46 members participated in a number of events during the summer and fall. We had multiple organizing events, including an Organizing Blitz and Industry Night in June. Our annual Peninsula and Seattle picnics were well attended. The members along with their friends and families had a fantastic time! Our Motorcycle Club had some great rides, including rides to both picnics. The ride to the Seattle picnic had 14 bikes with 16 riders!

Local 46 will host a free Social Security 101 workshop on Saturday, Jan. 25, beginning at 10 a.m. This workshop is presented by the Social Security Administration with Kirk Larson, Washington public affairs specialist, as the speaker.

SME Inc. of Seattle is now a signatory contractor with Local 46! OZZ Electric Inc., headquartered in Concord, Ontario, Canada, acquired SME and signed with Local 46. Please welcome SME's 47 new IBEW Local 46 members!

Warren Shill, V.P.



Local 46's Motorcycle Club gets ready for their ride to the Seattle picnic in August.

## Annual Picnic a Success

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO — Greetings, brothers and sisters. On Aug. 17 the local held its annual picnic with over 750 members and their families in attendance. Congratulations to Nick Shelton, who was the winner of the horseshoe tournament this year (again)! The weather acted up a little bit, but overall it was a wonderful day. Thanks once again to everyone who volunteered and helped out. You helped to make it a success.

Make sure that you mark your calendars for the upcoming Christmas party. I have had conversations with "Mr. Clause," and he has assured me that he will be sure to arrive by noon on Dec. 14. Bring the family and have an enjoyable afternoon (admission with paid up dues receipt).

The political season never seems to slow down anymore. We are in the middle of several municipal elections in our jurisdiction. Every office is important and every vote matters. We must continue to ensure that the priorities and interests of labor and the working class are being represented.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased members: Thomas P. Childs, Hugh McCoy, Carl L. Chaney Littlejohn, Telesforo "J.R." Perez, Jay E. Gallegos, Paul E. Christoffer-son and James H. Kelly.

Morgan J. Buchanan, Pres.



Local 80 congratulates class of 2019 apprenticeship graduates.

## Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA — August and September were busy months for Local 80. We had our apprenticeship graduation ceremony in which 11 apprentices graduated from the IATC program. The five years of commitment and determination have paid off. Congratulations to all our class of 2019 graduates: Patrick Mills, Joe Bertini, Jackson Miller, Adrian Crawford, Joey Weil, Chris Postema, Chris Hawk, Scott Richey, Kya Strempski, Walter Lee and Daniel Henry.

Patrick Mills received Top Apprentice and Perfect Attendance awards. Joe Bertini and Jackson Miller also got awards for perfect attendance.

At the September union meeting, we had our Service Pins Award Presentation. The years of service for honorees ranged from 25 years to 70 years. It was delightful to see some of our brothers and sisters who we haven't seen in a while show up to the meeting to receive their service pin.

To all our brothers and sisters, continue to work safe, stay active in your local and continue the solidarity.

Wil Morris, A.B.M.

## 'Season's Greetings'

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT — Local 90 held its annual retirement dinner on Nov. 17 this year. The retired members honored that night were:

Gary Kraemer, Dana McCarthy, Richard Pecoraro, Carl Riccitelli, Joseph Spaziant, Irwin Stockman, William Tsoukalas, Kevin Walsh, Robert Woytowich, Gerald Anziano, James Candela, Henry Cooper, James Fiora, Stacy Juan and Richard Fiora. Three members were recognized for 25 years of service: Anthony Formica, Alfred Petrillo and Eddy Ventura. Congratulations to the retirees and the 25-year pin recipients!

Work in our jurisdiction remains steady, with some projects at Yale University finishing. Yale University has several projects ready to start in 2020.

Work is underway at the South Yard Assembly Building, at the General Dynamics electric boat yard in Groton, CT.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Bro. Clifford O'Connell! He received a kidney from a live donor. At the time of this writing, he is home recovering. I thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers for our brother!

Bus. Mgr. Sean Daly would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

John Bellemare, Pres./B.A.

## 'Proud to Help Our Veterans'

L.U. 102 (em,govt,i,mt,o&ws) PATERSON, NJ — A chance encounter between Project Help's Exec. Dir. Sandy Mitchell and IBEW Local 102 Treas. Dave Fiore led to the decision for our local to support the veterans charity through

our annual IBEW Bike Run and Cruise In.

The event, held on the hottest day of the year, took off with a roar of Harley Davidson bikes and ended at our Parsippany headquarters. Not unexpectedly, the heat led to fewer participants than in years past, but that didn't dampen the high spirits of the riders. With fantastic food, awesome raffles, and music playing to keep the crowd moving, our volunteers worked through the heat to ensure that everyone had a great time.

The total amount raised for Project Help was \$33,750. Project Help is a grassroots, all-volunteer charity and every dollar directly aids New Jersey veterans and their families. Sandy Mitchell was nearly brought to tears as she received the check saying it was a game changer for Project Help. While we appreciate the kind words, it's people like Sandy who are the game changers touching the lives of our veterans every day. If you'd like to know more about Project Help, visit the organization's website at <https://projecthelp.us>.

Bernie Corrigan, Pres.



Local 102 Treas. Dave Fiore (left), Project Help Exec. Dir. Sandy Mitchell, Local 102 Bus. Rep. Mike Scotto and Local 102 Pres. Bernie Corrigan.

## Five-Year Contract Ratified

L.U. 108 (ees,em,es,lctt,mar,mt,rtb,rts,s,spa,t&u), TAMPA, FL — Local 108 began contract proposal discussions several months prior to a 2019 contract deadline. The journey to a final agreement lasted nearly a year and promoted positive relationships with Emera, our new company.

Bus. Mgr. Doug Bowden led the charge to a five-year contractual agreement. (See photo, at bottom.) During the negotiation process, Bus. Mgr. Bowden encouraged Local 108 members to embrace solidarity by wearing red IBEW shirts on Mondays and Fridays. The statement of solidarity brought an empowering mindset of professionalism to our workforce. IBEW members voted for a new contract, with the vast majority of the body in favor of the 5-year agreement.

The future looks bright for Local 108. We were very fortunate to have dedicated committee members who invested their time and experience during the long and eventful negotiation process. Now that the dust has

finally settled, we anticipate a very positive future for Local 108.

James "Bruce" Bailey, P.S.

## A Focus on Organizing

L.U. 130 (i), NEW ORLEANS, LA — Local 130 takes organizing seriously. The New Orleans Building Trades and Local 130 are working together hand billing jobs every week. The latest tool in their arsenal is a 15-foot blow-up "Fat Cat." The Fat Cat is displayed in front of target jobs, symbolizing the greed of open-shop contractors who will do anything to stuff their pockets at the expense of their workers.

Local 130 Pres./Organizer Ernest "Corky" Cortez and Political Dir./Organizer Rodney Wallis are always investigating ways to promote the IBEW and unions in general. They are experimenting with geo-fencing, a digital phone format that sends IBEW advertisements to all cell phones in a predetermined geographical area during specified times. Corky recently noted that while doing internet searches for electrical jobs in our jurisdiction, the IBEW and apprenticeship logos or links were not present. He is currently consulting with our State Organizing Coordinator Dwayne "Tink" Reeves, who has brought this knowledge to our top tier for advice. The mission is to make sure we have presence in all available public media to educate everyone. [*\*Editor's Note: To read more about IBEW organizing, see news article "The Future of Organizing: New Technology Builds on the Tried and True," published in the June 2019 issue of The Electrical Worker and posted on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles).*]

Our apprenticeship program has moved back to night classes. We renovated the school and purchased and set up new equipment and tools. Night school has allowed us to increase the number of instructors from two to nine.

Our AFL-CIO Labor Day Picnic was a huge success with about 1,800 members attending. Greater New Orleans AFL-CIO Pres. Robert "Tiger Hammond III, former Local 130 business manager, was host and MC. He conducted the raffles and introduced our political friends, including Gov. John Bel Edwards.

At this writing, we were working to get out the vote to reelect our friend Gov. John Bel Edwards. [*\*Editor's Note: As this publication went to press, a runoff election for governor was scheduled for Nov. 16, 2019. To read more, see news story "In Louisiana, an IBEW Friend in the Governor's Mansion," posted Oct. 11, 2019, on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles).*]

Billy Buckel, P.S.



IBEW Local 130 and the New Orleans Building Trades conduct hand billing and display 15-foot "Fat Cat" in front of a non-union construction site that recently collapsed in New Orleans.



Local 108 members ratified a new five-year contract with Emera.



## LOCAL LINES

## Local Hosts 2019 Membership Development Conference

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rt,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL — IBEW Local 134 hosted the IBEW Membership Development Conference for the third year in a row. This is the second largest conference outside of the International Convention. Thrilled to learn the IBEW has seen membership growth for the sixth consecutive year. The conference was very well attended with approximately 1,500 IBEW business managers, agents and organizers in town for the event.

While in town, the Membership Development Conference attendees were given the opportunity to attend a Chicago White Sox game. They were first invited to IBEW Local 134 to attend a Chicago-style tailgate party, where approximately 1,000 members enjoyed Chicago-style Italian beef and sausage sandwiches. They were then transported to Guarantee Rate Field, where they saw Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson throw out the first pitch.

Kevin Connolly, R.S.



IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson throws out the first pitch at Chicago White Sox game.

## Projects Underway; Book Scholarships Awarded

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL — Let's get the bad news out of the way. First of all, we have lost four valuable members. We regret to report that the following members passed away: Dave Robison, who was age 62 and a 39-year member; Terry Danaha, 84 (64-year member); Charles Strange, 64 (19-year member); and Stephen Fisher, 73 (50-year member). We all extend our condolences to their families and will always remember these awesome individuals.

The other bad news is that Vistra Energy is retiring Coffeen Power Station by the end of 2019.

On the bright side, a drawing for five \$500 book scholarships for apprentices was held at the August meeting. The lucky winners were: Tera Kapraun (1st year apprentice); Lance Hunt (2nd year apprentice); Cory Meyer (3rd year); Mike Dougherty (4th year); and Sean Still (5th year apprentice).

Our John V. Workman Steak Fry was held in early October and our Christmas party will be in early December.

We've had a pretty successful 2019 with projects still surfacing. The Mueller Foundry project has begun, and at least two wind-tower projects are on the horizon, along with our fertilizer plant project.

Steven L. Tilford, R.S.

## 'Happy Holidays'

L.U. 150 (es,i,rt,spa), WAUKEGAN, IL — 2019 is drawing to a close. We enjoyed our local picnic with lots of time for us to visit with old friends.

The golf outing was rained out on the initial date and it was quite cold and windy on the second date; but a good time was had by all who showed up and participated. We had some great food and refreshments followed by our raffle.

It is hard to miss the insane state of politics in our country and its effect on the entire globe. But it is important to follow these happenings, as they affect each and every one of us. We are living in dangerous times within our own country. We must take corrective action at the polls.

This year we lost the following members: David Ackland Jr., Perry Baker, John Boghosian, Ken Breitung, Richard Klemp Sr., Bud Otterness, Domenic Rivi, Ray Shebesta, Scott Stickel, and Ken Taylor. I worked with almost every one of these men — good, stand-up people. We thank them for their many years of service on behalf of IBEW Local 150 and wish them Godspeed.

Best wishes to the membership for a safe and joyous holiday season and a good year in 2020.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI — Local 158 celebrated our 100th anniversary at our yearly banquet on April 27. The party was held in the Atrium at historic Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers.

Over 700 people attended the celebration. Several dignitaries were present to extend congratulations and address attendees. The highlight of the night was receiving our framed 100th anniversary commemorative plaque presented by Int. President Lonnie R. Stephenson, who gave a very special speech (big Packer fan). Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. David J. Ruhmkorff also gave a nice speech. The members greatly appreciated that these two gentlemen took the time from their busy schedules to join us.

Probably our biggest surprise guest of the night was newly elected Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers. We were fortunate to have the governor help us celebrate our anniversary. He had the people on their feet. The governor said he had a great time. State Sen. Dave Hansen from Green Bay spoke and presented me with a State of Wisconsin honorary citation plaque issued by the state Legislature. The citation was co-authored by Sen. Hansen and state Rep. Staush Gruszynski. Subsequently, Green Bay Mayor Eric Genrich gave his congratulatory speech. Wisconsin AFL-CIO Pres. Stephanie Bloomingdale finished up the speeches with her best wishes.



Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson (left) presents Local 158 Bus. Mgr. Don Allen with the local's 100th anniversary plaque.



At Local 278 service pin presentation at September union meeting, retirees were honored for their longtime service.

## Service Pin Recipients

L.U. 278 (em,govt,i&o), CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS — At the Local 278 union meeting on Sept. 24, retirees were presented with IBEW service awards for their longtime service.

There was a great turnout celebrating honorees in attendance for their 50, 55, 60, and 65 years of IBEW service, wisdom and brotherhood. Congratulations to our brothers present receiving pins for these years of membership and loyalty.

At the meeting, a swearing in of new members took place also. Welcome and congratulations to all.

Union proud, union strong! Stronger together, stronger united!

Sandy De Leon, Treas.



At a Local 280 Job Fair in Salem, OR.

## Organizing Successes

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rt,sts), SALEM, OR — Local 280 has been powering forward with organizing.

In the last two months we have had multiple member-to-future-member door knocking blitzes, one in Salem and another in Eugene.

Each campaign has ended in a successful Industry Night/Job Fair. This would not have been possible without the volunteers from our membership, sister locals and Ninth District leadership. A personal thank-you to neighboring locals and Washington state locals' business managers for their help letting us utilize their organizers. Local 280's growth is due to cooperation throughout the IBEW.

While the thanks are flowing, a special shout out to Int. Rep. Greg Boyd for his energy and, locally, to Eric "The Dragon" Hayes for constantly keeping after me and my staff. My reward is new members who thank me later and wonder why they didn't do this sooner. Welcome, brothers and sisters!

Drew Lindsey, B.M./F.S.

## 'Local 288 Reporting'

L.U. 288 (i,rt,spa&u), WATERLOO, IOWA — Things are happening in Local 288 these days. Yes, it has been many years since our last article, but we are kicking and growing with full employment and open calls; more importantly, we need help manning the wind tower projects.

Currently, there is over \$600 million in projects to be awarded in the next two to six months on some very sizable projects. We are looking forward to a very busy couple of years here in Local 288.

Our community services outreach was again in full swing this year.

The local's apprentices, retirees and veterans were recognized at the banquet as well. Int. Pres. Stephenson joined me in presenting years-of-service pins to eligible members present. After the festivities, attendees danced and enjoyed the music of The Milwaukee Toolshed Band. What an awesome night.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

## Appreciation to Members For Year of Success in 2019

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ — As we come to the close of another year, we take time to reflect on and give thanks for the prosperous and productive year we have had.

Bus. Mgr. Dan Gumble, and Pres. Tom Sullivan would like to thank the members of Local 164 for their hard work, dedication and professionalism throughout the year that helped make 2019 so successful. They, along with the rest of the officers and staff of Local 164 wish our fellow members, as well as all of our IBEW brothers and sisters and all of their families, a merry Christmas, happy holidays and very happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Here's to making 2020 our best year yet.

Warren Becker, V.P.



Local 236 organizer Kevin Fuller with his daughters Ava and Giuliana, wearing their "Rosie the Riveter" outfits at the Labor Day parade on Sept. 6.

## Strength in Solidarity

L.U. 236 (catv,ees,govt,i,mo,rtb&t), ALBANY, NY — The annual observance of Labor Day should remind us that we all are a part of something larger than ourselves. It is the collective effort of so many members in organized labor that allows us to continue the fight to preserve the middle class. The Local 236 membership turned out in record numbers at this year's Labor Day parade, showing just how much that fight means to them!

Labor also turned out in impressive numbers to support the recently unionized nurses at Albany Medical Center during a recent rally. The overwhelming support from the many other local unions was inspiring and empowering. It is incredible what can be achieved when you really are "Union Strong."

Our work picture at this writing is seeing the usual autumn slowdown, but calls are still trickling in. We are eagerly awaiting some good news from a few larger projects scheduled to build in the area.

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

Mike Martell, Exec. Board

**HAVE YOU MOVED?**  
Notify us of an address change  
[www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress](http://www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress)  
or call 202-728-6263





**Local 288 volunteers set up power for the Iowa Irish Fest.** Back row: Aaron Glidewell, Ben Simmens, Josh Northness, Chris Schlafer, Jason Sundt, Austin Hall, Jim Hageman, Cole Kurtenbach, Brad Rasmussen, Rich Kurtenbach. Front row: Ryan Pagel, Jesse Billings, Reed Clabby, Tom Posusta, Trevor Denney and Michael Busma. Not pictured: Rick Hurtado and Curtis Baumgartner.

The first weekend in August, Local 288 members donate their time to set up the temporary power for the Iowa Irish Fest. This year was the 13th year for the festival, which had over 45,000 people attending in downtown Waterloo. If you missed it, we had an IBEW Hour Power video done at the 9th Annual Irish Fest, and you can see it at [www.ibewhourpower.com/local-288-iowa-irish-festival](http://www.ibewhourpower.com/local-288-iowa-irish-festival).

The easiest way to show off the best of the IBEW is by donating your time for something that benefits the community. The power of the IBEW!

*Rich Kurtenbach, A.B.M./Organizer*

## Annual 'Old Timers' Dinner; Welcome to New Apprentices

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa) MARTINEZ, CA — The annual 'Old Timers' Dinner was held Friday, Sept. 6, this year and three of our members received their 70-year pins! Congratulations to Bros. Sherman Beals, Glade Gaffney and Harold Sloper (photo below) on their many years in the IBEW.

We also bid a warm welcome to our first-year apprenticeship class, who have all been sent out to work as of September. Our new apprentice inside wiremen are: Jonathan Belden, Alysia Blakeman, Brandon Borja, Christopher Broadnax, Jessica Bryant, Phon Chanthanasak, Henry Cruz, Joseph Cruz, Mikayla Ducey, Daniel Echeverria, Shane Giracca, Joseph Jensen, Thurston Johnson, Justin Kennard, Miles Mangoba, Jared Martinez, Dylan McCall, Andrew Mendoza, Mitchell Mikkelsen, Caitlin Rich, Mauricio Sanchez, Dominic Sparacino, Jason Sullivan and Jonathan Tejeda. May you all look forward to receiving your 70-year pins someday!

*Melissa Vaughn, P.S.*



**Local 302 retirees Harold Sloper (left), Sherman Beals and Glade Gaffney receive their 70-year pins.**

## 'Banner Years for Local 340'

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA — At the Ninth District Progress Meeting this year, Local 340 received several awards for organizing many new members and contractors in 2018. We continued this upward trend in 2019. Members are working. Contractors (many of them brand new to the union) are happy and successful, and it is our goal to keep that momentum going in the new year 2020. The most prestigious award we received was the Henry Miller Award. Henry Miller was the IBEW's founding president, who had an unfailing devotion to the task of organizing and turning plans into action. His legacy is what the IBEW was founded on in 1891, and I'm proud that Local 340 has been recognized for following in his footsteps.

I am also extremely grateful to the membership of Local 340 who continuously support and help us in

our organizing efforts, and I thank each and every one of the men and women who work alongside me daily in the business office and our organizing department. It is only through that 100% commitment that our local will continue to be successful.

Wishing all of you a great holiday season and a new year filled with health, happiness and success.

*Robert D. Ward, B.M.*



**IBEW Local 388 Pres. John Danczyk (far right) displays the local's Organization of the Year Award.**

## Hard Rock Casino Proposed

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL — As of this writing the Rockford Casino evaluation committee has recommended to the City Council to approve the Hard Rock Casino International's proposal for the new casino in Rockford.

This is outstanding news for IBEW Local 364 and its membership. By the time you read this article, the proposal will have been sent to the Illinois Gaming Board. Once approved, work will begin almost immediately on one of the most anticipated and exciting projects our local has seen in quite some time. The benefits to not only our membership but also to the City of Rockford are immeasurable.

This project has an aggressive timeline with a temporary site already agreed upon and the proposed site at the old Clock Tower Hotel and conference center shovel ready.

Local 364's work picture has remained steady going into the 2020 and, with the beginning of the casino project underway, we expect 2020 to be another solid year for our members and traveling brothers and sisters who have helped us man our work throughout our busy times.

*Brad Williams, P.S.*

## Labor Day & Union Pride — 'Organization of the Year'

L.U. 388 (em,i,rts&spa), STEPHENS POINT, WI — Labor Day is always an opportunity to show our union pride. This year's parade was especially notable as Local 388 was nominated as the Organization of the Year. [See photo above, center.] So, we had the honor of leading the parade with a beautiful float, and we shared the experience with a record crowd of members and their families helping us celebrate the occasion. Accepting the award at the Labor Day celebration was Local 388 Pres. John Danczyk.

Local 388 members Pres. Danczyk, Jeff Starr and Jake Horn have been tireless in participating in the Labor Council for years. They organize our members and family members every year to walk in the parade. On top of other council duties, which include collecting food donations for a local food pantry and collecting

cash donations to also be contributed, they help educate our union members on candidates who are supportive of the working men and women of central and north central Wisconsin, and they are at the forefront on organizing the "Labor History Through Film" event held every year in conjunction with The School For Workers.

*Guy LePage, R.S.*

## Officers Elected; Telephone Townhall

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA — Local 424 elections are completed. Congratulations to the following on their election: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Mike Reinhart; Pres. Paul Cherry; Vice Pres. Scott Crichton; Treas. James Hawreliak; Recorder Stephen Blum; Mike Boley, Unit 1 Chair; Tyler Wright, Unit 2 Chair; Herb Exell, Unit 3 Chair; and Mike Carey, Unit 4 Chair.

At the time of this writing, Local 424 was making plans to host our first telephone townhall on Nov. 30, 2019. This is an exciting opportunity to connect with our members from across the province.

There are several ongoing commercial projects in Edmonton and the surrounding area. Canadian Power PAC (CPP) and Western Pacific Enterprises are expected to put in calls for the Light Rail Transit project. CPP has also been awarded the new building for Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE).

*Scott Crichton, P.S.*

## 'A Good Mix of Projects' — PLA for \$600 Million Casino

L.U. 428 (govt,i,rts&spa), BAKERSFIELD, CA — The work picture remains strong with a good mix of projects on the books, including new construction and modernization at local schools, local hospital expansions, and utility grade solar work. Repairs are also underway at the Naval Weapons Center damaged by the large earthquakes that struck our county earlier in the year. Looking forward, we're happy to report that an all-trades Project Labor Agreement has been secured for a \$600 million casino project planned to be built south of town.

Congratulations to the next term of local officers and a heartfelt thank-you to outgoing officers Vince Abruscato, Darrell Bowen, Jodi Doane and Juan Gonzalez. It's sisters and brothers like you that make the IBEW the greatest trade union in the world.

Local 428 RENEW is gearing up for its second annual Family Christmas Party and looking forward to seeing everyone there. There will be the usual great food, fellowship and games for the kids — and the kids can also get their picture taken with Santa! It'll be at our union hall on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

Happy holidays, everyone!

*Brian Holt, A.B.M.*



**IBEW Local 494 helps Habitat for Humanity with "Rock the Block" program.**

## Habitat for Humanity Project

L.U. 494 (em,govt,i,mt,rts,spa&t), MILWAUKEE, WI — Housing costs are an issue for many in Sheboygan County, and Habitat for Humanity Lakeside with the help of IBEW Local 494 would like to make progress against the growing problem. The goal is to build 20 homes, repair another 55 and complete hundreds of other projects in the next five years with the help of IBEW Local 494 and other union trades. The program is called "Rock the Block" and it will require 10,000 people to volunteer or donate over \$10 million to the effort. It's a big — but reachable — goal, and it's important for the 34% of Sheboygan County families who live paycheck-to-paycheck, unable to save for emergencies. The homes aren't given away, but Habitat for Humanity selects buyers based upon many factors including need, credit and ability to make payments. All the community partners assist with additional services such as brush removal, lighting improvements and fire safety checks. IBEW Local 494 has been helping with the event for four years.

*John T. Zapfel, Political Dir.*

## 'Season's Greetings'

L.U. 540 (i), CANTON, OHIO — As 2019 closes, the officers of Local 540 would like to wish all our local union members and their families — as well as all our brothers and sisters of the IBEW and their families — happy holidays and a happy new year.

We would like to welcome our new members and remember the members we have lost.

Hoping the new year brings us all good health and a favorable year. Go to your union meetings and get involved any way you can.

Season's greetings to everyone!

*Rick Waikem, R.S./P.S.*

## Work Picture on Upswing; Sportsmen's Alliance Dinner

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

At the last reporting, Local 558 was participating in the 100th year Labor Day celebration here, and we are happy to say Local 558 received second place in the float contest. Congratulations and thank you to all who volunteered their time to a great cause.

Local 558 participated in the fifth annual Union Sportsmen's Alliance Dinner in Trussville, AL, on Sept. 26 this year. We had 10 members to attend and partic-



**Local 558 members attended a Union Sportsmen's Alliance dinner in September 2019.**



## LOCAL LINES

ipate in an auction. Door prizes were given away, with all proceeds going to Alabama Youth Fishing Association to build a new weigh station and assembly area for fishing tournaments held on Smith Lake.

Work in the jurisdiction is still on an upswing and looks promising for the future of Local 558 members. The local had service pin presentations at November's union meeting, celebrating years of service ranging from 25 to 70 years. It was a great night to talk with retired members and hear stories of days remembered.

The local is heartbroken to report the passing of Bro. Ralph Mayes on Sept. 20, 2019. He was a 40-year IBEW member and served as assistant business manager/dispatcher, president, and business manager of Local 558. He will be deeply missed.

*Mac Sloan, Pres./Mbr. Dev.*

## Tribute to a Life of Service



*The late Doug Parsons of Local 586.*

L.U. 586 (em,i&o), OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA — In light of the passing of Bro. Doug Parsons, we at Local 586 want to acknowledge his life-long dedication to the local's members and his belief in providing a better life for all. Doug was a long-serving member of Local

586. He worked his entire career with the IBEW and was extremely proud of his home local. Doug was a highly skilled electrician, a fantastic mentor, and he treated his union brothers and sisters with the utmost respect regardless of age or experience in the trade. He spent decades working in Canada and the United States, traveling from local to local to provide for his large family back in Ottawa.

Later in his career, Doug became the president of Local 586 and held that office for 14 years until health issues forced him to step down. As president, he always looked for positive change and advancement. Many Local 586 policies in effect today are the direct result of Bro. Parson's vast insight and incredible knowledge. There is no doubt that Ottawa Local

586 is a pillar in the IBEW community because of Doug's selfless contributions. Many have benefited from the life and legacy of union Bro. Doug Parsons. Thank you, brother.

*Brett MacLean, P.S.*

## Acts of Brotherhood

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA — The jurisdiction's work outlook continues to be strong with several large data centers under planning or construction. We extend a special thank you to all of the travelling brothers and sisters who have helped us man our work with IBEW quality.

A focus on craftsmanship is important but oftentimes acts of true brotherhood go unnoticed. Last month, Lee Boehm, a JATC instructor, received a call from his father in Ohio, who told him about some electrical problems in his home. Concerned, journeyman wireman Boehm contacted Local 8 in Toledo for a recommendation for a quality electrician in the area. In addition to providing a recommendation, a brother from Local 8, Shane, went to the father's house to make sure that no immediate danger existed. Thank you to Local 8 for this act of brotherhood!

Congratulations to retirees Robert D. Trevillian, Michael W. Jackson, Bernie M. Jamerson, Larry P. Houchens, James M. Farkas, Steven D. Pierce, Michael E. Bolton, Roger W. Lynch, James C. Farmer Jr. and Walter E. Hazelgrove Jr.

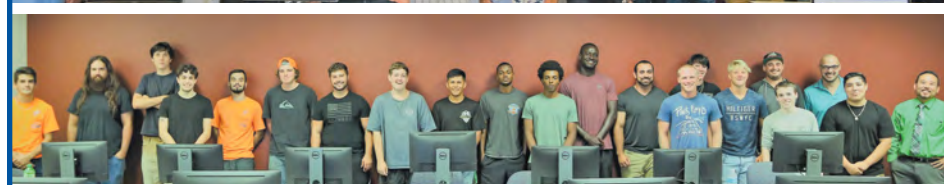
*Jeremy Davis, P.S.*

## Holiday Festivities

L.U. 716 (em,i,lctt,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TEXAS — Season's greetings, brothers and sisters. I hope everyone is having a happy holiday season, and we wish you the very best from Houston's Local 716.

At this time of year, I hope we all take time to reflect on our men and women, brothers and sisters, who serve our great nation in the armed forces. Some families have given the ultimate sacrifice, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

The work situation in Houston is still slow and we appreciate those jurisdictions who have put our



## First-Year Apprentices Welcomed

*A welcome goes out to first-year apprentices at the Electrical Training Alliance of Daytona Beach, FL, Local 756.*

members to work.

Our Get-Out-the-Vote effort was a success thanks to all who participated. We encourage all our members and their families to exercise their right to vote.

Thanks to the members who donated their time and efforts to make the food and treats for the December union meeting. As always, everything was delicious.

Our Entertainment Committee did a great job again this year! With the help of our members, who helped set up, decorate and serve at the annual children's and adults Christmas parties, the holiday events were once again a great success.

Serving this local union for the past year has been an unbelievable experience. I thank you for this opportunity and for your support.

*Damon Sebren, B.M./F.S.*

## 2019 Service Pin Ceremony

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN — Congratulations to all those who received their years-of-service pins for 2019. The dedication and leadership by our brothers and sisters are of vital importance to our membership. Experience can't be taught. It only comes through hard work and dedication to one's craft. Thank you to all for your service.

*"Experience is not what happens to a man; it is what a man does with what happens to him."*  
— Aldous Huxley.

*Jason Leary, A.B.M./Organizer*



*Local 760 congratulates IBEW service award recipients.*

## Union Hall Renovated; New JATC Facility Opens

L.U. 776 (i,o,rts&spa), CHARLESTON, SC — Is it December already? If you're cold and out of work, check out Charleston. Our work situation has been picking up with the recent addition of our Florence paper mill job and upgrades for some of our existing customers. Traveling can be either a hardship or a great opportunity. Take the opportunity to check out the beautiful Low Country of South Carolina.

Nice to see an unusual coalition of Democrats and Republicans come together to oppose oil drilling off the East Coast. Our Republican governor and our Democratic congressman had a press conference in an iconic oyster house on Bowens Island near Charleston to celebrate the passage of the bill in the House of Representatives despite the opposition

from a certain president. We need more bipartisan-ship. You'll never convince anyone of anything by putting them down. Try to be understanding in order to be understood. We should all be able to agree on at least one thing: to support those who support us.

We have renovated our hall, a building that was built during the late cretaceous era. Our JATC has opened a brand-new facility in North Charleston and we look forward to a great new group of budding journeymen.

*Andy Weiner, P.S.*



*Local 824 EWMC Tampa chapter's October "Truck or Treat" event for members and their children was a great success.*

## EWMC Hosts Fall Festivities

L.U. 824 (t), TAMPA, FL — EWMC Tampa chapter hosted our first "Truck or Treat" event in October prior to our

general meeting. This allowed a safe place for the children of our members to celebrate fall, and members were able to express their artistic abilities. We provided

ed hot dogs, hamburgers and lots of sweet treats. The Tampa EWMC hopes to make this an annual event and include sister locals to join the festivities.

*Zaida Menendez, A.B.M.*

## Contract Negotiations

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ — At press time, negotiations are ongoing with Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC); Bus. Mgr. Scott Northrup has been working to bring our newest union members a contract that they can ratify. The company is using stall tactics to lengthen the negotiation period and wear its employees down, along with fighting us on adding new employees to the represented group. Please continue to support these new members in their efforts; they are not out of the woods yet.

## IBEW MERCHANDISE

**Thermal Lined Hooded Jacket \$59.00**

100% cotton, 12 oz brown duck with heavy duty zipper and 100% thermal lining. Red, white and blue embroidered IBEW initials on front.

**Magnet Money Clip \$6.00**

Strong magnetic closure with IBEW block initials on one side.

**Blue Athletic Pants \$25.00**

80% Cotton - 20% Polyester. Left leg has large IBEW initials silk screened in white and elastic waist with drawstring. Pants fit true to size with very minimal shrinkage.

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

**www.ibewmerchandise.com**



*I would ask our younger members to start getting involved in the union. Be the bearer of the union torch for your generation. "Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness."*  
— Anne Frank

America is a union. America was built with union labor and union labor made the middle class what it once was. Corporate America does all it can to keep employees down, and only through union participation do we give ourselves the ability to rise above. This is particularly true for women, as they are only paid \$0.79 for each dollar that a man makes.

We want to express our gratitude to all the members who come to the meetings and stay involved. Remember, this is your local and you have a voice.

As 2019 comes to an end, we wish our members and their families a healthy and prosperous 2020. May the new year be everything you hope for. Dream big!

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

## Appointment & Transitions; Dedicated Election Volunteers

L.U. 1340 (i&o), NEWPORT NEWS, VA — We are happy to announce that Bro. Aaron Woodard has been appointed as organizer. He fills an opening left by Bro. John Strang, who retired after serving the membership needs of our local for many years, beginning in 1998. Bro. Strang made many new friends and succeeded in bringing over 200 new workers into IBEW membership, and we thank him for his tireless service to our cause. We wish him the best in his retirement and wish Bro. Woodard success in his new position.

Training Dir. Gerald Dix reports that our apprenticeship program has started the academic year with its largest first-year class in years, with 20 new recruits in September's group.

By the time this article appears, the election of Virginia's 100 delegates and 40 state senators will (hopefully) be complete, and the efforts of our volunteers will have been rewarded. Our thanks to all who participated in phone banks, mailouts and precinct walks to support candidates who support us!

We regret to report the passing of retired Bro. Russell Winkler Jr. in Las Vegas, NV, on Sept. 1, 2019. Bro. Winkler was a member of the IBEW for 40 years and worked in both the construction unit and in the maintenance division at Langley NASA.

Jim Avery, P.S.

## IBEW Lifesaving Award

L.U. 2150 (em,lctt,o&u), MILWAUKEE, WI — Local 2150 member Steve Hoffman was presented with the IBEW Lifesaving Award at his unit meeting on Aug. 16, 2019.

Steve was with retired 2150 member Harland Grandy when Harland collapsed with a cardiac arrest. Steve has been receiving CPR training at We Energies since he was hired in 1991 as an electrical testing technician.

Steve told members that he and Harland were working in Harland's shop when he heard a sound like snoring and saw Harland lying on the floor, breathing but unconscious. He assumed that Harland had fallen down and bumped his head. He ran to the house to get assistance from Harland's wife, Joann, and instructed her to call 911. When he returned, he found Harland had stopped breathing and had turned a color of blue that "you'd never want to see." He began CPR with the 911 operator on the line and continued until he physically could not do it anymore, at which time Joann took over until a first responder arrived with an AED and restarted Harland's heart.

Take CPR/first-aid training seriously. You never know when you might have an opportunity to save a life of a friend or family member.

Cindy Mauch, R.S.

# RETIREEES

## Labor Day Camaraderie

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — Hello from Local 1 retirees in St. Louis. I hope everyone enjoyed an active summer.

The Labor Day parade and the barbecue that followed were loads of fun. All the retirees got to visit and share stories with union brothers and sisters who are still working.

Don't forget to send a donation to the Local 1 Relief Committee before the end of the year. I'm not looking forward to the cold weather, but we will persevere. Stay warm this winter.

Happy holidays and happy new year.

Neal McCormack, P.S.

## 'Pass the Tools' Program — Connecting with Apprentices

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER — The "pass the tools" program began at a Nassau County Chapter Retirees monthly meeting when club member Larry Doctors was explaining to the members how well the new Hands on Training Center for the apprentices was progressing. One of our members commented that he had tools he would like to give to the apprentices. Nassau County Chapter Chmn. Ed Weiss thought it was a good idea and appointed Larry Doctors in charge of the program.

Larry, with the permission of Local 3 Bus. Mgr. Christopher Erikson and the help of Queens Chapter Chmn. Martin Reicher, formulated a plan to have all 15 of the Local 3 Retirees Club chapters start a drive to collect new and almost-new tools as well as money to purchase new tools. The collected tools are raffled off to the apprentices at their monthly meeting. With the cost of lineman pliers at around \$52, all the apprentices appreciate the generous gift from the retirees.

This is one way that Local 3 retirees can pass the traditions of brotherhood and unionism on to the next generation.

John Milligan, P.S.



Local 3, Nassau County Chapter, Retirees Club member Larry Doctors (second from right) and Queens County Chapter Chmn. Martin Reicher (left) with apprentices Joseph Walsh, Thomas Carey, Max Jones, Tosheena Walker and Amoret Moore.

## Great Summer & Fall Trips

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — Greetings to all! Club members enjoyed our time at the Long Island Educational Center in July! Always fun to catch up with old and new friends and enjoy the camaraderie amidst the beauty of Santorini and the North Fork.

While at the center, we attended an informative lecture by attorney Marcus O'Toole-Gelo on estate planning, elder law, asset protection, etc. We also attended an interesting lecture by dietitian Erica A. Vinas on nutrition for liver health. Erica treated us to healthy food samples, and we had a fun exercise workout.

Also, we enjoyed several great restaurants in the area, had a yummy potluck dinner night in the



Local 3, Northern New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club members at Long Island Educational Center. Photo courtesy Abe Fichtenbaum.



Members of Local 3, South Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club enjoyed a stay at Santorini Resort, Local 3 Educational Center, on the North Shore of Long Island, NY, in July.

community room, and a great farewell barbecue on our last night at the center! One afternoon we took a two-hour Lighthouse Cruise out of Orient Point. This was a wonderful and relaxing cruise, where we saw and learned about eight lighthouses and several islands in the area. I recommend this cruise to other groups visiting the Educational Center.

Other recent activities included our annual picnic in August, and a wonderful bus trip to Maine. We had a lovely fall luncheon at La Terrazza Restaurant, and we look forward to our December holiday celebration at Seasons Catering in Washington Township, NJ. Wishing all a great holiday season!

John Krison, P.S.

## Summer Trips a Success

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER — Members of the Local 3, South Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club enjoyed a trip to the Santorini Resort, Local 3's Long Island Educational &

Cultural Center, the week of July 8-12 this year. The group was led by Vice Pres. Charlie DeSaro and Sgt. at Arms Richard Reimer. Classes were held on Monday and Tuesday, with a catered affair on Wednesday night. Campfire and sporting events were held most nights.

Retirees Club fishing trips and Monmouth Park Racetrack trips concluded our events for the summer.

Nancy Savarese, R.S.

## Long Island Education Center

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER — Our chapter was invited by our union to spend three days at the Long Island Educational Center in August.

On our arrival, Pension Dir. Maureen Steiger greeted us. She discussed the history of the Educational Center, and the importance of staying active politically to protect the benefits we worked for. Education Dir. Stephanie Saladino greeted us and asked if there was anything she or her staff could do to help us have a fun and safe stay.

We attended two seminars Tuesday and Wednesday, presented by Wellness Coordinator Judy Blades and nutritionist Erica Vinas, from our union. A lawyer also spoke to us about important documents we should have.



Local 3, Suffolk Chapter, Retirees Club members at Long Island Educational Center.



## RETIRES

Tuesday night we had a wonderful catered dinner. Thanks to John Schoenig and his committee. Wednesday night we had our famous dessert party. Thanks to Phil Moraci and his committee.

In his closing remarks, Chmn. Richard Duva asked everyone to attend the Labor Day parade. His wife, Patricia, wished everyone a happy and healthy summer.

Our September meeting was well attended. Our chairman asked for committee reports. James Jost spoke about our end of summer barbecue. The barbecue was a great success, thanks to James Jost and this hard-working committee. John Schoenig spoke about our December Holiday Party and said he was taking reservations. Harvey Goldman spoke about our Annual Food Drive.

*Harvey Goldman, P.S.*

## Annual Fishing Trip

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WEST-CHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — This year, our annual fishing trip was held July 9. Over the past 50 years, I've always felt there were three components to a successful trip: the weather, the water, and the fish. This year, we were only able to enjoy two out of three; the weather was absolutely perfect, the water was calm, but the fish were few and far between.

Most fishermen will agree that "a bad day of fishing is better than a good day at work" — but none of us are working anymore, so I guess that doesn't hold true for us. Actually, just getting out with your fellow retirees makes it a good day. The winner of the first prize for the largest fish caught was Nick Durso; second prize went to Luis Dellgauts.

Next year, if the membership agrees, we might try chartering the boat a little later in the season, when the species of fish is different and hopefully will be more plentiful.

*Dick Mills, Treas.*



*Members of Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club enjoyed a fishing trip aboard the boat Shamrock IV.*

## Holiday/Winter Luncheon

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA — We would like to invite our local retirees and guests to our Holiday/Winter Luncheon on Dec. 11, 2019, at 11:30 a.m., at the Historic Taix French Restaurant in Los Angeles. The cost is \$25 per person.

For additional information about the luncheon or information about the Retirees Club, please contact us by email at [retireesclubibew11@gmail.com](mailto:retireesclubibew11@gmail.com) or attend a 10 a.m. meeting at the ETI on the second Wednesday of every month.

*Al Etherton, Pres.*

## Day Trip to Tangier Island

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 24, BALTIMORE, MD, EASTERN SHORE CHAPTER — In September, a group of our members and their guests enjoyed an afternoon outing to Tangier Island, VA. The weather was perfect for a boat ride, and we thoroughly enjoyed our journey to and from the island. While on Tangier Island, we were

able to tour the sights on golf carts or enjoy some delicious seafood at one of several restaurants. We also had a chance to stroll and explore the unique buildings, watermen's work sheds and homes. Everyone who participated agreed that it was a day well spent, and a lot of fun getting to spend time with friends old and new.

Although it is hard to believe it, our club is approaching the two-year anniversary of its formation. That means our current officers are coming to the end of their terms. At our December 2019 meeting, on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 11 a.m., at the Salisbury union hall, we will hold nominations and elect our officers for 2020-2021.

Email us at [Local24RetireesSalisbury@ibew-local24.org](mailto:Local24RetireesSalisbury@ibew-local24.org) if you would like more information about our club. We wish all our IBEW brothers and sisters a merry Christmas and all the best in the new year!

*Bob McIntyre, Pres.*



*Local 24, Eastern Shore Chapter, Retirees Club members took a boat trip to explore Tangier Island, VA.*

## Travels & Annual Events

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — We are collecting dues for 2020 — \$15 for the year. It's exciting to see so many new retirees joining! If you are over 50 (retired, or not), please join our meetings, travels and annual events (crab feast, cruise and raffle drawing.) If you're visiting in the area on the second Saturday of the month, call the local for details and join us.

Our annual Retired Members Club Crab Feast on Oct. 12 was a huge success! Over 155 retirees, their families, guests, and working members attended!

Our cruise for 2020 is already filled, but for a higher price you may still join them starting in Amsterdam and going on to Spain. If interested, please contact our travel coordinator, Rick Warner, at 240-472-0438.

Our bus trips sell out on a regular basis.

If you are interested in fun trips with varied stops and lunch, please let Brother Warner know. In October, we took another train trip. These are very popular! And retirees attended the Annual Sportsmen's Alliance fundraiser. We also helped in September with the Motorcycle Clubs' 8th Annual Poker Run!

Trips to the Delaware Park Casino are very popular, so we schedule several every year.

At our Thanksgiving/November meeting, we pull the raffle winners. If you didn't receive a telephone call, you did not win this year. The tickets sold raise funds for our medical equipment program! If you are interested in starting your club's own program, please contact Sister Flashman at [flashmanbissell@aol.com](mailto:flashmanbissell@aol.com).

We have lost retired friends and family and remember them at every meeting. We are grateful we can share time with our members who are still with us.

*Susan Flashman, P.S.*



*A group of Local 53 retirees toured the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis.*

## Henry Miller Museum Tour

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Well, 2019 is nearly over by now. I hope everyone had a great year.

Next year will be a big year for elections. Local 58 will hold an election of officers in 2020, and the Retirees Club will elect its officers. Elections will also take place at the state, local and national level. Please get informed and involved, and vote.

In September, a group of retirees drove to St. Louis to tour the Henry Miller Museum. Retirees who took the tour included: James Huckaby, Jim Gaylord, Leroy Bossow, Richard Vote, Ron Schock, Larry Witherspoon, Keith Query, Duane Pearce, Bob Stuart, Charlie Johnson, Dexter Drerup, Kenny Sikes, Tarry Youngmans, Jerry Senter, J.C. Bradley, Dave Adkins and Larry Curry. (See photo above.) It was great to see where the IBEW got its start. If you are interested in touring the museum, call 314-647-5900 to set up an appointment. It is well worth going to see it. A big thank-you to Bro. Dave Roth from Local 1 for giving us the tour.

Sadly, we recently lost three more brothers: Bill Harber, Robert Long and Grover Hale. Rest in peace, brothers.

We wish everyone a happy holiday season and hope the new year brings you good health and happiness!

*Duane Pearce, P.S.*

## Retirees' Community Service

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI — Season's greetings from Detroit.

This month finds our retirees group celebrating Christmas with our annual party, on Dec. 4 this year, at the local union hall. We have the usual collection baskets to benefit Children's Charities, and Local 58's Benevolent Fund. Festivities include a luncheon (\$15), centerpiece raffles, and our 50/50. This is a great opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. This good time starts the season among fellow retiree sisters and brothers. As our club name — Association of Retirees, Wives and Widows — implies, spouses are a big part of our community, and all are welcome!

We have a very active core group of retirees who get out twice a month and work within our Community Services Committee helping those in need by assisting with electrical and construction issues. A big project underway this past fall at Forgotten Harvest Farms, in Fenton, has allowed the farm to continue to supply food for the meals provided by soup kitchens in the Detroit metropolitan area.

On Oct. 13, the local union hosted a Retirees Pancake Breakfast, immediately following our monthly board meeting. Service pins were awarded to retirees with 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of IBEW membership.

*Pat Nuznov, P.S.*

## Meeting at New Union Hall

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — Fifty-nine members had a real treat on Sept. 12 this year, seeing the "Welcome Home" banner hanging at the entrance of Local 60's new union hall. It has been a long time coming — the retirees of Local 60 are home at last, meeting at 3518 N. Loop 1604 E. every

second Thursday of the month, starting at 11:30 a.m.

Starting out the meeting, IBEW years-of-service pins were awarded by Bus. Mgr. Gary Aiken and Retirees Club Pres. Coy Rogers. Congratulations to all.

Under new business: Each year, the retirees vote on a Christmas project that helps their community. "Construct A Kid's Christmas" will remain the project. Bringing joy to children at Christmas by donating gifts is a heartwarming experience for the members.

A report by Gene Chamberlain, chairperson for the annual golf tournament fundraiser, was given. May 9, 2020, is the target date for this event, to be held at Pleasanton Golf Club, in Pleasanton, Texas. More information on this will be available beginning in 2020.

The Retired Members Club of Local 60 is for all retired Local 60 members and their spouses. It is a get-together for fun, fellowship and, most importantly, keeping in the practice of brotherhood. Please join us.

*Sandy Rogers, P.S.*

## Annual Retirement Dinner

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 90, NEW HAVEN, CT — On Oct. 17, Local 90 held its annual retirement dinner at the Woodwinds in Branford, CT. We gathered to honor the latest group of new retirees. They are: Gerald Anziano, James Candela, Henry Cooper, James Fiora, Richard Fiora, Stacey Juan, Gary Kraemer, Dana McCarthy, Richard Pecoraro, Carl Riccitelli, Joseph Spaziente, Erwin Stockmann, William Tsoukalas, Kevin Walsh and Robert Woytowich. Congratulations to all — we thank you for your service to the IBEW and we invite you to join our Retirees Club.

Our club held its annual holiday luncheon on Dec. 3, 2019, at Fantasia in North Haven, CT. As usual the food, the service and especially the company, were great. Many thanks to Pres. Robert Mantovani, Hugh McGuire, Gerald Asplund and Rose Kirby for a job well done.

We wish all IBEW members and their families a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy and safe new year.

*Richard Launder, P.S.*

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Local 105 Retirees Club members assisted with Neighbor 2 Neighbor food drive. From left: Fred Bishop, Pres. George Gower, Mary and Hal Cooper, and Sharon and Bob Long.

## Fall Season Highlights: 'Neighbor-2-Neighbor' Project

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA — Merry Christmas to everyone and all the best for 2020!

In June, we enjoyed the annual BBQ/Karaoke event and collected 427 pounds of food and \$865 in donations for the Neighbor-2-Neighbor project. Thanks to Mary Cooper for suggesting this, and our sincere thanks to all who helped!

Our seniors club officers worked their magic once again and put together some terrific events for the 2019 fall season.

On Sept. 26, we enjoyed a lunch at the Mandarin. Oct. 3 was the date for a Perch Fish Fry. On Oct. 17, we took part at Octoberfest. From Nov. 12-15 we enjoyed a stay at the Cairn Croft, Niagara Falls, and all had a great time! On Nov. 24, we attended the Toronto Christmas Party — an event surely not to be missed. On Nov. 27, we enjoyed a trip to St Jacobs for a lunch and theatre show. And we ended the year with our annual Christmas Party on Dec. 8.

Remember our motto: "Don't Wait — Participate."

All of the above events and so much more are all made possible by our hard-working local members and Executive Board, past and present. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you!

Eden McLean, P.S.



Local 134 Retirees Club members attended apprentice graduation dinner. From left: Gerry White, Allan White, Irene Yankee, Treas. Bernie Martin, Barbara Gibbons, Pres. Kevin Gibbons, Exec. Board member Walter Felde, Vice Pres. James Jennings, Laura Felde, and Press Sec. Sue Kleczka.

## 2019 Events a Great Success

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — At year's close, I'd like to reflect on a few of our club's great events from this past year.

We attended three luncheons and plays at Drury Lane Theater in Oak Brook, IL. In February, we attended the Annual Hockey Game Fundraiser for Honor Flight Chicago, which sends our veterans to visit Washington, D.C. We sold 10 tickets at \$25.00 each.

In June, we had the Annual Luncheon in Local 134's Memorial Hall; we honored 60 members with 50 to 70 years of service. In August, 25 members attended the Schaumburg, IL, Boomers baseball game and enjoyed the spectacular fireworks display.

September brought the annual John Cummins Memorial Golf Outing at Old Oak Country Club, in Homer Glen, IL. On a beautiful day, with 60 in attendance, all enjoyed a breakfast, a buffet lunch, and 18 holes of golf.

Also in September, 10 retiree members were invited to attend the Local 134 Apprentice Graduation Dinner Dance. Each year the Retirees Club donates \$400 toward four of the awards for apprentices.

In recent years, our Holiday Party was held at The Irish American Heritage Center. This December's Holiday Party will be at our Local 134 Memorial Hall. Hope everyone has a great time. Happy holidays to all!

Sue Kleczka, P.S.

## 'A Busy Year'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OHIO — Recent months were very busy for our pensioners club.

In June, we reelected our officers, and new member Wayne Myers was elected to the E-Board. Congratulations and thank you to all.

Also, in June, we celebrated several members for their longtime service. IBEW service pin award recipients included: 50-year members — James Daly, James Huston, Gerald Kleinwachter, Robert Lewis, Terry Mason, Kenneth Mueller, Wayne Myers, Wayne Whalen; 55-year members — Robert Carlin, Dennis Cohen, Michael Denney, Edward Ochs, Russel Vinup; and 60-year member — Walter Zimmer. Congratulations to all!

Our members also volunteered at the Cincinnati Veterans Hospital to help veterans have a brighter day. We salute veterans and also our members.

In July, we partied at Fernbank Park on the Ohio River for our Annual Summer Picnic.

We mourn the passing of the following Local 212 members: James Hirth, who was a 70-year member; James Oster (54-year member); William Bruns (50-year member); Charles White and Roger Windholtz (49-year members); William Seay (46-year member); William Pritchette (45-year member); Raymond Kraus (39-year member); and Michael Sansone (five-year member). Rest in peace, brothers.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

## 2019 Labor Day Parade

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — The club met Sept. 24 at the American Legion in Jefferson City for our monthly meeting.

The Labor Day Parade in Jefferson City on Sept. 7 was a great success. Numerous labor groups from around the Midwest participated. Thanks to all our retirees who helped decorate the retirees' trailer and rode in the parade, giving out candy. Special thanks to Jerry Rehagen for providing the truck and trailer for the parade.

On Oct. 5, Local 257 hosted its annual barbecue picnic for members and guests at Riverside Park in Jefferson City. The food was great, and everyone enjoyed bingo, drawings and visiting together. A big thank-you to the second-year apprentices for their help preparing for and working at the picnic. Service pins were presented at the picnic and several club members were recognized: 60-year members — Gary James, Carl Nichols, George Rehagen; 55-year members — Joe Gallatin, Kenneth Polly, Donald Stokes; 50-year members — Charles Farris, Sam Hamacher, Thomas Oligschlaeger, Jerry Petershagen; and 40-year member Dan Schroeder.

Sadly, Mrs. Leta Mae Owen, 82, passed away



Local 257 retired members assembled for 2019 Labor Day parade in Jefferson City, MO.

May 3. She was the widow of our late retiree member Richard Owen, who passed in 2017. Our condolences go out to the family.

At a club meeting, Don Cessna told how much he enjoyed his trip on the Honor Flight tour with another retiree, Joe Winemiller.

Our Christmas luncheon will be Dec. 10, at 12 noon, as guests of Local 257.

Delores Melloway, P.S.

## Camaraderie at Meetings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 317, HUNTINGTON, WV — The Local 317 retirees meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the union hall. It is always very nice to get together and catch up on old times and share future plans.

Jerry Booth, Pres.



The Local 351 Retirees Club congratulates its recently elected officers. The officers were sworn in by local union Bus. Agent Andy Helsel (back row, second from right).

## Newly Elected Officers

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 351, FOLSOM, NJ — Our newly elected club officers were installed by our brother Local 351 Bus. Agent Andy Helsel in July. The installation took place at Villa Fazolarri, where we conduct our meetings and have our luncheons.

The Retirees Club officers are: Bob Campbell, Joe Alisandrini, Rich Trasferini, Dick Riffert, Lynda Mead, Dave Valentine and Harold Mead. (See photo above.) Congratulations to all.

Harold Mead, P.S.

## Summer Activities & Trips

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — I would like to thank our former press secretary, Nancy Philbin, for her dedication. Nancy was

always there to document our activities and take photos, from our fish fries to our Christmas celebrations. Nancy, your efforts were always appreciated, and we always looked forward to reading your articles.

It was a busy summer for our retirees. It's a good thing that we can all share our day trips and overnights together. Activities that were enjoyed by all included a Grand River Cruise, an overnight stay in St. Jacobs for shopping and a play, and a most enjoyed trip to Walter's Theatre for musical entertainment, "A Tribute to The Everly Brothers."

Local 530 retirees also presented a gift and card to outgoing local union business manager Micky Cataford in July. Congratulations to you, Micky.

At this writing, the fall season was approaching with more activities scheduled. Club meetings are held the second Thursday of every month, at 10:30 a.m., in the new union hall on Kendall Street. All Local 530 retirees and significant others are invited to attend.

Cathy Coates, P.S.

## August Luncheon Meeting

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — The Retirees Club met Thursday, Aug. 1, at Golden Corral, Carbondale, IL. Pres. Gary King opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. with a welcome to everyone and a thanks to all for attending.

The meeting minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. The financial report was read and approved.

Pres. King read an announcement of deaths for July and August, followed by a moment of silence for our dearly departed sisters and brothers.

There were no guests announced at the meeting, and there was no "old business" to be addressed. Under "new business," the Labor Day picnic was announced, and it was stated that the picnic would be held at Rent One Park in Marion, IL. The park opened at 10 a.m. and food was served from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Raffle Drawing was held with half of the \$70 pot going to Bro. Charlie May. The other \$35 would be the total deposit. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

At the Oct. 5 union meeting, Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughart presented 50-year and 60-year service pins to eligible recipients in attendance. (Photo below.)

Mark Baker, P.S.



At October Local 702 union meeting, a 60-year service pin was presented to David Briddick (far left). Fifty-year service pins went to (from second left): Gene Nowicki, Danny Chapman, David Cosimi, Bud Mills, Russell Miner and Larry Young. At far right is local union Pres. James Sanchez.



## RETIREES

## Service Pin Ceremony

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — Hello everyone, we hope you are all well! At our September meeting we had a pin ceremony; we congratulate the pin recipients and thank them all for their years of service and continued support of our union.

With sadness, since our last article we have had one member pass. We send our condolences to the family and friends of Lawrence F. Dahlgren.

We look forward to a happy and healthy 2020 and hope to see more of you at our meetings. Please try to come whenever you can! We would like to also invite any retired and unemployed brothers and sisters and their spouses who are in the area to come and join us. Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month (September through May), 11:30 a.m., at the Local 756 union hall, Port Orange, FL.

*Diane Gibbs, P.S.*



*The Local 756 Retirees Club congratulates three members at September meeting who received service pins, from left: Dennis Swanson (45-year pin), Peter S. Parise (70-year pin) and Joseph H. Gardner (60-year pin).*

## Christmas Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA — At our regular bimonthly meeting on the first Monday in October, we voted to have our Christmas Luncheon on the first Monday in December. The luncheon will start at 11:30 a.m. The meat and drinks will be provided. However, each member should bring a covered dish of vegetable or dessert.

*W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.*

## 2018 Summary Annual Report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan, #52-6132372, for the year ended December 31, 2018. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

## Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust. Plan expenses were \$284,641,424. These expenses included \$17,688,938 in administrative expenses and \$266,952,486 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 117,261 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$7,861,656,586 as of December 31, 2018, compared to \$7,678,461,343 as of January 1, 2018. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$183,195,243. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$467,836,667, including employer contributions of \$630,937,756, gains of (\$9,757,703) from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of (\$168,138,322), and other income of \$14,794,936.

## Minimum Funding Standards

Enough money was contributed to the plan to keep it funded in accordance with the minimum funding standards of ERISA.

## Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

Lonnie R. Stephenson  
NEAP Trustee

Kenneth W. Cooper  
NEAP Trustee

David Long  
NEAP Trustee

Dennis F. Quebe  
NEAP Trustee

- an accountant's report;
- financial information and information on payments to service providers;
- assets held for investment;
- transactions in excess of 5 percent of plan assets; and
- information regarding any common or collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, master trusts, or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Trustees of the National Electrical Annuity Plan, who are the plan administrators, 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, (301) 556-4300. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$16.25 for the full annual report, or \$.25 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally-protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210. ■

## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

## www.ibew.org

Get all the news for and about IBEW members, including the online version of *The Electrical Worker*, at [IBEW.org](http://IBEW.org).

## YouTube

Quality, affordable health care through the IBEW/NECA Family Medical Care Plan is so good that workers are joining the union for coverage.

Learn more at [YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](http://YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker).

## Vimeo

## WePowerAmerica.org

is helping recruit experienced, nonunion electricians to the IBEW. Some 3,000

potential members have applied since March. See how it works at [Vimeo.com/IBEW](http://Vimeo.com/IBEW).



## HourPower

The Bonneville-Hood Transmission line is being rebuilt, 80 years after it electrified America.

Linemen flying to scenic mountain sites by helicopter daily say it's the best job in the world. Ride with them at [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com).



## ElectricTV

A San Francisco brewery partnered with the NECA/IBEW Powering America Team to reduce its carbon footprint. Check it out at [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net).

Notice to Participants in the National Electrical Annuity Plan  
Explanation of Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit

If you are married and die before retirement, NEAP will provide your spouse with a Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. Your spouse will receive this benefit if: (1) you have satisfied the minimum eligibility requirement of 160 hours of service; (2) you have a balance in your Individual Account; (3) you die prior to receiving a pension benefit; (4) you are married; and (5) you have not previously declined the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit.

If you are entitled to a Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, NEAP will purchase an annuity contract from an insurance company for your spouse. The annuity contract will pay your surviving spouse a monthly benefit for life. Monthly payments will start within a reasonable period of time after your death. The amount of the monthly benefit depends upon (1) the amount in your Individual Account; (2) your spouse's age (and, therefore, his/her life expectancy and prospective benefit payment period); and (3) the insurance company's price for annuity contracts.

## Elections/Consents

If you are under age 35, your spouse will automatically receive the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit upon your death (unless your spouse selects a lump sum payment instead of the annuity). You may not decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit unless you have permanently stopped working in Covered Employment.

However, beginning the year you reach age 35 and at any time thereafter, you may decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. Your spouse must consent in writing and the consent must be witnessed by a representative of NEAP or by a notary public. Consent given by a spouse is not effective as to a subsequent spouse.

You may revoke your election to decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit at any time. You may again decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit at any time by executing the appropriate form and obtaining your spouse's consent. Your spouse may also revoke his/her consent at any time. Contact the Plan Administrator's Office for the appropriate forms.

## Lump Sum

If you decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, your Individual Account balance will be paid to your designated surviving beneficiary in a lump sum. If your designated surviving beneficiary is not your spouse, your spouse must also consent to that as well, in order for it to be valid. If you have not designated a beneficiary (or your designated beneficiary is not living at the time of your death), the balance will be paid to the following persons, if living, in the following order of priority: (1) your spouse, (2) your children, (3) your parents, or (4) your estate. The total amount of money received as a lump sum may ultimately be different (either greater or lesser) than the total amount of money your spouse would have received under the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. This is because the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit is an annuity and depends on the time value of money and how long your spouse lives. Additional information is available from the Plan Administrator's Office. ■



## WHO WE ARE

# IBEW Members Discover Historic Shipwreck in Great Lakes

**W**hen Bernie Hellstrom picked up an obstruction on his boat's sonar, he knew something big was there, but he had no idea how historic it was — or that he would discover it with an IBEW brother.

"I was just thinking, 'Let's see what's here,'" Hellstrom said. "I had no idea at the time of the historical significance."

What Hellstrom found was the crash site of two Civil War-era ships previously thought to have sunk in another part of the Great Lakes.

Hellstrom, a Traverse City, Mich., Local 498 retired journeyman wireman, has long been a fan of the lakes. He even considered becoming a commercial diver as a young man.

"I was always in the water. I was diving before I was driving," said Hellstrom, who was born in the Detroit area but moved to the west side of the state as soon as he could to better enjoy the lakes. His current hometown, Boyne City, is in the northwest corner of Michigan's lower peninsula and gives him easy access to Lake Michigan.

**"I was just thinking, 'Let's see what's here.' I had no idea at the time of the historical significance."**

— Bernie Hellstrom, Traverse City, Mich., Local 498 retiree

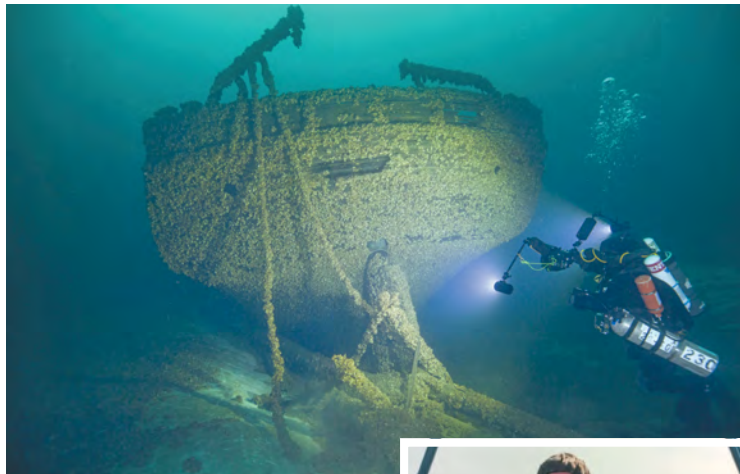
A longtime shipwreck and Great Lakes enthusiast, Hellstrom has been monitoring the waters of Lake Michigan for years. In 1995 he was in charge of operations on a dive to the Carl D. Bradley, a ship that sank in 1958 some 380 feet below the surface.

Part of that expedition was made possible by Hellstrom's homemade underwater camera, which Popular Science described as "ingenious."

As Hellstrom noted, back in the '90s there were very few underwater cameras available to people outside of universities or other specialized places. But with his IBEW training, he was able to make one from salvaged home security system parts and house it in a pressure-resistant watertight case.

"They were amazed at what could be done with low-cost equipment," Hellstrom said.

That camera, which can reach a depth of 1,000 feet, has served him well as he checks off potential Great Lakes



Traverse City, Mich., Local 498 retiree Bernie Hellstrom, pictured, right, in a submersible from a separate dive in 1995, and St. Paul, Minn., Local 110 member John Scoles were part of the team that discovered a Civil War-era shipwreck in Lake Michigan earlier this year.

shipwrecks from his bucket list.

The largest group of freshwater lakes in the world by total area, the Great Lakes have a history of marine transportation dating back to the 17th century, though traversing the waters has never been easy. Roughly 6,000 ships have sunk over the years, though one historian puts the figure as high as 25,000. Nearly 30,000 people have died in those shipwrecks, according to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum.

"Having the sea-like features such as rolling waves, strong currents and great depths, these water bodies, also known as inland seas, offer a difficult time for sailors when traversing through the region," wrote Marine Insight.

So it wasn't uncommon for the trading vessels the Peshtigo and the St. Andrews to collide when they did on a dark and hazy night on June 25, 1878. Built in 1863 and weighing 384 tons, the Peshtigo was considered a giant ship at the time, with three masts and a length of 161 feet. The St. Andrews, built in 1857, was almost as long at 143 feet long with a weight of 426 tons.

The St. Andrews was bound from Chicago to Buffalo, N.Y., with a cargo of corn, while the Peshtigo was bound from Erie, Pa., to Chicago with coal, which is now strewn along the bottom of the lake.

What wasn't as common though, was for the two schooners to sink 200 feet to the bottom of Lake Michigan and come to rest only about 10 feet apart.

"That's very close. That's like a needle in a haystack," said St. Paul, Minn., Local 110 member and diver John Scoles, whom Hellstrom called when he picked up the signal.

The IBEW brothers met through their shared interest in diving. Scoles,



Credit: John Janzen

who also shoots video, happened to have an IBEW sticker on a piece of his equipment that Hellstrom noticed.

"It's nice to meet a fellow electrician," Scoles said. "Bernie's a great guy. He's a comedian."

Hellstrom made the discovery in June while he was on his boat between Beaver Island and Fox Island, not far from his home near the northern part of Lake Michigan.

"It was an exciting find, not at all what I expected initially," Hellstrom told the Michigan Building Trades newspaper.

Until Hellstrom's discovery, the collision was thought to have occurred some 50 miles to the east, closer to the Straits of Mackinac. But with the help of Scoles and another diver, John Janzen, and their underwater photos and video, historian Brendon Baillod reexamined the site and concluded that the two Civil War-era ships did indeed sink where Hellstrom found them.

"If you think about it, cities like Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee would never have been able to develop without the water highway," said Cathy Green, executive director of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, to the Los Angeles Times. "When material remains of that history is found, it's a big deal to historians and archaeologists."

Shipwreck World noted that the sites are now considered important historical and archaeological resources and are protected by Michigan law from salvage or diver impact.

Hellstrom and Scoles say they are hoping to return to the area for more exploration in June of next year, weather permitting. ■



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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

#### 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](mailto:media@ibew.org)

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Sioux City, Iowa, Local 231 took over its town's beloved holiday parade and tree-lighting ceremony in 2011 after it lost its sponsor a year earlier.



Above: Downtown Cleveland's Winterfest is a sparkling feast for the eyes during the holidays thanks to Local 38 volunteers. Inset: Some of the 100 members and retirees who turned out on an October Saturday to prepare the 2019 display.



## IBEW Lights Up the Holidays

Massive strings of lights dancing from top to bottom of your town's towering Christmas tree, bright bulbs that bring Hanukkah displays to life, snowflakes that sparkle like jewels and illuminated sleighs pulled by reindeer silhouettes.

Across North America, magnificent holiday lights are a seasonal gift from IBEW volunteers to their communities.

From lighting giant evergreens to installing displays taking up city blocks to sponsoring electrical parade floats, IBEW locals go all in.

"The kids are like 40 deep," Jason Bowman, business manager for Sioux City, Iowa, Local 231, said, describing a joyous annual scene. "Santa Claus rides in the parade and then acts like he's plugging in the tree. He takes out his magic wand, while one of our electricians hiding behind the tree hits the switch."

When the popular parade was canceled for lack of a sponsor in 2010, Local 231 stepped up to revive it in 2011. As members walked alongside their float, tossing candy to eager children, "we heard a lot of people say 'Thank you for saving Christmas,'" Bowman said.

Scores of other communities awash with holiday shimmer are grateful to IBEW brothers and sisters, and the snapshots on this page represent just a fraction of their efforts. We'd love to see more locals' pictures for possible future use in the EW or online. Please send high-resolution photos and caption information to us at: [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org).



Above: Santa Barbara Local 413's tree-lighting volunteers include member Matt Russell, who — like his father before him — climbs to the top of the town's 110-foot pine to pull up 16 strings of lights each holiday season. The local has been lighting the tree since 1935.

Below: The Lions Festival of Lights in Calgary, Alberta, wouldn't be possible without Local 254 volunteers (pictured in Enmax Energy bucket trucks) who string some 500,000 lights each holiday season.



Every fall, Indianapolis Local 481 members and retirees inspect the wires and check each of nearly 5,000 bulbs that light up Monument Circle for the holidays, a display with colors to honor each branch of the armed services.

Below: In Madison, Wis., Olin Park's annual Holiday Fantasy in Lights, a drive-through display of animated light sculptures, wouldn't be possible without the labor and skilled tradecraft of Local 159 members and retirees.



Above and left: Portland, Ore., Local 48 volunteers install wiring for more than 1 million LED lights that electrify a holiday festival (inset) at the Grotto, a Catholic shrine and botanical garden.