

# The IBEW SPARQ

A quarterly newsletter highlighting IBEW values

Vol. 2 | Issue 3 | Summer 2018

## Commitment to Quality Builds Pride

At the intersection of first-class workmanship and safety on the job, you'll find IBEW members proud of being the best at what they do.

Quality is IBEW's calling card, from state-of-the-art training to expert journeymen who never stop learning to our embrace of the Code of Excellence.

It's a source of pride. Look around: You see IBEW sisters and brothers everywhere wearing our hats and T-shirts. Members talk up the union on social media. Spouses and kids brag about having an IBEW lineman or wireman in their home.

An apprentice in Pennsylvania who traded college for an IBEW apprenticeship recently commented on Facebook, "I can't wait to truly become one of you guys, because there's no better gratification in the world than restoring power to someone who's lost it."

Pair that enthusiasm with IBEW-NECA's unrivaled training and you've got a can't-miss formula for success. Contractors who are willing to invest in the best want IBEW members to get the job done.

After signing with Brockton, Mass., Local 223, the CEO of Beaumont Solar said, "The quality of work that is being done by our company has reached a new level ... I am delighted. However you measure it—callbacks, meeting schedules or customer satisfaction—the feedback is phenomenal."



In Fairbanks, Ind., where our members rebuilt a substation in an isolated area, a manager described the project's complexity and need for skilled craft labor. "We picked the IBEW because they are safe, very well trained and capable," he said.

At Rauland-Borg, members of Chicago Local 134 take the Code of Excellence to heart as they manufacture life-safety products. Callie M. Greer beams with pride in a video about the plant: "I love what I do, and that's an important thing. You have to love what you do. Anything I'm working on, I want it to be perfect. I can do a repair on these small parts; and you won't even know that it wasn't done on a machine. I'm just that good."

IBEW quality and pride is out of this world—literally. Engineers and technicians from Baltimore Local

1501 did some of the most meticulous work imaginable to assemble components of the \$8 billion James Webb Space Telescope, the most powerful ever built. It is expected to be launched into space next spring.

"We only have one chance to get it right," Mechanical Integration Specialist and Local Steward Delaney Burkhart said during the painstaking process. "Our job is to test, and retest and test again."

Whether you're building a telescope that can detect light from the Big Bang, climbing a utility pole, wiring a home, working an assembly line, servicing a locomotive, filming the Super Bowl or doing any other vital work, you are raising the bar for excellence and doing the IBEW proud.



What does SPARQ mean to you? Have an idea for the newsletter? Email [theSPARQ@ibew.org](mailto:theSPARQ@ibew.org)



## Quality Means Happy Customers

Whether you're building a massive transformer or a decorative lighting fixture, quality matters.

Anyone who's ever attempted to assemble furniture from a box only to find pieces that don't fit or parts missing, knows the value of a manufacturer that doesn't make mistakes.

In the plant, ensuring quality parts means co-workers down the line don't lose time fixing errors. Quality products mean happy clients and consumers. On service calls, quality makes or breaks a customer's experience. Grateful customers mean repeat business, and that means IBEW jobs.

"The brothers and sisters of the IBEW manufacture the best products in the world," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "We know this, but it's crucial to make sure that everyone else knows it as well."

In the 1970s, the IBEW had more than 360,000 members in manufacturing. By 1990, it was 145,000, and today

it's around 45,000. Technology will forever replace jobs with machines. But when it comes to filling the critical jobs, employers have a choice.

"We need everybody to know that the IBEW is the right choice, the right people, the right investment for the future," Stephenson said.

The Code is the promise that IBEW members are uniquely qualified to do the best work, on time, safely and with genuine care.

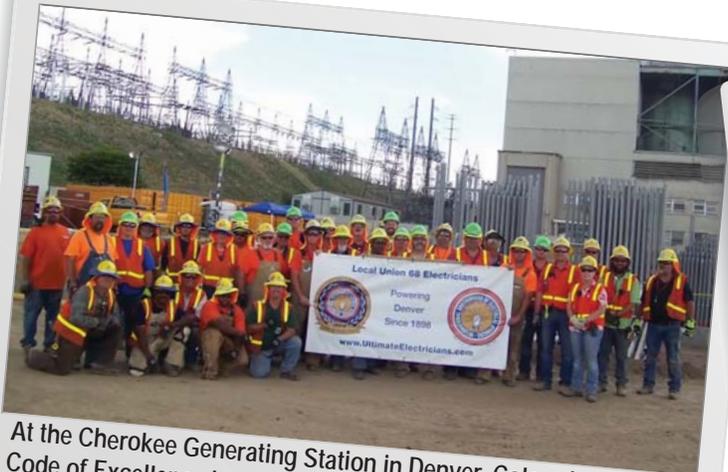
"The Code of Excellence is making a good part ... within a certain spec, and I make sure that happens,"

said David Parr, a Beaver, Penn., Local 201 member who builds Eaton circuit boards. That attitude is why every box goes out the door with an IBEW Code of Excellence sticker on its side.

That's the mark of quality. That's the Code of Excellence. And IBEW members live it every day.



## SPARQ GOES LOCAL



At the Cherokee Generating Station in Denver, Colorado, the IBEW Code of Excellence brought safety to a higher level. IBEW Local 68 members put in 250,000 feet of conduit—without a single injury.



To ensure the highest standard of quality, IBEW Local 134 teamed up with the company Rauland to implement the Code of Excellence. The result: leading-edge and defect-free life-safety products.