

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## IBEW News



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## Editor's Note

Due to space constraints, In Memoriam will not appear in this issue. It will be back in April.

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Washington, D.C., Local 26 member Paul Henriques greets BGE employees outside the Front Street facility in Baltimore the day before they began voting for IBEW representation.

# More Than 1,400 BGE Workers Join the IBEW

**A**fter an 18-month organizing drive, a majority of Baltimore Gas & Electric's 1,418 gas and electric transmission-distribution workers voted for IBEW representation Jan. 12.

"This is a fantastic moment for our new brothers and sisters," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "This will transform not only their lives, but the lives of their families, and I think

## A WIN DECADES IN THE MAKING

it will be an inspiration for working people across the U.S. and Canada."

BGE workers will now form a new local — Baltimore Local 410 — chosen because it is the area code served by BGE. It will be the first time Stephenson will charter a new local since becoming international president.

After four failed campaigns over 20 years, the fifth was a success.

"This is the biggest election victory for working families and the IBEW that I can remember in the last

30 years," said Fourth District International Vice President Kenneth Cooper, who was heavily involved in the campaign's design and execution. "This is a very big, a huge deal."

## The Long Road

Victory was never assured. Many organizers on this campaign were there for the ones that had come before in 2010, 2000, 1998 and 1996. They knew the challenges only too well: management's vehemently anti-union culture, the paternalistic nature of a formerly local company, the reality that workers were already paid well.

Despite a more hopeful atmosphere this time

**BGE WORKERS** continued on page 2

# Victory: More Than 1,400 BGE Workers Join the IBEW

around, the IBEW and BGE were bound by a past of loss and disappointment.

And word was, if it didn't work this time, there wouldn't be another.

But failure properly channeled holds lessons for success. IBEW leaders and organizers took a long painful look back at the opportunities that weren't seized and recent successful organizing campaigns elsewhere and came up with a winning blueprint.

The latest organizing campaign began in the spring of 2015 when Cooper, international representative and Lead Organizer Troy Johnson and Regional Organizing Coordinator Bert McDermitt met with BGE workers hoping for one more shot.

Some had been there for the first loss in 1996, when the utility spent more than \$50 million on union-busters. There were months of delays as the company fought the composition of the bargaining unit, time they used to hold captive audience meetings with a single message: supporting the union would be a disaster for the company and for the workers.

**“Without collective bargaining, we are just sitting on the bench, watching the game in front of us.”**

— Dave Kelly, BGE lineman

“They scared everyone,” said Bill Riale, 25-year overhead line worker and a member of the volunteer organizing committee. “We had over 600 cards signed in one election, but got fewer than 400 votes. They smashed us.”

Union supporters were fired, threatened, transferred to units far from their homes and given the worst and least reliable trucks. The IBEW filed dozens of unfair labor practice charges against the company in 1996, said IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter, who led that campaign as the then-business manager of Washington, D.C., Local 1900.

Two years later, the NLRB negotiated a

rerun in 30 days. Out of nearly 3,000 votes, the campaign lost by just 120.

“It was heartbreaking,” Hunter said. “We didn't get close after that.”

The next two organizing elections, in 2000 and 2010, lost by more than 2-to-1.

“In the past, many of the workers saw this as a small, almost mom-and-pop company,” Johnson said. “The men and women building and maintaining the BGE system knew the managers who were making the rules. They met with them regularly, and they felt taken care of.”

Deregulation revolutionized the industry in the '90s. Utilities had to shed their power plants and new companies began growing and merging. What had been a sleepy, reliable and locally-based industry became a battle of giants. BGE became Constellation in 1999, and in 2012, the multi-billion-dollar utility conglomerate Exelon bought Constellation.

“That company from the last organizing campaign [in 2010] is gone, and we notice the changes and we don't like them,” said BGE employee Ben Ferstermann.

## New Company, New Rules

Exelon owned one utility that wasn't represented by the IBEW: BGE, and only one utility's workers were falling behind the rest: BGE. They watched as wages and benefits improved at the rest of Exelon's utilities, including Pepco, PECO in Philadelphia, ComEd in Chicago, Atlantic City Electric in New Jersey and Delmarva Power in Delaware.

“It's not a bad company. Everything I have is because of my job at BGE and I want them to do better,” said underground lines worker and volunteer organizer Eric Gomez. “We just want to do better too.”

BGE workers said they began to see more favoritism, arbitrary rules changes, unexplained disciplinary actions and more contractors on the job. It used to be, Ferstermann said, that when you went on a job with a trainee, you made a small amount more per hour. Then one day, the company switched it to a gift card to Subway.

But often, the changes were bigger. The company called it flexible scheduling, but workers only knew they couldn't plan ahead more than two days. New policies were handed down seemingly without any understanding of how work was done in the field, and no one could say where they came from.

“Our supervisors would say it was from headquarters, but we didn't even know which one — BGE, Constellation or Exelon — let alone who to ask,” Ferstermann said.

For older workers, the main concern was retirement, said volunteer organizer and BGE lineman Dave Kelly. The company kept raising the



Baltimore City Council Member John T. Bullock, top, spoke at the Jan. 10 rally in front of Exelon's building in Baltimore. Later that night, representatives of IBEW locals at other Exelon locals took questions at a general meeting hosted by Baltimore Local 24.

cost of retiree health care, the 401(k) match was at its discretion and was smaller than other Exelon utilities. There were, he said, “no enforceable promises at all.”

For those who had been on the fence about organizing in the past or young workers making good money and not particularly worried about retirement, the rise in arbitrary disciplinary actions was changing minds, said Mike Niland, a 10-year overhead line mechanic.

“The main thing is job security. I've never worked anywhere where so many people quit or got fired,” Niland said. “We had a buddy get fired. He was in a room with HR and security. Just him. He's out the door next week and nobody is sure what happened. Guys see that, and it opens their eyes.”

Getting fired from BGE, Ferstermann said, isn't just losing a job. It meant you couldn't work on any Exelon property for at least five years and nearly every utility within 200 miles was owned by Exelon. And because the training program at BGE wasn't coordinated with any others, none of the linemen were licensed or had journeyman cards they could take on the road.

“If you get fired, you got nothing, so... what? You have to just hope your supervisor likes you?” Ferstermann said. “If we get a contract, we can negotiate a standardized training program so that we can have a journeyman ticket and go anywhere.”

It was the steady drip of changes — usually for the worse, always without asking — affecting linemen, gas workers, transmission and substation workers and clerical staff.



“These are some of the best blue-collar jobs in Maryland and they are being eroded, slowly and constantly,” Kelly said. “Without collective bargaining, we are just sitting on the bench, watching the game in front of us.”

into the hands of the company. The union was “them,” Gomez said. “Troy's initial approach was, ‘This is about you. You have to want it. I am not going to do it for you. Here is my information, you guys go out and do it.’ And that worked.”

The plan had multiple fronts and lots of moving pieces. The IBEW took Exelon to two NLRB hearings to determine the unit before things got under way. With the help of IBEW attorneys Jon Newman and Lucas Aubrey, a stipulated election agreement was reached that reduced the unit from 1,468 to 1,418.

“Although it meant we didn't have exactly what we wanted, we could live with it and there would be no more hearings,” Johnson said.

Then they set a timeline. Starting in 2016, Johnson and McDermitt, with the volunteer organizing committee, would collect cards and hold meetings to answer questions until the first weeks of December. Then the IBEW would bring in dozens of volunteers to conduct a two-week blitz of site and home visits, phone-banking and a final push to collect cards.

Then a break over the holidays,

## A Plan for Success

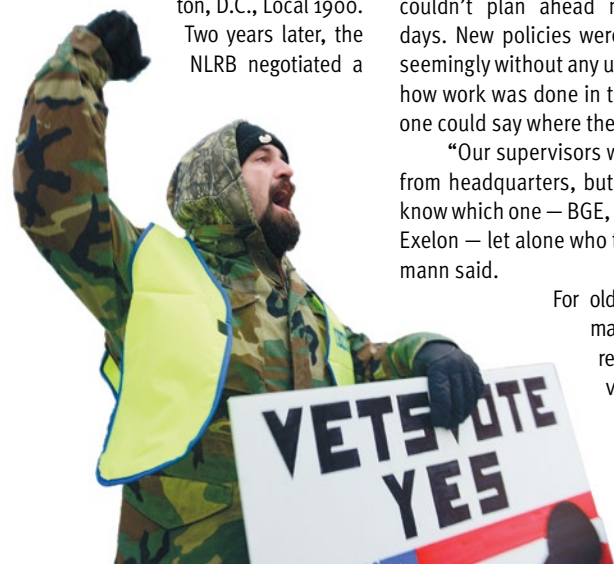
In May of 2015, Kelly, Riale, Niland and more than two dozen other BGE workers returned to the IBEW.

Cooper, Johnson and McDermitt came back to them with a plan that would involve a huge investment of time and resources from the IBEW, but in return, Cooper said, BGE workers had to agree to a substantial change from the failed campaigns of the past.

“We were clear from the start. We were not organizing them. It was their campaign and we would do everything we could, throw everything we had, at supporting them. But they had to do it,” Cooper said.

Gomez said it was a welcome change.

“It always felt like the union was trying to organize us, and I think that played



when many BGE workers were taking time off to be with family, and those on the job would be needed at their posts, making forced anti-union meetings unlikely.

The target was an election that would be held in the first weeks of January when everyone was back from vacation, the blitz would recommence with outside IBEW organizers flooding back into Baltimore focused this time on getting out the vote.

“It was a great strategy for this campaign and Kenny, Troy, Bert and the BGE workers delivered,” said Assistant to the International President for Membership Development Ricky Oakland.

The campaign also fit into International President Stephenson’s directive that organizing campaigns focus first on companies where we already represent some part of the workforce.

“We have a good relationship with Exelon and plan on continuing to have a good relationship. We believe that by these workers electing to have a voice in the workplace, they will make Exelon a better and more successful company,” Cooper said.

Cooper said that in 2012 when Exelon bought BGE, the IBEW was one of the loudest public voices in favor of the merger. Two years ago, when they purchased Pepco, they also received IBEW support, with a condition.

“We said we would like a commitment that if the BGE workers want to organize, we won’t see the union busters,” Cooper said. “We got that commitment.”

That was the plan. But there were significant hurdles to overcome. Senior management may have gotten the message from Exelon, but two decades of anti-union culture was a hard habit to break. Could they get enough cards? The bargaining unit included some clerical workers. Would they feel common cause with linemen, gas workers and mechanics? And those workers were spread across nine service centers in Maryland,

doing very different jobs. Finally, would falling behind other Exelon workers be enough of an incentive for people who were doing pretty well?

### The Christmas Blitz

Dec. 6 was a bitter day in Baltimore to be standing outside for hours in a frigid rain-storm. Yet, out in the cold, smiling and cheering, hour after hour, was an undaunted army of IBEW organizers nearly 50 strong.

For the next two weeks, they rallied every day at the gates of BGE’s service centers, waving signs, handing out leaflets, answering questions and keeping up morale as one shift turned over into the next. They called every person eligible to vote at least once and made hundreds of house calls across the state and into Pennsylvania.

They had converged on the city from IBEW locals from more than a dozen states. Some were rank-and-file construction, utility, manufacturing and telecommunications members and some were international organizers pulled from regional and district offices. Some came from as far away as Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245. Some came from down the road in Washington, D.C., Local 26. Baltimore Locals 24 and 1501 played host for organizing meetings and provided office space and their hall for general meetings.

“It was the first organizing campaign that brought the full strength of the IBEW, all our brothers and sisters, construction, professional and industrial, together in one common cause,” Oakland said. “International President Emeritus Ed Hill started building up this strength and President Stephenson is continuing that growth exactly so that when an opportunity like this comes along, we have the resources to win.”

By those early weeks of December, the BGE workers had been collecting cards in support of an organizing election for more than a year. Volunteer organizers were starting to get questions.

“Every day, we heard, ‘When is there going to be a vote,’” Kelly said. “And every day we told them, ‘When the time is right. When the time is right.’”

### 30 Days and Counting

The night of Dec. 13, the workers and organizers held a meeting at Local 24. They had almost 900 cards, far more than they needed to get the NLRB to schedule an election. But you always get some people who sign cards even if they will eventually vote no. Was 900 enough?

The room was optimistic. The company had so far kept to its word: no closed door meetings, no apocalyptic threats about what would happen if the union came through the door.

The IBEW organizers who had been phone-banking and house-calling told stories about the people they’d met.

West Coast Regional Organizing Coordinator Robert Brock talked to a 36-year BGE gas worker, a troubleman sent out to fix emergencies on BGE’s grid. He had always voted no in the previous elections. He told Brock that during a snowstorm, he and another troubleman



BGE gas pipeline mechanic and volunteer organizer Marvin Austin hugs Fourth District International Vice President Kenneth Cooper at the offices of the Baltimore NLRB after the vote count was announced.

were out making repairs, and a local news crew interviewed them. The other guy, responding to a question about why repairs were taking so long, said he didn’t know, they were busting their humps, it was the managers who were home warm.

“Six months later, this guy gets called into HR and they cut his pay 5 percent, and he didn’t even say anything,” Brock said. “This is a dangerous job, and for the first time, he felt like no one really knew or cared about what he did. He signed a card.”

Fourth District Lead Organizer Dale McCray visited the home of a 74-year-old worker who didn’t want anything to do with him. At first,

“But we set to talking and we ended up being there for

near half an hour. It was a real privilege to be there, to listen to him, and make sure he knew we were listening,” McCray said. “He may not be a yes yet, but the conversation went very well.”

It was time for the BGE workers to decide whether to file the cards with the NLRB. When Johnson called for the vote, a roomful of hands went up and cheers began.

BGE WORKERS continued on page 4

More than 100 IBEW organizers from across the country volunteered calling workers, visiting their homes, answering their questions and making some noise at a rally at Exelon’s Baltimore headquarters.



**Victory: More Than 1,400 BGE Workers Join the IBEW continued ...**

Then Bill Riale's booming voice cut through the noise.

"I appreciate all the promises from the company, but I still hear from a few of the younger workers that their supervisor is telling them they won't get scheduled raises, or that guy over there, his supervisor is saying they won't be able to talk to one another once the union is here," he said. "Now we file for this election, it is real, and the company knows we're for real. What I worry about is that we lower our guard and tomorrow they start punching us in the mouth."

President Stephenson stood up and addressed the room. "If anything like that starts, you get in touch with me and I'll be on the phone with the CEO of Exelon as soon as I get off the phone," he said.

After the meeting, Riale said "I'll breathe a lot easier when this is over."

The next day, Johnson and McDermitt brought the 900 signed cards to the Baltimore office of the NLRB.

By early afternoon, the word began to spread. After more than a year's work, the election was set for Jan. 11 and 12, two days so all shifts could vote, with a count the evening of the 12th.

The volunteer IBEW organizers returned home to their families. The campaign went quiet.

## The New Year

After New Year's, the pause ended. More than 80, mostly new, volunteer organizers converged on Baltimore to finish the campaign in strength. They were, among others, local (Baltimore Local 24); regional (Washington, D.C., Locals 26 and 70); from neighboring Virginia (Richmond Local 666) and off airplanes (Los Angeles Local 11, Vacaville Local 1245, Aurora, Ill., Local 19 and Indianapolis Local 481.)

Of the nine service centers, Johnson and the BGE workers were most concerned about three: Rutherford Business Center, known as RBC, Front Street and Spring Gardens. They were the largest and had the most different classifications. Not gas pipeline technicians or overhead line workers or troublemen or truck mechanics but all of them, working out of the same building, but not often together.

"The message isn't different at different locations," Johnson said. "Everybody is worried about the same things: more contractors every day, more policies every day, more uncertainty about job security every day. The difference here is that personal connections aren't as deep, and personal connection between workers is more important than anything else in an organizing campaign: someone you have a past with talking about your futures."

So IBEW volunteers came in especially large numbers to those locations for leafletting and "honk-and-waves," where a line of IBEW organizers bearing signs of support stand outside the service center gates waving and singing.

President Stephenson joined lines



twice. He was present throughout the campaign, at organizer debriefs after a day in the field, at open meetings for BGE workers and even hosting a barbecue for the BGE organizers.

"Those were some of the best days I've had as president," Stephenson said. "This is unions at their purest. Brothers and sisters reaching out and saying that improving your life is in your hands, and we stand here as proof of that. Men, women, black, white and brown, young and old, we are all in this together."

Eleventh District Lead Organizer Mike Knox drove through a snowstorm from Iowa to work on the campaign. He stressed the importance of that diversity.

"They got great folks that work down here, and a lot of them are black and Hispanic workers. And we know that to reach those folks, it helps to have black and Hispanic organizers," Knox said. "This is a lesson we learned too late on some past campaigns, but here, it was part of the planning and it is working to perfection."

Knox spoke with a 26-year BGE worker during a home visit. He had not only voted against the union before, he had volunteered to be a company observer when the votes were counted. This time, however, he was voting yes. Too many good people losing their jobs, too many times he watched as benefits shrank.

"We've been telling him this for years. We said without a contract, the company can change your benefits however they want. Why? Because they can. And we didn't change his mind. The company did," Knox said. "I've been around a lot of campaigns. This feels like a winner."

Three days before the vote, there was another general meeting at Local 24, this time with members from locals that represented workers at nearby Exelon-owned utilities in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Washington, D.C. More than 150 BGE workers filed into the hall.

As one after another spoke, a theme developed. BGE senior management were keeping their word. There were very few closed door meetings, no overt union-busting.



"We had a meeting with [BGE CEO] Calvin Butler, who made an announcement that there will be no union-busting. They will not spend any money trying to keep the IBEW out," said gas pipeline mechanic and volunteer organizer Marvin Austin.

However, many attendees reported that there were lower-level supervisors who did not get the message. Members from Locals 15, 614, 1307 and 1900 representing the other Exelon utilities took more than two dozen questions that started, in one form or another, "My supervisor told me if I vote for the union..."

We won't get a contract for two years and raises will be frozen until then. I won't be able to talk directly to my supervisor without a union rep there. My dues will be \$800 a month. The company won't ever sign a better contract. You will go out on strike. Relations between employers and the company will only get worse."

Riale, the "natural pessimist," was glad the company kept its word, but time was running out. He had collected cards from 100 percent of the workers at his shop in Perry Hall, 70 overhead line mechanics. He could see things were different from years past. But was it enough?

Niland, on the other hand, said the

lack of union-busting from the company had made his pitch to workers still on the fence a lot easier.

"It is hard to argue that things will be hostile when the CEO of Exelon spoke at the IBEW's International Convention in 2011," Niland said. "The evidence is there to see. For people who want to see it."

As the meeting closed, Stephenson stood up.

"I can feel it. I have been around a long time and I got a feeling. The time is right. We are going to pull this off," he said. "I look forward to welcoming you into the Brotherhood soon."

## Voting Day

Jan. 11 arrived and voting began. Over the next two days, nearly every one of the 1,418 eligible voters would cast a ballot.

As the core BGE volunteer organizers got off work Jan. 12, they made their way to the lobby of a downtown Baltimore hotel, a few minutes' walk from the NLRB office. They reported back what they had heard. Straw polls — really just the BGE organizers asking work crews if they voted and how — were passed around like good luck charms.

We're doing better than we thought at RBC and Cockeysville. Howard County

*The members of the BGE volunteer organizing committee and organizers in the lobby of the NLRB building just after the vote; International Vice President Kenneth Cooper signing the final tally.*

is holding strong.

But none of it mattered but the count, scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m., and they knew it.

"I'm nervous. I didn't sleep at all last night," Kelly said before adding hopefully, "But that is just my nature. I feel good. I feel good."

A dozen people in BGE work blues including Ferstermann, Niland, Riale, Gomez, Austin and Kelly walked over with Cooper, Johnson and McDermitt. They were joined by IBEW lawyers in the beige conference room to watch the vote. As the boxes of ballots arrived, more BGE volunteer organizers arrived as their shifts ended and they made it through traffic.

Two decades of nerves filled the room as the tally began. The boxes were opened and hundreds of ballots were piled on four tables. At every table were two NLRB agents, a witness for the company and a witness for the union.

The silence in the crowded room was broken only by the NLRB agents quietly announcing the decision of each ballot as they held it up to the witnesses: yes for the union, no for the status quo. Some tried to figure out which way it was going with every "yes" or "no" announced.

"We're winning two-to-one at that table," said Kelly. "Can anyone hear the back tables?"

The tension held for three hours, until the final tally was announced. It was close, about 60/40, but all they needed was one more vote than the company and they got that. And more.

"We did it! Finally, we did it," Kelly yelled to no one and everyone.

After the initial elation, the members of the VOC poured out of the NLRB office into the building's lobby and stopped to take a picture, the very first of the founding members of Baltimore Local 410. ■

# ‘Cautiously Optimistic’ IBEW Leaders See Reasons to Like Proposed FairPoint Sale

**F**airPoint’s purchase of Verizon’s landline business in northern New England eight years ago was beset by problems from the beginning.

That’s why IBEW leaders think FairPoint’s proposed sale to Consolidated Communications — which has been in the telephone business for more than a century — is potentially good news.

“We want a company to come in here and run the business and provide good telephone and broadband service,” said Augusta, Maine, Local 2327 Business Manager Peter J. McLaughlin, who is chairman of a three-state council that includes Manchester, N.H., Local 2320 and Montpelier, Vt., Local 2326.

“Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are very rural states,” McLaughlin said. “Our connection to outside states is broadband in a lot of places. Our businesses up here really need that.”

Consolidated announced on Dec. 5 it had purchased FairPoint for \$1.5 billion pending regulatory approval, which is expected by mid-2017. The majority of IBEW members employed by FairPoint are based in northern New England. Others are in New York, Ohio, Virginia, Missouri, Washington and Oregon.

“I think a new perspective and a fresh set of eyes are a good opportunity,” Broadcasting and Telecommunications Department Director Martha Pultar said. “We’re cautiously optimistic this will end up being a good thing.”

North Carolina-based FairPoint completed its \$2.3 billion purchase of Verizon’s landlines in 2008. It filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy less than two years later and didn’t emerge from it until 2011. It later sued Verizon for \$2 billion, alleging it lured it into the purchase that led to the bankruptcy. (The case was settled for \$95 million in 2014.)

The impact on workers was felt in late 2014, when a four-month strike involving 1,700 northern New England employees who were IBEW and Communications Workers of America members began. That ended in February 2015 and about 220 employees were laid off in the summer of that year.

Things haven’t been much better recently. The Maine Public Utilities Commission is considering a \$500,000 fine against FairPoint for failure to meet commitments to landline customers. The company laid off about 110 employees in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire just before Christmas, despite a plea from Vermont senator and former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. FairPoint had about 4,000 employees at the time of the purchase from Verizon. Now, it stands at 2,500.

Pultar noted the IBEW was opposed to the FairPoint purchase of the Verizon landlines from the start.

“We were fighting the sale because we knew they didn’t have the ability to run the business,” she said. “We thought it would be about three years [until the



Members of Augusta, Maine, Local 2327, walk in the Portland, Maine, St. Patrick’s Day Parade in 2015. They and members of other IBEW New England locals had a tumultuous run dealing with FairPoint.

bankruptcy]. Instead, it was 18 months.”

Consolidated is based in Mattoon, Ill., and opened for business in 1894 as the Mattoon Telephone Company. It currently has operations in 11 states. It will more than double in size from 1,800 to

4,400 employees after the sale’s approval, company officials said. The size of its fiber optic network will increase from 14,000 to 35,000 miles.

IBEW leaders are encouraged the network will be managed by people with

firsthand knowledge of telecommunications, which wasn’t the case with FairPoint’s private equity owners.

“They have a lot of homegrown senior management who are telephone people,” McLaughlin said. “The head of human

resources seemed to have a working knowledge of the telephone business when I spoke with him. I was glad to hear that.”

That wasn’t necessarily the case with FairPoint, especially after hedge fund Maglan Capital gained equity during the 2009 bankruptcy proceedings as part of its loan-to-own deal with the company. Maglan called for four FairPoint directors to resign earlier this year and for the company to sell itself.

“Once the [2009] deal was made, the hedge funds took over,” McLaughlin said.

Northern New England has an educated consumer base in search of a reliable telecommunications company with a commitment to superior customer service, McLaughlin said.

“There is so much room for growth in these three states,” he said. “Someone that comes in here and does a good job has a real opportunity.”

McLaughlin noted that IBEW members usually are the ones who deal with public complaints about FairPoint’s poor service — whether it’s a technician visiting a home or a customer service employee answering a call. They want a company with a commitment to quality, he said.

“We live here,” he said. “Our friends and neighbors and family live here, too. They know we’re the telephone guys. When it gets messed up, they knock on our doors and ask why we can’t get service.” ■

## Congressional Republicans Introduce National Right-to-Work Law

**E**mboldened by the frenzied first days of single-party control of the federal government, Republicans in Congress took aim on Feb. 1 at a longtime target — working people.

Reps. Steve King of Iowa and Joe Wilson of South Carolina introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to enact a national right-to-work law, legislation aimed at destroying unions that would likely lower wages across the county.

The laws, already in force in 28 states, prohibit union security agreements, which require workers to contribute to the costs of collective bargaining and legal representation provided by the local on their behalf. Axing dues requirements leads to freeloading, union leaders say.

“Imagine you’re a member of a hunting club, and somebody passes a law tomorrow saying I can walk into your club and use your facilities, drink your beer, shoot all the deer I want, but you can’t charge me a dime in membership fees,” said Fourth District International Representative Neil Gray. “You wouldn’t like that very much, would you? Well, right-to-work works the same way.”

In right-to-work states, workers at union-represented shops can opt out of dues payments, unfairly putting the burden for representation costs on their co-workers while still reaping all of the benefits of belonging to a union.

“The IBEW and other unions are required by law to go to bat for every single worker in a bargaining unit,” Gray said. Whether it’s negotiating a contract or sending staff and lawyers to represent an employee if they’re unfairly disciplined or fired, union dues are the only way to ensure those services are available.

**“The real aim of right-to-work is to deplete your local’s treasury to the point it can’t represent you effectively.”**

— Dan Gardner, an international representative in the Political and Legislative Dept.

“The real aim of right-to-work is to deplete your local’s treasury to the point it can’t represent you effectively,” said Dan Gardner, an international representative in the Political and Legislative Department. “That changes the balance of power in negotiations with an employer, and it results in you losing money.”

Studies show that working people — union and nonunion — in right-to-work states earn 12 percent less than workers

in neighboring states because unions raise the baseline for everyone. That’s more than \$6,000 dollars less per year on average.

Moreover, weakening unions tips the scales of power in favor of big corporations, which means laws mandating basic workplace safety protections and fair wages are often among the first things to go out the window.

King has also introduced a bill with Sen. Mike Lee of Utah calling for the full repeal of Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements for all federally-funded projects. That could mean huge pay cuts for union construction members on highways, hospitals, schools and more.

“These Republican politicians talk a lot about states’ rights, but that only applies when they’re out of power,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “Now that they’re in charge, they’re happy to trample on states that understand the power for working people to join together and collectively bargain is a huge benefit to the economy. We’re going to do everything we can to stop these attacks coming after your paychecks.”

Find your representatives in Congress at [www.whoismyrepresentative.com](http://www.whoismyrepresentative.com) and ask them to fight against right-to-work and Davis-Bacon attacks in Washington. ■

# NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

## Leadership, Determined Workers Lead to Vancouver Organizing Win Over 'Fake' Union

**L**eif Andersen heard fellow workers on a jobsite at the BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver last spring talk about their union failing to listen to their concerns and continually siding with management.

Others said safety standards were lax. Some questioned why other men and women working in the trades had higher salaries.

Despite being new on the job for Trotter & Morton, a leading construction company in western Canada, Andersen decided to investigate and made a call to William Maarsman, lead organizer for Vancouver Local 213.

"I started asking some really difficult questions of the CWU rep," said Andersen, referring to the Canada West Construction Union — which is not as well-known but similar to the Christian Labour Association of Canada, which critics charge is a trade union in name only because it often negotiates contracts favorable to management. Canadian labour activists often call them "fake unions."

"He just kept talking in circles," Andersen continued. "He couldn't give me answers on what we're doing with this union."

Less than a year later, Andersen's former co-workers voted 217-64 for representation from Vancouver Local 213, giving them a strong, respected advocate and adding more than 300 men and women to the IBEW.

"Apparently, it's a really big deal," Maarsman said, "because I've been getting calls from all over the country about it."

Maarsman and Andersen — with considerable help from Trotter & Morton employees and pipefitters Local 170 — turned out to be a perfect combination for the organizing effort, which culminated with the vote in early January.

"We had a young guy who is not scared to go out and organize and talk to people," Business Manager Adam Van Steinburg said of Andersen. "And we had a veteran organizer who could show him the ropes and lay the groundwork for him."

Maarsman, 65, is a longtime 213 official and organizer. He figured Trotter & Morton employees would be ripe for an organizing drive when they realized the poor representation they were receiving from Canada West.

But he needed someone with contacts among the workers. That turned out to be Andersen, 32, who had been a member of Kamloops, British Columbia, Local 993 before returning to his hometown of Vancouver. He was out of work, so he took the Trotter & Morton job.

He was let go at the end of his 90-day probationary period, which Andersen suspected was because Canada West had identified him as a trouble-

maker to company officials.

After leaving the job, he stayed in touch with five former co-workers who shared his concerns and told them about the benefits of IBEW representation. He reached out to Local 213 and eventually was hired as a full-time organizer in November.

"He continually showed me he could talk to people and deliver the message," Van Steinburg said. "He wasn't afraid to put into practice what William told him. He carried that message for months."

Andersen's work earlier in the year was paying off. He and Trotter & Morton employees quickly collected cards from 70 percent of the eligible employees requesting a vote for IBEW certification.

They were ready when Canada West officials started bad-mouthing the IBEW. Maarsman and Van Steinburg showed that Local 213 members were working more hours and receiving better pay and benefits. They also touted Local 213's training center, which currently has about 720 apprentices, Van Steinburg said.

"I chose not to enter into a media war with them, which turned out to be good strategy," Maarsman said. "CWU was just ticking off their own members."

In the end, the vote wasn't close and it bumped up Local 213 to about 5,100 members, Van Steinburg said.

"Credit for this decision goes to the employees at Trotter & Morton," Maars-

man said. "They had a clear vision of what they wanted and they organized to make it happen."

The organized labour movement remains volatile in British Columbia, where some unions are pushing for the defeat of Premier Christy Clark's Liberal government. Van Steinburg said getting a big organizing win in that climate made it a little more special.

"We have a nasty kind of anti-union government in place," he said. "I've always known we're the right choice for electrical workers and utility workers in the province. This just proves that again. When you focus your efforts on engaging and informing people, it pays off."

Andersen said he looks forward to Local 213 building a positive working relationship with the company. He found himself a new career as an organizer. He said his job satisfaction comes from helping workers stand up to a group that failed to represent them.

"It was extremely rewarding to see the CWU kept accountable for a lack of action," he said. "It's a union's role to keep the company in check. Those checks and balances are absolutely essential to keep a good relationship between the company and its employees. To see that further enhanced in the labour movement is very rewarding. But for me as an individual, I was just doing my job." ■

## Un leadership et des travailleurs déterminés mènent à une victoire syndicale contre des « faux » syndicats à Vancouver

**A**u printemps dernier, Leif Andersen a entendu ses collègues sur le chantier du *BC Children's Hospital* à Vancouver parler des lacunes de leur syndicat et que l'organisation avait une attitude propatronale.

D'autres ont dit que les normes en matière de sécurité étaient laxistes. Certains se demandaient pourquoi les autres hommes et femmes occupant un emploi dans les métiers gagnaient un salaire plus élevé.

Bien qu'il est un nouvel employé chez *Trotter & Morton*, une des entreprises de constructions les plus importantes dans l'Ouest canadien, Andersen a tout de même décidé de mener une enquête.

« J'ai commencé à poser des questions vraiment difficiles au représentant du CWU, » dit Andersen — en se référant au *Canada West Construction Union* — pas aussi connu, mais similaire à l'Association travailliste chrétienne du Canada (Christian Labour Association of Canada), d'où les critiques accusent cette organisation syndicale d'exister que de nom puisqu'elle négocie souvent des ententes en faveur de la direction avec des salaires et des avantages sociaux à la baisse pour ses membres. Les militants syndicaux canadiens souvent les qualifient de « faux syndicats ».

« La conversation ne faisait que tourner en rond », a poursuivi Andersen. « Il ne pouvait même pas me donner des réponses sur ce que nous allons faire avec ce syndicat. »

Moins d'un an plus tard, les anciens collègues de travail d'Andersen ont voté

217-64 pour la représentation de la section locale 213 située à Vancouver, en leur donnant une défense forte et respectable en ajoutant plus de 300 hommes et femmes au sein de la FIOE.

« À ce qui paraît, c'était toute une histoire, » dit le directeur du développement des affaires William Maarsman de la section locale 213, « puisque je n'arrêtais pas de recevoir des appels des quatre coins du pays à ce sujet. »

Avec une aide considérable des employés de *Trotter & Morton*, l'association de Maarsman et Andersen s'est avéré être une combinaison parfaite en termes d'effort de syndiquer qui s'est terminée avec le vote au début janvier.

« Nous avons un jeune homme qui n'a pas peur de sortir, de vouloir syndiquer et de parler aux gens, » mentionne le gérant d'affaires Adam Van Steinberg à Andersen. « Et nous avons un organisateur chevronné qui pourrait lui montrer comment faire et de préparer le terrain pour lui. »

Maarsman âgé de 65 ans est un fonctionnaire et un organisateur du local 213 depuis longtemps. Il a pensé que les employés de *Trotter & Morton* seront prêts pour une campagne de syndicalisation une fois qu'ils vont réaliser que la représentation de *Canada West* ne répondait pas à leurs besoins syndicaux.

Il avait cependant besoin d'un contact parmi les travailleurs; qui s'est avéré être Andersen, âgé de 32 ans étant un membre du Local 993 situé à Kamloops en Colombie-Britannique avant de retourner dans sa vie natale de Vancouver. Il était sans emploi,

alors il a accepté le poste à l'hôpital des enfants chez *Trotter & Morton*.

Il a été congédié à la fin de sa période probatoire de 90 jours, à laquelle Andersen s'en attendait puisque *Canada West* l'avait étiqueté comme fauteur de trouble selon les fonctionnaires de l'entreprise.

Après avoir quitté le travail, il est resté en contact avec cinq anciens collègues qui partageaient ses préoccupations et il leur a parlé des avantages de la représentation de la FIOE. Il a rejoint la section locale 213 et il a éventuellement été embauché pour le poste d'organisateur à temps plein en novembre.

« Il m'a continuellement montré qu'il pouvait parler aux gens et passer le message, » dit Van Steinberg. « Il n'avait pas peur de mettre en œuvre ce que William lui avait dit. Il a communiqué le message pendant des mois. »

Le travail d'Andersen plus tôt dans l'année a porté fruit. Lui et les employés de chez *Trotter & Morton* ont rapidement recueilli des cartes à 70 pour cent des employés admissibles demandant un vote pour la certification de la FIOE.

Ils étaient prêts à défendre la FIOE lorsque les représentants de *Canada West* dénigraient leur réputation. Maarsman et Van Steinberg ont montré que les membres du local 213 travaillaient plus d'heures et gagnaient un meilleur salaire et avaient de meilleurs avantages sociaux. Ils ont également vanté le centre de formation de la section locale 213, qui compte actuellement environ 720 apprentis, dit Van Steinberg.

« J'ai choisi de ne pas entrer dans une guerre médiatique avec eux, ce qui s'est avéré être une bonne stratégie, » a déclaré Maarsman. « CWU ne faisait que décevoir ses propres membres. »

À la fin, le vote n'était pas à terme et l'adhésion du local 213 a augmenté à environ 5100 membres, dit Van Steinberg.

Le mérite de cette décision vient aux employés de *Trotter & Morton*, dit Maarsman. « Ils avaient une vision claire de ce qu'ils voulaient et ils se sont organisés pour y arriver. »

Le mouvement syndical demeure instable en Colombie-Britannique, d'où certains syndicats poussent pour la défaite de la première ministre Christy Clark du gouvernement libéral. Van Steinburg dit que d'avoir gagné une grande campagne de syndicalisation dans un contexte pareil, l'a rendu un peu plus spécial.

« Nous avons un gouvernement antisyndical mal intentionné en place, » dit-il. « J'ai toujours su que nous étions le bon choix en terme de syndicat pour les travailleurs dans le domaine de l'électricité et du public dans la province. Ceci le prouve encore une fois. Lorsque tu concentres tes efforts sur l'engagement et informer les gens, cela rapporte. »

Ceci fait déjà quelques mois pour Andersen. Il dit qu'il ne tient aucune rancune à l'égard de *Trotter & Morton* de l'avoir congédié et attend avec intérêt à ce que la section locale 213 bâtisse une relation de travail positive avec l'entreprise. Il s'est trouvé une nouvelle carrière en tant qu'organisateur. ■

# CIRCUITS

## IBEW Electrician/ Congressman Appointed to Labor-Focused Committee

New Jersey Rep. Donald Norcross — the only active member of the IBEW in Congress — has been appointed to serve on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The Education and Workforce Committee oversees all government programs related to education as well as health care, job training and retirement security for workers. It was called the Education and Labor Committee until the Republican majority renamed it in 2010.

Norcross, who was elected to his second term in Congress last fall, will be the only union member to serve on the committee.

“It’s an honor to represent New Jersey’s working families on the Education and Workforce Committee. This is a continuation of my lifelong fight to defend hard-working men and women and make certain that every person has the dignity of a good paying job,” Norcross said in a statement.

A journeyman inside wireman and member of Folsom, N.J., Local 351, Norcross worked with the tools for a decade on commercial and industrial construction projects across the state. When Local 351 was formed by the amalgamation of the three south New Jersey locals in 2001, then-business manager Eddie Gant hired Norcross to be the local’s business agent on the west side of the state.

“There are plenty of business owners in Congress, alongside all the bankers and the lawyers, but there are precious few who worked with their hands and their minds for a living. It is incredibly important that we have one of our brothers in the room when laws are being made,” said IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson.

Norcross was elected to Congress in a 2014 special election after serving four years as a state senator. In his first term in Washington, Norcross was appointed to the Democratic House leadership, introduced legislation to incrementally raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, fought the Trans-Pacific Partnership and formed the bipartisan Building Trades Caucus. ■



*New Jersey Rep. Donald Norcross, a journeyman inside wireman from Folsom Local 351, has been appointed to the House Education and Workforce Committee, which has jurisdiction over federal agencies that affect hundreds of millions of American workers.*

## Millennial Minority Workers Look Forward While Giving Back

The young members of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus are growing their ranks and the next generation of the IBEW, and that includes a commitment to service.

On Jan. 12, these millennial members joined in the annual EWMC conference’s day of service, held each year around Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day to honor the civil rights leader’s legacy. At sites around southern California, some volunteered their skills doing repairs on veterans’ homes while others went to local food banks where they filled almost 1,600 boxes, each with enough food to feed someone for a month.

“It’s a great way to get involved in the community and it paints unions in a better light,” said Alton Wilkerson, president of the young members group of the EWMC. “It also builds camaraderie among members. I’ve met people from across the country.”

Meeting on the first day of the conference, the young members also attended workshops on educating members about the IBEW and encouraging involvement in their unions. “It’s about empowering young workers, especially those who may not see themselves as leaders,” Wilkerson said.

The group’s goals for the year include increasing the number of members and their activism, said Wilkerson, and instituting a challenge among chapter heads for recruitment, offering some friendly competition. They also plan to implement a mentoring program for seasoned leaders to provide advice to newer members.

“These people will stay in contact on a consistent basis,” Wilkerson said. “They’ll be there for guidance and whatever the members need to be successful.”

A member of Los Angeles Local 11, Wilkerson was appointed EWMC RENEW president at the conference. As president, he also serves on the RENEW/NextGen Advisory Committee. RENEW/NextGen is IBEW’s initiative focused on young members.

As members of the EWMC, the young members group shares a commitment to equal rights and opportunities for minority workers.

Wilkerson says his group is committed to doing its part, which entails fostering new leaders and increasing the representation of people of color in IBEW leadership.

“We’re building the next generation,” Wilkerson said. “We’re providing the tools that let them know they have a voice.” ■

*Apprentice members of Los Angeles Local 11, Jeffery Henderson, left, and Errol Cutley speak at the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus conference.*



# TRANSITIONS

## RETIRED

### Alan Freeman



After 34 years in the IBEW, Membership Development International Representative Alan Freeman has retired, effective Feb. 15.

**B**rother

Freeman is a second generation inside wireman from Mansfield, Ohio, Local 688.

“I always knew I wanted to be an electrician,” Freeman said. “I was the first-born son, so there was following my dad [Truman Freeman], but I was also just fascinated by electricity. I loved it.”

Freeman applied for the apprenticeship on his 18th birthday, before he had graduated from high school, and was accepted a year later. He topped out in 1986, taking six years for his apprenticeship because work was slow. Freeman’s career spanned the days when the industrial Midwest was transforming into the Rust Belt.

“I traveled my whole career, from Hartford, Conn., to Denver and everywhere in between,” he said.

In 1993, Freeman was appointed to the organizing committee by then-Business Manager Kenneth Cooper, now the Fourth District international vice president. As Freeman recalls it, Local 688 was historically a construction local, but by the mid-’90s, telecom members outnumbered wiremen nearly 3 to 1.

“I asked whether we should probably focus more attention on organizing and pretty soon I found out it was my job,” he said.

Freeman became a part-time organizer focused primarily on construction while still working with the tools and taking on leadership roles at the local. In 1995, he was elected to the local executive board and as vice president and a year later he was elected president.

Cooper said Freeman never set out to be an organizer.

“Sometimes you choose your career, sometimes it chooses you. Alan was the latter,” Cooper said. “He was good at organizing because of his dedication and belief that this made people’s lives better.”

In 1996, the employees of Neer Manufacturing, a local conduit fitting plant, came to Local 688 for help after the local owners had sold out to a national company.

The challenge was that no one at the local could remember the last time they had run a traditional, NLRB election organizing campaign.

“It was trial and error. We were young enough and dumb enough to give it a whirl,” Cooper said. “And it worked out.”

Freeman said the night, a year after the election victory, when the workers signed their first contract was one of the highlights of his career.

After the success of the Neer campaign, Local 688 was asked to send someone for more organizing training. Cooper sent Freeman. He volunteered to work on organizing campaigns around the country — Baltimore Gas & Electric, Boeing and others — still working with tools between campaigns.

In 1999, then-International President J.J. Barry asked Freeman to become the first international representative in the newly formed Special Projects Department, which would later become the professional and industrial wing of the Mem-

bership Development Department.

It was Freeman’s first full-time office job and he said he remembers standing in front of a mirror, after he moved to Washington, D.C., trying to teach himself how to tie a tie.

Freeman helped shape the Membership Development Department, from the content of the annual conference to developing the curriculum for organizing training courses.

Freeman says he will kick off retirement by refurbishing the 1951 Ford pickup he has owned for nearly 50 years.

“It starts, but won’t run,” Freeman said.

Freeman and his wife are looking forward to getting back to freshwater fishing after a decade-and-a-half hunting striped bass in the brackish waters of the Chesapeake Bay. He also bought more than 12 acres of land near his home in Ohio to get back to hunting, which he hasn’t done since moving to D.C.

“Too many people there,” Freeman said.

The IBEW officers, staff and members wish him a long, healthy and adventurous retirement. ■

# IBEW MERCHANDISE



### Khaki Hat \$12.50

Khaki brushed cotton baseball style hat with black embroidered IBEW letters and curved bill.

### Hooded Blue Sweatshirt \$22.00

50% cotton / 50% polyester hooded sweatshirt featuring IBEW initials silk-screened on left chest.

### Infant Onesie, Blue \$7.00

100% cotton onesie with IBEW initials and “little resistor” screen printed in blue.



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

[www.ibewmerchandise.com](http://www.ibewmerchandise.com)

# LOCAL LINES

## Tribute for IBEW Service



Former Local 1 president Tom George Sr.

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO — Special thanks and congratulations to Thomas E. “Tom” George Sr., who proudly served as IBEW Local 1 president since 1998. Bro. George, who resigned on Dec. 23, 2016, has been a journeyman wireman for 50+ years. He dedicated his career to improving and empowering labor locally and statewide, including four terms (1998 - 2006) as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives, 74th District. When asked what he considers his greatest achievement, Bro. Tom George happily exclaimed, “My kids!” Tom has a daughter, Gena Gober. His three sons — Anthony, Timothy and Tom Jr. — are Local 1 journeyman wiremen. Tom Jr.’s wife, Andi, and Gena’s husband, Matt, are also Local 1 journeyman wiremen.

Congratulations to newly appointed Local 1 officers: Pres. Don Bresnan Jr.; Vice Pres. Frank Valleroy Jr.; Rec. Sec. Chris Clermont; Executive Board members Steven Dussold and James Reinheimer Jr.; Examining Board members Tom George Jr., Joshua Peniston and Sylvester Taylor; and Bus. Rep. Mike Newton.

We mourn the loss of the following members: Kevin Umbach, James Hartman, John Peek, Kenneth Messersmith, Joseph Newman, Paul Siebel, Richard Gibbons, Earl Shannon, Dolores Schrum, Alphonse Kochner, John Stempf, Thomas Hartman, George Pappas, Michael Homewood, Martin Sanzottera, Gilbert Huesgen Jr., Gordon Gregory, Robert Hoffmeister, William Bereitschaft, James Aubuchon, Donald Wilmas, Charles Claypool, Terry Athmer, Stanley Rimkus Jr., Harry Osborn, Frank Phillips, Richard Johnson, John Wilga, Arthur Schumm, Milton McSalley, Donald Auer, Louis Crnko, Dennis Mahoney and Theodore Plack.

Jan Bresnan, P.S.

## Illinois Nuclear Plants Hiring — Energy Jobs Bill Enacted

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Greetings from Local 15. Through the hard work of Illinois AFL-CIO Pres. Michael Carrigan, IBEW Local 15 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dean Apple and Vice Pres. Terry McGoldrick along with a coalition of others, Senate Bill 2814 has passed in Illinois. This legislation was worked on for over two years. The Future Energy Jobs Bill will allow Quad Cities (Local 15) and Clinton (Local 51) Nuclear Stations to remain in operation for up to 10 years by allowing payments for zero carbon emissions. This will save approximately 4,200 jobs and \$1.2 billion in econom-

ic activity for Illinois. The bill was passed on Dec. 1, 2016, and signed into law on Dec. 7. This bill was strongly supported by organized labor. Exelon Generating and ComEd both thanked the IBEW for its help and support in getting this legislation passed.

[Editor’s Note: To read more, see news story “Now Hiring: New Life and New Jobs at Illinois Nuclear Plants” in the February 2017 issue of *The Electrical Worker*, Pg. 7, and posted on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles).]

There is a continued heavy work load for Local 15 members related to the Exelon Infrastructure Modernization Act (EIMA). This work is also related to legislation passed in Illinois (allowing ComEd to invest in the transmission and distribution system, creating jobs while modernizing the system). The current state of Local 15 is healthy.

Sam Studer, B.R./P.S.

## Utility Sector Negotiations

L.U. 19 (u), AURORA, IL — At the time of this writing, Local 19 had started its negotiations with Southern Company, as the current contract was scheduled to expire Feb. 28, 2017. At press time, with negotiations underway, we were looking for a five-year contract and improvements in wages, insurance, pensions, and contract language for our members.

Also, on Jan. 3 this year, Local 19 sent three of our members, Victor Pena, Rachel Lee and Brandonn Ellis, to help support IBEW members employed by Baltimore Gas & Electric in their organizing campaign. We wish the BG&E workers the best of luck and hope to soon welcome them as IBEW brothers and sisters. [Editor’s Note: After an 18-month organizing drive, a majority of Baltimore Gas & Electric’s 1,418 gas and transmission-distribution workers voted to join the IBEW on Jan 12. To read more, see news article “Victory: More Than 1,400 BG&E Workers Join the IBEW,” in this issue of *The Electrical Worker* and posted online at [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles).]

For more Local 19 news and information, please visit us online at [www.IBEW19.org](http://www.IBEW19.org) and Facebook.

Natalia Guzman, Exec. Board

## Gratitude to Members — The Power of Solidarity

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — We thank all IBEW sisters and brothers who donated to our Member Assistance Fund. Your support is overwhelming and exemplifies the power of our Brotherhood.

Just after Thanksgiving, one of our brothers who works for AT&T was robbed and shot. After the shock wore off, Local 21 members began taking collections



Local 21 volunteers stepped up to provide community service at Mercy Home in Chicago during 2016 holiday season.

in their work locations and asked how they could help. On [ibew21.org](http://ibew21.org) we used our online donation “store” as a portal to collect donations. Using Action Network we sent an email blast to our 5,700 subscribers with an update and offered to accept donations. Within minutes more members donated.

Also amazing were the immediate messages we received from IBEW’s newest sisters and brothers working at AT&T DirecTV. These members from other locals inquired how they could help their co-worker and brother. One of them said: “We’re all in this together and when one part of the body hurts, it hurts us all.”

News of our brother’s tragedy spread to all branches of the IBEW. Ninth District Int. Rep. Rick Hite received our email and asked his folks to please consider assisting our brother and to pray for him.

Later we received a call from Seattle Local 77 asking how they could help. Arizona Local 769 also mailed in a donation. Our brother was still being thought of by members from across the country.

Happily, our brother is getting better every day. Local 21 and our brother thank all of you for your support and prayers. Your actions show the true meaning of solidarity. We are proud to call you our sisters and brothers.

Bob Przybylinski, R.S.

repealing prevailing wage on state-funded projects and passing legislation that would make Kentucky the next “right-to-work” state. [Editor’s Note: On Jan. 7, the Kentucky Senate passed so-called “right-to-work” legislation and approved a bill repealing the state prevailing wage law. To read more, see news article “Kentucky Republicans Set to Gut Union Rights,” posted on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles).]

Every election at every level matters. School board officials become local councilmen, who become county legislators, who become state legislators, who become U.S. representatives. We must elect individuals at all levels of government who act in the best interest of working people. Pay attention, be involved, become an activist, run for office.

Thank you to all who purchased gifts for St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy. We “adopted” 18 families last year. All of the people we help are working and struggling to make it, but need a little extra help from us. Thank you for proving how lucky we are to have this brotherhood and for stepping up to give back to those who are less fortunate.

Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.

## IBEW Service to Community

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY — Congratulations to Pres. Donald Trump. Only time will tell us how the middle class and the working men and women of our country will fare. I can only hope he becomes a great president for all. Although the election did not go as we wanted, we will never give up the fight for the working people of our nation.

As I write this, our sisters and brothers in Kentucky are in a fight to stop their state legislators from

## CNY Labor Council Presents Distinguished Service Awards

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY — The Central New York Labor Council, AFL-CIO, held its ninth annual Samuel Gompers Distinguished Service Awards Dinner on Oct. 21 last year at the Teugega Country Club in Rome, NY.

Honored from IBEW Local 43 were Membership Development Coordinator Alan Marzullo and Membership Development Reps. Pat Harrington and Kevin Crawford, recognized for their tireless work in organizing.

## Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

## Trade Classifications

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

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





IBEW Local 43's first-year apprentices deliver 1,000 pounds of food to Syracuse Rescue Mission to help the less fortunate during the holiday season.

The entire second-year apprenticeship class was honored as well for their continual charitable work throughout their careers. The awards were presented by IBEW Local 43 Pres. Pat Costello, who also serves as president of the Labor Council.

In December, the first-year apprenticeship class delivered over 1,000 pounds of food to the Syracuse Rescue Mission's food service center, which provides three free meals a day every day of the year for anyone in need.

Local 43 apprentices also donated \$1,000 worth of toys to area hospital pediatric units to brighten the holiday for children confined to the hospital. The funds used to purchase these donations were raised through the JATC's Cans for Kids bottle and can drives, as well as through bowling and card tournaments organized by the apprentices.

Congratulations to all on a great job!

Gene Townsend, P.S.

## Illinois Nuclear Plants & 'Future Energy Jobs Bill'

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Local 51 worked hard for passage of Illinois Senate Bill 2814, which was signed into law Dec. 7, 2016, keeping Clinton Power Station and Quad Cities nuclear plants online and producing clean energy. For Clinton, this means job security for our 275 members there and an uninterrupted flow of tax revenue to entities such as the Clinton school district. Altogether, this bill preserves a total of 4,200 jobs in Illinois. Many of our members helped get this bill passed by writing, emailing and/or calling state legislators.

[Editor's Note: To read more, see news article "Now Hiring: New Life and New Jobs at Illinois Nuclear Plants," in the February 2017 issue of *The Electrical Worker*, Pg. 7, and posted online at IBEW website [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles).]

For the spring legislative session, we will continue working to save jobs in our downstate generating plants. We did get verbal commitments to work on additional legislation for downstate generation from various legislative sources. Once again we will need our membership's help.

Former Local 51 business manager Matthew J. Moore was recently appointed as a Sixth District international representative. Matt has served our local since 1998 and also previously was a local union business representative and assistant business manager. His dedicated leadership allowed our membership to grow and prosper. He will represent the IBEW well in his new role. Former assistant business manager John Johnson was appointed Local 51 business manager to fill the unexpired term. We wish Matt and John success in their new endeavors.

Congratulations to the 14 members at Frontier Communications who accepted an early retirement in December. Thank you to all for your IBEW service and best wishes for a happy retirement.

Our construction transmission work should

again be strong in 2017 and distribution/substation work should remain steady. Work safe and attend your union meetings.

Karlene Knisley, B.R.

## Food Drive a Success; 'Employee Appreciation Day'

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO — Bus. Rep. Dexter Drerup reported that Thomas Hill Energy Center held its first ever employee appreciation day on Nov. 1, 2016, and the New Madrid Power Plant recently held a food drive for some of the area food pantries. In all they collected 5,080 items, with the maintenance department collecting 2,370 of those items alone!

Bro. Drerup would like to personally thank all the members for their generosity! Great work, brothers and sisters!

James Burks, V.P.

## Lackawanna Energy Center

L.U. 81 (j), SCRANTON, PA — Lackawanna Energy Center is a three-unit single shaft combined-cycle power generation station currently under construction in Jessup, PA, just north of Scranton. It is owned by Invenergy and reportedly will be the single largest natural gas-fired power plant in North America. Its unique design features some of the newest and most efficient technology. IBEW Local 81 has numerous members working on site, employed by Kiewit Power; Roger Holmes is the site's electrical general superintendent. As of this writing, IBEW members have installed 22,900 feet of 4-inch PVC duct bank. Our members also participated in various borough and county planning, zoning, monthly and special meetings throughout the past two years before the power plant was approved.

The approximate scope of work is roughly \$755 million (not including the primary equipment) and the nominal output will be 1,500 megawatts upon the power plant's completion in 2018. Major quantities of electrical work include 513 miles of electrical cabling



IBEW Local 81 members on the construction site of the Lackawanna Energy Center.

and 53 miles of various piping. The three-year project will peak at 140 staff and 800 craft workers, which will include 100 to 125 of our members, and take approximately 2.2 million man-hours to complete.

Michael Brust, P.S.

## FAA Award Goes to IBEW Electricians at Massport

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA — Local 103 electricians employed with the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) were recognized for excellence by the Federal Aviation Administration and Massport Operations. The IBEW electricians were presented with Safety & Security Team Awards for Electrical Department runway-status light system upgrades at Boston Logan International Airport, and for crane repair at Conley Marine Terminal.

Many hours of planning and scheduling went into installing updated equipment, lights, cables and transformers. This project was completed with minimal impact to daily operations, using no outside contractors and was completed in record time with no defects, downtime or injuries. Credit goes to our Local 103 electrical team for a job well done! Kudos for a great job to: Jim Dee, Ralph Visconti, Ted Fullam, Rich Cruise, Matt Clogher, John Nigro, Noel Montesano, Rich Johns, Steve Breslin, Mike Jacobs, Glen Buchanan, Ed Casaletto, Angelo Bonaventura, Joe Clark, Anne Marie Raftery, Chris Bodensieck and Steve Coleman.

Louis J. Antonellis, Pres.

## New Business Manager

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO — Effective Jan. 15, 2017, Bro. Epifanio "Eppie" J. Martinez was appointed business manager/financial secretary to fill the unexpired term of office, due to the appointment of former business manager/financial secretary Sean P. McCarville as an Eighth District international representative.

Bro. Martinez was hired on to the Local 111 staff in January of 2012. He has been a member in good standing since 1998. He worked for Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCO) in various classifications until he completed his apprenticeship as a journeyman lineman. During his time at PSCO, he was very active and participated on various committees, and also served as a steward.

He also served Local 111 as an assistant business manager and as a fully active participant with the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) at the local and national level, as well as with RENEW/Next-Gen.

Additionally, Bro. Martinez has served on the PSCO System Supervisory Joint Apprenticeship Committee; the PSCO Safety Advisory Board; and the PSCO Medical Appeals Board. He participated in: Poudre Valley REA negotiations; San Luis Valley nego-

tiations; PSCO general negotiations; PSCO wage opener negotiations; and PSCO Instrument & Control Technicians negotiations. Bro. Martinez also organized and negotiated on behalf of the PSCO System Operations administrative assistants.

Denny Wallace, P.S.

## Work Picture Improves

L.U. 113 (catv,ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — Greetings, brothers and sisters. As of early 2017, the prospects for work seem to be much better and hopefully we will soon have the majority of the members working, with some traveling members as well. Dynalectric has secured work on two data centers in town. Work has begun on the Children's Hospital north of town, with work on another hospital on the horizon.

Last December, our Christmas party was a huge success, and the children's party was equally successful. Attendees enjoyed the festivities and had a great time. Special thanks to all who donated toys for children at local hospitals, and to Bro. Justin McMahon, who helped distribute the toys to very appreciative kids. It's nice to show the community we are here to help whenever needed.

Mark your calendars for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on March 11. Our goal is to double the number of members and family participating for a huge showing that we are "IBEW Strong"! We will have a barbecue at the hall afterward.

Lastly, safety is paramount. Please be aware of your surroundings at work, so we can continue to come home to our loved ones.

Brian Putnam, P.S.



IBEW Local 113 members donated holiday toys for hospitalized children.

## Stand Up for Working People

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR — Like any year, our local will be preparing for negotiations and working to maintain our standards while too many employers find ways to eliminate the standards that have defined the IBEW for 125 years. All IBEW members must continue our efforts to push for the wages, hours and working conditions, even when we are angry, disappointed, frustrated or scared — because we are the foundation of America's middle class. Our willingness to stand up and push for fairness allows those with no voice to have standards that otherwise

## LOCAL LINES

would not exist. Re-examine the IBEW Oath that you took upon earning your membership into this great union, so we can ensure that our legacy remains for future generations.

Mark your calendar and plan on joining your IBEW family and friends at these 2017 events:

- Casino Night: March 4
- Pacific Northwest Lineman's Rodeo: July 22
- IBEW Local 125 Golf Tournament: July 28
- IBEW Local 125 Softball Tournament: July 29-30

Please note that this year's Bend golf and softball tournaments will be held in July.

*Marcy Grail, A.B.M.*

## Festival of Trees Parade

L.U. 145 (em,i,o,rts,se,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL — Local 145, along with the Quad Cities Chapter NECA, kicked off the winter holiday season with the annual



At Local 145 retirees annual Christmas luncheon are Ray Wells (left) and former business manager Jerry Kavanaugh.

Festival of Trees Parade! Together, Local 145 and the Quad Cities Chapter NECA sponsored and participated in the holiday parade as helium balloon handlers. Unfortunately, due

to high winds on the morning of the parade, no helium balloons were allowed to be inflated or fly. However, we still had an excellent turnout of members and their families braving the cold and windy conditions to walk in the holiday parade.

Our retirees gathered together on Dec. 12, 2016, for their annual Christmas luncheon. That day over 60 retired members, family and friends had a nice get-together.

2016 was a good year for the Local 145 members and the 2017 work outlook for our local is encouraging. We extend our best wishes for a safe and prosperous 2017 to you and your family.

*Dan Larson, P.S.*

## Active Membership is Key

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA — As our local continues to benefit from a good work picture, we have much to look forward to: golf, picnics, service award banquets and ballgames. Check our websites for dates.

Even more important is for us to appreciate everything we enjoy as IBEW members: great wages, family medical care, secure retirement, state-of-the-art training and fair methods of dispute resolution.

Please help build and strengthen our local by

continuing to be the best craftsmen you can be. Take time to teach our newer members and participate in our meetings and activities. While you're at it, sign up for a class yourself at the JATC. Our shared future depends on it!

*Bill Mirand, P.S.*

## Stand in Strength & Unity

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Local 193 retiree Lloyd Winhold received his 70-year service pin at our local's Christmas celebration on Dec. 10. Lloyd retired from the trade in February 1987 after working as a journeyman wireman under the inside agreement for 39 years. He also is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served during World War II in the South Pacific. Congratulations, Lloyd, and thank you for your service.

Happy new year! Our governor is still trying to force his "Rat to Work for Less" agenda on the good folks of Illinois. Blaming everyone but himself, our "Rookie Bookie" has no idea how to pass a budget. The work scene is slow and Illinois needs a budget to get our members back to work. And U.S. Pres. Donald Trump has now been inaugurated. Full assault on working folks and unions is already in play in the White House and in Congress. We must fight the attacks with all our strength and with all the unity we can muster.

Our sympathies go out to the families of recently deceased members Joseph P. Neece and Charles M. Barber. Our brothers will be missed but not forgotten. Charlie Barber was a 68-year member of Local 193. He served as an apprentice instructor, as treasurer of Local 193, and as chairman of the Local 193 Retirees Club.

*Don Hudson, P.S.*



Local 245 presents years of service awards. Standing, from left, are: award recipients John Carman, Jack Schell and Ray Zychowicz. At far right is Bus. Mgr. Larry Tscherne.

## Upcoming Negotiations

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH — Happy new year everyone. Hopefully it has been good to you so far. The new year brings numerous contract negotiations, starting with our TV stations. WTOL - Channel 11 negotiations were up first and should be completed by the time you read this. WNW - Channel 24 is dealing with downsizing, due to technology changes, and the downsizing process is to be completed in March. WTVG - Channel 13 will start negotiations later this quarter. Next up are Bryan Municipal negotiations followed by Hancock-Wood. It looks to be a very busy first quarter.

The outside work picture is pretty slow as of this writing, but it should be picking up by the time you read this and looks good going into spring.

There is an air of uncertainty at the utility, as First Energy is exploring options on the generation side of the corporation.

Local 245 honored three former and current officers for their service to the local. Altogether, the three have a combined total of 131 years of IBEW membership. Honored were: retiree John Carman (former executive board member), with 43 years of IBEW service; retiree Jack Shell (former executive

board member), with 42 years of service; and myself, Ray Zychowicz (current Local 245 president), with 46 years of IBEW service.

Thanks to all for your service. Have a safe and happy spring!

*Ray Zychowicz, P.S.*

## Spirit of Brotherhood

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — Local members traded in their 2016 post-election blues for some well-needed holiday cheer. December began with a visit from Santa himself as he and his helpers took up residence in the union hall and treated members and their families to photos and refreshments and toys for the little ones. This annual tradition is a staple of our organization and a tribute to all those involved in making it a special occasion. After Santa packed up his sleigh and left to continue his mission, the local held its annual Christmas party for members. Brothers and sisters were treated to beef and beverages as well as cigars rolled by hand on-site. Members also brought gently used coats and new socks to benefit those less fortunate than ourselves. In the winter season, a warm coat and socks can make a big difference in the life of a needy recipient.

On the work front, the out-of-work list remains manageable as some local solar projects are steadily calling for workers. These projects are a testament to the staying power of the solar energy industry here in New Jersey.

*Brian Jacoppo, P.S.*

## Words For Our Time

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, human security — as stated in the Declaration of the IBEW. Workers' rights are human rights. What we strive for as a brotherhood are safe working conditions, fair pay and benefits, and security in our retirement. We are not all labor lead-

ers, but we ALL are what makes the labor movement. On March 4, 1801, Thomas Jefferson, in his inaugural address, declared: "Take not from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned." The power in those words rings true today 216 years later. We will keep what we justly earn and will continue to seek fairness for all who labor.

Local 343 congratulates the retirees of 2016: Richard Sandeno, Gary Freeman, David Christensen, Tony Dickey, David Kraft, Raymond "Pete" Weis, Michael Kelly, Douglas Haines and Harold Luhman.

We also remember the passing of several members in 2016: John Williams, Douglas Ovens, Ronald Ginapp, Dennis Doherty, Donald Doheny, Kenneth Whitaker, Donald Lohse, John Guyse and Clarence O'Neil.

Come join your brothers and sisters at the annual awards banquet in Winona on April 22 for a night of food, fun and solidarity.

Support American workers and promote American jobs by buying "Made in USA."

*Tom Small, P.S.*

## CPR Training & Quick Action to Assist

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA — When taking CPR classes, it's common to hope we never are called upon to use the techniques we're being trained for.

On Nov. 16, 2016, a Local 347 member suffered a massive heart attack at the conclusion of a journeyman training class while in the classroom. His misfortune had an element of good fortune in that there were well-trained CPR providers in the classroom.

Bros. Rick Corbin, John Schoolen, Matt Marchese, Derek Sandy and Sister Barb Mentzer stepped forward and started administering CPR, and continued until the Clive, Iowa, Rescue Team arrived some 12 minutes later. The rescue team then used a defibrillator to re-establish a regular heart beat. The heart attack victim later suffered another heart attack at the hospital, but he survived.

These IBEW brothers and sister are to be commended for the immediate action they took at the moment of another brother's need. Also thank you to all the others who helped and cleared the way for the rescue team to enter the building to give needed care to the victim.

This episode speaks to the value of keeping current on our CPR training, and also to the trust we place in the brothers and sisters who surround us.

*Mike Schweiger, P.S.*

## Holiday Children's Party

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ — The local's 2016 Children's Christmas Party was another success with 700 in attendance.

I would like to thank the Christmas committee and all who helped make the festive occasion possible, including: Wayne Bumm, Don Morgan, Steve Dimatteo, "Santa" Jim Ruff, Bill Hosey, Jim Bresh, Joe Trumbetti, Chuck DellaVecchia, Ray Listman, Ed Rieser, Rick Signor, Natalia Fritchman, Lou Jiapello,



Some of those who helped make the Local 351 Children's Christmas Party a great success.

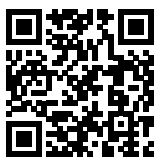
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Kathy D'Alonzo, Conrad Schaffer and Andy Helsel.

*Bill Hosey, Pres.*

## Career of IBEW Service

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA — Local 375 extends deepest gratitude and well wishes to David Reichard, former president who retired Dec. 30, 2016.

Bro. Reichard began his apprenticeship in 1972 and was initiated in July of 1973, following in the footsteps of his father, Carson Reichard. Over the course of 43 years, Dave has remained a steadfast member and leader of the local. Twenty-four years after his initiation, he looked on proudly as his son Steven was also initiated into the IBEW.

During his career, Dave has worked in the field as a journeyman wireman, assistant general foreman, and general foreman. Before moving into a full-time position in the Local 375 office, he was general



*Local 375 former president Dave Reichard.*

foreman at the Conectiv Energy power plant project. It was this transition that allowed Dave to work diligently for the local and for labor as a whole.

Over the years Dave served on numerous committees. Within the local, he also worked tirelessly as an organizer/business representative, as assistant business manager and ultimately as president. In these roles, he has helped shape policy for labor within Lehigh Valley and Pennsylvania.

His commitment to the IBEW and to all of labor has left a positive and lasting impact for generations to come. It is with sincere appreciation that we wish Dave all the best as he begins a new chapter in his life. We thank you for everything, Dave, and we are proud to call you brother.

*Christopher Kaufman, B.R.*

## New Apprentices Welcomed

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID — Greetings, brothers and sisters. In 2016 we made some gains in terms of our attrition rate. Six apprentices graduated, and 21 apprentices were brought in, a mixture of brand new guys and some with experience that began in previous years. With the workload we have had over the last several years, it has been tough trying to keep up with the rate of apprentices graduating and the rate of starting new apprentices.

With organizing efforts and a great work picture, we are starting to make some headway. We all know that we need to keep our apprentice classes as full as possible — and that is exactly what our apprenticeship committee and the apprenticeship director have done. It seems that we will have the ability to continue this practice over the next several years, as our work picture looks great.

With deep regret we report the passing of Bros. Fred Ehlert, Larson Rowen and John Danz. We send our deepest condolences to their families. We are thankful for our brothers' service to the IBEW and they will be missed but never forgotten.

*Rodney James, B.M.*



*Local 465 apprenticeship graduating class of 2016 with Bus. Mgr. Nate Fairman (front row, standing, third from left) and Foreman's Council Chmn. Bob Parsons (front row, second from left).*

## 2016 Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 465 (lctt&u), SAN DIEGO, CA — 2016 was a promising year for IBEW Local 465, as we celebrated the graduation of 25 IBEW journeymen! The 2016 apprenticeship graduating class was the largest we have had in over 10 years!

Congratulations to our new journeyman linemen: Armando Lopez, Miguel Gomez, Steven Rivera, Scott Crummy, Jerry Mitchell, Paul Janssen, Elijah Trujillo, Adrian Beaver, Michael Lloyd, Justin Dukes, Taylor Simmons and Joshua Guymon (outstanding apprentice). Congratulations to our new journeyman meter test electricians: Tracy Akenson, Michael Brooker, Ismael Sandoval, Felipe Martinez and Louis Rainys (outstanding apprentice). And congratulations to our new journeyman substation electricians: Laura Garcia, Alejandro Anguiano, Anthony Funk, Alec Kiln, Paul Arredondo, Billy Outlaw, Che Smith and Edward Aranjó (outstanding apprentice).

The future of our local is bright! I would like to thank the families of each graduating apprentice for sharing in the sacrifices to help make these accomplishments possible. We had a special guest at the apprenticeship graduation ceremony: Bill Haines, son of famous author William Wister Haines, who wrote "Slim the Lineman." Our friend provided a personalized and signed copy of "Slim" to each outstanding apprentice! Thank you to everyone who attended the graduation ceremony.

*Nate Fairman, B.M.*

## Storm Restoration Work — Kudos to Contractors & Crews

L.U. 553 (i,mt,o&ws), RALEIGH, NC — We here in Local 553 just want to say thank-you to all of the outside contractors and fellow union members who came to aid us in our jurisdiction and throughout the state during the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew back in October 2016.

As a result of that storm, the state of North Carolina experienced days of power outages, downed trees, and \$6 billion in total damage, with a \$4 billion to \$6 billion economic impact on the state. It was these contractors and their IBEW electricians who brought electricity and the modern conveniences that use electricity back to our state in the wake of the storm. Thank you to all for your time, toil and bravery that got the job done quickly and safely.

*Josh Nixon, P.S.*

## IBEW Service to Community

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI — The work outlook in our local has picked up. We have been able to put more members out to work in recent months. This is great, as we were able to bring members home to work over the holiday season.

Our local did some great things for the commu-

nity over the holiday season. Local 557 "adopted" a family for the Christmas holiday. With the help from our members, we were able to help make an area family's unfortunate situation a little easier for Christmas. In addition to the "adopt a family" event, we also hosted a food drive. The food and funds that were collected went out to local families in our area. The amount of support that was shown by Local 557 members for these two events was extremely motivating. Our members, without hesitation, jumped right into giving back this year. It was a great example of how local unions play a key role in keeping our communities strong.

*Howard Revard, P.S.*



*Local 557 Bus. Mgr. Evan Allardyce and office manager Maggee Giles with gifts donated for the local's Adopt-A-Family event.*

## Giving Back to Community & Supporting Working Families

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA — IBEW Local 569 is proud of our efforts to give back and support working families!

We recently honored our veterans from IBEW 569 and made a contribution to the Three Wise Men Veterans Foundation to support local veterans with foundation founder and former California Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher.

We also supported families-in-need during the holiday season with a \$10,000 contribution to San Diego's Food & Toy Drive, and with the affiliated unions of the San Diego Building Trades Council we collected and donated over 50,000 diapers to local mothers-in-need, in coordination with California Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher!

Additionally, we are providing free electric vehicle charging to our members and employees under our new partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy's Workplace Charging Challenge. IBEW electricians have installed hundreds of charging units locally and we

anticipate thousands more thanks to California's groundbreaking climate policies.

Finally, IBEW 569 welcomes Tammy Spinks as our new Apprenticeship Training director! Congratulations, Tammy, on your new position — we look forward to your efforts to expand apprenticeship opportunities.

We're heading into 2017 as a stronger local thanks to YOU and your hard work! Together, we will continue to make a difference and build better communities.

*Gretchen K. Newsom, P.S./Organizer*

## Bond Measures to Bring New Jobs for Local Members

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st), DUBLIN, CA — This past fall season was busy in Local 595. Here in this region, local elections proved to be victorious, and some of the bond measures that passed will create hundreds of jobs and generate thousands of hours of work for Local 595 sisters and brothers.

Work is well underway at Washington Hospital in Fremont, and as of this writing work was expected to begin on the V.A. Clinic in French Camp in early 2017.

As always, the Local 595 Old Timers Night and Member Recognition Night were well-attended.

From our longtime Years of Service Award pin recipients to our first-year apprentices, Local 595 continues to pass the torch to our next generation of wiremen to move our local forward.

*Jason Gumataotao, P.S.*

## 'Stay Active & Involved'

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — The local's annual Children's Christmas Party was a huge success again last year. We had a change of venue for the party for the first time ever. The 2016 event was held downtown at the Wool Warehouse instead of at our union hall. The committee did a great job as usual and, of course, Santa was there to take pictures and hand out stockings.

At the time of this writing there haven't been any calls for the Facebook job yet, but by the time this article is published, the job should be manning up. An article in the Albuquerque Journal reported that Cupertino (the main electrical contractor) will need 250 wiremen immediately and another 100 by the spring or summer.

Mid-January was the beginning of the 60-day state legislative session. Since the Democrats have control of the state House and Senate there shouldn't be as much concern for so-called "right-to-work," but that doesn't mean we should let our guard down. Stay involved and never miss an opportunity to vote.

Local 611 extends condolences to families and friends of recently deceased members: Rayborne C. Tedford, John P. Curran, Norval G. Hughes, Tommie F. Strand, Seferino Baca, Robert Raymond King, Arlie A. Dixon, Arsenio Sanchez and Morris Kline.

*Darrell J. Blair, P.S.*



*Local 611 Bus. Mgr. Carl Condit (right) greets former business managers Ruben Romero (left) and Chris Frentzel at the local's annual children's Christmas party.*

## LOCAL LINES



Local 613 Bus. Mgr. Max Mount Jr. (second from left) and Political Coordinator Ben Myers (right), greet Georgia state legislators. From left: state Rep. Scott Holcomb, Bus. Mgr. Mount, Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett, Sen. Elena Parent, Rep. Stacey Evans and B. Myers.

## Friends of IBEW Breakfast; Officer Transitions

L.U. 613 (em,i,o,rts&spa), ATLANTA, GA — Last December our local held the annual Friends of the IBEW Holiday Breakfast. This occasion is a great opportunity for rank-and-file members to meet and have conversations with their elected public officials in a relaxed atmosphere over a warm meal. This bipartisan gathering has for many years been one of the more anticipated events in the holiday season. Many members of the Georgia state legislature were in attendance, along with local sheriffs and county commissioners. With an Atlanta mayoral race coming in late 2017, several candidates enjoyed their morning getting to know the workforce that will build the future of Georgia's capital city.

2017 has seen changes in our local. Former business manager Gene O'Kelly has stepped up to accept an appointment as an IBEW international representative. The Local 613 Executive Board appointed Max Mount Jr. as business manager to fill the unexpired term of office. Bus. Mgr. Mount served as the local union president for over a decade. The Executive Board also appointed Brian King as Local 613 president to fill that vacated position. These two gentlemen will sit at the table and guide our local through contract negotiations later this spring.

James Williams, P.S.

## 2016 Updates & New Projects

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,it,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA — 2016 saw 32 members of Local 625 retire. Retirees not yet reported in this space are: Clive Wood, Rod Dow, Doug Grant, Richard A. Morrison, Carl Smith, James Fanning and Glen Miller.

We lost several brothers in 2016: Jack Ripley passed away in May at age 69; Wade Devoe, in July at age 62; Jason MacLinnis, in October at age 39; and Sheldon Thomas, who was 69, and Perry Hubley, who was 64, both passed away in November.

On Dec. 3, Santa visited Local 625's holiday party for children of local union members. The party was held at Hatfield Farms and Santa presented gifts to the 120 lucky children in attendance.

On Dec. 17, we had a snow storm but that did not stop 222 members and spouses from coming out to the annual Local 625 Christmas Dinner & Dance. Door prizes, spot dances, draws and a free meal were just a few of the rewards for those who attended.

Upcoming work includes the following projects: the IKEA store (60+ jobs); Moose River Gold Mine (100+ jobs); 4 Pad Rink (15+ jobs); Dalhousie Fitness Centre (30+ jobs); the Dalhousie "IDEA" facility; the Willow Park DND facility; Bell Aliant Communications Centre; Tatamagouche P-12 school; and the YMCA/condo development.

2017 looks to be a much better year than 2016 was, and hopefully we will see everyone working again.

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.

## 2017 Contract Negotiations

L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL — Unit #2 at St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant has entered into another refueling outage as of press time. Outages bring in many personnel. As always, remember to practice safety on the jobsite and keep a watch out for the other person.

Bus. Mgr./Pres. Mark MacNichol announced that the 3rd Annual Bike Run will take place on May 6. Please join the brotherhood of riders and participate in this run. There is still plenty of time to prepare.

If you are not yet a member of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA), visit their website at <http://unionsportsmen.org>. You will find a lot of interesting information there.

Contract negotiations will take place this year. Stash some of your outage cash for reserve. Unions will be faced with an unfriendly political environment. Members are advised to be prepared and put aside some cash to have on hand for their families.

Ray Vos, P.S.

## Tribute to Lives of Service

L.U. 659 (c,catv,em,i,lctt,o,st,t&u), MEDFORD, OR — It is with great sadness that we announce the passing in late 2016 of Helen M. Bieghler and Ronald L. Johnson, both of whom served our local with passion and professionalism.

Helen was a former secretary for Local 659 and served our office for over 35 years before retiring in 1985. She passed away on Dec. 7, 2016. Walt Conner, retired assistant business manager, noted that Helen was a great lady and truly a professional in her work.

Bro. Ronald Johnson joined our local in 1970 as an apprentice wireman. In 1974, he successfully completed the journeyman wireman apprenticeship program and examination; he worked for various electrical contractors.

Prior to his 2008 retirement, Ron served on many advisory boards, committees, councils and trusts. He served on the Executive Board for a term until June 1993. In 2006, he was a delegate to the 37th IBEW International Convention in Cleveland, OH. Ron also helped with numerous local union picnics through the years.

Ron was hired on as a Local 659 organizer in 1994 and later became assistant business manager. In August 2003, Ron was congratulated by then-Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill regarding the representation election win at Eugene Water & Electric Board.

Bro. Ron Johnson passed away Dec. 6, 2016.

Kathy Joy, R.S.

## Project Labor Agreements

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH — Over the years Lake Health, a community system of hospitals and health care facilities, has done many millions of dollars' worth of work under project labor agreements (PLAs). Recent projects — including the Old Kaiser Building renovation, the Mentor Aquatic center

and the Willoughby women's health care center — are reminders of how our political involvement helps to shape our paychecks and put our members to work.

I would like to thank all our members who have given their free time to do political walks and phone banks. Apprentices, journeyman, retirees, CEs/CWs, officers and registrars have banded together for a common goal, which is to elect politicians who will support our goals and further the purposes of our organization.

Dave Phillips, P.S.



Local 673 members Tony Gambatese (left), Kevin Saunders and Nick Capuiso at Old Kaiser Building jobsite.

## Work Picture & Updates

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH — With a good change of pace over the winter, the work picture has been busy for Local 683. The work outlook for this spring also looks promising for our local. Our move into our new union hall is complete and the remodel of our meeting room begins this summer! If you need to contact our union hall, the phone number remains the same as before.

Tracy Starcher, V.P./P.S.

## 2017 Events Scheduled

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN — Spring is in the air, and several events are coming up that can cure cabin fever.

Our spring blood drive is scheduled for March 24. Our 3 on 3 Charity Basketball Tourney is in April. The Golf League, weather permitting, usually starts in April. The March of Dimes Walk is May 7. And the Credit Union Annual Meeting is May 6. We hope to see you at one or all of these events.

At our December union meeting, IBEW Local 697 extended honorary membership to Rich Anderson. Rich has been the owner of A&E Electric for over 40 years, and he has served on the Apprenticeship Committee for over 17 years. He was a Town of Griffith School Board member for 35 years and has always been a willing participant in Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity projects when asked by the Local 697 membership. His son Tom is a 30-year IBEW journeyman as well. Thank you to Rich, a true partner in the electrical industry.

Dan Waldrop, B.M./F.S.

## Work Picture Improving; Union Brother is Mourned

L.U. 773 (as,em,i,mo&o), WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA — It is with great sadness that I report the death of Bro. Rob Morneau. He was 44. On Nov. 3, 2016, while working on the roof of Ventra Plastics in Windsor, Bro. Morneau tripped and fell, breaking through a skylight and falling to the floor below. He succumbed to his injuries shortly afterward in the hospital. His death marks the first "at work" accidental death in Local 773's nearly 100-year history. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Morneau's family.

We thank both Local 2038 (Regina, Saskatchewan) and Local 402 (Thunder Bay, Ontario) for providing work for some of our members this past year.

The work picture here is improving with work on the horizon. The much-anticipated Belle River Wind Project is now taking workers as the job progresses. That project is expected to last until October of 2017. Another project, Learnington Substation, is scheduled to begin this winter. Both projects were awarded to Black & McDonald.

Segments of the Windsor/Detroit Bridge project are also expected to be awarded soon.

David Spencer, P.S.

## Safety at its Best — 'Governor's Safety Award'

L.U. 777 (u), READING, PA — Members of IBEW Local 777 working for Metropolitan Edison Company (Met-Ed) achieved something in 2016 that has never been done in the history of the company.

Over 450 workers supporting different job classifications and skill levels in the electric distribution industry went more than one year without an OSHA recordable accident. It was a gradual transformation from what was once a record that needed improvement. The change can be attributed mostly to the workers themselves and their diligence in looking out for each other and themselves on the job. Also contributing to the success are a program and an environment whereby union workers can initiate operational changes that create a safer working environment.

This safety achievement helped earn our local the Pennsylvania Governor's Occupational Safety & Health Award.

Looking forward, the members are working to keep all of our brothers and sisters safe, and hopefully to improve on our record this year.

Mark C. Power, P.S.

## IBEW Lifesaving Award

L.U. 827 (catv&t), EAST WINDSOR, NJ — On Feb. 2 last year, Local 827 steward and member Fred Sidoti was working at the Garden State Mall in Paramus, NJ. While Fred was taking his lunch at the food court, a frantic mother screamed that her baby was choking. Many other onlookers seemed unsure of what to do, and a mall supervisor called over the radio to alert security that the infant was not breathing.

Fred sprang into action and began to administer CPR while the Paramus police and emergency personnel were in route. As Fred continued with this lifesaving technique, food that was lodged in the baby's throat came clear and the baby began to breathe again.

After the police and the EMTs arrived, they treated the infant and transported the baby to the hospital for further observation.

Fred's actions are believed to have saved the child's life! He is a hero and a proud member of the IBEW. We congratulate Fred for receiving the IBEW Lifesaving Award.

R.W. Speer, Pres./B.M.

## Lending a Hand in Solidarity

L.U. 965 (em,govt,ptc&u), MADISON, WI — Thank you to IBEW Local 965 members who recently came to the aid of a fellow sister in need. When Jessie Brandl, an assistant project designer out of Wisconsin Rapids, realized that winter was on its way, one thing was standing in her way, an empty woodpile. Jessie's husband, Craig, was having spinal surgery and so was unable to manage the task of restocking the woodpile this season, so the call for help went out. Jessie's call was answered by her brothers and sisters of IBEW

Local 965 from Wisconsin Rapids, Tomah, Portage and Fond du Lac, WI.

The day was spent cutting, splitting and stacking a winter's worth of firewood for Jessie and her family. They were very thankful for a job well done by fellow members of IBEW Local 965.

Robert Jung, P.S.



Local 965 thanks members who assisted a fellow member in need.

## OSHA 30 Training

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TX — IBEW Local 1015 congratulates recent OSHA 30 training class graduates. On Dec. 17 last year, graduates of the class were awarded their OSHA certificates. [See photo at bottom, left.]

With their persistence, hard work and determination — along with the help of OSHA instructor Raul Torres, Rio Grande Valley Laredo Electrical JATC Training Dir. Servando Munguia, RGVLE JATC office manager Christina Martinez, RGVLE JATC secretary Yasmin Deleon, and Local 1015 Bus. Mgr. Sergio A. Salinas — these students were able to complete their 30-hour OSHA course. The purpose of the “general awareness” OSHA course is to provide workers with introductory information about OSHA. The mission of OSHA is to save lives, prevent injuries and protect the health of America’s workers. Some required training covers topics such as lockout/tagout procedures, blood-borne pathogens, noise, confined spaces, fall hazards in construction, personal protective equipment, and a variety of other topics.

The Rio Grande Valley Laredo Electrical JATC was able to provide this OSHA30 training free of cost through grant funding of \$110,000 awarded by the Texas Workforce Commission and signed by Julian Alvarez, one of our commissioners representing labor.

Yasmin Deleon, P.S.

## Officer Transition

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY — After 35 years of service, Bus. Mgr. Donald Daley Jr. announced his retirement, effective Feb. 1, 2017. Don has served the IBEW as a steward, Executive Board member, vice president, president, and as business manager of former Local 1381. In 2008, after Locals 1049 and 1381 amalgamated, Don became Local 1049’s assistant business manager. In 2010 he was appointed business

manager and was subsequently elected to that post.

Under Don’s leadership, Local 1049 has prospered, grown and flourished. The membership, in all divisions, have seen steady and consistent increases in their wage and benefit packages. Under Don’s leadership we have grown the membership into nontraditional areas of utility work. Our membership numbers are at their highest.

In 2014, Don had the vision to facilitate the local’s purchase our new union office and training center. And with the sale of our Hauppauge Building, our general fund has never been healthier.

On behalf of my fellow officers, the Executive Board and the business staff, I want to wish Don all of the best in retirement. May God continue to bless

him and his family.

In December, with the full support of the officers and business staff, the Executive Board appointed then-senior business representative Ron Bauer as our new business manager. Throughout his career, Ron has been an active steward, safety advocate, Executive Board member, a member of the business staff and a strong advocate for labor.

We are confident that under Bus. Mgr. Bauer’s leadership, Local 1049 will continue to thrive.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.



A Local 1105 member, military veteran Brian Burkhart (right), is honored at a 2016 Wishes for Warriors event.

## Military Veteran Honored

L.U. 1105 (i), NEWARK, OH — Local 1105 would like to proudly introduce Bro. Brian R. Burkhart, who has been a member of IBEW Local 1105 since 2007. Prior to his IBEW apprenticeship, Bro. Burkhart served in the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army from 1989 through 1993.



Local 1015 congratulates participants at OSHA 30 training session. Standing, back row: Enrique Aguirre (left), Sergio Quintanilla, David Garcia, Mauricio Garces, Israel Gonzalez, Edward Lomeli, Julian Barrientos, Rudy Ramones and RGVLE JATC Training Dir. Servando Munguia. At front, seated, OSHA instructor Raul Torres, with young son.



Local 1141 congratulates 2016 apprentice graduates. Front row, Tyler Gleim (left), Hunter Bassett, Jacob Hensley, Jonathan Wright, Robert Buls, Jarrett Moniz, Pete Newell; back row, Instructor Chance Solomon, Nate Nation, Keegan Cox, Matt Luney, Rory Mathes, Aaron Davis, Training Dir. Cliff Stewart and Instructor Steve Gibson.

On Dec. 20, 1989, the 82nd Airborne Division invaded Panama to capture drug lord Manuel Noriega, during Operation Just Cause. Upon this mission, Bro. Burkhart was struck by a bullet on the left side of the head by sniper fire during a firefight. He recovered at Walter Reed Memorial Hospital at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He was subsequently awarded the Purple Heart for his service to the country during that mission.

On Veteran’s Day 2016, Bro. Burkhart was nominated by a fellow paratrooper, who served with him in Operation Just Cause, at Wishes for Warriors event in Temecula, CA. Rick Gravesen of Patriot Ordinance Factory presented Burkhart with a POF 415 rifle with the 82nd Airborne Division patch engraved for his duty in combat. IBEW Local 1105 was honored to sponsor Bro. Burkhart’s trip to the Wishes for Warriors event.

Donny Rutledge, P.S./Organizer

## ‘Run to Remember’ Memorial Marathon in April

L.U. 1141 (em,i,mow,rts&spa), OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

It’s been a positive 2017 so far at our local. As of this writing, we are looking for volunteers for the upcoming Oklahoma City “Run to Remember” Memorial Marathon on April 30. This will be our third consecutive year staffing water stop #13 at Lake Hefner. Last year, not only did we get 75 volunteers at the water station, but also dozens of our fellow brothers and sisters ran in the race representing our local union. Call the union hall at (405) 670-4777 to sign up to volunteer. And check out footage and photos of last year’s event at [www.bit.ly/1141marathon](http://www.bit.ly/1141marathon).

We were also happy to host our latest Apprenticeship Graduation on Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, at the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame. Thanks to all the families who came out and helped make it a very special occasion. Congratulations, graduates, on the next step of your careers! [See photo at top, right.]

Until next time, please work safe, and thank you for all you do on the job and in the community.

Dewayne Wilcox, B.M./F.S.

## Contract Agreements Ratified

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA — IBEW members who work for the City of Vallejo recently received their first general

wage increase in nine years, thanks to a newly ratified agreement. The City of Vallejo workers, who were formerly represented by IBEW Local 2376, voted to merge with IBEW 1245 in December 2015, and Local 1245 finally secured a successor agreement after 25 separate bargaining sessions over the course of 12 months.

Thousands of Local 1245 members at Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) also secured a new four-year agreement in late 2016, which includes a combined 12.5 percent wage increase, along with improvements to short-term disability and paid family leave.

Local 1245 supported the successful organizing effort at Baltimore Gas & Electric. The local dispatched five member-organizers and one staffer to help spread the word about the union and collect authorization cards during December, and sent another group out in early January to get out the vote for the union election. [Editor’s note: See news story about the victory at BG&E on Pg. 1 of this issue.]

In Outside Construction, the work outlook remains very strong, and we expect to see an increase in 2017 in all types of work, including distribution, transmission, substation and underground.

Rebecca Band, P.S.



Local 1245 organizing stewards and IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson (front row, third from left) show their support for the union at Baltimore Gas and Electric.

## Fundraiser for NSUJL — ‘Grow a Beard for a Brother’

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY — Local 1249 hosted a fundraising event, “Grow a Beard for Your Brother.” Members started with a freshly shaven face on Nov. 1 last year and then put away the razor for the rest of the month. The 23 brave participants donated money to join the competition and then raised money from family and friends. Proceeds went to the National Sisterhood United for Journeymen Linemen (NSUJL). Over \$3,000 was raised.

The competition ended Nov. 30. There were six categories to compete for. Following are the lucky winners: Hairless Cat (saddest beard) — Jared Maker; Life is Not Fair (ugliest beard) — Nate Parkman;

## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

In addition to your monthly issue of *The Electrical Worker*, check out the wealth of IBEW-related information online.

### www.ibew.org

Our Web site has news and info not available anywhere else. Visit us to connect with the IBEW on Facebook and Twitter.

And read *The Electrical Worker* online!

### YouTube

Seattle Local 46 is building a nearly two-mile long tunnel beneath the city to replace the aging Alaskan Way Viaduct. "We're putting a highway in a tube under the ground," one member said. See how they're doing it here: <https://tinyurl.com/zc3w56b>

### Vimeo

There are more lights inside Detroit's Cobo Center during the North American Auto Show than on Broadway. No wonder organizers turn to Detroit Local 58 and NECA signatory contractor Conti to meet their lighting needs. Watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/199168236>.



### HourPower

Not all linemen climb poles. IBEW members from Grand Junction, Colo., Local 969 and around the country work on XCEL Energy lines in the Rocky Mountains while hanging from helicopters. Learn more on [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com)!



### ElectricTV

The Code of Excellence gives NECA and the IBEW an edge over the competition. Northwestern Mutual officials knew that when they brought in the Powering America Team to build the company's new office tower in Milwaukee. Watch now on [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net).



## LOCAL LINES

ZZ Top's Competition (longest beard) — Tim Daley; GQ Style (prettiest beard) — Gene Bailey; The King (best all-around beard) — Jason Nesci; and Future Politician (most money raised) — Ryan Youngman.

Local 1249 thanks everyone who participated and donated. We can't wait to do it again next year!

Jennifer Schneider, P.S.

### IBEW Community Outreach

L.U. 1347 (ees,em&u), CINCINNATI, OH — IBEW Local 1347 members stepped up to help spread care, warmth and gifts during the holiday season last year!

The holiday season can be tough for so many people. Part of our IBEW Local 1347 mission is community outreach. We are proud and humbled by the amazing donations members made for our Thanksgiving Coat Drive and Meals for the Cincinnati Community projects.

During the 2016 Christmas holiday season, we provided every child in Cincinnati Children's Hospital with a teddy bear.

Thank you to the Local 1347 fundraiser participants and to all members who donated their time to deliver over 600 teddy bears to hospitalized children. We are proud to be able to share warmth and care with the community during the holidays.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.



IBEW Local 1347 membership stepped up for community outreach during 2016 holiday season.

### A Career Highlight

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD — Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie attended his 11th straight IBEW International Convention last year. The first International Convention he attended was in



Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie at 2016 IBEW International Convention in St. Louis.

Seattle in 1970.

The 39th IBEW International Conventions took place in September 2016 in St. Louis. Bus. Mgr. Guthrie noted that his appointment by Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson to serve on the Finance Committee at the 2016 convention was an honor and one of the highlights of his career.

At the 2016 International Convention, Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill swore in Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson and all of the IBEW leadership team. Renewing our IBEW legacy and charting a new course for our future was clearly on the table and has been achieved.

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



Local 1701 Pres. Andy Daniel (left), 65-year pin recipient Carroll Hagerman (center), and Bus. Mgr. Timothy Blandford.

Union Rights," posted on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles).]

Richard Thomson, P.S.

### New Projects Underway

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY — 2016 was a successful year for Local 1701. Work was good for our membership and several travelers. The 2017 outlook is also optimistic with several projects already underway and more scheduled after the first of the year.

The International Bluegrass Museum in Owensboro is under roof and I.E.S. has the electrical contract; Beltline Electric has the work at three Convenient Care Centers in our jurisdiction; union contractors are bidding work at the Hanson, KY, Carhartt manufacturing plant; and several utility plant shutdown projects are scheduled for spring.

Local 1701 held elections in June of 2016. Timothy Blandford was elected business manager, and Andy Daniel was elected president.

Our annual picnic was Sept. 10 at Golfland USA. Members enjoyed a fine meal including BBQ chicken and Boston butt roast.

Thirty-seven service pins were presented at our December meeting for eligible members with years of service ranging from 20 to 65 years. Carroll Hagerman received a 65-year pin. And 50-year pins were awarded to: Virgil Abel, John Badertscher, James Baggett, John Chappell, James Cook, James Kamuf, Jessi Lowe, Larry McMahon, George Moore, Gordon Payne and Ronnie Townsend.

The 2016 elections have destined Kentucky to become a so-called "right to work" state, with prevailing wage repealed. How this will affect our bidding process and standard of living is uncertain.

[Editor's Note: On Jan. 7, the Kentucky Senate passed so-called "right-to-work" legislation and approved a bill repealing the state prevailing wage law. To read more, see news article "Kentucky Republicans Set to Gut

### First Contract Ratified

L.U. 1837 (rtb&u), MANCHESTER, ME — Eversource New Hampshire field technicians and specialists overwhelmingly ratified their first contract agreement. The workers organized under an Armour-Globe NLRB petition and their agreement is an addendum to the existing Utility Group contract at the company.

"I think it is a good agreement for the field techs and I'm pleased we were able to include them in our current contract with Eversource," said Tom Ryan, IBEW Local 1837 assistant business manager for New Hampshire. "We were able to maintain most of the benefits that our members enjoy."

One of the biggest successes for the union bargaining team was stabilizing and equalizing the pay rates for the classifications covered by the agreement. Every field technician and specialist received a wage increase to at least cover the cost of their union dues and most received more than that. Since the contract expires on May 31, it is likely that they will receive an additional wage adjustment upon ratification of the successor agreement.

As union members, they will have the opportunity to make proposals and vote for the Utility Group contract as well as vote for IBEW officers and leadership positions. For the first time, field technicians and specialists now have a contract that guarantees that all work performed outside of their normal schedule will be paid at overtime rates.

The field technicians and specialists are commonly referred to as "writers" and are responsible for work associated with the design, maintenance, construction and operation of the Eversource electric distribution system in the Granite State. Currently, there are 27 workers in the Field Technician A/B/C and Field Technician Specialist classifications.

On the union negotiating team were: technicians Vaughn Taylor and Dan Pariseau; Local 1837 Bus. Mgr. Dick Rogers; Administrative Asst. Sue Ekola; and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Tom Ryan.

Matthew Beck, Organizer/B.R.



IBEW Local 1837 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Tom Ryan (left) with field technicians Vaughn Taylor and Dan Pariseau during a break in contract talks. (Photo by Sue Ekola.)

# RETIREEES

## Politically Active & Informed

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — Greetings and good wishes to all for the year ahead now that the holiday season is over.

With the horrible 2016 election results, nationally and in Missouri, we need to be politically active. Our new governor ran on passing a devastating so-called “right-to-work” law. As of this writing, the state legislature was moving rapidly to send a “right-to-work” bill to the governor. If we are asked to write letters or make phone calls to our state representatives and state senators, please follow through.

Remember our Electrical Workers’ Voluntary Fund meetings. They are a great way to keep informed. Stay in touch through the Local 1 website [www.ibewlocal1.org](http://www.ibewlocal1.org). Stay active and engaged, and stay informed.

*Neal McCormack, P.S.*

## Bowling League

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU CHAPTER — Our Nassau Chapter Bowling League is a terrific activity for all. [See photo at bottom, left.]

Bowling is a lifetime sport that you can play for, well, your whole life. All of us have bowled as a child with family or at a birthday party, in high school or college on a team or with friends. Bowling is a sport that can grow as you grow, but you do not have to have a 220- or 160- or even a 60-pin game average to enjoy bowling. Bowling is a sport, a social interaction and a low impact exercise all in one. People of any age can participate. The oldest player in our Bowling League is 91, and he can still throw a strike.

We meet at Massapequa Lanes on Mondays for open bowling. All club members and friends are welcome to participate. We play three games each, and with self-serve coffee and bagels all for \$5.75 what a deal. On Wednesdays we have our regular team league bowling of about 25, but any club member can also play as a fill-in or pacer. Bowling in retirement is a great way to reconnect with old friends or make new ones while staying healthy and active.

*John Milligan, P.S.*

## Festive Holiday Party

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER — Our chapter had its annual Christmas/Hanukkah party at the Delray Beach Country Club on Friday, Jan. 13. The food and the entertainment were excellent and enjoyed by all the guests.

The chapter meets on the second Friday of the month, from October to May, at 10 a.m. at the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, in Delray Beach. We welcome all Local 3 retirees to our meetings.

*Bob Rosenhouch, Co-Chmn.*

## NYC Bus Trip & Holiday Party

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER — After enjoying bagels, coffee and cake, we started our December meeting. It was reported that our Toys for Tots Drive was very successful due to our members’ generosity. Our Annual Food Drive again hit its mark. We donated over 300 pounds of nonperishable food for Long Island Cares, Harry Chapin Food Bank. At meeting’s close, Chmn. Jack Foley and his wife, Ann, wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Our Annual Holiday Party at the Watermill Caterers was a wonderful success. There was plenty of food, 50/50 basket of cheer, and best of all many good friends to share the day with. We thank Cathy and John Schoenig for their hard work to make the party a success. We also thank their committee — Lois and Andy Weiss, Loretta and Frank Bono, Maryann and John Arendt, Eileen and Vinnie Crisostomo — for the beautiful favors. The chairman presented our annual plaque awards to Allan Eimer, Olivia and Hank Schmidt, Cathy and John Schoenig, and Michael Zoldack to thank them for their hard work for the club.

Our New York City bus trip was again a great success. Thank you to Olivia and Hank Schmidt for all their work planning the trip. We visited Rockefeller Center and went to see the famous holiday tree, St. Patrick’s Cathedral and Bryant Park. We walked down Fifth Avenue to see the holiday window displays. We also boarded a bus for the ride and got to see street performers at Columbus Circle and along 7th Avenue.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy new year.

*Harvey Goldman, P.S.*

## Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — On Dec. 13 last year, 90 chapter members and guests attended our 28th annual Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon, at the Leewood Golf Club in Eastchester, NY. The beautiful setting, affordable prices, and the fact that the Leewood employees are union members, keeps us coming back year after year.

For 2016, only four of our members became Gold Club members, reaching the golden age of 80. Those



*At the Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club holiday luncheon: Richard Mills (left), David Torres, Richard McSpedon, Paul Ryan, Dennis McSpedon, Tom Capurso and Dominic Malandro.*

members, Sidney Gitter, Michael Brennan, Daniel Greaves Jr. and Neil Peterson, were awarded plaques, recognizing their many years of service to the IBEW.

A special award was given to retiring Asst. Bus. Mgr. Paul Ryan. Paul was awarded a plaque for his 43 years of service to the IBEW. He also was presented with a U.S. flag, flown by Intrepid former crew members from the flag bridge of the USS Intrepid, for his dedication to the international labor movement and his U.S. Army service in Germany and Vietnam.

As we are very supportive of our military, the reading by Carole Mills of the poem “Old Glory” was the perfect ending to a very pleasant afternoon.

*Richard Mills, Treas.*

## Holiday Luncheon Guest Speaker

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — The Retirees Club met for their annual luncheon in October at Adams Mill Restaurant. It was an excellent buffet and over 40 people attended. Thank you to Local 35 for hosting this event.

The December meeting of the IBEW Local 35 Retirees Club was well-attended as we held our holiday luncheon. Special thanks to retired Local 35 member Charlie Rose for inviting Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Sean Connolly, who spoke at the event. Connolly spoke about department services for veterans including housing, health care centers and more. He also discussed the Department of Mental Health Services, and spoke about the Connecticut Hall of Fame and the founding

of the first home for veterans after the Civil War. Connolly noted that the DVA proudly serves over 200,000 veterans in Connecticut.

We remember those members who passed in 2016. Included in memoriam are: Richard Avery, George Clark, Salvatore Firetto, Robert Fritz, William Johnson, Richard Kinghorn Sr., James Martocchio, Charles Rady, Charles Steelman, Richard Sutter, Charles Thorpe, Arthur Titus and John Welch.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year!

*Kenneth R. White, P.S.*

## Spirit of Camaraderie

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — As you read this, we will be coming into the spring of a new year. We hope everyone had a great holiday season and wish you all the very best for 2017.

For those who may not be aware, there is a group of retirees who started getting together every other month for lunch. We meet at the Lumberyard Grill and Pub at 201 Main Street in Urich, Missouri, at 11:30 am on the second Thursday of the odd months. We would welcome any retired members who would like to join us. A big thank-you to Bro. Ron Schock for getting this started. As you can see in the accompanying picture [below], it’s a pretty good group of retired members.

Mark your calendars: the annual Local 53 Crappie Tournament will be held June 3, 2017, at Truman State Park in Warsaw, Missouri. You can contact the hall for more details.



*Local 53 retired members enjoy camaraderie at a lunch get-together.*



*Local 3, Nassau Chapter, Retirees Club bowling league participants at Massapequa Lanes. Standing: Lou Amoroso (left), Carl Galioto, Steve Zingale, Tom Spafford, Phil Sell, Al Minkwitz, Carl Strandberg, Charles Voike, Tom Minkwitz, Charlie Katuna, Ken Watson, John O’Connor, George Geyer. Front row: Jay Shampaner, Steve Manukian, Nick Fuscaldo, Vice Chm. Irv Raver and Charles Mirabile.*

## RETIREES

Local 53 will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2017. More details will be passed along as they become available.

It is with sadness that I report we have lost a retiree since our last writing. Bro. Harold "Dean" McKinnie passed away in November. Rest in peace, brother.

Duane Pearce, P.S.

## Golf Tournament Fundraiser

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — The year 2016 was a very unforgettable year ... welcome 2017. Also, unforgettable, the members who passed in 2016: George Calvert, Roy Gaylor, Charles Watson, Arturo Mueller, Andy Lynn, Jimmy Criollos, Bill Wurzbach, John Belohlavek and Bill Kasberg. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours.

Retirees Club members once again were very generous with their donations for the club's Wounded Warriors Christmas Project. Personnel at the WW Headquarters were very appreciative when the items were delivered by club Pres. Coy Rogers and his wife, Sandy.

Since the club is self-supporting, a golf tournament is held annually for a fundraiser, scheduled this year for April 22. The time has come to start planning for this special event. A committee meeting will be held after the regular monthly meetings until the tournament. Donations play a major part in a successful fundraiser, such as donating items for door prizes and goody bags. Cash donations go to prizes for the winning teams and help finance the lunch that will be served to all after the tournament. Also of great help are the volunteers who donate their time and assistance, gathering and putting together the items, placing signs of hole sponsors, etc. Anything and everything is very much appreciated. For more information, please give me a call at 830-444-1242 or e-mail me at [sandyrogers24@hughes.net](mailto:sandyrogers24@hughes.net).

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

## Festivities & Service Awards

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI — The Local 99 Retirees Christmas Party was held Dec. 20, 2016, at Ralph's Catering & Kitchen in Cranston, RI, with about 200 people in attendance. We had a feast of family-style soup, pasta, chicken, roast pork, salad, dessert and coffee.

Retirees Club Pres. Robert Pierce noted the brothers who passed during 2016 by leading a moment of silence in remembrance. Mary Germerhausen received an award in commemoration of her father Raymond's 60 years of service in the IBEW and his creation of the Local 99 Retirees Club.

Local 99 Bus. Mgr. Michael K. Daley presented service pins to 53 members for IBEW service of more than 25 years. Awarded 45-year pins were: August Andrade, James Brown, Allen Durand, Donald Keegan, Gerard LeBlanc, Thomas Leddy, Alan Paul, Glenn Petrarca, Gary Philkrantz, Frederick Porter, David Ray, Michael Steffel and David Vitale.

Awarded 50-year pins: George Brown, Gerard Coutu, Gerald Dolin, Frank Dombkowski, Richard Edwards, Edward Fortier, Roland Furia, Ernest Laferte, Ronald Leddy, Kenneth Mathieu, Donald Peck, Robert Pierce, Richard Reynolds, Charles Skwirz, Gerald Sweeney, John Takian, Thomas Tufano and John Vitulli. Awarded 55-year pins: Richard Borelli, David Campopiano, Francis Cronin, Raymond Forward and Brenton Morgenstern. Awarded 60-year pins: Louis DelSesto, Thomas Peckenham and Richard Stromberg. Awarded 65-year pins: Mark Brunelli and Gerald Griffin.

The retirees thank all of these brothers for their longtime IBEW Local 99 service and leadership.

All Local 99 retirees wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2017.

Frank J. Colucci, P.S.

## Great Events & Activities — 'Don't Wait — Participate'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA — Another successful year for our seniors! Some of our more popular events have been the Euchre Club, Bowling Team, Best Western Carin Croft, Mohawk Raceway, Octoberfest, Pig Roasts, dinners at Michelangelo's, and trips to St. Jacob's Market and Playhouse Theatres. Such great times were enjoyed by all! Remember, seniors — Don't Wait, Participate! All of the above events were made possible by our hard-working Executive Board. Our sincerest thanks to each and every one of them!

Eden McLean, P.S.

## News Report from 1916

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 113, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — A few months ago, a member of our club shared with me an article from 1916 that was reprinted in our local Colorado Springs newspaper The Gazette. It was titled "Back Pages." One of the paragraphs in the article contained what I found to be very interesting, because it reported some historical information about our local union. It brought to mind the dedication, commitment and sacrifice of those generations of members who came before us. This historical account is 101 years old and was written when our local union was only 16 years old.

The 1916 article reads as follows:

*"The Colorado Springs local of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has been granted its request for higher wages and better working conditions. The scale raises the wages from \$4.50 to \$5 a day, and provides for double time pay for overtime after 9 at night or on Saturday afternoons, Sundays and holidays."*

It behooves us all, both retirees and active members, to carry on and work to improve that which has been provided by those who came before us. May we ever be vigilant in carrying out the objects of our IBEW!

Bill Campbell, P.S.

## 'Friends of Working Families'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Spring is on its way, and most of the population in the northern half of the United States look forward to saying goodbye to the winter season. The polar vortex that put a deep freeze in the North and reached all the way to the South right before the holiday season was brutal. Thank you to all of our IBEW electricians who work so hard to keep our power on in all types of weather conditions.

I don't know what the future has in store for us. With Pres. Trump and his administration now in place, will this be very good or very bad? I'm hoping that the Democratic Party and elected officials in Washington, D.C., and across the nation who are friends of working families will keep the scales balanced for all the people in America.

The Chicago Cubs won the 2016 World Series, marking a first in 107 years, since 1909. That means many Cubs fans never got to see this in their lifetime. It was a first time in my life so far. Cubs World Series T-shirts, hats and jackets went flying off the store shelves. Five million people lined our streets for the victory parade. It was quite the celebration. I look forward to the 2017 baseball season.

Sue Kleczka, P.S.

## 2017 Trips & Events

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 164, JERSEY CITY, NJ — Retirees Association Pres. Jerry Rider oversaw our holiday party on Dec. 21 celebrating Christmas and Hanukkah. The



Local 236 Retirees Club officers, with Bus. Mgr. Mark Lajeunesse (third from right) and retired former Int. Vice Pres. Don Funk (second from right), at 42nd Annual Reunion Luncheon. From left: Retirees Club Sec. James Porter, Treas. Lou Lourinia, Pres. Phil Clemens; [M. Lajeunesse]; [D. Funk]; and Vice Pres. Bob Jenne.

well-attended luncheon brought in donations to help families in need. Attendees enjoyed a great meal, music, dancing and friendship. Thanks to Tom and Eileen Barry and Jim Myers, along with a large cast of helpers, for helping to make the party a success.

We have plans for 2017 including fresh-water and salt-water fishing trips; a New York Yankees game; trip to Atlantic City; Golf League; and a Scholarship Golf Tournament & Raffle. Last year we gave out five scholarships for children/grandchildren of our members, totaling \$15,000. Our luncheons bring out about 75-100 brothers each month. Stories fly, exaggerations grow, all in good nature. And we laugh a lot. We enjoyed working with each other in our active days and still have a ball with each other.

On Dec. 10, Local 164 had a gala dinner-dance for the retirees, bringing out 500 active and retired members, spouses and friends. Local 164 Bus. Mgr. Dan Gumble and Pres. Tom Sullivan gave out 50-, 55-, 60- and 65-year IBEW service pins and watches.

Local 164 has a great history of building up the area west of the Hudson River, including Jersey City and Newark, for over 100 years. Good luck to all our active IBEW brothers and sisters for another 100 years of prosperity and success.

Dave Judovin, P.S.

## Tragedy Strikes a Member

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH — Our deepest sympathy to the families of recently departed longtime members: Bros. Henry Abel, Robert Schulte and Hubert Brown. Bro. Abel was a 64-year IBEW member; Bro. Schulte was a 33-year member; and Bro. Brown, a 36-year member.

We mourn for all our recently departed members. The death of Bro. Hubert Brown is especially tragic, as he was ejected from his tractor after being rear-ended by a drunk driver, resulting in fatal injuries. Known as "Brownie," he served Local 212 as a trustee of the Supplemental Unemployment Benefit Trust, E-Board member, assistant business agent and organizer. He also served for 20 years as a Whitewater Township trustee.

He was a dedicated and trusted member and friend. We pray for God's mercy upon all our departed brothers and their families.

More than 150 members and guests enjoyed food, drinks and friendship at our Annual Christmas Party on Dec 7. As that date marked the 75th anniversary of the beginning of World War II at Pearl Harbor, club members Henry Abel, Jim McInerney and Wayne Myers Sr. were honored for serving our country during

that epic era of American history. Kudos also to Mike and Brenda Himes for lovely parting gifts, including IBEW Christmas ornaments.

Finally, remember that elections have consequences. Take notes for the next time you are in the voting booth to cast your vote.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

## 42nd Annual Reunion Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 236, ALBANY, NY — On Tuesday, Oct. 11, last year, over 50 IBEW Local 236 retirees and their spouses attended the 42nd Annual Reunion Luncheon, held at Treviso in The Italian American Community Center. The food and service provided by the staff at Treviso were great, and the comradery enjoyed by the members as they shared stories was even better. Thank you to the following officers of the Retirees Club for organizing such a great event: Pres. Phil Clemens, Vice Pres. Bob Jenne, Sec. James Porter and Treas. Lou Lourinia. [See photo, above.]

The Local 236 Retirees Club would like to invite all Local 236 retirees to join us at our next Retirees Club meeting. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month in the following months: February, April, June, August, October and December. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. and are held in the second floor conference room at the Albany Labor Temple, 890 Third Street, Albany, NY.

Jim Porter, P.S.

## 2016 Holiday Show & Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — The Local 257 Retirees Club finished 2016 with a Christmas show at the Main Street Music Hall at the Lake of the Ozarks and our annual Christmas luncheon on Dec. 13 as guests of the Local 257 members. After the luncheon we collected money for St. Jude's Children's Research Center, and also held an auction of IBEW collectible items that were donated from our retirees' personal archives. Proceeds from the auc-



Attendees enjoy 2016 Christmas party hosted by Local 257 members.





IBEW retirees Bob Morrison (left) and Tom Randall, founding members of Local 530 Pension Fund, with Bus. Mgr. Michael Cataford (at podium.)

tion were used to help fund our Retirees Club. Everyone had a great time.

We wish to thank the Local 257 members for hosting a fantastic Christmas meal. We also thank Mike Manning, Local 257 organizer, for acting as our auctioneer. And we thank Juanita and Elaine for decorating the union hall for our Christmas party.

On a sad note, we lost Montie Mountjoy, our secretary and treasurer for many years, on Nov. 20, 2016; and we lost Helen Polly (mother of member Kenny Polly) on Dec. 22 last year. Our thoughts and prayers are with both families.

We hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's holiday. We wish everyone happiness and good health for 2017.

*Delores Melloway, P.S.*

## Awards Breakfast in April; Building Trades Protest

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA — On Wednesday, Nov. 30, last year over 5,000 Toronto building tradesmen and women protested on Queen's Park lawn, due to the Ontario Liberal government's continuing attacks and dismantling legislation being buried in omnibus bills.

Over 50 Local 353 retirees took part in this protest with working members, to show their displeasure with this action that removes protection for workers and the public that they had fought for. All organized within five days.

April 19 this year is the date for our 7th Annual Pin/Award Presentation Breakfast to honour members with 50 years of service or more. We removed the service award presentation from the Retirees Christmas Dinner/Dance, as this large presentation and group pictures took away from the Christmas Dance celebration.

This year we will present service awards to those able to attend. To be awarded are: 85 50-year watches and pins; 22 55-year pins; 45 60-year pins; 17 65-year pins; and 13 70-year pins. Pictures will be taken of each group and published in our local's newspaper. This will bring the number of Local 353 living members with 50 or more years of service to approximately 900 members.

"Listen to the heart beat of your union! What keeps it alive keeps you alive."

*Robert Rynyk, P.S.*

## Sarnia Happenings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — On Friday, Nov. 18, last year, many of our retirees attended the local's 75th Annual Dinner Dance Banquet. When Bob Morrison came forward to receive his 60-year service pin, he and Tom Randall received a standing ovation, and this is the reason why:

In 1972, Bob Morrison, Tom Randall, Cecil Mills,

Roger Cataford and another member, whose name we could not recall at press time, made it known they wanted Local 530 to have a Pension Fund. It was a bold move at that time, as no construction workers had any pension plan, other than the government plan. Roger Cataford was appointed chairman, and the five men made their convincing arguments to the members. They held meetings until 3 o'clock in the morning. Many younger members were against the idea; they wanted the money to remain in their take-home pay. Because of the wisdom of many of the older men, who would not really benefit from the plan, but who could see that it would be a wonderful benefit for those down the road, the plan was put into motion. The committee made collections, retroactive to 1962, for the fund and it cost everyone 10 cents an hour.

The membership started out with \$30,000, minus \$3,000 required to hire a pension actuary from Toronto to put the financial facts and figures in place.

Bob Morrison tells me that when he retired in 1997, there was \$30 million in the Pension Fund. Bus. Mgr. Mick Cataford said there now is \$150 million in our Pension Fund. Bob and Tom are the only surviving men of the original five. What a wonderful gift these five men with vision gave us — financial security in our retirement years! God bless all five of them.

*Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.*

## 'Welcome to Retirees'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 531, LAPORTE, IN — The Local 531 Retiree's Christmas Party was Dec. 14. The local union Executive Board catered our holiday lunch. Attendees participated in our annual gift exchange and everyone had a great time as always. We had a good turnout of about 33 members, which included newly retired members as well.

We are always glad to see more interest in our club. Our meetings are the second Wednesday of April, June, August, October and December, at 12 noon at the union hall. All Local 531 retirees are welcome. Thanks to everyone. Be happy and stay safe!

*John Talerico, Pres.*

## Holiday Party a Success; Important Reminder

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM — Our Christmas party in December was a great success. The party was held at the "Old Wool House" on 1st Street. The food was catered by La Hacienda and the music and decorations were also hired out. Santos Griego was in charge of planning and did a great job. Bill Thompson from the JATC played Santa and gave out holiday stockings. Sorry, no retiree group picture this year ... too crowded and busy!

Important Reminder: Please keep your paperwork on file with the local union office updated and

current regarding information such as marital status, addresses, family names, etc. It's important that members keep their union file updated and current, which helps facilitate the death benefit process for family members following a death. It's simple — contact the union office and update your information to confirm the information on file is correct and current.

Work in the local's jurisdiction is increasing as the new Facebook project gets underway in Los Lunas. The local has already had an increase in apprenticeship applications and this work should help the out-of-work list. The project's first phase will take about three years with more phases to follow. The union general contractor has a good reputation for hiring union labor.

We extend condolences to the families of several retired members who recently passed away: Raymond C. Tedfor, John P. Curran, Norval G. Hughes, Tommie Strand, Seferino "Seff" Baca, Robert R. King and Alie A. Dixon.

*Tracy Hall, Pres.*



Local 995 retirees and spouses enjoy a luncheon get-together.

## A Season of Giving

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1245, VACAVILLE, CA — IBEW Local 1245 retirees celebrated the holiday season through giving. The Yerington IBEW Local 1245 Retirees Club purchased 10 wreaths for "Wreaths Across America," an annual ceremony that commemorates fallen soldiers by laying wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery and 1,100 additional locations in all 50 states. The club also donated to Yerington Animal Protection Society, the Yerington Senior Center and a nonprofit dental office called Healthy Smiles. Local 1245's Reno/Sparks Retirees Club also continued their tradition of giving around the holidays in 2016. By selling raffle tickets at its monthly meetings, the group raised \$900 and divided the proceeds evenly among three worthy charities — the Ronald McDonald House, Reno Veterans Guest House and Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation.

*Rebecca Band, P.S.*



Local 611 retiree Roger Padilla and wife at the local's 2016 Christmas party.

## Invitation to Retirees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA — We had a combined luncheon with the wives at the union hall on the first Monday in December. Attendance was good and the food was great.



Members of the IBEW 1245 Reno/Sparks Retirees Club presented a donation to the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation. From left: Frank Istrice, Cyril Escallier, Retirees Club Pres. Ron Borst, Lisa May of NNCCF, Vickie Borst and Rod Thomas.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

## Growing from the Ground Up



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

**A**fter years of trying, and four votes that didn't go their way, as of Jan. 12, the men and women of Baltimore Gas & Electric have something they've never had on the job before: a voice.

This victory proves to me that the best days of organized labor are still in front of us, because our message is getting out. We all want more than a job. We want work that lets us live with dignity, with purpose and the resources to take care of our families. We want work rules that respect us now and retirement plans that respect us later. And the only way to guarantee you get dignity and respect is by joining together.

Baltimore Local 410 will be the first local I will charter as international president. I traveled to Baltimore several times to talk with the BGE workers and to stand in the lines of organizers outside BGE service centers. Those were some of the best times I have had as president because it is the purest expression of the labor movement there is. Side by side, standing up for ourselves and our union and inviting other workers to do the same.

I asked the men and women I met, "Why keep coming back after all those painful losses?" and one reason I heard again and again was that they had met IBEW members when there was a big storm and they came from other, organized utilities, or when the BGE workers went on the road to get the lights back on somewhere else. They told me they heard about the wage and benefit differences, but the BGE workers also said they heard the pride in being a member of the IBEW.

They also heard about a relationship between a union and an employer that was far different from the one painted by the union-busters BGE had brought in during previous campaigns. They heard that, when companies want the best for their workers, the IBEW can be the best partner in the world and everybody can do better. Exelon's experience working with IBEW-represented workers has been positive for the company and its bottom line. It's also been a boon for our members.

We succeed when we grow from the ground up. It was the connections our members made with BGE workers on those emergency calls that made this campaign successful. Nonunion workers, like those at BGE, pay attention.

When we bring the Code of Excellence to a new employer and they see the value of having the best trained and most productive electrical workers in the country, it changes the minds of managers about what a union is. Inside the company and out.

We can all take pride in this win. Doing your job well and speaking up about your union is where our next victories will come from. ■

## The Right-to-Work Con

**S**ince 2011, four traditionally pro-union states have gone right-to-work thanks to Republican sweeps in the 2010 election. Missouri passed right-to-work on Feb. 6 and right-to-work bills are pending in two more states due to GOP gains last November.

Even more disturbing, last month Reps. Steve King of Iowa and South Carolina's Joe Wilson introduced legislation that would make right-to-work the law of the land across the country.

Around the same time King and Wilson put forward their bill, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer told reporters that President Trump was in full support of right-to-work laws.

Supporters claim that it will free workers to make their own decisions and will encourage new job growth and that it has nothing to do with attacking unions.

Let us cut through the rhetoric. Right-to-work has nothing to do with protecting the rights of the individual. No one can be forced to pay union dues if they don't want to under current labor law — just a maintenance of contract fee.

And it has nothing to do with creating jobs or attracting new business. On the annual surveys of manufacturers by Area Development magazine, right-to-work has never ranked in the top 10 factors influencing location decisions.

The last state before 2010 to go right-to-work was Oklahoma in 2003. Supporters said it would bring desperately needed jobs to the state. Instead, 14 years later the number of new jobs coming to Oklahoma fell by one-third.

The GOP's right-to-work crusade is all about weakening the one institution that gives working families a voice and fights for higher wages, stronger benefits and safer workplaces: the labor movement.

Right-to-work hurts everyone who works for a living, union and nonunion alike. It is not a coincidence that workers in right-to-work states make on average \$5,000 a year less than their counterparts in the rest of the country.

Right-to-work is about tilting the balance of political power in America toward the 1 percent and big-money lobbyists, all the while unfairly punishing businesses that play fair and engage in collective bargaining, by letting the government tell owners how to manage their relationships with employees.

Right-to-work advocates will not tell voters the truth, but we will.

It is up to us to start making phone calls and letting our representatives know that any legislation that lowers wages and muffles the voice of working families is the wrong direction for this country. ■



**Salvatore J. Chilia**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

**Send letters to:**

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

Or send by email to: [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org)

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International Labor Communications Association

Amplifying Labor's Voice Around the World



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Making America Great

It's 2017 and we have a new president, maybe not our favorite choice but our president just the same. So what do we do, brothers and sisters? Give up? Or ramp up? Ramp up sounds like the better choice to me. We are the best trade out there because of our hard work. Making a commitment to get more involved in our union activities, support American-made products, help our brothers and sisters in need, and always work like our general foreman is watching us is a good place to start.

Remember, unions are what made America great, and unions are what can make America great again.

*Brian Lewis, Local 9 member  
Wilmington, Ill.*

## Once an Organizer...

I am a 46-year member of Jefferson City, Missouri, Local 257 and a retired business representative. My wife and I and our family spent Christmas on an island near Bradenton, Florida, where in the local newspaper, I saw a photo of an unemployed electrician who had traveled to Bradenton to seek work and was eating Christmas dinner at the local Salvation Army. I know from reading social media sites that several locals currently had calls going unfilled. I found myself wishing there was some way I could reach out to the man pictured and explain how he could better his future with the IBEW.

Later that day, I needed to cross a drawbridge. As I neared the bridge control office, bells began ringing and the cross-arms were beginning to come down. The bridge operator asked me to step inside with him while he raised the span to allow a boat through. While I was there, I noticed written on a dry-erase board "IBEW Local 824," along with a contact name and phone number. I asked and he said, "Don't tell me you're an IBEW member?" He was thrilled to tell me that the operators had gotten together in an effort to better their wages and benefits. Since they had joined Tampa Local 824, their wages had almost doubled and they had benefits they had only once dreamed of. He could not praise Local 824 enough.

In just a few hours, I saw one man who would have benefited from asking the IBEW for a hand-up, and another who did ask and could not have been more pleased with the result. Time and again after taking a test drive with IBEW, I have heard organized brothers say, "I wish I had joined years ago."

*Jim Winemiller, Local 257 retiree  
Jefferson City, Mo.*

## Tool Bag

I worked a long time  
Tried to better my way  
Put in some rough hours  
Surely earned the pay  
Struggles went by slow  
Yet the times were fast  
Build a solid career  
Hoping it could last  
Up at dawn break  
Running for the dough  
Leave a family behind  
With tool bag in tow

Schedules to be met  
Daily was the grind  
Labor for paychecks  
Job market to find  
Slip on the old gloves  
Shielding for my eyes  
Getting home night late  
Comfort little one's cries  
Home lives in the heart  
Children bring the soul  
Raising a family safe  
Craftsman's true goal



Side cut or wire skin  
Set gear at level best  
Conduit run goes forever  
Don't forget a voltage test  
Lighting the world around  
Power each destination  
Better the lives to come  
Hand down the generation  
Work for living wages  
Training through the rules  
Union brand of labor  
Keep sharp, cutting tools

Sweat and blood spill  
Yet neither take a pause  
Being the breadwinner  
For the greater cause  
Providing for a family  
Working off the plan  
Courage through a path  
Compassion of a man  
Surely earned the rest  
Put away the ladder climb  
Tried to better some lives  
I worked a long time.

*William Koch Jr., Local 456 retiree  
New Brunswick, N.J.*

## WHO WE ARE

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org).

# Fired While his Wife was in Labor, Man Gets a Second Chance with the IBEW



*Lamar Austin, his wife Lindsay, and their four children. Cainan Austin, who was born on New Year's Day, is being held by his mother.*

Lamar Austin became an unwitting public figure when he was fired for missing work while attending the birth of his son on New Year's Day. News of the incident spread on social media after it was reported by newspaper and television stations in New England.

It's a story that may have a happy ending, however, due in part to the IBEW.

Austin, 30, has received several job offers, but is applying for a spot in Dover, N.H., Local 490's apprenticeship program after being invited to do so by Business Manager Denis R. Beaudoin. Austin lives in nearby Pittsfield, N.H., with his wife and four children: the youngest, Cainan, will receive the credit for the positive career track of his father after his birth.

"I've been waiting for so long for this," Austin said. "God delivered it to me. Why look for something else?"

Beaudoin said Austin's plight originally caught his attention because they both live in Pittsfield. He encouraged him to apply after reading that Austin wanted to become an electrician.

"This isn't a freebie," Beaudoin said. "It's an actual offer to better himself. A lot of people in life don't have these opportunities. If they did, they would take advantage of it."

"We offer that," Beaudoin said. "That's the beauty of the IBEW. We offer a way to improve your life."

Among those improvements for Austin if he's accepted into the program: a well-paying career, a chance to earn a pension, increased job security and knowing he'll be able to take time for the birth of a child.

"The IBEW understands family values," Beaudoin said. "We live it and support them."

Austin grew up in Newark, N.J., and served in the U.S. Army before settling in New Hampshire because his wife Lindsay is from there. Their son Cainan was born at about 7:30 a.m. on Jan. 1.

Earlier that morning, Salerno Protective Services informed him he was out of a job as a security guard for failure to show up for work. Austin, who said he informed the company that his wife was in labor, was within his 90-day probationary period. New Hampshire is an "at-will" employment state, meaning employees can be terminated for little reason and without warning.

But it struck many as unfair and anti-family. One New Hampshire woman set up a GoFundMe account for the family and several businesses made job offers.

Austin said his mother was a union carpenter and reminded him of the importance of unions for working families. He remembered that and he'd always wanted to be an electrician, so Beaudoin's offer nailed it.

"She always told me that you need some job security," he said. "As a kid, I didn't quite understand what she was talking about."

Austin said he's good with his hands and a quick learner. He's talked with Local 490 Training Director Jonathan Mitchell and will officially apply for a spot when he receives his transcript from his New Jersey high school.

"This is part of my job when you see someone saying they want to be an electrician," Mitchell said. "We reach out to those people and encourage them to come in."

Both Beaudoin and Mitchell noted Austin has plenty of work ahead. He still must meet the requirements for entry and he'll have to commit to a five-year apprenticeship program. But they said his military background should work to his advantage.

"We've had great experience with military guys before," Beaudoin said. "They already know you need to be organized. They understand you have to attend classes."

Austin said he is thankful for the chance. His story has shown up in media outlets all over the world and he did an interview with People Magazine.

"It's been kind of weird for me," he said. "At one point, I thought no one really cared about anyone else's struggles. But at this point, God has showed me that people really do care." ■



## Billion Dollar Texas Build Lays Path for 'Clean Coal'

*New carbon capture technology could be the solution the struggling coal industry needs.*

On Jan. 10, America's first large-scale "clean coal" power station was declared operational, and IBEW members from Houston Local 66 are playing an integral part in making the groundbreaking technology work.

The billion dollar Petra Nova project, located at NRG Energy's W.A. Parish power plant in southeast Texas, is the first of its kind to recapture a coal plant's emissions and extract harmful carbon dioxide from it for commercial use in the U.S. The retrofit to one of the plant's four existing coal units aims to strip 90 percent of the CO<sub>2</sub> from a portion of the unit's flue gases, capturing 5,000 tons of carbon per day, or more than 1.6 million tons of the greenhouse gas each year.

"We're really pleased that this project shows carbon capture can work at scale," said Utility Department Director Jim Hunter, who described Petra Nova as a proof of concept. "This is the first time anyone has been able to retrofit a coal unit and to do it in a way that has some economic viability, so we're hopeful that the technology and lessons learned here will allow for more investment in coal in the future."

For Houston Local 66 Business Manager Greg Lucero, the Petra Nova project has been on his radar for at least five

years. Under pressure from environmental regulation and changes in public opinion for decades, the coal industry needs to find a way to clean up its carbon footprint if it's going to survive long-term. "Petra Nova proves we can do that," Lucero said.

Although the project captures emissions from just 240 megawatts of the W.A. Parish plant's more than 3,500 megawatt output, it still qualifies as the largest carbon capture system fitted to a coal plant in the world.

"I'm proud of this system," Lucero said. "Anything we can do to get our members in on the ground floor of a new clean technology like this is great as far as I'm concerned." The system and its small gas-fueled generator have also added 15 to 20 bargaining unit jobs to the nearly 200 already at W.A. Parish, mostly for Local 66 members who were in danger of being laid off at one of NRG's nearby coal plants.

Of course, the real question determining the future of carbon capture and sequestration, or CCS, technology is whether there's a profit to be made that justifies the expense.

"The short answer," Hunter says, "is 'Not right now.'"

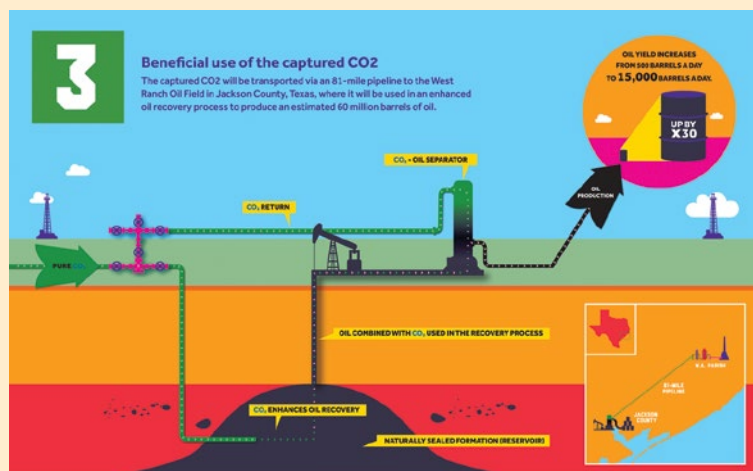
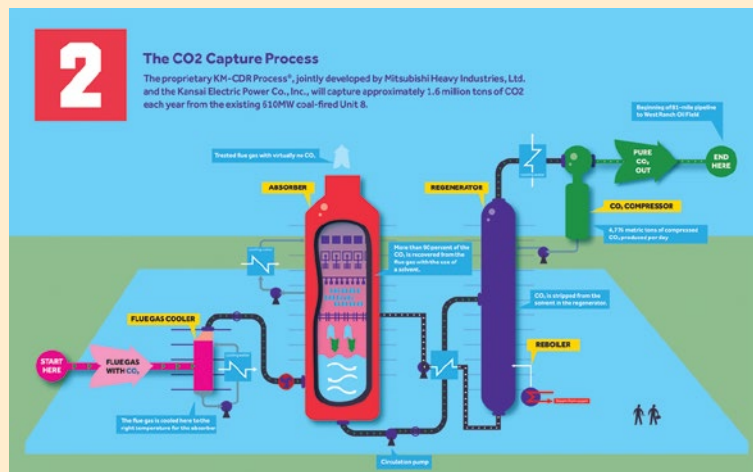
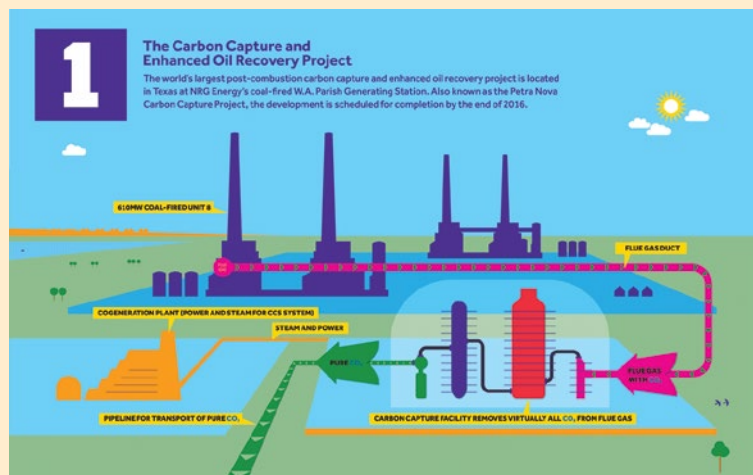
In Petra Nova's case, about \$190 million of the total \$1 billion cost came from the U.S. government, part of the

Department of Energy's Clean Coal Power Initiative. Tax credits for carbon capture also helped to pad the bottom line. But for NRG and its partner in the project, JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration Corp., the real money comes from a unique plan the two companies have to make the captured CO<sub>2</sub> work for them.

Just 80 miles to the southwest, the West Ranch oil field has been in operation since 1938, having produced 390 million barrels of crude in its lifetime. But, as with all oil fields, they eventually stop producing on their own, leaving millions of barrels of oil in the ground and billions of potential profit there with it.

That's where the CO<sub>2</sub> comes in. Through a process called "CO<sub>2</sub> enhanced oil recovery," the West Ranch field is piping liquid carbon dioxide captured by the Petra Nova system and pumping it into wells, where it mixes with leftover oil and allows crews to extract more of what's left in the ground. Much of the CO<sub>2</sub> is then "sequestered" underground in the oil's place, where it solidifies over time, doing none of the environmental damage it would have done if released into the atmosphere. Since last September, Petra Nova had captured and pumped 100,000 tons of liquid CO<sub>2</sub> to West Ranch by the first of the year.

The process has been used since the early 1970s, but it has never been coupled with carbon capture from a coal plant. In oil production, the initial recovery phase often leaves 80 to 90 percent of oil trapped in place once standard pumping has been completed. That leads to a secondary phase, where water is pumped into the



Illustrations show how Petra Nova's process works, first capturing carbon dioxide from flue gas emissions (1), then extracting and filtering out the CO<sub>2</sub> (2), and finally piping liquid CO<sub>2</sub> to boost oil production 80 miles away (3). For larger versions of the slides, visit [ibew.org/media-center](http://ibew.org/media-center). Photos courtesy of NRG Energy.

ground, "repressurizing" the wells to allow more oil to be extracted. Even after this effort, as much as 50 to 70 percent of the oil is still out of reach.

The third phase, using captured liquid CO<sub>2</sub>, allows oil producers to give new life to depleted oil fields. NRG hopes production at West Ranch will skyrocket from about 300 barrels a day to as much as 15,000 using Petra Nova's captured gas.

"At \$50 [per barrel of oil], we're economically viable, which means that it can pay all the debt, it can pay for the capital cost, it can pay for the operating cost, and it actually makes a bit of money to pay for this," NRG spokesman David Knox told E&E News.

But is it enough? Hunter isn't so sure — yet. "When they started planning this project," he said, "oil was up at \$100 per barrel or more. There was a near-universal assumption that the government was going to put a price on carbon emissions. When you combined that with an existing tax credit for capturing CO<sub>2</sub>, it made a lot

of sense. But with oil at \$50 per barrel, I don't think you'll see many more companies trying this near-term."

NRG has admitted as much. "At \$100 [per barrel], this project would make an incredible amount of money," Knox said. With prices what they are at present, however, the company has no plans to build a second CCS system.

Still, Hunter and Lucero say Petra Nova provides hope for the future of carbon capture. "Even at just 240 megawatts, this is still CO<sub>2</sub> that would be spewing into the atmosphere," Hunter said. "This system is grabbing that, using it to produce a valuable commodity, and then sequestering the carbon underground where it doesn't damage the environment."

"That makes lots of people happy, plus it's putting IBEW members to work. If they can figure out the economics, we could be looking at the future of coal power, and at even more IBEW jobs installing and running these kinds of systems all over the U.S. and Canada." ■