



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



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

## IBEW Lights Up the Holidays

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

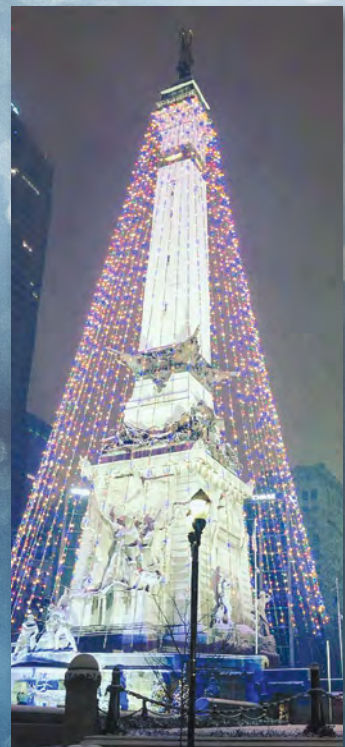
Across North America, magnificent holiday lights are a seasonal gift from IBEW volunteers to their communities.

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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