

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

CONSTRUCTION • UTILITIES • TELECOMMUNICATIONS • MANUFACTURING • GOVERNMENT • BROADCASTING • RAILROAD

Printed in the USA

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vol. 16 | No. 11 | November 2022

IBEW News

The Presidential Spotlight

Boston Member Introduces Biden at White House **3**

Rail Agreement Reached

Members Vote to Ratify **6**

Serving Our Veterans

VEEP Expands to California **7**

In This Issue

Editorials **2**

Letters to the Editor **2**

My IBEW Story **2**

North of 49° **8**

Politics & Jobs **9**

Circuits **10**

Transitions **12**

In Memoriam **13**

Local Lines **14**

Grounded in History **19**

Who We Are **20**

DEADLINE EXTENDED

THE IBEW'S 2022
Photo Contest

Deadline: Dec. 1 • Details on pg. 10

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1032
LONG PRAIRIE, ILL.

Investing in America's Future

Ohio Chip Plant Soars to \$100 Billion After Biden-Backed Legislation



Following passage of the CHIPS Act, thousands of New Albany, Ohio, Local 1105 members will be on site building Intel's new \$100 billion semiconductor complex for decades. By a factor of two it is the largest project labor agreement in IBEW history.

The largest private investment in Ohio history and the largest project labor agreement in IBEW history broke ground just east of Columbus on Sept. 9.

Intel Corp. expects 7,000 construction workers, including up to 3,000 electrical workers, will be on site for at least a decade, and likely far, far longer.

The \$20 billion Intel semiconductor manufacturing campus was just a rumor last December when Newark Local 1105 Business Manager Bill Hamilton first heard about the project.

"It was the best kept secret," Hamilton said, comparing it to the silence that preceded the D-Day invasion during World War II. "It is mind-blowing that we went from whispers in December to President Biden name-checking International President Stephenson at the groundbreaking in September."

Hamilton has been business manager of Local 1105 since 2001 when he represented about 225 members. When the announcement was made, a decade of data center-driven growth had doubled his membership.

Now, he was looking at a single project that

A LIFETIME OF WORK

could easily put nearly four times that number to work for a decade.

Intel wasn't done.

CEO Patrick P. Gelsinger had a message in public and private throughout the spring: If the CHIPS and Science Act passed in Congress, Intel would quintuple the size of the fabrication facility to \$100 billion.

"They did not mince words. It was that direct connection between the CHIPS Act and the investment," Hamilton said.

After an immense lobbying campaign spearheaded by the IBEW, the CHIPS Act passed and President Joe Biden signed it in August, with International President Lonnie R. Stephenson and Fourth District International Vice President Gina Cooper at the White House for the celebration.

The bill created \$280 billion in investments, tax credits and subsidies to bring high-tech manu-

facturing jobs back to U.S. shores after decades of federal support for sending them overseas.

At press time, Micron Technology, Inc. announced it, too, would be building a gargantuan chip-making facility at home in the U.S. Located in the jurisdiction of Syracuse, N.Y., Local 43, that project could also grow to \$100 billion over the next 20 years thanks to the incentives in the CHIPS Act. The Electrical Worker will have additional coverage of that project in an upcoming issue.

Semiconductors are the essential component of digital life, the silicon brain powering every advance in computers, transportation, health care, clean energy, weapons systems and future technology like artificial intelligence.

The collapse of the global chip supply chain was the source of roughly one-third of the inflation spike that hit the U.S. last summer. Guaranteeing reliable access to semiconductors is a prerequisite to competing in the 21st-century world.

The U.S. remains the global leader in semiconductor research and design, but U.S. chip manufacturing, which once supplied nearly 30% of the world's microchips, had fallen to just 10%

OHIO CHIP PLANT *continued on page 4*

FROM THE OFFICERS

Giving Thanks



Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving here in the United States, and our Canadian siblings wrapped up their celebration just last month. But whatever day we celebrate, as union members we all have a lot to be thankful for. Our union membership means a lot of things: better wages, superior benefits, more job security, and maybe most importantly, a voice at work.

You know too well that our nonunion counterparts work at the whims of their employers, where they're often pitted against one another, underpaid, overworked and either too afraid to speak up to address issues on the job or ignored or retaliated against if they do.

In the U.S., nonunion workers earn just 83 cents for every dollar union workers make, and the difference is even more stark for women and people of color.

When it comes to retirement security and health care, the difference couldn't be clearer. Sixty-four percent of U.S. private-sector union members have defined-benefit pension plans versus just 11% of nonunion workers. More than 90% of union members have access to employer-sponsored health care versus 68% of nonunion workers.

Not surprisingly, union households are able to hold more wealth than non-union households, and the advantage is staggering among families of color. While white union members average 39% more household wealth than their nonunion counterparts, for nonwhite union members there's a 385% difference. And unions do more to close gender and racial wealth gaps than almost any other factor.

If those were the only advantages, we'd still have a lot to be thankful for as union members, but we all know there's more.

The intangible benefits of union membership — things we call “solidarity” and “brotherhood,” among others — can't be valued with dollars and cents.

That feeling of knowing someone has your back and will stand with you in good times and bad, the value of that is immeasurable. We don't use the words “brother,” “sister” and “sibling” because they sound nice; we use them because from the earliest days of the labor movement and still today, we consider our fellow union members family.

Families celebrate together and fight side-by-side. They share in one another's successes and lift one another up in times of failure.

In my 47 years in the IBEW, I can't begin to count the number of times I've seen members come together to support a member in need or lift up a union family dealing with tragedy.

This Thanksgiving, so many of you will volunteer in your communities and feed hungry families because that's what we do as union members. We help one another.

I'm proud to call each of you my union family, and this year I hope you're grateful as well for what being a part of the IBEW has meant in your life.

Then, when the holiday is over, I encourage you to go out and invite others into our IBEW family and extend the union advantage to even more people in your communities. This family has room to grow. ■

Honoring our Vets With Action

Veterans Day in the U.S. and Remembrance Day in Canada are days when each of us is asked to honor and remember those who've served our countries selflessly in uniform.

So, to every IBEW veteran in both the U.S. and Canada, let me thank you for your incredible service.

But here at the IBEW, we've pledged to do more, and we're going to need every local union's help to achieve our ambitious goals.

If you read last month's *Electrical Worker* and the cover story in this issue, you know there's a tidal wave of work coming for IBEW members across every branch thanks to several pieces of legislation that President Biden ushered through Congress over the last year. It's most pronounced in the construction industry, where nearly every piece of the new economy in both the U.S. and Canada will need electricians and lineworkers to make everything work.

Put bluntly, we need to grow to meet the coming demand. And if we don't grow quickly, we risk losing out on an economic goldrush the likes of which we haven't seen since the end of World War II.

Like the 1940s and '50s, our nations' veterans are sure to be a big piece of the solution.

On Page 7 of this issue, you'll read about the Veterans Electrical Entry Program, which we and our partners at NECA have recently expanded to multiple local union training centers in California. Many IBEW locals across the U.S. have benefited from VEEP graduates joining through Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 or through online offerings, and many more will benefit from these new locations. But that list needs to grow.

If your JATC is near an active-duty military base, I encourage you to visit in2veep.com and get more information about what it takes to get the VEEP program started for veterans in your area.

Because here's the thing: we owe our veterans a lot. But we have a lot to gain from them as well. Veterans show up on Day One with the discipline, work ethic and leadership skills that come from military service. They're an enormous benefit to any local they join.

And if the IBEW and NECA can do one thing to help our veterans transition from active duty into a private-sector career, then we've honored their service with action.

So, thank the veterans in your life this month, but if you want to turn those words into results, I encourage you to offer them a path into a life-changing career in the IBEW. ■



Kenneth W. Cooper
International Secretary-Treasurer

“LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

Support IBEW History

Brothers and Sisters,

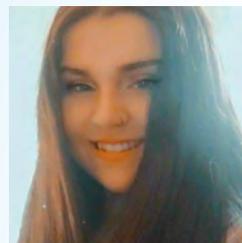
With the 131st anniversary of the IBEW upon us this month, I would like to remind the brothers and sisters of the IBEW of the unique opportunity we have as members to stand in the room where the 10 founding fathers met when they formed this great union. The Henry Miller Museum, located in St. Louis, is a must-see for every IBEW member. You will walk through the doors and feel the roots of your IBEW ancestors. It's a moving experience for those that are true-blue IBEW and care about the history of the IBEW. If you are planning a visit to St. Louis call ahead and set up a visit at 314-647-5900. Your tax-deductible donations to the Henry Miller Museum can be made at nbew-ibewmuseum.org.

Frank D. Jacobs
Local 1 Business Manager
St. Louis

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

Mackenzie Grammer, Fifth-Year Inside Apprentice
Boston Local 103



“My journey began my freshman year of high school. I originally chose the business shop, having no idea what I was going to make of myself, but ended up switching to the electrical class. I had no idea what great opportunities I would have, especially because my first

opportunity working in the field was in my junior year at a non-union electrical company where I was the only female and getting paid less than my male counterparts. I decided when the summer was over to quit that job, and it was the best decision I ever made.

My senior year I had the opportunity to do a cooperative program with my school and a Local 103 contractor. My first day going out to work was one of the scariest days of my life, but when I walked on site I knew it was the path for me because I was welcomed with warm arms. I've never felt more in the right place.

I was awarded a scholarship from Local 103 when I graduated that was specifically for vocational school students. Getting it was kind of a big deal because no one in my family made it past college, so this was a very big accomplishment. It was like winning the lottery.

I grew up well below the poverty line. My mom is on disability and my dad works a retail job while supporting my four siblings and me. It was hard growing up, but the second that I got into the IBEW I knew I could provide a better life for my family, and I can proudly say that I have. I love the thought that the IBEW has helped me take the burden off my parents financially. It takes a village to raise a family, and the IBEW has become a part of my village.”

Every member in every branch has a story to tell about how the IBEW has improved their life both on and off the job. Tell us yours today for a chance to be featured here.

ibew.org/MyIBEWStory

Celebrating Progress for Workers, Boston Member Hits ‘Home Run’ at White House

Moments before Marine guards opened the doors leading to the South Lawn of the White House, Lovette Jacobs anxiously asked an aide how many people were gathered outside.

A member of Boston Local 103, Jacobs was about to face a Who’s Who of guests invited to celebrate passage of the Biden administration’s historic Inflation Reduction Act. She steeled herself for a few hundred pairs of eyes.

She laughs, recalling the aide’s startling answer: “It’s a small crowd today,” he told her. “About 5,000 people.”

But it was no more surreal than Jacobs’ past half hour in the elegant oval foyer where she chatted with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris about everything from her IBEW apprenticeship to sports teams to Boston’s best lobster rolls.

A whirlwind 30 hours had passed since a phone call turned her ordinary workweek into something extraordinary: an invitation to represent the IBEW from the White House bully pulpit and champion a president who is fighting for America’s workers with an intensity not seen since the New Deal.

Now, in bright sunshine with the United States Marine Band playing “Hail to the Chief,” Jacobs was striding onto the famous lawn with Harris at her side and Biden leading the way.

She radiated pride as Harris introduced her as a young leader helping to make President Biden’s pro-worker agenda a reality.

“My career with the IBEW has given me endless opportunities that have in turn changed my son and my lives for the better,” Jacobs said, wearing a red Local 103 polo shirt and flashing smile after smile. “So, you can only imagine how big of an honor it is to introduce our next speaker, a real friend of the IBEW.”

With Biden beaming to her right, she made her case.

“The Inflation Reduction Act won’t just lower energy costs, it will create an untold number of energy jobs,” she said, ticking off a list of legislation won and promises kept over the past 20 months.

“It also comes with some of the strongest worker protections we’ve ever seen — because President Biden knows that we don’t just need more jobs. We need more middle-class, union jobs.”

The \$369 billion IRA invests in clean energy, good jobs, lower health care costs, tax fairness and more benefits for working families. It was passed by House and Senate Democrats in August without a single Republican vote.

As Biden put it in his remarks, “With this law, the American people won and special interests lost.”

The IRA builds on other major victories: the \$1 trillion American Rescue Plan, which also ensured the security of multiemployer union pensions like the



Above: Lovette Jacobs of Boston Local 103 introduces President Biden to a huge audience on the South Lawn of the White House for a Sept. 13 celebration of the job-creating Inflation Reduction Act. Right: While talking with Biden and VP Kamala Harris for a half hour beforehand, Jacobs presented them with IBEW challenge coins.



Credit: The White House

IBEW’s; an unprecedented \$1.3 trillion in infrastructure spending under the American Jobs Act; and the \$260 billion CHIPS and Science Act to expand high-tech manufacturing.

Already in Boston, Jacobs noted, hundreds of new Local 103 jobs are being created to modernize Terminal E at Logan International Airport.

IBEW members nationwide stand to benefit from projects funded by this legislation for decades to come — as long as voters stay the course Nov. 8, International President Lonnie R. Stephenson cautioned.

“Sister Jacobs did a beautiful job describing what’s at stake,” he said. “Everything we’ve fought for and won is due to President Biden and our allies’ razor-thin majority in Congress. But the rollout’s only begun. Given the power, our opponents will derail it and other progress for workers as fast as they can. We can’t let that happen.”

Though she didn’t mention the

midterm elections directly, Jacobs hopes her message was clear. “I hear people say, ‘My vote doesn’t matter.’ Your vote absolutely matters,” she said. “It could be the one vote that keeps us going forward or sends us backward, and people have to understand that.”

The audience at the White House on Sept. 13 was roughly 50 times bigger than she’d ever addressed as a union activist, not to mention the millions of people who would see her on TV and online.

She channeled the calming words of her father, a union Boston transit inspector. “Just imagine you’re having a conversation with me,” he’d counseled.

Her IBEW family gave her confidence, too. “I’m a young Black female construction worker, and part of the reason I was able to get on the stage with two of the most powerful people in the world and feel comfortable is because, right here in my backyard, my union makes me feel comfortable with

being who I am,” Jacobs said.

No one watching from the South Lawn was prouder than Local 103 Business Manager Lou Antonellis. “I honestly felt like I would feel if she were one of my own kids, that type of pride. She went down there and hit a home run.”

He wasn’t at all surprised. “Lovette is a natural leader when it comes to getting involved and being involved,” he said. “People can’t help but gravitate toward her.”

Five years ago, Jacobs was barely making ends meet on wages she earned sterilizing surgical instruments at a Boston hospital.

Encouraged by a female friend in the Ironworkers, she began looking into the trades and eventually narrowed her pursuit to the IBEW. She was in the throes of final exams as an apprentice when she spoke at the White House and graduated as a journeyman three weeks later.

Recently, she’s been working on

“The president gave me encouragement. He let me know that he understood how valuable the workers of our country are.”

— Lovette Jacobs, Boston Local 103

renovations at Boston’s Seaport World Trade Center, where she was atop a ladder when her phone alerted her to an IBEW voicemail on Monday morning, Sept. 12.

Stunned as she was by the invitation to the White House, she already had something of a rapport with Biden.

Early in his campaign, she’d trekked to New Hampshire with other Local 103 members to wave signs of support. Spotting his IBEW fans, Biden walked over and chatted while pouring them cups of coffee.

Then in April 2020, Jacobs was asked to take part in a Zoom session between the candidate and working women.

“I told him I lost my job during COVID and explained how tough it was to be laid off suddenly,” she said at the White House. “The president gave me encouragement. He let me know that he understood how valuable the workers of our country are and that we have to take care of our workers. When he got elected, he put those words into action.”

As she turned the podium over to Biden, he hugged her and gushed, “I’m impressed. I’m really impressed!”

Speaking to the crowd, he said, “Thank you Lovette for this. This law is for you and the millions of people like you: good, decent, hardworking Americans.”

Jacobs, who is 33 and the daughter of Liberian immigrants, hopes all Americans could see a little of themselves in her that day.

“Being young, or still youngish, being a person of color, a female, a first-generation American, a construction worker — if someone sees me on the television screen and says, ‘Hey, she looks like me,’ maybe they’ll also say, ‘If she can do it, I can do it. If she’s passionate about the issues, I should be, too.’” ■

Continued from page 1

Investing in America's Future:

Ohio Chip Plant Soars to \$100 Billion After Biden-Backed Legislation

in 2022. The CHIPS Act recognized a fundamental flaw in the global economy — access to new microchips had become not just an economic concern, but a national security necessity.

Good as his word, just before the official groundbreaking, Gelsinger confirmed that the promise was real: what was already the largest private investment in the state was now just the first and smallest phase of a \$100 billion industrial complex that could change the economy of the entire Midwest.

"Intel is using a PLA. For folks at home, these are agreements that contractors, subcontractors and unions put in place before construction begins," Biden said at the groundbreaking. "They ensure major projects are handled by well-trained, well-prepared, highly skilled workers. These agreements make sure construction is top notch, on time, on task and on budget."

Stage One will now exhaust the entire \$20 billion initial investment; Stage Two will be twice as big, and by the time construction starts on the Stage Three, Intel will already be updating Stage One, Cooper said.

"This is extraordinary news for Local 1105, the state of Ohio and the entire IBEW," she said.

The challenge for the IBEW and its signatory contractors now, she said, is creating and organizing a union workforce large enough to handle this job without ceding a single foot of conduit to nonunion contractors in the jurisdiction.

"This is a project that never ends. It's good to be us."

— Fourth District International Vice President Gina Cooper

Exponential Growth

Five years ago, Local 1105 looked a lot like it had for the previous 40 years when it was formed by the consolidation of five construction locals. Membership had peaked at about 250 members in the mid-1970s, Hamilton said, and then held steady at about 225.

The heart of the local's work was a six-unit, 2-gigawatt coal powerhouse in Conesville, Ohio, where Hamilton had done nearly his entire apprenticeship and members worked around the clock.

The five smokestacks of Conesville have been quiet for more than two years, which would have been a disaster for the local. But five years ago, Amazon came to town and built its first data center. Google and Facebook followed, and Amazon returned to build two logistics centers.

Local 1105 began to grow.

"We haven't stopped," Hamilton said.



President Joe Biden speaks at the groundbreaking of Stage One of the Ohio Intel plant one month after signing the CHIPS Act.



The groundbreaking in September was for a \$20 billion Stage One; after the CHIPS Act was passed, Intel announced two more phases at \$40 billion each.

community colleges, affinity groups, targeted mailers, door knocking, transition assistance coordinators at every local military base and all 18 JATCs in the state have been told to expand," Cooper said. "The goal is to increase everything."

The online home is WePowerOhio.com, based on the WePowerAmerica.com site originally built by the Membership Development Department.

Cooper, Hamilton, and Local 1105 staff, representatives from the National Electrical Contractors Association and Fourth District staff have been meeting with Intel every other week since "very early" in the process, Cooper said.

"Our intent is to prove that we are true partners. We will be there for the long haul, and we will do what is necessary to be successful," Bill Hamilton said.

There is one advantage to the gargantuan size of the project, Cooper said. It is so big it will have its own gravity.

"There are 23,000 electrical workers in the state, not all of them IBEW. There won't be many who won't hear from us, but even they will hear about Intel, the scope, the budget, the time horizon that stretches far beyond just one career," she said.

Organizing efforts will target foremen, general foremen and supervisors, who often bring along their entire crews. Nonunion contractors listen a little closer to top-down organizing arguments when they are watching their workers walk.

"We welcome any nonunion contractor who wants to take on smaller jobs to come on in and talk with us. Anytime. We will sub work out to everybody who will help fill the gaps. And when the huge

Even before Intel's announcement, the local had nearly 550 members and there was already a \$250 bounty for bringing in nonunion electrical workers who signed a card. The local bought a 15,000 square-foot building to expand the JATC and indentured 130 apprentices last year alone.

Then came the Intel announcement. Luckily, the eight acres next to the JATC building were available. JATC bought two, and Local 1105 is closing on the other six to build a campus on the site.

"Intel was clear: they don't want this to be all travelers. They will have enough work, and high enough standards, that they want this to be home," Hamilton said. "We will grow to meet the need."

By comparison, an Intel plant in the jurisdiction of Portland, Ore., Local 48 has had an average of 1,200 IBEW members

onsite, as many as nearly 2,000 at times, said Business Manager Garth Bachman, but never less than a few hundred — for the last 30 years.

"It is so huge it is really hard to describe," Bachman said. "And the Ohio site is three times the size of ours."

And then there are the 160 suppliers that Intel said will locate some part of their production process in the area.

That's not including the condos, shopping malls, grocery stores, homes and movie theaters that have all popped up in the former farmlands around the Oregon facility.

"It will be absolutely awesome," Cooper said. "This is a project that never ends. It's good to be us."

The prevailing wage standards in the CHIPS Act, the Inflation Reduction Act and the infrastructure bill, all signed by

President Biden in the last year, will create an unprecedented opportunity for IBEW locals that are prepared to grab it.

Happily, Cooper said, even though no one knew the IBEW would see the success of these bills, union leadership has been preparing to meet the moment.

"When we met with Intel, we had a plan and we are using every tool, idea and personal connection we have developed in the last two decades of investing in organizing," she said.

The plan, coordinated by Cooper, Fourth District International Representative Virgil Hamilton, Local 1105's Billy Hamilton (no relation), Fourth District Organizing Coordinator Donny Rutledge (a former Local 1105 organizer) and the rest of the Fourth District staff includes, well, everything.

"Top-down, bottom-up, social media,



Image courtesy Intel Corp.



Image courtesy The White House

When Biden signed the CHIPS Act (left) it reversed decades of U.S. economic policy rewarding companies for shipping manufacturing jobs overseas and brings one of the 21st century's key technologies back to U.S. shores.

run a series of new contractor trainings for Ohio IBEW members.

"There has never been a better time to open your own shop. There will be huge opportunities for new contractors to pick up smaller work as everyone gets bigger," Cooper said. "And there will be plenty of people who won't want to work 6-10s [six 10-hour days per week] for the next 12 years. There are plenty of people who want regular hours and time to see their kids. We want to make sure there is a place for everyone."

New Industries, New Opportunities

Local 1105's challenge to grow seems extraordinary, and historically it is nearly unprecedented.

But that won't be unique for long, said Director of Business Development Ray Kasmark.

"Semiconductors are only one of several entirely new sectors of the economy — like EV car-charging infrastructure, advanced nuclear, renewables, battery storage and manufacturing — that have huge demand for our skills," he said. "This changes everything we have known."

At the Intel groundbreaking, Biden said, "Folks, the future of the chip industry is in America. We will invent it in America, and we will make it in America." Within days, his prediction became reality.

Three days later, Micron broke ground for a \$15 billion chip factory in Boise, Idaho, the first part of what the company promised would be \$40 billion in investment over the next 10 years.

Samsung broke ground on a \$17 billion plant in the jurisdiction of Austin, Texas, Local 520 that is expected to create 10,000 construction jobs before Phase I is complete in 2026.

Texas Instruments recently announced plans for new semiconductor plants outside Dallas, part of an estimated \$30 billion investment.

And that original GlobalFoundries plant in upstate New York just announced it will double output to 1 million lithographed wafers per year.

Intel is expanding, too. It spending \$3.5 billion to build out a chip packaging plant in New Mexico. The company is expected to hire 1,000 construction workers starting this year and spend \$550 million on construction and new infrastructure there. It also announced its intention to build two more production buildings at its Ocotillo, Ariz., complex, bringing the total there to eight.

These are just the investments in traditional semiconductor manufacturing centers.

New investment, Kasmark said, will be focused near the clients, particularly the car industry, feeding both industries as cars become more electronic as the EV revolution expands.

It all adds up to a new world for locals, which must embrace the change.

"This is all on top of what we already do," he said. "This is a generational shift."

The traditional cycle of boom and bust in construction is an artifact of bad economic policies of the last 40 years, Kasmark said. The CHIPS Act, combined with technological changes making industry more reliant than ever on electricity and electronics, has created a new reality.

"That boom-and-bust time is gone for us. There may be dips and traditional recessions outside our industry, but IBEW construction members are looking at nothing less than what we saw after World War II — decades of unbroken growth," he said. "The only risk for the IBEW is not growing fast enough." ■

jobs slow down, we still control the entire market," Cooper said. "But we have no intention of giving up an inch of conduit if they don't sign on."

Another advantage is the size of the IBEW infrastructure in Ohio.

"I have faith in the strength of our Ohio locals. We have 18 inside locals, two outside locals and two locals outside the state with jurisdiction in Ohio. That means 22 apprenticeships and 22 organizing departments," she said.

The rest, Cooper said, is working with and through the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, the Women's Caucus, Veterans' Committees, Helmets to Hardhats, community colleges and trade schools and military bases.

"We are throwing everything at this," she said.

Keeping What We Have

The main worry, if there is one associated with a lifetime of work, is that the mega project, the one that pays over-scale with about 20 hours of overtime a week, will leave open calls for traditional customers and open the door for nonunion contractors to come in and grow in the dark.

Albany, N.Y., Local 236 Business Manager Mike Mastropietro lives with this concern.

The GlobalFoundries chip fabrication facility in his local's jurisdiction has kept hundreds of the local's 1,700 members busy since it started construction a decade ago.

"We had half the local on the initial project, including me, and between 50 and 300 since," he said. "It has been permanent growth."

Mastropietro said the local faced real challenges finding the members to

do all the jurisdiction's work when the facility first opened, though they were "aided" by the timing. Construction began in the wreckage of the 2008 financial crisis and the membership was grateful for the work.

However, many of the 90 signatory contractors did not meet the bonding requirements to successfully sub work at the facility. Ultimately, he said, help comes to those who help themselves.

"Our members took advantage to fill in the smaller jobs. They were the best resource to keep nonunion contractors from coming in," he said. "We like to see our members start their own shops and we support them however we can. Plus, existing contractors were lending their experience and know-how."

It's an idea that Cooper has embraced as a key component of maintaining market share.

Cooper assigned Virgil Hamilton to



In September, the IBEW's Railroad Branch members voted to ratify a historic tentative collective bargaining agreement with the largest freight rail carriers in the U.S., including Union Pacific.

Railroad Branch Members Approve Tentative, Multi-Union Agreement with Freight Carriers

On Sept. 28, the IBEW's Railroad Branch freight members voted to ratify a historic tentative collective bargaining agreement with the nation's largest freight rail carriers, reaching an important milestone in a lengthy and contentious process that, toward the end of it, saw President Joe Biden taking a personal interest in moving the bargaining parties closer to a deal.

"After nearly three years of bargaining between the nation's largest freight rail carriers and the union workers indispensable to their operation, we finally reached a national agreement that achieves more than 70% of what we were asking for," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said.

Chief among the victories in this tentative agreement is the biggest wage increases in 47 years: a 24% general compounded wage increase — retroactive to July 1, 2020 — over the next five years plus an annual \$1,000 service recognition bonus.

Nearly 4,000 IBEW members in the union's Railroad Branch work for the large Class I freight railroads covered under this agreement, which bargained as a group as the National Carriers' Conference Committee. The IBEW and the other railroad unions, representing about 115,000 workers, bargained collectively as well.

Nearly a third of U.S. freight moves by rail, and much of Amtrak's passenger service runs on tracks that are under freight carriers' jurisdiction. Talks toward an updated rail contract began in 2019 when the IBEW filed its notice to the NCCC on Dec. 12. But as months turned to years with almost no progress toward a voluntary agreement, the IBEW and its sister

"The freight rail industry is crucial to our economy, and the men and women who keep it moving deserve a fair deal."

— IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson

organizations in the coalition turned to the National Mediation Board for help. However, throughout a series of mediation sessions in May and June, the carriers continued their refusal to make or accept any worthwhile settlement offers.

With an ongoing deadlock threatening the critical movement of goods on the nation's rails, President Biden on July 18 used his ability under the Railway Labor Act to appoint a Presidential Emergency Board, empowered to recommend ways to settle disputes like these between the railroad companies and their workers.

On Aug. 16, the board reported its recommendations, which included among other things substantial pay raises and an additional annual paid day off. And during a 30-day cooling off period following the PEB report's release, the IBEW on Sept. 1 announced that it had reached a tentative agreement with the NCCC that included the Board's recommendations.

"The freight rail industry is crucial to our economy, and the men and women who keep it moving deserve a fair deal," said Stephenson, acknowledging the hard work of the IBEW's rail bargaining team as well as the efforts of President Biden and the members of the PEB to bring labor and management together. "We didn't win every-

thing we wanted, but this agreement is a step in the right direction."

But as negotiations with the other unions continued, on Sept. 14 — the day before the cooling-off period's deadline — Biden directed Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh to get the parties in a room at the department's headquarters in Washington, D.C., to hammer out an acceptable agreement.

The following morning, after an all-night, 20-hour negotiations session, the White House announced that a tentative agreement between the unions and the carriers had at last been reached.

Stephenson thanked the Railroad Department's negotiating team, led by Director Al Russo, as well as Railroad Branch International Representative J.J. Giuliano and the general chairmen of the union's railroad system councils: Jim Wisniski, SC-2; Tom Owens, SC-6; Arthur Davidson, SC-7; and Jeff Allred, SC-16.

Stephenson also gave credit to the solidarity of the IBEW's members, the intervention of the Biden administration and the president's personal advocacy for union workers during negotiations.

"Their leadership is further proof of what we at the IBEW have long believed: that workers and employers can solve problems both large and small when they come together to bargain in good faith,"

Stephenson said. "And this president, when faced with an impossible choice and a potentially crippling rail strike, delivered for union families just as he has over and over in his nearly two years in office through legislation and executive action."

"During the early dark uncertain days of the pandemic, [rail workers] showed up so every American could keep going," said Biden from the White House Rose Garden on Sept. 16. "They worked tirelessly through the pandemic to ensure families and communities got the deliveries they needed during these difficult few years. This agreement is validation of what I have always believed: unions and management can work together for the benefit of everyone."

In addition, the tentative agreement ensures no design changes to the health and welfare plan while resetting the employee cost of the plan and making several improvements to it, such as increasing the annual maximum for hearing benefits, removing age limits on speech therapy and providing coverage for those with autism spectrum disorder.

"This has been a long uphill battle," Stephenson said. "Our coalition stood together, holding their ground and never giving in to the carriers' concessionary bargaining tactics."

IBEW members' votes toward the union's ratification of the tentative agreement were counted at the union's International Office on Sept. 28. The IBEW was the third to vote to ratify the agreement, with the remaining unions set to hold their own votes by the end of November. Each individual union's members must vote to ratify the tentative updated agreement before it can take effect. ■

VEEP Expands in the Golden State



VEEP honors veterans by giving them a rewarding career when their service ends

When San Bernardino, Calif., Local 477 Business Development Representative Timothy Auman heard about the Veterans Electrical Entry Program back in 2019 at the IBEW Membership Development Conference, he knew he wanted to offer the program to train and offer career opportunities for veterans in his area. He just wasn't sure how.

"After the conference we got back and got out a splash board and said, 'Let's just throw stuff at the wall and see what sticks,'" said Auman, who is himself a veteran, having served in California's Army National Guard. "We knew we wanted vets, we just weren't sure how to get them."

Three years later, after asking a lot of questions and putting in a lot of leg work, Local 477, along with its sister local, Riverside Local 440, now has a robust VEEP program.

"Timothy has worked very hard to make it all come to fruition," said the Electrical Training Alliance's Greg McMurphy, who oversees the VEEP program and has worked closely with Auman. "He has put in many hours and miles in support of the service members in this program."

VEEP works with military base leadership to provide an opportunity for service members in their final six months of service to complete a

pre-apprenticeship that introduces them to the electrical trade and ends with direct entry into a local of their choosing. The program, open to all service members and their spouses, is run by the ETA and has two models of training, one for inside electricians and one for outside lineworkers.

The inside programs consist of a seven-week in-person training and a self-paced online training. The seven-week program, currently used by the JATCs at Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 and San Diego Local 569, covers the entire first-year curriculum of the five-year inside wireman apprenticeship. The online version currently used by Locals 440 and 477 and McMurphy nationwide includes a math course plus what's called the Interim Credential program course. The JATC in Los Angeles is taking a hybrid approach, using both online and in-person training.

The outside line program is 15 weeks in duration and covers all the content that a typical first-year line apprentice covers.

As with a lot of great programs, the trick is often to make your audience aware of them in the first place, and that often comes down to old-fashioned recruitment. Fortunately, Locals 440 and 477 are close to military bases, like Fort Irwin, Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms Marine Corps Base and had lead-



The Veterans Electrical Entry Program has been expanding its reach into California, including at Riverside Local 440 and San Bernardino Local 477, where they recently had 14 graduates go through the program, with more approaching completion.

ers willing to go out and do the work.

"Tim has done a great job of recruiting on the local bases," McMurphy said. "He is willing to provide support to his participants when they need it and isn't tethered to normal office hours."

Both locals have a goal of accepting 10 VEEP graduates each, and if there is space, they'll take more, sometimes from the other California programs being run out of Los Angeles Local 11 and San Diego Local 569. So far, they've had 14 graduates go through the program, with more approaching completion.

For the VEEP participants, the program provides a clear pathway into civilian service, not to mention a high-demand, well-paying career with excellent benefits. And it's one that often has familiar aspects to them.

"VEEP participants already know

how to follow a chain of command and do things like work as a team," said Jon Rowe, who works as the training director for both locals. "They're used to structure and formality, not to mention the camaraderie and brotherhood."

Another bonus for service members is that, since all IBEW apprenticeships are state and federally accredited, participants can collect their GI Bill benefits while working toward their journeyman card.

It's a win for the IBEW too.

"We get top-notch members," Auman said. "They're dedicated, reliable, consistent, respectful and have the ability to learn."

While VEEP isn't the only program designed to help service members transition to civilian life, it is an IBEW-specific one, which makes it a better option

for a lot of applicants, said Rowe.

"VEEP gets more involved," Rowe said. "It does a good job of filtering out candidates and it's more in-depth, which makes the participants more qualified in the end. Not everybody knows what they're applying for with an apprenticeship, but with VEEP they know what they're getting into."

To other locals considering VEEP, Auman and Rowe are both enthusiastic about getting on board.

"Yes, absolutely. Hurry up," Auman said. "Why not?"

Added Rowe, "Why wouldn't you give them a chance? VEEP grads turn out to be great candidates. There are a lot more pros than there are cons."

For more information on VEEP, go to <https://in2veep.com>.

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

Canadian Women Find Solidarity in Embassy Visit

Canadians attending the IBEW Women's Conference in Washington, D.C., weren't going to be outdone when it came to rubbing shoulders with the capital city's movers and shakers.

While their American sisters met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill on Sept. 7, a northern delegation of 30 members took a VIP tour of their nation's embassy and chatted with Canada's first woman ambassador to the United States.

"It was an incredible experience," said Marina Luporini, an assistant business manager at Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 258. "I was a little star-struck. I think it was the highlight of the conference for me."

Her Local 258 colleague Dayna Gill, also an assistant business manager and chair of the local's women's committee, agreed. "For us, visiting the States and seeing another woman from Canada in a position of leadership was very inspiring," she said.

Ambassador Kirsten Hillman, a diplomat with years of experience as a global trade negotiator, was appointed in March 2020. But she didn't dwell on her bona fides with the IBEW guests.

"She wanted to walk around the room and meet our members and find out more about their industries. She was especially interested in some of the non-traditional roles for women," said Cheryl Paron, a First District international representative in the Civic and Community Engagement Department.

The embassy itself also welcomed the visitors, who were honored to be the first group to tour it since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Right away, they were struck by its size and modernist grandeur, as well as its prominent location on Pennsylvania Avenue a block north of the National Mall. It is the only embassy between the Capitol and White House.

"It didn't really feel like an embassy," Paron said. "The artwork and the architecture, it was just beautiful. It represented Canada well, including honoring our indigenous people."

The original Canadian embassy was nestled with other consulate mansions in Washington's hilly northwest in a house purchased from the widow of a financier who died on the Titanic.

By the late 1960s, diplomats badly needed more space. The premium downtown parcel, home to a Ford showroom in the early automobile age, was vacant, and the U.S. offered it to Canada for the relative bargain of \$4.5 million.

Built of unpolished Canadian marble, the exterior features a waterfall; a statue of the mythical Spirit of Haida Gwaii, once pictured on \$20 bills; and 12 pillars representing the nation's 10

provinces and two original territories. An emblem was added when Nunavut became a separate territory in 1999.

Inside, the group strolled past a wealth of museum-quality Canadian artwork and other treasures, including hockey jerseys signed by famed players.

Meaghan Olmstead, assistant business manager of Local 2228 in Ottawa, took special note of the embassy's commitment to the environment.

"My background is in renewable energy, so I was really pleased to see the LEED platinum certification, the highest rating for green buildings," Olmstead said. "The whole embassy is really renewable and green, so that was big for me."

The tour was such a source of pride that the Canadians broke into song amid the outdoor pillars. Known as the Rotunda of the Provinces, it harbors an acoustical secret under its domed roof.



During the IBEW Women's Conference in Washington, Canadian members toured their nation's embassy and met its first woman U.S. ambassador. In the Rotunda of the Provinces, picture, they broke into "O Canada."

"It kind of echoes your voice back to you," Luporini said. "The entire group of us stood there and belted out 'O Canada.' It felt so patriotic."

Paron, who helped set up the tour

a month in advance, said it was even more meaningful that she'd imagined.

"It wasn't just another government building in Washington, it was our building, and it was so important to see

ourselves and our history reflected in it," she said. "It was just really cool to have a little piece of Canada with us while we were at a conference in the United States." ■

Des Canadiennes trouvent la solidarité lors d'une visite à l'Ambassade

Les Canadiennes qui ont participé à la Conférence destinée aux femmes à Washington n'ont pas été en reste lorsqu'elles étaient parmi les personnes influentes de la capitale.

Pendant que leurs consœurs américaines rencontraient les législateurs au Capitole le 7 septembre, la délégation du Nord composée de 30 membres a profité d'une visite VIP à l'ambassade de leur nation et discutées avec la première femme canadienne ambassadrice du Canada aux États-Unis.

« C'était une expérience incroyable », déclare Marina Luporini, une assistante gérante d'affaires de la section locale 258 à Vancouver en Colombie-Britannique. « J'étais un peu en admiration. Pour moi, ce fut le point culminant de la conférence ».

Sa collègue Dayna Gill de la section locale 258, également assistante gérante d'affaires et présidente du comité destiné aux femmes du local était d'accord. « Pour nous, visiter les États-Unis et voir une autre femme du Canada en position de leadership était très inspirant », dit-elle.

En mars 2020, Kirsten Hillman a été nommée ambassadrice, une diplomate possédant des années d'expérience à titre de négociatrice pour le

commerce international. Mais elle ne s'est pas attardée à son curriculum auprès des invités de la FIOE.

« Elle voulait se promener dans la salle et rencontrer nos membres afin d'en apprendre davantage sur leurs secteurs d'activités. Elle était particulièrement intéressée par les rôles non traditionnels qu'occupent les femmes », mentionne Cheryl Paron, représentante internationale du premier district au sein du département de la participation civique et communautaire.

L'ambassade elle-même a également émerveillé les visiteurs qui ont eu l'honneur d'être le premier groupe à la visiter depuis la pandémie de la COVID-19.

Elles ont immédiatement été impressionnées par la taille et sa splendeur moderniste ainsi que son emplacement bien en vue sur Pennsylvania Avenue à un coin de rue au nord du National Mall. C'est la seule ambassade entre le Capitole et la Maison-Blanche.

« On n'avait pas vraiment l'impression que c'était une ambassade », formule Paron. Les œuvres et l'architecture étaient magnifiques. Le Canada est bien représenté, y compris l'hommage rendu à notre peuple autochtone.

La première ambassade cana-

dienne était située parmi d'autres demeures consulaires au nord-ouest de Washington dans une maison achetée de la veuve d'un financier qui est décédé sur le Titanic.

Dès la fin des années 60, plus d'espace était requis pour les diplomates. Un lot bien situé au centre-ville qui était occupé par la salle d'exposition de Ford, dans les premières années de l'automobile, était vacant et les États-Unis l'ont offert au Canada pour un coût modeste de 4,5 millions de dollars.

Construit depuis du marbre canadien brut, l'extérieur met en vedette une chute d'eau; une statue mythique de l'Esprit de Haida Gwaii, une fois représenté sur le billet de 20 \$; et 12 piliers qui représentent les 10 provinces et les deux premiers territoires de la nation. Un emblème a été ajouté quand le Nunavut est devenu un territoire indépendant en 1999.

En se promenant à l'intérieur, le groupe est passé devant une multitude d'œuvres canadienne d'une qualité muséale et autres trésors, notamment des chandails de hockey autographiés par des joueurs célèbres.

Meaghan Olmstead, assistante gérante d'affaires de la section locale 2228 d'Ottawa, a surtout remarqué

l'engagement de l'ambassade à l'égard de l'environnement.

« Mon parcours professionnel est l'énergie renouvelable, j'étais donc particulièrement contente quand j'ai vu la certification LEED platine, le plus haut niveau décerné aux bâtiments écologiques », formule Olmstead. « L'ambassade en entier est réellement fondée sur l'énergie renouvelable et l'écologie, c'était un grand moment pour moi ».

La visite était tellement une source de fierté que les Canadiennes se sont mises à chanter au milieu des piliers à l'extérieur. Connue sous le nom de Rotunda of the Provinces, cache un secret de sonorité sous son toit en dôme.

« On dirait qu'il renvoie l'écho de nos voix », dit Luporini. « L'ensemble de notre groupe est resté en place et a entonné "Ô Canada". C'était si patriotique. »

Organisée par Paron un mois à l'avance, c'était encore plus significatif qu'elle ne l'aurait imaginé, dit-elle.

« Il ne s'agissait pas juste d'un autre édifice gouvernemental à Washington, c'était notre édifice et c'était si important de nous y voir et d'y voir notre histoire », dit-elle. « C'était vraiment agréable d'avoir une partie du Canada avec nous pendant que nous assistions à la conférence aux États-Unis. » ■

THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

AT&T Members Earn Big Gains in New Contract

Taking advantage of a favorable bargaining position, IBEW members employed by AT&T overwhelmingly ratified a contract in August that calls for improvements in wages, holiday pay, health care coverage and job protection.

“We look at it as an historic agreement,” Telecommunications International Representative Kevin Curran said. “It’s the most lucrative agreement we’ve negotiated in the last 20 years or so. We felt we used the leverage we had with the economy and with the administration now in the White House.”

President Joe Biden’s administration has been reshaping the National Labor Relations Board since his inauguration, making it more receptive to workers — which it was originally designed for — instead of large corporations.

“Under previous administrations that haven’t been as supportive of labor, some companies’ attitude has been ‘So you want to file charges with the NLRB? See if we care,’” Curran said. “We’ll get the paperwork for you.”

Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21 Business Manager Paul Wright, who serves as chairman of the T-3 AT&T System Council, noted the IBEW and AT&T began negotiations early on two previous contracts. But this time, IBEW negotiators decided to take a more traditional and lengthy approach, believing it would lead to a better contract.

A tight labor market also enhanced the IBEW’s negotiating position.

“They clearly knew the oar was in the water on our side of the boat,” Curran said.

“Obviously, we feel like the wages and the health care costs are all strong points,” added Wright, who, like Curran, has been a negotiator in multiple negotiations with AT&T.

The highlights include:

- A 5-year contract “because we felt this was going to be a solid contract, we wanted a long-term agreement in place,” Curran said.
- A 16.5% wage increase over the five years, plus a cost-of-living adjustment based on the inflation rate in 2023 that begins in 2024.
- Employees now can keep adult children on AT&T’s medical, dental,

vision and life insurance coverage until the age of 26. Previously, they could keep them on only medical coverage until that age. Benefit coverage also begins on the employee’s start date. There previously was a waiting period.

- An agreement that potentially allows employees to transition to another part of the company if their current duties are phased out. For instance, like most telecom companies, AT&T is phasing out the use of copper wire in favor of fiber optics, Wright noted. This serves as an attempt to keep members affected by that transition employed at the company.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day is recognized as a stand-alone holiday for the first time, giving employees an additional day off with pay.
- Health insurance includes a new fertility benefit for employees and their dependents, saving thousands of dollars for members wanting to have children but struggling to do so.
- There is a memo of understanding that addresses a backlog of arbitration cases. “Dealing with a backlog of cases takes an inordinate amount of time away from other duties as business manager and penalizes members who feel like they have been unjustly punished,” Wright said. “It’s a process that has been bogged down for far too long.”

“For the last 20 years, we’ve been playing defense trying to protect as much as we could,” said Curran, a Local 21 member himself. “This year, we felt like we used the leverage that we had with the economy and a supportive administration.”

The agreement covers members of local unions that are part of the T-3 AT&T System Council. Most employees covered by the contract are members of Local 21 in Illinois and northwestern Indiana.

Other locals covered by the agreement are Hollywood, Calif., Local 45; Detroit Local 58; Chicago Local 134; Milwaukee Local 494; East Windsor, N.J., Local 827; Boston Local 2222; and Worcester, Mass., Local 2325.

“Congratulations to our negotiating team and all our members employed by AT&T on a terrific new contract,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said.

“It’s gratifying to see our telecom brothers and sisters earn such substantial gains while ensuring long-term labor peace with a major partner. It also is another example of why having friends in the White House and Congress is so important.” ■

Mid-Season Training Helps Boost Football Broadcast Crews

College and pro football dominate American airwaves in the fall, making it a busy time for IBEW broadcast members working for CBS and Fox Sports.

During the next few months, however, it may be even busier than usual, something Broadcasting Department leaders have worked to address in recent weeks.

Led by International Representative Vinny Butler, the department held training sessions for potential new members and current members in other branches who want to work utility during football broadcasts. Sessions were held in Glendale, Ariz., on Aug. 18 and Nashville, Tenn., on Sept. 10, with a total of 30 trainees in attendance.

Utility members in broadcast are technicians who carry the parabolic microphones — which look like small satellite dishes and are used to pick up sound from the field — or assist the handheld camera operators. They are on the sidelines during a football broadcast.

The training session in Glendale was especially important. It was held at State Farm Stadium, which will host the Super Bowl in February. Fox Sports will televise it, which means IBEW members across the country will be called upon to work as technicians during the game and in the days leading up to it.

But about 25 miles away, the Waste Management Open — one of the highlights of the PGA Tour golf schedule — will be held at TPC Scottsdale on the same weekend. Televised by CBS, the tournament will put a squeeze on manpower, as IBEW broadcast professionals work as freelancers and often hop between jobs on rival networks with national agreements.

So, Butler and Broadcasting & Telecommunications Director Robert Prunn are working with Fox and CBS to ensure potential shortages are addressed now. The situation is made even more urgent by the fact some broadcast members retired or opted for other employment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Fox probably will hire 25-30 utilities for the Super Bowl,” Butler said. “Can they handle that in Arizona? We’re not sure yet, so we wanted to do a training session down there.”

Arizona is a right-to-work state with little unionization in broadcasting. That means Fox will have to draw more utility workers from outside the area, Butler said.

“When Fox broadcasts a Super Bowl, because of the amount of utilities we have as members, they always ask if



Nashville, Tenn., Local 429 members and others learned how to use a parabolic microphone during broadcast utility training.

we can bring in a certain number from the local union,” he said. “In bigger cities, like Los Angeles and New York or [Washington,] D.C., it might not be a problem. There’s a lot we can go to. In other places, not so much.”

Hollywood, Calif., Local 45 is one of the largest providers of members to the national television contracts. Business Manager Rodney Cummings said events like the one in Glendale allow the IBEW to grow its pool of utility members and give trainees a better idea what is expected on the job.

“It’s important to hire people with skill and knowledge about what their roles will be,” Cummings said. “This is why it’s important to have these utility training sessions. People move, get sick or are no longer interested in working events and so on. The local needs a steady number of reliable workers.”

Added Prunn: “We enjoy good working relationships with Fox Sports and CBS Sports so our department does everything we can to assist local unions in providing highly trained utilities for every event to our partners. The IBEW prides itself on all our broadcasting members, both utilities and technicians, on being the best in the business.”

That is true in Nashville, which isn’t scheduled to host an event the size of a Super Bowl, but it does provide steady work for broadcast members, thanks to the NFL’s Tennessee Titans, college football and basketball and Major League Soccer games in the area. Like in Arizona, Tennessee is a right-to-work state with little unionization in broadcasting.

But that’s where Nashville Local 429, a construction local, comes in. President Kim Sansom said some members ask to work as broadcast utility jobs because of the extra money. Others do it because they are sports fans and enjoy seeing big events up close.

“It’s a break from that jobsite they’ve maybe been on for a long time and a breath of fresh air,” she said. “Don’t get me wrong. It’s still work, especially when you’re breaking everything down and getting it back to the truck. But it’s a different kind of work. You’re able to watch these teams play and be right down in the action.”

The Nashville training was held at

Nissan Stadium, the Titans’ home field. Butler noted the good relationship the IBEW has with Fox and CBS management is due to members’ hard work over the years. That helped get the training into a stadium. The IBEW has had a professional relationship with CBS since 1939, when it was a radio company, and with Fox Sports since its inception in 1994.

“We’re not big enough to have a broadcast department, but we are blessed to get this training to fulfill the needs of CBS and Fox if the Titans are the A game [the top game on CBS or Fox that week] and they need extra utilities and extra parabolic mic operators,” Sansom said.

Nissan Stadium is an open-air facility — unlike State Farm Field, which has a retractable roof — and the Nashville training session was plagued by rain. It slowed some instruction but not the enjoyment.

“They loved it,” Sansom said. “We got some really good feedback from the members.”

Cummings said working in that stadium setting is crucial.

“Trainees become familiar with the stadium parking, security check-in process and the television compound location,” he said. “Knowing how to navigate the stadium access points before working an event reduces the chances of tardiness. Being on time — or, even better, 10 minutes early — to a venue helps the entire team.”

Butler said the Broadcasting Department is ready to assist with hosting a utility training session if requested by a local union. They help grow membership and allow members of other branches a chance to earn more money or see the action up-close.

“We’re giving the opportunities to local utilities in that area to join the IBEW and get some work and we’re giving more opportunities to utilities that are already members and work in that area,” he said.

It’s a move that Cummings fully supports.

“Our reputation is always at stake,” he said. “If the IBEW provides good and reliable workers to the networks, then the networks will see the IBEW as the go-to source for manpower for existing and future contracts.” ■



AT&T employees ratified a contract termed “historic” by IBEW negotiators.

THE IBEW'S

2022

Photo Contest

DEADLINE
EXTENDED

The 2022 IBEW Photo Contest is here, and with it a chance to show your union sisters and brothers what being a member of the greatest union in the world means to you. So, grab your cameras and smartphones and get to it! We want to see your best shots of 2022. See below for rules and details, and as always, contact us at media@ibew.org for more information.

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 linemen'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.

Last Chance!
Deadline: Dec. 1

1st Place: \$200

2nd Place: \$150

3rd Place: \$100

Honorable
Mention: \$50

CIRCUITS

Quick-Thinking
Linemen Honored
for Saving Two
Co-Workers Lives

In April, two Pittsburgh Local 29 lineworkers were electrocuted on the job when an energized power line made contact with a utility pole's guy-wire.

But thanks to the combined training, experience and cool-headedness of three of their fellow IBEW members, Tyler Rowley and Brad Meyer survived what could have been a terrible tragedy.

The incident occurred around noon on April 13, as the Duquesne Light Company linemen were working as part of a two-truck crew that was transferring lines to a new Verizon-owned utility pole in McCandless Township, about eight miles north of downtown Pittsburgh.

"It was just another normal day," said Joe Dillner, a four-year journeyman lineman who was also part of the crew, working in one bucket. "We started transferring the lines to the new pole." On the ground by Dillner's truck was Trevor Valentic, who had been an apprentice lineman for about nine months at the time.

In the other, adjacent truck, Rowley was up in the bucket with Meyer on the ground below him, near Valentic. While the four men were working on the transfer, something must have bridged the energized lines with the old pole's guy-wire to close the gap, Dillner said: "A big roar happened just above me."

As power from the 13.2kV distribution line went to ground through the guy-wire that Meyer held in his gloved hands, "He took the brunt of it," said Business Manager Josh Ewing, while at the other end of the wire above, "Tyler fell back in his bucket, knocked unconscious."

Meyer, meanwhile, "had tensed up and slumped to the ground," Valentic said.

"There was a loud, like, high-voltage explosion zap," a neighbor told WTAE-TV. "I came running out here to the front yard and there was a gentleman laying down on the ground, in distress. His glove was kind of smoking. The guy up in the bucket by the pole was kind of slumped over."

When Dillner looked at Meyer's bucket, he saw smoke coming from his fellow lineman as well. "It held current for about 8 seconds," estimated Dillner. "There was no response when I called their names."

Valentic said he called 911 while Dillner worked on getting Rowley and his bucket away from the pole and wires. Once Rowley's bucket was quickly cleared and brought to the ground, Valentic and Dillner, now on the ground himself, extricated the semi-conscious lineman and then turned their attention to Meyer. "I did what I could," Dillner said. "I started CPR."

Fortunately, a nurse lived in a house near where they were working. Hearing the commotion, she came outside and took over performing chest compressions on Meyer.

"[Meyer] was just unconscious and on the ground, and the nice nurse neighbor was hard at work on him," a neighbor told WPXI-TV.

"That crew is my typical crew," said fellow Local 29 journeyman lineman Brad Morrow. "I was about 10 to 15 minutes away on another job site when I got a call from Joe that there was an electrical contact.

"I called control and told them, 'Do not reenergize the circuit,' and I was on my way," Morrow said. He confirmed that 911 had been called and let the foreman know that there was a contact in progress.

"Paramedics had just arrived when I got there," Morrow said, and Meyer was still on the ground. "Paramedics were hitting him with their [automated external defibrillator]. Tyler was in the passenger seat of the other truck, semi-conscious but still out of it.

"Once they got Tyler in an ambulance, I went to Brad and watched as they loaded him into a second ambulance," Morrow said.

Morrow also took charge of notifying Meyer's and Rowley's families. "Unfortunately, this was not my first rodeo," said the 10-year journeyman lineman, who noted that he had worked with Meyer for much of his career.

The incident remains under investigation, and although neither Rowley nor Meyer are back on the job yet, the

two linemen happily were well enough to attend Local 29's membership meeting in September, where Ewing and Third District International Representative Kris Anderson presented IBEW Life Saving Awards to Joe Dillner and Trevor Valentic, plus a certificate of recognition to Brad Morrow.

"Both injured IBEW members are continuing to make great strides with their recovery," Ewing said. "It was a great evening to recognize these members for their heroic actions in saving their fellow IBEW member's lives." ■

LA Local Offers
Second Chances
to Marginalized
Community Members

The Los Angeles community-based non-profit 2nd Call does a lot for the people it serves, but for John "Big John" Harriel Jr., it all comes down to three words.

"It saves lives," said Harriel, a 25-year member of Los Angeles Local 11, which works with the organization to get its participants into the trades.

Started in 2006, 2nd Call works with at-risk residents from areas like South Los Angeles, Compton, Watts and Inglewood, neighborhoods that are often known more for poverty and gang violence than they are for turning out the next generation of tradespeople. Many have been to prison, but not all. Some are just struggling with other life issues, the result of growing up in an underserved community. It's where Harriel comes from, and it's one of the reasons he's so effective at working with 2nd Call's participants.

"I come from this world," Harriel said. "I've been to prison. I've eaten out of trash cans and slept in alleys before. With this work, you have to be authentic."

Now he's a superintendent for Morrow-Meadows, one of the largest contractors in the area, and chairs Local 11's executive board. And he still teaches classes with 2nd Call — for free.

"Now I'm a civilized, tax-paying citizen," said Harriel, who has spoken before Congress on the challenges facing former prisoners when they're released.



From left: Local 29 Vice President Ryan Blythe, President Glenn Camp, Business Manager Josh Ewing, Joe Dillner, Brad Morrow, Trevor Valentic, Tyler Rowley, and Third District International Representative Kris Anderson.



Los Angeles Local 11 has been working with the community-based nonprofit 2nd Call to help people from marginalized communities get into the trades.

"I'm not a wild dog anymore."

It's those classes, and the philosophy behind them, that have helped countless people get their lives back on track, and in a lot of cases into an IBEW apprenticeship.

"We're in the business of changing lives," said Local 11 Business Manager Joel Barton. "It's about supporting the community, and it's the right thing to do."

2nd Call is a lot of things, but one thing it isn't, says Harriel, is a program. Programs have beginning and end dates. 2nd Call is infinite. It's more of a way of life.

"If you want a good employee, you have to have a person who's made themselves whole," Harriel said. "So let's talk about unresolved trauma, about having spent 20 years in prison, about having a mother on crack. Let's have those difficult conversations."

Where a program will teach someone some skills and then send them on their way, 2nd Call works with the whole person to get them through whatever it is they're going through, and then stays with them.

"A program doesn't talk about anger management or trauma. They'll give you a certificate and then tell you to go out there and work hard. How can I work hard when I only eat three days a week? When I've spent time in prison and never had a dad? How do I mingle with others on the job who aren't like me? These are real issues. So we talk about these things."

Harriel is also adamant about getting people ready for a career, not just a job, not to mention one that's in demand and pays well, benefits included.

"I only talk about careers," Harriel said. "I've probably gotten thousands into the trades over the years. And I have gotten people in who are leaders, who end up as contractors, foremen and inspectors. It's not perfect, but I've got a good batting average."

Those who go through 2nd Call have access to classes in subjects like anger management as well as math, to get them fully back on their feet and ready for an apprenticeship. Mentoring is also offered, sometimes with help from Local 11's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. Participants also get help with things like getting a GED,

passing the entrance exam, and interview preparation.

"We teach them effective communication," Harriel said. "We teach them how to listen, how to not get emotional, and specifics like avoiding filler words like 'um.'"

Harriel also offers classes on money management and home ownership, since a career with the IBEW can afford someone those options, something that may not have been on the table before.

"I still live in the community, but now I own my home," Harriel said. "I don't rent anymore."

Harriel says he owes a lot to the IBEW for his success and all that he's been able to do.

"The IBEW is my guiding light," Harriel said. "I learned integrity from the IBEW. It gave me the strength to love myself. If I could, the whole world would be one big IBEW union."

Harriel also started a nonprofit called Big John Kares that works with youth and young adults from underserved neighborhoods. Those who participate and make it into an apprenticeship get a free bag of tools, that's purchased at a discounted rate by Harriel from Milwaukee Tool. It's another way for the former gang member to give back to his community and make it a little better. Because, for him, there are more good seeds than bad.

"I'm not bringing victims. I'm bringing suspects, people who show up with no fear of working hard. They just need someone to show them what to do," Harriel said.

Barton and Harriel both give a lot of credit to contractors like Morrow-Meadows for being open to hiring so many apprentices who've come through 2nd Call.

"Morrow-Meadows has been a leader in diversity and inclusion," says Harriel. "They have raised me to be the leader I am."

According to a video by the National Electrical Contractors Association, members like Morrow-Meadows have hired over 100 electrical workers and supervisors through the organization.

"They have a great attitude," said Morrow-Meadows Director of Corporate Marketing Mark Freedman. "These are people that come from very difficult upbringings. They've battled to get

here. They never quit on themselves, and they have been fantastic employees for us."

It's positive for Local 11 in other ways too.

"Local 11 gets good workers from 2nd Call," Barton said. "They're committed, they realize what they have now and they don't want to give it up. And beyond that, we get leaders, people who join the EWMC and who volunteer with our Day of Service. In the end, we get good, involved union members."

Local 11's work with 2nd Call is also an example of what the International's IBEW Strong program aims to do. IBEW Strong is the international-level effort to promote the recruitment and retention of a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

"We need to embrace everyone and increase our ranks, and 2nd Call is a great pathway for doing that. It fits right in with IBEW Strong," Barton said. ■

DOL Apprenticeship Ambassador Program Taps IBEW Talent

St. Louis Local 1 member Sylvester Taylor has been promoting diversity and inclusion in IBEW apprenticeships for years, so it was no surprise when he was selected to serve as a Department of Labor apprenticeship ambassador.

"Sylvester has a passion that runs deep in many endeavors," said Local 1 Business Manager Frank Jacobs. "From his work with the IBEW to his mentoring of young men, his dedication is always 110%."

The Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative was established to bring together industry, labor, education, equity and workforce leaders to partner with the department's Office of Apprenticeship to promote registered apprenticeships as a valuable workforce strategy in high-demand industries and to develop and expand opportunities for people who have been historically underserved. The initial cohort of 207 officials and organizations, which includes Taylor, was announced in July.

"Sylvester will be successful as an ambassador because he knows what it takes to be successful in the construction industry," Jacobs said.

"He has been through the trenches and knows the road is tough, but if you don't quit or let someone tear you down, you will succeed."

For Taylor, promoting the IBEW's apprenticeship program is nothing new, and neither is doing so in historically underserved communities. It's what he's been doing for 25 years. One of the only things that has changed is that now he has a title: director of diversity, equity and inclusion for the IBEW/NECA Electrical Connection. The Electrical Connection is the partnership between Local 1 and the St. Louis-area NECA chapter.

"Sylvester is a leader and a true motivator. Outside of his impeccable style of dress, I am impressed with how his character and messages transcend age and racial barriers," said Powering Chicago Executive Director Elbert Walters, who is also an ambassador. "I appreciate his ability to communicate with our members on the front lines in the field and at the same time address and speak with purpose to the leaders of the IBEW and the government."

In addition to his director role, Taylor serves as recording secretary for Local 1, president and co-founder of its Electrical Workers Minority Caucus chapter and treasurer of his local school board.

"Being in the room to help my community is what drives me," Taylor said. "You can't paint your house standing on the curb. You have to get inside."

The ambassadorship program can look to Local 1 for an example of successful recruitment efforts, said Jacobs and Taylor. Apprenticeship classes have gone from 10-12% women and people of color to 27-30% in just under two years. And in the EV-charging class they currently have 50% women and people of color. They did it, Taylor says, by being proactive and not reactive.

"Sylvester is opening doors for our industry to a much broader base," Jacobs said. "With his efforts we are not only getting more people interested in our program, but we are getting stronger candidates."

Jacobs also noted that Taylor is talking to schools with large minority populations that don't use union electrical contractors. He points out to the schools that those nonunion contractors aren't talking to the kids about career opportunities, but the IBEW apprenticeship program is.

"He is coaching them and offering many of them a life-changing opportunity," Jacobs said. "And those connections have now secured work in those schools for our signatory contractors, which is work for Local 1 members."

Taylor also works with the EWMC on a mentorship program with the Division of Youth Services. Everyone is under 18 with a felony record and the EWMC works with them on things like getting their GED and eventually moving into a trade.

"If we can get more people into our apprenticeship, just think how many people we can get off the street and into the middle class," Taylor said.

Taylor says he wants to continue to increase the number of historically marginalized community members in the IBEW, but what he really hopes for is a day when jobs like his will no longer be necessary.

"My job as ambassador and DEI director is to make my job go away," Taylor said. "I want to make it so we don't have to do this anymore because we're already an inclusive workforce."

For Walters, the fact that he and Taylor, both Black men, are representing the IBEW in the ambassador program is a positive sign in itself.

"Having Black men as leaders and speaking on behalf of the IBEW, which historically has had an unfavorable connection with our community, is proof that the IBEW sees the benefit of diversity and inclusion," Walters said.

"Having voices from underrepresented groups allows for growth and true representation. As a proud member, it is inspiring to see that the IBEW is again leading the charge of change. There is still much work to be done, though, and both of us are aware of that much-needed work." ■



St. Louis Local 1 member Sylvester Taylor has been selected to serve as a Department of Labor apprenticeship ambassador.

TRANSITIONS

RETIRED

Frank J. Furco



Frank Furco, a member of the IBEW's International Executive Council and business manager of Lisle, Ill., Local 701, has

retired from the IBEW.

Born in a military hospital in Junction City, Kan., Furco and his family moved back to their home in the greater Chicagoland area soon afterward.

Upon finishing high school, "I decided I wasn't the classroom type," Furco said. But having watched his father, Frank Sr., work for years as a Local 701 journeyman inside wireman, "I knew right away that this was what I wanted to do," he said.

Just about any story about the younger Furco's burgeoning involvement with the IBEW begins with his strong leadership on his local's softball team, which attracted the attention of then-Business Manager Stan Perry.

Toward the end of the 1980s, Perry asked Furco to come on board as a teacher at Local 701's apprenticeship school. Five fruitful years later, then-Business Manager Art Ludwig convinced Furco to run — successfully — for the local's executive board.

It turned out to be the start of Furco's 15-year climb within Local 701, including stints as organizer, business agent and assistant business manager. During this time, he also served on many of the local's committees as well as its health and pension trusts.

In 2010, Furco was appointed to replace outgoing Local 701 Business Manager Kenneth Lambert. A month later, he was elected to the position.

"Being elected business manager was a major accomplishment," Furco said. "Up to then, I never saw myself in that position."

Under Furco's leadership, Local 701's steady growth allowed it to upgrade and build out its facilities and to hire a full-time organizer.

"Frank left things better than he found them," said Anthony Giunti, Furco's successor as business manager for Local 701, which now boasts nearly 1,600 members. "Everything he did advanced our mission. He always stuck up for the members."

Having worked on numerous organizing campaigns throughout his nearly 45-year IBEW career, Furco said he always considered organizing a top priority for the IBEW, critical for the union to keep pace with the ever-growing construction industry.

Furco also served a full five-year term on the IBEW-NECA Council on Industrial Relations, and he was secretary-treasurer of the DuPage County, Ill., Building and Construction Trades Council. Additionally, he served as treasurer of the labor-management Construction Industry Service Corporation.

Although Furco was generally known as an even-tempered leader, Giunti recalled one time watching Furco get into a rather heated argument with a project manager. "Frank used it as a teaching moment," Giunti said with a laugh. "He turned to us and said, 'That's how not to talk to a manager.'"

International President Lonnie R. Stephenson appointed Furco in 2017 to represent the Fifth IEC District, whose IBEW members hail from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Furco was elected to that office in May when delegates to the IBEW's 40th International Convention in Chicago unanimously ratified the choices of the union's district caucuses.

Looking back on his career, Furco acknowledged the longtime support of his predecessors as Local 701 business manager: Ludwig, for appointing him to be an organizer, and Jerry O'Connor, who went on to serve as the IBEW's international secretary-treasurer from 2001 to 2005. "Any time I had questions, I knew I could count on Jerry," Furco said.

His retirement from the IEC was effective Sept. 1. Now, "I'm going to work on improving my golf game," Furco said. After years of union activism that often took him away from his family, he also plans to spend more time with his wife of 31 years, Laura, wintering in the family's second home in Florida.

For the extended Furco family, IBEW membership has been multi-generational: In addition to his father, Furco's two younger brothers, Tim and Jim, are also IBEW members, as are his son, Frank II — now a fifth-year apprentice — and a nephew. And that might not be the end of the family's IBEW lineage: In September, Furco became a grandfather for the first time.

Please join the officers and the entire IBEW membership in wishing Furco nothing but best wishes for a long and happy retirement. ■

APPOINTED

Donald Finn



Chicago Local 134 Business Manager Donald Finn was appointed by International President Lonnie

R. Stephenson to fill the unexpired term of retiring Fifth District International Executive Council member Frank Furco. The appointment was effective Sept. 1.

Finn will be the first member of Local 134 to take a seat on the IEC.

"I am extremely proud that our membership has a seat at the table. There is amazing work being done across the Fifth IEC District, and I will do my utmost to be their voice," he said.

Brother Finn comes from a strong trade union family, though not an IBEW one.

His father, James Finn, was a business representative for UA Local 130 in Chicago for more than 20 years. Two of his brothers, Jim and Dave, followed their father and are now retired members of UA Local 130. Finn isn't the only one to leave the fold; his brother Larry was the president of Carpenters Local 141 in Chicago until he passed away. Tom is a retired assistant fire chief, and Finn's sister Nancy is a retired union public school teacher and steward.

Finn grew up in the union stronghold of Oak Lawn and was brought to the IBEW by a neighbor, Jerry Cody, the former president of Local 134.

"There were tons of union families in Oak Lawn — still are. Growing up there, you aspired to be in the trades, the police, or the fire department," Finn said. "People were proud of their jobs. Proud they could raise a family, own a house, send their kids to a good school, and retire. And everybody was in a union."

He was drawn to electrical work from a young age, he said. "I just became fascinated by it. I already understood the plumbing and carpentry world. I wanted to look into something different," he said.

Finn joined the Local 134 apprenticeship in 1987 and quickly took to leadership. He was made steward on his first job after topping out and was the steward and foreman on significant projects for Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Northwestern Hospital and Westbrook Corporate Center.

In the early 1990s, he was appointed a meeting inspector.

"We made sure there was order in the meeting," he said. "If there were issues, we made sure they were resolved amicably."

In 2001, Finn went to work for Cook County as a bull steward for all Local 134 members working county jobs.

"It was a great learning experience, working with lots of different contractors," he said. "It opened my eyes up to how much more I could help people."

During his time with the county, he co-founded and served as president of the Cook County Coalition of Trades.

In 2012, Finn put down the tools and accepted a job offer to be the South Loop business representative, taking on Cook County, the Chicago Parks District, and the University of Illinois units. "I liked helping people and giving workers a voice," he said.

In 2014, Finn took over as business manager of the sprawling membership. There are 12,000 members in Local 134. Two-thirds are construction

electricians, but the local covers everyone from communication workers to court reporters to Metra public transit workers and the technicians who maintain the parimutuel totalizer machines at Chicagoland horse tracks.

Finn will be finishing the remaining four years of Lisle, Ill., Local 701 Business Manager Frank Furco's term in office. Furco is retiring as a business manager and, as is traditional, stepping down from the IEC as well.

The nine-member IEC is the most senior governing body in the brotherhood. It meets quarterly to fulfill judicial, pension fund and policy duties. Members are elected at and serve between International Conventions; the chairman, currently New York Local 3 Business Manager Chris Erikson, is elected at-large, and the other eight are elected by regional districts.

The Council is the final authority on awarding pensions and disability benefits, acts as appeals for decisions made by the International President and names a successor if the office is vacated, and approves or recommends constitutional amendments

The officers request that all members of the IBEW assist Brother Finn as he assumes his new duties and join them in wishing him success in his new position. ■

DECEASED

Norman Sachse



Retired Seventh District International Representative Norman Sachse, who serviced multiple branches during his 14 years on

the district staff after serving as a business manager in west Texas, died Aug. 28. He was 85.

"As I said at his eulogy, all his friends growing up were electricians," said his daughter, Dawn Sachse. "All his close buddies throughout his life were electricians. He told me, 'I've known them my entire life.'"

Brother Sachse was born in Clarendon in the Texas Panhandle but moved throughout his childhood. His father was a union carpenter and the family moved to wherever he could find work, his daughter said.

The Sachses settled during Norman's teenage years in El Paso in far western Texas, where he graduated from high school. He attended Texas Western University — now the University of Texas at El Paso — for a time and intended to become an engineer before changing his mind while working on a construction site.

"I once asked him why he never finished college," Dawn Sachse said. "He told me he was making more money [as a union electrician]."

Sachse joined El Paso Local 583 in November 1958 and eventually topped

out as an inside wireman. He was elected to the executive board in 1963 and took over as business manager in 1972, serving in the position for the next 15 years.

He was a member of the Grievance and Appeals Committee at the 1982 International Convention in Los Angeles and a delegate to the national AFL-CIO convention in 1984.

In 1987, he joined the Seventh District staff under then-International Vice President Orville Tate. Local 583 had a diversified membership in terms of branches served, including inside and outside construction and manufacturing.

That made him especially valuable as a service rep, Tate said, who also was impressed that he handled his own arbitration cases during his time as business manager and won seven of the nine he filed.

Sachse understood the needs of business managers and their members, no matter their backgrounds and where they were employed, Tate said. He also organized steward training for many years.

"He was a meticulous record keeper," Tate said. "I could ask him a question and if he didn't have an answer right away, he would have it in 15 minutes. He was just a very good rep who you never had to worry about. He always got the job done."

Local 583 has jurisdiction in four counties in southeastern New Mexico and Sachse served two terms as president of the New Mexico Association of Electrical Workers.

"That tells you how highly those people thought of him, that they were willing to elect him president even though he was business manager of a Texas-based local," Tate said.

Sachse later served one term as vice president of the Texas Association of Electrical Workers and was secretary-treasurer of the El Paso Building and Construction Trades Council. He and his family moved to Lakeway, Texas, near Austin when he joined the Seventh District staff and he lived there the rest of his life. He retired in 2001.

In retirement, Sachse enjoyed spending time with family and traveling with his wife, Creedena. The two met while attending El Paso's Austin High School and were married for 64 years until her death in 2019. Creedena Sachse had multiple sclerosis for the final 42 years of her life but that only seemed to deepen the bond between her and her husband, Dawn said.

"My Dad's first love was my mother and his second was the union," she said.

In addition to Dawn, Brother Sachse is survived by his son, Curtis, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Dawn Sachse said her father should be remembered as "a very ethical and moral person. He would always support you as your union rep, but he was also honest and would tell it like it is."

The officers and staff offer their condolences to Brother Sachse's family and appreciation for his service to the IBEW. ■

HAVE YOU MOVED?
 Notify us of an address change
www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress
 or call 202-728-6263

In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in September 2022

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	
1	Eckelkamp, C. F.	6/22/22	60	Garner, R. E.	2/27/22	164	Kowaleuski, C. J.	5/27/22	354	Miller, L. T.	6/25/22	569	Cradic, L. E.	4/5/22	876	Williams, M. R.	7/22/22	
1	Osborn, J. G.	4/2/18	64	Hritz, W.	1/23/22	175	Brown, R. G.	1/17/22	357	Cadwell, W. G.	7/29/22	569	Hodges, A. L.	8/3/22	890	Heinzen, C. G.	7/30/21	
1	Sadlo, E. G.	6/6/22	66	Hignite, J.	6/14/22	175	Kemper, E. F.	8/20/22	357	Clements, G. F.	12/1/21	569	Martinez, A. L.	5/3/22	903	White, R. G.	10/10/21	
1	Van Tine, P. D.	6/25/22	66	Sackett, C. W.	6/22/22	175	Tucker, D. L.	8/29/22	357	Springgate, J. H.	7/12/22	573	Miller, P. R.	5/30/22	906	Luepnitz, J. F.	1/7/22	
3	Andreacci, J. R.	4/29/22	68	Deitz, J. D.	5/12/22	176	Price, G. R.	6/8/22	357	Tankersley, K. G.	8/27/22	575	Gilliam, W. J.	3/13/22	910	Eppolito, M. S.	7/27/22	
3	Arcello, L. A.	7/10/22	68	Lesmeister, J. P.	7/2/22	177	Cox, W. F.	6/6/22	357	Yates, C. J.	7/13/22	584	Guynes, J. D.	6/14/22	915	Alvarez, J.	7/12/22	
3	Brojock, J. M.	6/6/22	68	Martinez, J. P.	6/24/22	191	Deming, W. J.	4/3/21	369	Elmore, D.	7/25/22	586	Donaghy, S.	6/9/22	934	Short, D. W.	4/4/22	
3	Burbige, W. H.	6/19/22	68	Portugal, J. A.	6/10/22	191	Wright, G. C.	11/14/21	369	Mounce, J. P.	3/29/22	595	Crumpacker, C. M.	2/25/22	949	McCann, W. M.	12/30/21	
3	Eichele, D. F.	6/10/22	68	Thompson, E. E.	6/23/22	213	Helgason, H. G.	5/11/22	369	Newman, D. A.	8/15/22	595	Pulos, G. J.	8/27/21	953	Crooker, R. E.	8/7/22	
3	Kostick, J.	5/19/22	68	Yoshimura, R. H.	10/22/21	220	Watt, M. H.	7/14/22	369	Schlegel, H. J.	6/27/22	596	Booth, H.	5/12/22	972	Martin, B. N.	4/13/22	
3	Novotny, M. S.	5/30/22	71	Rodriguez, J. A.	8/5/22	222	Smith, T. D.	5/25/22	379	Tarilton, B. L.	6/6/22	606	Suarez Nieves, J.	1/22/22	1049	Macaluso, P. A.	7/2/22	
3	Quinto, R.	7/17/22	73	Schutt, W. D.	1/3/22	223	Cappiello, J. A.	12/18/21	400	Scisco, J. E.	3/13/21	611	Bryan, B. L.	2/17/21	1049	Smith, D. K.	8/21/22	
3	Romano, J. R.	11/6/21	77	Corder, H. B.	7/4/22	226	Bawden, B. K.	1/5/15	401	Miller, E. J.	4/29/21	613	Bitner, T. D.	7/7/22	1077	Parent, J. R.	7/28/22	
3	Sheehan, G. T.	7/20/22	77	Wines, G. W.	5/16/22	229	Janis, B. R.	7/18/22	402	Viheriasalo, P.	2/5/21	613	Jameson, J. E.	4/16/22	1186	Oasay, R.	6/6/22	
3	Stiller, W. J.	4/27/22	86	McMahon, J. F.	7/17/22	229	Leppo, D. H.	6/8/22	424	Boychuk, G. K.	8/20/22	613	Windham, J. H.	6/26/22	1245	Miller, J. W.	6/8/22	
3	Terraforste, J. G.	6/12/22	86	Schuster, J. J.	4/12/22	242	Caven, L. S.	7/12/22	424	MacAskill, D. L.	7/16/22	617	Strohmeier, G. A.	6/20/22	1245	Riddle, T. J.	5/18/22	
3	Veccia, E. C.	8/4/22	86	Smith, P. D.	8/16/22	258	McKane, L. N.	4/24/21	426	Sullivan, J. J.	9/6/21	640	Galan, M. A.	5/20/22	1340	Conner, E. E.	5/27/22	
3	Ward, R. F.	8/15/22	90	Camputaro, G. M.	4/26/22	266	Henderson, S. D.	6/13/22	428	Torell, S. R.	5/23/22	640	Vincent, A. J.	6/21/22	1393	Howard, B.	7/17/22	
3	Wheeler, T. G.	8/4/22	90	Fattore, A. D.	12/28/21	271	Adams, R. R.	7/9/22	429	Cobble, T. L.	7/12/22	654	Wade, E.	6/25/22	1439	Chaney, N.	8/4/22	
5	Mekic, J. F.	5/18/22	90	Haeussler, K. T.	6/26/22	278	Gray, R. S.	5/28/22	429	Harper, C. W.	7/26/22	659	Murphy, C. W.	5/30/22	1531	Morey, C. D.	6/29/20	
5	Rick, A. J.	5/7/22	90	Sherman, A. T.	1/31/22	278	Perry, J. R.	6/12/22	429	Paulson, D. E.	6/5/22	661	Anderson, D. L.	6/19/22	1547	Weber, J. W.	7/15/22	
6	Fraser, R. G.	6/28/22	96	Geneseo, R. L.	3/31/22	292	Avery, R. W.	6/17/22	436	Hollopeter, F. H.	6/29/22	666	Currie, W. E.	7/1/22	1615	Davis, G. S.	7/7/22	
7	Bierschied, A. A.	5/26/22	96	Paladino, S. F.	12/8/21	292	Demarais, M. P.	6/30/22	441	Legault, P. A.	5/7/22	666	Mooney, W. K.	7/23/22	1687	Johnson, S. A.	5/8/22	
7	Clune, W. R.	8/2/22	98	Borgmann, M. J.	7/21/22	292	Hansen, D. I.	6/27/22	446	Smith, C. E.	7/8/22	666	Powers, H.	7/2/22	1925	Barker, T. E.	5/4/22	
11	Busby, L. L.	6/13/22	98	Jenkinson, W. G.	3/7/22	292	Mattson, K. R.	5/26/22	449	Eason, W. T.	4/22/22	666	Turner, T. A.	7/25/20	2113	Holmes, D. G.	3/27/22	
11	Espino, R. J.	2/1/21	98	McMaster, R. L.	6/4/22	294	Bergstrom, C. L.	6/22/22	449	McMurtrey, L.	11/19/21	673	McDonald, L.	6/30/22	2150	Doll, T. A.	6/18/22	
11	Gardner, T. L.	12/14/21	98	Vanderwende, R. J.	7/19/22	301	Hampton, J. H.	7/26/22	453	Zerfass, W. M.	8/19/21	676	King, J. B.	4/18/22	I.O. (5)	Burden, D. V.	9/5/21	
11	Rogers, J. G.	6/7/21	98	Williams, R. L.	8/21/22	301	Hendrick, J. L.	7/2/22	456	Callahan, M. P.	5/14/22	676	Miller, J. R.	4/23/22	I.O. (5)	Kopta, D. F.	6/7/22	
16	Morton, L. E.	6/4/22	98	Wood, R. N.	7/2/22	302	Knisley, G. D.	6/24/22	456	Dowling, D. F.	6/28/22	683	Hendrix, H.	2/6/22	I.O. (134)	Jurek, K. J.	4/8/22	
17	Mahar, H. J.	3/30/22	99	Jodoin, N. L.	1/25/22	302	Scott, L. A.	5/31/22	456	Finnegan, M. R.	12/19/21	683	Smith, L. E.	6/2/22	I.O. (731)	Secrist, R. E.	6/25/22	
17	Renner, T. J.	4/28/22	99	Johnson, J. R.	5/8/22	304	Blodgett, D. A.	4/13/22	456	Kucharzek, C. S.	7/7/22	701	Leahy, W. T.	7/23/22	I.O. (1393)	Debord, R. J.	6/25/22	
18	Higgins, T. L.	4/12/22	99	Lavin, F. J.	3/16/21	306	Johnston, J. T.	7/9/22	474	Yearwood, W. D.	6/15/22	701	McKie, D. A.	8/15/22	I.O. (1474)	Latham, E. L.	3/17/22	
18	Travali, R. S.	2/25/22	100	Brown, E. C.	5/30/22	309	Kinder, W. A.	3/8/22	477	Delgado, R. G.	7/12/22	701	Schuster, K. A.	6/26/22	I.O. (2085)	Smith, K. I.	2/9/22	
20	Pearson, H. L.	6/9/22	102	Gilmore, D. L.	6/20/22	325	Hull, W. H.	6/9/22	479	Fells, D. D.	8/25/21	702	Lowes, P. W.	6/11/22	Pens. (629)	Gault, G. E.	5/14/22	
20	Spangler, D.	2/18/22	102	Rasmus, T. A.	6/17/22	340	Crockett, L.	6/28/22	479	Stahl, S. D.	6/2/22	702	Moore, M. L.	6/5/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Cales, G. M.	5/22/22	
22	Selk, A. H.	5/30/22	103	Broderick, J. F.	7/28/22	343	Rovang, S. A.	1/15/22	481	McMath, J. A.	6/10/22	716	Fowler, B. P.	9/28/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Daluga, L. J.	7/8/22	
24	Finkner, G. E.	6/18/22	103	Cuoco, F. P.	6/6/22	343	Winkels, R. G.	3/15/22	483	Christopherson, K. L.	6/27/22	716	Sinclair, H. L.	8/5/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Drew, J. L.	6/18/22	
24	McNemar, M. A.	1/20/22	103	Gibson, R. L.	1/27/22	345	Pledger, W. J.	7/22/22	488	Bernius, E. J.	2/8/22	725	Rupska, R. A.	11/11/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Gavin, R. B.	5/30/22	
24	Strait, C. K.	4/1/22	104	Becker, G. H.	11/11/21	349	Curry, D.	5/11/22	488	DeMace, D. J.	3/5/22	728	Davenport, D. W.	7/25/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Guckenberger, K. E.	5/27/22	
25	Friedrich, B. G.	2/4/22	104	Lagasse, M. J.	3/30/22	352	Kincaid, S. L.	8/4/21	490	Strout, S. P.	6/23/22	738	Russell, J. J.	6/15/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Lawson, J. W.	6/17/22	
26	Hiserman, A. A.	5/8/20	105	Bertuola, J.	8/4/22	353	Brown, M. J.	7/6/22	490	Sunmonu, O. K.	4/6/22	743	Peel, C. L.	6/25/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Scanlan, L. G.	3/13/22	
26	Moore, V. E.	6/23/22	110	Henderson, L. M.	4/8/22	353	Chabelski, J.	8/1/22	494	Bruno, P. J.	6/20/22	760	Blile, J. H.	8/6/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Smith, K.	8/3/22	
26	Moscato, M. E.	7/31/22	111	Colby, D. L.	4/18/22	353	Drummond, R.	8/25/22	494	Gallas, J.	3/30/22	760	Carter, W. H.	7/27/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Sporre, R. C.	4/4/22	
26	Porebski, W.	5/14/22	112	Grieb, A. M.	3/22/22	353	Hoyle, E.	7/8/22	520	Fisher, E. H.	7/18/22	760	Lovelace, B. N.	7/13/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Weltz, B. C.	6/8/22	
26	Reimann, L. R.	6/17/22	112	Sauve, B. D.	8/11/22	353	Prebble, B. F.	6/24/22	545	Davison, J. W.	6/13/22	760	Miley, W. O.	6/30/22				
38	Duplaga, D. D.	7/29/22	112	Stillwaugh, J. H.	6/11/22	353	Van Hemert, J.	7/10/22	553	Shea, R. F.	3/21/22	760	Nelson, D. B.	8/10/22				
38	Qadir, A. A.	2/5/22	115	Norris, D. J.	3/14/22	354	de Bruin, J.	8/19/22	557	Curran, J. R.	7/12/22							
38	Schultz, L. A.	7/1/22	117	Eissing, E.	2/18/22													
38	Smith, R. A.	6/19/22	120	Atkinson, J. B.	8/11/22													
40	Gless, G. G.	2/20/22	120	Garner, D. C.	7/7/22													
42	Bogdan, J. C.	3/25/22	124	Jones, T. M.	5/25/22													
42	Marek, R.	7/15/22	124	Louis, D.	7/19/22													
43	Geer, W. A.	5/7/22	124	McCormick, S. T.	6/3/22													
44	Harmon, L. J.	3/29/22	124	Young, B. R.	6/26/22													
46	Dinusson, A. T.	7/1/22	126	Krause, J.	5/20/22													
46	Drillevich, P.	6/21/22	130	Cunningham, R. A.	4/30/21													
46	Mohr, J. A.	7/26/22	134	Alarid, R. L.	1/6/22													
48	Bundy, G. H.	5/27/21	134	Brogan, M. S.	6/5/22													
48	Herrick, R. D.	7/7/22	134	DeMarte, D.	6/24/22													
48	McCool, M. D.	12/19/21	134	Dewbray, E. J.	6/3/22													
48	Smith, R. S.	6/2/22	134	Kasper, E. T.	6/16/22													
53	Gerdes, B. R.	8/12/22	134	McAra, J. G.	7/4/22													
53	Godfrey, D. L.	7/17/22	134	Olson, M. M.	4/29/19													
53	Smith, O. C.	12/5/21	134	Palmer, J. S.	6/14/22													
55	Decker, F. S.	6/12/22	134	Pender, M. R.	6/19/22													
57	Park, R. K.	5/20/22	134	Poland, B. W.	6/30/22													
57	Wilding, V. K.	5/29/22	134	Randle, G. E.	6/25/22													
58	Carlisle, W. E.	3/4/20	134	Schuster, J. F.	6/15/22													
58	Gurry, M. L.	4/11/22	136	Green, T.	1/15/22													
58	Hogan, M. L.	6/9/22	136	Guthrie, M. W.	1/13/22													
58	Kamin, R. M.	6/3/22	143	Cale, D. A.	4/30/22													
58	Lawrence, L. T.	4/22/22	143	Weber, M. J.	6/20/22													
58	Newton, N. B.	8/11/22	143	Wetzel, S. L.	5/21/22													
58	Plunkett, S. E.	12/9/21	150	Taylor, F. J.	7/12/22													
58	Sherey, J. R.	5/31/22	153	Wiskotoni, J. P.	6/21/22													

IBEW MERCHANDISE

LOCAL LINES

Happy Holidays

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,ptc,rts,s,se,spa, st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO — Season's greetings to you all. The second half of the year has been exceptionally busy here in our local.

We had a tough negotiation session for our inside agreement, though we got a solid contract. We were able to reclaim language and conditions that had been surrendered in years past, and we got a 12% wage increase over the 3-year life of the contract and added Martin Luther King Day as a Local 1 holiday.

Our local's motorcycle chapter had the honor of hosting the first of many Midwest Solidarity rides. Members from California to New York came and helped to make this ride a resounding success. The highlight was riding to the Henry Miller Museum and Founders Park. Solemnly reflecting upon the vision our founders executed with much sacrifice, we vowed to continue carrying it forward.

Local 1's hockey team hosted a bragging-rights game with Local 562 Plumbers and Pipefitters. Sadly, we did not prevail. The event was a huge success, with both teams vowing endless rematches for worthy charitable causes. To read some more on our hockey team, check out the June online edition of the Electrical Worker.

For some bragging on our own: Sylvester Taylor, recording secretary and director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for our IBEW/NECA Electrical Connection, has been selected as an apprenticeship ambassador by the U.S. Department of Labor. Congrats, Brother Taylor! **(Editor's Note: See our story on Page 11 of this issue.)**

I also would like to remind our members of the annual coat drive coordinated by the EMMC. If you have coats that are not being used, please bring them by the union hall or call 314-647-5900 to make arrangements to have them picked up.

Kyle Hunter, P.S.

Compliance

L.U. 11 (em,i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA — Our local is slowly chipping away at refineries who have hired nonunion electrical contractors to conduct testing of electrical equipment at their owned-and-operated facilities. Within the last few months, through our Compliance Department, Local 11 brought action against two refineries that disregarded SB54 language, circumvented wage rules, ignored skilled-and-trained requirements and sidestepped PLA language that applied to the project sites. One of the refineries voluntarily self-corrected the violation while the second refinery released an RFP to the testing services. Once we obtain the official ruling, we plan to use these findings to address the issue

with the remaining refineries in our jurisdiction.

On a lighter note, on Aug. 6 we held our annual Local 11 picnic for our members and their families. We had the largest attendance to date with just over 3,000 members, their families and vendors present to enjoy a day of camaraderie and brotherhood. We had games, bingo and other activities for our members and their children to partake in. Our welfare committees had goods for sale to raise funds for our members in need. Food and drinks were plentiful and the selection of raffle gifts available made the day even better. All this was made possible by the group of members who volunteered their time to ensure the picnic was enjoyed by all.

Robert Corona, P.S.



Local 17 members approved additional investment in a state-of-the-art training center to provide world-class education for current and future IBEW members.

Expanded Training Center

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI — We are proud to announce that our membership has approved another \$1.5-million investment in our local's training center. Undeveloped land was purchased in 2019 to establish the training center, and the grand opening was held in 2021.

Current training classes include:

- LCTT Apprentices
- LCTT Boot Camp
- ALBAT Apprentices (Lineman, Substation, Traffic)
- Crane Operation and Simulator
- ISA Certification
- CDL Training

Future programs will include classes for:

- URD Cable Splicing
- Underground Utility
- Transmission
- Teledata
- Renewable Energies
- EV Charging Stations

This additional investment (bringing the total to \$2.5 million) will allow us to fulfill our vision of creating a world-class training facility for our current members and future generations of IBEW workers.

James Shaw, B.M.

Local 43 Honors Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY — Congratulations to our local's apprenticeship classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022 for successfully completing their apprenticeships — they are now journeymen wiremen! A graduation ceremony was held in June at the Oncenter Convention Center in Syracuse.

Local 43's graduates are:

2020 — Amelia Bumpsted, Zachery Carey, Eric Cummins, Jonathan Hibbard, Jesse Kilmer, Daniel Miller, Ryan Perritano, Timothy Powers, Kenneth Robotham, Edmund Royal, Francis Talarico, Jay Tebo, Timothy Traub and Nelson Traver

2021 — Joseph Allen, Cory Anthony, Jeremiah Castello, Aaron Elmore, Patrick Gignilliat, Daniel Gray, Perciles Hayes, Allen Holdridge, William Houde, Colby Kennedy, Joel Kenyon, Trista Kuhn, Eamon Lacy, Thomas Lippke, Zachary Maine, Vadim Olesh, Andrew Rogers, Joelle Ryan, Timothy Schimdt, Steven Simone, Douglas Smith, Brian Stevens, Darryl Stivers, Alyssa Tassone, Duncan Taylor and Donald Williamson

2022 — Nicholas Barricella, Kylee Beckwith, Joshua Bobbette, John Bornemann, Joshua Bucko, Jared Crast, Mark Cullen, Anthony Dicaprio, Justin Durham, Patrick Engle, Evan Fryc, Zachary Funari, Sarah-Jane Getman, Jesse Gibson, Will Goebel, Bryan Harvey, Matthew Henry, Maverick Janes, Sergii Kaplun, Bryce Leitten, Ryan Light, Andrew Low, Dante Mallaro, Eric Mascareno, Trevor Norris, Mark Odle, Timothy Orr, Noah Richerson, Joseph Rotella, Matthew Siau, Robert Miller, Nathan Siriano, Jeffrey Smith, Kyler Spencer, Michael Stauber, Donald Stockbridge, Colby Stratton, Brandon Towers, Mark Tracy, Kevin Van Epps, Lance Wheatley and Christian Wilson

Alan Marzullo, B.M./F.S.



Local 47's Business Manager/Financial Secretary Colin Lavin welcomed members to Union Night at Dodger Stadium on Aug. 5.

Bargaining Updates

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings brothers and sisters: At the time of this writing, our local is planning its motorcycle run for Oct. 2.

In negotiations news:

- SCE — A proposal to consolidate Steam, Hydro and Catalina into one was held on June 29; bargaining continues.
- SCE — In the Tristen Mends termination case, arbitration post-hearing briefs have been filed; a decision is expected in early September.
- City of Banning — In utility and general units, negotiations continue.
- City of Vernon — A successor agreement was voted on and passed with 3% for each year; new members from previous contractor were included in the vote as well as new members.
- City of Riverside — In utility and supervisory units, a successor memorandum of understanding (MOU) was ratified by a vote of over 80% for the new 3-year agreement.



A graduation ceremony for Local 43's new journeymen wiremen was held in June at the Oncenter Convention Center in Syracuse, NY.

Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

Trade Classifications

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

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

In upcoming events, Local 47's Christmas celebration will take place on Dec. 17. We hope to see you there!

We are sad to report the deaths of John Benavides, Chuck Burnet, David Crocket, Kenneth Ensmann, Jim "Lossie" Olberding, Hank Rivera, Rodney Swift and Rodney Williams. Our condolences and prayers are with their loved ones.

Work safe and buy union!

Mitch Smith, P.S.

New RENEW Committee Members

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — After a long summer of contract negotiations with Ameren Illinois, System Council U-5, which includes our local, ratified a 4-year contract for CILCO, IP Clerical/Technical and IP Physical on Aug. 26. Local 51 has committed to plan for our 2026 negotiations immediately, so please attend your monthly unit meetings for discussion on this important issue.

We welcome our new RENEW Committee members: Stephanie Carson, Shateveon Goforth (chair), Will Lauzon, Danny Olson, Ty Selby and Preston White. The committee is working towards planning events to promote community and membership engagement.

Transmission and substation work has been picking up, and we expect more work in early winter. Happy Veterans Day to our brothers and sisters, both past and present, who have served.

Karlene Knisley, B.R.



Local 55 member Jeremy Logsdon, who works for the Hydaker-Wheatlake Company, on the job along SE Lorenz Drive in Ankeny, Iowa.

New Locale for Retirees Meeting

L.U. 55 (c,lctt,o&u), DES MOINES, IA — Hello, brothers and sisters! It is Labor Day weekend at the time of this writing, and there was a parade from the Capitol east to the fairgrounds. The route was lined with people, among them many kids wanting candy to be thrown their way.

Our local is very fortunate to have lots of work. It will pick up even more when material arrives on time. Jeremy Logsdon and his crew were getting ready to change out a transformer bank when I last drove by (see the accompanying picture). Ed Kooker is recovering from back surgery and doing very well. The retirees have a new time and place to meet each month: It is now the second Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. at the Family Cafe, 3900 NE 14th Street. It should be easier to get to and we will have more room.

Please work safely and stay healthy. See you at the Christmas party!

Myron Green, P.S.

Local 89 Honors Longstanding Member

L.U. 89 (catv,em,lctt,o,ptc&t), SEATTLE, WA — As business manager, I recently had the privilege and honor to acknowledge one of our members for 70 years of membership. Brother Patrick CrowE was recognized as the first member to receive such tenure in the history of Local 89. I enjoy the opportunity to recognize our retired members. It is one of the most enjoyable things I get to do as a business manager.



Local 89 remembers Patrick CrowE, who was recently honored for his 70 years of IBEW service.

This one was very special for me and the local. I believe that Brother CrowE is the first 70-year-recognition pin that Local 89 has ever presented to a member. Patrick worked for GTE during his career as a union telephone worker. It was my honor to recognize Brother CrowE for this monumental milestone.

It is with sadness in our hearts that we send our thoughts and prayers to the CrowE family, as Patrick passed soon after being recognized for his achievement.

Matt Carroll, B.M.

Thank you, Dottie Felder!

L.U. 97 (ptc&u), SYRACUSE, NY — In July 2022, history was made at our local in central New York: For the first time, a father and son have both been elected as president/business manager of Local 97. Michael Thomas Shelby, son of Thomas Shelby, replaced long-time President/Business Manager Ted Skerpon, who retired at the end of July. Michael's father, Tom Shelby, was elected as president/business manager of Local 310 under System Council U-11, which was amalgamated in 1994 to form

Local 97, where Tom then took on the role of assistant business manager.

An additional milestone was reached at Local 97: In August, member Dorothy "Dottie" Felder celebrated her 50th anniversary with the IBEW. Dorothy is an office tech for National Grid in Syracuse. Her service, dedication and experience are unmatched. Thank you, Dorothy, for all that you have done and continue to do!

Anthony J. Bugge, Treas./Bus. Rep.



Local 97's Dorothy Felder celebrates her 50 years of IBEW service with President/Business Manager Mike Shelby.

Local 103 Visited by VP Harris

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA — For the first time in the history of our local, we had a visit from the vice president of the United States. It doesn't matter where you land politically — Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative — it was a historic day at Local 103. A symbolic gesture, perhaps: But it emphasizes and highlights the Biden-Harris administration's strong commitment to working people and to labor unions, especially the IBEW.

Vice President Kamala Harris talked about all the great work getting done for working people, such as the much-anticipated infrastructure bill, which will provide jobs for IBEW members across the country fixing roads and bridges, upgrading the nation's power grid and providing the American people with access to internet broadband; the Inflation Reduction Act, including climate and health-care provisions that will lower costs of health care and prescription drugs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as the federal deficit, targeting wealthy tax cheats who have been stealing from workers for decades. Additionally, the CHIPS and Science Act, a major bill investing in semiconductor manufacturing and scientific research, will lessen our dependency on outsourcing good American jobs to Chinese slave-labor factories overseas; the Butch-Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act will save millions of union workers from losing their hard-earned pensions; and recently passed legislation will help veterans and American heroes who suffer from ailments and cancers related to exposure to toxic burn pits overseas.

Finally, workers have respect at the highest level of government in the Biden-Harris administration. Not only are we hosting and influencing these important discussions, but the IBEW has a seat at the table for the first time in years.

Jimmy Fleming, P.S.



Local 103 Business Manager Louis Antonellis with U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, who visited the local to discuss legislation that prioritizes working people.

Local 125 LCTTs Ratify CBA

L.U. 125 (lctt,o&u), PORTLAND, OR — On Sept. 1, our local's line-clearance tree trimmers ratified their collective bargaining agreement. Donivan Duncan, Jaron Ellis, Saylor Neher and Eri Patton served on the negotiating committee with Business Manager Travis Eri and Business Representative Thomas Lux.

Eri explained that the local hopes this agreement leads to improved retention and attracts new line-clearance tree trimmers.

"This committee worked really hard to secure a contract that continues increasing our total compensation pack-

age," said Lux. "I'm proud of our members who stuck together until this third vote." Thank you to Chris Brockway for serving as election judge and Paea Nguamo as the teller.

Bonneville Power Administration members voted to approve a 3-year extension of their contract.

As a reminder, please make sure that your contact information is current with the local, and, no matter who earns your vote, participate in any upcoming elections. Make sure that your candidate supports working families and our core union values associated with organizing and negotiating. Lastly, if you're not already part of the Death Benefit Fund, please consider doing so; call the Local 125 Business Office at 503-262-9125 for more information.

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.

Local 131 Installs New Officers

L.U. 131 (i,rtb,rt,se&spa), KALAMAZOO, MI — Currently the work outlook is steady in Kalamazoo. Most projects will be ramping up during the winter.

In July, we installed new officers into our local:

- President — Leroy Crabtree
- Vice-President — Randy Williams
- Recording Secretary — Kari Collison
- Treasurer — Scott Benson
- Business Manager/ Financial Secretary — Morris Applebey
- Executive Board — Jon Current, Terry Clark, Timothy Haydon, Nick Lemmerhart, Collin Foote and Adam Mitzel
- Examining Board — Erik Lockwood, Joe Fischer, Greg Sturm, Ryan Lewis and Paul Barrons

We congratulate the apprenticeship class of 2022 including Adam Beilby, Jason Boyer II, Chris Crabtree, Mike Dunigan, Josie Hovious, Brian Jones, Wade Kaptur, Ed LeBoeuf, Cory McCulloch, David Moss, Chris Sage, Trevor Tatroe, Chris Totten, Corey Werner-Hoskins and Matthew Wood.

Check out the Local 131 website! Christine Bohms has done a fantastic job organizing it.

The retirees Christmas luncheon will be at Martell's on Wed., Dec. 21.

Morris A. Applebey, B.M./F.S.

Celebrating Labor Day, Past and Present

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH — Our local would like to thank its members for working safely and maintaining the principles of the Code of Excellence both on and off the job. We would like to extend a special thank you for those members and their families that participated in this year's Toledo Labor Day Parade. The parade is an annual tradition that celebrates the achievements of organized labor and its ongoing efforts to deliver better wages and conditions for working families. This year's parade was doubled in size following the canceled and hampered Labor Days of 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

Work on the outside construction branch has



Local 245 members and families at the Toledo Labor Day Parade.

LOCAL LINES

been steady with multiple new projects on the horizon. Local 245 has executed several memorandums of agreement (MOAs) with Toledo Edison (FirstEnergy), which have improved benefits and working conditions for the members that work at the utility.

From all of us as Local 245, we hope you and your family are able to spend quality time with each other over the upcoming holidays.

Brian Gendaszek, P.S.

Vote 'Yes' to Amendment 1

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL — On Nov. 8, Illinois will vote on Amendment 1, the Illinois Right to Collective Bargaining Measure. A "yes" vote supports establishing a state constitutional right for employees to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their choosing to negotiate "wages, hours, and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work." Amendment 1 will also prohibit future right-to-work laws. Despite the efforts by the powers-that-be to stop this law, voting "yes" is a simple, non-partisan way to protect the current and future working class.

Local 309 is getting close to rolling out the new Labor Power Express to our members. Labor Power Express is a membership- and dues-tracking software that provides an online system to pay dues and bid on jobs.

Ameren Illinois negotiations resulted in a 14.1% raise, spread over a 4-year agreement, with a 401k enhancement on all hours worked.

The first Gateway Grizzlies event was a successful family outing. In addition to the good weather, the Grizzlies had a great game and won in extra innings.

Carlos S. Perez, R.S.

Giving Thanks for Opportunities

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Happy Thanksgiving, brothers and sisters: Be thankful for the freedoms we enjoy because of our veterans. Nov. 11, Veterans Day, is a provisional holiday per our collective bargaining agreement. Spend time with your family and your friends, and thank a vet. Remember that the USA has never stopped being great.

In October, the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) held its annual convention and trade show in Austin, Texas. Local 343's fifth-year apprentice Alicia Green was invited to attend. With the recommendation of instructor Casey Saunders and based on Alicia's positive attitude toward the apprenticeship, classroom performance and desire to learn, NECA funded an all-expenses-paid trip for Alicia to Austin. She and other apprentices from across the country were recognized for their achievements during the Apprentice



Local 351's Picnic Committee (left to right): Wayne Bumm, Steve DiMatteo, Bob Wisting, John Gray, Tony DeGeorge, Stephen Gandy, Ryck Signor, Andy Helsel, Ray Listman, Daniel Cosner, Lucian Jiacopello, Buddy Blatcher, Tim Santangelo, Joe Trumbetti, Chuck Della Vecchia, Eric Ore, Bill Sneathen and Samantha Vinzinski.

Appreciation Day and a joint member dinner. Of the 36 workshops offered, Women In NECA (WIN)/Future Leaders Round Table interested her the most. The NECA show had over 300 exhibitors on the convention floor.

Thank you, Alicia, for representing Local 343 and for showing how an apprenticeship can offer opportunities of a lifetime.

Be American, buy American and support our economy!

Tom Small, P.S.

Local 351 Hosts Successful Family Picnic

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ — On Aug. 6, our local hosted our annual family picnic at Morey's Pier in Wildwood, N.J. [See photo, above.] We had a wonderful day, and it was so great to see all of our brothers, sisters and families together again having such a fun time. We had more than 600 members and 2,300 people come through the gate. Our contractors donated over \$44,000 in door prizes that went to our members and their families. Thank you to all the picnic committee members, business agents and office staff for all the hard work and dedication you all put into making this picnic such a huge success.

Dan Cosner, B.M.



Local 357's newly elected officers as they pledge their oath of office at the July union meeting. Photo Credit: Jose Torres

Local 357 Welcomes New Officers

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV — We congratulate all of our local's newly elected officers. Thanks for stepping up to the plate. We wish you the very best and have confidence that you will work hard to keep our jurisdiction strong and serve our members well.

Local 357's newly elected officers include President Kevin Kerbs, Vice President Joshua Woods, Recording Secretary Melenie Zavala, Treasurer Ulysses T. Lee and Business Manager/Financial Secretary James Halsey. Our Executive Board members are: Glenn Carpenter, Raquel Dexter, Aaron Pruter, David Riggio, Steven Scheidle and Kenny Torbicki. The Examining Board members are; Joseph Allen, , Noel T. Herberger, Julie-Ann Peeples, Michael Taggart and Doug Ziegenhagen.

Julie-Ann Peeples, P.S.

Well Done, Brothers

L.U. 369 (em,es,i,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), LOUISVILLE, KY — On Sept. 9, 2019, Service Electric Company was changing out a pole for West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corp. in Mayfield, Ky. The five-man crew had worked all morning to frame out the pole, taking a water break around 10:30 a.m. After the break, they rigged the pole and started lifting it into position when Travis Simpson, a groundman from Local 1925, collapsed and fell face first to the ground. Foreman Jacob Jones and apprentice Ben Geurin were the first to reach Travis, who was having a seizure; they rolled him on his side and made sure they kept his airway open. Ben Geurin ran to the foreman's truck to get the AED as Jerald Jewell and Kynan Monroe started CPR. Kynan got Travis ready to use the AED, cleared everyone and applied the shock. Jerald and Kynan gave three more sets of chest compressions and mouth to mouth, and although Travis started breathing on his own, he could not talk and started to have another seizure. Kynan and Ben rolled him onto his side to keep his airway open and were with him

when the ambulance arrived.

The way these brothers reacted together is amazing. While Kynan and Jerald were working on Travis and performing CPR, Jones and Geurin were moving line trucks out of the way so the ambulance would have a clear path. Foreman Jones rode in the ambulance to the hospital with Travis. Local 369 would also like everyone to know that Service Electric Company's commitment to providing each crew with an AED was very important to the outcome of this situation.

Travis Simpson was admitted to the hospital, and doctors determined that Travis had a fibrillation problem with his heart, and he had to have a pacemaker/defibrillator put in. The whole crew went back to the hospital that evening after work and were told by the doctors that their actions saved this young man's life.

At Local 369's monthly membership meeting in July, awards were presented to these brothers who helped to save a life. Well done, brothers.

Gene Holthouser, Bus. Rep.



Regional Director Brent Stubblefield from Service Electric stands with Local 369's journeymen linemen Jerald Jewell and Kynan "Popcorn" Monroe, holding their Life-Saving awards, along with Service Electric General Foreman Randy Criswell. (Not pictured: Fourth-year apprentices Ben Geurin and Tyler McPeak)

Giving Back to the Community

L.U. 401 (c,em,i,ptc,rts&st), RENO, NV — Each spring, our members volunteer with a local nonprofit organization, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB), whose mission is creating a more sustainable and beautiful region through waste reduction, education and active community involvement. In April and May alone, our members' contributions totaled more than 522 volunteer-hours working on projects at regional parks within our community.

In 2018, when our members first partnered with KTMB, the tasks were primarily using trash pickers to collect litter. After witnessing the hard-working nature and abilities of our membership, KTMB started choosing more labor-intensive tasks that had been neglected due to the difficulty of the work. This year, our members, armed with picks, shovels and



Local 401 members participated in a KTMB event to benefit the Bartley Ranch Regional Park in Washoe County, NV: Brian Osborn, Dan Councilman, Theresa Straight, Harrison Mixer, Cesar Bernal, Charles Boolin, Chris Cave, Austin Coughlin, Clint Dunham, Cody Ehlers, Derek Espinoza, Todd Giordano, Scott Hertzler, Greg Horne, Erik Lestrud, Sherry MacDonald, Francisco Macias and Ian Mattice.

Go
Green

Get your
ELECTRICAL WORKER
delivered each month
via email.

It's convenient & helps cut down
on paper waste. Go to [www.
ibew.org/gogreen](http://www.ibew.org/gogreen) and sign
up today!



Scan with a QR reader

rakes, performed tasks such as trail-erosion maintenance, invasive weed removal and spreading mulch. A ranger with the Regional Park Department said, "It is so wonderful to see a well-organized group accomplish so much work, so quickly."

A big thanks goes to our Women's Committee for providing the necessities and coordinating the help.

Brian Osborn, Treas.

Local 441 Hosts Roundtable Event

LU 441 (as,i&rts), SANTA ANA, CA — It's always a pleasure to have a seat at the table to discuss our local workforce with elected representatives. We were proud to host a double roundtable event at the OC Electrical Training Institute in Santa Ana on Sept. 1. After an initial building trades discussion with Rep. Katie Porter, Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm joined to discuss investment into clean energy, and how our county — and more importantly, our local skilled and trained workforce — fits into those plans. Also in attendance were Sen. Dave Min, Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, Santa Ana Councilmember David Penalzoza and Santa Ana Mayor Vicente Sarmiento. Following the roundtable discussion, Business Manager Neal Lauzon and OC ETI Training Director Jerry Thomas accompanied Secretary Granholm, Rep. Porter, et al. on a tour of our new state-of-the-art apprentice training facility.



Local 441 hosted a double-roundtable event at the OC Electrical Training Institute in Santa Ana on Sept. 1 with U.S. Rep. Katie Porter and Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm.

Our local is fortunate to have support on so many levels, which is a testament to the skilled men and women of Local 441 and the value they bring to Orange County.

Jaime Colclasure, P.S.

Local 481 Members Pass the Torch

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — As 2022 ends, our local would like to recognize our members who have decided to call it a career and allow the next generation to carry the torch.

John Griffin, a member for more than 41 years, served many roles on behalf of Local 481. The last of his tenure was serving as the President/Executive Director of the Central Indiana Building Trades, where he represented 18 construction unions. Thanks to John's efforts, Local 481 members benefited from manhour increases not seen before, continuing year after year.

Jim Patterson, a member for more than 43 years, also served many roles on behalf of Local 481 members, from business representative to his most recent endeavor as the apprenticeship director for more than 17 years. Through his leadership and dedication, JATC Indianapolis has remained on the cutting edge of training and education. As Jim brought in new ideas and instructors along the way, the apprenticeship continued to grow under his leadership.

Lastly, former Sixth District International Vice President David Ruhmkorff served the members of Local 481 for more than 44 years. David served on multiple levels along the way, as a business representative and business manager and then as IVP, always putting the IBEW first. Words cannot express the gratitude we have for David and what he has done for all of the IBEW. Thank you for leading by example and always being engaged with the membership!

Congratulations to all on your retirements, and thank you for your dedication to the IBEW!

Blake A. Andrews, Bus. Rep./Treas.

Harris, Walsh Visit Local 553 JATC

L.U. 553 (i,lctt,mt,o&ws), RALEIGH, NC — March 2 proved to be a momentous day for the JATC of our local. Vice President Kamala Harris, along with Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, took the day to visit Durham Technical Community College for the express purpose of touring the IBEW apprenticeship training facilities at the school.

Their visit was intended to highlight the advantages of union apprenticeships for young American workers. While in Durham, they also met with organized labor advocates from across the state, including Local 553 Business Manager Rob Axford and Local 379 RENEW President Melissa Reyes.

"We see the potential for growth in terms of diversity, in terms of inclusion, in terms of America's workforce and our future," said Harris in her remarks to assembled union members from across the building trades. "I met some of those great stars and leaders today who I believe are all part of a new era of the American labor movement."

"We can ensure workers have healthcare, a fair wage, and a voice," said RENEW 553 Committee member Tara Schmitt when introducing the vice president. "We as a nation have learned time and again how best to do that: Unionize."

Aharon Segal, L.U. 553 RENEW Pres.



Labor Secretary Marty Walsh and Vice President Kamala Harris with first-year apprentice Yesenia Hernandez.

197 (Bloomington), 364 (Rockford), 461 (Aurora), 649 (Alton) and 701 (Dupage) all showed up for their chance to forever etch their local on the traveling trophy.

Congratulations to Local 134 of Chicago for winning this year! Thanks to all the teams that came out as well as the members and their families. We hope to see you all next year!

Luther Baker, P.S.



Local 611's Adam Wysong, with Luke, Evan and Beth, stands proud on the field with his talented family.

JATC Offers PV Training

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — The JATC is now offering photovoltaic training at no cost to the members. At the time of this writing, the state is paying for anyone interested in learning PV. I am not sure how much longer this course will be offered for free, but anyone interested can call the JATC at 505-341-4444 for more information and updates.

Anyone who has been following local sports news has heard the names Luke and Evan Wysong, who are the sons of Local 611 member Adam Wysong. Luke, a sophomore, is an all-star slot receiver for the University of New Mexico Lobos football team; Evan, a senior, is the all-star starting quarterback for Cleveland Storm High School in Rio Rancho. The two brothers were going to have their first opportunity to play on the same team when Luke was a senior and Evan a sophomore at Cleveland, but all high school sports were brought to a halt during the pandemic. Luke and Evan will finally have an opportunity to play together since Evan has agreed to play for UNM next season. Adam Wysong was a college football player, and his wife Beth was a college volleyball player, so sports definitely runs in the family.

This year's Labor Day picnic was a huge success! Every year it gets bigger and bigger, and if you have not attended one of these events, be sure and mark your calendar for next year. It is really fun, with lots of food and games for the kids, and this year's event was attended by the governor.

Local 601 Hosts 45th Annual Softball Tournament

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL — Our local's softball team hosted their 45th annual softball invitational tournament. Locals 134 (Chicago), 145 (Rock Island/Quad Cities), 146 (Decatur), 150 (Waukegan), 176 (Joliet), 193 (Springfield),



Local 601 recently hosted its annual softball tournament (back row, left to right): Kevin Carroll, Jake Hughes, Dominik Harmon, Mark Lowry, Mike Hagemeyer, Toby Traxler, Dustin Lard, Ryan Munsterman and Rick Mueller; (front row): Dan Wingler, Tyler Tester, Blake Withers, Phillip Cook, Christian Krumwiede and Travis Spencer.

USA LIFE
2023 CALENDAR
PLUS, GET ENTERED FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
104 GUNS IN 52 WEEKS
+ Raise \$\$\$ for Your Local with Bulk Orders!
ORDER TODAY: UnionSportsmen.org
Questions? 877-872-2211 ext. 2 or fulfillment@unionsportsmen.org

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

In addition to your monthly issue of *The Electrical Worker*, check out lots of other IBEW-related content online.

www.ibew.org

Get the latest IBEW news, including an electronic version of this and previous newspapers, at IBEW.org.

YouTube

If you couldn't be at this year's IBEW Convention in Chicago, visit [YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](https://www.youtube.com/TheElectricalWorker), to check out daily highlight videos and other special content.

Vimeo

Visit [Vimeo.com/IBEW](https://www.vimeo.com/IBEW) to watch a broad selection of short clips and long-form videos specifically tailored to strengthen the bonds of IBEW brotherhood.

HourPower

The Electrical Training Alliance recently held its annual weeklong National Training Institute in Ann Arbor, Mich. Learn how trainers get trained at IBEWHourPower.com.

ElectricTV

The IBEW and NECA together invest more than \$300 million in training at 277 centers across the U.S. At ElectricTV.net, learn how the "C Group Program" helps things run smoothly.

LOCAL LINES

Don't forget that our union meetings are on the third Saturday of the month. I would like to encourage our apprentices to attend as often as possible, as the meetings are important and apprentices missed out on a great opportunity at a recent meeting.

On behalf of the local, I would like to send condolences to the family and friends of Larry Garcia and Albert "AJ" Norris.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

Local 639 and Partners Build Housing for Veteran

L.U. 639 (i&rts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — On Sat., July 23, members of our local, UA 403 and the Southwest Carpenters 805, partnered with Operation WEBS (Women Empowered Build Strong) to build a tiny home at the California Mid-State Fair. [See photo, bottom, left.] The tiny home will be used as temporary housing for a homeless woman veteran in our community.

Thank you to our distinguished guest speakers House Rep. Salud Carbajal, County Board of Supervisors Dawn Ortiz-Legg and John Peschong, County Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Brescia and Sandy Blair from Operation WEBS. They spoke on the importance of the Building Trades apprenticeship programs and the path to the middle class through jobs with benefits and pensions.

A special shout out goes to Local 639 members for their hard work: Daniel Boyd, Darian Cantrel, President Joe Fitzer, Executive Board Officer Bill Gerber, Organizer Sean Perry, Business Manager Mark Simonin and Loyd Taylor (of Local 413).

Kurt McClave, P.S.

Local 649 Updates

L.U. 649 (i,lctt,mt&o), ALTON, IL — The Greater Madison County Federation of Labor parade was a success, with big local membership turnout. Brothers and sisters who were unable to attend past parades made it to this year's parade and the festivities thereafter.

Brother Ryan Mouser accepted the position as Local 649 organizer, quickly acclimating to the important role he will take for the local. Alan will focus solely on assistant business agent duties now and be of greater assistance to Terry.

In other Local 649 news:

- Signatory contractor J.F. Electric will begin commissioning work on the tornado-damaged Amazon warehouse after months of sitting idle.
- Our local's journeymen wiremen are getting certified for upcoming Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) projects due to President Biden's infrastructure bill.



U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (center) and other guest speakers at the California Mid-State Fair.

- We are manning up for Phillips 66 Refinery fall turnaround.
- Ameren Illinois contract negotiations have been completed after several voting sessions.
- The Wieland Group (formerly known as Olin) contract negotiations have begun.
- A \$700 million lock and dam project approved by President Biden will construct a 1,200-foot lock chamber; project design is 75% complete, with a projected start date in 2024.
- Welcome back to work from your recovery, Brothers Tim Blasa and Doug Messinger. Let there be "Strength In Unity."

Terry Wilhite, P.S.

Progress in Columbus

L.U. 683 (i&ptc), COLUMBUS, OH — The story remains the same in our jurisdiction, with a continuing outstanding work outlook; at the time of this writing, calls are coming in on a daily basis. The Hilton Columbus Downtown is in the final push with an abundance of overtime being worked to finish it. Data center work continues to gear up and the utility-scale solar work is on its way as well. The Ohio State University medical facility tower continues growing into the sky, topping out at 26 stories, and it will continue to drive calls for manpower. Our traveling brothers and sisters are critical in filling the needs of the work load.

Local 683 was the host local for the Fourth District Progress Meeting in July. It was a nice return to normalcy, meeting in person again and seeing our brothers and sisters from across the district. We would like to thank International Vice President Gina Cooper for choosing Columbus as well as all of the speakers in attendance and those that helped with the event. We hope everyone in attendance had a great time and enjoyed their stay.

Local 683 would like to wish everyone a safe and happy upcoming holiday season!

Mike Morey, Pres.

Summer Solidarity

L.U. 697 (c,es,l,mt&se), GARY/HAMMOND, IN — We are in the midst of an upswing of projects in our jurisdiction. Many projects in the industrial, commercial and residential markets have kept us busy all year. We, like so many other locals, look forward to a robust finish to the year.

Our members and their families were able to

enjoy the end of the summer with a series of Local 697 events. The participation in the Lowell Labor Day parade was once again strong, with close to 300 members and families in total. We held our annual picnic at the Lake County Fairgrounds, which is always a fun time. At the beginning of October, our annual awards night was held at Avalon Manor. It is always nice to see our members of all ages and years of service come together to be recognized for their time committed to our organization. Lastly, we held our fall blood drive just a few weeks ago.

Please continue to work safely as we approach the holiday season!

Joree Richards, B.M.



Organizer Paul Robarge holds his "Above and Beyond" award alongside (from left) Greg Boyd, John O'Rourke and Marcie Obremski.

Organizer Honored with 'Above and Beyond' Award

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,lctt,o,ptc,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK — Congratulations to Organizer Paul Robarge on receiving the IBEW Ninth District's "Above and Beyond" award in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to organizing, thereby furthering the purposes of the IBEW. The accompanying picture shows Brother Robarge with Membership Development Rep. Greg Boyd, Ninth District International Vice President John O'Rourke and Business Manager Marcie Obremski. Brothers O'Rourke and Boyd were here in Alaska to assist with our organizing blitz in Anchorage.

Melinda Taylor, Comm. Dir.

Do Nonunion Workers Pay Dues?

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — When we pay dues and assessments, we get something out of it: We get a fair wage with benefits and representation that give us a quality of life we could not have as nonunion electrical workers.

Inside construction locals usually have fringes paid above and beyond their wages that cover health insurance and pension benefits. If the contractor pays \$20 for every hour you work and you work 40 hours per week, you are getting \$3,200 a month in benefits. In the nonunion world, workers do not get benefits like this. While they usually see a decent wage on the check, any additional benefits they need will come from that wage. In other words, a nonunion electrical worker pays about \$3,200 a month to be nonunion. Think about that!

Our future in Local 1579 and the IBEW is very bright. Always take pride in what you do as you represent the IBEW every day. Always have good attendance at work and do the very best that you can.

Until next time, God bless!

Will Salters, B.M./F.S.

GROUND^{ED} IN HISTORY

The End of Company Unions

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the American labor force switched into high gear to produce weapons, ammunition and supplies. With so much demanded of labor, many trades saw an increase in membership, bargaining power and an expansion in rights. When the armistice was declared on Nov. 11, 1918, today celebrated as “Veterans Day” in the U.S. and “Remembrance Day” in Canada, consumer spending was up, factories were producing more goods than ever and the Roaring Twenties were just around the corner.

For the IBEW, our membership had nearly doubled from 60,000 in 1917 to 100,000 in 1920. It was in that year that the IBEW established a permanent International Office in Washington, D.C., a testament to our growing influence in the labor world.

With the war effort drawing down, however, corporate interests were keen on clawing back labor’s gains. So began the era of company unions.

Promoted by John D. Rockefeller and given the name “The American Plan” to make it appear more patriotic, the company union movement forced employees to sign “yellow dog” contracts stating they would never join a trade union but instead could vote for company union representatives. These “unions” were staffed by company management and, by default, always held profits above people when it came to the demands of the workers. IBEW leaders quickly saw through the ruse.

Derided as “ultimate serfdom” by International President James Patrick Noonan in 1922, these company unions were known to use paid detectives to foment trouble and start dual movements within a trade to convince workers to leave their bona fide union. “No man who has the interests of the workers at heart will advise you to give up membership in your labor organization,” said Noonan. “Those who do so either lack understanding or are the paid representatives of the employer.”

Editions of this newspaper were filled with pleas from local unions to avoid the promoters of company unions “as you would any other kind of swindler.” One such tale came from the June 1922 issue, which detailed how the Western Union Telegraph Company organized their own “Association of Western Union Employees” to antagonize the Commercial Telegraphers Union of America, a legitimate trade union. When the company announced it would reduce wages to the 1914 level, the “Association” happily accepted the reduction “doubtless as an act of kindness to the company which owned it. That is how a company union operates.” Corporate interests did their work well, and by 1930 IBEW member-



Members of IBEW System Council No. 3, pictured here, stood up to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company’s formation of a company union and went on strike in 1922.

ship was reduced to pre-war levels at 60,000.

One of the hardest hit industries by “The American Plan” was the railroad. During the war, the rail system was nationalized by the United States Railroad Administration. A period of relative harmony followed, marked by the establishment of the 8-hour day and the right for shop crafts to fully unionize. But when the war ended and the rails were passed back into private hands, a new entity was created, the Railroad Labor Board (RLB).

While the RLB acknowledged the right of workers to organize, rail company executives lobbied hard to reduce wages for America’s 2 million rail workers. In the words of Noonan, the companies “used their vast financial resources of accumulated war-time profits as insurance against strikes.” Sure enough, when the RLB approved the wage reductions, 400,000 rail workers walked off the job on July 1, 1922. The strike ended a few months later with an injunction from the federal government, and many IBEW locals settled their demands through negotiations. But for IBEW members of System Council No. 3, the fight went on.

Formed in 1919, System Council No. 3 comprised IBEW railroad locals from Pennsylvania and adjoining states. It joined American Federation of Labor System Federation No. 90, which represented all 55,000 employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. When the company passed back into private hands in 1920, the company refused to recognize its agreements with Federation No. 90. The President of Pennsylvania Railroad, William Atterbury, was a staunch supporter of “The American Plan” and forced his employees to elect representatives for a company union. The shop unions countered with an election of their own that saw 37,000 voting to stay with Federation No. 90. The RLB found both elections invalid and called for a new vote with both union options on the ballot. When Mr. Atterbury refused this compromise, System Council No. 3 and Federation

No. 90 voted to strike on July 1, 1922, the same day as the national strike.

While other shop workers across the country could use their union representatives to settle the dispute, IBEW members of System Council No. 3 didn’t have that option. They were still fighting for the basic right of representation. Leading the fight was George Woomer, a shop worker from Altoona, Pa., Local 733 and president of System Council No. 3. “Although the American people were led to believe that the war had made the world safe for democracy,” wrote Woomer in the January 1923 *Electrical Worker*, “thousands of men are still fighting for democracy in our industry, and many of the railroad barons are beginning to realize that our shopmen mean to have some of that democracy.”

For several years, Woomer’s articles were front-page stories, detailing every twist and turn of the Council’s battle against the Pennsylvania Railroad company union. The case eventually made it to the Supreme Court, which found in 1925 that the railroad was in violation of the RLB’s standards for union representation. “The company union is all that we said it was, the child of the employer and doing his bidding at all times,” wrote Woomer. “They have been reducing the wages of the employees they claim to represent. Our members are not falling for their bunk as they realize their benefits come from the one organization that can represent them — the IBEW.”

By 1926, public pressure pushed Congress to pass the Railway Labor Act, which not only abolished the RLB and mandated collective bargaining with independent unions, but prohibited “yellow dog” contracts and outlawed company unions as well. Their demands having been met, the System Council No. 3 strike was finally called off in 1928. So, today let us celebrate the efforts of our brethren, who exactly one century ago, launched a vigorous defense of democracy in the workforce and brought an end to the “ultimate serfdom” of company unions. ■

Visit nbew-ibewmuseum.org for more on how to support the IBEW’s preservation of its history. Have an idea for this feature? Send it to Curtis_Bateman@ibew.org.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

Kenneth W. Cooper
International Secretary-Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairman
Christopher Erikson

First District
Joseph P. Calabro

Second District
Myles J. Calvey

Third District
Daniel L. Shirey

Fourth District
William W. Riley

Fifth District
Donald B. Finn

Sixth District
Dean E. Wine

Seventh District
Leroy J. Chincio

Eighth District
Tom N. Griffiths

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

First District
Russel N. Shewchuk

Second District
Michael P. Monahan

Third District
Dennis C. Affinati

Fourth District
Gina P. Cooper

Fifth District
Brian K. Thompson

Sixth District
Paul A. Noble

Seventh District
Steven Speer

Eighth District
Jerry Bellah

Ninth District
John J. O'Rourke

Tenth District
Brent E. Hall

Eleventh District
Mark D. Hager

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

Editor
Lonnie R. Stephenson
Matt Spence
Alex Hogan
Curtis D. Bateman
John Sellman
Erin Sutherland
Asifa Haniff
Ben Temchine
Sean Bartel
Colin Kelly
Rix Oakland
Colleen Crinion
Michael Pointer
Janelle Hartman
Joe Conway
Emily Welsh

HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

©2022 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The Electrical Worker (print)
ISSN 2332-113X

The Electrical Worker (online)
ISSN 2332-1148

All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. on Union-made paper.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

The Electrical Worker will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

Paid advertising is not accepted.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756.
Canada Post: Return undeliverables to P.O. Box 122
Niagara Falls ON
L2E 6S8.



WHO WE ARE

Georgia Member Runs for Secretary of State

Bee Nguyen is many things. She's the daughter of Vietnamese immigrants, the state representative for Georgia's 89th district, and, as she proudly touts in her campaign for secretary of state, a card-carrying member of Atlanta Local 613.

"Bee is very intelligent and seasoned in politics," said Local 613 Business Manager Kenny Mullins. "She is a strong and compelling candidate because she is genuine and she's IBEW. She cares about serving the people of Georgia. It's a calling for her, not a job."

Nguyen's background isn't a typical one for an IBEW member. She doesn't come from a long line of electricians or tradespeople. Her parents fled from Vietnam in search of basic civil liberties. When her father first arrived in America, he worked as an orderly at a mental institution making minimum wage — \$3.35 an hour at the time. At night, he would study in their basement apartment using a cardboard box as his desk. For him, education was the only way to escape poverty.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Nguyen spent a lot of her career in the education sector. She started a nonprofit organization and she spent a decade in Georgia public high schools where she provided after-school programming, wraparound services and one-on-one mentoring.

"I saw the lack of investment in our public school system, and it really helped to inform my decision to run for office," Nguyen said.

It was after the disastrous *Janus v. AFSCME* Supreme Court decision in 2018 that Nguyen decided to become a union member. *Janus* stripped public unions of funds and the power to fight for workers the same way that states use right-to-work laws to impede private-sector organizing. For Nguyen, it wasn't something that she could just stand by and watch happen.



"[Bee Nguyen] is genuine and she's IBEW. She cares about serving the people of Georgia."

— Atlanta Local 613 Business Manager
Kenny Mullins



"I decided to put my money where my mouth is and find out how I could become a union member," Nguyen said. "I had a good relationship with the IBEW from working on previous campaigns together, so I just went up to [Local 613 Political Registrar] James Williams and asked him how I could join. About a month or two later I was sworn in and now I'm a dues-paying member."

Nguyen currently holds the state House seat formerly held by friend-of-the-IBEW Stacey Abrams, who is running for governor for a second time. But after seeing the barrage of voter suppression policies being enacted in Georgia, Nguyen, who is the first Asian-American Democratic woman to hold elected office in the Georgia General Assembly, decided to run for secretary of state. If she wins, she would also be Georgia's first Asian-American elected to a political statewide office.

"I'm running to make sure there's a free and fair election for everyone," Nguyen said. "Our democracy is healthier when every eligible person can participate without barriers."

Nguyen sits on the House committee that oversees election laws, which garnered a lot of attention after the 2020 presidential election and multiple Republican attempts to overturn Georgia's election results. After one hearing where Sister Nguyen deftly discredited a so-called expert witness, she was even targeted with death threats.

"I had people calling for my execution," Nguyen said. "But it didn't deter me from the work to be done."

That fierceness of conviction is something she carries with her throughout her work as a state representative and as a candidate.

"She actually cares about working families in Georgia," Williams said. "It's not just a line for her."

Nguyen also noted the similarities between voter suppression at the state ballot box and those used by corporations in union elections.

"Just look at what Amazon did during the



Georgia state Rep. Bee Nguyen is running for secretary of state and she has the backing of her brothers and sisters from Atlanta Local 613.

organizing drive in Alabama," Nguyen said. "They purposefully changed the rules — during a pandemic — to make it harder to vote by mail. It's the same playbook used by Republicans to make it harder for working people to vote by restricting mail-in voting, taking away drop boxes, and even prohibiting the passing out of water."

As secretary of state, Nguyen wouldn't just have the ability to make voting more free and fair, she'd also be able to work closely with labor to address issues that are important to electricians because the secretary of state's office administers licensure for electricians in the state of Georgia.

"It's about working alongside labor," Nguyen said. "I'm committed to bringing labor unions, my brothers and sisters, along with me every step of the way."

Both Mullins and Williams say they're proud to have an IBEW sister running for office.

"It brings awareness that our local is active and that we are more than just a group of electrical workers," Mullins said. "We are also loaded with members that are servants to the people."

Williams says they're actively encouraging more members to run.

"No one other than an IBEW member can advocate for our needs better than one of our own sisters or brothers," Williams said.

For her part, Nguyen, who is the only statewide candidate who's also a member of a labor union, says she would love to see more union siblings in office.

"If union members don't get involved, the laws won't change," Nguyen said. "It's about having a diversity of candidates that can give us more creative solutions. By bringing labor to the table we can do things like amplify apprenticeships in addition to easing access to the ballot box." ■