

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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How to Get It and Use It – for Your Family, Your Community and All Working People

o matter where you believe your country is or where it should be going, most people today approach politics as if it were a carton of rotten milk.

Politics can be bitter and nasty, sure, but worse, the fights rarely seem to be about what really matters in our lives. It can make you want to throw up your hands and walk away.

But some types of people never get so disgusted by the ugliness that they give in to apathy or cynicism. They're the born wealthy, the already powerful, the simply corrupt. They embrace the ugliness, even encourage it, and hope working people will be so disgusted and disheartened that we leave the field for them.

But their vision of politics isn't the only one possible.

Every day, from neighborhood councils to city halls to Ottawa and Washington, thousands of members of this union bring the dignity and principles of the IBEW into politics.

People like you. On days like today.

In this issue of The Electrical Worker, we want to speak to you about how power in America and Canada works and how you can get it for your



Editorial on Page 2

family, for your community, for workers like you and for the nations we call home.

'A Sleeping Giant'

Power is the ability to take your vision for the world and make it real. And for working people, a labor union is the only path to power.

Our power — your power — is rooted in negotiating and enforcing collective bargaining agreements. The IBEW has reshaped millions of lives through the contracts we have fought for over 132 years.

To enforce those agreements, to make them better and to expand their shield to protect more brothers and sisters, IBEW members by the hundreds enter the world of campaigning and politics. But Election Day is only one day, and running for office is only one way to engage in politics to help working families.

"Working people in the U.S. and Canada are a sleeping giant," said International President Kenneth W. Cooper. "Every member of this union is an expert on their lives and their work, and that is sufficient for any one of us to seek the power to shape our nations' futures."

Everyone has an idea of how the world ought to be. For organized labor, the world ought to be one where every worker gets their fair share of the value of their work, every person has benefits that provide security to them and their families, and all can look forward to the time when work ends — the end of the day, the end of the week and a dignified end to working entirely.

We get that stability through bargaining. "The union's primary tool of power is signing and enforcing collective bargaining agreements," Cooper said. "Every entry we make into the world of politics is to make our CBAs stronger, easier to enforce or to expand the number of people who get access to CBAs."

YOUR POWER continued on page 4



FROM THE OFFICERS



Kenneth W. Cooper International President



Paul A. Noble International Secretary-Treasurer

his special issue of The Electrical Worker has a singular focus. We know that for many members, politics and the particulars that go into legislation and policymaking are the last thing they want to hear about.

Partisanship and division are at an all-time high, with the loudest and most extreme voices in the mainstream media and online getting the most attention.

So, it's no surprise that some of you would rather tune out.

But while you might ignore politics, politics won't ignore you. This is something we have both learned over the course of our long IBEW careers. It is a lesson that generations of IBEW and other union members

have learned ever since the dawn of North America's labor movement. Samuel Gompers, the first president of the American Federation of Labor, was known for his efforts to steer the labor movement away from partisan entanglements and political schemes. He fought to ensure labor's total independence from any party or politician.

But he still understood that unions had an obligation to fight for their members on all levels. And that meant fighting for labor's issues at all levels of government.

Gompers knew that unions couldn't grow if the laws of the land worked against them. That is why the AFL started the first union scorecards, so members could see where each lawmaker stood on the issues that matter to labor. It's a tool we still use today, and we encourage you to visit **ibewgov.org/ibew-scorecard** to see how your House member and senators deliver on our priorities.

At his time, the big issues were the eight-hour work day, child-labor laws and winning the right to strike. Today, key issues for labor include prevailing wages, pension protection, and expanding the right to organize and collectively bargain.

The issues may change, but our fundamental approach to politics remains the same. It's not about partisanship for the IBEW. It's about getting results that boost workers' rights, create good union jobs and table.

give workers a place at the national table. When a politician signs a law that attaches some of the strongest pro-worker, pro-union regulations ever to all new federal infrastructure spending, as Joe Biden has, then it's crucial we support him.

When politicians try to chip away at our benefits, attack our rights, and slash health and safety regulations — like when Texas lawmakers abolished mandatory water breaks for construction workers — it's on us to beat those politicians at the polls.

It would be a dereliction of duty as IBEW leaders to do anything less.

That is why the IBEW has been active in politics since 1891 and why we continue to be. And we will continue to stand by our friends and work against those who try to harm our mission.

But that's not all. We will also continue to fight to elect more IBEW members to higher office because no one knows our issues better than our members.

For example, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085 member Daniel Blaikie, elected to Canada's Parliament in 2015, is working with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to help transition fossil fuel workers into good jobs in the clean energy sector. See our story about that on page 14. (There is a step-by-step guide on page 9 if you are curious about running yourself.)

Let's be clear. Politics is a messy business. But we have no option but to get involved because no one else will do it for us. Big corporations and anti-union lobbyists work day and night to make it harder for us to organize and grow. They are spending millions of dollars to eradicate unions altogether.

We are not about to let them have the field to themselves.

Every piece of anti-worker legislation, from right-to-work to restrictions on the right to organize and collectively bargain, is a direct attack on your wages, your benefits, and your future.

As always, your vote is your choice alone. We will never tell anyone how they should vote or what they should believe. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all have a home in the IBEW.

But we will always be straight with the facts and inform you where each politician stands on the issues that directly impact you, your job, and the IBEW. Our recommendations are purely based on our policy priorities.

That is what this Electrical Worker is about — giving you the information you need to make an informed decision come Election Day.

You owe it to yourselves and all your brothers and sisters to take the time to study it carefully. Become an educated union member. Then, regardless of whom you choose to support, make your informed voice heard by voting.

Not just because you are IBEW members but because you are citizens of two of the greatest democracies and nations in the world. So many have given so much to ensure that we enjoy the right to vote, so please exercise that right.

A strong labor movement is vital to maintaining a healthy democracy, and we are committed to enriching our democracies by continuing to build a stronger IBEW.

Our members live in nearly every community throughout North America. For more than 130 years, we have been active in all of them, fighting not just for us but for all working families.

That is what politics means to us. We will continue to focus on what it takes to keep our place at the table and make things better for all. Ultimately, this focus is your power.

PROFILES IN POWER

Sylvester Taylor

Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, IBEW/NECA Electrical Connection, St. Louis Local 1

Member of the St. Louis County Fire Safety and Standards Commission, Vice president of the Hazelwood School Board,

Former member of the Missouri House of Representatives



66When I was first asked to serve on the Fire Safety Commission, I wasn't sure I wanted to do it, but my business manager did what they call 'voluntelling' and I ended up serving anyway. But after that, there's been a bug in me like you wouldn't believe. I haven't been the same since.

I realized that it's all about being able to have a voice in your community. I'm union to the core, but I'm also a Black man. I make sure that jobs go 100% union and that the people on the jobs represent the community where they're working. So, if be willing to holo me with that

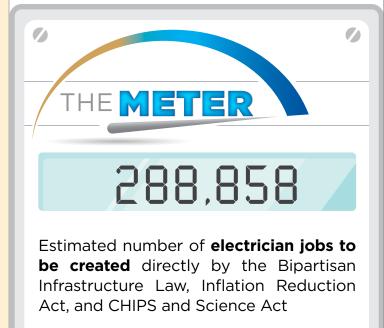
you want me in office, you have to be willing to help me with that.

The IBEW taught me that power only recognizes power. You can't paint your kitchen from the street. You've got to be in the room when contracts get decided. Once I was elected, we built three new firehouses with 30% minority participation — and it was union. Last fall, we passed a \$138 million bond issue, and that means that all three high schools in my district will get new stadiums and the work will be done by the IBEW and other unions.

Sometimes I wonder how in the hell I got here, but it's all been pretty cool. I'm in a position to effect change. And with me in office, others can go and fight somewhere else. The best part of the IBEW is that it prepares you for situations like this. There's no road map for it. But when you have passion, people see it. I am steadfast in the belief that you have to have a heart of servitude. I hang my hat on that. To be a servant is pretty important.

For more profiles of some of the hundreds of IBEW members who serve their communities in elected or appointed office, see page 20.

For pointers on how to run for office yourself, see page 9 and contact the Government Affairs office at 202-728-6046.



See story on opposite page for more details.

How 3 New Laws Give the IBEW the Inside Track for Thousands of Jobs

here has never have been a better time to be an IBEW member.

The Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the CHIPS and Science Act, signed by the President Joe Biden, authorize trillions of dollars for new construction across the country.

The laws maximize the benefit for working families by setting baseline labor and employment standards that give union workers a level playing field because it is how we do business already.

But the standards vary from law to law, and international representatives, business managers and business representatives are crucial resources for signatory contractors to help them win the opportunities we helped create.

Here are the most important standards built into each law that give a leg up to the best-trained electrical workers in the world and the contractors that employ them.

If you have any questions about how your local can help business partners take advantage of these incentives, email the Government Affairs Department at governmentaffairs@ibew.org or call 202-728-6046.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Broadband Deployment and Transportation

99,000 - 188,100* ELECTRICIAN JOBS OVER 5 YEARS

BEAD grants

The BIL, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, contains a \$42.5 billion program to give grants to states for broadband expansion known by the acronym BEAD. The program includes incentives for strong labor standards and investing in workforce training, including: Using a directly employed workforce, as opposed to a subcontracted workforce.

- Paying prevailing wages and benefits.
- Using project labor agreements.
- Signing labor peace and neutrality agreements.
- Local hire commitments.
- · Safety training.
- Registered apprenticeship programs.
- · Standards that prevent the misclassification of workers.

BEAD also includes a requirement for grant seekers to provide detailed plans to develop an available, local and highly skilled workforce to minimize project disruptions. Such plans must include whether the workforce is unionized - and if it's not, there are additional requirements that must be met.

RAISE grants

The BIL's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE, grant program provides \$2.2 billion for capital investments in surface transportation. The program, administered by the Department of Transportation, contains several incentives that encourage union work, including incentives for projects that:

- Proactively address racial equity.
- · Create ways into the trade for people who have historically been shut out of the construction industry.
- Make it easy for workers to organize.
- Use project labor agreements.
- Use local-hire provisions.
- Use training and placement programs for underrepresented workers.
- Employ a broad and representative group of procurement, material sourcing, construction, inspection and hiring companies.

RAISE grants projects are also subject to prevailing wage requirements.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

\$280 BILLION



Source: March 2023 analysis by Deloitte Insights

Inflation Reduction Act

Prevailing Wage and Apprenticeship Requirements

87,420*

ELECTRICIAN JOBS BY 2030

The IRA provides \$270 billion in tax incentives for a range of clean energy projects. To qualify for enhanced tax credits - from 400% to 4,000% higher under certain IRA programs – developers must ensure that:

- Workers performing construction, improvement and maintenance on clean energy projects are paid at least Davis-Bacon prevailing wages.
- A set, and increasing, percentage of labor hours are performed by registered apprentices.

CHIPS and Science Act

Incentives for Commercial Fabrication Facilities

7,020 - 13,338*

ELECTRICIAN JOBS OVER 10 YEARS

The CHIPS and Science Act provides \$39 billion for investments in semiconductor manufacturing, a jolt that is already kickstarting hundreds of billions in new manufacturing investment in North America and creating tens of thousands of new electrical industry jobs.

The program includes several requirements and incentives that the IBEW can and should help developers meet, including detailed plans to hire, train and retain workers from:

- Nontraditional, poor or historically underrepresented communities.
- · Communities that have suffered the most from the closure of carbon-intensive energy generation and industry.
- Communities most affected by pollution.

The easiest way to comply is for developers to sign a project labor agreement. The law says applicants that commit to using best-practice PLAs "will generally be likely to produce a construction workforce plan that meets the notice of funding opportunity's criteria."

By contrast, applicants that do not commit to using a PLA will be required to submit workforce continuity plans and show that they have taken other measures to reduce the risk of delays in project delivery.

* These numbers represent the direct effect of federal incentives on construction electrician jobs. When you add in utility and manufacturing work, plus work spurred by related private, state and local spending, the numbers will be much higher.



🔻 Continued from page 1

But unions cannot, and should not, be involved in every political fight. There are important issues the IBEW will never have an opinion about and won't have a word to say to our members about, one way or the other.

"Economic stability and the success of working people in America, that's what we care about in politics," Cooper said. "Our only permanent loyalty is to one another, not a candidate, not a party. Us and our future, end of story." the hidden forces pushing the proposals away from working people in rooms where we weren't allowed.

"We were in every room. We were asked about every senior position whose portfolio mattered for our jobs," Keyser said. "The president was clear with the environmentalists, with developers, with congresspeople: If they had language in mind, they needed to work with the IBEW because he was going to ask us before anything moved forward."

Our impact will be felt for decades, and it was the result of a century of effort

"Every entry we make into the world of politics is to make our CBAs stronger, easier to enforce or to expand the number of people who get access to CBAs."

– International President Kenneth W. Cooper

At the Table or On the Menu

Cooper said there are two sayings favored by previous international presidents that, together, form a kind of political North Star for the IBEW.

From Edwin D. Hill: "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." From Lonnie R. Stephenson: "There

are no self-made men in a union." The last two years have been an

extraordinary example of what is possible when you fight for and win that seat at the table.

"We didn't just get an invitation to the White House Easter egg roll," said Austin Keyser, assistant to the international president for government affairs. "For the last two years, we have been the most powerful outside legislative force in any democracy anywhere in the world."

Stephenson was a senior member of Biden's transition team. Keyser was co-chair of the campaign's Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee.

In his first 2½ years, President Joe Biden crafted and passed laws that have been promised for decades that will reshape our economy for the clean electric future.

In previous administrations going back decades if not longer, banks, the businesses and bosses had most, if not all, the seats.

But not today. Every step of the way under this administration, Keyser said, we weren't just at the table, we were an indispensable voice.

"Everything went through us. Nothing was signed if we weren't on board," he said.

When the time came to write the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, and CHIPS and Science Act, the IBEW didn't need to worry about by members of the IBEW, a culmination of tens of thousands of political campaigns and millions of doors knocked on.

"We always had a vision for a clean economy that worked for working people," Cooper said. "Now everyone will see it because we had the power to make it real."

An Ocean of Opportunity

Throughout this issue of The Electrical Worker are examples of people, no different from any other member, who found access to power through the IBEW.

Some ran for office, but there are many paths to making the world better and fairer, inside and outside the union.

Inside the union, you can be a registrar, help other people run, become a steward on the job or run for your local's officer positions.

Beyond the union, there is an ocean of opportunity. And sure, that ocean may feel like it is filled with sharks, but if you are a member of the IBEW, you have the protection of 820,000 brothers and sisters.

We have members everywhere, from school bond oversight committees to city councils to the House of Representatives to the presidency of the AFL-CIO.

If you have a vision for what our nations should look like, your membership card brings access to foot-soldiers in every county in every state and province, hundreds of thousands of brothers and sisters ready to be inspired by you and back you to the hilt.

"The IBEW will grow in the next decade. Your power to remake the world will grow with it," Cooper said. "This issue is a blueprint for how each of us and all of us can use that power for the good of working people everywhere."

YOUR FOWER: FOCUS ON WASHINGTON

IBEW Policy Agenda Resonates Across Political Lines

nd permitting and siting delays to get big projects built. Expand apprenticeship programs. Keep fossil fuel workers in the energy industry and in their hometowns.

These three reforms are the core of the IBEW's U.S. policy agenda as the union engages with Congress, the White House and federal agencies, and each idea is an opportunity for commonsense bipartisan solutions.

"The political party you belong to doesn't really matter to us in the IBEW," said International President Kenneth W. Cooper. "As far as I'm concerned, the only thing we care about as far as politics goes — and that goes both for members of this union and for leaders in Washington — is whether you support our members and families."

Permitting Reform

A recent example of an IBEW priority cutting across party lines was the inclusion in the recent bipartisan debt ceiling agreement of language to improve the federal energy permitting process. Approving permits for major building projects, such as construction of transmission lines or manufacturing facilities, can create thousands of jobs for IBEW members.

Historically, however, court reviews that make up part of the process can delay a project's approval for years or even decades. This has resulted in the loss of countless jobs for IBEW members on major infrastructure and clean energy projects.

In May, the Republican-controlled House, led by Speaker Kevin McCarthy, demanded language that would put deadlines on permit reviews of some major energy projects as part of the debt ceiling talks. Cooper applauded both parties for working together to approve the overall agreement but noted that more work remains on permitting reform.

"Making the permitting process straightforward and reliable, especially to help speed up construction of transmission lines, will be crucial if we're going to meet the nation's infrastructure and clean energy goals quickly and efficiently," Cooper said. "The reforms in the debt deal are a good start, but we hope Congress will continue working."

Fossil Fuel Worker Retention

Preserving and creating energy industry jobs for workers in the fossil fuel sector is another of the IBEW's nonpartisan priorities. As the U.S. moves toward more emission-free and renewable power sources and away from carbon-intense energy generation, the jobs of nearly 85,000 IBEW members in the U.S. whose work relies on coal and natural gas are threatened.

President Joe Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act contain provisions to help communities where coal plants and mines are closing. It's as devastating to a small town when a coal powerhouse is shuttered as it is when a factory closes. Often, the shuttered plants sit on dozens of acres of brownfield that will be perfect for emerging energy technologies like small modular nuclear reactors, hydrogen turbines, massive battery storage or hydrolyzers.

There is a blueprint to sustain these workers and their towns, a bridge to the clean energy technologies of the future in the pandemic-era CARES Act signed by President Donald Trump. That law's Employee Retention Tax Credit was available for employers that kept workers on their payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These clean energy technologies will come online. The only question is how much pain can be avoided in the meantime by helping companies keep workers working.

Apprenticeships

Reauthorizing the National Apprenticeship Act is yet another example of legislation where the political parties find common ground on an IBEW policy priority. The 1937 act established the registered apprenticeship program and empowered the Department of Labor to create safeguards like those that protect apprentices' health and safety.

A bill before Congress — introduced in April and already supported by 18 Democrats and 16 Republicans as of press time — not only seeks to reauthorize the act for the first time, but also aims to extend registered apprenticeships for jobs created by Biden's CHIPS and Science Act as well as his bipartisan infrastructure and inflation-reducing laws.

"These are just some examples of how the IBEW is finding common ground today with many of our leaders on Capitol Hill," Cooper said. "We've always known that people from all over the political spectrum support our priorities, like good jobs with fair wages and benefits for our members or the right to bargain collectively. So it just makes sense for our members to keep an open mind when we go to engage with our elected representatives, rather than deciding not to talk to them based only on the party they associate with."

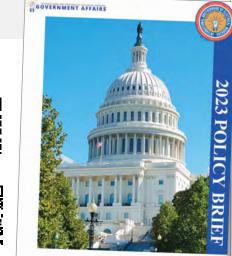
For up-to-date policy information and issue guides, go to ibewgov.org.

More Resources for Members

- To see how your member of Congress scores on issues important to the IBEW, scan this code: www.ibew.org/votescorecard
- For the complete 2023 IBEW Policy Brief, scan this code: ibewgov.org/wp-content/ uploads/2023/03/ IBEW-Govt-Affairs-Policy-Brief-1.pdf







'Real People Doing the Real Work' White House Embraces Wisconsin Locals in First-of-Its-Kind Summit

ven as they passed through White House checkpoints and stepped into the marble halls of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next door, the IBEW local leaders visiting from Wisconsin didn't know what to expect from the Biden administration's invitation.

Would it be mainly a tour? Or more like Lobby Day at the state capitol, walking from one far-flung office to another, shaking hands and talking for a few minutes about IBEW issues?

Instead, they were ushered into the opulent Secretary of War Suite, where senior White House advisers and policymakers rotated in and out over the next four hours, listening intently, asking and answering questions, taking vigorous notes, and promising ongoing help.

"It was phenomenal," said Green Bay Local 158 Business Manager Jesse Jacques. "These were the real people doing the real work in Washington, D.C. We could have been there another five hours and I think it would have been just as productive."

Their afternoon visit on May 22 was unique, an experiment by a pro-worker White House in the value of meeting with a group of ground-level officers from a single union in a single state.

The welcoming words of President Joe Biden's head of the Office of Public Engagement almost went without saying, but Steve Benjamin, former mayor of Columbia, S.C., put it on the record anyway: "The White House is a union house!"

Participating staff came from the upper echelons of a dozen departments and agencies, including Labor, Energy, Transportation, Education, the vice president's office, the Domestic Policy Council and teams implementing the \$2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, which contain strong prevailing-wage language and other worker protections.

The conversations haven't stopped, with staffers true to their word about following up on inquires made during and since the meeting.

Local officers have contacted them about such matters as expediting a utility company's grid-resilience grant, regulatory approval of a new power plant, and linking up an IBEW manufacturer needing domestic components with the administration's Made in America office.

"The meeting really cut out a lot of layers that we'd normally have to go through to get answers to things," said Sixth District International Vice President Mike Clemmons, who attended with several of the district's international representatives.



Wisconsin business managers such as Local 2150's Jim Meyer, above at head of table, raised IBEW issues during a meeting with White House senior staff in May. Participants at right include Local 494's Dean Warsh and Sixth District International Vice President Mike Clemmons, who called the afternoon "unbelievably substantive."

"We built direct contacts with people who are directly in charge of implementing policy and getting all this money out on the street — money that's generationally going to affect our core industries and jobs for IBEW members," he said. "It was unbelievably substantive."

The meeting's origins go back to February, when Dean Warsh, then business manager of Milwaukee Local 494, attended a Wisconsin summit at the 150-year-old Eisenhower building home to Vice President Kamala Harris' ceremonial office and steps away from the White House's West Wing.

That event was part of an ongoing "Communities in Action" series bringing together mayors, business owners, labor leaders, service organizations and other activists, one state at a time.

Warsh, who began a new job July 1 as a Sixth District international representative, chatted with White House staff in charge of the meeting. He said they mentioned wanting "to get as close to the ground as possible and hear directly from union locals."

He and the president's labor liaison, a Wisconsinite, put their heads together and, three months later, 18 Badger State business managers and assistants made history.

"The earlier meeting was great. I

was proud to be there," Warsh said. "But this meeting was all about the IBEW and our members. All our sectors. Everyone was represented."

Whether the White House will host more forums with individual unions remains to be seen. But staffers were upbeat when they took their IBEW visitors bowling later that night at the two-lane Harry S. Truman alley in the Eisenhower building's basement.

"Being the first meeting of its kind, they didn't know what to expect any more than we did," Warsh said. "They were very pleased. They felt it was super informative all the way around." It's been a win for IBEW employ-

ers. too.

For Milwaukee-based We Energies, it means a grant application is no longer languishing at the DOE, thanks to the efforts of Local 2150 Business Manager Jim Meyer.

"The most important thing I learned is that our input matters," Meyer said. "We asked for an update on the status of the grant, and they said, 'The more labor interaction we have, the higher it gets pushed up the pile.""

With a critical shortage of tree trimmers, We Energies is seeking federal funds to recruit and train more crews to protect the electrical grid from storm damage. The grant also would help launch a program to introduce inner-city students to careers in the utility industry.

Local 2150's assistance came on the eve of bargaining a new contract at We Energies. "The timing is perfect," Meyer said. "The awarding of these funds is probably going to happen during these negotiations."

Duluth, Minn., Local 242 leaders have been using their new contacts to advance Minnesota Power's planned Nemadji Trail Energy Center, or NTEC, a natural gas plant project in Superior, Wis., currently in the regulatory stage.

Assistant Business Manager Kyle Bukovich brought up NTEC during the meeting, hoping to counter environmentalists' concerns. He explained that the project will replace two coal plants and that emerging technologies will allow NTEC's turbines to be converted to generate 100% bydrogen power in the future

"I wanted them to know what NTEC is, to give them a little more insight on what that plant can do and will do, and how much it means to our region," said Bukovich, who is also president of the Northern Wisconsin Building Trades and routinely calls on local, state and federal officials. "Having friends in those places, especially at the White House, definitely strengthens our relationships with employers," he said. "Every time I've reached out to someone in the Biden administration, they've always been responsive."

Sometimes at lightning speed, as happened with Meyer after the meeting. He'd posed a question to the director of the Made in America office on behalf of wind-turbine maker Ingeteam, which is expanding in Milwaukee to produce 500,000 electrical vehicle chargers over the next five years and is looking for U.S. suppliers.

"I said: 'Here's my business card. Can you send information on what they need to do?" Meyer said. "Before I got back to my hotel room, her email was waiting."

As his fellow business managers also stressed, Meyer noted how valuable it was "just to learn who to interact with, who the correct people are — that this goes through Commerce, this goes through Transportation, this goes through Energy. Before, I never would have known who to ask."

The byproduct of that knowledge is IBEW jobs.

"The faster you can cut through some of the red tape, the faster our employers can get projects off the ground and put our members to work," Warsh said. "The Biden White House has opened those doors for us."

Business managers brought that message home to their locals, no longer talking in the abstract or quoting others about the depth of the administration's commitment to good jobs and workers' rights.

"You can't always rely on what you hear in the media," Bukovich said. "We heard it firsthand, sitting face to face with these senior advisers and other people who roll up their sleeves to make policy and pass laws that are directly benefiting us."

In his newsletter column for Local 158 members, Jacques listed the staffers they met with and issues discussed: from Biden's historic legislation to apprentice training and jobsite ratios; prevailing wage; solar, wind, hydrogen and nuclear power; battery storage, EV charging stations and training; diversity and mental health in the trades and more.

"I told them the IBEW would have never been invited to something like this in past administrations, Democrat or Republican," Jacques said. "This administration genuinely wants to make life better for working people in this country. It's not a campaign slogan. They keep doubling down on their promises with their actions."

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

IBEW Museum Curator Curtis Bateman explains the history of the Brotherhood's logo. Visit YouTube.com/ **TheElectricalWorker** to see that and other videos.

Vimeo **IBEW** members

at four of the largest freight railroads earned what they long demanded: paid sick days. Check out the video at Vimeo. com/IBEW.

HourPower

Boston Local 103 teamed with the

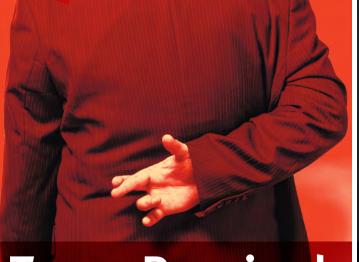
Boston Community Mentoring Team to attract the most diverse apprenticeship class in its history. Visit IBEWHourPower.com for more.

ElectricTV



and signatory contractor **Key Line Construction** brought state-of-the-art

internet to remote communities. Watch the video at ElectricTV.net.



YOUR POWER: FOCUS ON WASHINGTON



Trump Promised, Biden Delivered

'I Will Give You Everything.' On May 26, 2016, candidate Donald Trump told a North Dakota crowd: "I will give you everything. I will give you what you've been looking for for 50 years. I'm the only one."

Four years later, at the Republican National Convention in August 2020, Trump said: "I didn't back down from my promises. I kept every single one." Every presidential candidate makes promises they can't keep. What makes the last 30 months unique is how many promises broken by his predecessor that **President Joe Biden kept.**

Here are the top five campaign promises that were made by Trump and delivered by Biden.

X TRUMP PROMISED:

"I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created."

TRUMP PROMISED:

To invest \$1 trillion in "transportation, clean water, a modern and reliable electricity grid, telecommunications, security infrastructure, and other pressing domestic infrastructure needs."

X **TRUMP PROMISED:**

To create "thousands of new jobs in construction, steel manufacturing and other sectors" to rebuild infrastructure.

TRUMP PROMISED:

"My plan includes a pledge to restore manufacturing in the **United States.**"

far slower than under Biden.

BIDEN DELIVERED:

BIDEN DELIVERED:

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, with \$1 trillion to rebuild our infrastructure with high labor standards. "Infrastructure week" is no longer a national punchline.

Growth of 13,000,000 jobs under his watch through May, after Trump presided

over a loss of 2.1 million U.S. jobs. Even before the pandemic, job growth was

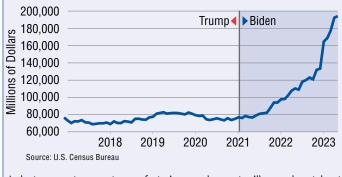
BIDEN DELIVERED:

The American Rescue Plan, passed in March 2021. It helped create more than 4 million new jobs and protected millions more. Plus the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Relief Act, and CHIPS and Science Act, which will create 1 million construction jobs. And not for nothing, jobs in coal mining, a key point in the steel value chain, have increased by 8% after plummeting under Trump.

BIDEN DELIVERED:

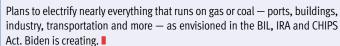
Manufacturing construction growth so steep, you'd need your PPE to follow this graph:

Total Construction Spending: Manufacturing in the U.S.



Industry experts expect manufacturing employment will grow by at least 800,000 jobs.

BIDEN DELIVERED:



X TRUMP PROMISED:

To "unleash an energy revolution that will bring vast new wealth to our country and create at least a half-million jobs a year."

BEW FRONT AND CENTER as Biden Kicks Off Campaign Among 'Old Friends'

President Joe Biden launched his 2024 reelection campaign with an address in a raucous room of union members in Philadelphia.



Philadelphia Local 98 apprentice Chris Litton, top, voted third party last election but said he appreciates that Biden brought work to the IBEW. Recruiter and instructor Teila Allmond, above, took to the rally stage to aalvanize the crowd before the president's speech. resident Joe Biden's first rally of the 2024 presidential campaign was a coming-home celebration in the house of labor.

"I look out in this crowd, and I see a lot of old friends," Biden said to a sea of orange, blue, black, green, yellow and purple T-shirts, each emblazoned with the name of a union and a declaration of support for Biden.

The rally was an unprecedented show of unity from organized labor. Members of the IBEW and dozens of the unions in the AFL-CIO turned out in the Pennsylvania Convention Center that June day, joined by non-AFL-CIO unions including the SEIU and the NEA.

Philadelphia Local 98 Political Director T.J. Lepera said his members showed up for the rally because of the work President Biden is delivering to the membership through the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the CHIPS and Science Act.

"Our only allegiance is to our members and our union, so our support is always about what's coming," he said. "The hydrogen hub in south Philly? We are on the federal short list Biden created. The tax credit for data centers in Pennsylvania, that's [Pennsylvania Gov. Josh] Shapiro and the Democrats in Harrisburg. In the city, the solar roof contract to put PV panels on top of every school, again it was Democrats. Our message is that if you show up to put us to work, we'll show up and work for you."

At times the rally was like a conversation, with people in the crowd volleying questions at Biden, mixed with interruptions of support, hoots of derision when the January 6 rioters were mentioned, and chants of "Let's go, Joe! Let's go, Joe!"

"We've created 13 million new jobs since I became president. That's more jobs in a little over two years than any president has created in one four-year term," Biden said.



After the rally, some of the IBEW's contingent took over the stage. International President Kenneth W. Cooper is at center with AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, a member of Portland, Ore., Local 125.

THE BERN'S DODDS D

The IBEW Photo Contest has been The Electrical Worker's way to ride shotgun with brothers and sisters for a quarter of a century. Your pictures bring us closer together and are a showcase for the critical role members play in the life and work of North America. The hundreds of submissions we receive every year are a priceless contribution to our story. But just because something is priceless doesn't mean a value can't be put on it.

STARTING IN 2023

1ST PLACE: \$1,000 2ND PLACE: \$750 3RD PLACE: \$500 HONORABLE \$200 for EACH MENTIONS: BRANCH of the IBEW

Deadline: Nov. 1

See photo guidelines and submission instructions at **ibew.org/photocontest**.



Photo Contest Rules:

- 1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. <u>The person submitting the photo</u> <u>must be the person who took the photograph</u>. Members may enter up to five photos each.
- 2. International officers and staff are not eligible.
- 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 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 <u>electronically</u> via the Photo Contest link on *ibew.org*. Please contact the Media Department at *media@ibew.org* or 202-728-6102 with additional questions.
- 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.

IBEW Members, Workers Nationwide Reaping Benefits of Recharged NLRB

he vote to join the IBEW in 2020 was unanimous. All seven linemen at a small southern New Mexico utility knew that their only recourse against an autocratic boss was a union voice.

But the general manager who'd failed to derail the organizing drive at Columbus Electric Cooperative wasn't about to give an inch at the bargaining table.

"They wanted a grievance process that basically said, 'The boss is always right, and when you disagree, too bad, his word is final and binding,' along with other ridiculous proposals that no self-respecting union would accept," said Shannon Fitzgerald, an assistant business manager at Albuquerque Local 611. Then the utility ran straight into

the Biden-era National Labor Relations Board.

For the past two years, the rejuvenated NLRB has been flexing its muscles for the underdogs, whether it is deciding cases of bad-faith bargaining and fired organizers or stemming the myriad other ways employers violate their workers' lawful rights.

"We can't say it enough: Elections matter," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. "There is no question that the outlook would be very different for our linemen in New Mexico without the people President Joe Biden appointed to the NLRB. And you can multiply our win by everyone else who is fighting for a voice at work."

No longer are management-side lawyers in control of the five-member board, a voting bloc during the Trump era that routinely let union-busting employers off the hook and chipped away at workers' rights.

Columbus Electric found out the hard way. Upholding a regional NLRB decision, the national board issued a sweeping and costly ruling against the utility in June that included compensating Local 611 for all its bargaining expenses — even lost wages for workers on the negotiating team.

"They have to make us whole for the costs of playing their game," Fitzgerald said. "In the past, the most we got was attorneys' fees. I've been doing this 38 years, and I've never seen a decision this complete."

Workers' interest in unions is soaring, with petitions for representation rising 53% last year. To help workers succeed, the board is seeking out cases to reverse bad precedents and rebuild worker protections.

In May, for instance, a 4-1 majority sided with a United Steelworker's member in Texas who'd been fired for protests about worker safety. In doing so, they overturned the previous board's ruling for General Motors that gave employers more leeway to punish

53% Increase in petitions for union representation in 2022

workers for protected union activity.

NLRB Chair Lauren McFerran said the 2020 GM decision "broke sharply with judicially approved precedent and did not give adequate consideration to the importance of workers' rights under the National Labor Relations Act."

But just resolutions after long battles aren't remedy enough for the new NLRB. In concert with the Department of Labor and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, or FMCS, the board is taking a holistic approach toward organizing and collective bargaining.

Their efforts are integral to the goals of Biden's Cabinet-level White House Task Force on Organizing and Worker Empowerment, which is restoring the principles of the 1935 law that established the NLRB — specifically language that states that it will be federal government policy to encourage the growth of unions.

A major initiative toward that end is designed to pave the way to first

contracts by offering training and mediation services at no cost to either party.

Employers commonly stall bargaining in hopes of derailing new units before they have any contractual rights. Data published in 2022 shows that only 36% of units reach a contract within the first year after organizing, and only twothirds succeed within three years.

Javier Ramirez, a deputy director at FMCS, said in April that the program already had assigned mediators to assist 700 newly organized units. "We help the parties build a constructive bargaining relationship," he said. "We have found that oftentimes [they] don't need a mediator right away — what they really need is training on the process."

Equally important is getting workers over the first hurdle — representation itself. The NLRB's agenda includes the Fair Choice and Employee Voice rule, now being finalized after a public comment period. It will restore safeguards to union elections and encourage voluntary recognition.

Other rules and stiff fines are meant to deter management from interfering in union elections, like general counsel Jennifer Abruzzo's call for a ban on captive-audience meetings. Enraged employers are filing lawsuits against her 2022 policy memo, fearing the loss of one of their most common anti-union weapons.

Abruzzo, who has issued a series of game-changing directives, argues that the board has tolerated the forced meetings for too long. "This license to coerce is an anomaly in labor law, inconsistent with [federal] protection of employees' free choice," she said.

A former union attorney, Abruzzo is hailed by labor and cursed by the business world as the NLRB's most progressive counsel ever.

Her predecessor, the virulently anti-union Peter Robb, orchestrated much of the damage the board did to workers' rights between 2017 and 2020. Biden fired him moments after taking the oath of office in January 2021.

Law-breaking employers who flourished are discovering what it

means to have a new sheriff in town.

Columbus Electric is paying for its misdeeds in more ways than one. On top of its financial pain, the NLRB ordered it to post jobsite notices admitting to a litany of wrongdoing and spelling out its workers' federal rights.

"We will not fail and refuse to recognize and bargain [with IBEW Local 611]" is the first of 11 obligatory mea culpas. Another: "We will not in any like or related manner interfere with, restrain or coerce you in the exercise of the rights listed above."

The ruling was welcome news to Albert Munoz, a Local 611 outside lineman who helped organize the CEC unit and was on the first bargaining team. Although he and all but one of the original seven unit members have moved on to other employers, the utility's newer linemen are sticking with the IBEW.

"I was happy to see management finally held accountable," Munoz said, describing the misery of an uncompromising, top-down workplace. "We didn't have a voice to defend ourselves. There was no justice. But that's possible for the workers there now, thanks to the NLRB."

Broadband Boom is Boon for IBEW

embership in the IBEW's Telecommunications Branch has significant growth potential during the coming years via the Biden administration's \$42 billion broadband expansion plan.

"It's the largest broadband investment by the federal government in history," said Telecommunications Director Robert Prunn. "It's a once-in-a-generation investment, and the IBEW is proud to be a partner as it happens."

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, brokered and signed into law in 2021 by President Joe Biden, included billions of federal dollars for programs to fund a buildout of high-speed internet. During a June 26 White House event, the president announced that the distribution of that money via the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program, or BEAD, was underway.

"For today's economy to work for everyone, internet access is as important as electricity or water or other basic services," Biden said. "With this funding, we're going to be able to connect every person in America to reliable, high-speed internet by 2030."

This push to expand broadband means a lot of good-paying, largely unionized jobs are on the horizon, Biden said. "Just ask the folks at the IBEW," he said. "They're putting thousands of people to work laying fiber-optic cable across America."

It's not just telecom workers; broadband cabling and equipment will be made in the U.S., so the coming work also could bring IBEW manufacturing jobs.

"There'll be a significant impact for U.S.-based businesses and workers," said Telecommunications International Representative Steve Murphy.

Prunn noted that IBEW members have been involved alongside the Biden administration since BEAD's earliest planning.

"Our access is like never before. This project puts the IBEW in motion at every level," Prunn said.

BEAD will be implemented over the next several years, but Prunn encouraged



The historic broadband internet expansion plans mean members could soon be joining Cranston, R.I., Local 2323's Ray Cimino in the IBEW's Telecommunications Branch. business managers of all U.S. telecom locals to contact their state's broadband offices now to advocate for IBEW members throughout the process.

Prunn also urged business managers to use BEAD as an organizing tool, loaded as it is with labor-friendly policies plus incentives for companies to allow workforce organizing.

"Regulations call out how states must consult with unions," Prunn said, adding that states must prioritize companies that have good laborlaw compliance records.

BEAD encourages "labor peace agreements," too. Business managers can't ask companies to support their organizing efforts, but they can ask for neutrality during organizing drives and for voluntary recognition should more than half of workers sign union authorization cards.

Thanks in part to the ongoing IBEW-Biden administration relationship, BEAD incentivizes

implementation of union priorities like project labor agreements and prevailing wage. BEAD funds can also be used for apprenticeships and similar workforce development programs.

BEAD is led by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which supervises the funding. The program's rules put union contractors on a level playing field.

"If a company's workers are represented by a union, the NTIA basically views them as already highly skilled," Telecommunications Department International Representative Kevin Curran said.

That can make it easier for contractors and employers having IBEW members to get BEAD work. Nonunion companies that want that work must show the NTIA their plan to staff their projects with appropriately certified workers — and to retain them.

"BEAD is another great example of partnerships between the Biden administration and the IBEW, working hand in hand," Prunn said. "This administration proactively reached out to unions on BEAD, and that's what will make this program a success."

OUR POWER: COAST TO COASI

5 Steps for IBEW Members to Run for Office



o, you decided to run for office. Lawyers and businesspeople do it every day. Your union is asking working people to step up and so you are.

Now what? Some people planned to run for office from the day they were born. They volunteered for campaigns in high school, went to a fancy college and then law school and have wealth or connections to wealthy people. This article isn't for them.



Answer 'Why You?'

The first and most important step is to have an answer for the question "Why are you seeking to make a difference?" Your answer only needs to be short, memorable and true.

For some people, it will be the idea that people who work for a living should have a voice in the decisions that get made here. As a union member, you speak for a community that needs to be spoken for and often isn't. In your reason why, you will find your message, and then you will repeat it hundreds, maybe thousands of times. Make sure vou like it.

That said, running for office isn't about the words; it's all about relationships. The best message won't win against strong relationships. Unfortunately, the best time to build connections is a lot like the best time to plant a tree: 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.

"The best candidates are often the ones who are asked to run because of the work they've already been doing," said Ninth District International Representative Gretchen Newsom. An example in San Diego is a mom who sought to have a stop sign installed at a busy intersection - she cut through years of red tape, got it done, and was asked to run for City Council. Tasha Boerner is now a California Assembly member and continues to be a close ally of the IBEW.

Talk to Your Business Manager

This is especially important if you were not born rich or haven't been deeply involved in politics. "You might not have those relationships, but the business manager or president of your local prob-

ably will," said Fourth District International Representative Steve Crum. The business manager will also help you understand how to get support from the local, in people and money, and when you can speak to the membership.

"Your local is your base," Crum said.

Pick the Right Office

You need to identify a position you can realistically win where you can you do the most good for the most people.

"There are so many positions that have a direct impact on union jobs that are overlooked," Newsom said. "School boards, community planning boards, community councils, business development councils, chambers of commerce, citizens bond oversight boards, township trustees and county commissioners. And don't forget your local."

Many of these positions handle bids and zoning. Each is a part of the often hidden but hugely important machinery that decides whether your local tax money stays local or goes out of town to nonunion contractors.



Know the Numbers, and Make a Plan

The next step is to learn some basic numbers and never lose sight of them.

When is Election Day? How many registered voters are there? What was the turnout and vote breakdown of your race for the last two election cycles? How many votes do you need to win?

Then, Crum said, find the key organizations and the key community events.

Talk to your Central Labor Council and the Building Trades to find opportunities to speak to members of other unions and get endorsements. Listen at least as much as you talk.

You have your deadlines. You know how many votes you need. You know how many doors are waiting to be knocked on.

The best teacher may be experience, but it doesn't have to be just your own experience.

Across the country, the AFL-CIO runs Labor Candidate Schools. The one in New Jersey has been running classes for nearly three decades, and more than 75% of the 1,000 people who have graduated from the program won their races. But you don't have to live in New Jersey to go to candidate school. There are highly effective programs in Oregon and Ohio, and the AFL-CIO is expanding them nationwide. Call your state AFL-CIO to find out what is on offer.

Do the Work

Now there is nothing to do but do it. Knock on those doors. Make those phone calls. Then do it again. And again. We're working people. Work.

2023 EC

In addition to countless local elections, this year brings several important state- and province-level votes. Here are some of the most important:

Kentucky						
Up for election:	Statewide offices including governor and lieutenant governor.					
Election Day:	Nov. 7					
Registration deadline:	Oct. 10					
Early in-person voting:	Nov. 2-4. Check with county board of elections.					
Voting by mail: Limited. Request no later than 14 days before Election Day through GoVoteKY.com.						
Louisiana						
Up for election:	Governor.					
Election Day (primary):	Oct. 14					
Registration deadlines:	In-person, by mail or at Office of Motor Vehicles, Sept. 13; through GeauxVote, Sept. 23.					
Early voting:	Sept. 30-Oct. 7					

Absentee ballot request Oct. 10 deadline:

Manitoba						
Up for election: All 57 members of the Legislative Assembly						
Election Day:	Oct. 3					
Registration deadline:	Sept. 5					
Early voting:	Sept. 23-30					
Absentee ballot request deadline:	Sept. 30					

Mississippi							
Up for election:	Statewide offices including governor lieutenant governor and three Public Service Commission seats.						
Election Day:	Nov. 7						
Registration deadline:	Oct. 10						
Early voting:	Not available						
Voting by mail:	Limited. Ask your local circuit or municipal clerk.						

Virginia							
Up for election:	All 140 members of the General Assembly (40 Senate, 100 House of Delegates).						
Election Day:	Nov. 7						
Registration deadline:	Oct. 16						
Early voting:	Sept. 22-Nov. 4						
Mailed ballot request deadline:	Oct. 27						

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RAILROAD HAT \$13.00 Blue Twill, with dark blue button and vent holes. Features embroidered railroad logo. Adjustable size to fit all.

RAILROAD FLEECE BLANKET \$30.00

100% anti-pill polyester blanket measuring 54" x 60". Suede patches for a classier look and elastic straps for easy packing and carrying. Features embroidered Railroad logo and "Generating a Commitment to Excellence".

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What's at Stake in the States Members Taking Action for Their Rights

YOUR POWER: COAST TO COAST

he 2022 midterm elections ushered in sweeping pro-worker legislators in states like Michigan and Minnesota, where unionbacking lawmakers now hold majorities in both their legislative chambers as well as their governorships.

Yet in places like Texas and Florida, anti-union forces still hold the levers of power. But what holds true throughout is the activism and hard work of IBEW members who are rolling up their sleeves and making sure that politicians from the governor's mansion to the city council are hearing from rank-and-file working people.

"Elections matter," said Seattle Local 77 Assistant Business Manager Mike Brown, who works in both Washington and northern Idaho, where the local has jurisdiction. "It's up to us to educate our members how."

In Michigan, thanks in large part to a new redistricting process that took away gerrymandering and installed a fairer process that better reflects the will of the voters, the state's so-called right-to-work law was repealed. It's the first time a state has done so in nearly six decades.

And they're just getting started. No longer blocked, pro-labor lawmakers also restored prevailing wage laws and are working to reinstate unions' ability to donate to state-level candidates running for office, something that had been stripped away.

"The climate is better for labor at the capital than it has been in my entire adult life," Sixth District International Representative Joe Davis said. "Workers matter here. Women and people of color matter. Michigan has returned to her true-blue roots."

Both Maine and Minnesota are taking on captive-audience meetings, where employees are forced to listen to antiunion propaganda during organizing drives. In Maine, IBEW members participated in a lobby day organized by the state AFL-CIO where they educated members of the House and Senate about the lengths some employers will go to intimidate employees from exercising their right to freedom of association.

"This bill isn't just for unions, it's for all employees, because it protects our First Amendment rights to not be forced into these conversations," said Augusta Local 2327 Business Manager Julie Dawkins.

Like Michigan and Minnesota, Maine has a pro-union, Democratic trifecta in government, allowing for workers to have a stronger voice in legislative priorities.

"It's thanks to our strong New England team, led by [Director of Outside Construction Organizing] Tiler Eaton and [Second District International Representative] Ed Starr that we can push for these protections for our members," Second District International Vice President Mike Monahan said. "I couldn't be prouder of all that they've accomplished."

In Minnesota, the provision to limit

captive-audience meetings was just one of many that passed in a labor omnibus bill that also included paid sick days and protections against wage theft. IBEW members also worked to get labor requirements like prevailing wage included in an energy omnibus bill. It's something Minneapolis Local 292 Political Director Andy Snope said he's been working on since 2012.

"We've gotten quite a bit done, and it's because we did well getting our folks elected," Snope said. "How you vote matters, and this year clearly shows that."



Denver Local 68 hosted Gov. Jared Polis for a bill signing in May. The new law calls for contractors on large public energy projects to pay a livable wage and employ registered apprentices or use a PLA.

Fighting Back in Anti-Union Territory

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill that goes after public employees by preventing dues from being deducted from their paychecks and requiring unions to be recertified as bargaining agents if fewer than 60% of eligible employees are members, among other burdensome regulations. The bill, which went into effect in July, is being challenged in court, but if it stands, it would affect roughly 1,000 IBEW members in the Sunshine State, said Tampa Local 915 Business Manager Randall King, who also serves as president of the State Electrical Workers Association.

"They weren't necessarily going after the IBEW, but we got caught up in it anyway," King said.

In Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott signed what's been called the "Death Star" bill into law in June. The law preempts certain local regulations that more progressive cities and counties have passed, including laws that expand worker protections. Among the common-sense local provisions now considered illegal are mandated water breaks for construction workers. In the last 10 years, heat-related construction deaths in the Lone Star State have doubled, reported the Texas Standard.



WASHINGTON

Siting and permitting reform

benefits for apprentices

to prevailing wage

New union programs, child-care

Electrical inspector wages raised

OREGON

Prevailing wage requirements extended

Minnesota members met Gov. Tim Walz during their lobby day in February.

The state has also loosened requirements for electrical licensing.

"It's a dumpster fire right now," said Austin Local 520 Business Manager Ben Brenneman. "We got massacred this legislative session. There's no doubt about it."

Yet even in Texas, IBEW members and their allies have been able to score some wins by fending off prevailing wage bans. Another success was getting an exclusion for the construction industry on a bill to expand apprenticeships in a way that would have hurt Texas members. In that case, Brenneman said, union efforts were helped by the National Electrical Contractors Association, which also lobbied for the cut-out.

"In a business-friendly state like Texas, politicians will listen to employers more than us," he said.

Brenneman said the local plans to get more active in local politics, especially in rural areas that carry a lot of legislative weight.

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"Our mistake was not paying attention to areas where there was no work. But local and county races are where you build your political bench," he said. "We're going to rectify that in the future."

Elsewhere in Texas, El Paso Local 960 members defeated Proposition K. Billed as a climate-friendly measure, the proposition would have allowed for a potential city takeover of El Paso Electric, which employs all 420 of Local 960's members, putting their jobs at risk.

Before Proposition K, the local wasn't that active politically, said Business Manager Eddie Trevizo, but this time they couldn't stand by and do nothing. So they reached out to the International Office and got in touch with Utility Department Director Donnie Colston and the Edison Electric Institute, a utility advocacy group.

Now they had the motivation and direction they needed. They attended community events and reached out to media outlets. Trevizo even penned his first op-ed, which was published by the El Paso Times.

"The editors said it was the No. 1 story on their site," Trevizo said. "I think it really resonated with people."

Trevizo, along with Local 960 President Rene Ortega, kept up the momentum. They told their story at every event they could. Ortega even spoke to the El Paso Central Labor Union, which had endorsed the proposition, and got it to rescind the endorsement.

WYOMING

Apprenticeship inform each school district

NM

"I just let them know how it would affect our members," Ortega said. "Once they heard our story, they voted to stand in solidarity with us."

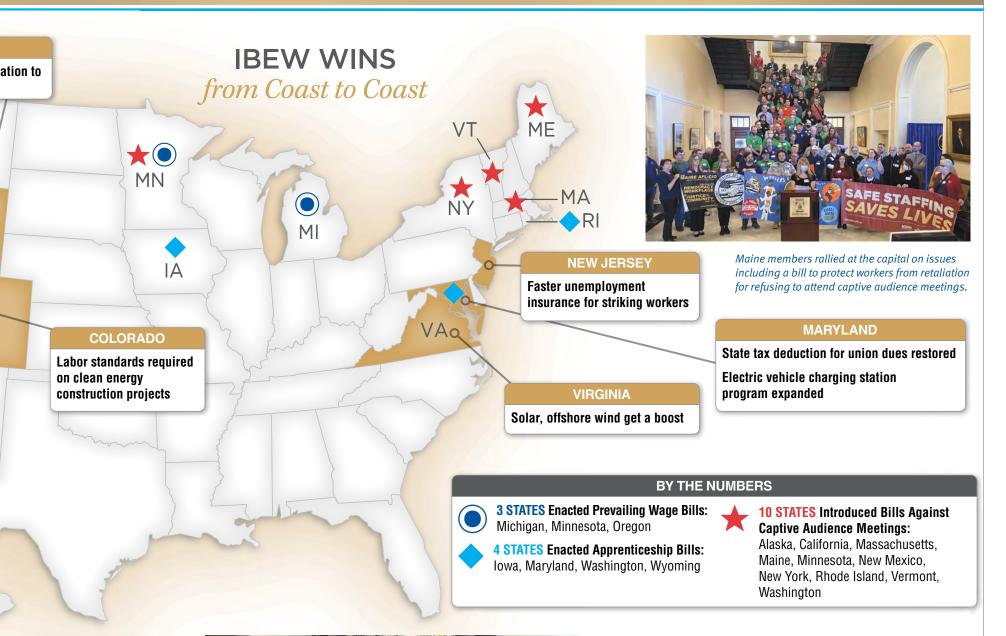
That story, of working people speaking their truth, is what carried them.

"The majority of the community didn't know us before. They didn't know that we're union workers," Ortega said. "We're not the friends of J.P. Morgan; we're the friends and neighbors of everyone here in El Paso."

Public speaking wasn't something that Trevizo or Ortega had much experience with, but they quickly learned that their voices and their experiences were what voters wanted to hear.

"I was at an event at the Golden Corral, and a group was there speaking in favor of Prop K. I was so nervous, I was sweating through the sport coat I had just bought. I was seconds from walking away, but I didn't," Trevizo said.

"So I just asked them, 'Have you ever climbed a pole? Or worked at a substation? Because we're the ones that know and no one's bothered to ask us,'" he added. "That's when the whole room turned. We're the boots on the ground. People would rather hear from the guy out there climbing the pole than from the people with an office on the top floor with a view. It's easier for us as workers to connect to voters."



Playing the Long Game

It takes years to build the relationships that will ultimately make a difference, but it can happen. Even in right-to-work states like Georgia and Idaho.

"Our local has a great relationship with elected officials on both sides of the aisle," said Atlanta Local 613 Business Manager Kenny Mullins. "We bring elected officials and candidates to our union meetings on a regular basis and have events where our members can interact one-on-one with their elected officials. We also like to show off our training center and what we do for our membership."

Having those meet-and-greets is a good way to engage members, as well.

"Not only are they getting educated on the issues that matter to the IBEW, they also take that information to their job sites and spread what they've learned to other members," Mullins said.

Because of the work that Mullins and others have put in, they've been able to work with some Republicans on state bills dealing with picketing and the gig economy, among other issues.

"You can't pass a bill in Georgia if it's not signed and carried by a Republican," Mullins said. "So we have used our relationships to get a misclassification bill passed. It's not perfect by any means, but it is a start, and it took 10 years of work and relationship building to get it done." When the leadership at Seattle Local

When the leadership at Seattle Local 77, which has jurisdiction that stretches into



El Paso, Texas, Local 960 members got out the vote in May to defeat Proposition K, which could have led to a city takeover of El Paso Electric and put their jobs at risk.

northern Idaho, was looking to get a bill passed there. They knew it would only happen with Republican support. So they attended Republican dinners and did whatever else they could to build those relationships. Like Mullins said about Georgia, it took work, but they made it happen.

Now Idaho has stronger protections for utility workers if they're assaulted on the job. Building relationships helped, but it was also member testimony that got the bill over the line. And by involving members and showing them that they support Republicans as well as Democrats — what matters is their support for labor — Local 77 now has a more engaged membership.

"Before, we couldn't fill enough seats to attend the Idaho AFL-CIO convention," Local 77's Brown said. "Now they're all full. We even have a waiting list."

The local also made short videos

explaining topics like the National Labor Relations Board and how it works and what it means for their members. The videos explain how the makeup of the board is often determined by who sits in the White House. It's all part of a larger push from the business manager, Rex Habner, to establish a culture where the members are savvy political operators, Brown said.

And once members hear that message, they can be activated to take up the fight. For Trevizo, it all comes back to something he read from former International President Lonnie R. Stephenson.

"I don't remember it verbatim, but it was something along the lines of, 'If you're not involved in politics, you're not truly serving your membership," he said. "That always resonated with me, but it wasn't until the battle with Prop K that I truly understood it. It's 100% accurate. Every single IBEW member is affected by politics."

HELP ELECT PRO-WORKER CANDIDATES



The IBEW Political Action Committee supports political action and candidates who will strengthen and protect workers' rights. It also serves as a resource for member organizing during pivotal elections.

Contribute at least \$75 and receive this limited-edition challenge coin celebrating the Biden administration's PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT to working people and the IBEW!

Support the IBEW PAC



www.ibew.org/ibewpac/contribute.org Contributions can be made only by IBEW members who are U.S. citizens.

YOUR POWER: COAST TO COAST

'It's Extremely Hard to Ignore Us'



NAYS **Anyone Can Make Their** Voice Heard

The economic well-being of IBEW members and their families goes hand in hand with political action, and that means fighting to preserve and strengthen hardwon rights to organize and bargain collectively for good wages, health care, retirement security and more.

"Being politically active is also how we make sure our leaders on every level know how we feel on subjects that are important to us," said International President Kenneth W. Cooper. "When our active and retired members unite and speak, it's extremely hard to ignore us."

It's easy to get involved and make a difference, no matter where you start. Here are five ways to get started:

Register to Vote, Then Vote

The single most important political action happens at the ballot box. Double-check your registration to make sure there won't be any problem come Election Day. It's as simple as going to nass.org/can-l-vote to confirm your voter status and polling place.

Once you're set, vote. Find out via county and state election office websites if you can vote early by mail or in person.

Vote in every election, not just the big contests. That freshman councilperson who supports labor issues can be a vital voice locally and possibly an influential candidate for higher office down the road.

Don't miss off-year or special elections. Down-ballot measures can expand rights and economic opportunity for working families.

Call Your Elected Officials Hi, I'm an **IBEW Member**

The fastest way to get in touch with elected leaders is by phone. Look up their number, then prepare your brief, direct message. Clearly state your name, tell them that you're an IBEW member and that you're a constituent, and why you're calling. For example, "I support the new nuclear power plant because it will mean hundreds of good, union jobs." Make it clear whether you're relaying an official IBEW position or providing your own.

If you end up talking with a staffer or assistant, be polite and thank them for their time. You can expect that they will log your call and the reason for it. (Be just as ready to leave a voicemail message.)

It could make more of an impact to call a local district office when contacting your representative in the House or Senate. There often are more staff available there to speak with constituents.



Write Your Elected Officials

Writing letters to your leaders, by hand or by computer, might take a little extra time, but physical mail that must be opened and read can have tremendous impact - especially compared with the thousands of emails that clog elected officials' inboxes.

A frequently cited study by the Congressional Management Foundation found that handwritten, mailed letters remain the best way to communicate

with members of Congress. In a survey of Capital Hill staffers, 96% said that a personalized letter would influence senators and representatives on an issue if they have not reached a decision.

Follow the same format with letters as with phone calls: Include your name and that you're an IBEW member. Courteously and concisely explain why you're writing. Your investment of time, paper, an envelope and a first-class stamp - 63 cents - could leave an important and lasting impression. (Sending a letter also supports our unionized brothers and sisters at the Postal Service.)

Meet With Your Officials

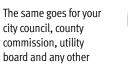
Face-to-face meetings with your elected officials can make a powerful impression on them. The Congressional Management Foundation report found that in-person visits from constituents – at offices, town halls, public meetings and the like - are among the most persuasive ways to communicate with officials who are undecided on an issue

"Worksite visits by these officials are also extremely influential," IBEW National Grassroots Coordinator John Zapfel said. "It makes a big difference when they can see where you work and what you do."

Because of safety and liability concerns, you'll need to work with your local's business manager to set up visits with your employer - and it wouldn't hurt to keep your local's registrar informed, too.

Speak Up at Community and Party Meetings

Find out if there are any labor committees in your community and start attending their meetings.



commission, utility board and any other

government body that holds public

meetings. Become a familiar face and maybe even a familiar voice. Spend a meeting or two listening, getting a feel for how the board works and how it handles the time reserved for public comments. Then weigh in.

Both major parties sorely need union voices. Democrats and Republicans alike have committees at the city and county levels, sometimes even hyper-local neighborhood and precinct committees. Not to mention subcommittees, often including labor. By and large, they meet monthly.

Shateveon Goforth, a member of Springfield, Ill., Local 51 serves as a Democratic Party precinct committee person in Macon County, encouraging her precinct's 1,400 voters to turn out. She registers new voters and discusses candidates and issues.

"It's all about building rapport and relationships," Goforth said. "Regardless of the level that you begin with to get active, it's all important."

The Government Affairs Department has plenty of resources, in particular the wealth of resources available at the new **ibewgov.org** website. Zapfel encouraged all members to download the free IBEW Gov mobile app for Apple and Android smartphones.

"And if you get really stuck, just give our department a call," he said.

The Government Affairs Department can be reached at 202-728-6046.



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Local Registrars: At the Crossroads of Power in Every Community

ometimes the halls of power have linoleum floors and fading green curtains, a box of doughnuts and coffee in a cardboard box.

Every year, International Representative John Zapfel trains hundreds of IBEW registrars in florescent-lit rooms like the one he was in on the second floor of Baltimore Local 24's hall in early June.

For the wealthy, the keystones of political power are the lobbyist, the consultant and the staffers.

For the IBEW, it's the registrar.

"Every IBEW local is required by the constitution to have at least one registrar," Zapfel said. "Some still don't. Some have more, sometimes a lot more than one. The ones that do make a profound impact on the lives of working people in their jurisdictions. The ones that don't are leaving money on the table."

A registrar's job description is simple. They are the local's eyes and

"The right person to be registrar is the person who can see how important what we agree on is and doesn't get sidetracked."

– International Representative John Zapfel

ears into the world of politics. At an absolute minimum, the registrar checks voting rolls to make sure every member is registered to vote and nudges the membership to make their voice heard on Election Day.

But registrars can take their role a whole lot further. They can build working-class political machines that turn an IBEW local into a powerhouse generating more work for the members, better contracts and safer working conditions. And not just for IBEW members but for all working people in their communities. Zapfel was in Baltimore joined by Fourth District International Representative Steve Crum and Government Affairs specialist Joe Zahorik.

In the room were new registrars from three locals: Richmond, Va., Local 50 Business Representative Doug Williams; Washington, D.C., Local 1900 Business Manager Jerry Williford and President Richard Strong; and Washington D.C., Local 362 Chairman Ansylem Bartholomew. "We never had a registrar before," Williford said. He then jerked his thumb toward Strong.

YOUR POWER: COAST TO COAST

"He just got elected to his hometown's city council, so we have a different thought about getting into things," Williford said. "The councilman here is leading the way."

Strong lives in Hancock, Md., a small town in the narrowest sliver of the Maryland panhandle.

The training included an in-depth explainer on the IBEW's powerful Labor Action Network, a political database that helps locals understand and speak to their membership about advocacy campaigns.

"This is the kind of database that presidential campaigns paid millions of dollars for a decade or two ago, and now every local gets access for free," Zahorik said.

The training also covered what political advocacy means from an IBEW point of view.

"We care about issues, not people or parties, and our only permanent loyalty is to our members' interest," Crum said. "We don't have an opinion on every issue, and we never tell our members who to vote for. We simply give them our informed opinion about who is looking out for people who work for a living." Some locals go far beyond the basic "one local, one registrar" model. Marietta, Ohio, Local 972 historically had three official registrars and then three more serving as eyes and ears in the six counties within the 230-member local's jurisdiction.

"People care about the area where they live, and what's good for one community may not be good for another. They will go to local meetings and watch out for issues that can help us or hinder our work, and when candidates come asking for donations, they will be able to speak on those issues," said Local 972 Business Manager Mike Haught.

As in most locals, Haught said, registrar is an appointed position, not an elected one. The most likely way to get the position is to volunteer.

That can be a tall proposal right now, Zapfel acknowledged.

"People don't always like to talk about politics, especially not now, when it seems we are all so deeply divided ... by people with an interest in dividing us, of course," Zapfel said.

But inside the union, on the issues that matter most, members stand shoulder to shoulder, Zapfel said.

"The right person to be registrar is the person who can see how important what we agree on is and doesn't get sidetracked," he said.

Every Vote Counts. Just Ask Nate Roberts.

f you ever thought your vote didn't matter, Nate Roberts would like a word.

Roberts, a member of Pocatello, Idaho, Local 449, won his election to the Idaho state House by 112 votes out of 14,500 cast. That is a margin of 0.7%.

"Take it from me, your vote counts," Roberts said.

And it isn't just in local ballots. In 2022, the Congress that passed American Rescue Plan, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and CHIPS and Science Act — literally trillions of dollars for infrastructure and manufacturing — was up for election.

The Democrats kept the Senate by holding every seat and taking Pennsylvania.

But if they had held onto only five House seats, they would have broken the back of the midterm election curse that has plagued every president but one since 1946.

While pundits were predicting a red wave from coast to coast, what proved them wrong were a handful of decisions around kitchen tables and snap decisions behind the steering wheel last November.

The pro-union House majority was lost by just 6,675 votes in total in those five districts.

That is 0.006% of the 107 million



Pocatello, Idaho, Local 449 member Nate Roberts won his race for the Idaho state House by just 0.7%, 7,321 to 7,209 votes.

votes cast nationwide.

Less than 7,000 people decided it just wasn't worth it to show up.

"Especially when I talk with apprentices and ask them if they are registered, they say, 'My vote doesn't matter," Roberts said. "A union is only as strong as the people involved. The same is true for government. When working people stay home, we elect weak individuals who are happy to work for the worst people instead of us."

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UNION SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE ON YOUTUBE?

enjoy learning new tips and tricks for your adventures, you need to check out the latest content on the Union Sportsmen's Alliance YouTube channel.

Watch cooking tips, camera tips and our newest series on game calling. Ad free, available anytime and on any device that you can watch YouTube!



YOUTUBE.COM/UNIONSPORTSMEN

14

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

New Bill Creates 'Blueprint' for Worker-Led Energy Transition

he IBEW is one of many Canadian labour unions supporting the Sustainable lobs Act. which was tabled in Parliament on June 15 by Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson.

Known as Bill C-50, the legislation would provide job training to workers, many of them skilled tradespeople, for the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Canada is the sixth-largest natural gas producing country in the world but plans to reduce emissions by 40% to 45% by 2030 and be nearly carbon-free by 2050.

"Through this legislation, the government of Canada has demonstrated its commitment to protecting good-paying, highly skilled jobs," First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk said. "The Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act ... supports our calls for unions, industry and governments to be working together to ensure that workers are the focus and a blueprint is established to create good-paying jobs in a net-zero economy."

Daniel Blaikie, a member of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085, and fellow New Democratic Party MP Charlie Angus were two of the legislators most involved in crafting the bill.

"Too often, when we've seen times of major economic transition, workers get left behind," Blaikie said. "That's because governments usually listen to deep-pocketed investors."

The Sustainable Jobs Act, however, would ensure that working families have a seat at the table, Blaikie said. He recognized the various labour leaders in attendance at the news conference announcing the bill. They included Matt Wayland, the IBEW's director of government relations in Canada.

"They're the ones who are accountable to workers," he said. "They're the ones that know the struggles of workers on the jobsites."

The transition to clean energy is proving to be important for Canadians beyond the environmental impact. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has noted that new investors in the country increasingly are asking for clean energy to be used on projects.

In turn, the federal government believes that training skilled construction workers for roles in that transition will lead to even better-paying jobs and billions of dollars in new investment.

Labour Minister Seamus O'Regan said the bill tells workers they "aren't left behind and are in the driver's seat."

"We've worked hand in glove with unions across the country," O'Regan said. "I think we've come up with a better piece of legislation as a result."

The bill creates a partnership

council that includes business and labour representatives that will advise the government on clean energy initiatives. A department would be formed to help ensure consistent policies across the federal government.

"The IBEW firmly believes that we deserve a seat on the partnership council," Wayland said. "We have a lot of expertise to bring to the table. We are the workforce that will be powering Canada's net-zero future, and we've made that pitch to the federal government."

The act includes goals to increase participation by the traditionally underrepresented indigenous population. Also, companies bidding for work must meet prevailing wage laws to receive federal tax credits.

Plus, beginning in 2025, the government will issue a report every five years that tracks progress toward its clean climate goals - not just in terms of environmental and investor impact, but to ensure that the country's workers have access to good-paying jobs.

"IBEW members are proud to have built Canada's energy and electrical systems, and we are ready to build the next generation of clean energy and power our net-zero future," Shewchuk said.

Like in the United States, the transition to clean energy has been a contentious issue in Canada. Some far-right organizations and politicians already have condemned the act.

Daniel Blaikie, member of Parliament and the IBEW, helped craft the Sustainable Jobs Act, a critical

supported by

Canadian labour.

Yet, it is expected to pass because the combination of Liberals and New Democrats will be nearly impossible to overcome. The two parties also worked to ensure the support of trade unions, including the IBEW, that represent fossil-fuel workers.



The IBEW has enjoyed a positive relationship with Trudeau and his Liberal Party government since he was first elected in 2015. It also has maintained a strong relationship with the NDP, which historically is the political party most aligned with Canada's labour community.

Le nouveau projet de loi crée un « modèle » pour la transition d'énergie dirigée par les travailleurs

n date du 15 juin, le ministre des Ressources naturelles, Jonathan Wilkinson a déposé au Parlement la Loi sur les emplois durables; la FIOE est l'un des nombreux syndicats canadiens à l'appuyer.

Connue sous le projet de loi C-50, cette législation permettra d'offrir une formation professionnelle aux travailleuses et travailleurs, dont plusieurs sont des personnes de métiers spécialisés, pour passer à une économie à faibles émissions en carbone.

Le Canada est le sixième plus grand producteur de gaz naturel au monde, mais il prévoit réduire les émissions de 40 % à 45 % d'ici 2030 et être quasi exempt de carbone d'ici 2050.

« Grâce à ce projet de loi, le gouvernement du Canada a permis de démontrer son engagement pour protéger les emplois bien rémunérés et hautement spécialisés », déclare Russ Shewchuk, vice-président international du premier district. « La Loi canadienne sur les emplois durables... appuie notre appel à la collaboration entre syndicats, industries et gouvernements pour veiller à ce que les travailleuses et travailleurs soient le point central et qu'un modèle soit établi afin de créer de bons emplois bien rémunérés dans une économie carboneutre. »

Daniel Blaikie, un membre de la section locale 2085 à Winnipeg au Manitoba et le député du Nouveau Parti démocratique Charlie Angus, ont été les deux législateurs les plus impliqués dans l'élaboration du projet de loi.

« Dans de grandes transitions économiques, nous avons trop souvent vu les personnes de métier laissées pour compte », mentionne Blaikie. «C'est parce qu'habituellement les gouvernements écoutent les investisseurs aux poches profondes. »

La Loi sur les emplois durables permettra ainsi aux familles de travailleurs de siéger à la table de discussion, prononce Blaikie. Lors de la conférence de presse pour annoncer le projet de loi, il a reconnu plusieurs leaders syndicaux, notamment Matt Wayland, le directeur des relations gouvernementales de la FIOE au Canada.

« C'est eux qui doivent rendre des comptes aux travailleuses et travailleurs », dit-il. «C'est eux qui connaissent les luttes de ces personnes sur les chantiers. »

Au-delà des répercussions sur l'environnement, la transition vers l'énergie propre s'avère importante pour les Canadiennes et Canadiens. Le premier ministre Justin Trudeau a souligné que de nouveaux investisseurs au pays demandent de plus en plus que l'énergie propre soit utilisée dans le contexte des projets.

En retour, le gouvernement fédéral croit que former des travailleuses et travailleurs qualifiés dans le secteur de la construction pour les rôles dans cette transition mènera à des emplois encore mieux rémunérés et à de nouveaux investissements de plusieurs milliards de dollars.

Le ministre du Travail Seamus O'Regan a déclaré que le projet de loi dit aux personnes de métier « qu'ils ne sont pas laissés pour compte et c'est eux qui sont aux commandes. »

« Nous avons collaboré étroitement avec les syndicats partout au pays », prononce O'Regan. « Et par conséquent, nous pensons avoir élaboré une meilleure mesure législative. »

Ce projet de loi crée des conseils de partenariats qui réunissent des représentants d'affaires et syndicaux qui conseilleront le gouvernement sur les initiatives d'énergies propres. Un conseil sera formé pour s'assurer l'uniformité des politiques dans l'ensemble du gouvernement fédéral.

« La FIOE croit fermement que nous méritons de siéger au sein du conseil de partenariats », déclare Wayland. « Nous avons beaucoup d'expertise à apporter à la table. Nous sommes la main-d'œuvre qui va alimenter l'avenir carboneutre du Canada et nous avons fait valoir ce point au gouvernement fédéral. »

Cette Loi comprend aussi des objectifs pour augmenter le taux de participation de la population autochtone traditionnellement sous-représentée. Les entreprises qui déposent des soumissions pour le travail doivent respecter les lois sur les salaires en vigueur pour réclamer le crédit d'impôt fédéral.

De plus, dès 2025, le gouvernement publiera un rapport tous les cinq

ans pour suivre le progrès réalisé en vue d'atteindre ses objectifs vers un climat propre, non seulement pour ce qui est des répercussions environnementales et l'incidence des investisseurs, mais pour s'assurer que les travailleuses et travailleurs du pays aient accès à des emplois bien rémunérés.

« Les membres de la FIOE sont fiers d'avoir construit les systèmes énergétiques et électriques du Canada et nous sommes prêts à construire la prochaine génération d'énergie propre et à alimenter notre avenir carboneutre », déclare Shewchuk.

Comme aux États-Unis, la transition vers l'énergie propre est une question litigieuse au Canada. Quelques organisations et politiciens d'extrême droite ont déjà condamné cette loi.

Cependant, on s'attend à ce qu'elle soit adoptée, car la combinaison des libéraux et des néo-démocrates sera pratiquement impossible à vaincre. Les deux partis se sont assuré de soutenir les syndicats, y compris la FIOE, qui représente les travailleuses et travailleurs du secteur des combustibles fossiles.

La FIOE a une bonne relation professionnelle avec Trudeau et le gouvernement du Parti libéral depuis sa première élection en 2015. La FIOE a aussi entretenu une relation professionnelle très solide avec le NPD, qui est historiquement le parti politique le plus aligné avec la classe ouvrière du Canada. 🛽

LOCAL LINES

Local 2 Thanks Mike Greene

L.U. 2 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), ST. LOUIS, MO - With our 2023 local election, President Mike Greene has

decided to step away from his position. Mike is a 38-year member of the IBEW who started his career in line clearance in 1985. He was indentured into the line apprenticeship at the age of 38, earning his journeyman lineman ticket in 2003. Mike has



Local 2 thanks Brother Mike Greene for his dedication and leadership over the years.

mentored many apprentices and young journeymen, and he served Local 2 in contract negotiations, apprenticeship subcommittees and several special committees over the years. Mike was elected president of Local 2 in 2011 and has led our local with honor and integrity.

Local 2 thanks Brother Greene for his dedication and leadership. Our local is stronger because of you.

Mike Keith, A.B.M.

Busy Spring for Local 16

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN - It was a busy spring for our union and community activities. In March, the local hosted Mudbug Madness; April saw the Turkey Testicle Festival; May brought the PBR Challenge Series; and the William Jason "Flounder" Blanton Golf Tournament was held in early June. Each of these events promoted the Brotherhood and what it means to be part of the IBEW family. Thanks to all who made each of these worthwhile events possible.

Congratulations to Business Manager Ryan McRoberts, Vice President Ben Ipock, Recording Secretary Brian Diehl and Treasurer James Stidham, who were unanimously returned to their offices. For more election results, please check the hall's website (ibewlocal16.com).

Indiana's first historical marker to recognize the efforts of early labor reformers was recently dedicated on Evansville's riverfront. The plaque, titled "Activism in Indiana," reads as follows: "Revered by Evansville's labor leaders, Mother Jones fought for child labor laws and advocated for miners here. In 1916 she spoke before 10,000 people at a Labor Day picnic in the city. She believed workers deserved the full value of their labor and control of their workplace."

Submitting Local Lines Articles

Local Lines are printed monthly on an alternating even/odd local number schedule. They can be submitted by designated press secretaries or union officers via our online form. For deadlines and questions, please visit ibew.org/mediacenter/submitting-local-lines or email locallines@ibew.org.

We make every effort to assist local unions in publishing useful and relevant local union news; however, all final content decisions are made by our editorial team. Please adhere to a 200-word limit.

If you have an idea for an Electrical Worker story, please contact the Media Department at (202) 728-6219 or media@ibew.org.

Sponsors of this effort included Local 16 and Bill and Kim Musgrave.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

New Office and Hot Wheels

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD - Greetings from Charm City. We are happy to announce the reopening of our Frederick, Md., office. The Frederick location, along with our Salisbury office on Maryland's Eastern Shore, allows us to better service our entire jurisdiction. We also purchased a new van to promote Local 24 and our NECA partners at industry events. Together, these actions will help us grow our market share and work opportunities for all our members throughout the jurisdiction.

In May, Gov. Wes Moore signed House Bill 2, which allows Marylanders to once again subtract their union dues from their state income taxes. This deduction was lost as part of the federal tax law of 2017, as Maryland traditionally follows federal tax policies on deductions. This legislation is a great win for all labor in our state for many reasons, one being that there is no cap on the amount that can be subtracted. Local 24 is proud of its outreach to our legislators about this issue, making sure it continues to pay to be union.

Live Better/Work Union.

Michael J. McHale, B.M.



Local 24's LMCC Power Partnership van, which promotes the local and its NECA partners at industry events.

Congratulations to Graduates, Scholarship Winners

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC -The 77th JATC graduation ceremony was held June 3. Congratulations to all the graduates!

On June 5, the annual DADs Day golf outing took place at five golf courses in Maryland and Virginia. The Manassas, Va., and Roanoke, Va., picnics were in June and July, and the Maryland picnic in Edgewater will be Aug. 26.

Congratulations to the four winners of this year's Local 26 scholarship award:

- 1. Bailey Ancell, daughter of Brother Clarence Ancell III, graduated from Luray High School and will be studying elementary education.
- 2. Brendan Ridings, son of Brother David Ridings, graduated from Sherando High School in Stephans City, Va., and will be attending
- Virginia Tech to study engineering. 3. Tanner Seiss, son of Brother Brian Seiss, graduated from Catoctin High School in Thurmont, Md., and will be attending Virginia Tech to study
- engineering/computer science. 4. Marley Cosgrove, daughter of Brother Atticus Cosgrove, graduated from River Hill High School in Clarksville, Md., and will be attending the University of Maryland to study science/medical.

Best wishes to the following new retirees: Steve E. Baldwin, Keith G. Bender, James C. Bethinger Jr., Michael B. Blum II, Elizabeth L. Bukowski, Jerome D. Bullister, Carson R. Clark, Keith E. Coleman, Edward H. Collins, Jeffrey P. Courtney, Jesus E. Cueva, Gary M. Downing, Douglas W. Fleming, Jose T. Huarniz, Darryl A. Johnson, Robert L. Loveless, Wade E. Morgan, Roberto Negron, William H. Redd, Carlton W. Robinson and Curtis L. Sylvia.

The following members have passed away since our last article: William R. Alexander, Elmer "Skip" McConkey, William C. Raines and Lawrence J. Widener.

loseph F. Dabbs, B.M.

WGA on Strike

L.U. 40 (em,i&mps), HOLLYWOOD, CA - The Writers Guild of America is on strike as of press time, and Local 40 is in full support of its members. We have been handing out buttons and stickers to our members to show our support for the writers in their fight for a fair contract. We believe every worker should have their contributions recog-

their labor is on or off screen. Producers have slowed the number of television and film productions,

nized, whether

and Local 40

members have

seen fewer work Local 40 shows its support opportunities for the Writers Guild of because of it. It America in its fight for a is time for the fair contract.

IBEW

LU# 40

Stands with

WGA

Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers to come back to the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith so our members can get back to work.

A fair contract for the Writers Guild uplifts every worker in the film and television industry, and it will affect our negotiations next summer. It is imperative that the labor movement continue to stand together in solidarity as we fight for a fair share of what is ours. Solidarity is not to be underestimated.

Stephan Davis, B.M./F.S.



From left, Local 46 President Warren Shill, 75-yearpin recipient John Sahelaris and Business Manager Sean Bagsby.

Local 46 Celebrates **Annual Pin Night**

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA — Our local is happy to report that we celebrated our annual pin night. Members turned out to celebrate their years of being part of this amazing union.

Each year we kick off our celebration with a retirees' luncheon at the hall. Our retirees also meet for breakfast the Thursday after our general meeting in Silverdale.

My favorite part of pin night is seeing people reconnect and hearing their stories - that and the cake! We were fortunate this year to have a few brothers share some of their wisdom: Brothers John Sahelaris (receiving his 75-year pin) and Gordan Dudley and Bruce Smith (receiving their 65-year pins).

The thing I took away from their speeches is the importance of safety, always looking out for our family on the job and making sure we all go home in one piece. I want to see our members making it to retirement healthy and ready to enjoy what their years of hard work provides.

As we roll through summer and into picnic season, I hope everyone is keeping safety in mind, looking out for one another on the jobsite and calling out hazards when they see them.

Megan Kirby, P.S.

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	(0)	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	(ictt)	Line Clearance Tree Trimming			(st)	Sound Technicians	
(cr)	Cranemen	(lpt)	Lightning Protection Technicians	(ptc)	Professional, Technical &	(t)	Telephone	
(ees)	Electrical Equipment Service	(mt)	Maintenance		Clerical	(tm)	Transportation Manufacturing	
(ei)	Electrical Inspection	(mo)	Maintenance & Operation	(rr)	Railroad	(u)	Utility	
(em)	Electrical Manufacturing	(mow)	Manufacturing Office Workers	(rtb)	Radio-Television Broadcasting	(uow)	Utility Office Workers	
(es)	Electric Signs	(mar)	Marine	(rtm)	Radio-Television Manufacturing	(ws)	Warehouse and Supply	
	Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.							



LOCAL LINES

Local 50 Welcomes New Members

L.U. 50 (u), RICHMOND, VA — Our local has more than 150 stewards, and all of our stewards and representatives work tirelessly to support the local union and its members. These stewards and representatives excel at policing contracts and outreach to new employees, signing them up for membership and encouraging them to attend union meetings regularly. Educating our members on their collective bargaining agreement and the benefits of being represented by a union is one of the highest priorities of Local 50 Business Manager John Albert.

One of Local 50's unit chairmen and a senior chief steward, Chris Goodrich, continuously encourages members to attend unit meetings and learn about their union. One of the ways Brother Goodrich accomplishes this is by stressing the importance and function of the new-member obligation in the IBEW Constitution.

Local 50 represents approximately 3,000 employees of Dominion Energy, Virginia Natural Gas, Monongahela Power and Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative.

Jason Davis, P.S.



From left, new members Colton Dick and Josh Kurleman reciting their IBEW obligation, administered by Unit Chairman/Senior Chief Steward Chris Goodrich at Local 50's Norfolk unit meeting.

Local 100 Graduating Class of 2023

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,rts,st&ptc), FRESNO, CA — As we all know, our JATCs have the best training programs and produce the best electrical professionals in the industry. In May, the Fresno Area Electrical Training Center hosted its annual apprentice rodeo competition, with the winner to represent IBEW Local 100 in the western states competition.

This event has been not only a symbol of the end of the school year, but also a showcase that allows graduating apprentices to put their skills and knowledge to the test. With 24 competitors in this year's contest, Jackson Watts took the top spot over Taylor Ferguson by a very tight margin.

Local 100 thanks all of the volunteers who helped make the event a success and

congratulates all of the apprentices on a job well done. Congratulations, Jackson Watts, and good luck at the western states competition!

Local 100 congratulates the graduating class of 2023 for their hard work and dedication throughout the apprenticeship. We wish you all the best in the next chapter of your careers and know that you will represent Local 100 and the IBEW well. May God bless you and your families to keep you safe and healthy, and may God continue to bless the IBEW!

Jake Piland, R.S.

Kansas City Is Heating Up

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rts,se,spa,t&ptc), KANSAS CITY, MO — Brothers and sisters, we hope everyone is staying cool and safe outside on jobsites. A special thanks to everyone out there manning the work in our local. There are many jobs in Kansas City, and the following projects are underway or upcoming:

• Meta data center buildings 1, 2 and 3 are ongoing and full steam ahead.

• The Panasonic Energy plant in DeSoto, Kan., is expected to man up in the fall and to be fully completed before the second quarter of 2025.

This facility will span over 3 million square feet and is expected to have utility-scale solar on site. There are also two other utility-scale solar sites in the design process across the Kansas City metro region.

- Coca-Cola is building a new bottling plant in Olathe, Kan., that will span over 1 million square feet.
- The American Royal has begun with temporary power, and the site package was awarded to Capital Electric. The American Royal is an 80-acre site with multiple buildings totaling approximately 1 million square feet.
 A raise of \$3.10 will go into effect Sept. 1. We thank the negotiating team for all their hard work.

Wade Kiefer, Bus. Rep.

Colin Borrouso, Local 130 Outstanding Apprentice

L.U. 130 (i&ptc), NEW ORLEANS, LA — We held our Outstanding Apprentice of the Year competition. Congratulations to participants Tyren Fobb, Chris Lackey, Miguel Miranda, Rene Reeb and Vu Trinh for their hard work and dedication. Special congratulations to Apprentice of the Year Colin Borrouso for his outstanding achievement.

We also recognize and appreciate the



Local 100 congratulates the graduating apprenticeship class of 2023.



The participants in Local 130's Apprentice of the Year competition: from left (front), Miguel Miranda, Vu Trinh, David Crumb and Rene Reeb; from left (back), Sean Calloway, Ronald A. Wolf Jr., Chris Lackey, Colin Borrouso (the winner), Tyren Fobb, Arasimo Geraci and John Bilich.

instructors and judges who attended the competition: John Bilich, Sean Calloway, David Crumb, Arasimo Geraci, Butch Naquin, Rickie Salathe, Rodney Wallis and Ronald A. Wolf Jr. Their guidance and expertise play a crucial role in shaping the apprentices' skills. Well done to everyone involved!

Butch Naquin, R.S.

Congratulations, 2023 Graduates!

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL — Our local congratulates its 2023 apprenticeship graduates: Dalton Anderson, Zach Apke, Kyle Brumleve, Logan Bruner, Lucas Duckett, Zach Foor, Lance Hunt, Austin Mann, Zach Massey, Jordan Mette, Brent Perry, Bryan Ray, Jed Shumaker, Riley Smith, Earl Taylor Jr., Stephen Thornton and Jake Wade. [*See photo below.*] We wish the graduates much prosperity in their new careers!

Steven Tilford, B.M.

Local 150 Salutes 2023 Graduating Apprenticeship Class

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL — Summer has finally arrived, and with the season comes another successful graduating apprenticeship class. Local 150 congratulates the following graduates on becoming inside journeymen wiremen: Branden J. Boeing, Nicholas S. Burbank, Douglas P. Carr, Tyler M. Colton, Danny S. Contreras, Mateo J. Dituro, Timothy H. Forro, Conner J. Geidner, Abraham Guerra, Patrick M. Keefe, Joshua R. Kurtz, Zachary R. Marabella, Jorge L. Salinas, Cody J. Vanderspool, Brett A. Whitlow, Timothy H. Zegers and Joshua J. Zimmerman. Local 150 congratulates the following graduates on becoming VDV journeyman wireman technicians: Joseph P. Hatton, Eric L. Kirt and George K. Tuhowski IV.

Local 150 would also like to congratulate our incoming apprentice class. We accepted 20 new inside wireman apprentices and three new VDV journeyman wireman technicians. Welcome to the IBEW!

Local 150's work outlook is good for the rest of the year, and we look forward to the work to come. Brothers and sisters, be safe out there and look out for one another!

Aaron M. Rendon, R.S.

Local 158 Holds 104th Awards Banquet

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt,spa&u), GREEN BAY, WI - In May, our local held its 104th annual awards banquet. It was well attended, and everyone there had a great time.

During the banquet, we handed out IBEW years-of-service pins, from 20 years through 70 years, to our members and retirees. I would personally like to thank everyone who received a service pin at this year's banquet. I would also like to thank the retirees of Local 158 for paving the way to success at our local. Now we must continue to move forward, and we have accepted that challenge!

We recognized our officers, office staff and apprentices at the banquet. Marsha Nebel, a retired Local 158 journey worker, awarded her inaugural scholarship to a female apprentice who has proven to be outstanding in the program, Emilee Vandenbush. Congratulations, Emilee!

Jesse A. Jacques, B.M.



From left, the graduating apprentices of Local 146: (front) Jed Shumaker, Austin Mann, Zach Foor, Dalton Anderson, Zach Apke, Zach Massey and Bryan Ray; (back) Kyle Brumleve, Logan Bruner, Lucas Duckett, Lance Hunt, Jake Wade, Brent Perry, Stephen Thornton, Riley Smith, Earl Taylor Jr. and Jordan Mette.



Brotherhood Runs Strong

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ — On April 23, five of our fourth-year apprentices ran in the inaugural Jersey City Marathon. Slater Brown, Steven Capone, Andrew Dorian, Oscar Rivera and Michael Wolfanger all completed the full 26.2-mile event. This marathon was sanctioned by USA Track & Field and was a 2024 Boston Marathon qualifying event. The marathon course took the participants through the uniquely diverse and culturally rich neighborhoods of our beloved Jersey City.

Michael Wolfanger took the lead in organizing participation in the event, but each of the apprentices took part as a way to accomplish something challenging while focusing on the camaraderie. All the while, they encouraged and pushed one another as they ran dozens of miles in training for the event.

Wolfanger said after the marathon that the group hopes to participate in these types of events regularly and encouraged others to join future road race events that support good causes and good health. Local 164 congratulates these young members on a job well done.

Warren M. Becker, P.S.



From left, Local 164's apprentices who ran in the inaugural Jersey City Marathon: Oscar Rivera, Steven Capone, Slater Brown, Michael Wolfanger and Andrew Dorian.

Congratulations, Graduates

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA — Work in our local continues to be strong. We are regularly getting into Book 2, with calls continuing throughout the summer.

Our local recently had our annual golf tournament. The weather was great, and everyone had a very enjoyable time. Special thanks to one of our retirees, Steve Sloper, who was responsible for making the tournament happen. We would also like to congratulate the winning team, who happened to be the defending champions: Hunter Dennison, Tim Gross, Brandon Torchia and Justin Torchia.

This June, we celebrated the graduation of our inside apprentices. Local 302 would like to congratulate them and wish them well in their future careers: Brian Anderson, Stephen Birkhauser, Daniel Cardenas, Elviz Ceja, Carlos Cervantes, Justin Cervantes, Eric Doyle, Rene Huerta, Daniel Hurtado, Christopher Jovel, Eraclio Lopez Jr., Amaris Lujano, Michael Lumsden, Louis Montano,



Steve Perry, Domonic Quilici, Eric Rickard, Jacob Rios, Bryan Sanchez and Donald Sloan. Congratulations to them and their families!

Tom Hansen, B.M.

Local 332 Thanks Travelers, Takes Pride in Graduates

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA — The work picture for our local has been impacted by economic pressures that have affected most of the country. With many tech-related companies cutting back on their workforces, projects that were expected to break ground have been postponed, and some have simply been taken off the docket completely. This slowdown has given us the opportunity to reflect on the challenges and opportunities we will experience in the future. It is also the time to reflect on how blessed we have been with an extended period of full employment and a reminder that we should never take anything for granted.

As the work picture began to slow down, many of our traveling brothers and sisters returned to their home locals. Without them, we could not have

> addressed the demands of the workforce and met the needs of our signatory contractors or their customers. To all those traveling brothers and sisters who had been so helpful and supportive in that endeavor, we thank you wholeheartedly. We hope that the work picture will improve soon and that we will return to full employment and more.

> Like many other locals, we celebrated the graduation ceremony of the class of 2023 from both our inside and residential wireman programs in June. We congratulate these new journeymen for their earnest efforts and wish them a long and successful career with the IBEW and Local 332. You are the future, and you make us proud!

> > Javier Casillas, B.M.

An Eventful Year for Local 340

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA — As this reaches everyone, our local will have a change in our inside wireman wage and fringe package. We are looking at a \$2.25 increase, and we will have our membership vote on allocating these funds. I have faith in our membership that we will make a sensible decision.

In other news, we have had many successful events this year. Our RENEW committee held a cornhole tournament as well as its first ever billiards tournament. Our Women's Committee held its first event ever, a bingo night. The softball team brought back their crab feast, and it was a huge success as usual. There were many prizes, good eats and great laughs.

As far as office events are concerned, the picnic was held in September at the Hagan Community Park in Rancho Cordova. We appreciate everyone who helped make this event one to remember. It takes a huge team to put this event together, with volunteers, sponsorships and coordination with many vendors.

We hope the rest of the year will continue to be a success.

Robert D. Ward, B.M.

Local 364 Sees Busy Summer Workload

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL — We've just about completed this year's summer



Attendees of Local 424's stewards' course, from left (front): James Watson (international representative, Education Department), Tony St. Denis, Charles Kuehn, Christian Gosgnach, Sean McDonald, Andrew McKnight and Brian Young; (back) Ken Johnson, Dewey Miller, Zhi (Chili) Li Pang, Mike Maric, Jon Chimilar, Dan DeBuin and Andrew Pierre.

school work, and what a summer it was! We had a higher-than-average amount of school work, but we were able to complete these projects. Many thanks to all the traveling brothers and sisters who continue to get the job done here in Local 364.

Our Hard Rock project is rolling right along, with the steel completed in June and the exterior walls and roof taking shape. As of mid June, Morse Electric had 12 wiremen onsite. We have been waiting decades for this project to begin, so you can imagine our anticipation for this work.

The Meta data center in DeKalb has surpassed 1,000 IBEW members onsite and continues to impress with all project completion dates on time or ahead of schedule. Once again, we could not do this without all the help from our traveling brothers and sisters from throughout the country.

Local 364 hosted our annual family picnic in July. Every year, this event keeps getting better, from the water balloon fights and the large water slide to the bags and horseshoe competition, plus all the large carnival rides. A special thanks to our picnic committee, which coordinates and runs this massive event voluntarily. Your dedication to this local along with all the hard work and time you put in helped to make this year's event a success.

Brad F. Williams, P.S.

Provincial Elections Concluded in Alberta

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, AB — With the provincial election now over, our local looks forward to working with the new provincial government. Local 424 member Jon Carson will not be running for a third term. We wish Brother Carson well with all of his future endeavors.

A reminder to interested members about the Edmonton Elks Labour Day rematch with the Calgary Stampeders: Members interested in obtaining tickets to the game need to contact the business office at 780-462-5076 or by email at **ibew424@ibew424.net**.

Local 424 held a course on stewardship May 18-19 at the Electrical Industry Training Centre of Alberta in Edmonton. International Representative James Watson of the Education Department presented at the stewards' course; attendees can be seen in the accompanying photo, above.

Scott William Crichton, P.S.

Local 640 Job Market Heats Up

L.U. 640 (em,govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa,u&ptc), PHOENIX, AZ — The weather in Phoenix has warmed up, but it's not as hot as our job market! We have a lot of work going on around the valley on microchip plants, data centers, hospitals and more. We appreciate the help throughout the year from our traveling brothers and sisters, and we could always use some more. We have been organizing like crazy, and it's not slowing down anytime soon.

If you want to come on out, we just need a travel letter and paid-up dues receipt. And remember, it's a dry heat here.

Best wishes to departing Business Manager Dean Wine, who has accepted a position as the renewable energy/government affairs coordinator for the Seventh District. He is leaving our local in great shape, and we know he'll do a great job in his new position! Until next time, stay well!

Tim Wilson, P.S.

Best of Luck to Local 654 Graduates

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA — Our local extends a huge congratulations to our graduating apprenticeship class of 2023. This group includes Nicholas Apgar, Michael Caratello, John Chambers, Dylan Cox, Brandon DeJesse, Vincent Demitis, Derrick Dinkins, Timothy Dougherty, Ron Frank, Colin Hickey, Shane Huston, Heath Lawrence, Matthew Manocchio, Joseph Parris, George Renzulli, Marc Sessa and Andrew Wechsler.

Their apprenticeship started in September 2018, and this class powered through the pandemic without missing stride. With a blend of in-class, virtual and hands-on training, the class worked hard to build their skillsets, benefiting themselves and the local. Everyone at Local 654 would like to wish these graduates the best of luck in their careers as journeymen wiremen.

Chris Schieler, P.S.



Local 654 congratulates the 2023 graduating apprenticeship class!

- In Memoriam ———

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
Local 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	SurnameDate of DeathCasey, T. R.1/2/31/22Criebaum, R. B.3/17/23Jacobs, E. J.1/23/23Karolczak, L. R.5/3/23Lau, W. F.3/11/23Patrick, T. M.9/17/22Stuart, D. M.3/27/23Zulpo, R. L.3/25/23Blanc, M. J.1/21/23Brown, K. C.12/7/22Weber, J. J.1/21/23Brown, K. C.12/7/23Ackermann, K. G.2/7/23Androus, E.3/17/23Bianco, J. J.3/21/23Bianco, J. J.3/21/23Bianco, J. J.3/21/23Bianco, J. J.3/21/23Bianco, J. J.3/21/23Bianco, J. J.3/21/23Deblasio, D. L.1/15/23Dejohn, W. E.2/24/23Diaz, H.1/22/522Dosso, P. E.1/22/32Gennosa, J. A.1/20/23Gillman, J. E.3/18/23Hajko, D. S.11/6/21Hernandez, A.1/223/22Kuaz, R. J.1/2/23Mastropietro, F. E. 3/16/23Maynard, R. J.2/21/23Mastropietro, F. E. 3/16/23Maynard, R. J.2/21/23Mastropietro, R. J.1/1/23Shea, R. D.3/1/23Shea, S. J.5/1/23Shea, S. J.5/1/23Shea, S. J.1/1/23Shea, S. J.2/21/23Shea, S. J.1/2/23Shea, S. J.1/2/23Shea, S. J.1/2/23Shea, S. J.2/1/23 <td>Local Surname Date of Death 11 Ternstrom, T. C. 9/28/22 11 Underwood, H. 3/20/23 11 Welch, W. C. 11/12/22 11 Zuniga, J. A. 1/25/23 12 Kinder, F. D. 11/24/22 13 Caldwell, D. W. 2/1/23 14 Dienger, N. D. 10/19/22 14 Meyer, K. E. 11/30/22 14 Meyer, K. E. 11/30/22 14 Pitsch, F. S. 2/7/23 16 Daub, J. L. 5/1/23 17 Bell, C. W. 4/23/23 18 Butow, R. J. 3/24/23 18 Butow, R. J. 3/24/23 20 Ogletree, C. R. 3/9/23 21 Preble, G. T. 1/19/23 22 Preble, G. T. 1/12/33 23 Delap, R. W. 5/1/23 24 Guenther, R. H. 1/2/23 25 Conkin, R. H. 4/2/23 25 Thomas,</td> <td>Local Surname Date of Death 58 Gardner, T. R. 1/27/23 58 Mann, P. R. 2/27/23 58 Mann, P. R. 2/27/23 58 Render, F. D. 3/14/23 58 Rolak, J. J. 12/4/22 58 Shaw, E. D. 9/16/22 58 Stephens, G. S. 3/28/23 64 Dickey, J. H. 4/12/23 66 Burns, F. G. 5/24/22 66 Plantenga, T. S. 4/9/23 66 Torres, A. 12/3/22 68 Milligan, G. L. 11/28/22 68 Neimes, M. P. 4/26/23 70 Hawn, R. D. 4/11/23 70 Miller, G. S. 10/12/22 70 Stalnaker, L. R. 4/15/23 71 Brown, L. J. 3/7/23 72 Had, D. G. 4/3/23 73 Ward, O. L. 4/3/23 74 Brown, L. J. 3/11/23 77 Fitzpatrick, J.</td> <td>LocalSurnameDate of Death111Toft, D. C.10/15/22112Carrier, L. L.2/16/23113Stone, A. M.3/25/23120Freeman, R. J.3/26/23121Lawrence, R. S.3/9/23124Curmnings, V.C.3/7/23124Green, R. R.12/18/22124Machal, T. E.12/4/22124Sexton, J. R.5/5/23124Sexton, J. R.5/5/23124Valentine, J. L.4/9/23124Valentine, J. L.4/9/23125Badow, G. R.1/12/23125Badow, G. R.1/12/22125Pokorny, R. R.1/22/23125Pokorny, R. R.1/22/22126Powlus, G. D.1/13/23127Schnellinger, R. L. 2/82/23130Tauzy, J. A.2/25/23130Tauzy, J. A.2/25/23130Tauzy, J. A.2/25/23131Roberts, C. F.11/9/22134Bigos, A.1/24/23134Cook, R. J.4/16/23135Ederici, J. M.3/3/23136Hekgrer, G. H.9/15/22137Hoekstra, R. H.12/16/22138Kelly, W. D.2/25/23139Hekgrer, G. H.9/15/22134Hekgrer, G. H.9/15/22134Kelly, W. D.2/25/23134Federici, J. M.3/3/23135Motion, T.1/29/23134Hekgrer, G. H.</td> <td>Local Surname Date of Death 197 Thoms, M. E. 1/11/23 212 Bibbo, M. J. 3/22/23 212 Douglas, R. D. 3/18/23 212 Funch, D. W. 3/19/23 212 Kon, D. W. 3/17/23 212 Scola, M. P. 3/17/23 213 Dickie, D. W. 2/13/23 214 Brennan, J. F. 2/15/23 223 Arvanites, L. 4/5/23 226 Keim, L. A. 3/16/23 226 Keim, J. L. 1/1/23 236 Schell, M. B. 4/4/23 236 Schell, M. B. 4/4/23 236 Schell, M. B. 4/4/23 237 Baquet, G. L. 10/16/22 257 Farris, C. F. 3/30/23 257 Baquet, G. L. 10/16/22 257 Farris, C. F. 3/30/23 257 Baquet, G. L. 10/16/22 257 Farris, C. F. 3/30/23 257</td> <td>Local Surname Date of Death 353 Bianco, G. 4/1/23 353 Ceccarelli, F. 11/28/22 353 Desroches, G. G. 2/23/23 353 Dorman, T. F. 10/1/22 353 Hunt, R. V. 4/13/23 353 Hunt, R. V. 4/13/23 353 Radica, C. 3/15/23 353 Radica, C. 3/15/23 353 Stanoulis, N. J. 3/3/23 353 Tyndall, E. 1/25/23 353 Van Rooyen, B. J. 3/15/23 354 Willer, M. L. 3/9/23 354 Pullan, D. W. 4/2/23 357 Garcia, O. J. 3/2/23 357 Frith, C. R. 10/2/22 357 Kane, P. J. 10/8/22 357 Kane, P. J. 10/8/22 357 Kane, N. 3/1/23 363 Burr, V. W. 3/9/23 363 Gaddis, M. A. 1/2/22 357 Kane, P</td>	Local Surname Date of Death 11 Ternstrom, T. C. 9/28/22 11 Underwood, H. 3/20/23 11 Welch, W. C. 11/12/22 11 Zuniga, J. A. 1/25/23 12 Kinder, F. D. 11/24/22 13 Caldwell, D. W. 2/1/23 14 Dienger, N. D. 10/19/22 14 Meyer, K. E. 11/30/22 14 Meyer, K. E. 11/30/22 14 Pitsch, F. S. 2/7/23 16 Daub, J. L. 5/1/23 17 Bell, C. W. 4/23/23 18 Butow, R. J. 3/24/23 18 Butow, R. J. 3/24/23 20 Ogletree, C. R. 3/9/23 21 Preble, G. T. 1/19/23 22 Preble, G. T. 1/12/33 23 Delap, R. W. 5/1/23 24 Guenther, R. H. 1/2/23 25 Conkin, R. H. 4/2/23 25 Thomas,	Local Surname Date of Death 58 Gardner, T. R. 1/27/23 58 Mann, P. R. 2/27/23 58 Mann, P. R. 2/27/23 58 Render, F. D. 3/14/23 58 Rolak, J. J. 12/4/22 58 Shaw, E. D. 9/16/22 58 Stephens, G. S. 3/28/23 64 Dickey, J. H. 4/12/23 66 Burns, F. G. 5/24/22 66 Plantenga, T. S. 4/9/23 66 Torres, A. 12/3/22 68 Milligan, G. L. 11/28/22 68 Neimes, M. P. 4/26/23 70 Hawn, R. D. 4/11/23 70 Miller, G. S. 10/12/22 70 Stalnaker, L. 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A. 1/2/22 357 Kane, P

In Memoriam continued -

The	Electrical	Worker	August	2

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Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
488	Pawlowski, R. C.	2/7/23	663	Kleist, A. W.	2/4/23	993	Moore, D. H.	5/9/22
494	Dentice, J. A.	4/17/23	663	Paulis, A. M.	12/1/22	995	Hill, G. C.	4/30/23
494	Esser, T. R.	12/30/22	666	Bachman, B. C.	1/8/23	995	Vosburg, M. J.	4/8/23
494	Glazewski, R. J.	1/13/23	666	Deane, B. L.	4/20/23	1105	Thomas, P. A.	1/19/23
494	Krause, R. A.	4/5/23	667	Jesser, L. M.	12/16/22	1220	Horde, J. W.	12/17/22
494	Medved, G. C.	2/13/23	667	Lane, G. D.	4/13/23	1245	Whitaker, E.	11/12/22
494	Richards, T. R.	12/30/22	668	Fischer, M. A.	2/12/23	1250	Roth, J.	1/10/23
494	Schulz, J. D.	6/21/22	668	Rater, D. L.	1/11/23	1250	Stainbrook, R. J.	1/7/23
494	Tumi, R. P.	4/3/23	682	Goff, D.	4/5/23	1253	Dumont, M. J.	4/17/23
494	Whidden, F. P.	2/7/23	683	Back, K. H.	3/8/23	1288	Thompson, W. E.	3/27/23
494	Wroblewski, A. F.	. 3/15/23	683	Evans, W. A.	3/12/23	1289	Hofmann, R. C.	3/30/23
498	Curtis, K. D.	1/28/23	683	O'Dea, T. N.	4/5/23	1316	Shiver, M. A.	3/25/23
502	Hopps, R. E.	2/13/23	683	Turner, C. P.	3/21/23	1319	Smith, R. E.	1/29/23
505	Clark, S. L.	3/19/23	684	Collins, M.	11/27/22	1393	Huddleston, J. R.	12/24/22
508	Lamb, J. D.	9/8/21	688	Pifher, J. L.	4/18/23	1393	McDaniel, R. D.	3/21/23
520	Bargsley, J. E.	3/19/23	697	Greene, J.	5/5/23	1426	Dorgan, N. N.	10/13/22
520	Ruemke, J. D.	1/18/23	697	Mc Donald, D. N.	3/31/23	1545	Mathis, J.	3/9/23
527	Cox, W. J.	12/30/22	697	Szara, C. P.	2/24/23	1547	Clyde, S. L.	12/13/22
527	Morales, A. S.	3/9/23	701	Bristow, B. A.	7/9/22	1547	Kane, W. B.	12/8/22
529	Letourneau, H. J.	. 5/15/23	701	Hill, J. C.	8/5/22	1555	Babineau, A.	2/23/23
531	Blacks, S.	9/29/22	701	Thorne, M. T.	4/25/23	1555	Reddy, W. A.	1/9/23
531	Machura, C. J.	12/24/22	702	Althoff, D. C.	1/12/23	1579	Clayton, B. C.	3/29/23
532	Johnson, E. C.	1/21/23	702	Miller, H. L.	5/3/23	1579	Krygier, A. J.	2/18/23
532	Robinson, C. N.	8/11/21	702	Oliver, R. W.	5/5/23	1579	Thornton, D. S.	2/17/23
540	Ungashick, J. H.	5/4/23	702	Phillips, E. F.	4/26/23	1579	Widgeon, W. H.	2/24/23
545	Wood, R. L.	3/10/23	702	Smothers, W. L.	4/28/23	1687	Bailey, R.	2/15/23
551	Klein, R.	3/9/23	702	Wielt, G. H.	4/3/23	1701	Riggs, J. N.	12/25/22
551	Mountjoy, R. F.	10/20/22	702	Zachgo, D. E.	3/17/23	1759	Payne, C. J.	4/8/23
557	Field, B. E.	1/23/23	712	Kossack, B. W.	2/20/23	1852	Digou, H.	5/9/23
558	Davis, B. S.	3/6/23	712	McCracken, G.	5/1/23	1920	Carson, D. M.	1/17/23
558	Pollard, L. P.	4/6/23	716	Bush, E. G.	1/19/23	1920	Miller, L. M.	11/25/22
558	Young, C. W.	5/5/23	716	Dement, T. W.	1/14/23	2038	Kobak, N. J.	4/10/23
568	Beaule, C.	12/31/22	716	Hammond, P. H.	2/13/23	2038	Larocque, W. A.	11/20/22
568	Delauniere, J.	2/24/22	716	Hudson, E. N.	12/6/22	2085	Sinnema, L.	8/27/22
568	Lamarche, R.	3/10/22	716	Putman, M. E.	4/26/23	2085	Smith, L.	1/23/23
568	Proulx, G.	5/1/23	716	Sydlik, N. L.	2/14/23	2150	Butler, J. L.	3/28/23
569	Martin, J. A.	10/31/22	725	Yenna, J. R.	1/17/23	2150	Dempsey, D. T.	4/22/23
569	Sattler, A. L.	1/20/23	728	Hotaling, W. G.	3/28/23	2330	Murphy, T.	12/4/22
569	Sorensen, J. R.	2/16/23	728	Sleigh, C. A.	12/30/22	I.O. (3)	Levin, A. K.	10/2/21
569	Thomas, R. R.	5/26/22	743	Ashman, J. R.	3/24/20	I.O. (3)	Mizrahi, D.	11/29/22
570	Aros, V. R.	3/18/23	743	Douts, W. C.	3/23/23	1.0. (5)	Ryan, R. F.	3/17/23
570	Dodd, J. A.	4/5/23	743	Groh, E. B.	5/12/23) Gleason, J. F.	1/23/23
570	Hanzel, R. W.	4/22/23	743	Grove, W. W.	2/23/23	I.O. (12	0) Mavrikkou, A.	4/9/23
570	Hutton, D. F.	4/9/23	743	Williams, E. J.	5/18/23	I.O. (12		5/13/23
584	Fasig, F. R.	4/15/23	756	Hopper, G. C.	4/5/23	I.O. (13		A. 4/12/23
586	Earl, W. D.	3/15/23	760	Aeh, L. J.	1/18/23	I.O. (13	4) Petersen, D. D.	3/4/23
586	Scharf, G. K.	3/9/23	760	Edwards, K. A.	11/16/22	I.O. (21		10/17/22
595	Bognar, F.	1/4/23	760	Forsythe, T. N.	6/26/20	I.O. (34		3/5/23
595	Farmin, D. A.	11/12/22	760	Simcox, C. E.	4/12/23	I.O. (37		1/11/23
595	Grace, G. J.	12/20/22	768	Lynch, E. P.	1/27/23	I.O. (37		3/7/23
595	Kamper, R. M.	12/20/22	769	Fouts, P. E.	5/16/23	1.0. (37 1.0. (47	,	3/11/23
595	McDaid, D. H.	4/13/23	773	Lessard, M. J.	11/1/22	· ·	64) Sizemore, D. R.	3/26/23
595	Owyoung, V. R.	3/16/23	776	Gove, C. T.	12/7/22		89) Bellick, A. J.	12/7/22
596	VanGilder, D. L.	2/1/23	804	Holloway, R.	12/24/22	I.O. (18	44) Scott, J. D.	5/7/23
596	Wilson, B.	4/17/23	804	Mior, D. A.	4/4/23	•	.O.) Akison, A. B.	3/16/23
601	Hensler, R. C.	4/1/23	804	Morris, P. T.	11/30/22		.O.) Anderson, W. O	. 1/21/23
601	Hixson, B. D.	1/23/23	812	Cole, S. C.	10/26/22	Pens. (I	.0.) Avery, D. D.	11/21/22
601	Trinkle, D. F.	3/25/23	816	Canter, M. L.	3/24/23	•	.0.) Axelson, W. H.	1/19/23
606	Hallowell, R. N.	2/13/23	816	Green, L. T.	2/10/23		.0.) Black, A. M.	3/9/23
606	Hollenback, J. E.	11/5/22	840	Piccolo, R. J.	10/8/22	•	.0.) Bouwmeester, -	Г. 3/26/23
606	Tipton, E. C.	1/9/23	855	Hough, K. N.	4/6/23		.0.) Brodie, D. M.	1/26/23
606	Wingert, M. B.	5/5/23	861	Peeples, J. H.	4/19/23	Pens. (I	.0.) Chapdelaine, E.	R. 2/13/23
611	Belvin, W. R.	2/7/23	876	Winget, D. K.	3/26/23	•	.0.) Cinelli, F.	7/31/22
611	Doyle, S.	10/11/22	890	Heck, R. R.	12/2/22		.0.) Corcoran, G. W.	. 3/6/23
611	Dybdahl, W. A.	1/16/23	890	Noonan, G. M.	4/4/23	Pens. (I	.0.) Corder, H. E.	3/31/23
611	Grimes, B. L.	7/13/22	903	Barton, H. P.	12/28/22	Pens. (I	.0.) Devine, J. L.	2/15/23
611	Raftery, W.	1/25/23	903	Josey, J. R.	5/8/23		.0.) Ellner, D. L.	1/31/23
611	Sergieff, T.	4/2/23	903	Poteet, W. R.	1/29/23	•	.0.) Gentry, B. E.	11/24/22
611	Tate, W. H.	8/7/22	903	Sullivan, J.	2/21/23		.0.) Kammenzind, H	I. A. 4/25/23
611	Trujillo, D. E.	8/15/22	906	Horvath, S. V.	1/11/23	Pens. (I	.0.) Kimbrell, R. D.	3/21/23
611	Voss, H. J.	11/8/22	906	Norkol, R. J.	9/27/22	•	.0.) Marks, R.	5/23/23
613	Foster, J. H.	8/13/20	915	Bass, R. B.	4/10/23		.0.) Milner, R. E.	4/14/23
613	Jarrard, J. P.	4/20/23	915	DeLyon, G.	12/21/22	Pens. (I	.O.) Moore, J. C.	4/19/23
613	Lane, T. M.	1/17/23	915	Fales, J. P.	3/27/23	•	.0.) Mulcrone, J. F.	5/1/23
613	Pierce, S. V.	4/8/23	915	Luper, A. J.	3/22/23		.0.) Murphy, P. F.	2/6/23
613	Wood, T. A.	3/26/23	915	Ochipinti, M. L.	1/30/23	Pens. (I	.O.) Natoli, J. N.	4/14/23
622	Graf, H. E.	1/29/23	915	Parker, E. W.	2/5/23	· ·	.0.) Parham, A. E.	3/27/23
639	DePew, J. N.	11/26/22	915	Roethler, T. J.	2/28/23		.0.) Pearson, J. E.	12/6/22
639	Minor, É. L.	4/18/23	915	Scheel, K. E.	1/8/23	Pens. (I	.0.) Schulte, L. N.	3/9/23
640	Crane, J. H.	4/7/23	915	Shive, S. R.	5/2/23		.0.) Tacey, G. I.	3/1/23
640	Crognale, G.	12/28/22	932	Peters, D. R.	3/29/23	Pens. (I	.O.) Vess, B. J.	4/6/23
640	Finn, R. F.	1/13/23	948	Vibbert, G. A.	3/12/23	· ·	.0.) Walp, D.	3/18/23
640	Holmquist, S. J.	3/19/23	952	Downard, J. L.	4/27/23		.0.) Weathersby, R.	D. 6/22/22
640	Maddocks, S. M.	3/11/23	953	Boswell, H. A.	3/30/23			
654 654	Powers, B. P. Scott, W. A.	11/17/22 3/20/23	993 993	Drummond, T. Johnson, R. A.	12/29/21 10/16/22		st shows membe	
659	Lango, J. J.	10/25/22	993	Melin, L.	2/24/23	PBF de June 20	eath claims were 223.∎	upprovea in
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The Electrical Worker was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

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YOUR POWER: COAST TO COAST

WHO WE ARE Profiles in Power

rom political offices to civic boards, union voices matter. The members featured on this page represent hundreds, if not thousands, of IBEW brothers and sisters serving their states, provinces, counties, cities and communities. They speak for workers on vital issues that affect them every day.

"Often we talk about politics like it's something separate from us," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. "Nothing could be further from the truth. Politics is shorthand for what happens at every level of public service that makes our lives better or worse. The more of us who run for office or seek appointments, the more power we have to tip the balance for unions, workers and working families."

Cory Applegate, Colorado Springs, Colo., Local 113 City Council member, Fountain, Colo.



••During my apprenticeship about 10 years ago, an older member told me that if you want to help your local the most, run for public office. I took that to heart.

I live in Fountain, Colo., a city of 31,000 just south of Colorado Springs. My father, Richard, has been involved in politics since our family moved

here in the mid-2000s.

I served two years on the local planning commission, an appointed position, before deciding in 2021 that I wanted to run for city council. I had reached a point where I wanted to take my activism a step further. Instead of walking and talking for a candidate, I wanted to be a candidate.

I put my heart and soul into it, and I was elected to represent Ward 3 with 65% of the vote. It was a great honor made even better because I get to serve alongside my father, an at-large representative. It is a nonpartisan position, and I've been able to concentrate on bread-and-butter issues that are important to working families.

What I've found is that people are always open to the best option. Fountain is a conservative town, and people lean that way on social issues. But when it comes to local issues, that's irrelevant. It usually comes back to how you manage the taxpayers' money.

Even people who aren't necessarily fans of organized labor are receptive when I show them the benefits of union construction. If you do what is right in the citizens' eyes, social politics don't enter into it that much.

I am a Republican. I'm also a union member, and I don't think corporate greed is going away anytime soon.

What I would tell my IBEW brothers and sisters considering a run for public office is this: If you truly have a heart for it, you'll enjoy it, even on the rough days. When you go into meetings and activities and people are yelling at you, you'll still enjoy it. You'll want to serve people.

I love it and am running to be the El Paso County commissioner during the next election. **99**

Michael Martell, Albany, N.Y., Local 236 Running for Rotterdam, N.Y., City Council



66 don't much care for politics. It is all so 'us and them.' I and a large percentage of the population don't want it to be that way. It is creating a wedge, and there shouldn't be.

In my mind, a stop sign is a stop sign, and Democrats, Republicans and Conservative Party members all enjoy driving on a well-paved road.

So, if you asked me a year ago, I would have said I wouldn't run in a million years.

No one is more surprised than me that I am not only running, but I won my first race, the Conservative Party primary for a seat on the Rotterdam, N.Y., City Council.

Since 2021, I have been serving on the Schenectady County Industrial Development Agency. When businesses are considering relocating to the area, the IDA throws out the red carpet. The local has had a seat on the board for years, and I took it over when the previous member retired. It's good work. Important work. Development agencies across the country are often welfare programs for rich people, luring businesses with tax breaks and getting little in return. A union voice in the room keeps the focus on benefiting the whole community and building a sustainable workforce.

In February, the county Democratic Party asked me to run, and I had to think about it.

I like a challenge, and more importantly, I don't think we can turn down opportunities to have our collective voice heard.

I'm now endorsed by the Conservative Party and Democratic Party. People who are fed up with partisanship will see me on the ballot twice in November. I hope that means they will see me for who I am: someone who looks for common ground.

I have gotten a lot of support from the local, the building trades and the international, but most of my primary was focused on Conservative Party members. Now I won't have a walk list. I'm doing every door, nights and weekends, burning the candle at both ends.⁹⁹

Cory McCray, Baltimore Local 24

Maryland state senator



GI was accepted into Local 24's apprenticeship program just after my 20th birthday. By the age of 25, I had earned enough money working as a journeyman wireman to purchase seven homes, which I used as rental properties.

Yet I knew many young folks faced obstacles that are sometimes arbitrarily put in their way. I realized how blessed I was, getting into the apprenticeship program and changing my trajectory.

I went on to be a regional organizer in the Fourth District, where I worked with now International President Kenny Cooper. I tell people all the time that if you think running for political office is tough, try winning a union election. We had to do everything right to win. You couldn't make mistakes, and obviously, you're going to make mistakes in anything you do.

But that experience gave me a skill set that I brought to politics. I served on the Baltimore City Board of Elections from 2011 to 2013. I was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2014 and the state Senate in 2018, where I continue to represent northeast Baltimore.

Throughout my career, I've been an advocate for working people. In the Senate, I sponsored legislation that raised Maryland's minimum wage to \$15 per hour, which became law after the Legislature overrode the then-governor's veto.

I helped pass legislation lowering the threshold that required contractors to pay prevailing wage. Previously, they had to pay prevailing wage if 51% was funded by the state. Now it's 25%.

Holding political office also gives you a bully pulpit. You can't be afraid to use it.

I'm a member of the Senate's Budget and Taxation Committee. CollegeBound Foundation is a terrific organization that assists Baltimore public high school students and receives funding from the state. I noticed it sponsored tours to colleges and universities — but not to apprenticeship programs, something that changed my life.

I mentioned to foundation officials that they should do so — and they agreed. Those students now are being exposed to world-class apprentice programs, including at Local 24.

What I tell everyone, including IBEW members, if they're considering a run for office is: 'If not you, then who?' Teddy Roosevelt was the president who talked about the man in the arena, and how important it was to get in the arena.

I now serve as the Senate's deputy majority whip, and I continue to serve on Local 24's Executive Board. I have a responsibility to make sure my local union continues to thrive because I benefited from it.

Pamela Cline, Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 Alaska Workers Compensation Board member



44 Joined the staff at the union office in Anchorage in 2012. Soon after, I was asked if I would consider putting my name in to be appointed to the Workers Compensation Board. I had previously never considered anything of that nature. I assumed I wasn't qualified, nor did I really know anything about the board or the process.

It can be intimidating, especially when you've never testified before a legislative committee or been interviewed by the governor's office.

There are nine labor seats and nine industry seats on the board. Once I was appointed and began serving, I quickly realized the important role that we on the labor side played. As a board member, I am part of a team that is responsible for injured workers and the benefits they receive. The decisions made by the board have long-term effects on those injured workers. It is my goal to make sure that they have access to the health care they need and the benefits they deserve.

Serving on a board and participating in any political process for me was a big step. If I had not been asked, I wouldn't have done it. I now know the importance of it and will continue to do my part for injured workers in Alaska, union or not.

My position at the union office allows me to participate on the board, and it gives the IBEW a voice at the table when it comes to workers' rights. All of the labor participants play a key role in protecting that, and I'm glad I can be a part of it. **9**

Daniel Bukiewicz, Milwaukee Local 494 Mayor of Oak Creek, Wis.



66Everything I needed to know to be a good mayor I learned in the IBEW. When you work for a contractor, you're the face of the union and the company. You learn how to see a project through. And you know that if you're behind a desk, you're not really working.

I've been mayor of Oak Creek since 2017. We are a fast-growing sub-

urb just south of Milwaukee. I've been a member of Milwaukee Local 494 since 1987, and in about 2006, I looked at my town and you couldn't get a pizza delivered. Nothing was being built here. There were brownfields on the lakefront. Developers wouldn't work here. The city made it too difficult to build.

I began thinking, 'We need more.' The land is too valuable. We need a real tax base here.

When my alderman decided not to run again, I thought I could be the voice to get things going.

While I was alderman, I became a business representative in the local, and then in 2014 I was appointed president of the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council.

I found I really liked being an alderman. When you get into these positions, you can reeducate the other electeds. Most people, Joe Average Guy, don't know our world. Few understand the value of highly trained building trades. But when millions of tax dollars are at stake, we want predictable outcomes when we build things, and that comes through trained tradespeople.

We have a good story to tell, and education became a huge part of that.

All politicians say they are for the working guy. Even the Republicans say that. The bottom line is you have to tell them why it is good to work with union workers and their training.

If you're not there, you can't do it.

Power is being in a position to make changes, to correct something that isn't right or to find a path forward for working people.

And then you get like-minded people on the important boards, and 15 years later you wind up running the city. **99**