Aftter two weeks in the dusty, southwest corner of Angola helping to electrify a remote maternity hospital, Alex Alcantara was full of emotion as his “unbelievable trip” came to an end.

“I missed my family to death, but I miss those people I had the honor of serving in Angola as well,” the New York Local 3 journeyman wireman said on social media, where he’d been posting videos every couple of days.

“I can’t get that out of my head and my heart,” he wrote, all caps. “I have way too much. Material things don’t matter any longer. Humanity, friendship, love, health… that’s my goal for a better world for all.”

Alcantara, who goes by “Archie,” traveled to Angola with fellow Local 3 journeyman Lou Alvarez last summer to work with Italian electricians on a solar array to power Chiulo Hospital, the only medical facility of its kind for hundreds of kilometers.

“We have a skill set that many people don’t have. We can give somebody a resource that they can’t afford,” Alvarez said. “To me, that’s fulfillment. It’s not just about earning a living. It’s about what we can give back.”

That spirit imbues Electrical Workers Without Borders North America, an IBEW-supported nonprofit that sponsored the journey to sub-Saharan Africa.

The organization is one of the legacies of the late, visionary International President Edwin D. Hill, who lived and breathed the words of the union’s century-old declaration, “Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, human security.”

A devout Catholic and proud trade unionist, Hill dreamed of EWWBNA as a way to serve those principles, said Don Siegel, the group’s president and Hill’s decades-long friend.

“He saw this as a way to fulfill both missions,” said Siegel, who retired as Third District international vice president in 2017. “He knew that when he retired he would need something to do. He had so many plans. Ed envisioned this becoming a worldwide organization — tied to the IBEW, but with an arm’s-length relationship — that would spread the message of the IBEW and build our reputation throughout the world.”

A trip sponsored by Electrical Workers Without Borders North America sent New York City Local 3 members to Angola last summer to work with Italian electricians on a solar array to power a rural hospital.
Solidarity Amid Crisis

The foundation of a strong union is solidarity — the ability of our union sisters and brothers to stand together as one to overcome all the challenges in our way. And the true test of solidarity doesn’t come when times are good. The real test occurs when times are tough, and times don’t come any tougher than they are right now.

The rise of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, has led to an unprecedented health crisis facing the entire planet, risking millions of lives and putting us all at risk.

As we write this column in early April, we have no idea how long or how devastating the effects of the coronavirus will be on North America. Our prayers are that they will be limited.

But even now, it’s clear that COVID-19 is wreaking havoc, not just with people’s lives and health, but with the economy as well. This virus has already ended the longest bull market in history, sending stocks plummeting and leading to a massive surge in layoffs as businesses shut down in keeping with government orders.

Like nearly every other crisis, from natural disasters to economic crashes, working people have been on the front lines. Whether it’s medical personnel treating a tidal wave of patients in need, service workers who lost jobs and paychecks with little or no warning or government employees rushing to tackle further spread of the virus, working people are taking the risks and feeling the pain of the coronavirus epidemic.

In the IBEW, our members are running the plants and repairing the lines that keep power flowing. We’re building and maintaining hospitals and critical infrastructure. Our members are hard at work on manufacturing lines and maintaining the phone and internet systems to keep people connected to work and family. We’re broadcasting important information about this pandemic to our neighbors and communities and maintaining the rail infrastructure that moves critical goods and resources to the places that need them. Working people are the heroes of this crisis.

Thank you to each of you for everything you’ve done to help our two nations navigate this crisis.

Some of you have no choice but to keep working despite the risks to you and your families. Some of you have had to stay at home, following the government guidelines. And we know that some of you are dealing with the real pain of unemployment.

Economically, this is the biggest challenge we’ve faced since the 2008 recession, and we still don’t know how severe the damage will be or how long it will last.

But the IBEW has faced similar crises in the past and pulled through. As a union we are more prepared than ever before to make it through this new crisis.

Thanks to our strong Membership Development program, we have the growing numbers to ensure that we’ll remain strong even in a weak economy. And because of that growth, plus wise and prudent investments on our part, our benefits programs are stronger than ever and will be there to help members in need.

Our commitment to the Code of Excellence and strong labor-management partnerships mean that we’re working productively with our employers to navigate these troubled times. Since the very beginning of this pandemic, we have worked with many of our employers to ensure that IBEW members don’t bear the brunt of this economic crisis, and there are a number of companies that have involved us in big decisions in the last month.

Our priority, of course, is the safety of you and your families. That’s why we signed an emergency agreement with the National Electrical Contractors Association to help all our construction members work safely and avoid unnecessary risks.

IBEW locals across the U.S. and Canada canceled in-person meetings and gave members the option of paying dues and resolving other union business online or over the phone.

And we continue to encourage every member to follow CDC and Canadian government guidelines when it comes to social distancing and workplace safety.

A social and economic crisis of this magnitude requires a strong response by elected officials at all levels of government, and the IBEW has been instrumental in lobbying for legislation that prioritizes the needs of working people and small businesses, demanding more paid sick leave, easier access to unemployment benefits and direct financial assistance to those most in need. We’re still pushing for more assistance in both the U.S. and Canada.

Like everything we do in the IBEW, it’s you, our members, that make it possible. Only by sticking together and standing by every single one of our brothers and sisters can we as a union continue to move forward.

These are uncertain times. But there is one thing we can be certain of. And that’s the power of IBEW solidarity. So, please, brothers and sisters, take care of yourselves, take care of your families, and take care of each other.

We will get through this. And in the end, we can feel confident that by staying true to our values as union members, the IBEW will come out even stronger than before.

A NOTE from The Electrical Worker:

Because of the rapidly changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the IBEW and you, our members, the Electrical Worker is unable to provide the most up-to-date information about the crisis. Much of this issue was produced before we knew the full extent of the virus’s impact on our jobs and our members.

For the most current information on how the IBEW is responding to COVID-19 and working on behalf of members and their communities, please visit ibew.org/COVID-19.

The page, as well as our Facebook and Twitter accounts, will be updated regularly over the coming weeks and months to keep you best informed.

Send us your stories of everyday IBEW heroes during the COVID-19 crisis at media@ibew.org.

“Letters” will return in next month’s issue.

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

My IBEW Story

Pauline Lutton, First-Year Apprentice Wireman
South Bend, Ind., Local 153

“Transitioning from retail to the IBEW was like going from night to day. Instead of being stuck at a job that had little in the way of advancement, I started learning how to do the things that I really enjoy. My trade classes in high school and college had planted these seeds that are now sprouting as I continue my apprenticeship. And having teachers encourage me to apply for an IBEW apprenticeship was extremely important when I was first looking to learn the trade.

Being in the IBEW has helped me become more involved with other women in the trade as well. Since I joined, I’ve helped start our local’s new women’s committee and we’re currently working towards getting our charter. We’re also working on a mentoring program to help our sisters find new ways to approach on-the-job tasks that make more sense for different body types.”

Share your story at ibew.org/MyIBEWStory
Unions Fight Back; Trump Backs Down from Plan to Gut Apprenticeships

**IBEW Members Make the Difference on IRAPs**

A**fter a coordinated response from hundreds of thousands of union construction trades workers, the Trump administration backed off its plan to undermine the century-old construction apprenticeship system March 10.

Key to saving the successful union-run apprenticeship system was an unprecedented response from more than 325,000 union construction workers, including 65,000 IBEW members, who submitted their stories to the Labor Department, which was considering changes to expand its Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs to the construction industry.

The idea behind IRAPs was to expand apprenticeships to traditionally white-collar industries that don’t have a history of using them like business management, banking, software technology or paralegal work. IRAPs can be a good way to get workers into those jobs without forcing them to take expensive private certification or loan programs.

“The Trump Administration wanted to pick one side, and it wasn’t ours.”
— International President Lonnie R. Stephenson

But the Trump Administration wanted to go much further, imposing IRAPs on construction, too.

“We support IRAPs in principle; we have hundreds of thousands of members who topped out of them, mainly in utilities,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. “But applying it to construction would have been catastrophic.”

Stephenson said that not only is the construction apprenticeship system approaching 100 years old, there are life- and death-safety issues.

“There are simply fewer dangers when you are working in an office, not building one,” he said. “Mistakes on job sites can not only get you maimed or killed; they can kill others. And when you start talking about the work our members do with electricity, there are many lives at stake.”

Early in his presidency, Trump issued an executive order authorizing the Labor Department to change the apprenticeship system in the U.S.

“It was a shot across the bow,” said Political and Legislative Department Director Austin Keyser. “We didn’t know if they were going to get around to aiming directly at us, but we knew they were too close.”

The registered apprenticeship program in the building trades was created back in 1937 with the passage of the Fitzgerald Act, but it traces its history to state-run apprenticeship programs at the turn of the 20th century.

It is a partnership of equals, where labor and management decide together not only how many apprentices to train, they decide on wages for their jurisdiction and what skills the future workforce will need to meet the need of future construction customers. Apprentices pay only the cost of books and earn benefits and pay far exceeding minimum wage.

Historically, there has been tension between what management and labor wanted, but if either of them pushed too far, they would start losing jobs to non-union contractors.

“It’s a balanced, three-part free market between labor and management on the one hand, and always subject to the needs of customers,” Keyser said. “Over the course of 100 years the marketplace has forced everyone to compromise and find solutions that work.”

All of that would disappear if IRAPs spread to the trades, Keyser said.

Management would be given sole discretion to determine everything: numbers, wages, curriculum and how much—or how little—an apprentice would need to know to become a journeyman. Government oversight, according to the plan, would be replaced with “self-monitoring,” a euphemism for no oversight at all.

Nonunion contractors could pay minimum wage, charge for tools and books and, on federal projects, they wouldn’t be bound by Davis-Bacon wage progression rules or journeyman-apprentice ratio requirements.

“Government played next to no role in the apprenticeship marketplace for 100 years and now the Trump Administration wanted to pick one side, and it wasn’t ours,” Stephenson said.

Despite two years of meetings with the administration after the executive order, when the proposed rule was finally issued in June 2019, none of labor’s basic concerns were addressed.

For example, the proposal gave standards recognition entities — not government agencies — the power to create new apprenticeship programs and approve or reject applicants. But there was next to nothing in the draft plan about oversight since the SREs, whether they could have conflicts of interest, what kind of information they would have to reveal about success rates or even what duty they owed to keep apprentices safe and healthy.

The Labor Department didn’t even say how this information must be provided to the public.

And, most importantly, while the rule said the Labor Department would not “initially” accept industry-led apprenticeships for the construction sector, it did not rule out doing so later.

Worse, the 60-day comment period ran through summer vacation season and a personnel shake-up was underway in the administration.

While the proposed bill was bad and vague about IRAPs in construction, labor negotiators had come to understand—then-Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta and other officials were opposed to the imposition.

But by the summer of 2019, Acosta’s position was frustrating administration officials in the White House, according to published accounts, most importantly then-acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. Mulvaney began stripping power away from Acosta. In July, the axe dropped, and Acosta was ousted.

“Acosta was no great friend of labor and few tears were shed when he was forced out, but on this, we believed he was a reliable backstop,” Keyser said. “Once Mulvaney took over, it was a different game.”

Stephenson put out a call, online, through The Electrical Worker and through the locals. Members needed to speak up to save apprenticeships. It didn’t matter that it was summer vacation. Time was short. The other trades did the same.

“It was an existential threat to the IBEW at that point,” Stephenson said.

And the union responded. More than 325,000 trade unionists commented, including more than 65,000 IBEW members.

“It was an astonishing outpouring from our membership,” Stephenson said.

“Reading those comments about the meaning of our apprenticeship to them and their families has been one of the highlights of my career. Not just how many, but the depth of feeling.”

As the comment period ended over the summer, Keyser was not sure what the final rule would look like. The response had been overwhelming. Would it be enough?

When the final rule was finally issued March 10, trades were excluded from IRAPs. As always, the strength of the IBEW was built entirely on the solidarity of its members.

“This not the outcome the Chamber of Commerce and the Trump administration wanted,” Stephenson said. “They have the money. They have the influence. But they can never buy what we don’t have to: our people. We are in every part of this country, with good wages, decent benefits and a pension that promises a dignified retirement. We know the value of that, and we fought to keep it.”

**Blocking IRAPs in Oregon**

M**embers of IBEW locals and the building trades across Oregon converged on the state Capitol in February to support a House bill barring public money from being spent on industry-based apprenticeships — a preemptive strike against IRAPs as the federal Department of Labor considered their fate. Robert Carvalho, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building Trades Council, said Oregon is the only state so far that’s taken on the issue legislatively. He told lawmakers that IRAPs would be a “race to the bottom,” undermining trade union programs that have been the gold standard for decades. Unions “have set the bar for high-quality training, strong oversight, accountability and good family-sustaining, middle-class jobs,” he told the House Committee on Business and Labor. “Anything less than our time-tested apprenticeship programs ... will not only put workers’ lives at risk, but also our families and first responders.”
**Brotherhood Across Borders**

**Angola Hospital Mission Bonds IBEW, Italian Electrical Workers**

**PREGNANT** women show up at the walled Chiulo compound well before their due date, some walking a hundred or more miles, the community with the help of doctors and nurses. It is their best hope in a country with one of the world’s highest infant mortality rates.

"Sometimes they come with their own mothers to give them a hand, sometimes with two or three children," Alvarez said.

"They walk, with big bellies, from miles and miles away just to get to the waiting area."

A small house provides shelter for some women. But many others pass time on benches during the day and sleep in tents on the compound’s primitive grounds.

"When they go into labor, that’s when the hospital opens the door," he said.

Local 3 Business Manager Chris Erikson tapped Alvarez to head the mission, just as he’d trusted him to lead past hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico, the Bahamas and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Alvarez brought Brazilian-born Alcantara on board, knowing his fluency in Portuguese, Angola’s colonial language, would be invaluable. He filled out the team with journeymen Everest Campbell and William Bonaparte, who arrived mid-month to help finish the project as their Local 3 brothers headed home.

As they worked, they watched women endure long waits outdoors, tending to restless children, rationing food and pulling water they could from wells. Though charities provide aid, food is scarce and water more so as Angola suffers its worst drought since the 1940s.

It hadn’t rained in seven months when they arrived in June 2009. Alvarez said they didn’t see a single cloud, “not one little puff,” crossing the brilliant blue sky their entire two-week stay.

Drought has killed crops and animals, deepening the agony of Angola’s rural poverty. At times, Alcantara couldn’t believe his eyes.

“The amount of stuff that we just waste, the amount of water we waste — these people don’t have water to drink or shower in,” he said. “I came home and I said we need to conserve water, we need to do this and that. These people, they’re doing this and that. These people don’t have water to drink or waste, the amount of water we waste —

One of the things I came back with is how strong women are, especially when it comes to their children," Alvarez said. “We saw a lot of sad things, but also you learn about the resilience in people. It’s pretty amazing how people learn to deal with their environment.”

**DELEGATES** to the IBEW’s 2016 International Convention in St. Louis enthusiastically backed the resolution that created Electrical Workers Without Borders North America. Hill had retired a year earlier, but he was invited on stage as members rose to speak in support.

Most referenced the global humanitarian work that IBEW members were doing already in places that included Haiti, Suriname and St. Kitts.

“After the devastation of the earthquake in 2011, I was one of over 75 Local 3103 brothers that traveled to Haiti to help build a new 320-bed hospital,” Boston Local 103 Business Manager Lou Antonellis said. “I saw what the people of Haiti went through after that tragedy, and I saw firsthand real tears of joy and appreciation from the children and families that were most affected by the generosity of the IBEW.”

Brady Hansen, a Seattle Local 71 journeyman lineman who led earlier training missions to Suriname and continues to organize EWBNIA trips, said every IBEW member who volunteered “will tell you that it has been a life-changing experience...I rise in support of this resolution because when you take a look at who we are, we are humanitarians of light and power in our communities.”

EWBNIA would support and expand those efforts, formalizing what had been a patchwork quilt of good works.

About a year earlier, the Italian Federation of Electrical Utility Workers and energy companies did the same, establishing Elettrici senza frontiere Italia, or Electrical Workers Without Borders of Italy. Similar groups operate in France, Germany and other European nations.

The U.S. and Italian organizations were conceived and nurtured by the relationship between Hill and Carlo de Masi, then-secretary-general of the Italian Federation of Electrical Utility Workers.

Planning accelerated in 2015, when de Masi came to the IBEW construction conference on the heels of a trip made to Italy to receive one of its government’s highest honors, the Golden Eagle award. He was the first American recipient, honored in part for his support of Italian unionists and his overtures to Italian companies operating in the United States.

Accepting the award in Assisi, Hill evoked the town’s famous saint, “The spirit of St. Francis is badly needed in today’s world. Growing inequality and violence threatens all that we stand for. And we must continue to stand together to be a force for good.”

**ANGOLA**, which was in the planning stage at the time of Hill’s death in December 2018, embodied his vision. Italians, Americans and, earlier, a Chinese team of electricians lifted up an impoverished hospital and changed lives — including their own.

“What happened was something magic,” said Felice Egidi, president of Electricians Sans Frontiere. “A perfect blend between Italian mentality and U.S. mentality.”

Far off any electrical grid, the 224-bed hospital had limped along on diesel generators, fulfilling its many obligations: maternity care, surgery, outpatient services for more than 300,000 widely dispersed people, and training nurses for a network of rural health clinics.

Local 3 volunteers helped the Italians complete a 50-kilowatt solar mini-grid and renovate the electrical system throughout the hospital compound.

“Although fuel is inexpensive in Angola, it still costs the hospital money to run the generator 24/7," Alvarez said. "So the Italians’ idea was to store energy from this solar array. They did a great job designing the system.”

Enel, an Italy-based energy multinational with a growing footprint in the United States, provided the solar panels, storage batteries and other materials. The Americans arrived with a wealth of donations from Milwaukee Tool, hand-held equipment they left behind for the hospital’s maintenance workers.

“They were astonished, the Italian guys, astonished because the guys from the states arrived with a lot of materials and tools," Egidi said. They told him, “Oh my god, they have everything!”

**THE Italians hosted the Americans at a secure compound near the hospital that serves as a regional home base for Italy’s Doctors with Africa.**

Access to the aid organization’s housing was essential, Egidi said. “First, from a security point of view, because you have volunteers, you have to decide that a country is safe. A second point is to have a structure on site to receive them. Not five-star hotels we’re talking about, but something acceptable.”

For most of their stay, Alvarez and Alcantara worked with a team of three Italians. The men became fast friends, sharing a house and forging what Alvarez described with amusement as their own Roman language. They mingled English and Italian, with Alvarez and Alcantara adding Spanish and Portuguese to the mix.

It bridged the gap as the Americans got a crash course in Europe’s electrical system, the foundation for the hospital
Rome, he was far from his family’s home in. Holed up in his workweek apartment in late March, several managers. He spoke with The Electrical Worker in each other and to teach each other.” said. “They were eager to learn from these people? We’re used to taking a half-hour lunch and jumping back in.”

Archie, ‘I can’t work like this, what’s wrong with mornings and afternoons. “At first, I told Alvarez said. “At 12 o’clock, about 15, 20 minutes before, someone would leave and start preparing lunch.”

They adapted to the European schedule, a relaxed meal and siesta dividing their mornings and afternoons. “At first, I told Archie, ‘I can’t work like this, what’s wrong with these people?’ We’re used to taking a half-hour lunch and jumping back in.”

Soon they understood how much they could accomplish by taking time to recharge their American guests in a shared home near the hospital.

“He was a great communicator, a great leader. We have big shoes to fill.”

When he passed, Siegel said, a Catholic priest they worked with in Haiti cried, “Our dream has died.” In Italy, de Mast’s heart broke, and he feared what would become of EWWBNA without Hill. But Siegel and others devoted to EWWBNA, aided by generous help from International President Lonnie R. Stephens and IBEW staff, are determined that Hill’s vision will be fully realized.

The virus is interfering for now, but it won’t always be that way.

“In founding EWWBNA, President Hill did something very special that not only reflects well on the IBEW but also confirms his lifelong commitment to his faith and trade union principles,” Siegel said. “We’re not going to let him down.”

From left, above, the Local 3 team and their Italian brothers at the Hospital compound wall: Louis Alvarez, Luciano Isoldi, Everest Campbell, Maurizio Nurchis, Ricardo Porcu, Alex “Archie” Aicanta, and William Bonaparte. At left, one of the many meals the Italian hosts prepared for themselves and their American guests in a shared home near the hospital.

The IBEW’s annual photo contest is an opportunity for members from across North America to share the images that remind us why we’re proud to be members of the greatest union in the world. Whether you’re working on an awe-inspiring jobsite or capturing the simplicity and beauty of an everyday assignment, we want to see and share the images that move you.

Last year’s winner came from Los Angeles Local 11 apprentice Natalie Anaya, who captured journeyman Ron Torres during a pause in the action while building MetrolA’s new Regional Connector rail system. We can’t wait to see who will take home the top prize for 2020.

Photo Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter up to five photos each.

2. International officers and staff are not eligible.

3. Photos MUST be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, measuring 1,200 by 1,800 pixels at minimum, in color or black and white. Larger files of at least 2,200 pixels are encouraged.

4. All submissions become property of the IBEW Media Department.

5. Photo entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or featuring subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.

6. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g., a safety committee, a lineman’s rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.

7. Photos previously published in IBEW publications or on the website are not eligible for submission.

8. Entries MUST be submitted electronically via the Photo Contest link on IBEW.org. Please contact the Media Department at media@IBEW.org or 202-728-6102 with additional questions.

9. Up to 15 finalists will be selected and posted on IBEW.org for final judging by the public. The winners will be featured in a future issue of The Electrical Worker.
Charitable Donations Mark the CFL’s Closure

When representatives from the IBEW presented more than $250,000 to seven children’s hospitals across Canada, the charitable act brought closure to a turbulent chapter in the Canadian labour movement.

“The money came from the last of the funds held by the Canadian Federation of Labour,” said First District International Vice President Tom Reid. “As one of the members of the CFL’s executive committee, I’m pleased with our decision to designate our donations to these unquestionably deserving recipients.”

Receiving CA$36,000 each in January were the British Columbia Children’s Hospital in Vancouver; the Alberta Children’s Hospital in Calgary; the Children’s Hospital of Manitoba in Winnipeg; the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa; the Montréal Children’s Hospital; the Izaak Walton Killam Health Centre in HalifaX, Nova Scotia; and the Janeway Children’s Hospital in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador.

These gifts marked the official end of the CFL, an organization created following a series of bitter and seemingly unsolvable policy disputes that came to a head in 1982. That year, fed-up IBEW locals in Canada elected to combine their forces with several other construction trades unions that also had broken away from the Canadian Labour Congress to affiliate with this wholly separate organization for workers.

“Quitting the CLC was a tough call, but we felt that the needs of building trades unions simply weren’t being heard by the CLC back then,” said Reid. “We believed that we simply had no alternative.” At one point, the CFL represented nearly 200,000 men and women from Canada’s building trades.

The rift came at a tough time for Canada’s workers. Reid said. “Labour laws favouring workers slowly and consistently.

L’argent provenant des derniers fonds gérés par la Fédération canadienne du travail, mentionne Tom Reid, le vice-président international du premier district. « En tant que l’un des membres du comité exécutif du FCT, je suis heureux de notre décision de remettre nos dons à ces donataires incontestablement méritants.»

Les hôpitaux suivants ont chacun reçu un montant de jeter pour les enfants canadiens en janvier : le British Columbia Children’s Hospital à Vancouver; l’Alberta Children’s Hospital à Calgary; le Children’s Hospital of Manitoba; l’hôpital du CHUM de Montréal pour enfants; l’Izaak Walton Killam Health Centre à Halifax en Nouvelle-Écosse; et le Janeway Children’s Hospital à Saint-Jean de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador.

Ceux dont on a confirmé la fermeture officielle du FCT, une organisation qui a été créée à la suite d’une série de conflits politiques qui semblaient impossibles à résoudre et qui se sont envenemés en 1982. Dans cette année, les sections locales de la FIOE du Canada ont voté pour unifier leurs forces avec plusieurs autres syndicats de la construction du Canada. »

« On s’est mis à chercher des organisations reconnues et méritantes, déclare Paron, et nous avons finalement choisi sept hôpitaux pour enfants. »

Les sommes, accompagnées des chèques multidimensionnels ont été faits par :

- les représentants internationaux du premier district Brian Matheson, Brian Murdock et Adam Van Steinburg;

« Nous sommes fiers d’appuyer avec cette petite geste les individus qui travaillent d’arrache-pied pour assurer le bon fonctionnement des systèmes de santé mondialement connus du Canada, » dit M. Reid. « Nous pensons également que c’est le dernier geste approprié du FCT avant de définitivement fermer ses portes. »
THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

Trump Slashes Navy Ship Orders, Threatens to Cancel Shipyard CBAs

President Trump's 2021 budget cuts new ship construction by 20%, killing 10 new ships, some of which were set for construction this year. The cancellations put thousands of shipyard jobs at risk, including major industry contracts.

The cancellation follows closely on a Feb. 20 executive order that would allow the Defense Department to abolish the collective bargaining rights of civilian labor unions.

Trump's budget marks a stark reversal from a commitment less than 12 months ago to increase the fleet by 30% in the next 10 years. The Navy is now on course to fall more than 50 ships short of the two-year-old national strategic target of a 355-ship fleet.

The Trump administration has also deferred 12 major ship maintenance and repair shipyards, O'Connor said. The Navy is about to replace the fleet of nuclear submarines that carry nearly 70% of the ballistic nuclear arsenal. This monumental undertaking will absorb nearly 40% of the Navy's shipbuilding budget for the next two decades. The 12 Columbia-class submarines will cost in excess of $500 billion.

“Cuts before Columbia gets underway will be difficult to replace,” O'Connor said.

And while the budget funds $360 million in shipyard upgrades, that money has been diverted in the past, O'Connor said.

“We’re already seeing the impact of a failure to invest in the naval maintenance workforce and facilities,” he said.

Admiral Michael Gilday, chief of naval operations, recently told Defense News that the Navy is getting less than 40% of its ships out of maintenance on time.

This is an improvement over the early days of the Trump administration when on-time completion rates fell into the 20s.

One of the more startling shortfalls is at the Norfolk Naval shipyard where the Ship Maintenance Construction program has been halted numerous times for life safety violations. One building has been deemed so hazardous fire guards must be posted any time it is used.

Cutting the ships and the submarine on the eve of construction could have long-lasting effects, even if they are eventually restored, O'Connor said.

It took substantial political and industrial muscle to get sufficient resources to build two Virginia-class submarines per year, he said.

In addition to the loss of work and jobs at the shipyard facilities, if construction of surface-ship and submarines is slowed or even interrupted, workers at the four Naval maintenance and repair shipyards would also feel the pinch.

There are IBEW locals at the Portsmouth, Norfolk, Puget Sound and Pearl Harbor maintenance facilities as well as at the Submarine Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Point Loma San Diego.

“Don’t go talking about a pair of shoes; these are some of the most technologically sophisticated machines in human history. It takes years to get the feeder industries in place to build a nuclear submarine,” O’Connor said.

Any disruption in funding creates tactical and strategic instability which, ultimately, adversely impacts hiring and retaining workers.

“Where do those people go? Do they even stay in the industry or will they take these highly important skills, retool, and get out of the business?” he said.

“At the stroke of a pen, Trump has created chaos.”

IBEW Member Wins Maine House Seat

Manchester, Maine, Local 1837 member Kevin O’Connell has been a lot of things throughout his career. Now he can add “member of the state House of Representatives” to his résumé.

“I’ve known Kevin for a long time. He knows what it’s like to be a working person,” said Local 1837 Business Manager Dick Rogers. “I think he’ll do a great job for the people of our state.”

A special election on March 3 to fill a seat that became vacant when the current office holder, Rep. Arthur “Archie” Verow, passed away in December.

A lineman with Eversource for 30 years, O’Connell has served in other public service roles including two terms as mayor of Brewer, a city that sits on the border of the House district O’Connell now represents. He’s also been a city councilor, a school board member and served on a number of other boards and committees.

“I’m proud to carry on the legacy of service that was so important to Archie,” O’Connell said. “In him, we had a representative that represented the values of this city. I am committed to doing my best to be that person for Brewer.”

Brother O’Connell, who also served in the Maine Air National Guard for 24 years, will bring something unique to the lower chamber in the Pine Tree State: a working person’s worldview.

“I look forward to sharing my blue-collar perspective,” O’Connell said.

O’Connell racked up 1,403 votes to his Republican rival’s 1,073 on election night. In classic IBEW fashion, he was back at work the day after his win.

“It hasn’t really sunk in yet,” he said. “I just know that I was on my feet for 13 hours on Election Day and then it was time for work the next day.”

O’Connell campaigned on housing, infrastructure investments including fixing public roads, and making health care more affordable and accessible. With friends on both sides of the aisle, he says he’s looking forward to getting to work in Augusta.

“Kevin recognizes the importance of unions, and of contracts, and that’s something that benefits all working men and women,” Rogers said.

While the opportunity came at an unexpected time, O’Connell says he’s been thinking about running for the House for a while but didn’t want to until the seat was no longer occupied by Verow. Now he can bring his unique combination of experience to the legislative process.

“Two things have changed since then and one of them is IBEW membership,” said Reid. “IBEW members are constantly working hard to keep our union strong and I will always keep working to make sure the IBEW is strong and prosperous.”

McGurn added, “I’m very impressed with the dedication and hard work IBEW members put in to make our communities better and more prosperous.”

“The transparency Blaikie negotiated as his party’s trade critic will give Parliament the right to review future trade agreements — authority that Canadian lawmakers, unlike the U.S. Congress, have never had.

“Once Parliament knows, then the public knows,” Reid said. “We hope more IBEW members will consider running for positions in their communities and provinces because we need many more people like him at every level of government.”

Serving in the House of Commons, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085 member Daniel Blaikie struck a deal that helped lead to Parliament’s ratification of a new North American trade deal.

“Our members and all workers are better off because Daniel is fighting for them every day in Parliament,” Reid said. “We hope more IBEW members will consider running for positions in their communities and provinces because we need many more people like him at every level of government.”

The transparency Blaikie negotiated as his party’s trade critic will give Parliament the right to review future trade agreements — authority that Canadian lawmakers, unlike the U.S. Congress, have never had.

“Once Parliament knows, then the public knows, which means more time for civil society to get involved, and that includes the labor movement,” he said. “Right now, there’s no requirement whatsoever for the executive branch to consult the legislative branch, no requirement that they tell Parliament they are negotiating, no requirement to outline their objectives.”
The New Democratic Party is one of four opposition parties in Canada's current government, with the Liberal Party holding power but not a majority. Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland accepted Blaikie's terms in February, insisting in her letter to the NDP that CUSMA negotiations were open and transparent.

Blaikie disputed that, telling news media that the secret talks left Parliament and all Canadians in the dark about the pact's provisions and its economic impact.

Both the House of Commons and Canada's appointed Senate voted to ratify CUSMA on March 13, accelerating the process before shutting down Parliament due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Blaikie was named the NDP trade critic, part of the minority party's shadow cabinet, after national elections last October. In that role, he challenges the government on trade matters to secure the best possible outcomes for working people.

First District International Representative Matt Wayland, who speaks regularly with Blaikie about issues affecting IBEW members, said what he accomplished "is very beneficial not only for the IBEW but for the labor movement and the party as well."

On the front end, Wayland expects CUSMA to bring stability and growth to a workforce dependent on trade.

"We're such intertwined trading partners," he said, referring primarily to Canada and the United States. "There are so many businesses integrated on both sides of the border, providing jobs on both sides. [CUSMA] will make it a lot easier to do business, provide stability for jobs and the economy, and in the long run that puts our members to work."

Despite the pact's shortcomings, Blaikie said that labor leaders in Canada and the United States pushed hard for it to protect low-wage workers from the kind of past trade-deal exploitation that "undermines the position of workers in countries with a stronger labor culture." "CUSMA took a meaningful step by having enforceable labor protections," he said. "How effective enforcement will be remains to be seen."

If it works as intended, Mexican workers will have a clearer path to organizing and bargaining collectively. "If they are treated fairly and paid fairly, that's going to make our workers here more competitive," Blaikie said. "If it's just a race to the bottom, everybody loses except for the guys at the top."

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His pro-worker party will use its new influence on trade. "I think this is probably the best thing for vets," said Nicholas Campbell Wardwell, an Army specialist who joined the Carolinas Electrical Training Institute in Charlotte, N.C., last May. "You've learned so much about this field."

VEEP works with base leadership to provide an opportunity for servicemen and women in their final six months of service to complete a pre-apprenticeship in an intensive, full-time course. The free, seven-week pre-apprenticeship training works in tandem with the more than 300 joint Apprenticeship Training Committees across the U.S. to place service members in IBEW apprenticeships based on their top three choices. When a service member or spouse applies, VEEP then contacts those programs to see if there's room and to secure a direct entry agreement. Completion of VEEP training can also lead to advanced placement in the apprenticeship.

For service members nearing the end of their time in the military, it can be stressful to envision the future. Once they're out, they're no longer guaranteed a job, a place to stay, or the structure that many have come to rely on. For those interested in the electrical trade, VEEP offers a bridge to not just a job but all that a rewarding career with great pay and benefits, said the Electrical Training Alliance's Greg McMurphy.

McMurphy notes that from each graduating class JATCs get apprentices who have proven they can succeed, know a lot more about life of an electrician than a typical applicant and are ready to slot into the second year of coursework, which shortens the time to get another productive electrician out in the field. Longer term, the program gains exposure among the military, which can lead to stronger relationships between it and the IBEW. That's a relationship that benefits both parties. [Veterans] make great candidates for apprenticeship. There's no question about that. They're disciplined, they're responsible, they're drug-free," said Jon Medaris, former training director of the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship and Training Trust. "For any program that's not recruiting from this pool they're missing a huge opportunity."

McMurphy says 24 veterans have gone through the program so far, with the third cohort slated to start this fall. So far, the feedback has been very encouraging. "I found myself humming at work, which hadn't happened in a long time," said Raymond "Jay" Droessler, a VEEP graduate who is now a member of Madison, Wis., Local 599.

While the trades are known to be veteran-friendly, Droessler noted that the timelines don't often line up but with VEEP, with its ability to place someone in their local of choice, allowed him to really consider the option of transitioning to the trades.

The former Army major says he is now working for Staff Electric on the University of Wisconsin Chemistry Building complex. He's on the new tower crew and has been able to work on fire alarms, switch gears, temporary lighting and more.

"The VEEP program helped me answer the question, 'What do I want to be when I grow up?' as well as 'Where do I want to be when I grow up?,'" Droessler said. "Having those two significant stressors taken care of opened up a lot of mental bandwidth to deal with the rest of the move, help transition the family, and really enjoy the journey from military service back to civilian life."

The program is also open to military spouses. Matthew Wallace’s wife served in the Air Force while he worked as a stay-at-home dad with their daughter. When it was time for him to transition back into the workforce, his wife learned about VEEP and he accepted the second cohort out of Anchorage, Alaska, Local 34-47.

"It seems so daunting to get a job and have no experience. This program has prepared me to take my first steps as an electrician and I couldn't be more excited for the opportunity," Wallace said. "I was also able to make friends with some awesome veterans and I'm excited to go through the apprenticeship process with them."

That sense of camaraderie is shared by Army Specialist John Nyongesa.

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The Electrical Worker  |  May 2020

**RETIRED**

**Jerry Westerholm**

When Jerry Westerholm was finishing high school, he didn’t know what he wanted to do when he grew up, but he knew he didn’t want to milk cows anymore like his father and grandfather before him.

After a 40-year career in the IBEW, the last five as a special assistant to the international president for construction, maintenance and business development, Westerholm retired at the end of March. Over the last two decades, he had a hand in nearly every major policy innovation in the IBEW’s construction branch and the confidence and attention of the union’s senior leadership.

And he never did milk another cow.

After telling his father that he didn’t want to work on the farm, Westerholm said his dad suggested he become either a veterinarian or an electrician. Daunted by the potential of years of vet school, Westerholm chose electricity.

In the late 1970s, the only path into Minneapolis Local 292’s apprenticeship was through the Dunwoody Institute, the nation’s oldest private trade school. Westerholm enrolled and after classes wrapped up at 2:30, he and some of the other students went to work at a union panel shop until 8 p.m. More than 30 years later, Westerholm’s oldest son Greg followed him, first to Dunwoody, then to the same panel shop and then into Local 292. His younger son, Tony, works today at the International Office in Washington.

In his second year at Dunwoody, Westerholm went to work for a nonunion contractor. He didn’t come from a family in the trades, let alone a union family, and he said he didn’t really think too much about working nonunion at the time. But the contractor told him he should really join Local 292. So, he did in 1979, and nearly 20 years later, when Westerholm was business manager of Local 292, he signed that contractor to an IBEW agreement.

Soon after topping out of his apprenticeship, Westerholm began to rise in the local.

Starting with attending local meetings and helping with the picnics, he soon joined the Executive and the Apprenticeship Board, and also served on the Executive Board. In 1982 he was hired as a business representative covering the city of Minneapolis, downtown, the parks and the University of Minnesota.

He was elected vice president of the state AFL-CIO in 1996, a position he held until his move to Washington, D.C., 14 years later.

In 1997, Westerholm was appointed Local 292 business manager and elected to the position the following year.

He assisted grassroots efforts in support of Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton and the late Sen. Paul Wellstone and helped elect county commis- sioners and school board members who supported union labor.

Even though Local 292 had a small municipal workforce, Westerholm was selected to be co-chair of the labor side of the city’s Labor Management Committee. The other chair was the city’s chief of police, and Westerholm recalled that relationship as “complicated.”

When Westerholm took over as business manager, Local 292 had 3,500 members. When he came to the International Office, it had 5,000. Timing was good — the local had a lot of work, including the record-setting Mall of America and a boom in commercial construction downtown. But it wasn’t just that.

“We had an abundance of work, but we were very good organizers,” Westerholm said. “We advertised on the radio that we would give a $250 gift certificate to a local sporting goods chain for any licensed electrician to meet with one of our organizers, no strings attached.”

He also helped negotiate a project labor agreement covering all work performed for the Minneapolis school district, which the local had “stUNK.”

But being a business manager, Westerholm said, was the hardest job he ever had.

“It’s the most stressful job in the entire IBEW. And I told that to [former International President Ed] Hill,” Westerholm said. “Ed said, ‘What about my job?’ and I told him it was nowhere near as hard. Even though he always ran unopposed, he never felt like what he was doing was clear to the members.

Don’t confuse that with needing thanks. If you have met Westerholm, you know he is the kind of man who loses sleep worrying about being liked.

“My son once said to me, ‘Whether they like you or hate you, they fear you’ and I said to him, ‘But if I want to grow this union, we have to make bold moves. We always have, and it’s still true. People who maybe underestimate what we’re up against may not like that.’”

After 15 years in Local 292’s office as a business representative and four years as business manager, Westerholm was appointed an international representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department and was assigned to help administer national agreements and resolve disputes over craft jurisdiction.

In 2007, then-Director Mark Ayers selected Westerholm to build the new Business Development Department. In 2010, he was appointed to a new position, special assistant to the international president for construction, maintenance and business development.

“Now and that Business Development has been running on its own for several years, the special assistant position retires with him. It’s amazing how many business managers and business representatives are doing development work, but when I began a great number didn’t know how to talk to customers,” he said. “Now we have business development international representatives in every district and District Ray Kasanmar in Washington. In Ray and [Construction and Maintenance Department Director] Mike [Richardson] we have steady hands.”

For the last several years, Westerholm and retired Director of Outside Organizing Ed Mings have organized the IBEW’s annual charity motorcycle ride, which brings hundreds of members out for a weekend every summer. He and Mings plan on mapping out this summer’s ride — if it is unaffected by the global COVID-19 epidemic — but after he said they plans on hanging off the baton.

“I still come. Riding my motorcycle is one of my favorite things in the world. I’m just done organizing the thing,” he said.

His only other plan right now is to spend as much time as possible motorcycling and hunting. Westerholm has been on the board of directors of the Union Sportmen’s Alliance and is proud to be Member No. 17 of the hunting and public service organization.

“The known London fiddles and Kenny and I are old hunting buddies. I want to thank them for the confidence they and Ed and J.J. Barry had in me,” Westerholm said. “I have that confidence in my brothers and sisters out there. Organizing will solve nearly any problem we have.”

The officers thank Brother Westerholm for his life’s work building a stronger, smarter IBEW and wish him a long, healthy retirement.

**DECEASED**

**Mike Emig**

Retired International Officer Mike Emig died on Feb. 26 at his home in Avoca, Iowa. He was 79.

Wiegand was born on May 2, 1939, in Petersburg, Neb., but soon afterward his family pulled up stakes and moved to Avoca in southwestern Iowa. After graduating from Avoca High School, Wiegand briefly worked as a milk truck driver.

In 1959, he married his wife, Patri- cia, and the couple moved east across the state to Cedar Rapids, where Wiegand took a job at what is now known as Collins Aerospace. Back then it was Collins Radio Corporation and there Wiegand worked on the critical radio equipment that was specifically designed to support NASA’s Apollo program, the multi-year effort to send humans to the moon and bring them back safely.

In 1960, Wiegand was initiated into Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Local 1362, which represents Collins’ workers to this day.

Brother Wiegand quickly became active with his local and his adopted com- munity. For Local 1362, he served on its job evaluation, education and strike com- mittees, and from 1967 to 1970, he was assistant business manager. Wiegand also was a delegate to the Cedar Rapids Labor Assembly, and in his spare time he served as a board member of his local Ci- zens Committee on Alcoholism.

Wiegand proudly represented his local as a delegate to the IBEW’s 29th international convention in Seattle in 1970, and that year, then-IBEW Inter- national President Charles P. Braid invited him to a special labor and political organizations, including AAUW, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the AFL-CIO’s community service director, a role in which he was credited with drawing up policies to help the labor movement better deal with the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. Frank Emig died in 1988 at the age of 62.

The officers and staff extend their condolences to Brother Emig’s family during this difficult time.

**DECEASED**

**Douglas E. Wiegand**

Retired international repre- sentative Douglas E. Wiegand died on Feb. 26 at his home in Avoca, Iowa. He was 79.

During his time in New Orleans, he was active in several local and statewide labor and political organizations, including serving as president of the Louisiana State Conference of Electrical Workers. While in Washington, he was president of the National Democratic Club.

Frank Emig, an older brother, also was a Local 130 member and served 22 years as the AFL-CIO’s community service director, a role in which he was credited with drawing up policies to help the labor movement better deal with the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. Frank Emig died in 1988 at the age of 62.

The officers and staff extend their condolences to Brother Emig’s family during this difficult time.
Journeyman Uses Life Story in Appeal to U.S. House Panel

Witness John Harriel began his testimony on Capitol Hill in the middle of his harrowing life story of gangs, prison, reform and ultimately service.

“When I got out, I thanked God that the IBEW allowed someone like myself to join their union,” the Los Angeles Local 13 journeyman wireman said, facing a U.S. House subcommittee.

Known to his friends and the countless people he’s helped as “Big John,” Harriel spoke at a Feb. 27 hearing about the steep challenges facing former prisoners when they’re released.

He’d been invited by Rep. Karen Bass, chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, who has long admired Harriel’s work with the organization 2nd Call (2ndcall.org) in her district.

Ex-offenders at high risk of returning to prison, or dying on the street, develop life skills and self-esteem through 2nd Call that lead many of them to building trades apprenticeships and careers.

“I’ve been able to get thousands of young men and women to pick up tape measures instead of guns,” Harriel said as he talked about weekly classes he teaches, mentoring and other outreach and activism that has driven the second half of his life.

“This is why 2nd Call was formed; when a man puts down his gun and his flag, then what? I was over 25, one of the hardest communities in the city. I had to get my GED. I had to go to a program. How do I deal with being in a community where suppression and violence was the norm?”

Through the “blessings of the IBEW,” he said, “I started a pathway into the trades.”

His apprenticeship led him to electrical contractor Morrow Meadows, and 22 years later he’s still there, having spent the past four as a superintendent.

“They gave me as a man,” Harriel said. “That family took me in and treated me as one of their own, made me feel like I was part of something greater. I look back to my community.”

He credits the Abundant Life Christian Church, too, which long ago embraced him. His pastor, John E. Tunstall, provides space for Harriel’s 2nd Call classes for people newly released from prison and those who keep coming back for inspiration.

Committee members were riveted by Harriel’s words. He described growing up in poverty and despair, with a drug-addicted mother in a neighborhood where gangs and gunsshots were everyday life.

School was “enemy territory.” His grades were poor. He didn’t know that I’d just got shot at, that I hadn’t eaten in two days. What they were doing was just housing me,” he said. “I ended up dropping out in 9th grade.

Street gang The Bloods were his family, dealing drugs his livelihood. It made me as one of their own, made me feel like I was part of something greater. I look back to my community.”

“Chenone and I had conversations and he is committed to diversity — he’s not just said it, he’s proven it,” Harriel said. “He knows my work and he knows the difference that a second chance makes in someone’s life.”

Harriel still marvels at how a kid who grew up a gangster with a drug-addicted mother, who dodged bullets and nearly starved, became a man who started setting his alarm for 3 a.m. to take a series of buses to work, determined never to be late.

“I wish I could tell that young man that someday he’ll sit on the executive board of IBEW Local 13 and sit as a trustee of the same union that I thought was only for Caucasian men,” he said in his prepared remarks. “More important, that he would change policies and provide career opportunities to hundreds of people that look like him and also help hundreds of other young people.”

His second chance means that “hands that were used to sell drugs are the same hands that have built hospitals, sporting complexes, train stations, power plants and water facilities.”

They are hands, he said, that will never stop guiding people toward new lives, keeping families together and benefitting society at large.

But he stressed that the and 2nd Call can’t do it alone: leadership and funding are essential.

“I am asking you to help me transition people that may not have had the same opportunities others might have had growing up,” he told the committee.

“My accomplishments show what hard work and assistance can do.”
Buckeye State will continue to provide honored in March for their work in helping Ohio Locals 1413 and after childbirth is a great time off women can take while pregnant, provided their families without risking their health. Bachman said, and so far there have been no complaints. “I’m so glad to see NECA/IBEW are supporting women who work in the trades,” said Ohio Commissioner of Labor and Industries Val Hye in a statement. “Increasing the amount of protected time off women can take while pregnant and after childbirth is a great investment. It’s good for women’s careers, good for families and good for our workforce.”

Women will be encouraged to join and remain in the industry when they know that their healthcare and family needs are taken into account,” Quinn said. The benefit has already been utilized, Bachman said, and so far there have been no complaints. “I’m so glad to see NECA/IBEW are supporting women who work in the trades,” said Ohio Commissioner of Labor and Industries Val Hye in a statement. “Increasing the amount of protected time off women can take while pregnant and after childbirth is a great investment. It’s good for women’s careers, good for families and good for our workforce.”

Ohio Locals Honored by LAMPC for Job-Protecting Efforts

Two IBEW locals in northern Ohio were honored in March for their work in helping to preserve nearly 4,300 nuclear energy jobs in the state.

“Thanks to the efforts of our members across Ohio, nuclear power in the Buckeye State will continue to provide steady, dependable employment for hundreds of our brothers and sisters, not to mention carbon-free electricity for millions of Ohioans,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. In a March 2 ceremony in Washington, Stephenson and Edison Electric Insti- tute President Thomas R. Kuhn presented the IBEW’s Fourth District — and Toledo Locals 245 and 1413 in particular — with the National Labor Management Public Affairs Committee Edwin D. Hill Award, which recognizes union and Industry leaders who advance energy issues at various levels of government.

IBEW represents investor-owned electric companies in the U.S. and more than 90 other countries, and the Hill Award is named for the former IBEW international president who died in 2018. National LAM- PAC is a collaboration between the IBEW and EEU that focuses on making it easier to get the parties to address challenges within the energy industry together.

Last year, union activists across Ohio turned out in force to drum up support for House Bill 6, the Ohio Clean Energy Act, a measure to maintain operations at the state’s only two nuclear power stations: the Davis-Besse plant outside Toledo, and its sibling facility, Perry, near Clevel- and. Combined, the two plants employ hundreds of IBEW members and are owned by FirstEnergy Solutions, which is also owned by National LAM- PAC for its collaboration with the union’s members to gain legislative backing for the bill.

The nuclear plants had struggled financially in the face of falling natu- ral gas prices and other factors that put baseeload power generation in Ohio at a marked disadvantage, and FES said it needed HB 6 to prevent the shutdown of both stations.

Local 245 members perform in-plant work and Local 1413 represents security workers at Davis-Besse, which opened in 1977 as Ohio’s first nuclear power station. Toledo Local 8 also provides construction and maintenance workers there, while members of Painesville, Ohio, Local 673 have similar jobs at the decade-younger Perry plant.

“So many of our members, and the communities they live in, depend on these facilities for their success,” Stephenson said. The district and locals helped customers and legislators see through the rhetoric against HB 6, he said.

“Local 245 Business Manager Larry Tschere and Local 1413 Business Manag- er Brad Goetz never gave up. They kept it on the radar, which in turn kept me and other people focused on the issue,” said Fourth District International Vice Presi- dent Brian Malloy. “All our local unions definitely stepped up and lobbied their reps. The members never let up.”

It was a process, Tschere said. “Vice President Malloy made so many trips between (his office in) Maryland and Colum- bus,” he said. “It took a full-court press, and it was really great to see it happen.”

Together, Goetz and Tschere led the effort to get representatives from both parties to sign on to the bill. “For Larry and me, we probably spent six years on this bill,” Goetz said, a measure that had to be reintroduced every two years after elec- tions brought in a new Ohio Legislature. Hundreds of Ohio’s union activists attended hearings and called on officials to bolster support for the bill, and Goetz and Tschere gave the state’s legislators personal plant tours.

“It’s easy to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’ on a bill,” Goetz said. “But once you put a name or a face to what you’re voting on, you might think twice about it.”

Their efforts paid off. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed the bill into law last June, and it took effect in October.

“Thankfully, DeWine took the time to visit the IBEW’s operations and see this for ourselves,” said Goetz.

“I believe that a bill has to reduce customers’ electric bills, continue to address renewables, and preserve nuclear in the state,” H.B. 6 does all of that, Stephenson said. “Positive change can happen when we collaborate with our industry partners on behalf of our customers,” he said.

You can read more about the bill and the battles to preserve Ohio’s nuclear power plant jobs in the June 2018 Electri- cal Worker.

Honored during the same event in March were Rep. Mike Doyle, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, and Rep. Adam Kinzinger, a Republican from Illinois, for their combined efforts to help make nuclear plant licensing more efficient and to help provide some stability for future nuclear power plant investments.

In recognition of their efforts, the representatives were presented with an award named for Rep. John Dingell of Michigan, who died last year. Stephenson noted that the congressman had been a true champion of labor-management col- laboration. “I think this is so important for the work that we do,” Stephenson said.

FES said it was a process, Tschere said. “Vice President Malloy made so many trips...
**Local 17 Training Center**

L.U. 37 (catv,em,lctt,o&t), DETROIT, MI — Last year our members agreed to invest in our future by purchasing 52 acres of property becoming the first Local 17 IBEW Training Center. Our members understand clearly the need to raise our value by furthering separating ourselves from non-union. We currently have 100% of our jurisdic- tion for line work and line clearance tree trimming and need to continue taking steps to ensure it stays that way! Sitting still and doing nothing to increase our value is failed leadership! Improving safety, productive- ity, and quality of work is our goal.

We have broken ground on our first 60' x 80' pole barn. This structure will provide a place to train and store equipment for our 1,250 LCTT members. The sec- ond building will be an 80' x 120' structure where our linemen, cable splicers, traffic signal techs, and sub- station members will train. Our plans include building a pole yard, substation, transmission tower, and two fully functioning traffic signal intersections. We will also provide training on backhoes, excavators, direc- tional boring, and crane certification.

We mourn the loss of Brothers Al Lach, Delton “Dutch” Miller and Willi Cislo, all longtime members of Local 17.

Dean Bradley, B.M./F.S.

**Annual TTF Conference**

L.U. 37 (em,o&t), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA — Local 37’s Training Trust Fund (TTF) is hosting its ninth annual professional development conference open to members and their guests on June 13 and 14 this year in beautiful Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. Each year the conference is a great success, highlighted by international keynote speakers, informative and engaging breakout ses- sions, a kids’ program, evening entertainment, great prizes, and so much more. Each year, about 150 members agreed to invest in our future by purchasing 52 acres of property becoming the first Local 17 IBEW Training Center. Our members understand clearly the need to raise our value by furthering separating ourselves from non-union. We currently have 100% of our jurisdic- tion for line work and line clearance tree trimming and need to continue taking steps to ensure it stays that way! Sitting still and doing nothing to increase our value is failed leadership! Improving safety, productive- ity, and quality of work is our goal.

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Dean Bradley, B.M./F.S.

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,us,kw10,es), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

City of Anaheim negotiations — bargaining con- tinues for a successor agreement. City of Colton — Water/Wastewater bargaining continues for a new contract. Electric side-contract was re-voted and passed; waiting for the city council for final approval. City of Banning — bargaining continues for a succes- sor contract for both Utility & General Units. Southern California Edison (SC) double time/meal waiver — one discussion has taken place as of press time with more meetings scheduled. City of Long Beach con- tract vote passed by 84 percent in February 2020. Line Clearance Tree Agreement — we continue to sign contractors to the updated line clearance tree trim- ming agreement with approximately 30 signed with around 6,000 members. San Bernardino Water & Sanitation (WAS) Unit — bargaining continues. The Local 27 Safety Conference held April 4 at Universal Sherraton was a huge success.

A salute to those who served in the military took place at The Honda Center at the Anaheim Ducks hockey game on Jan. 17. Congratulations to Bus. Mgr./ Fin. Sec. Patrick A. Lavin, who was among those hon- ored. In 1969, Lavin enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served on active duty in the Pacific with the Marine fleet force until 1972. Lavin was honorably discharged in April 1975. “We salute you, Corporal Patrick Lavin.”

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

Mitch Smith, P.S.

**Updates on Negotiations**

L.U. 37 (em,o&t), McMINDVILLE, OR — Local 37’s Training Trust Fund (TTF) is hosting its ninth annual professional development conference open to members and their guests on June 13 and 14 this year in beautiful Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. Each year the conference is a great success, highlighted by international keynote speakers, informative and engaging breakout ses- sions, a kids’ program, evening entertainment, great prizes, and so much more. Each year, about 150

Attendees of the training are now able to purchase our building located in Mount Vernon, WA, as a group endeavor and was very much appreciated. The purchase will help ensure financial stability for several years to come. Thank you!

Matthew P. Carroll, B.M.

**At the Local 55 Recognition Dinner on Feb. 22, 2020.**

**Local’s Membership Grows; June 27 Golf Outing Benefit**

L.U. 37 (lctt,mo,us,kw10,es), DES MOINES, IOWA — Hello, brothers and sisters.

Our local held its annual Recognition Dinner on Feb. 22, and more than 130 members attended. Two former business managers were present, Don Barrow and Mike Brooks. Newly retired member Bob Dilk received his 45 year pin. Everyone enjoyed visiting and swapping stories.

Our Annual Golf Outing will be June 27 this year, at Copper Creek in Pleasant Hill. Last year it raised over $50,000 for Cradling New Life. That money went to many families who needed help.

I was just informed that our local will have one of its best years ever and will need a lot of extra help in all classifications, so if you want to travel this year, give our local a call at 535-6499.

Our local has grown by over 400 members since 2010. Missouri Valley Apprenticeship has broken ground on its new building in Indiana, Iowa, and that work is going well. The Sub- station Technician program is also moving along.

We have any retired mem- bers who would like to join us for breakfast at Prairie Meadows, we meet just inside the front doors on the first level on the first Monday of each month, at 8:45 a.m. We eat at 9 a.m. sharp!

By the time you get this article, our work load will have greatly increased, so make sure you keep your eyes open and work safely and follow all the safety rules. Don’t take short cuts and use plenty of cover up. Never put your hands where you can’t see them. Lift properly and treat your back kindly. Safety is becoming one of the biggest aspects of your job.

Have a happy May Day. See you back here in a couple of months!

Myron Green, P.S.

**Annual Toy Drives a Success; Community Service Volunteers**

L.U. 89 (catv,em,lctt,o&t), SEAT- TLE, WA — As active union mem- bers in our communities, we had two of our local’s units collect and donate to programs that provided toys for kids during the holiday season. The members in Unit #114, out of McMinnville, OR, have donated for the past several years. This year they worked collecting on behalf of over 300 needy children throughout the area. Their contributions were added to the local fire depart- ment’s attempt to overwhelming need.

Our AT&T Unit #112, in Vancouver, WA, also col- lected donations and participated in the Labor Com- munity Services annual toy drive and holiday giving party. Thank you to all who helped in making this effort a success.

We also thank the officers, staff and membership of the local for their support and efforts that helped us recently purchase a building for our local’s offices. The ability to purchase our building located in Mount Ver- non, WA, was a group endeavor and was very much appreciated. The purchase will help ensure financial stability for several years to come. Thank you!

Matthew P. Carroll, B.M.

**IBEW Life Saving Awards**

L.U. 97 (es), SYRACUSE, NY — On April 24, 2019, one of our members was electrocuted and suffered cardiac arrest. His seven union brothers sprang into action. One called 911, another retrieved the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) that was on site, others...
began CPR while the remaining members began clearing a path from the Transmission Right-of-Way to the roadway and took position to flag down first responders when they arrived.

The AED was powered on and attached. A defibrillating pulse was initiated. Our fallen brother recovered and regained consciousness.

Being in a remote area, it was still several more minutes before first responders arrived. They expressed complete surprise when they learned that the victim that they expected to find was sitting upright and conscious. Because of the swift actions of the crew that day, our brother has made a full recovery and has returned to work.

We hold these men up as examples of the finest qualities of our brotherhood and thank them for their actions that day. They received Life Saving Awards and Certificates of Appreciation from the IBEW. (See accompanying photo at above.)

Dan Machold, B.K./P.S.

Local’s 120th Anniversary

L.U. 103 (c&g), BOSTON, MA — We’re well into 2020, a big year for Local 103.

This year we celebrate our 120th year serving the electrical needs of Greater Boston. A historic milestone of longevity and staying power. In celebration of this anniversary, Local 103 has hired a historian to help us track and retain our great history, the people, the generations of Local 103 families, the job sites, the stories and Local 103’s role in the constantly changing landscape of the city of Boston.

We welcome and encourage the input of our members. We want your stories and pictures to be included in a “Local 103 120 Years” book we intend to publish and distribute to each member at a celebration event later this year.

Please send your stories, pictures and memorabilia to IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street, Dorchester, MA 02122 (Attention: 120 Year Celebration). Please identify your pictures and stories with your name and return address so we can be sure to return your pictures.

Jimmy Fleming, P.S.

Contracts Ratified; Active on the Political Front

L.U. 111 (fmt) DENVER, CO — 2020 has been a very busy at Local 111. The PSCO Units overwhelmingly ratified a three-year contract extension to secure their contract through May 31, 2023. The United Power trades units have agreed to a new three-year agreement as well, with negotiations beginning for the United Power Member Service Representatives agreement.

Congratulations to those units. Thank you to all the members who took time to vote.

We continue to be very active on the political front at the state Capitol and the PUC, focusing on the membership’s interests. This year is a big election year, and we encourage the membership to be involved in the process and to please make sure you and your family are registered to vote. Every vote counts!

Have a safe Memorial Day weekend and remember those who have sacrificed for our families.

Please attend your unit meetings and continue to make safety your No. 1 priority.

Patrick S. Quinn, P.S.

Annual Events & Elections

L.U. 125 (lctt, spa&u), PORTLAND, OR — 2020 is going to be a busy year for our local. In addition to our annual events — Casino Night, Benefit Golf Classic, Safety Summit, NW Lineman’s Rodeo, and Bend Golf & Softball Tournaments — we have our local union elections.

As a member in good standing, you have the right to vote on our local’s officers and this year, delegates to the 2021 IBEW International Convention.

The nomination process took place at the April unit meetings. Read the May issue of the Labor Press for the biographies on nominees. Please note some nominees may choose not to publish a bio. Most importantly, please complete your ballot and send it on time, so your voice can be heard through our democratic election process.

With spring up upon us, just a reminder to stay cut in. Don’t let the warm weather and sunshine distract you from working safely and professionally every day — no matter your classification. Every one of our brothers and sisters bring value each day. Your focus on quality, safety and timeliness allows work to be upright and conscious. Because of the swift actions of the crew that day, our brother has made a full recovery and has returned to work.


In November 2020, we have a chance to vote the elimination of party affiliation. The feeling of unity and fellowship is hardly relevant. The IBEW is a strong, diverse union. As a member, you have the right to make them feel welcome and show them the ropes.

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Elections

Local 141 is sad to report the passing of Bob Palmer. Bob was a Marine Corps and Vietnam War veteran, and a member of Local 141 for many years. He will be greatly missed.

Kurt “Bug” Reed, P.S.

Unity on Parade

L.U. 269 (b&l), TRENTON, NJ — Every year around March, 17 people around the U.S. and the world embrace their Irish heritage and celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with festivities ranging from the religious to the more secular. This is a big job for us these days. We have several of these similar-size jobs underway and more in the pipeline, with most of them in the health-care industry.

Local 171 has been able to employ a few travelers and organize new members, taking a little bit of the manpower away from the nonunion. Right now, we are experiencing a great opportunity to increase our membership and gain market share. We need these people working with us and not working against us with substandard wages and benefits.

Some great members have come in through organizing and many others may also fall in that category.

As we organize new electrical workers, please make them feel welcome and show them the ropes and what real brotherhood is all about. [See photo, bottom, right.]

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

Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 141 (es, Lo&k), WHEELING, WV — Hello, brothers and sisters. As of this writing, work remains slow, with 46 members on Book 1. There are some projects starting in the spring that should put many of our members back to work.

IBEW Local 177 members and Miller Electric working at Orange Park Medical Center expansion project.
year of working with the lawmak-
ers in Dover. It is hard for most to con-
nect with how working with politicians benefits electri-
cians directly. Not working with them and leaving our fate up to chance is not a Tried-and-true op-
tion. When they want yard signs planted in front yards and boots on the ground come Election Day, nobody is better at these important tasks than organized labor. That fact alone keeps us in the conversation! And, as the saying goes, “if you’re not at the table, you’re on it.”

Our competition would love to put a wedge between the building trades and our friends of labor. For now, we push and hold, as much as we can get away with. When things work out, the tangible effects are not always easy seen. When they go wrong, sometimes we all feel it right away. Political action on behalf of working people involves many hours and days of hard work.

One thing I know everybody relates to is how the raise will get distributed. So please send back your responses to the hall as soon as you receive them. 

Bruce W. Esper, P.S.

"Labor Battles Then & Now"

L.U. 343 (L.U.,I,v), LESUEUR, MN — May 1 is Interna-
tional Workers Day, celebrated as an official holiday in 66 countries. The USA is not one of them. In 1934 and 1996, then-Pres. Bill Clinton declared May as Labor History Month. In May of 1886, union members and supporters gathered in Chicago’s Haymarket Square to rally for the adoption of the eight-hour workday. The rally exploded into violence with gunfire being exchanged between the police and union mem-
bers with deaths on both sides. This came to be known as the Haymarket Riot. It wasn’t until 1956 that the 40-hour workweek became federal law. Thirty-five states have 40-hour workweek laws to protect workers and provide over-
time pay not covered under federal law. Minnesota has a 48-hour workweek. Minnesota Statute 777:25 states overtime compensation is not required unless the employee works in excess of 48 hours. Members who attended precinct caucuses last February advanced an AFL-CIO endorsed Minnesota DFL (Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party) resolution to establish a 40-hour workweek in MN. Our negotiated contract assures us of overtime pay after eight hours. Working conditions, fair wages, and fringe ben-
"It's also important to remain involved and ed by social issues, financial issues or moral issues. Whatev-
er drives you to vote the way you do, I think we need to remember how we as a labor movement as a whole are treated by the people we are voting for. Some-
times when things are going well economically it can be easy to forget how quickly politicians can affect our way of life and take away the benefits provided and fought for by those before us. It's also important to remain involved and informed. It is easier than ever nowadays with the use of social media and other electronic means to use in contact with other members of your local. In Local 531 with our new website and app on your phone, most of the vital information about our local is right at your fingertips. The way we get our information is changing compared to the way it was in years past, but the goal should be the same as always. Keep in communica-
tion with your local membership, stay informed of what is going on in your local, and no matter what your political beliefs, we are union members who need to remain united against those who would neg-
atively influence our way of life. 

Jeremy Woolser, P.S.
Women Leaders Bridge Jurisdictions in Solidarity

L.U. 553 (U.I.Ct.,mt,ok,sws), RAEGH, NC — Women in our industry are, once again, stepping up in a big way in the effort to organize all electrical workers. In one of the most anti-union states in the nation, two women rallied a small army of future IBEW leaders from Locals 553 and 379 and crossed jurisdictional boundaries to march around the Capitol of North Carolina, displaying solidarity for their union and their basic rights.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, RENEW presidents Emma Basmayor (Local 639) and Melissa Reyes (Local 379) led several of their fellow brothers and sisters from across the state in the Historic Thousands on Jones Street (Hkonl) / Moral March in Raleigh. This is an annual event that supports labor unions and promotes safe working practices, education, and many other progressive ideas.

“This was the first time from members local in our state’s capital to attend an event together,” Basmayor said. “We’re looking forward to future events with them and working to build stronger unions everywhere!”

Steve Baker, V.P.

Upcoming Family Activities

L.U. 67 (C,j,Lab,ms), SAN MATEO, CA — Greetings, sisters and brothers.

As summertime is fast approaching, we are looking forward to upcoming family events day at Great America, our union picnic, pin party and our annual benefit educational workshops. Workshop topics include: our pension plan, NEFB pension plan, steps to retirement, investments, etc.

Along with Bay Area Sports, NIECA and IBEW Local 67 provide wellness services. Our members participate in healthy lifestyle programs — including wellness screenings, weight loss and advice on healthy diets and exercise — in order to keep our sisters and brothers healthy.

At the time of this writing, California was scheduled to hold state and local elections on March 3. Election results impact our jobs, families and the future. In future elections, let your voices be heard and vote for those who support unions and act upon it. Local politicians and our registrar have spoken at union meetings about the importance of getting out to vote.

As we take time to enjoy family and friends on the 79th annual Memorial Day in May, please take a moment to remember and honor our fallen warriors. “Semper recordare” (always remember).

Kevn Perfit, P.S.

Support for Friend of Labor

L.U. 639 (Arts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — Ellen Beraud, candidate for San Luis Obispo County 5th District Supervisor, stands with IBEW Local 639 showing her support. (See photo, below.)

Ellen Beraud, wife of Local 639 member and signatory contractor Francois Beraud of French Electric, is no stranger to organized labor. As a union member and facility chief steward of AFSCME (American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees) Local 2620, Ellen knows the importance labor unions play in providing good paying jobs in the community. IBEW Local 639 has endorsed Ellen Beraud for 5th District Supervisor and has worked tirelessly canvassing neighborhoods, placing yard signs and phone banking to help win her election. If elected, Ellen will work with the Board of Supervisors to negotiate a county-wide project labor agreement (PLA). She will also advocate to expand resources for veterans services and our counties most vulnerable, including homelessness, health care and affordable housing.


Thank you all for your service.

Kurt McClave, P.S.

Work Opportunities; Electrical Trades Center

L.U. 683 (I), COLUMBUS, OHIO — 2020 is looking to be another great year for Local 683! Work opportunities continue to be plentiful. We are fortunate to have over 300 travelers helping us man our projects. We anticipate the need for more traveling brothers and sisters in the future. Several large data center projects continue to require manpower on top of the upcoming Columbus Crew stadium project and several OSU projects on the horizon.

The Electrical Trades Center (see photo) continues to grow and modernize to accommodate increased numbers of inside and I.T. apprentices. Fire Alarm and wiring methods labs have been upgraded with new equipment and workstations for our inside program. A new and improved BICSI lab has been completed for our I.T. program.

On June 5, Local 683 will host our annual Chuck Bland Memorial Fish Fry! Our local union elections are on June 11. Hope to see you at both!

Pat Hook, Pres.

Local 683’s new Electrical Trades Center fire alarm lab.

Local 679 EWMC Hosts Annual Charity Basketball Day

L.U. 679 (C,em,j,msk), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN — On Feb. 22 this year, the Local 679 IBEW-EWMC held its 6th annual charity basketball day. The event was held at the all-union-built Hammond Sportsplex. (Photo, Pg. 26, top left) A day of fun activities with a 3-on-3 tournament, 3-point and free throw competition. The 3-on-3 tournament was won by defending champs Bros. Adam Spurr, Brad Stockburn and Paul Quariz. The 3-point competition was won by Bro. Paul Quariz, and the free-throw competition was won by Sister Paula Draula. The event successfully raised an additional $500 from the participants.

Terry Willhite, P.S.

Work Opportunities; Electrical Trades Center

L.U. 683 (I), COLUMBUS, OHIO — 2020 is looking to be another great year for Local 683! Work opportunities continue to be plentiful. We are fortunate to have

I BEW M ERCHANDISE

Ladies Navy Blue Polo Shirt $30.00

100% polyester, navy blue moisture management polo shirt with IBEW initials embroidered on collar. Wicks moisture away from the body by using rapid dry interlock fabric.

Golf Umbrella $41.00

Red and black golf umbrella with 62” arc, fiberglass shaft & rubberized handle with IBEW logo on 2 panels.

Playing Cards $3.00

Plastic coated playing cards with IBEW logo. Made using a custom laminating process for increased durability, improved shuffling and dealing.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

ibew.org

May 2020

15

The Electrical Worker
to go to the family of Thomas Richardson. All the pictures from that day are located on our website www.ibew697.org in the “Photo Gallery.”

Ask of this writing, the warm April weather has allowed the Local 697 Golf League to start play for the 2020 season.

Tuesday, May 5, is the Indiana primary election, so please remember to get out and vote!

Ryan Reithel, B.M./F.S.

Local Congratulates New Journeyman Inside Wiremen

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TEXAS — IBEW Local 1015 would like to send a big Texas salute to Francisco Hernandez, Sergio Torres and Jose Guadalupe Solis. With their very big effort working long days and studying late at night, we are very proud to announce that those Local 1015 members were able to get their journeyman inside wireman licenses. If you want something bad enough you will try even harder to get it. These three members tried even harder than most due to the fact that they do not write, read and/or speak the English language fluently. Bus. Mgr. Sergio A. Salinas offered free tutoring classes for the members to understand language barrier. Once each of these guys passed their language test and came by the office to present their JIW receipt with that big smile on their faces, IBEW Local 1015 members were able to get their journeyman status.

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY — IBEW Local 1249 congratulates David T. Burnett on his retirement. Dave has had a long and healthy retirement. Dave was initiated into IBEW Local 1249 on Nov. 16, 1977, and he worked in the field as a journeyman lineman. In 1991, Dave began his career with NYS Lineman Safety Training. Dave’s hard work and dedication helped to build our safety and training program into what it is today. Good luck, Dave, and enjoy your retirement — you deserve it!

Colby J. Czajka, A.B.M.

Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — On Saturday, Dec. 28, last year IBEW Local 1347 met with several other IBEW Locals (71, 212, 1224) at Matthew’s 25 Ministries in Kenwood, Ohio, for an afternoon of volunteering. In just two hours’ time, our efforts can help as many as 150-plus individuals, which is why we love coming back every year! This is our fourth year in a row attending a Matthew’s 25 Ministries event, and plans are already underway for a fifth year come December 2020. We appreciate everyone who donated their time and hope to keep growing our group of volunteers as the years go by.


Andrew Kirk, B.M./F.S.

A Career of Service

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY — IBEW Local 1249 would like to wish David T. Burnett a very happy and healthy retirement. Dave was initiated into IBEW Local 1249 on Nov. 16, 1977, and he worked in the field as a journeyman lineman. In 1991, Dave began his career with NYS Lineman Safety Training. Dave’s hard work and dedication helped to build our safety and training program into what it is today. Good luck, Dave, and enjoy your retirement — you deserve it!

Colby J. Czajka, A.B.M.

IBEW Member Wins Iron Dog Snowmobile Race

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,lctt,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK — Congratulations to Bro. Tyler Aklestad and his team partner, Nick Olstad, on winning the Iron Dog snowmobile race. The Iron Dog is the world’s longest, toughest snowmobile race covering more than 2,400 miles in Alaska’s backcountry. Bro. Aklestad and his partner led the entire race.

“It’s an amazing race and great opportunity,” Bro. Aklestad said. “I appreciate all the support I got from the brotherhood.” When asked why he thought his team won he replied: “We spent a lot of time getting prepared. We put in a lot of work and dedication, so this was definitely a labor of love.” This year, an additional 375 miles were added to the race and with the extreme weather, only 11 of 29 teams finished.

Bro. Aklestad is an OSP Engineer with Matanuska Electric Association. He won the race previously in 2016 with his team partner Tyson Johnson.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mt,pet rtc&u), BALTIMORE, MD — Recently, Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie, reported the longest serving business manager in the IBEW serving over 50 years and with 60 years as an IBEW member, had a meeting at the Aqueduct Racetrack in New York with the members there to discuss the new collective bargaining agreement. The members there helped to add their input to the proposals that were negotiated with Amblite International for the new CBA. We don’t have the final results as of this writing, but we are looking forward to successful contract negotiations.

The local has members who work at several racetracks in New York. The accompanying photo, below left, was taken at Bus. Mgr. Guthrie’s meeting with some members at the Aqueduct Racetrack in South Ozone Park, Queens, New York. That racetrack is a thoroughbred horse racing facility, which is open from October through April.

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

Have you moved?

Notice us of an address change

www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress or call 202-728-6263

A contingent of Local 1547 members, along with members from several sister locals, volunteered for community service.

Local 697 members who participated in the sixth annual Local 697 EWMC charity basketball day event, along with the family of Thomas Richardson.

The first of many Local 1049 locating technicians with Premier Infrastructure.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Surname</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grabner, R. L.</td>
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Tennessee Utility Members Honored After Pulling Woman from Raging Flood Waters

Cody Bryant felt a little out of place when the Tennessee General Assembly honored him and fellow Kingsport, Tenn., Local 934 members Rick Courtner and Mollie Ingle in February.

“We stuck out like a sore thumb down there,” said Bryant, a lineman for Mountain Electric Cooperative. “We were told business casual. Nashville is a little different than Mountain City’s business casual.”

Mountain City, home to both Bryant and Courtner, is a small, rural community tucked neatly in the state’s northeastern corner near its borders with Virginia and North Carolina. It’s more than a four-hour drive from the neon lights and business suits of the state capital.

As it turned out, fashion didn’t matter in the end; the trio were the stars of the show as members of the Legislature turned out to honor their heroism. Weeks earlier, with help from three other Local 934 members, Bryant, 31, and line foreman Courtner, 52, pulled a woman from her Ford F-150 pickup truck moments before she would have been swept up in flash flood waters.

Other Local 934 members involved in the rescue were Ingle, a meterperson, along with lineman Charlie Grindstaff and apprentice lineman Dakota Tester.

“People are considering the situation,” Courtner said. “It was just some thing that needed to be done and we were in a position to do it.”

“It was a team effort,” Courtner said. “Everyone was doing a job they had been trained to do. It saved a lot of time.”

Ingle was working on a meter after heavy rain pounded northeast Tennessee the afternoon of Feb. 6. A resident in the area where she was working approached and told her about a woman trapped in her vehicle in some roaring creek waters along State Road 95.

Her calls to 911 kept dropping, so Ingle called her husband, an off-duty police officer, and he called 911. Ingle then reached Courtner and Bryant via cell phone and told them to bring their bucket — which usually means it’s a rescue situation.

Courtner got to the area first, analyzed the scene and called Bryant and “told him to step on it,” he said.

“It was a dire situation,” Courtner said. “Cody later told me from the point she ran off, she had been pushed about 450 yards down the creek. She had gotten hung up on a rock. The emergency personnel on the scene did not have any swift water rescue staff and were unable to reach her.”

Getting caught on that rock turned out to be a blessing. Without it, the driver might have been swept up over a bridge about 100 yards away, Bryant said.

“Mollie had called and told me to go around the traffic,” Bryant said. “When we got down there, there was a yard between some houses and trees. Rick was motioning me to turn back into the yard where it sloped into the creek.”

By that time, Grindstaff and Tester had also arrived. They helped set up the truck so Courtner and Bryant could get in the bucket and cut over the water. Their first attempt came about 10 feet short of the truck, so they had to return to the yard and back the truck closer to the water.

On the second attempt, they reached the woman’s vehicle.

“She was actually very calm considering the situation,” Courtner said.

“We didn’t feel like it was anything heroic. It was something that needed to be done and we were in a position to do it.”

— Kingsport, Tenn., Local 934 member Rick Courtner

“We didn’t feel like it was anything heroic,” Courtner said. “I was just something that needed to be done and we were in a position to do it. Every other linemen would have done the same thing if they had been on the scene.”

That humility didn’t come as a surprise to Local 934 Business Manager Roger Farmer, who said the work by all five IBEW members was exemplary.

“We’ve got a really good group of folks that work there,” he said. “They just consider this another day in the park, even though they saved a life. They don’t consider themselves heroes by any means.”

But plenty of other people certainly do. “It was a very serious situation and emergency personnel had limited options due to the raging waters,” said Joseph Thack-er, Mountain Electric Cooperative’s gener al manager. “Our line workers put themselves at risk every day to serve our communities. We are very proud of Rick, Cody, Dakota, Charlie and Mollie and their willingness to go above and beyond to help others in need. This is Mountain Electric at its best.”
The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m., by Chairman Erikson, on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Furco, Wine, Levin and Galbraith.

**International President Stephenson**

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

**International Secretary-Treasurer Cooper**

International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood both in Canada and in the United States. IST Cooper and the actuaries presented the actuary assumptions for the Pension Benefit Fund, the Pension Plan for Officers, Representatives and Assistants and the Pension Plan for Office Employees. Discussed were various aspects relating to actuarial valuation results, including a background of the plans, contributions and funds structures, and reviewed actuarial assumptions for future goals and benchmarks and effects of legislation.

**Legal Defense**

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

**Financial Reports**

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

**Appeals Filed with the International Executive Council**

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 177 member Richard C. Barfield, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Barfield’s appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 400 member Thomas Juliano, and it is the decision of the IEC to approve Brother Juliano’s appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 424 member Ernest K. Wagner, and it is the decision of the IEC to approve Brother Wagner’s appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 505 member Kenneth A. Boutwell Jr., and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Boutwell’s appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 716 member Charles E. Peacock, and it is the decision of the IEC to approve Brother Peacock’s appeal.

Local Union(s) Under International Office Supervision

Local Union 2390 was placed under trusteeship on June 3, 2019. The trusteeship has been extended for an additional six (6) months.

**Article XX and XXI Cases**

In the fourth quarter of 2019, the IBEW was involved in one case under Article XXI case of the AFL-CIO Constitution.

**Retirement of Director and International Representatives**

- William T. Bohne*, Director, Railroad Department
  Effective — November 1, 2019
- Richard K. Deering, International Representative, Second District
  Effective — February 1, 2020
- Benny J. Huinincutt, International Representative, Tenth District
  Effective — September 1, 2019
- James T. Springfield, International Representative, Tenth District
  Effective — January 1, 2020

**Retirement of International Office Employees**

- Saudra L. Delgado, Secretary, Investments/401K Department
  Effective — December 11, 2019
- Janice M. Pelz, Secretary, Sixth District
  Effective — January 1, 2020
- Ernest K. Wagner, Support Services Department
  Effective — October 31, 2019

**Vested Pension**

Margaret R. Reale, Secretary, Fourth District
Effective — July 1, 2019

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned, on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, February 3, 2020, in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

**For the International Executive Council**

Patrick Lavin, Secretary
December 2019

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW pension fund. For a complete listing, consult www.IBEW.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the “Who We Are” page.
Louisville Members Score Big with Soccer Stadium Project

More than 60 Louisville, Ky., Local 369 electrical workers installed everything from wiring to signs at the city’s new soccer-only Lynn Family Stadium, where Louisville City F.C. officials and players joined construction officials last summer to present samples of natural grass turf to be used there.

Louisville, Ky., is already famous for its contributions to the world of sports — think Louisville Slugger baseball bats, legendary boxer Muhammad Ali or the spectacle of the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs. Now, with some help from the members of the city’s IBEW members at Local 369, professional soccer is set to join that distinguished list.

Nearly 60 of the local’s electricians recently wrapped up work on an 85,000-square-foot soccer stadium, installing wiring, lights, signs, sound systems and more. And they managed to have fun doing it, said Local 369 Business Manager Charlie Essex of building the Lynn Family Stadium in the city’s Buthertown neighborhood.

But the work didn’t come to the local without a struggle, he said, a reality that remains sadly unsurprising in largely anti-union Kentucky. “We spent a ton of target money to keep the ‘rats’ out,” Essex said, referring to numerous nonunion bidders for the job.

The investment paid off. “We did anything electric.”

— Local 369 Business Manager Charlie Essex

Since its debut season in 2015, LouCity — the team’s less-than-a-mouthful nickname — has been a leader among the United Soccer League’s Championship tier, one level below Major League Soccer.

In fact, the “Boys in Purple” won the Championship’s top prize in 2017 and 2018 and finished in second place last fall.

And the team accomplished all of this while sharing space at the built-for-baseball Slugger Field, home of the Louisville Bats, a minor league affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. For four seasons, LouCity managed to make things work, configuring a rectangular soccer pitch onto the field’s baseball diamond while scheduling their matches to accommodate the Sluggers’ home games.

A local business study showed, however, that if Louisville was serious about growing the professional game in the city, a permanent soccer-specific stadium would be needed. A home of its own also would help put LouCity on solid financial footing and allow it to attract top-quality players from all over the world.

Ground was finally broken on a new facility a few blocks east of Slugger Field in June 2018, with Local 369’s electricians working with signatory contractor Delta Services on a project that ended up mixing union and nonunion construction workers.

Probably the project’s biggest challenge was beyond anyone’s control: dealing with the record-setting rains that waterlogged the Ohio Valley and much of the Midwest in the summer of 2018. Nevertheless, the 12,000-seat stadium was completed on time for the season’s scheduled start in April, with Delta noting that Local 369’s members worked nearly 60,000 hours on the project without a lost-time incident.

Like most other spring and summer sports leagues around the world, though, the USL announced in March that it was delaying the start of its season to at least mid-May on account of the various measures put in place to help fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Even so, LouCity’s games already are among the hottest tickets in town, Essex said. “The stadium is already sold out for this year,” he said, adding that Local 369 has the contract to maintain the stadium’s electrical systems and equipment, and it will almost certainly get the work on the stadium’s inevitable expansion.

And beyond LouCity’s matches, the Lynn Family Stadium expects to handle plenty of other action going forward, especially now that the top-flight National Women’s Soccer League has announced that its expansion Proof Louisville Football Club will play there beginning in 2021.

Incidentally, the “Lynn” in “Lynn Family Stadium” is Dr. Mark Lynn, a prominent Louisville-area optometrist who owns dozens of Visionworks franchises in Kentucky and four other states. Essex noted with pride that one of Lynn’s children is enrolled in Local 369’s apprenticeship school.

Meanwhile, other jobs for the local lately have been “fantastic,” Essex said. Recent Local 369 projects have included work on four new schools, plus remodeling projects at four others, along with expansion of United Parcel Service’s Worldport hub at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport and an expansion of the airport itself. And that’s not to mention plenty of ongoing work for the local’s tree-trimmers.

But when they have some down time, Local 369’s members will have a chance to take in some professional soccer at their newly built stadium. There’s certainly one record-breaking statistic to attract anyone looking for a good time, Essex said. “Out of every sports venue in North America, that stadium has the most bars per square foot.”