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 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.

“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.

“You’re looking at a billion dollar 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.

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.

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.
Building the Grid of the Future

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 things 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 back-elevation 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 wind, solar and wind 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 $20 billion per year between 2029 and 2039. 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 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.

"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 or Letters to the Editor, The Electrical Worker, 500 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 Januk, 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 177 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.
History Hosts the Future at the 2019 RENEW Conference

Henry Miller Museum welcomes the IBEW’s young leaders

Kevin 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 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.

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.

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.

“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 transportation facilities and more. Nearly 90% of the traffic on the core systems will glide over the traffic snarls below, linking existing terminals to new rental car facilities, transportation facilities and more. Nearly 90% of the traffic on the core systems will glide over the traffic snarls below, linking existing terminals to new rental car facilities, transportation facilities and more. Nearly 90% of the traffic on the core systems will glide over the traffic snarls below, linking existing terminals to new rental car facilities, transportation facilities and more. Nearly 90% of the traffic on the core systems will glide over the traffic snarls below, linking existing terminals to new rental car facilities, transportation facilities and more. Nearly 90% of the traffic on the core systems will glide over the traffic snarls below, linking existing terminals to new rental car facilities, transportation facilities and more. Nearly 90% of the traffic on the core systems will glide over the traffic snarls below, linking existing terminals to new rental car facilities, transportation facilities and more.

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. 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 LAX 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. 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 LAX needed a car to see LA, planners made a then-astonishing 1,000 “drive-yourself” cars available daily.

The contractors are just completing the total cost for both ITFs is below $1 billion.

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)

“On the day you leave LAX, you’re going to be so impressed by the people mover,” Roten said.

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

Blakie retourne au Parlement, une bonne nouvelle pour les travailleurs

W ooking 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 Democrat 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 our IBEW brothers and sisters.”

“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 capitalize 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.”

Blakie is a proud union member who has always supported his IBEW brothers and sisters.”

— First District Vice President Thomas Reid

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

C’est à ce comité que le membre Daniel Blaikie du local 2085, situé à Winnipeg, a été élu 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.

“Cela s’est bien passé, soit dit en passant, il n’a pas fallu de malentendus, c’est un homme bon, il a une manière de parler très sensible. Il est électricien et titulaire de plusieurs diplômes universitaires. Pendant ses années parlementaires, il a fait exprimer 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 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 Ste phenson. “Il a démontré que c’était possible de défendre les intérêts des familles de travailleurs et travailleuses tout en affron tant les menaces importantes pour assurer le bien-être des électeurs. Tous les confères et les consœurs de Blaikie et les autres syndicats, qui demandaient aux membres de voter pour le meilleur candidat, ont tous été 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 confères et ses consœurs de la FIOE.”

“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 problèmes 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 syndicats canadiens pensent 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.”
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 are envisioning 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 workers, 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 employing 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.

“But 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 2016. Soon after, company officials launched a “One Gopher” campaign to the workforce, emphasizing company pride and reductions 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 migrant 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 were made based on whether an individual supervisor felt a particular employee was ready.

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.’”

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.

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 fair consideration.”

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.

Some railroads, though, have yet to adopt the PSR business rather than adopting an efficiency scheme, embraced by some other large U.S. railroads, that risks worker and public safety.
Ohio Member Turns Flying 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.

“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 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 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 winder 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.

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 journeymen 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 his 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.

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 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 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.
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 63, died Oct. 8. He was 97.

Bexley’s influence is still felt today, from the pension and health funds he established for his members — and pushed to improve at the international level — to fighting for workers’ compensation benefits in Georgia, a masterfully horse-trading to buy the land that became Local 63’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 Platt, who also served as Local 63’s business manager and on the IEC. “He was a very kind gentleman, very soft spoken with lots of wisdom,” Platt 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 battle 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.”

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 was survived by his wife of 71 years, Margaret; 13 grandchildren and a great grandson. He was predeceased by his son, Jeff, who was serving as an international representative at the agency.

DECEASED

Harry Bexley

Inside the IBEW, Bexley was a protégé of the legendary New York City Local 3 Business Manager Harry Van Arsdale. He teamed with him to improve the union’s negotiating strategies, largely by persuading contractors to contribute more. “That was quite a chore to do,” he said. “I enjoyed going all over the country, trying to sell it. And I did.”

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

Two of Bexley’s proudest achievements, he said, were the Georgia State Inter-view, were being admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court and his role in the evolution of Local 63’s apprentice training.

“Talaways 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 63’s daughter, Sandra, who is married to Platt; sons Stan and Ken; four grandchildren and a great grandson.

On behalf of officers, members and staff, the IBEW honored 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 Administerative Asistant to the International President Anthony Salamone. Salamone was born June 23, 1936 in Norristown, Pa. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, he was initiated into Philadelphia Local 148 in 1952 when he went to work at one of RCA’s factories.

According to talks, 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 beginning 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. 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 IBEW’s Joint 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 “deregelation” 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 the manufacturing industry facing uncertain future.

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

“Salamone’s desire to protect workers from the predations of unrestricted corporations is still not reflected in our nation’s laws,” said Craig.

In 1960, 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 1975, 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 and was appointed to thethen-International President’s business department.

Upon his retirement, the NEF board lauded Salamone’s stewardship of the NEFB, 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 its as much as possible, and make it more attractive,” said NEFB 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 Den- nis, his four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

RETIRED

John “Keith” Craig

After nearly four decades of work with the IBEW and the Tennes-see Valley Authority, one of the union’s longest-serving employees, Keith Craig retired effective Aug. 1.

“It 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 749. After successful completion 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, negotiations and organizing committees and was elected as an international representative at the agency.

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

Craig personally conducted training sessions on the Code for the agency’s union-represented workers.

“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 created bursts of laughter.

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.”

Craig 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 Cesna 182 a few years ago, which he keeps at a small airfield in Vermont near his home in Georgia. 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, Nancy, and their two chil-dren, Jayson and Brittany.

The officers, staff and members of the IBEW wish Brother Craig a long and happy retirement.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pelham, C. D.</td>
<td>9/2/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heidemann, C. H.</td>
<td>9/14/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weiler, J. P.</td>
<td>8/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, J. M.</td>
<td>9/2/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bamberger, R. L.</td>
<td>8/31/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beck, L.</td>
<td>7/2/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawford, R. W.</td>
<td>7/22/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis, R. W.</td>
<td>9/15/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declercq, J.</td>
<td>9/14/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deng, W. J.</td>
<td>8/15/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devine, P. J.</td>
<td>8/20/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermann, R. F.</td>
<td>11/20/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard, J. J.</td>
<td>8/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson, T.</td>
<td>7/4/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katchayski, M.</td>
<td>5/27/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemins, A. B.</td>
<td>9/13/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klemm, J. H.</td>
<td>7/29/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaFleur, K. F.</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liotta, J. M.</td>
<td>7/23/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machulies, K.</td>
<td>4/29/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mannarino, A.</td>
<td>8/17/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marasia, V. V.</td>
<td>8/6/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panza, L. C.</td>
<td>5/12/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pena, A.</td>
<td>9/5/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigogliosi, A. R.</td>
<td>9/9/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scantlon, S. J.</td>
<td>8/8/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wecker, L.</td>
<td>9/14/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mchynfre, J. F.</td>
<td>7/31/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okla, J. R.</td>
<td>8/3/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroman, C. L.</td>
<td>3/10/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barthel, E. A.</td>
<td>6/8/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beck, J. A.</td>
<td>8/27/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holfreiter, R. C.</td>
<td>8/17/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whelan, R. J.</td>
<td>9/14/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galagher, M. G.</td>
<td>8/4/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kostash, K. D.</td>
<td>9/9/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboda, J. E.</td>
<td>8/23/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burrows, C. D.</td>
<td>6/2/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routh, J. M.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildridge, E.</td>
<td>8/19/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert, J. C.</td>
<td>4/30/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sattloff, G. R.</td>
<td>9/11/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archer, J. B.</td>
<td>8/8/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, B. G.</td>
<td>8/19/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cahay, C. D.</td>
<td>6/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hernandez, L. D.</td>
<td>8/14/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller, L.</td>
<td>8/29/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koch, S. L.</td>
<td>9/9/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretyman, J. R.</td>
<td>9/19/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarkin, W. J.</td>
<td>7/18/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan, D. M.</td>
<td>4/29/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryson, S. Z.</td>
<td>7/17/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desmond, B. L.</td>
<td>7/9/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mills, K. E.</td>
<td>8/31/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, W. F.</td>
<td>7/24/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wungchatharobet, B.</td>
<td>8/13/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffman, G. W.</td>
<td>8/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duniak, L. R.</td>
<td>9/14/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelissier, J. C.</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhang, Z. S.</td>
<td>8/20/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patton, J. J.</td>
<td>7/30/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spendrau, J. E.</td>
<td>8/16/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pegg, J. A.</td>
<td>9/12/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kegler, D. J.</td>
<td>9/17/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluehr, C. R.</td>
<td>8/31/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxwell, W. B.</td>
<td>7/28/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanning, R. M.</td>
<td>6/24/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox, L. E.</td>
<td>7/11/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalisi, M. A.</td>
<td>4/16/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dydomd, E. D.</td>
<td>9/14/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derbig, C. S.</td>
<td>9/6/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooten, A. R.</td>
<td>9/2/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shufelt, W.</td>
<td>8/23/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaczmarczyk, W. G.</td>
<td>8/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaczmarczyk, J. L.</td>
<td>8/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaczmarczyk, M. R.</td>
<td>8/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Neill, T. E.</td>
<td>7/22/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Shea, K. T.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrie, F. E.</td>
<td>8/18/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pfeiffer, D. C.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jager, D. C.</td>
<td>12/24/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, R. J.</td>
<td>8/9/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor, G. S.</td>
<td>8/8/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheeler, L. D.</td>
<td>9/19/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schenck, R. E.</td>
<td>2/24/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parker, R. A.</td>
<td>7/30/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiday, R. R.</td>
<td>12/18/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winters, M. D.</td>
<td>9/7/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rea, T. A.</td>
<td>8/27/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceuvort, D. P.</td>
<td>9/5/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodriguez, S. R.</td>
<td>8/8/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schese, W. J.</td>
<td>8/4/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danaha, T. W.</td>
<td>8/11/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strange, C. M.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watson, W. J.</td>
<td>7/18/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor, K. W.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall, H. R.</td>
<td>9/7/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shafer, K. P.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caruso, R. L.</td>
<td>9/9/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galuimite, C. M.</td>
<td>8/3/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebe, J. M.</td>
<td>2/8/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nisler, C. E.</td>
<td>7/16/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright, N. L.</td>
<td>12/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosterl, H. L.</td>
<td>7/5/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison, R. J.</td>
<td>8/7/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remm, J. W.</td>
<td>8/11/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connelly, T. J.</td>
<td>8/12/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gehrtz, J. L.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell, L. M.</td>
<td>8/25/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunns, W. H.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kraus, R. G.</td>
<td>8/12/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowland, J. N.</td>
<td>11/22/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bialak, M. J.</td>
<td>8/12/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erickson, F. E.</td>
<td>7/8/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGinnis, D. G.</td>
<td>3/15/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vick, A. T.</td>
<td>9/17/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkinson, E. R.</td>
<td>4/16/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilmour, G. J.</td>
<td>7/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boggess, J. A.</td>
<td>8/10/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faccio, W. E.</td>
<td>8/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roser, R. Y.</td>
<td>9/4/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott, D. C.</td>
<td>12/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryant, J. P.</td>
<td>7/25/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaghan, S. R.</td>
<td>8/17/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ito, K. J.</td>
<td>12/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zador, D. M.</td>
<td>8/28/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cremens, C. R.</td>
<td>8/23/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franzén, A. G.</td>
<td>8/10/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan, J. W.</td>
<td>9/6/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott, D. C.</td>
<td>8/12/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swain, C. G.</td>
<td>7/25/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zepeda, J. L.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zepeda, J. L.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zepeda, J. L.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zepeda, J. L.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zepeda, J. L.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zepeda, J. L.</td>
<td>8/21/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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.

**Labor Day Celebration; December Anniversary Gala**

L.U. 16 (l), EVANSVILLE, IN — The 133rd Labor Day Celebration; Stephenson.

**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 alone or lien. 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 12, 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.

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 $2,000 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.

**Holiday Festivities; Motorcycle Club Fundraiser**

L.U. 26 (es,em,es,govt,j&km), 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 Wieczorek, 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. McCuffey, Donald C. Hemmer Jr. and Bruce T. Taghina Sr.

Several members passed away since our last article:

Several members passed away since our last article:

Several members passed away since our last article:

**Annual Scroll Party**

L.U. 38 (g), 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 — Orleans “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./P.S.

**That’s a Wrap!** — 2019

L.U. 40 (em,j&km), 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.

**Trade Classifications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alarm &amp; Signal</td>
<td>(ae)</td>
<td>Electronic Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atomic Research Service</td>
<td>(ar)</td>
<td>Nuclear Service Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Operators</td>
<td>(bo)</td>
<td>Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable Splicers</td>
<td>(cb)</td>
<td>Inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable Television</td>
<td>(cable)</td>
<td>Instrument Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>Line Clearance Tree Trimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranemen</td>
<td>(cr)</td>
<td>Lightning Protection Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Equipment Service</td>
<td>(ees)</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Inspection</td>
<td>(ei)</td>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Manufacturing</td>
<td>(eme)</td>
<td>Manufacturing Office Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Signs</td>
<td>(es)</td>
<td>Marine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>(et)</td>
<td>Radio-Television Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>(es)</td>
<td>Service Occupations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>(es)</td>
<td>Shopmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Inspection</td>
<td>(ei)</td>
<td>Sign Erector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Manufacturing</td>
<td>(eme)</td>
<td>Sound &amp; Public Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td>(ee)</td>
<td>Sound Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td>(es)</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td>(es)</td>
<td>Transportation Manufacturing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td>(es)</td>
<td>Utility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td>(es)</td>
<td>Utility Office Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Signs</td>
<td>(es)</td>
<td>Warehouse and Supply</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**Submitting Local Lines Articles**

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

*Holiday Festivities; Motorcycle Club Fundraiser*
Organizing Blitz a Success; Activities & Upcoming Events

L.U. 46 (as,cc,es,eset,lm,mar,mn,rt,bts&6l), SEATTLE, WA — Happy holidays from the officers and staff of Local 46! Please join us for our annual Retiree’s Luncheon. For information, please contact the union hall.

IEBW Local 46 congratulates our 2019 apprenticeship program graduates! A total of 58 apprentices completed one of our three programs. This year we had 44 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 OZK Electric Inc., headquartered in Concord, Ontario, Canada, acquired SME and signed with Local 46. Please welcome SME’s 47 new IBEW Local 46 members!

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

Annual Picnic a Success

L.U. 68 (l), DENVER, CO — Greetings, brothers and sisters are being represented. That the priorities and interests of labor and the workforce are being heard.

We are in the middle of several municipal organizing efforts. Please be sure to arrive by noon on Dec. 14. Bring the family and the kids and join us.

We helped out. You helped to make it a success.

Horseshoe tournament this year (again)! The weather was perfect. Over 750 members and their families in attendance. Congratulations to Local 46 members!

The political season never seems to slow down when you have candidates. It’s a delight to see some of our brothers and sisters who we haven’t seen in a while show up to the meeting to hear the speakers. It is wonderful to reflect on the words 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.

Season’s Greetings

L.U. 90 (l), 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 Spanziale, Irwin Stockman, William Tsoukalas, Kevin Walsh, Robert Waytowich, 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 Petrollo and Eddy Vertuna. 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 your kind thoughts and prayers for our brother!

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

John Bellemare, Pres./B.A.

Five-Year Contract Ratified

L.U. 108 (es,es,es,es,tct,mar,mn,rt,bts,spa&l), 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 promised 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 energy 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 (l), NEW ORLEANS, LA — Local 130 takes organizing seriously. The New Orleans Building Trades and Local 130 are working together hand in hand to organize new 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” Corcoran and Political Dir./Organizer Rodney Walden 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 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 https://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 “Ticker” 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 “Louisiana, an IBEW Friend in the Governor’s Mansion,” posted Oct. 21, 2019, on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles.*)

Bill Buckel, P.S.

Proud to Help Our Veterans

L.U. 102 (em,gov,lt,l&o), PATerson, NJ — A chance encounter between Project Help’s Exec. Dir. Sandy Mitchell and IBEW Local 102 Treas. Dave Flore led to the decision for our local to support the veterans charity through our annual IBEW Bike Run and CruiseIn.

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 $3,572. Project Help is a grassroots, all-volunteer charity and every dollar directly aids New Jersey veterans and their families. Sandy Mitchell was neatly 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.


Proud to Help Our Veterans

L.U. 102 (em,gov,lt,l&o), PATerson, NJ — A chance encounter between Project Help’s Exec. Dir. Sandy Mitchell and IBEW Local 102 Treas. Dave Flore led to the decision for our local to support the veterans charity through our annual IBEW Bike Run and CruiseIn.

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 $3,572. Project Help is a grassroots, all-volunteer charity and every dollar directly aids New Jersey veterans and their families. Sandy Mitchell was neatly 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.


Bike Run and Cruise In

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.

Proud to Help Our Veterans

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

Morgan J. Buchanan, Pres.
‘Happy Holidays’

L.U. 150 (es,lt,its&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL — It’s drawing to a close. We enjoyed our local picnic with lots of time for you 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 Breitling, Richard Klemp Sr., Bud Otteman, Domenic Rivi, Ray Shebesta, Scott Stickle, and Ken Taylor. I worked with almost 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.

100th Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 158 (es,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI — Local 158 celebrated its 100th anniversary at its yearly banquet on April 27. The party was held in the Ahtrim 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) Six District Int. Vice President David J. Ruhmkorff also gave a nice speech. The members greatly appreciated that these two men 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, the day 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 Bloomgland finished up the speeches with her best wishes.

‘Local 288 Reporting’

L.U. 288 (c,ets,es,lm,mr,mt,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.

Steve L. Tilford, R.S.
The Electrical Worker | December 2019

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 15th 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.

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!

Annual ‘Old Timers’ Dinner; Welcome to New Apprentices

L.U. 302, (lfts&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 whom are: Jonathan Belden, Alyssa Blakeman, Brandon Boja, Christopher Broadnax, Jessica Bryant, Pho Chanthanasak, Henry Cruz, Joseph Cruz, Mikayla Ducey, Daniel Echeverria, Shane Giracca, Joseph Jensen, Thurston Johnson, Justin Kenean, Miles Mangoba, Jareed Martineau, Dylan McColl, Andrew Mendoza, Mitchell Mikkelson, Caitlin Rich, Mauricio Sanchez, Dominic Sparacino, Jason Sullivan and Jonathan Tejeda. May you all look forward to receiving your 70-year pins someday.

Melissa Vaught, P.S.

‘Banner Years for Local 340’

L.U. 340, (lfts&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 unflagging devotion to the task of organizing and turning plans into action. His legacy is what the IBEW is 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.

Plant Manager, Union Progressive Macmillan

Office of the Local President


Labor Day & Union Pride — ‘Organization of the Year’

L.U. 388 (em,es,es,es), STEPHENS POINT, WI — As of this writing the Rockford Casino evaluation 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 project moving forward at a brisk pace. The homes aren’t given away, but Habitat for Humanity selectees 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 388 has been helping with the event for over four years.

John T. Zapfel, Political Dir.

Habitat for Humanity Project

L.U. 494 (em, Govt, Es, Mt, Rt, Spa), 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.

Rick Millem, R.P.S.

Season’s Greetings

L.U. 540 (l, 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!

Work Picture on Upswing; Sportsmen’s Alliance Dinner

L.U. 558 (cu, es, em, es, Mt, Rt, Spa & Tk), 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 Tuscaloosa, AL, on Sept. 26 this year. We had so many members to attend and partici-...
The late Doug Parsons of Local 586.

Tribute to a Life of Service

L.U. 586 (em,ub,oa), OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA — In light of the passing of Bro. Doug Parsons, we at Local 586 want to acknowledge his lifelong 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 long-serv- ing member and served as assistant business manager/dispatcher, president, and business manager of Local 586. He will be deeply missed.

Mac Sloan, Pres./Mbr. Dev.

Acts of Brotherhood

L.U. 666 (lm,tt,os), RICHMOND, VA — The jurisdic- tion’s work outlook continues to be strong with sever- al large data centers under planning or construction. We extend a special thank you to all of the traveling 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 families who have given the ultimate sacrifice, and we owe a debt of gratitude. We acknowledge his life-learning, and we are proud to see the dedication of so many members who have supported us.

Season’s greetings, brothers and sisters. I hope everyone is having a happy holiday season, and we hope you wish us 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 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 Seben, B.M./F.S.

Holiday Festivities

L.U. 716 (em,lt,rt,ts&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 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 Seben, B.M./F.S.

2019 Service Pin Ceremony

L.U. 760 (l,rt,tt,os,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN — Con- gratulations 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 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 (l,rt,ts&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 Bowen’s 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 put- ting 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.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 2116 (em,lt,ts&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 peri- od and wear its employees down, along with fighting us on adding new employees to the represented group. Please continue to support these new mem- bers in their efforts; they are not out of the woods yet.

Zaido Mendez, A.B.M.
Appeal & 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 organiser. 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 building up our membership to a size of 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 added 10 more first-year class in years, with 100 new recruits in September’s group.

By the time this article appears, the election of Virginia’s 100 delegates and 40 state senators will have been completed, 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 (en,ctl,otk), 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.

RETIRED

Labor Day Camaraderie
RETIRES 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
RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 1, 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 linemen’s pillows 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.

Great Summer & Fall Trips
RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 1, NEW YORK, NY, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — Greetings to all Club members! We 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. Vivas 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 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 Terraza 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.

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

Photo courtesy Abe Ficklenbaum.

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.

Long Island Education Center
RETIRES 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.

Happy holidays and happy new year.

Nancy Savarase, R.S.
Tuesday night we had a wonderful catered dinner. Thanks to John Snoeck and his committee. Wednesday night we had our famous desert party. Thanks to Phil Moraci and his committee.

In his closing remarks, Chmn. Rich Duva spoke about our end of summer barbecue. The barbeque was a great success, thanks to James Jost and this hard-working committee. John Snoeck spoke about our December Holiday Party and said he was taking reservations. Harvey Goldman spoke about our Annual Food Drive.

Harry Goldman, P.S.

Annual Fishing Trip
RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/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 Louis Delgaulas.

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, Texas.

Travels & Annual Events
RETIREES 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 us for our meetings, travels and annual events (crab feast, cruise and raffle drawings). If you’re visiting in the area on the second Saturday of the month, call the local for details and join us.

Our annual Retirees 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 240-972-0436.

Our bus trips will 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.

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.

Henry Miller Museum Tour
RETIREES 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 53 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 Bosow, Richard Vot, Ron Schock, Larry Witherspoon, Keith Querry, Duane Pearce, Bob Stuart, Charlie Johnson, Drexer Drexup, Kenny Sikes, Terry Younghands, Jerry Senter, L.C. Bradley, Dave Adkins and Larry Curby. (See photo above.) I 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 retirees: Bill Harber, Robert Long and Grover Hale. Rest in peace, brothers.

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

Duane Pearce, P.S.

Retirees’ Community Service
RETIREES 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 ($35), centerpieces, raffles, and our 50/50. This is a great opportunity to see old friends and make 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’s farms in Fenton, has allowed the farm to continue to supply food for the members 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
RETIREES 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 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 in 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
RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 90, NEW HAVEN, CT — On Oct.11, 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 Ricciotelli, Joseph Spanziante, Erwin Stockmann, William Toukalas, Kevin Walsh and Robert Woytowich. Congratulations to all — we thank you for your service to the IBWE and we invite you to join our Retirees Club.

Our club held its annual holiday luncheon on Dec. 1, 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 IBWE members and their families a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy and safe new year.

Richard Lauder, P.S.
Fall Season Highlights; ‘Neighbour-2-Neighbour’ 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 Neighbour-2-Neighbour 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 Oktoberfest. From Nov. 12–15 we enjoyed a stay at the Cimarron, 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.

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 RiverPark 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; 55-year members — Joe Gallatin, Edward Ochs, Russel Vinup; and 50-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 FenBank 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 Windholz (40-year members); William Seay (46-year member); William Pritchett (45-year member); Raymond Kraus (39-year member); and Michael Sansone (five-year member). Rest in peace, brothers.

Bob Schofer, P.S.

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 Theatre in Oak Brook, IL. In February, we attended the Annual Hockey Game 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 1342 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 Cummings 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. It is hoped everyone has a great time. Happy holidays to all!

Sue Kleczka, P.S.

‘A Busy Year’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3122, 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. BE&W service pin award recipients included: 50-year members — James Dale, James Hutton, Gerald Kleinwachtler, Robert Lewis, Terry Mason, Kenneth Mueller, Wayne Myers, Wayne Whalen; 55-year members — Robert Carlin, Dennis Cohen, Michael Denning, Edward Ochs, Russel Vinup, and 60-year member — Walter Zimmer. Congratulations to all!

Our club officers are: Bob Campbell, Joe Alisandrini, Rich Trasferini, Dick Riffert, Lynda Mead, Harold Mead, P.S.

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

Dorothy Melloway, P.S.

Camaraderie at Meetings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3127, 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 315 Retirees Club congratulates its recently elected officers. The officers were sworn in by local union Bus. Agent Andy Helseth, who presided.

Newly Elected Officers

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 315, FOXFORD, MI — Our newly elected club officers were installed by our brother Local 350 bus. Andy Helseth 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 Rifft, 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 fry to our Christmas celebrations. Nancy’s 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 outings 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 Catarfard 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 7:30 p.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 will be held at Brent 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 Bno. 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.

Local 257 retirees assemble for the 2019 Labor Day Parade in Jefferson City, Mo.
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 congratulated 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 T. Dalken.

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. Parese (29-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.

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 delivering it to the Plan Administrator’s Office.

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, in 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.

2018 Summary Annual Report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan, 85-2-653372, 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 $38,564,474. These expenses included $77,858,936 in administrative expenses and $266,452,476 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 117,026 persons were participants or in 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 $9,861,658,286 as of December 31, 2018, compared to $7,678,464,393 as of January 1, 2018. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of $283,195,243. 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 $49,893,667, including employer contributions of $930,937,756, gains of ($6,971,793) from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of ($168,938,322), and other income of $41,794,936.

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:

- 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 20850-3146, (301) 535-2000. 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 20850-3146, 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-5313, Washington, D.C. 20210.

Minimum funding standards were not met during the year.

Minimum liabilities were not met at the beginning of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

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

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

YouTube
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.

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.

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 HourPower.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.
I BEW Members Discover Historic Shipwreck in Great Lakes

When Bernie Hellstrom picked up an obstruction on his boat's sounder, 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 retiree 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. Bradly, 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 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 Insights.

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 316 tons, the Peshtigo was considered a giant ship at the time, with three masts and a length of 166 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 40 feet apart.

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

The IBEW brothers met through their shared interest in diving. Scales, 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," Scales 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 Daily. Until Hellstrom’s discovery, the collision was thought to have occurred some 20 miles to the east, closer to the Straits of Mackinac. But with the help of Scales and another diver, John Janzen, and their underwater photos and video, historian Brent Ballard 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 Scales say they are hoping to return to the area for more exploration in June of next year, weather permitting.
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.

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.

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.

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.