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Charter Turns its Back on Customers, Union Members



New York Local 3 members participate in a rally outside a Charter/Spectrum store in Brooklyn on Aug. 2. They have been on strike since March 28.

Charter/Spectrum is doing just fine. The cable television company took in \$29 billion in revenue in 2016 and the stock price has gone up about 70 percent during the last year.

Yet it continues to make demands that would devastate about 1,800 members of New York Local 3, who have been on strike against the company since March 28.

Charter/Spectrum refused to come to the table despite the entreaties of a federal mediator. It finally met with Local 3 negotiators on Aug. 7, the first negotiating session in more than 2½ months. It

BAD FAITH, BAD SERVICE

has ignored New York City political leaders, including Mayor Bill de Blasio, who called on the company to negotiate a fair contract.

"It's pretty draconian what they are trying to do," said Kevin Curran, an international representative in the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Department. "If they want to attack everything you have, it seems the end game is to get rid of the union instead of getting concessions."

Now, IBEW members around the country are helping out. They started handing out leaflets at Charter/Spectrum bill-pay centers in mid-July, letting customers know that while cable and internet rates go up, the company isn't sharing the profit with employees or consumers.

"Any pressure points that we can put on the

company to get them back to the table is appreciated," said Local 3 Business Manager Chris Erikson, who is also chairman of the International Executive Council. "I am sure they are feeling the heat. The public is becoming more aware of what Charter/Spectrum is actually doing."

One pressure point may be coming from New York City officials. Many believe Charter/Spectrum is violating its franchise agreement with the city by bringing in workers from outside New York during the strike. The mayor's office has initiated an audit of the company. The agreement expires in 2020.

"What's happening here is just fundamentally unfair to the workers," de Blasio told New York radio station WNYC. "My strong message to Charter/Spectrum is to come to the table and resolve this."

"I'm not going to prejudge that investigation, but if negative findings occur, it can have a very real impact on the future of Charter/Spectrum's business with New York City and their ability to be here and do their work here," the mayor said.

CHARTER/SPECTRUM continued on page 2

THE IBEW'S
2017 PHOTO CONTEST

DEADLINE: OCT. 31
See page 17 for details

Charter Turns its Back on Customers, Union Members

Curran said it's always preferable to work with a company, noting the five-year contract agreement the IBEW reached with AT&T earlier this year with no public acrimony. But Charter/Spectrum is making that difficult.

"We would much rather be partners with companies we do business with, but IBEW members are battling a corporation that has little regard not just for its employees' welfare, but also for the customers it serves," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "That's disheartening, but it's a battle we can win."

"All we are asking is to keep our benefits at what we have. ... Without my union benefits, even visiting the doctor is out of the question."

— Local 3 member Karega Bennett

The company was known nationally as Charter, but changed its name to Spectrum after merging with Bright House Networks and Time Warner Cable, New York City's longtime cable franchise, last year. Industry consolidation continues, as published reports surfaced in August that a telecommunications conglomerate is weighing the purchase of Charter/Spectrum.

Local 3 member Karega Bennett is a field technician for Charter/Spectrum. A U.S. Navy veteran, Bennett was hired by Time Warner in 2010. He remembers being known as the "kid who can fix anything" while growing up in Queens. He thought working with his hands would be perfect for him.

"It's not a job for me," Bennett said. "It's a career. I truly enjoy it."

But as the strike entered its fifth month, he's wondering if he will have to find a new job. Bennett has found temporary work delivering pizza and working security at concerts. He's also been active in Local 3 activities during the strike, helping whenever asked.

"All we're asking is to keep our benefits at what we have," he said. "Anyone paying attention to what is going on with medical costs and the Affordable Care Act

knows how expensive it is. Without my union benefits, even visiting the doctor is out of the question."

Charter/Spectrum will not back off its initial demands, which call for the:

- Elimination of the current health plan, in which the company pays for most of the costs, and instituting a plan that puts the financial burden on employees.
- Elimination of company contributions to the pension and medical reimbursement funds.
- Elimination of overtime pay on Saturday and Sunday and the reduction of paid holidays.
- Flexibility to subcontract work normally done by bargaining unit employees.

"Many employers start negotiations with crazy proposals, but when you get into negotiations, you find some common ground," Curran said. "What they're basically telling the local is 'We're not negotiating.'"

Erikson noted that Local 3 had 40 years of fair collective bargaining with Time Warner and its predecessors. Spectrum/Charter's actions are "nothing but corporate greed," he said.

"These are trying times for the Local 3 members on strike and their families, but this is about fairness and justice," he said. "This is a fight they must win not only for themselves, but for all union members



Charter/Spectrum CEO Tom Rutledge earned \$98.5 million last year, making him highest paid CEO in the United States.

fighting to protect the progress that we have attained and to hold onto the high benefits that we have earned."

Bennett says one of the things he enjoys most is learning that a customer has contacted management to tell him how good a job he's done. Charter/Spectrum probably needs more of that.



It routinely scores near the bottom in customer service surveys of pay-TV providers. Local 3 officials say the com-

pany knowingly sends technicians on service calls with substandard equipment and disciplines them if they fail to fix the problem.

Charter/Spectrum CEO Tom Rutledge was paid \$98.5 million last year and was the highest paid CEO in the country, according to the New York Times. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman sued the company earlier this year for reneging on a promise to upgrade internet speeds.

IBEW members can show their support for Local 3's striking members by signing a petition asking New York City officials to revoke Charter/Spectrum's franchise agreement. It is available at www.bit.ly/IBEWCharter-Petition.

They can file a complaint with the New York Public Service Commission at www.bit.ly/IBEWCharterComplaint.

Bennett says the last few months have been depressing, but he'll be excited to get back to work when a fair contract is negotiated.

"People appreciate it when a guy comes into their home and he knows what he's talking about," he said. "I am not there to sell you anything. I am there to fix it. That's what really drives me." ■

An Organizing Drive That's a Perfect Fit

Organizing campaigns can be long and combative and leave scars on all sides.

But it doesn't have to be that way. Cincinnati Local 1347 Business Manager Andrew Kirk wanted some union-made T-shirts, walked into a shirt printer's store in a local mall and, nine months later, had 14 new members with 30 more on the horizon, a happy owner and a signed first contract.

"They signed the contract and the next week they had a booth at the progress meeting. I just wish all companies were like them," Kirk said.

Kirk needed T-shirts to give away at monthly meetings, an incentive for the local's 900 members to show up. But everything he found online was made overseas. That didn't sit right.

"We want that union bug, but we need made in America," Kirk said. "We have a lot of older members and retirees in our local and they don't mess around about that."

He was walking around Eastgate Mall, and happened to see a store called Blackout Tees that had their own print shop.

They weren't union, but they were local, and Kirk explained what he wanted. And while he was there, he asked the employee if he'd ever thought about joining a union. The worker called the company's owner, Jamie Madden, to the front.

Kirk talked to Madden. And then, unexpectedly, Madden got excited about the idea of an organized workforce.

Kirk talked to the workers. They got excited.

Madden, a former member of the National Nurses Union, threw his support



Jamie Madden, the owner of newly organized Blackout Tees, shaking hands with Cincinnati Local 1347 Business Manager Andrew Kirk.

employers succeed."

Blackout tees is now waiting for its official union bug. It has a page of officially licensed IBEW themed T-shirts, available at ibew.blackouttees.com.

And, most importantly, it has a new 20,000-square-foot warehouse and production space to expand into and plans to go from one shift to three, nearly tripling the workforce.

"He is making a big investment, and he knows the expectations we have for our workers," Kirk said. "There is a night and day between union and nonunion quality. We bring a certain class to the field."

Kirk has been through many organizing campaigns. But none like this.

"It was just one of those things," Kirk said. "It's like a fairy tale almost." ■

Correction

The link to purchase additional kits from the National Child Identification Program is www.childidprogram.com/order-now. The URL printed in the August issue of the Electrical Worker was incorrect. ■

Meeting at the Corner of Opportunity and Growth

Dave Fashbaugh's jurisdiction is mostly rural, save for the influx of vacationers along Lake Michigan during the summer months.

He's the business manager of Traverse City, Mich., Local 498, an area where organized labor's roots aren't nearly as deep as in and around Detroit, about a four-hour drive away. It's a place where the recovery from the economic recession has come a little slower.

That's why Fashbaugh asked to be included in Intersections, a program developed by the Business Development Department targeting local unions with opportunities to grow their market share. It helped Local 498 land a contract to build a Costco store — a job that likely would have gone to a nonunion contractor in the past.

"Our people still have bills to pay," he said. "If I sit around waiting for two or more contractors of any size to bid on a project, I'm not going to get any members because they will hit the road and not come back."

John Bzdawka, the Sixth District's international representative for business development, said the IBEW learned the store would be built before most potential competitors did. That allowed him and Fashbaugh to get a meeting with Costco's head of construction and introduce him to Local 498's signatory contractors.

The Business Development Department staff examines construction trends within a jurisdiction and identifies potential opportunities. It provides a market analysis to determine what contractors have been most active during the last five years. They share the information with local business managers.

"Instead of taking a scattershot approach, how do we develop a plan to measure outcomes where everyone is moving in the same direction?" Business Development Department Director Ray Kasmak said.

Preference is given to locals where the "opportunity for growth is identified over the next 6-24 months" and "where a spirit of cooperation and innovation exists."

"Get the work, get the people, grow the local," Kasmak said. "The next challenge is how do you keep the business going."

Albany, Ga., Local 1531 upped its membership from 49 to more than 80 when it landed a contract to do some of the work on a Constellation biomass plant. Fifth District International Representative Bill Dever signed an agreement promising the IBEW would supply the workers, even while knowing Local 1531 would be stretched to meet it.

It delivered. Most of the travelers in Georgia were working on a nearby nuclear plant, so the IBEW met the demand by organizing local electricians, who responded to advertising on Facebook and word-of-mouth that spread through the community.

"I'll be the first to say that if it were not for the business development effort, we never would have been successful in landing that job," Business Manager Allan



A 50-megawatt biomass facility owned by Constellation Energy under construction in Albany, Ga.

Photo provided by Constellation.

York said. "They were already prepared to give the job to nonunion contractors."

That project has ended, however, so

York is now in search of more work. Potential opportunities are harder to spot in a largely rural area, especially for a business

manager at a small local without a staff.

"I am a one-man show," York said. "I can't spend a lot of time doing

research. They are able to funnel that information to me. I can funnel that to the contractors and we can engage in some productive conversations."

Bzdawka, a former Milwaukee Local 494 business manager, said strong leadership on a local level is what makes Intersections successful.

"As long as the business manager has bought into it, it will work," he said. "If you have someone who goes into it half-heartedly and thinks the International Office is going to sweep in and do all the work, it's not going to fly."

The response has been gratifying for Kasmak since the program was unveiled during the IBEW's construction conference last spring.

"The phone hasn't stopped ringing," he said. ■

IBEW Fixer Saves Nonunion 'Zoo' at Tampa Manatee Preserve

The first grid-scale solar installation built by Tampa Electric Co. was supposed to be the opening chapter of the company's green energy future. It all nearly fell apart because of one of the oldest stories there is: shoddy work by nonunion contractors.

"When I got there, it was a zoo," said David Mulkey, a retired member of Chattanooga, Tenn., Local 721 who was called out of retirement by TECO to rescue the project. "A four-month project was about two months behind."

The 24-megawatt system was to be built at TECO's iconic Big Bend generation station. The nearly 50-year old power station has one natural gas and four coal burners. TECO plans to only build solar and natural gas in the future and Big Bend was its first step.

It was the obvious place to launch a green future because Big Bend is an industrial site, a nature reserve and a tourist beacon.

Since the fourth coal unit came online in the mid-'80s, hundreds of endangered Florida manatees — slow-moving herbivores that look like tuskless walruses — congregate in the discharge canal each winter, drawn by the warmed water flowing out of the plant and into Tampa Bay.

It is such a valuable resource for the endangered manatee that the canals have been a federal sanctuary since 2002. And with hundreds of the charismatic animals bobbing in the shadow of the smoke stacks come millions of visitors.

The electrical contractor for the job was Sachs Electric, a St. Louis-based signatory contractor with a national network of partners. But General Superintendent John McAtee said Sachs had not worked in Tampa since the '80s and needed a local partner to staff the job.

Signatory contractors have an easy way to find trustworthy partners: call the business manager of the nearest local.

"I've done that many, many times," McAtee said.

Picking up the phone was Tampa Local 915 Business Manager Randall King. It's a conversation King has also had many times.

"It doesn't always come to fruition, but I am always on the phone match-making contractors," King said.



Tampa Local 915 members did the electrical work for the 24-megawatt solar system at Tampa Electric's Big Bend power station, which is already a nature reserve for endangered Florida manatees.

King called Tampa-based Electro Design Engineering. It had never done a solar project, but it worked on TECO properties already so the utility knew them.

King arranged a meeting and a partnership was made.

The result was four months of work for 85 members, more than a million man-hours.

"That was a productive lunch," King said.

But the project quickly went sideways. The solar arrays required significant coordination between the Texas-based nonunion mechanical crews and the union electrical workers. But the nonunion contractor was understaffed and incompetent. Workers were late and often had to repeat work.

"It was falling apart," McAtee said.

"Modules were broken and collapsing sometimes after we had worked on them."

Sachs had to tear up its work plan more than once.

Then Mulkey arrived. For years he was the Tennessee Valley Authority's emergency construction manager, brought in when money was burning and the finish date was a mirage on the horizon that never came closer. It should have been a management position but Mulkey told the TVA he would never leave the IBEW.

"I made more money being an electrician than as an engineer and had to put up with less crap than if I'd gone into management," Mulkey said. "I had the best of all worlds."

After retiring from TVA, he worked as an independent consultant. Then he retired from that, though he admits he isn't very good at being retired yet.

TECO was watching Big Bend fail and called Mulkey. He agreed, came to Tampa, and looked around the site.

"I was impressed with Electro Design," he said. "But [the nonunion contractor]? You couldn't even talk to those idiots. I've never seen such a circus."

He made his home in the mechanical contractor's office and "rode them."

They staffed up and stopped hiring people off the street. They caught up and the project went online at the peak of the manatee peeping season in February.

Mulkey is now back in retirement.

"I hope TECO learned the lesson," Mulkey said. "The IBEW, we had our [stuff] together." ■

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

Vancouver Pre-Apprentice Program Expands Access

In collaboration with the aboriginal community and the building trades, Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 213 led a pilot program to recruit and train aboriginal youth interested in pursuing a career as an electrician.

In many cases, aboriginal students aren't offered high enough levels of math, science and English to qualify for an apprenticeship. The Alternate Pathways to Electrical Careers program was designed to bridge that gap — and it graduated 14 students on June 30 in its inaugural class.

"We're showing the aboriginal community that we see the challenges they face and that we want to help," said Local 213 Business Manager Adam Van Steinburg. "We don't want to turn anyone away because they didn't have the same level of access as someone else."

The program began in January with individualized training from Skillplan instructors. Skillplan is the training arm of the British Columbia Building Trades and it conducted an analysis of provincial math and science programs as compared to apprenticeship requirements. It then crafted a course designed to offer the necessary training to students who were essentially falling through the academic cracks in their school's curriculum.

"Our trade is very technical, the training is tough," said Andy Cleven, training director of the Electrical Joint Training Committee. "The students really proved themselves. They worked incredibly hard."

The program, funded by a grant from the Canadian government, includes eight weeks of preparatory work to get students on the same level in math and science, followed by a 15-week entry level course in electrical theory and practice.

Once the students have completed both components, they then move on to 10 weeks of paid, hands-on work with signatory contractors. Once that is complete, they can start their apprenticeship, joining Local 213's current group of 900 apprentices.

The graduates are currently working in marine, commercial, industrial and data sectors.

The students, who come from all areas of the province, responded well to the program, Cleven said.

"What I learned in this course surpasses what I learned in post-secondary courses," said student Kristy Jacobs. "The teachers really care about you. You're not just a number."

Due to the success of the pilot, the program was given the OK for a second round, set to begin in October.

Some of the current contracts in British Columbia are on First Nations land and project labor agreements may require a certain number of aboriginal people. Cleven and Van Steinburg said that the main reason for conducting the outreach is to grow the trade and level the playing field.

"We're here for the industry, and for



Aboriginal youth take part in a pilot program led by Vancouver, Local 213 to teach them the skills necessary to enter an apprenticeship. Pictured are David Field, Grant Mayers, Cory Prasad and Jeff Innes.

Photo credit: Electrical Joint Training Committee and Chuck Russell

the people who are under-represented," Cleven said.

Local 213 isn't alone in its outreach efforts. Locals in Newfoundland and Labrador have established a relationship with the Innu Nation.

Through the IBEW College, the Innu have access to resources including skills assessment, pre-apprenticeship training, career counseling and mentorship. The long-term goal is to eventually have a program run by the Innu, modeled on the

IBEW's, said Kelly Power, IBEW College training director.

"It's a legacy project," Power said. "The Innu Nation will be by our side for every aspect. And we'll help bridge their relationships with other trades as well."

Le programme de formation préparatoire à l'apprentissage élargit l'accès

En travaillant en collaboration avec les communautés autochtones et les métiers de la construction, la section locale 213 située à Vancouver, BC a créé un programme pilote visant à recruter et à former de jeunes autochtones qui souhaitent poursuivre une carrière à titre d'électricien.

Dans de nombreux cas, on n'offre pas un niveau suffisamment élevé en matière de cours de mathématique, de sciences ainsi que d'anglais aux étudiants autochtones pour être admissibles à un programme d'apprentissage. Le programme *The Alternate Pathways to Electrical Careers* (une autre voie pour mener une carrière en électricité) a été conçu pour combler les lacunes — et dans le cadre du cours inaugural, 14 étudiants ont ainsi achevé ces études le 30 juin.

« Nous voulons montrer à la communauté autochtone qu'on tient compte des défis auxquelles ils sont confrontés et nous voulons les aider, » explique le gérant d'affaires Adam Van Steinburg du local 213. « Nous ne voulons pas refuser personne à cause qu'ils n'ont pas reçu le même niveau d'accès que quelqu'un d'autre ».

Le programme a commencé au mois de janvier avec une formation individuelle donnée par un formateur de *SkillPlan*. *SkillPlan* est le pilier chargé de la formation des métiers de la construction en Colombie-Britannique et a procédé à une

analyse des programmes en mathématique et en science au niveau provincial pour comparer les exigences relatives à la formation en apprentissage. Ils ont ensuite mis sur pied un cours destiné à offrir la formation nécessaire aux étudiants qui avaient de la difficulté à combler les exigences s'y rapportant aux programmes d'enseignement.

« Notre métier est très technique, la formation est difficile, » ajoute Andy Cleven, le directeur de la formation du *Electrical Joint Training Committee* (comité conjoint sur la formation en électricité). « Les étudiants se sont vraiment montrés dignes. Ils ont travaillé très fort. »

Le programme est financé par une subvention reçue du gouvernement canadien. Il comprend huit semaines de travail préparatoire pour amener les étudiants à être au même niveau en mathématiques et en sciences, suivi d'un cours de formation initiale qui concerne la théorie et la pratique dans le domaine de l'électricité.

Une fois que les étudiants ont réussi ces deux parties, ils auront donc accès à un travail rémunéré d'une durée de 10 semaines offert par des entrepreneurs signataires. Une fois que cette étape est terminée, ils peuvent commencer leur formation en apprentissage, pour enfin rejoindre le groupe de la section locale 213 qui comprend 900 apprentis.

Les diplômés œuvrent présente-

ment dans les milieux spécialisés tels que la marine, le commercial, l'industriel ainsi que l'informatique.

Les étudiants provenant de toutes les régions de la province, ont bien assimilé le programme, mentionne Cleven.

« Ce que j'ai appris dans ce cours surpasse ce que j'ai appris dans les cours post-secondaires, » avoue l'étudiante Kristy Jacobs. « Les enseignants se soucient vraiment de toi. Tu n'es pas un numéro. »

Étant donné le succès du projet pilote, un feu vert a été donné pour mener un second tour, prévu commencé en octobre.

Certains contrats actuels en Colombie-Britannique sont sur les territoires des Premières Nations et certaines conventions collectives peuvent exiger l'embauche d'un certain nombre d'autochtones. Cleven et Van Steinburg informent que la raison principale qui mène à cette approche a pour but d'accroître le métier et d'égaliser les chances.

Nous sommes ici pour l'industrie, et pour les personnes qui sont sous représentées, » spécifie Cleven.

La section locale 213 n'est pas la seule dans cet effort de formation. Les sections locales à Terre-Neuve et au Labrador ont établi une relation avec la Nation Innu.

À travers le collège de la FIOE, les Innus ont accès à des ressources telles qu'un bilan de compétences, une forma-

Cleven and Power have been invited to speak at this year's National Electrical Trade Council training conference on their respective programs. The annual conference brings together professionals from across Canada to share best practices in training and apprenticeships. NETCO is an association comprised of the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association and the IBEW in Canada.

"We have kids coming up to us, excited to join the IBEW, and we have to say 'sorry, go back to school.' That's not helping. And that's when they can go non-union," Van Steinburg said. "There needs to be more than one way in, more than one way for these kids to have the same access to the life I have. That's what this program does. That's the IBEW way." ■

tion préparatoire à l'apprentissage, un service d'orientation professionnelle et d'encadrement. Le projet à long terme est d'avoir un programme dirigé par les Innus, selon le modèle de la FIOE, dit Kelly Power, la directrice du collège de la FIOE.

« C'est un projet d'héritage », confie Power. « La Nation Innu sera à nos côtés, à tous les niveaux. Et nous allons les aider à tisser les liens avec d'autres métiers également. »

Cleven et Power ont été invités à parler à la conférence pour la formation du Conseil national des métiers de l'industrie électrique de cette année au sujet de leur programme respectif. Cette conférence annuelle réunit des professionnelles dans l'ensemble du Canada pour partager les meilleures pratiques de formation et d'apprentissage. Le CNMIE est une association qui unit l'association canadienne des entrepreneurs électriciens et la FIOE Canada.

« On se fait approcher par des enfants si passionnés de joindre les rangs de la FIOE, et on doit leur dire "désolé, retourne sur les bancs d'école." Ceci n'aide pas. Et à ce moment qu'il travaille dans un environnement non syndiqué », renseigne Van Steinburg. « Il doit exister plus qu'un moyen d'avoir accès, plus qu'un moyen de donner à ces enfants accès à la même vie que moi. C'est ce que le programme fait. Voilà comment procède la FIOE. » ■

CIRCUITS

New IBEW Newsletter Highlights Code of Excellence Values

The Code of Excellence is the backbone of everything the IBEW does. That importance is underscored with the launch of a new quarterly newsletter.

The IBEW SPARQ newsletter highlights one of the Code's five values in each issue. They are Safety, Professionalism, Accountability, Relationships, and Quality.

The goal of the newsletter is to keep the Code of Excellence's values at the forefront of everything IBEW members and officers do on the job. Each edition will have the same format, including a cover story that highlights the importance of the Code's values, a section devoted to each branch of the IBEW, and a section that allows local unions to share their own Code of Excellence success stories.

Safety is the topic of the first issue, which is available at ibew.org. Look for the COE tab at the top of the homepage.

The Code of Excellence was introduced in 2008 in construction and other branches have implemented it since then. Every day, IBEW members demonstrate their commitment to excellence by showing up for work on time, respecting employer and customer rules, demonstrating zero tolerance for drug and alcohol abuse and exercising proper safety practices.

The Code backs up the idea that IBEW members are the best-trained and most skilled in the country. Its values make the IBEW the best choice for any job.

Delegates to the 39th International Convention last September passed a resolution calling for a renewed commitment to the Code of Excellence and for local unions to implement it with updated training materials. This newsletter is part of that initiative.

"With SPARQ, we not only compete with our skills, we compete with our character," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "Choosing the IBEW is choosing to invest in the highest quality craftsmanship, and that is what SPARQ represents." ■

Lobbying 101: How to Be an Agent for Change

A group of young IBEW members from New York held their first "lobby day" in Albany, meeting with their elected representatives and getting the chance to sway them on a current piece of legislation.

"I think they learned that their voices are powerful, and can make a difference. Change will happen if you want to make it happen, but you need to do the work," said Third District International Representative Ellen Redmond.

The group included 21 members from 10 local unions. They discussed a bill that proposed mandating infrastructure projects in New York use American-made materials in the construction process.

The members met with Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stew-



RENEW/NextGen members from 10 New York locals meet with their elected representatives in Albany.

art-Cousins, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan and New York State Senate labor committee chair Marisol Alcantara and others about the Buy American bill. State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento addressed the group about the importance of lobbying and being politically active in the labor movement.

"The younger members were able to see how difficult the process of creating and passing a bill is. They saw the efforts that our senators and representatives put forth in hopes of passing the bill," said Timothy Daley, Syracuse, N.Y., Local 1249 organizer, who is also an elected official as a trustee of the Village of Homer.

The bill passed the Senate and Assembly on June 20, less than a month after the group's lobby day, which made the day memorable, said Third District Youth Caucus co-chair Chris Erikson Jr. "Members got to see that effective lobbying can make a change."

RENEW/NextGen seeks to involve the IBEW's younger members and invest them in the future of the union. Members involved represented the following New York locals:

- New York Local 3
- Johnson City Local 10
- Long Island Local 25
- Syracuse Local 97
- Albany Local 236
- Niagara Falls Local 237
- New City Local 363
- Monroe Local 503
- Long Island Local 1049
- Syracuse Local 1249 ■

Hunter? Angler? Catch Brotherhood Outdoors Season 9

As the Union Sportsmen's Alliance celebrated a decade of connecting union members through conservation, its Brotherhood Outdoors TV series kicked off its ninth season with a new look when it returned to the Sportsman Channel over the summer.

Each episode follows union members as they share their personal histories and experiences before heading out on memory-making hunts and fishing excursions across the country. The new format is thanks to new producer Rusted Rooster, which also produces TV shows "Rival Wild" and "Dropped" for The Sportsman Channel and The Outdoor Channel.

Episode 3 of Brotherhood Outdoors featured Milwaukee Local 2150 member

Scott Kirchoff, who headed off to Killbuck, Ohio, on a quest for whitetail deer. The episode, which originally aired on July 11, will be re-broadcast at 11 a.m. (Eastern) on Nov. 12.

You can also catch new shows, including two featuring IBEW members, this fall. Gainesville, Fla., Local 1205 member Shawn Graves will travel far north to Saskatchewan, Canada, to hunt bear and squeeze in some fishing action too. That show airs at 11 a.m. Oct. 8.

And watch Jonesboro, Ark., Local 1516 member Shawn Phares head to Florida to fish for tarpon and other saltwater species, at 11 a.m. on Oct. 22.

Active and retired union members can apply to be on the show by submitting the online application at <http://union-sportsmen.org/brotherhood-outdoors>.

For a complete listing of upcoming episodes, visit www.thesportsmanchannel.com/shows/brotherhood-outdoors.

To view episodes from past seasons, visit www.myoutdoortv.com. ■

In the Upper Peninsula, IBEW Local Leads the Way in Helping Others

About 310,000 people live in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, spread out over more than 16,000 square miles — making it geographically larger than nine states.

Outside of driving for several hours through three other states, one could reach the rest of Michigan only by air or ferry until 1957, when the five-mile Mackinac Bridge was opened.

Longtime residents say that fostered a spirit of looking out for each other. Upper



Local 906 Business Manager Tom Hogan, right, works with a high-school student.

merged in 2016 to form 906. The spirit of volunteerism lives on in Hogan and the rest of his 350 members.

Apprentices perform regular maintenance work on a local women's shelter. Members constructed a covered pavilion at Michigan Tech's football stadium so disabled fans could see games sheltered from the weather. They maintain a playground for children on Marquette's public beach.

"It's being part of the Brotherhood and helping each other out," said Local 906 organizer Kurtis Monroe.

For the last 30 years, Local 906 members and their predecessors have volunteered to maintain the facilities at Bay Cliff Health Camp. It has hosted a summer camp for children since 1934.

"Whenever we have a facility issue, Tom addresses the electrical for us," said camp director Tim Bennett.

Hogan makes it clear to apprentices and members they are expected to take part in community service. He was Local 1070's business manager from 1986-2000, serving in a variety of leadership positions after that, including president, before returning to serve as business manager in 2013, overseeing the merger.

"Many years ago, the IBEW was known as the union of hearts and minds," Hogan said. "We took that and have hung onto that motto, if you will."

Former Local 1070 Business Manager Tony Retaskie, who is now head of the Upper Peninsula Construction Council, agreed that the tradition of IBEW members volunteering in the area runs deep.

Monroe is a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and lives in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., the tribe's ancestral home and a three-hour drive from Marquette. Hogan notes with pride Monroe made that drive many Saturdays to help with projects at Bay Cliff.

Along the way, Hogan and others have built a wealth of friendship and gratitude that symbolizes the best of the Upper Peninsula. ■

Pope Francis: 'There is No Good Society Without Good Unions'

Speaking to representatives from Italian organized labor, Pope Francis blessed the work of labor unions.

Pope Francis compared the work of

unions to the biblical prophets and called on them to expand their "essential function" to all people.

"There is no good society without a good union," he said in his June 28 address to a coalition of labor unions similar to the AFL-CIO.

The pope criticized capitalism for losing sight of "the social nature of the economy." People need meaningful work, the pope said, to become fully human, but they also need rest. Denial of both opportunity and leisure were, he said, inhumane.

"Labor is the most common form of cooperation that humanity has generated in its history. Every day, millions of people cooperate simply by working," he said. "[But] a person is not only formed by labor, because we do not always work and we must not work always."



Pope Francis called unions essential for social innovation.

He particularly criticized child labor, endemic unemployment and the massive retirement packages handed out to CEOs.

"[O]ne should be neither too poor nor too rich: golden pensions are no less an offense to labor than pensions that are too low, as they ensure that inequalities during the time of work become permanent," he said.

As the pope spoke, unions across the world are facing headwinds. In the U.S., as in Europe, membership is shrinking — excluding, interestingly, Italy, where it has grown in the last five years.

The pope said organized labor had two major issues to "face and defeat if it is to continue to perform its essential role for the common good."

Labor must "give a voice to those who have none, denounce those who would 'sell the needy for a pair of sandals', unmask the powerful who trample the rights of the most vulnerable workers, defend the cause of the foreigner, the least, the discarded."

Second, he called on labor to become advocates for people excluded from work, most especially the young, women and migrants.

"The union does not carry out its essential function of social innovation if it watches over only those who are inside," he said. "This must be done, but it is half of your work. Your vocation is also to protect those who do not yet have rights, those excluded from work who are also excluded from rights and democracy." ■

TRANSITIONS

DECEASED Ken Woods



The IBEW is saddened to report that former First District Vice President Ken Woods died peacefully in his hometown of Guelph, Ontario,

on July 6. He was 82.

After playing goaltender in Canadian junior hockey, Brother Woods was initiated into Kitchener, Ontario, Local 804 in 1956 as a journeyman wireman. He transferred his membership to Guelph Local 548 in 1960.

He immediately took over as recording secretary before being elected president and later business manager. He was appointed an international representative by then-First District Vice President William Ladyman in 1972, servicing utility and manufacturing members in Ontario. (Local 548 was amalgamated into Toronto Local 636 in 1977.)

Woods accepted an administrative position in the district office in 1975 and was named administrative assistant to then-First District Vice President Ken Rose in 1985. Rose retired two years later and then-International President J.J. Barry appointed Woods as his successor. He was elected to the position at the 1991 International Convention in St. Louis and re-elected at the 1996 convention in Philadelphia before retiring in 1997.

"I sat in many officers' meetings with him and he was the real deal when it came to concern for the workers," former Second District vice president and International Executive Council member Frank J. Carroll said. "We should have had him recorded so that not only the officers, but our Canadian brothers and sisters, could see firsthand how much he really cared about them."

Greg Woods said his father was the inspiration for him to enter the trades. The younger Woods has been a member of Local 804 for 30 years.

"He spent many hours and days learning everything he could about the IBEW and its bylaws," Woods said. "He became something of an expert in interpreting the union's constitution. He was devoted to his family and his Catholic faith."

"I chose to follow in my father's footsteps because I recognized how being a union member had empowered him personally and as a leader on a national stage. Our dad taught our entire family the importance of the union movement and was proud to do so."

Woods was instrumental in forming the IBEW's Ontario Utility Council and served as its first president and secretary-treasurer.

He also was nationally recognized because of his labor expertise. In 1990, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney appointed him to the Economic Council of Canada, providing advice on ways to grow the Canadian economy.

Derek Woods, another son, said his

father took pride in being selected by Mulroney, the leader of a conservative government that wasn't always viewed as friendly to labor.

"It was a very high level of recognition at that time," he said.

He also served on executive boards for the Canadian Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress. During an active retirement, he was an arbitrator in jurisdictional disputes at the Canadian office of the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department and a charter member of the Local 804 retirees club.

Derek Woods said his father had been in failing health for about two years, but 2016 was still a special year. He earned his 60-year pin for IBEW membership and celebrated his 60th anniversary with his wife Eileen, his high school sweetheart.

"My dad's two biggest achievements would be his marriage to my mom and his commitment to the IBEW," Derek said.

Derek said he remembers his father spending countless hours well into the night at his home office studying IBEW policy and labor law.

"He was the consummate self-made man," his son said. "He did not have a mentor. He had to figure things out himself."

Woods is survived by his wife; sons Derek, Greg and Kevin; daughter Colleen Davies; and eight grandchildren. The IBEW officers, members and staff extend their deepest sympathies to his family. ■

APPOINTED Michael J. Kwashnik



Effective Aug. 1, International Representative Mike Kwashnik has been appointed director of the Council on Industrial Relations,

Bylaws and Appeals Department, replacing Darrin Golden, who was promoted.

Brother Kwashnik grew up in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in the heart of union country, but joining the IBEW was never his plan. "My parents were middle-class people — my father managed a car lot and my mother was a nurse — and the schools pushed most students in the direction of college," he said. "So that's exactly what I did."

After graduating from King's College with a Bachelor of Science in business administration, Kwashnik landed a job with a nonunion construction firm doing estimating and running crews. But as crew sizes grew, he found it hard to find good people.

Meanwhile, his younger brother, David, had completed an electrical training program and gone to work as a non-union electrician at a large local firm. But David saw the benefits of union membership and worked to organize that company into Wilkes-Barre Local 163.

"David started as a second-year in the apprenticeship program, and he start-

ed talking to me about everything the IBEW had to offer," Kwashnik said. "I didn't know much about unions, but I could see the IBEW had much more to offer me as a career path."

After completing his apprenticeship with Local 163, Kwashnik traveled for several years, chasing the booms, but after buying his first home, the bottom dropped out of the construction industry.

"A bunch of us ran out of unemployment and had to tap our annuity to make ends meet," he said. And that's when he began to get involved more actively with the local. "I wanted to do everything I could to prevent that kind of thing from happening to my brothers and sisters."

In 2004 he was elected treasurer of the local, and in 2006 he went on staff as a business agent. The next year he was appointed business manager, a job he held through several elections until 2015.

As business manager, Kwashnik flexed his political muscle, helping put allies into office and securing project labor agreements across the jurisdiction. He served as treasurer of the Luzerne County Democratic Party during that time. He was also a trailblazer in using alternative classifications to get work signatory contractors would have otherwise struggled to win. A 1.6-million-square-foot Lowe's distribution center in 2008 was one of the first projects in Pennsylvania to be built using new crew mixes.

"You have to be aggressive," he said, "especially with developers who bring in

traveling nonunion workforces."

In 2015, then-International President Edwin D. Hill asked Kwashnik to move to Washington to take a job as an international representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department. There, he worked on the National Maintenance Agreement, General Presidents' Project Maintenance Agreement, National Construction Agreement and the Nuclear Mechanic Apprenticeship Program. He also built the IBEW's Davis-Bacon tracking program to ensure prevailing wages reported by locals were posted as required by the U.S. Department of Labor. His work has dramatically improved the department's compliance with the law, boosting wages for workers on government construction projects.

In his new role, Kwashnik will oversee the Council on Industrial Relations, a program for IBEW locals and signatory contractors to settle disputes. His department also processes all bylaws changes submitted by locals and any appeals to the international president or election disputes.

"It's a big job," Kwashnik said, "and Darrin [Golden] has been a tremendous help in this transition. He's just such a wealth of knowledge, and I'm lucky he's only moving down the hall to assist International Secretary-Treasurer [Kenneth W.] Cooper."

Kwashnik expects to settle into the new job quickly. "It's like when I became a business manager," he said. "You jump in with both feet and you get to work for the members of this great union." ■

THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

IBEW's Cavanaugh Prevails in Granite State Senate Matchup

Brother Kevin Cavanaugh won a hotly contested state Senate election in New Hampshire, besting former Republican Sen. Dave Boutin to help Democrats hang on to the seat.

A city alderman and assistant business manager at Manchester, N.H., Local 2320, Cavanaugh stepped up to run in the special election following the death of Sen. Scott McGilvray, another union activist, who died in office in March.

"We're so proud of our brother, senator-elect Kevin Cavanaugh," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "He's a working man who put himself out there to stand up for working people, and we know he's going to do an amazing job serving the people of New Hampshire. Congratulations to him and to everyone who worked so hard on this campaign."

Cavanaugh's July 25 victory was the result of an impressive get-out-the-vote effort. "The labor community really rallied around Kevin's cause and the working class issues he was running for," said Local 2320 Business Manager Steve Soule. Activists from IBEW locals across the state turned out alongside members of other unions and the progressive community to knock on doors, make phone calls and send mailers to get voters to the polls.

Turnout in special elections is typically low, but 8,700 votes were cast in total, representing 21 percent of the electorate. "This was a tremendous turnout for a mid-summer special election," Manchester City Clerk Matthew Normand told WMUR.

Cavanaugh did especially well in the city of Manchester, where three wards are part of the 16th Senate District, including the one he represents on the Board of Aldermen. He plans to keep that job, representing Manchester's Ward 1 while he serves in



Manchester, N.H., Local 2320's Kevin Cavanaugh poses after his special election victory with other elected New Hampshire Democrats, including several of his new colleagues in the state Senate.

the state Senate.

In total, Cavanaugh took 55 percent of the vote to Boutin's 44 despite the fact that Republicans enjoy a registration advantage in the district of almost 6 percent.

Speaking to WMUR, Cavanaugh acknowledged the massive effort it took to prevail. "I knew we had a lot of work to do," he said. "And I like working. Someone told me that I should put my name out there but told me, 'You'll never beat him.' That got me going."

Before his victorious primary in June, Cavanaugh told the Electrical Worker that it was his background as a Verizon technician and union member that pushed him to step up and fight for the

working class in elected office.

"At the IBEW, I see the battles working people go through every day," Cavanaugh said. "Someone gets cancer and the company wants to take away their health care because they've been out of work too long, or gets hurt on the job and their employer wants to reduce their benefits. I have a unique perspective that I can bring to the state Senate."

He'll join just nine other Democrats in the 24-seat Senate, where Republicans hold the majority by four seats, but he says he's up to the challenge.

"I've been fighting for working people my whole life, only now I'll have a little bigger platform," he said.

"I'd love to see more of our members following Kevin's lead," Stephenson said. "No one represents us better than we can represent ourselves, and that's why I'm always encouraged when IBEW members step up to run for public office."

In neighboring Massachusetts, Boston Local 2222 brother Paul Feeney is also running in a state Senate special election, with his primary set for Sept. 19. Members who'd like to find out how they can help his effort are encouraged to visit his website, www.votefeeney.com. ■

LOCAL LINES

Henry Miller Museum Award; Celebration of Honorees

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO — On May 25, the Landmarks Association of St. Louis presented its 2017 Most Enhanced Award to the Henry Miller Museum.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of members from IBEW Locals 1 and 1439, the former residence of 1891 founder Henry Miller was completely reconstructed into the Henry Miller Museum, which honors the Brotherhood's 10 founding fathers. Bro. Miller dedicated his life to organizing electrical workers.

The museum, a former brick boarding house, located at 2726 Martin Luther King Dr., includes an adjacent lot that features a Founders Park with 10 utility poles, each with a statue of a lineman to represent the 10 founding fathers. The museum opened its doors on Sept. 15, 2016.

The Landmarks Association award winners are selected based on: the difficulty of the project, the capacity of the project to have a transformational effect on the surrounding area, the historical or architectural significance of the building, and the project's power to inspire.

And on Saturday, June 3, the Henry Miller Museum hosted an inspiring celebration to honor Local 1 former president Tommy George Sr. (who held office from 1998-2016) and former business representative Tim Murray (who was business rep from 2011-'16).

Proclamations from the Missouri General Assembly were read honoring Bros. George and Murray, recognizing their milestones as Missouri citizens who distinguished themselves in their careers through dedication and professionalism. Bro. George was a journeyman wireman for over 40 years. Bro. Murray, a third-generation member, was a journeyman wireman for 36+ years. Thank you, gentlemen, for your years of service to Local 1 and its members.

We mourn the death of several members: Andrew Barry III, Michael Reynolds, Glenn Smith, Christopher Hantak, Frank Intagliata, Robert Stoverock, Keith McWilliams, Michael Jorgovan, Mike



Attending June 3 celebration at Henry Miller Museum: from left, Local 1 former president Tommy George Sr., Pres. Don Bresnan Jr., Bus. Mgr. Frank Jacobs and former business rep Tim Murray.

Hasenbeck, Roger Grellner, Guffrie Malugen Jr., Stanley Hults, Kenneth Strumpler, John Garascia, Leotis Little, Ronald Rueter, Vaughn Kirk, Danny Richardson, Onna Mae Brown, Harry Evans, Paul Gibbar, Paul Schleeper, Frankie Speer and Richard Meyer.

Jan Bresnan, P.S.

Scholarships Awarded

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Local 15 Pres. Dean Apple is pleased to announce that our ninth annual Scholarship Award winners have been chosen. This year the local distributed twelve \$1,000 scholarships. As usual, 10 scholarships were awarded from Local 15; one additional scholarship was made available from all Local 15 leadership and another was generously made available from retired member Ricky Johnson. The lucky recipients were selected by a committee of members who tirelessly evaluated the 80 applications received. Congratulations to all the winners.

Work continues to be strong because of the Exelon Infrastructure Modernization Act passed in Springfield. The Automated Meter Installation (AMI) program continues moving forward. Well over 3.3 million meters have been installed to date, and completion is planned for mid-2018. Nearly 85 percent of these installations were completed with Local 15 workers. Thanks to the AMI team for your commitment to the work.

Sam Studer, P.S.

125th Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI — Our 125th Anniversary BBQ in June was nothing short of a complete blowout celebration. Local 17 decided to have a membership only event at the hall and in the north to reach as many members as possible. Approximately 1,100 members and retirees attended this momentous event. The membership enjoyed themselves immensely. We had entertainment by bagpipers, all you could eat BBQ, music, and a history presentation of our past. This was probably the biggest Local 17 gathering I've seen in my 28 years of membership. The air was thick with solidarity! It was truly one for the history books. I'd like to thank all those who helped make the celebration a great success. Special thanks to our member volunteers, the staff of Local 17, and everyone involved for their unselfish donations and the tireless work it took to pull this off. Thank you to all!

Our work picture is outstanding, with open calls for linemen and line clearance tree trimmers. DTE Energy wants to hire an additional 400 trimmers for the next several years. Please contact the local if you



Local 17 members helped make the local's 125th Anniversary BBQ celebration a great success.

need more information.

Hope everyone had a happy Fourth of July. Please work safe. Demanding safe work practices from each other on the job is expected and supported by Local 17, DTE Energy, all our contractors and, most importantly, your family!

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



Local 19 presents IBEW Lifesaving Awards to (standing, from left): Ernie Garcia, James Sargent and Tim Erickson. Seated, Thomas Smith. Not pictured: award recipient Dale Vanderbough.

Contract Ratification

L.U. 19 (u), AURORA, IL — On May 4 this year, the Local 19 membership ratified our recent contract with Nicor Gas. The term of the new agreement will be March 1, 2017, through Feb. 29, 2020. In this agreement Local 19 was able to negotiate wage increases, relief in medical premiums, improve the short-term



Local 25 class of 2017 apprenticeship graduates with Training Dir. Chris Kelly (front row, fourth from left).

disability plan, and secure a defined pension plan for employees hired after 1998. Special thanks to our negotiating team: Bus. Mgr./Pres. Chris Harris, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Al Talkington, Vice Pres. Terry Haggerty, Bus. Rep. Mark Klinefelter and Bus. Rep. Andy Nacke.

Accompanying this article is a photo (at left, center) taken at a Local 19 IBEW Lifesaving Award presentation. As reported in our "Local Lines" article published in the July 2017 issue of The Electrical Worker, four Local 19 members received a Lifesaving Award for saving the life of Bro. Thomas Smith, who was injured on the job. Lifesaving Award recipients were: Ernie Garcia, James Sargent, Tim Erickson and Dale Vanderbough. To read the July article, "IBEW Lifesaving Award," visit the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/articles/17ElectricalWorker/EW1707/index.html.

Remember to stay active and involved, and attend your monthly meetings!

Natalia Guzman, Exec. Board

2017 Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 25 (catv,i,rts,c&es), LONG ISLAND, NY — Another year and another great class of electricians.

We congratulate the class of 2017 apprenticeship graduates for all their hard work and many long hours of studying. They are our future, and we all have faith in them to carry on by helping educate our upcoming newer members. We would like to recognize our training director and brother, Chris Kelly, and his staff for all their hard work and dedication.

This is another year where we elect our local union officers. Election judge, Bro. Dennis Shea, and his staff worked tirelessly to make sure our elections ran smoothly and went on without a hitch. We thank them for their service.

We would also like to recognize Bro. Dennis Shea for challenging himself on June 4 this year to participate in the Steven Siller Tunnel to Towers Climb, an event held to honor the memory of New York police and firefighters who lost their lives on the job, and also to raise funds to benefit disabled veterans. Bro. Shea ran up 2,226 steps and 104 stories to the top of the Freedom Tower to raise \$1,580 for the cause. Great job, Dennis!

Tom Lawless, P.S./E-Board

Submitting Local Lines Articles

Local Lines are printed monthly on an alternating even/odd schedule. They can be submitted by designated press secretaries or union officers via email (locallines@ibew.org) or U.S. Mail. We have a 200-word limit. We make every effort to assist local unions in publishing useful and relevant local union news; however, all final content decisions are based on the editor's judgment. Our guidelines and deadlines are available at 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	(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing	(u) Utility
(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers	(ws) Warehouse and Supply	(uow) Utility Office Workers
(es) Electric Signs	(mar) Marine		

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

LOCAL LINES



IBEW Local 37 members were among competitors at the New Brunswick Lineman Rodeo.

Members Heading to International Lineman's Rodeo

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA — The New Brunswick Lineman Rodeo is an event IBEW Local 37 looks forward to supporting each year. On June 2, it was our pleasure to welcome all competitors, with members from both IBEW Locals 37 (New Brunswick Power) and 1524 (Saint John Energy).

IBEW linemen are some of the toughest, most dedicated and talented power line technicians (PLTs) working today. They're committed to the IBEW Code of Excellence and its core values represented by SPARQ (Safety, Professionalism, Accountability, Relationships, and Quality). The rodeo gives them an opportunity to showcase this commitment alongside their pride and skills in a safe, fun, family-friendly environment.

For many of their families, friends and colleagues, the rodeo is the only way to see what their job as a lineman is all about. They can see that although the work is highly complex and challenging, safety is never compromised.

Congratulations to the winning team from the Journeyman event, which included Local 37 members from NB Power: Michael Thomas, Ryan Paul and Peter Scott as well as the winning apprentice, Ryan MacKay, also from NB Power. In October, they'll be traveling to compete at the International Lineman's Rodeo in Bonner Springs, KS. We wish them all the best!

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

Class of 2017 Graduates; Officers Elected

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY — Local 41 held its election of officers on June 20. Elected were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Mike Gaiser, Pres. Matt Hillmeyer, Vice Pres. Shawn Creighton, Rec. Sec. Curtis Johnson, Treas. Marco Lepore; Executive Board members Jim Chmura, Jim Devany, Matt Gaiser, Rick Guerra, Greg Inglut, Gino Matter, Ken Scheifla; and Examining Board members Brett Armstrong, Chris Bove, Juan Negron, Nick Peters and Aaron Rider. Thank you to all who ran and congratulations to all who were elected. Frank Goettelman was our election judge again and did an outstanding job as always. Frank holds the highest standards when taking



Local 41 apprenticeship graduating class of 2017: Joe Piotrowski, Jason Pazda, Robert Viles, Eric Schnurstein, Hoyt Leonhardt, Jarrett Carroll, Timothy Duda, Petar Trifunovic, Robert Mund, Patrick Faltyn, Jason Brown, Vincent Majchrzak, Aaron Juliano, Joseph Balisteri, Robert Umhauer, Jonathan Kroll, Jennifer Janiga, Stephen Mandiak and Robert Fowler.

on any project and being election judge is no different. Thanks, Frank!

On the ballot this November will be a question as to whether New York State should convene a Constitutional Convention. The New York State Constitution holds some of the strongest labor language in the country. The right to collectively bargain and prevailing wage are some of the items in the Constitution that we hold dear. A no vote on this referendum will be the choice we recommend. There are many entities who want to diminish what labor and working people have achieved. Please vote no on the Constitutional Convention.

Congratulations to our newest journeywoman and journeymen on their graduation. Graduates, you have graduated from our apprenticeship, but do not let your learning cease. Our trade is always evolving, and continuing education will enable you to become a better, more valuable journeyman. Congratulations again to all!

Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.



IBEW Local 47 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Patrick A. Lavin (third from left) receives Veteran of the Year Award.

'Welcome to New Members' Annual Stewards Conference

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — The 2017 Local 47 election of officers resulted in an unopposed white ballot for all incumbents. Incumbent officers were re-elected by acclamation. Congratulations to all!

Outside Line Construction collective bargaining agreements were overwhelming ratified by 93 percent. The City of Colton Electric Unit voted to ratify their successor agreement.

Local 47 won NLRB elections at UTILIQUEST (locators) and Southern California Edison (mail drivers). Congratulations to our Local 47 organizing team: Colin Lavin, Rick Garcia and Erin Koh. And many thanks to the IBEW Organizers Bob Brock, Mark Myer, Bob Oedy and Aaron Jones for their assistance. Welcome to our 115 new members!

Bus. Mgr. Patrick Lavin received the Veteran of the Year Award for California's 36th Assembly District. [See photo above.]

Our Annual Stewards Conference was held in April in Anaheim. In attendance were over 300 stewards and union safety representatives, focused on making our union stronger. IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson and Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. John J.

O'Rourke were among our guest speakers.

Upcoming is our 14th Annual Brotherhood Motorcycle Run on Sept. 23. The Local 47 Members' Memorial Golf Tournament was July 22, and our Local 47 picnic was Aug. 12. Thanks to all who participated.

We are saddened to report the deaths of members Kent Davis, Rick Harris, Ronald Flores, Gerry Kirby and Gary Goering. Condolences and prayers go out to their loved ones.

Live safe, live well — work IBEW!

Mitch Smith, P.S.

Golf Scholarship Outing

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — At this writing, the Illinois General Assembly had concluded their regular spring session for the third year in a row without a state budget. Gov. Bruce Rauner continued to hold the budget hostage over his "reform" items; these items are aimed directly at organized labor. Please attend your unit meetings and stay informed. [Editor's Note: After 736 days, Illinois finally passed a budget on July 6 this year, over the veto of Gov. Bruce Rauner.]

On June 3, the local held our annual golf scholarship outing. Twenty-five teams participated, and 12 \$500 scholarships were given by random draw. Scholarship winners were: Ranae Spannagel (daughter of Tim Spannagel), Brittiney Lewis (stepdaughter of Tony Himmel), Kaitlyn Nelson (daughter of Kendra Kitner), Mackenzie Wilson (daughter of Randy Wilson), Isabella Chandler (daughter of Stracy Chandler), Candice Feldmann (wife of Dustin Feldmann), Erin Wildman (daughter of Mike Wildman), Alex Harrison (son of Roger Harrison), Morgan Calvert (daughter of Molly Calvert), Alyssa Rook (daughter of Mike Rook), Landon Thomas (son of Rick Thomas), and Aubrey Testa (daughter of Brian Testa). A special shout-out to our "Dead Last" trophy winners: Jason Trower, Chet Utterback, Bryce Hayes and Tyler VanVleet. Thank you to all the sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers.

Karlene Knisley, B.R.

Election of Officers; Contract Ratifications

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO — On June 21, Local 53 held its election of officers. Elected were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Brett A. Stone, Pres. Todd DuVall, Vice Pres. Jason Allison, Rec. Sec. Chestor Jones, and Sec./Treas. Ron Head Jr. Elected to the Executive Board: Ronald Kapp Jr., Todd A. Shull, Daryl McAfee, Robert Frazee and Eric Youngmans. The officers were sworn in on July 19 at Local 53's general meeting. Special thanks to the election judge and the election tellers for a job well done.

The Local 53 membership recently ratified contracts with several companies, as listed below.

Local 53 Rep. Dexter Drerup helped negotiate the contracts with:

- Laclede Electric Cooperative — a three-year contract with wage increases of 4 percent the first year, 3 percent the second year, and 3 percent the third year;
- Webster Electric Cooperative — a three-year contract with increases of 4 percent (2 percent pay increase and 2 percent on 401-k), 3 percent, and 3 percent;
- Associated Electric Cooperative — a four-year contract with pay increases of 3 percent for each consecutive year of the contract.

Local 53 Rep. Erick Williams helped negotiate the contracts with:

- Grundy County Electric Coop — a four-year

contract with wage increases of 3½ percent, 3½ percent, 3 percent, and 3 percent;

- WDAF-TV/Tribune — a three-year contract with wage increases of 2½ percent, 2 percent, and 2 percent.

Local 53 Rep. Chad McGregor helped negotiate the contract with:

- New Mac Electrical Cooperative, Neosho, MO — a five-year contract with wage increases of 3.25 percent the first year, 3.25 percent the second year, and 3 percent for each of the following three years.

Local 53 Rep. Kyle Neuenschwander helped negotiate the contract with:

- Southwest Electric Coop — a four-year contract with wage increases of 3 percent for each consecutive year of the contract.

Brett A. Stone, B.M./F.S.

Salute to Recently Retired Business Manager Schraeder

L.U. 81 (i), SCRANTON, PA — On March 21 this year, Local 81 officers and members presented then-Bus. Mgr. Richard Schraeder with a plaque commemorating his last union meeting as business manager. Rick retired March 31, after 48 years as a member of Local 81. He has been an officer for 35 years and served the last five years as business manager. Rick was instrumental in getting the new Jessup Powerhouse built. It is a \$1.2 billion gas-fired powerhouse (1,500 megawatts). He attended numerous meetings leading up to the start of the project. Rick's main goal was getting all of his members out to work and treating everyone fairly. At this writing, we only have 10 members seeking work, with the outlook for the summer being very good.

Local 81 wishes Rick the best of luck on his retirement and many more years of good health.

Mike Brust, P.S.



Local 81 members and officers present plaque to then-Bus. Mgr. Richard Schraeder (front row, left). Back row: N. Waitulavich (left), G. Arcurie, E. O'Donnell, J. Addley, M. Brust. Front row: R. Schraeder, P. Casparro, S. Loughman, M. McDermott and E. Scott.

Mobilization & Solidarity

L.U. 89 (catv,em,lctt,o&t), SEATTLE, WA — At a mobilization event on Saturday, May 13, nearly 100 IBEW Local 89 members along with family and friends gathered across two states, dressed in red and holding signs, as a show of solidarity to Frontier Communications. After six weeks of tense bargaining, the negotiations committee, led by the Local 89 Bus. Mgr. Mat-

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Local 89 members and supporters attend mobilization rally to show solidarity with workers at Frontier Communications.

thew Carroll, felt the show of strength and support, which couldn't have come at a better time.

The community showed their support with horns and shouts that were easily heard inside the Frontier "Glass Palace," where the negotiating team continued in the effort to reach a reasonable agreement. This show of support from the public was a simple reminder that IBEW is part of our local community, but the message to the company was much stronger.

Local 89 members continue to stand together in solidarity!

Brian Kirschner, P.S. Pro Tem

Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA — The membership of Local 103 overwhelmingly elected Lou Antonellis as business manager on May 6.

Bus. Mgr. Antonellis has been a member of IBEW Local 103 for 27 years. For 18 years, he has served as an officer of the union, including 13 as a business agent and the last three years as the local union's president. Antonellis has been recognized by his fellow Local 103 members and the broader labor community for his tireless efforts on the frontline fighting for decent wages, benefits and workers' rights. Antonellis ran on a detailed 20-point plan for the local's future that outlined key areas for union growth and a variety of concrete initiatives.

The May election saw the biggest turnout in Local 103's 117-year history. Over 56 percent of Local 103 members, including many first-time voters, turned out to usher in an entirely new leadership team to be led by Bus. Mgr. Antonellis, Vice Pres. Frank Aikens and myself, Pres. Robert Sheehan Jr.

Congratulations to Lou and all newly elected officers of Local 103! [Photo at bottom, left.]

Robert S. Sheehan Jr., Pres.

Scholarship Award Winners; IBEW Service Pin Honorees

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO — The month of July brings the Local 111 tradition of honoring our yearly Vinc Perry Ellis Scholarship winners and acknowledging our members receiving their IBEW 50- and 60-year IBEW service award pins and certificates. This year's reception was held July 14.

Congratulations to: our 50-year service award recipients — C. LeRoy Garcia, Byron J. Melick, Dennis R. Miller, Stanley G. Miller, Leslie I. Morris, Dennis L. Newcome, Patrick M. Pazen, David L. Shalosky and Thomas L. VanCleave; and our 60-year service award

recipients — William B. Kinney, Donald F. Underwood and Ernest L. Veo.

Also, congratulations to the winners of the 2017 Vinc Perry Ellis Scholarship. This year's winners are: Samuel Ramos, child of Ted C. Ramos (PSCO Unit 4); Breanna Clayton, child of Dwight Clayton (PSCO Unit 17B); Emily Booth, child of Charles Booth (SLV Unit 30); Cheyenne Paeper, child of Steve Paeper (PAR Unit 1); and Mika Mildemberger, child of Jonathan Mildemberger (PSCO Unit 3). Each scholarship winner was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship.

Denny Wallace, P.S.

Importance of Safety; Service Pin Dinner & Picnic

L.U. 113 (ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — June 10 saw the local hosting its Service Pin Dinner, and attendance was great. A total of over 1,700 years of service combined set a new record for us. Thanks to all the members, active and retired, for their dedication to the IBEW. Attendees enjoyed the dinner and the camaraderie.

And on June 24 the local hosted its annual picnic at Wonderland Ranch. It was nice to see all the families having such a good time.

I cannot say enough about the importance of safety. Safety issues affect everyone, not just you, the worker. Loss of time on the job, or even worse loss of life, is devastating to families. Our contractors are hurt too if there are safety lapses, having to pay higher premiums and possibly not being able to secure jobs in the event of a high recordable-incident rate.

The bottom line is, we are not doing anyone any favors by taking unsafe shortcuts on a job or task in which we are entrusted to know the best and safest way to accomplish the work. We are all professionals and, as IBEW members, we are held to a higher standard so we can secure more work and be certain to come home at night to our loved ones.

Brian Putnam, P.S.

Annual Oregon Golf Classic

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR — On June 24, golfers convened in Hood River, Oregon, for the 21st Annual Oregon Golf Classic, benefitting the Oregon Burn Center at Legacy Emanuel. This year, \$48,000 was raised.

A moment of recognition was held for Bill Quimby, whose vision and passion for burn prevention to protect utility workers was the catalyst that led to the tournament's creation.

"Bill's dedication kept this going for 21 years,

and it is now my responsibility to keep the tournament going for him," said Gene Daily. With our new committee members, we have an excellent chance to make it happen," he added.

IBEW Local 125 was named Sponsor of the Year. "We're proud to be part of such an important event that benefits more than the IBEW," said Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri. "This tournament has raised funds that have impacted communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. I would like to thank Bill Quimby and his family for their continuous efforts associated with this event."

A special thank-you to Gene for his willingness to keep the event going. Bill Quimby, Gene Daily, Joann Woods, Tim Clouse, Larry Browning, Mike Wolford, Stephanie Enright and Jim Hart served on this year's committee.

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.



At the 21st Annual Oregon Golf Classic: Larry Browning (left), Bill Quimby, Gene Daily and Mike Wolford.

Election of Officers; Scholarship Winners

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA — IBEW Local 191 welcomes our newly elected leadership team. Thanks to all the members who voted and all candidates who ran for office — you do make a difference.

Congratulations to the elected officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Joe Lorenzo, Pres. Damien Fisher, Vice Pres. Paul Criswell, Rec. Sec. Joe Verda and Treas. Brad Baker. Executive Board members: Everett - Colleen O'Brien; Mount Vernon - Shar Leabo-Straub; Bellingham - Sheila Wilson; Wenatchee - Randy Curry; and Sound & Communications - John Waite. Examining Board members: Eastside - Sean Osborne; Westside - Tim Kornelis, Derek Stuurmans and Donnie Lewis.

Delegates to the International Convention: Joe Lorenzo, Damien Fisher, Gil Walsh, Randy Curry, Colleen O'Brien and Shar Leabo-Straub.

As part of our Community Involvement Program, our local union awarded two scholarships to graduating high-school seniors: Jared Anderson (Lynnwood High School), and Savannah Zullo (Anacortes High School). Savannah is the daughter of IBEW 191 member Michael Zullo.

We wish both students much success in their studies. Please look for upcoming notices for our fall and winter events soon.

Bill Mirand, P.S.

Work Picture Picking Up; Officers Elected

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Work is picking up here in Local 193. We won't be getting to Book 2 anytime soon though, as the State of Illinois is quickly closing in on two full years without a budget, at the time of this writing. The medical district, the schools and the prevailing wage projects have all suffered because of this. [Editor's Note: After 736 days, Illinois finally passed a budget, on July 6 this year, over the veto of Gov. Bruce Rauner.]

Local 193 recently held its election of officers. Newly elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Neil Hervey, Pres. Mike Patsche II, Vice Pres. David Evans, Rec. Sec. Susan Solon, Treas. Samuel Sexton, and

Executive Board members Matt Dannenberger, Jason McKenzie and David Wells.

Former business manager Glenn Baugh and former assistant business manager Paul Moore retired at the end of their terms. Glenn has served the local for 18 years, 12 of which were as organizer and for the last six years as business manager. Paul served as the assistant business manager for over 10 years. We thank them for their service and wish them a long and happy retirement.

The line clearance tree trimmers recently held their periodic safety meeting here at the Local 193 Union Hall. Among those in attendance were: Paul Parziale, Bill Jones, A.J. Coontz, Tim Gardner, Chris Norvell, Robert Day-Putnam, Blake Behl, David Evans, Lucas Mathews, Cory LeSeure, Shaun McNeece, Danny Rhodes, Tyler Stelbrink, Evin Lowe, Jim Hill and Todd Smith.

Our sympathies go out to the families of recently deceased members Henry Morgan, Carl Giannoni and William Smith.

Work smart and be safe. Attend your union meetings.

Matt Peterson, B.R.

Labor Day Parade; Election of Officers

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL — We are proud to announce our latest JATC apprenticeship graduates for 2017. Congratulations to: Fernando Daily, Ryan McCoy, Brian Stufflebeam and Eric Togliatti. We look forward to these fine brothers advancing their careers and becoming more involved in the local union. Completing the apprenticeship is no easy task and it opens up the path to a great career. Too often we take for granted the opportunity we have.

Recently our local held its election of officers. Congratulations to: Bus. Mgr. Rich Veitengruber, Pres. Mike Raikes, Vice Pres. Jake Goar, Rec. Sec. Bernie Uszcienski, Treas. Stephanie Ashenbremer, and Executive Board members Matt Allen, Keith Ashenbremer, Shawn Dehaven, Jake Knobloch, Tom Peasley, Greg Potter and Matt Strupp. We look forward to working with these leaders for the next three years. Thank you to election judge Matt Wall, and election tellers Greg Geshwilm and Scott Schunke, for performing their duties to properly conduct the election.

Labor Day is fast approaching. Everyone is invited and encouraged to walk in the Labor Day Parade. Line up on Front and Center streets at 9:30 a.m.; the parade kicks off at 10 a.m. After the parade, a picnic will be held at the union hall. There will be games for the kids, a Cornhole tournament, good food and cold drinks. Remember to get involved in the local and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, Pres.



Local 197 Training Dir. Renee Riddle (third from left) congratulates 2017 JATC graduates Brian Stufflebeam (left), Fernando Daily, Eric Togliatti and Ryan McCoy.

IBEW 213 Labour Education Conference a Great Success

L.U. 213 (c,catv,em,i&u), VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA — About 170 IBEW Local 213 members gathered in June at "Moving Forward with New Ideas," the local's first labour education conference. The milestone event attracted shop stewards and active mem-



Local 103 holds swearing in of officers.

LOCAL LINES



IBEW Local 213 delegates at the "Moving Forward with New Ideas" conference.

bers from every occupation and geographical region in Local 213's British Columbia jurisdiction.

The International Office sent facilitators from across North America to guide the breakout sessions on leadership training, a warm-up for an intensified Local 213 shop steward training program to be launched in fall 2017. They worked closely with volunteer local facilitators. Nearby, B.C. Electrical Joint Training Committee instructors presented the Mentorship Matters™ course, developed in the Local 213 training school.

Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Lonnie Stephenson sent a special conference welcome by video. First District Int. Vice Pres. William F. "Bill" Daniels and IBEW 213 leadership emphasized the impact that individual members can have on the union and the community.

Delegates gave the conference a high rating. For example, one attendee commented: "I am looking forward to enrolling in the next shop steward course and to having a more active role in union committees." A young electrical apprentice wrote: "I'm a new sister and a new mom, and this all hits home to me. I need a safe place for my boys to continue building this world in."

Todd Nickel, P.S.

Welcome to New Members; Renewable Energy Projects

L.U. 223 (em, govt&i), BROCKTON, MA — Congratulations to all the newly elected officers, who have now been in office for the past few months.

The work ahead for us as a local is going to be a challenge but will be rewarding in the end for all the members.

We have been successful in bringing in new members and would like to welcome them all into the local union.

We hope that by the time this article is published we will have a decision concerning the Mashpee Wampanoag Resort Casino project and that project will be on a construction fast track.

All the solar projects that we have completed this year help us forget the closing of Brayton Point Power Station and allow us to look toward the future renewable energy projects.

David W. Fenton, B.M./F.S.

Membership on the Rise; Nuclear Plant Legislation

L.U. 245 (govt, lctt, o, rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH — Our local union membership is on the rise. During our May and June union meetings, 25 new members were sworn in. The accompanying photo shows Pres. Ray Zychowicz swearing in 18 new members at our June meeting. We welcome our new members and hope they will attend union meetings on a regular basis.

On the outside, the work picture is steady as of this writing, with a couple of big jobs pending that should start soon. Members are reminded to stay current on the books to be eligible for these jobs.

On the nuclear side of the house, our Local 245 Bus. Mgr. Larry Tscherne and Brad Goetz, president of IBEW Local 1413, have been working tirelessly with

public officials in Columbus in an effort to gain political support for bills that allow Zero-Emissions Nuclear (ZEN) credits for Davis Besse and Perry nuclear plants. These bills will help keep these plants open. The IBEW officers could use your help — while they are only one voice, you are many. This can be easily done by visiting website <http://bit.ly/ohionuclear> to contact your representative. At the time of this writing, House Bill 178 and Senate Bill 128 were scheduled to come out of committee sometime in August or September.

Just a reminder: Local 245 elections are this fall. Nominations will be made at the September union meeting.

Be safe and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.



Local 245 Pres. Ray Zychowicz swears in new members at June meeting.

Officers Elected; Upcoming September Events

L.U. 309 (i, lctt, mo, mt, o, rts, spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL — Local 309 held its election of officers on June 5. The installation of officers took place at the regular meeting on July 10.

Congratulations to the officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Tim Evans, Pres. Mike Stuart, Vice Pres. Dustin Grice, Rec. Sec. Carlos Perez and Treas. Larry Aleksandrian. Executive Board linemen: Sam Gross, Ron Scott and Lee Walters. Executive Board wiremen: Rob Copersmith, Chris Huckins and Matt Sommer. Executive Board at large: Matt Burke and Jimmie Wildhaber.

Thank you to outgoing president Chris Burns, who served three terms. Chris has been an active member for many years and will continue to be an asset to this local.

Local 309 is wrapping up a sizable project at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon, IL. This project was worked under a project labor agreement. Many man-hours were captured on this project.

As of this writing, Ameren negotiations are continuing with Locals 51, 649 and 702.

Our annual Party at The Park is Sept. 9 this year, and the local's golf outing will be Sept. 22.

Work safe and see you at the next union meeting.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

Kudos to Local Scholars; 'Activism is Key to Strength'

L.U. 343 (i, spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Local 343 awards, annually, up to 10 \$500 scholarships to qualifying apprentices. To be eligible, the apprentice must be active in union meeting attendance or volunteering at union functions.

Congratulations to the eight recent scholarship winners: Milo Weckwerth, Brent Weinberger, Nathan Espenson, Joseph Aul, Johnathan Mastrey, Kevin Vogt, Owen Sannes and Paul Spevacek. [See photo at top, right.]

An involved and educated membership will ensure our local remains strong against upcoming attacks on organized labor. One target the current



Local 343 Bus. Mgr. Chad Katzung (far right) congratulates scholarship winners: Milo Weckwerth (left), Brent Weinberger, Nathan Espenson, Joseph Aul, Johnathan Mastrey, Kevin Vogt and Owen Sannes. Not pictured: Paul Spevacek.

Republican administration has cited is The Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. It is a law to prevent local wage standards from being undercut on federal construction projects by low bidders importing cheap labor as a cost-cutting measure. It is important to note that the co-sponsors of the Davis Bacon Act of 1931 — then-Sen. James Davis and then-Rep. Robert Bacon — were both Republicans.

"The Union Workers Bible" poses the following question: "What is a union's greatest weakness?" Answer: "The indifference of its members to their own affairs."

Knowledge and activism will move our IBEW forward.

Keep America beautiful; buy "Made In the USA."

Tom Small, P.S.

Spirit of Volunteerism

L.U. 347 (em, i, mt, rtb, rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA — Local 347 encourages a culture of volunteerism. The spirit of volunteerism is apparent in our apprenticeship program. The apprentices are required to be of service to our community to the extent of 15 hours a year.

One such volunteer project came about as a result of our JATC acquiring a new building for journeyman wireman and apprentice training. The previous owner had laboratory stations in the building, which they left when they moved out.

Steve Hansen, director of training, found that a rural high school in Iowa had a need for that very equipment. So, on June 10, several IBEW Local 347 journeymen and a few apprentices, joined by some volunteer plumbers from UA Local 33, loaded the equipment and moved and installed it at Twin Cedars High School near Bussey, Iowa.

This kind of interaction with the community is always a plus for everyone; the high school gets new equipment, the apprentices fulfill their requirements, and the journeymen have the opportunity to show a community what brotherhood in organized labor is all about.

Work continues to be plentiful in the local. Have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

Picnic at Parkside Pavilion; Children's Oncology 'Tree'

L.U. 375 (catv, ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA — Local 375 would like to congratulate this year's graduating apprenticeship class. They have proven to be exemplary in their academics as well as their work ethic. The members, staff and officers wish them well as they continue their careers as journeymen.

On Saturday, May 27, the brothers and sisters of Local 375 gathered with their families for the Annual Picnic at Dorney Park. The newly built Parkside Pavilion, which employed our members in its construction, became a hub of activity throughout the day. This year's attendance of 600 afforded everyone the opportunity to build stronger bonds as a local and a family.

In addition, we wish to acknowledge the members who worked on the Children's Oncology Suite at Lehigh Valley Health Network. This project will provide vital diagnosis and treatment of childhood cancer within the Lehigh Valley region. However not all treatment begins with medicine and in this instance it begins just through the entrance. The members worked on construction of a "tree" within the suite that welcomes and comforts children who arrive for their appointments. Built into the canopy are lights formed into the shapes of constellations. This star-in-the-tree effect provides for the perfect sense of awe as these children enter the suite. As a local we are proud to have a hand in the battle against this devastating disease.

Christopher Kaufman, B.R.



IBEW Local 375 members worked on construction of a decorative "tree" at Children's Oncology Suite at Lehigh Valley Health Network.



IBEW Local 347 journeymen and apprentices volunteered their help with installation of equipment at Twin Centers High School.



Local 379 Foreman Development Series class of 2017 graduates.

Foreman Development Series Class of 2017 Graduates

L.U. 379 (i,o&rtb), CHARLOTTE, NC — Work continues at a robust pace in Charlotte, NC, and is picking up in Greenville, SC, as well. New jobs in Greenville are a direct result of efforts by Asst. Bus. Agent Edgar Brown, who has been working tirelessly to attract union contractors to bid work in that city.

Education continues to be a focus to grow our local. We are proud to have graduated our first two Foreman Development Series classes. We had a fantastic graduation ceremony in May for the 21 members who completed the Core Series and the eight who completed the Advanced Series, which includes 16 modules. IBEW Tenth District Int. Vice Pres. Brent E. Hall and Int. Reps. Benny Hunnicutt and David Hoque spoke to the graduating class. Everyone brought their families and we enjoyed a barbecue dinner together before the ceremony. It was a great event and a proud moment for the local.

Local 379 Foreman Development Series class of 2017 graduates are as follows: *Core graduates* — Shannon Farley, Reginald Gatling, Brian Hutchinson, Doug McDaniel, Gilbert McIntyre, Mike Ryan, Michael Owenby, Michael McCann, Roman Hinojosa, Terry Lette, Patrick Currence, Joe Fedourich, Christian Ramirez, Barry Baker, Dustin Pollitt, Jason George, Jeffery Neu, Russ Clowers, Tom Newcomb, Stacey Ballard and George Fondren; *Advanced graduates* — Shannon Farley, Doug McDaniel, Gilbert McIntyre, Mike Ryan, Roman Hinojosa, Patrick Currence, Dustin Pollitt and Stacey Ballard.

We are now also teaching the FDS in our Greenville office and have just sent two additional members to be trained as instructors so we can offer it in our Hickory office also.

In June, we had our Annual Spring Picnic, which was well-attended by members and retirees. It was a nice, relaxing activity before the busy summer season!

Ashley Hawkins, Organizer

Leadership Transition

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID — This summer started off hot and busy for Local 449. We had Career Fairs in Pocatello and Idaho Falls that were very productive. We also had several local functions as well as our Annual Local 449 Picnic, where we handed out IBEW service pins.

We have a new business manager and a new assistant at Local 449. Ned Jones was appointed business manager, effective July 1. The Local 449 Executive Board appointed Bus. Mgr. Jones to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of former business manager Rodney James, who accepted a position as international representative.

Clay Hirning is now assistant business manager/dispatcher.

Local 449 wishes to thank Int. Rep. Rodney James for his longtime, dedicated service and the hard work he has done for our local. We wish him the best of luck in his new position with the International. We also thank the new officers who have stepped up to take on new positions.

Thanks also to all the IBEW brothers and sisters who came from around the country to attend the 49th Reunion and stopped by to sign our books.

With deep sorrow, we report the passing of Bro. Robert “Bob” Wetherbee. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Congratulations to recently retired members: Bros. Doug Frugoli, Randy Norman, Daryl Walters, Joseph Robinson and Don Wainright. We thank these brothers for everything they have done for our local. Enjoy that retirement you worked so hard for, brothers!

Joe Maloney, Organizer

Charity Golf Tournament; IBEW 50-Year Service Pin

L.U. 455 (em&u), SPRINGFIELD, MA — At our June union meeting, service pins were awarded for all years of service to the IBEW. Retired international representative and former Local 455 business manager Ed Collins was awarded his 50 year-pin. Congratulations, Ed, and thank you for all your years of tireless service to the Brotherhood.

Local 455 also had its first charity golf tournament in June. We plan to hold this event annually. The tournament was a great success with 92 golfers and, more importantly, over \$4,500 was raised for charity.

Brian E. Kenney, B.M./F.S.

Election of Officers; Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — This past June, IBEW Local 481 held its election of officers. Congratulations to the elected officers, and thank you to all those who ran and were willing to put your names out there. To all the newly elected officers, keep doing the good work that the leaders before you have been doing, and let’s continue to make the members of Local 481 proud.

In August, IBEW 481 held its annual apprenticeship graduation dinner, celebrating the recent graduates for their success in becoming journeyman inside wiremen. Congratulations to all the graduates and good luck in your future as proud IBEW members. Remember, you get out what you put in, so be active and involved in your union and do your part to continue making the IBEW the best union there is!

Blake A. Andrews, R.S.

Scholarship Award Winners; Officers Elected

L.U. 499 (u), DES MOINES, IA — Our annual Donald D. Krause Scholarship Award winners were selected at our Executive Board meeting in April. Each year, we give out four \$500 scholarships to eligible candidates.

This year’s scholarship winners are: Caleb Gubbels (whose father, Scott Gubbels, works in Sioux City); Griffen McBride (whose father, Dustin Mull, works in Knoxville); Jaycie Schueman (father, Mike Schueman, works in Avoca); and Chelsea Spreng (father, Andy Spreng, works in Sioux City)

In June, Local 499 completed its election of officers and E-Board members.

Elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Randy Phillips, Pres. Dan Earp, Vice Pres. Jerry Hyde, Rec.



Local 499 Executive Board members, from left: Mike Zediker, Mike Buntz, Rick Thele, Troy Pecenka, Jim Carroll, Jake Schneider and Jon Sandage.

Sec. Sarah Faber and Treas. Tesa Greenlee Strong.

Executive Board members: Area 1 — Jon Sandage, from Sioux City; Area 2 — Jake Schneider, from Ida Grove; Area 3 — Troy Pecenka, from Waterloo; Area 4 — Jim Carroll, from Council Bluffs; Area 5 — Mike Buntz, from Des Moines; Area 6 — Rick Thele, from Fort Madison; and At Large — Mike Zediker, from Sioux City. Mike Buntz and Rick Thele are the new members on the E-Board. We welcome them on board.

A special thank you to our election judge, Dave Shepley, and election tellers Colby Allen, Jared Merkel, Austin Weber and Chris White.

Sarah Faber, R.S.

very proud to represent the electrical workers of the largest commuter railroad in the country.

In addition to the LIRR electrical workers, Local 589 also represents the electrical workers, and now the supervisors, at the AirTrain JFK and AirTrain Newark systems, which provide travel connections to and from Kennedy International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport, two of the country’s busiest airports.

We thank all our members for their hard work and dedication. IBEW Local 589 members are a vital part of this massive transportation system.

Achilles “Augie” Maccarone, R.S.

‘Congratulations to All’

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA — IBEW Local 569 extends heartfelt congratulations to Juanita Salas, recently elected to the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) board of directors; Michael Zucchet, recently appointed to the San Diego Port Commission; and to Chula Vista Councilmember Steve Padilla, recently appointed to the California Coastal Commission. Each of these positions is of key importance to securing additional work for our members, and each of these persons are significant advocates of working families and have the full support of IBEW Local 569.

Earlier this summer, IBEW 569 and NECA graduated 57 hard-working union members from our outstanding joint apprenticeship program! We congratulate this strong next generation of certified electricians, power professionals and sound technicians, and we are proud of their work! [Photo, below.]

We also wish to recognize our 2017 apprentice recipients of our IBEW 569 Union Strong Award, Steven Harris and Joe Page. They have stepped up to share their stories on how our apprenticeship program and opportunity to “learn while you earn” has strengthened communities and changed lives. Our awardees have also volunteered at countless union events and walked hundreds of miles to help elect candidates who support working families! Congratulations, Steven Harris and Joe Page!

Gretchen K. Newsom, P.S./Organizer

Welcome to New LIRR Members

L.U. 589 (rr), JAMAICA, NY — IBEW local 589 would like to congratulate and welcome its new members employed by Long Island Rail Road (LIRR). They successfully completed their training and the new hire electrician orientation program, and are now starting their careers. We are



Local 595 congratulates retired Bro. Matt Maloon.

‘A True Labor Champion’

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,se&st), DUBLIN, CA — We would like to thank recently retired Bro. Matt Maloon for all his hard work and dedication to Local 595 and the IBEW. Congratulations to Bro. Maloon on his April 1 retirement.

Bro. Maloon started his inside wireman apprenticeship in 1980 and after graduating in 1984, he spent the next 18 years in the field as a journeyman, foreman and general foreman. Matt fully embraced leadership roles. He was elected as Local 595 treasurer, Executive Board member and president. He also accepted numerous committee appointments. He served on the Local 595 Pension, LMCC, JATC and Negotiating committees.

He served as the lead organizer for Local 595 since 2002, and his efforts earned him recognition as one of the best organizers in the IBEW. Bro. Maloon also served as the assistant business manager for the past 10 years.

Bro. Maloon’s contributions to Local 595 and the IBEW will be sorely missed. He is and always will be a true labor champion.

Jason Gumataotao, Org./P.S.



Class of 2017 graduates of the IBEW Local 569/NECA San Diego joint apprenticeship program.

LOCAL LINES

Local Receives Award; Election of Officers

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — The Local 611 election of officers was held at the beginning of June, and our run-off election was June 22, 2017. Elected officers are: Bus. Mgr. Carl Condit, Pres. Ruben Romero, Vice Pres. Alfonso “Fonzy” Martinez, Rec. Sec. Santos Griego, Treas. Jerome Garcia; and Executive Board members Pete Trujillo, James Archuleta, Baudillio “Bobby” Baca, Julio Vigil, Levi Wilson, Mark Strand and David Griego. Congratulations to all the winners.

This year’s Seventh District Progress Meeting was held in Wichita, KS. Our local received the Platinum Award for contributing the most money in the Seventh District into the political action committee. The total amount contributed by Local 611 was \$111,943.95, which amounts to \$53.69 per member.

Local 611 extends condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Leroy Powers, Elmer W. Brunner, Cipriano Lujan, Robert W. Avery, Manuel Lourenco, George W. Williams, Jay P. Halvorson, Frank R. Walker, W. Kay Reynolds, Ronald D. Farless and Joe McC Carson.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.



Local 611 receives IBEW award at Seventh District Progress Meeting. From left: Int. Vice Pres. Steven M. Speer, Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson, local members Christie Chavez and Patricia Griego, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Benson Bitsui, Local 611 Pres. Ruben E. Romero and Int. Sec.-Treas. Kenneth W. Cooper. Back, at podium: Int. Rep. Gary Buresh.

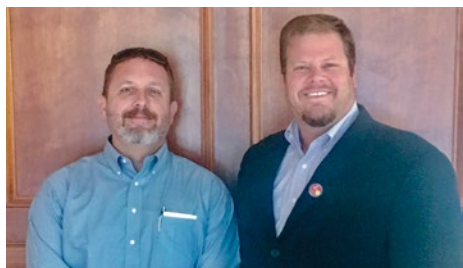
New Leadership Elected

L.U. 613 (em,i,o,rts&spa), ATLANTA, GA — This summer was a busy one at Local 613! We had a new contract to negotiate, and we also had elections for officers. The elections resulted in new leadership for Local 613. Kenny Mullins was elected business manager and Kevin Swanson was elected president. There were also changes to the Executive Board and Examining Board. In a runoff election for financial secretary, the membership elected David Lawson.

Bus. Mgr. Mullins and Pres. Swanson ran a campaign on boosting the spirit of solidarity and active participation among the membership, and building on the strength of our union in Atlanta.

The membership would like to thank former business manager Max Mount, former president Brian King and all the other officers for their years of service and commitment to the IBEW and the membership of Local 613. We look forward to the great endeavors to follow in the years ahead for Local 613.

James Williams, P.S.



Local 613 Pres. Kevin Swanson (left) and Bus. Mgr. Kenny Mullins.



Local 639 class of 2017 JATC apprenticeship graduates: Kellen Wouters (left), Tony Nasif, Brandon Howard, Jonathan Dotson, Chris Robb, Jason Leyden and Chris Van Huss.

Apprenticeship Graduates; Officers Elected

L.U. 639 (i&rts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — Congratulations to the Local 639 graduating apprenticeship class of 2017. Graduation ceremonies were held June 3 at F. McLintocks Saloon and Dining House in Shell Beach, CA. Keynote speaker was Jeremy Goldberg, executive director of the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council. Goldberg gave an inspiring speech on the need for all unions to get involved and work together to build the strength of the labor movement. “United we stand, divided we fall.”

Special shout-out to Chris Robb, recipient of the Outstanding Apprentice Award.

Chris, along with Training Dir. Dan Miller and JATC instructors Joe Fitzer and Ben Goldman, attended the National Training Institute (NTI) in Ann Arbor, MI, for a week in August.

Local 639 officer nominations were held at the May general membership meeting. All the positions were confirmed by a Certified White Ballot at the June 2017 general membership meeting.

Elected by acclamation were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Mark Simonin, Pres. Joe Fitzer, Vice Pres. Brett Malone, Treas. Jaime Quintana, Rec. Sec. Dan Miller, and Executive Board

members Jimmy Mase, Jack Haley, Gil Larson and Gene Sewell.

Congratulations to all!

Kurt McClave, P.S.



Local 759 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Tim Haynick swears in: from left, Don Saker, Hector Benevides, Charlie Wilbar, Dan Shaw and David Denslow.

Officers Sworn In

L.U. 759 (u), FORT LAUDERDALE, FL — In June, we held an election for Local 759 officers, Executive Board members and System Council delegates.

The membership re-elected: Bus. Mgr./Pres. Tim Haynick, Vice Pres. Hector Benevides, Rec. Sec. Tim Brucker, Fin. Sec. Keith Murphy and Treas. David Denslow.

Executive Board results: Distribution E-Board members — Justin Stockton and Dan Shaw; Power Generation E-Board member — Robert St Ledger; Power Delivery E-Board member — Don Saker; and At Large E-Board member — Jim Delaware. At this writ-

ing, one position remained vacant for Power Generation E-Board member.

System Council delegates: Distribution delegate — Tim Brucker; Power Generation delegate — Jose Castellanos; Power Delivery delegate — Charlie Wilbar; At-Large delegate — Hector Benevides.

As of press time Local 759 is still busy with contract talks, as our current contract expires Oct. 31, 2017.

Just a reminder: Local 759 holds its monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month. With contract talks under way, come to the meetings to hear the latest on the contract talks.

Glen Plock, P.S.

Union Communications

L.U. 777 (u), READING, PA — Communication is central to a union’s operation, as we all know. Getting and keeping everyone in your local informed can be a complicated process. Especially here at Local 777 because of the vast distance between shops and the five units that make up our structure.

We are happy to say that task has been made easier through our relationship with UCOMM Communications.

Important information — about local union events and operations; contracts and contract issues



Local 1105 apprentice graduates: Joe Hoang (left), Zach Ramage, Adam Haumschild, Ryan Spiker and Drew Boylan.

with various companies; and local, state and federal politics — now goes out to the members with little effort. It has been a little more than a year that UCOMM has been on board with Local 777 helping us communicate. The old bulletin board still works, but through the multimedia formats, the information gets out faster, more efficiently and directly to each member.

Mark Power, P.S.

‘Touch-a-Truck’ Event

L.U. 949 (em,t&u), BURNSVILLE, MN — Brother Luke Lalle mont represented IBEW Local 949 at the Touch-a-



At Touch-a-Truck event, Local 949 member Luke Lalle mont greets young attendees.

Truck event in downtown Winona, MN, on May 13 this year. Lalle mont is a line crew foreman for Xcel Energy.

Touch-a-Truck is a family friendly event that gives kids of all ages the opportunity to explore the big vehicles they see every day. The event was sponsored by Winona Main Street.

Over 2,000 participants had the opportunity to see and explore a utility bucket truck and equipment up close, learn what it does, understand vehicle safety, ask questions, have some candy and engage in the favorite activity — blowing the air horn! Pictured in the photo above, Bro. Lalle mont poses with potential future IBEW members having fun at the event.

Rick P. Oakes, B.M.

Kudos to Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 1105 (i), NEWARK, OH — At the beginning of a five-year apprenticeship, it may seem as if there is no end in sight. That is, until you have sat in your final apprenticeship class and it hits you — five years of hard work on the job, countless nights doing homework and attending classes have finally paid off. You have met the requirements, and you have done what it takes to become a journeyman wireman.

IBEW Local 1105 would like to congratulate all graduating apprentices throughout the IBEW. With the ever-changing technology and today’s fast pace, it takes an abundance of skills and determination to stay on top of the electrical industry, and we are sure these brothers and sisters are up to the task.

To Local 1105’s recent apprentice graduates, our new journeymen — Joe Hoang, Ryan Spiker, Drew Boylan, Adam Haumschild and Zach Ramage — we wish you continued success and best of luck for the future!

Donny Rutledge, Organizer

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

Political Efforts Yield Win; IBEW COPE Award

L.U. 1141 (em,i,mow,rts&spa), OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — With help from IBEW Local 1141, the Oklahoma AFL-CIO, the Building Trades, and a coalition of eager volunteers, candidate Michael Brooks claimed victory on July 11 in Oklahoma Senate District 44's special election. Thanks to all the volunteers who knocked on doors, made literature drops, and phone banked to help bring a true friend of working families to the state Capitol.

"In our hearts, we know we're better than underfunded schools and underpaid teachers," Brooks told NewsOK.com. "We know we're better than a budget that places the burden on everyday Oklahomans. We are better than families working two to three jobs just to make ends meet. We all believe we are better than this."

Local 1141 was also honored with a COPE award from Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson on June 14 at the Seventh District Progress Meeting in Wichita, KS.

Thank you to our dedicated brothers and sisters for standing up for working families in our great state. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Family Picnic on Sept. 9.

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



IBEW Local 1245 members Jordan Chene (left), Anthony Humbert and Nick Smith show off their trophies from the NSUJL Rodeo.

Champs at Rodeo Competitions; IBEW Members Restore Power

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA — Local 1245 members demonstrated their prowess at several Rodeo competitions this spring. Jordan Chene, Anthony Humbert and Nick Smith of PG&E came in first place overall at the National Sisterhood United for Journeyman Lineman Rodeo, where Nick

Smith also won the Best Lineman Award; Francisco Garcia came in first place overall in the Gas Division at the International Utility Locate Rodeo; and Greg Frizell was the first-place apprentice at the American Public Power Association Rodeo.

After enduring the wettest, most storm-ridden winter in almost a century, Local 1245 members are now working diligently through an equally taxing summer season. During the month of June,

many parts of California saw some of the highest temperatures ever recorded, which led to more than 1,000 outages and around 270,000 customers left without power.

"Without our members' expertise and tireless work ethic, hundreds of thousands of Californians would have been left without electricity for far too long, and that becomes incredibly dangerous during a heat wave," said IBEW 1245 Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell. "The work that Local 1245 members do is nothing short of life-saving, and they continue to prove that our union is second to none in terms of sheer talent and commitment."

IBEW Local 1245 members in Outside Construction overwhelmingly ratified a new agreement, by a margin of 94 percent yes, to 6 percent no. The agreement with NECA also applies to IBEW Local 47 Outside Construction members, who similarly voted to approve the agreement, 93 percent yes, to 7 percent no. The total package is worth 15.7 percent over five years, with increases in the National Electrical Annuity Plan (NEAP) over the term of the contract of 51 percent and doubling the popular Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) contribution amount by 2019.

Rebecca Band, P.S.

Local 1501 Members Working At Gulfstream Park in Florida

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD — Recently, Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion Guthrie met with members of the local who are working at Gulfstream Park Racetrack in Hallandale Beach, Florida. The members are pictured here (at top, right) sporting their new IBEW 1501 caps.

The members at Gulfstream Park were pleased that the business manager stopped by to have a meeting with them and bring them up to date on



Local 1501 Bus. Mgr. Dion Guthrie (center) met with members working at Gulfstream Park. Standing, from left: George Dure, steward Victor Kuck, Javier Ventura, Bus. Mgr. Guthrie, Alejandro Mujica, Taoufix Zahry, David Boliman. Kneeling, Wayne Young. Not pictured: Local 1501 Southern District Executive Board member Greg Nelson, Isaac Gonzales, Edward Adams and Heriberto Reyes.

issues affecting the company and provide an update on other union matters. One of the members' greatest concerns is the current political administration in Washington and how it will affect their jobs at racetracks around the country. We all need to now focus on the upcoming 2018 mid-term elections and work to elect more members of Congress who are favorable to labor and working people.

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

Local 1547 Elects Leadership

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK — IBEW Local 1547 announced results of its election of officers.

Dave Reaves was elected to a three-year term as Local 1547 business manager/financial secretary. "It's an honor to be elected as business manager," Reaves said. "Over the next three years, my top goals are ensuring safety on the job for our members, supporting the growth and infrastructure of our state to create more jobs for our union members, and to continue



Local 1547 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Dave Reaves.



Local 1141 is presented COPE Award. From left: Seventh District Int. Vice Pres. Steven M. Speer, Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson, Local 1141 Pres. Bill L. Servati, Bus. Mgr. Dewayne Wilcox, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Jim Griffy and Int. Sec.-Treas. Kenneth W. Cooper. Back, at podium: Int. Rep. Gary Buresh.

January International Executive Council Meeting

Minutes and Report of The International Executive Council's Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8 a.m. by Chairman Erikson, on Monday, January 30, 2017, in Naples, Florida. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Walter, Easton, Lavin and Galbraith.

International President Stephenson

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

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia

International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore (Sam) J. Chilia presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood both in Canada and in the United States.

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia also discussed convention issues.

Legal Defense

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

Financial Reports

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

IBEW Local Union 410

A motion was made, seconded and carried to grant the International President the authority of up to \$500,000 for the startup of IBEW Local Union 410, as a result of the successful NLRB election of Baltimore Gas and Electric Company. These funds are contributed unencumbered.

Article XX and XXI Cases

In 2016, the IBEW was involved in one Article XX disputes, and five disputes under Article XXI.

IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement Covering the 6-Month Period Ending December 31, 2016

Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets/Changes Covering the 6-Month Period Ending December 31, 2016

Reviewed and Filed

Retirement of International Representatives

Michael R. Grunwald, International Representative, Ninth District Effective — January 1, 2017

Ralph Merriweather, International Representative, Seventh District Effective — January 1, 2017

Retirement of International Office Employees

Joseph F. Thole Sr., Programmer, Information Technology Department Effective — January 3, 2017

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned on Thursday, February 2, 2017, at 2:35 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, June 5, 2017, in Jackson, Wyoming.

For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary
February 2017

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW pension fund. For a complete listing, consult www.ibew.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "About Us" page. ■

LOCAL LINES

building a strong, unified IBEW.”

Bus. Mgr. Reaves has been with the IBEW for over 20 years. He has worked as a lineman, business representative, and more recently served as assistant business manager for Unit 101 for the last two years, overseeing collective bargaining agreements and the local's day-to-day operations.

Other members elected or re-elected to Local 1547 office for a three-year term are:

Pres. Knute Anderson, Vice Pres. Vince Beltrami, Sec. Laura Bonner, Treas. Cecil Colley III; Executive Board members Eric Runyan, Allen Wiggs, Jesse Young, Sven Westergard; and Examining Board members Knut Boersma, Shane Longbine, Nathan Janson, Jared Anderson and Karm Singh.

Marcie Obremski was named as Unit 101 assistant business manager, replacing Reaves. A journeyman telephone technician, Obremski has been an IBEW member for 25 years and on staff for six years.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

Vogtle Scheduled to Proceed; Congratulations to Graduates

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — Local 1579's apprenticeship graduation was May 19. We are proud of these new journeymen. When the graduates started their first year of the five-year apprenticeship, there were 49 in the initial class. These 27 graduates stuck it out and achieved success. Thank you, 2017 graduates, for your hard work and dedication to the IBEW — you are the future.

Class of 2017 graduates are: Matthew Alverson, Jamaal Berry, Terrance Butler, Brandon Carlton, Brandon Carroll, Major Elam, Jayme Elliott, Joseph Fritz, Blake Gregory, Tonya Griffin, Kevin Hall, Nicholas Hawkinberry, Robin Herndon, Michael Hilliard, Kenya Hodge, Carlton Jeburk, Carl Johnson, Travis King Jr., Margaret Senters, Clifton Mathis, Gabriel Price, John Redmond, Ethan Taylor, Damioun Valentine, Rayo White, Tillman Williams and Matthew Wise.

Our work situation is great! Our largest job is the Vogtle project. This job is currently working at least five days a week, at 10 hours per day. Usually we have open calls for this project. Always call first to get the latest job situation.

Additionally, we have various work around the jurisdiction to include: the Mixed Oxide (MOX) project; Reliable Power project; Saltstone Disposal Unit project; the ongoing pre-outage work at Vogtle (Units 1&2); the Green Jackets Ball Stadium; and the Augusta National Retail Project, just to name a few.

I know many have heard about the Westinghouse bankruptcy, which generated rumors that the Vogtle project would shut down due to a lack of funds. This is NOT the situation. After many meetings with the general contractor and the customer (Southern Company), I am confident that this project will continue and will be finished. Southern Company and Westinghouse are working through the financial details and should have a bigger presence on the job.

I thank all the IBEW members working on the Vogtle project. I know that with the negative publicity this job has endured, morale has not been the highest. I also know there was a negative story in the Atlanta Journal Constitution that tried to blame the craft workers for problems on the job. Fortunately, I was able to talk to the AJC and tell our side of the story, to defend the IBEW and the other unions working on the project. I was able to be your voice and report that material is not in great supply, work packages are often incomplete, and upper management is lacking in their ability to do their jobs.

Remember, IBEW is the best. As long as we have the material and all the information needed to install the job, it will be done professionally. If you don't have what you need to do the job, then management is not doing theirs.

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

RETIREEES

Active & Engaged — Stand Up for Workers

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — At this summer writing, the weather has warmed up nicely in the Midwest.

I hope everyone was contacted and signed the petition for a proposed ballot initiative to seek repeal of Missouri's anti-worker "right-to-work" law. The Republican-controlled Statehouse in Jefferson City and the governor have been trying to lower wages and working conditions for working people. They tried to rid Missouri of the prevailing wage law. They've banned project labor agreements (PLA's) on some projects, and passed the anti-worker "right to work" law. Please make sure everyone in your family is registered to vote. Keep informed about labor-friendly candidates and vote!

A couple dozen retirees played in our yearly golf tournament in June. Maybe we should have one in the fall.

The last two Retirees Club meetings for this year are on Sept. 20 (the luncheon) and Nov. 15.

Neal McCormack, P.S.

Golf Outing a Success

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU CHAPTER — The Local 3, Nassau Chapter, Retirees Club held its first golf outing on Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14, this year. The chapter plans to make the golf outing an annual event. [Photo at bottom, left.]

Event Co-Chairmen Austin McCann and Mark Valenti put together the 8 a.m. shotgun start for 44 golfers at Stonebridge Country Club in Smithtown, Long Island. The weather was perfect. Golf was followed by a great lunch and awards for the best golfer, longest drive, and closest to the pins on par threes as well as many raffled gifts. Many thanks to Chapter Chairman Ed Weiss for his support on what should prove to be an event we will look forward to each year.

John Milligan, P.S.

Fall Activities Scheduled

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — Congratulations to our June service award recipients!

Several of our members were honored at the Electrical Industry Center luncheon and received their 50-year or 55-year IBEW service award pins and certificates. The 50-year honorees also received watches. Those celebrating 55 years of IBEW service included: Kevin Courtney, Frank Covino, Paul Elterlein, Abraham Fichtenbaum, John Krison, Lester Maklan, John Senator and Ernest Sulzer. Receiving 50-year service awards were Anthony Losquadro and Domenick Zernone.

Our group enjoyed a spectacular June week at the Long Island Educational Center. The educational sessions, as always, were informative and greatly appreciated! On Tuesday, we had our "potluck" din-



At the Local 3, Nassau Chapter, Retirees Club golf outing on June 14.



Local 3, Northern New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club members at the Long Island Educational Center.

ner, and on Wednesday a delicious barbecue. We were fortunate to get in some pool time, and water aerobics were enjoyed by many!

In August, we enjoyed our annual picnic, this year at Krucker's Picnic Grove! Everything was great and we enjoyed catching up with fellow members and spouses!

Future activities include a three-day bus trip to Boston in the fall, a fall luncheon, and a bus trip and Frankie Valli tribute show at Mt. Airy Casino.

John Krison, P.S.

Long Island Education Center

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER — Our June meeting was very well-attended. It was the club's last meeting of the summer and the occasion for the annual luncheon with lots of great food.

At the June meeting, Vice Chmn. Fred Walling asked for the reports to be read. He then opened the floor for discussion. John Schoenig spoke about the Aug. 3, 2017, fishing trip and our Annual Holiday Party scheduled for Dec. 6 this year. Jim Jost spoke about our Aug. 22 Annual Picnic.

Fred Walling spoke about our trip to the Long Island Educational & Cultural Center, which took place from June 26-29, 2017. Our trip was once again a great success. When we arrived, Maureen Steiger, our pension director, greeted us. She spoke about the history of the LIEC and its importance to IBEW Local 3 members. Stephanie Saladino, our LIEC director, spoke about the safety of all our members and distributed our room keys.

We attended two informative lectures providing tips for

taking care of our health. Nutritionist Erica Vinas presented one of the lectures, and a doctor also gave a lecture.

The Tuesday night BBQ was a great success, thanks to everyone's help, and all had a good time. Thanks to Stephanie Saladino and her entire staff for a wonderful stay. They wished everyone a happy and safe summer.

Harvey Goldman, P.S.

Golf Outing & Luncheon

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — This year's spring golf outing was April 26, at the Leewood Golf Club in Eastchester, NY. As with any early spring, outdoor event, there is always the threat of inclement weather. When the set-up team arrived in the morning, it was pouring rain — but luckily, by tee time the rain had stopped and the course, although a bit soggy, was playable.

With the rain just a memory, our 43 golfers took to the course and played the 18 holes as if the sun was shining brightly. This was our first time playing this course, and most of our seasoned golfers raved about it, so much so that we've already booked our fall outing in October.

As the golfers returned to the clubhouse, they were treated to a wonderful barbecue lunch, the awarding of prizes to the most successful golfers, and the company of their fellow chapter members. As the day's event concluded and the last few golfers drove away, it started to sprinkle again. The timing could not have been better.

Dick Mills, Treas.



Dominic Malandro (left) and Dick Mills stand beside Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club banner.

Crab Feast in October

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — Local 26 will celebrate its 125th anniversary in September. We hope many of our members can attend the gala at the new MGM National Harbor hotel, which Local 26 electricians helped build!

Our club has over 500 card-carrying members, although we mail to 1,500 members regularly. On July 28, we attended Labor Night at the Nationals baseball game against the Colorado Rockies. And

we helped Labor Night celebrate the 52nd anniversary of Medicare!

Our regular events — such as the union picnic, the cruise to Europe, and the bus trip to the Amish Market followed by a crab feast — keep the club busy.

The club's Annual Crab Feast will be Oct. 14. If you plan to be in the Annapolis/Washington area, please join us. For details contact retired sister Susan Flashman before Oct. 9 at flashmanbissell@aol.com. Our numbers have grown, so if you have friends you would like to sit with, let us know!

Our next cruise will be a return trip to Alaska! Stay tuned for details, or contact our travel coordinator, retired Bro. Rick Warner, at (240) 272-0438.

If you visit Washington, DC, let us know. Our club meets the second Saturday of each month, September through May (except for October). Come to our meeting and break bread with us. Meetings start at 12 noon, so come early for a good seat!

Thank you to our wonderful regular volunteers who help us set up, serve and clean up after our meetings. You are greatly appreciated!

Susan Flashman, P.S.

Fish & Game Club Trip

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Happy Labor Day!

The Local 35 Outing was held in June at the Colchester Fish & Game Club. We had a great turnout! Many retirees and lots of active members attended. Special thanks to those who donated raffle prizes.

I'd like to thank Dennis Machol and Charlie Rose for their dedication in attending meetings of the Alliance for Retired Americans. They keep us informed of issues that may affect retirees.

Congratulations to retired member William Tobin, who recently graduated Rockville High School at age 90! He was unable to finish high school as a teen because he went to fight in World War II. He should be very proud. His three grandsons, Christopher Lappen, Jonathan "Toby" Schnetzer and Timothy Schnetzer, are all members of Local 35.

Dennis Machol and I came in to speak with the apprentices on the last day of school. We spoke about the great benefits of being a member of the IBEW. We encouraged the apprentices to keep working hard in their studies and their career so that someday they also can enjoy a rewarding retirement.

Hope everyone had a great summer.

Kenneth R. White, P.S.

Service Pins Awarded; Crappie Tournament & Fish Fry

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Our spring retiree luncheon was May 9, and we had a very good turnout. Thank you to Local 53 for hosting the luncheon and for the gifts for the raffle.

Club Pre. Bob Stuart reported on the progress of the petition signing to stop so-called "right to work" and several other issues affecting labor.

Service pins were awarded to the following: 50-year members — Victor Kimmi, Dave Singmaster; 55-year members — Dean Dymond, Carl Wilson; 60-year members — Keith Query, Jerry Severt, Mel Simmons, Dick Williams; 65-year members — Bill Harber, Dave Switzer, Ray Widener; and 70-year members — Vergil Endicott, Charles Jones, Elden Judd and Clarence Sledd. Congratulations, brothers!

The Local 53 crappie tournament was June 3. Results were as follows: 1st place — Nathan Warstadt/Jason Mopin; 2nd place — Jim Gaylord/Ronnie Gaylord; 3rd place — Gary Spoor/Roger Wainright; 4th place — Justin Lankford/Brandon Langford; and 5th place — Darrell Hutchings/Bill Johnson. The fish fry was held following weigh-in, and everyone had a great time.

The Local 53 election of officers was held June 21.

Congratulations and best wishes to all the new officers.

Sadly, we lost two retirees, Terry Hackett and Jim Conard. Rest in peace, brothers.

Best wishes to all for a healthy and happy summer!

Duane Pearce, P.S.

Golf Tournament Fundraiser

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — As promised, the golf tournament fundraiser was a huge success. The club wishes to thank all those responsible for such a wonderful tournament. Mostly the thanks go to Betty Cannon, who starts planning for the next tournament before the current one ends — that is dedication.

The club meets the second Thursday of each month, September through May, taking June, July and August off for summer. Meetings start at 12 noon at the Plumbers and Pipefitters training building, 3630 Belgium Lane.

Depending on the month, a themed luncheon (covered dish) furnished by the members will be served after the meetings. However, the club provides the meals for the meetings held in September, November, December and May. A special table is always set up with delicious desserts furnished by the members. To top the afternoon off, 10 games of bingo will be played by all who are interested.

The purpose of these meetings is not just for fun and good food. The meetings also serve the purpose of keeping us in the practice of brotherhood, to aid and assist one another. Also, an email list has been set up for communication of news among the retirees.

Please plan to attend the club get-togethers if you are a retired Local 60 member. Get reacquainted with former co-workers ... you will be glad you did.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.



Father and Son Honored

Providence, Rhode Island, Local 99 presents a 50-year service pin to retired Bro. Frank J. Colucci (left) and a 60-year service pin to Frank's father, retired Bro. Pat Colucci (center). Bus. Mgr. Michael K. Daley (right) presented the awards July 6.

Summer & Fall Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA — Local 105 Retiree Club events started the summer with a Pig Roast BBQ at the Retiree's Club hall that included salads and delicious desserts — an event enjoyed by many members. At the end of June,



Local 105 Retirees Club Pres. Harry Allen (center) and retiree George Ruttle, who was the club's first president, with their spouses at Mohawk Racetrack Buffet dinner.

Bowling and Euchre wrapped up for the summer with an outstanding dinner at Michelangelo's.

On July 15, we returned to the OLG Slots at Mohawk Racetrack for the delicious prime rib buffet. We had some winners at both the raceway and the casino, however, most of us left with what we came with! In August, we enjoyed a scenic boat trip on Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Bowling and Euchre Clubs will start again in September after we've enjoyed the summer with family and friends. For the fall, we'll look forward to attending a Mandarin Buffet lunch and the ever popular Octoberfest.

Remember our motto: "Don't Wait — Participate!" All of the above events were made possible by our hard-working local members and Executive Board. Our sincere thanks to each and every one of them!

Eden McLean, P.S.

Annual Luncheon — Members Honored for Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Our annual luncheon honoring our members with 50-, 55-, 60-, 65-, and 70 years of IBEW service was celebrated at our June 14 meeting. Good food and live entertainment is the best way to honor these members who have dedicated over half their lives to our great union.

Among honorees attending the luncheon were: 70-year member Gil Artery; 60-year member Ron Weil; 55-year members Richard Sipple, Thomas Withers, Bernie Martin; and 50-year members Robert "Jimmy" Marks, Art Gorski, John Stenson, Greg Buss, David Thomas, Ted Malo, John McNulty and Jim Husa.

At our July 12 meeting, our guest speaker was from the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center. Director of Audiology Sean P. Flowers was not here to sell us hearing aids, but to provide information on the dangers of hearing loss. Construction sites, live music concerts, and simply mowing our lawns are just a few things that contribute to hearing loss. Reportedly, hearing loss can also contribute to diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia. I recommend that we all go in for screening

and hearing testing, because there are options out there that can prevent further damage to our ears.

As September arrives, outdoor festivals, parades, concerts, fireworks, boating, ballgames, and trips to the beach are winding down for the season in our beautiful city. A safety plus for Chicago this summer was implementation of separate lanes for bicyclers and joggers who enjoy these activities along Lake Michigan's waterfront. Happy fall season to all.

Sue Kleczka, P.S.



Service awards presentation at Local 212 Retirees Club meeting. From left are: Tom Doerger, Bob Doerger, Nancy McInery Cummings, Otis Carpenter, Steve Book, Denny Dickerson, Jerry Dickerson and Bob Schaefer.

Tribute to Longtime Members

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH — Our deepest sympathy goes out to families of recently departed brothers: Daniel Johnson (who was an IBEW member for 76 years); James McInery (a member for 75 years); Richard Ruehl (66 years); Ronald Cook (59 years); Robert Zehner (57 years); Gary Blanchet (53 years); James Peet (52 years); Willie Bishop (50 years); Jimmy Seagall (29 years); Gary Combs (24 years); Kevin Tuttle (19 years); Gregory Chambers (11 years); and Eric Klosterman (who was a two-year member). "We weep with those who weep." — Romans 12:15

At our May meeting, several club members received IBEW service certificates and pins. Congratulations to: 60-year members Steve Book, Otis Carpenter, Bob Doerger, Bill Heinzelman and Jay Rizzuto; 55-year members Jerry Dickerson, Tom Doerger and Bob Schaefer; and 50-year member Denny Dickerson. Bill and Jay were not present for that occasion.

We also extend posthumous congratulations to our late Brothers Jim McInery (who was a 75-year member), Henry Abel (who was a 65-year member) and Duke Lowery (who was a member for 60 years.) Jim McInery's daughter, Nancy Cummings, accepted the posthumous award on her father's behalf.

FYI — I did some research and found that those with the most years of continuous membership are as follows: No. 1 — Harry Pharo (82-year member); No. 2 — Walter Satzger (79-year member); No. 3 — Stanley Satzger (78-year member); No. 4 — Harry Appelblatt (77-year member); No. 5 — Cliff Rost and Danny Johnson (76-year members); and No. 6 — Fred Ober and Jim McInery (75-year members). Anyone up to the challenge?

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

Henry Miller Museum Tour

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — The Retirees Club had their luncheon/meeting on Tuesday, June 27, in Hartsburg, MO.

On May 9, our retirees group took a bus trip to tour the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis. We thank Local 1 Bus. Reps. Dave Roth and Chuck DeMoulin for giving us a personal tour and history of the boarding house where Henry Miller lived 125 years ago. This boarding house is the birthplace



At Local 134 Retirees Club annual luncheon, honorees are joined by local union Rep. Tim Fitzgibbons (middle row, center). Front row, seated: Gil Artery (left), Robert "Jimmy" Marks, Art Gorski, John Stenson. Middle row: Richard Sipple, Greg Buss, Rep. Fitzgibbons, David Thomas, Ted Malo. Back row: John McNulty, Ron Weil, Jim Husa, Thomas Withers and Bernie Martin.

RETIRES



Local 257 Retirees Club group tours Henry Miller Museum site in St. Louis.

of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which became the IBEW. With the generous support of Local 1, the site was converted into a museum. We also thank Connie Hamacher for arranging the tour and our lunch at Red Robin. It was a fun trip.

We thank all members who obtained petition signatures for a proposed 2018 ballot initiative to seek repeal of Missouri's new anti-worker "right-to-work" law. At press time, the state right-to-work law was scheduled to take effect Aug. 28, but could be delayed if there are enough petition signatures for a public vote. I hope you and anyone you know signed the petition.

On a sad note, three members passed away recently: Joan Schulte (wife of Kenny Schulte), Laurentia Hamacher (wife of Carlos Hamacher), and Christy Binggeli. They will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Upcoming events: Labor Day parade - Sept. 9; IBEW Local 257 Annual Picnic - Sept. 16.

Delores Melloway, P.S.

Club Officers Sworn In

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA — As Canada makes history celebrating our nation's 150th anniversary, our Retirees Club is starting its 32nd year of providing events for retirees.

At our club's June luncheon meeting and election of club officers, a record 150 attended and voted. Our North Unit group also continues to grow and thrive.

Retirees Club executive officers are: Pres. Robert Rynyk, Vice Pres. Dave Frater, Rec. Sec. Gwen Slaght, Treas. Bill Slaght, Sgt. at Arms Jack Singleton; and Executive Board members Diana Frater, Holly deJong, Joan Rynyk, Robert Gullins, Ron Hart and Wayne Lawrence. Officers were sworn in by Local 353 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Steve Martin at our July meeting.

Our August executive board meeting was held at Local 353's newly opened East Unit office in Oshawa, which will also service our retirees in the East.

At another historical event in our local's history, I was asked to assist Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Steve Martin in presenting Local 353 RENEW/NextGen their IBEW charter, cementing the bonds among IBEW youth, working members and retirees. RENEW/NextGen seeks to invest the IBEW's younger members in the future of the union.

We look forward to our annual visit to Kitchener Local 804's Oktoberfest, as well as our 32nd Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance in November.

We are all part of this great IBEW history. What are you doing?

Robert Rynyk, P.S.

Summer Activities

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 424, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA — The warm weather months usher in a summer of fun. July 7 marked the 20th annual Unit 2

Pancake Breakfast & BBQ Lunch, kicking off the famous 10-day Calgary Stampede & Exhibition. "Executive Chef" Dave Handley, with some "sous chefs" from the E-Board, did a great job on the breakfast and at lunch, where Dave served his signature smoked beef brisket.

Next was the annual 424 Family Picnic held July 8. Tina Stevenson has been the impetus behind this event since she started it 10 years ago. Thank you to Tina and husband Scott for another excellent job with the logistics of keeping 240 kids and parents entertained with clowns, face painters, balloon makers, bouncy castles, countless fun activities, BBQ and picnic treats.

Unit II in Calgary will sponsor a members golf tournament and steak BBQ at the Silverwing Golf Course on Sept. 9.

The July 21 Unit 1 Pancake Breakfast & Lunch, started 30 years ago by recently deceased former business manager Bob Lamont, was a success. The annual Breakfast & BBQ heralds the start of Edmonton's 10-day Exhibition & Chuck Wagon Races. It was followed Aug. 12 by the Unit 1 Edmonton members golf tournament & steak BBQ at the Garrison Golf Club.

Thank you to the many volunteers, including spouses of retirees, who made all the events a success. Also, thank you all to those who put up nice prizes for the tournaments.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

Sarnia Happenings



Sue Tracey, retired Local 530 office assistant.

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — At this writing, Local 530 retirees are enjoying a wonderful summer filled with great turnouts at our meetings, and we have had several enjoyable outings.

On May 26, Local 503 office assistant Sue Tracey retired

after 20 years of service. Local 530 hosted a retirement celebration for Sue, and both active members and Retirees Club members presented her with a monetary retirement gift. Sue always took care of our needs with a smile and a kind word. We wish her all the best in her retirement years.

In July, our club members travelled to Bright, Ontario, to see a Walters Family Dinner Theatre live presentation of "A Modern Tribute to Abba." While there, we enjoyed a great meal served buffet style with an assortment of food bound to please everyone.

In August, club members visited the village of Oil Springs, Ontario, described as the birthplace of the modern-day oil industry. Our members toured the Fairbank Oil Fields by horse-drawn wagon. This property is now considered a National Historic Site. We

also toured the Oil Museum of Canada located on the grounds. This outing also included lunch provided by the Friendship Group of Oil Springs United Church.

Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.

Fun Activities & Trips

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 595, DUBLIN, CA — Hi from out west! We were blessed with our wettest winter on record after four years of drought and have enjoyed an incredible spring with carpets of wildflowers blooming. Our summer has been beautiful and the work picture is bright. Full employment in the Bay Area for active members is happy news for all! We thank the travelling brothers and sisters who have helped man the work.

Our club has been busy with trips, barbecues and our monthly themed luncheons. The camaraderie is wonderful and we fully enjoy each other's company. Many of us had quite a time on a bus trip to Bass Lake and Yosemite; our accommodations at the Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino were fantastic.

Our treasurer extraordinaire, Linda Bratset, schedules awesome day trips such as those to: Vision Quest Ranch with lunch at Phil's Fish Market in Moss Landing in August; Apple Hill in Placerville in September; and a Hornblower cruise on the bay for Sunday of Fleet Week, with lunch and viewing of the Blue Angels! Sign up for fun activities; you can also invite guests.

Retirees also attended the Annual 595 Day at the Oakland Coliseum to see our Oakland A's play. We enjoyed a tailgate lunch beforehand and saw our hometown team beat the Washington Nationals 10-4.

By the time you read this, we will have had our summer barbeque at the Fremont Elks Club and our always awesome 595 Union Picnic at Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Hope everyone enjoys a great summer of fun activities!

Tom Mullarkey, P.S.



IBEW Local 611 RENEW/NextGen volunteers and assistants participated on a project to help with yard work and repairs at the home of a retired IBEW member.

Update from Albuquerque

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM — Sorry I didn't have an article in the June publication. I haven't seen many of you recently, but what an amazing summer it has been.

At the regular Local 611 meeting in May, 52 new members were obligated! As of June, that makes a total of 114 new members so far this year. That is mostly because more electricians are needed at the new Facebook project in Los Lunas.

In June, Local 611 RENEW/Next Gen volunteers, including a few older members, carried out their first community "helping hand" project by assisting with yard work and repairs at the home of retiree Graham Smith, who has health problems. Bro. Smith's wife Dolores served Frito Pies to some 25 volunteers. Bro. Smith said, "This really shows what brotherhood is about in the IBEW." He and his family appreciated the volunteers for all their help.

Our condolences to the families of retirees who recently passed away: David O'Briant, Earl D. Eddy, John G. Moore, Jackson Lujman, Leroy Powers, Elmer W. Brunner, Cipriano Lujan, Robert W. Avery, Manuel Lourenco, George W. Williams, Jay P. Halvorson and Frank R. Walker. We also mourn the loss of journeyman wireman John E. Redvelski.

To view a photo history of the local dating from 2014, stop by the hall and see the photo book or attend a regular meeting on the third Saturday of each month. I miss seeing everyone, so call or drop off a note to let me know how your life is going as an IBEW retiree.

Tracy Hall, Pres.



Local 649 retirees recently toured the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis. Front row, Edward Wineburner (left), James Heineman, James Huhsman, Marlin Wagner, John Fitzgerald Jr., George Stumpe; back row, William Gottlob and Jack Tueth.

Henry Miller Museum Tour

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 649, ALTON, IL — On a surprisingly pleasant day in July, the Local 649 Retirees Club embarked on a road trip to visit the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis.

Our tour was conducted by Mike Newton and Dave Roth, representatives of IBEW Local 1. They entertained us with the story of the discovery,

acquisition, demolition and reconstruction of the building where the then-National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (NBEW) was formed. The result is an amazing setting. IBEW Local 1 is to be commended for their efforts.

I would encourage the entire membership to tour the Henry Miller Museum and grounds if you travel to, or near, the St. Louis area.

On a somber note, we are saddened to report

the passing of Thomas Prullage on May 13 this year. Tom was a second-generation, 50+ year IBEW member and one of the original officers of the Local 649 Retirees Club. Our condolences go out to his wife, Pat, his children, and grandchildren.

The Local 649 Retirees Club meets on the last Thursday of every month, at 9 a.m., at the Eagles Nest Restaurant in Bethalto, IL. All Local 649 retirees are welcome to attend.

Jack W. Tueth, P.S.

Trip to Henry Miller Museum

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — Over a dozen retirees enjoyed a trip to the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis on May 10. Stories of the past and present were shared, along with the deep feeling of what had been accomplished in everyone's careers. Retirees expressed their gratitude for what the IBEW has done for all of them. Additionally, upon arrival at the museum, it was a tremendous honor to see the 100-year celebration logo of Local 702 embolden the parking lot entry gate.

On June 1, the club met for lunch at Golden Corral in Carbondale, IL. Minutes from the previous meeting and the financial report were read and approved. Known deaths for the months of April and May were announced, followed by a moment of silence. Under "old business," appreciation was expressed to Bus. Mgr. Charles Hughart for the April 11 Retiree Luncheon, as well as the St. Louis trip. In "new business," a motion was made and seconded to purchase two of the local's Solidarity Drawing tickets. A pocket knife donated by Logan & Carolyn Marlow was won by Dave Dittmer.

The 50/50 drawing of \$36 was won by sister Marilyn McRoy. The luncheon concluded at 2 p.m.

Mark Baker, P.S.

'Welcome Back!'

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — As we begin our new year of meetings, we want to



IBEW Local 756 member James Warren (right) pins his son U.S. Army Command Sgt. Major Michael Warren, a Local 175 member, following his military promotion.

welcome you all back! We look forward to a great year. Remember, our Fish Fry starts our year off with our September meeting followed by an October BBQ, November turkey, and ham in December. If you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert to make our meals complete. We hope to see you all there!

We are all very proud of IBEW Local 175 member Michael Warren, son of Local 756 member James Warren, for his promotion to the rank of U.S. Army Command Sargent Major, prior to deployment for his fourth tour to Afghanistan. Bro. Michael Warren is a 26-year IBEW member, and Bro. James Warren is a 61-year IBEW member.

We invite any retired or unemployed IBEW brothers and sisters and their spouses who are in the area to come and join us. Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month, 11:30 a.m., at the Local 756 union hall, in Port Orange, FL.

Diane Gibbs, P.S.

Annual Luncheon

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA — Our Retirees Club had its yearly luncheon the first Monday in June with spouses invited. It was well-attended with about 30 members and their wives present. The BBQ was furnished and the rest of the meal consisted of covered dishes brought from home.

We regret the loss of former business manager Patrick Michael Clary, who passed away May 29 at age 60. He was a member of Local 995 for 42 years and served for 12 years as business manager before he retired because of medical problems. Bro Clary was well-liked and will be missed greatly.

er Patrick Michael Clary, who passed away May 29 at age 60. He was a member of Local 995 for 42 years and served for 12 years as business manager before he retired because of medical problems. Bro Clary was well-liked and will be missed greatly.

W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.



IBEW Local 1245, Reno/Sparks Chapter, Retirees Club members Jim Lappin (left), Frank Istrice, Pres. Ron Borst, Vickie Borst, Kathie Preston and Cyril Escallier present donated fans to Washoe County Adult Services Division Dir. Ken Retterath (second from right).

Ongoing Community Service

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 1245, VACAVILLE, CA — IBEW Local 1245 retirees are continuing their long-standing tradition of giving back.

The IBEW Local 1245, Reno/Sparks Chapter, Retirees Club once again collected electric fans to donate to low-income seniors who cannot afford air conditioning. The weather in Washoe County often exceeds 100 degrees in the summer months, and heat illness can be a serious condition among seniors. This year, the Retirees Club collected 60 fans, which is the most fans collected since they began this program a few years ago.

Additionally, the Local 1245, North Bay Chapter, Retirees Club recently presented a \$750 donation to Lower Lake High School. The donation will be used to support girls' athletic programs.

Rebecca Band, P.S.



Attendees enjoy Local 995 Retirees Club annual luncheon in June.

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

Get the latest news and stories about IBEW members across the U.S. and Canada, including the online version of the Electrical Worker, at IBEW.org.

YouTube

For Boston Red Sox fans, Fenway Park is more than just a stadium — it's a home with a great history. Meet the Local 103 members who keep it powered at bit.ly/IBEWLocal103_Fenway.

Vimeo

Not everyone can say they build things that go into space, much less the world's largest telescope, but for Baltimore 1501 members at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, that's what they do every day. bit.ly/IBEW_NASAtlescope



HourPower

IBEW's Business Development Department has been hard at work finding new projects and maintaining relationships with long-term customers from Facebook to Little Caesars. Learn more about it at ibewhourpower.com.



ElectricTV

NECA and the IBEW are recruiting the best and brightest for the next generation of the electrical industry, and they're going to college to do it. Meet the Penn State NECA student chapter at ElectricTV.net.



THE IBEW'S 2017 PHOTO CONTEST

Photos that tell the story of the IBEW.

WHO WE ARE.
WHAT WE DO.
HOW WELL WE DO IT.
Now it's your turn. WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

ENTER TODAY AT WWW.IBEW.ORG.

DEADLINE: OCT. 31

Contest rules and photo guidelines at www.ibew.org.

1ST PLACE: \$200 2ND PLACE: \$150 3RD PLACE: \$100 HONORABLE MENTION: \$50



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

Standing Up to Corporate Greed



Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

As IBEW international president, I have the opportunity to meet with many CEOs who are committed to taking the high road when it comes to workplace relations and understand that good labor-management relations has mutual benefits.

Sadly, Charter/Spectrum CEO Tom Rutledge isn't one of them. Rutledge is the highest-paid CEO in the nation and his cable company took in \$29 billion in revenue last year.

But as our cover story for this issue explains, New York City Charter employees — members of Local 3 — were forced to strike more than five months ago.

Rutledge, despite his company's profits, has demanded draconian cuts to the company's health and retirement funds, the elimination of weekend overtime pay and more flexibility to hire lower-paid, nonunion contractors.

While more money keeps flowing to the top, he wants to punish the men and women who make those profits possible.

And it is not just employees who are victims of Charter's greed. Customers are hurt as well. Numerous regulators have filed complaints against the company for shoddy service and broken promises to the public.

No union member wants to strike. It subjects the striker and his or her family to numerous hardships. Our members want nothing more than to get back to work doing what they do best: servicing their customers.

But unchecked corporate greed is preventing them from doing so.

I always say I would rather be working with employers than against them. But it is hard to work with a company with so little regard for its employees. Or for its customers.

Increasingly, public pressure is building on Charter to do the right thing and end this strike.

Numerous lawmakers, including New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and many members of the City Council and state Assembly have called on Rutledge to return to the bargaining table.

It is time for Charter management to sit down with its workers and negotiate a fair agreement so everyone can get back to work.

But until they do, our brothers and sisters on the picket line can count on the total support of myself and every officer of the IBEW. ■

Solidarity in Baltimore

Seven months ago, the workers in the utility industry at Baltimore Gas and Electric voted to join the IBEW. It was one of the largest victories in North American organized labor in recent memory and I want to update you on their progress.

Chartered in April, IBEW Baltimore Local 410 currently has all its officers in place and appointed and trained shop stewards at all service centers.

The negotiating committee, after being elected by all the workers, drafted a contract proposal after many discussions and a survey of the membership and submitted it to BGE. Local 410 Business Manager Eric Gomez and the other members of the negotiating committee say that BGE is bargaining in good faith, and I expect there will be a contract soon.

An interim complaints procedure was hammered out and put in place for the first time in BGE history. It works almost exactly like a negotiated grievance process and is already protecting BGE workers. Union representatives join any Local 410 member who doesn't want to go to a meeting with human resources alone.

As a result, a disabled BGE worker, a no vote during the election, had his job saved after the union intervened on his behalf, standing up and presenting the facts of his case using the jointly agreed upon complaint procedure.

He's a union supporter now.

For the first time in many of their working lives, the IBEW members at BGE are telling us that they can speak up and not have the working rules and working conditions changed at will, they now have a say in the workplace. Now they hold their heads up and leave fear behind.

This has benefited our new members, but it has also benefited BGE. Some of the disciplinary hearings revealed unclear policies and gaps in training. The result are changes that improve everyone's lives instead of a pointless punishment targeting an individual.

And all of this is BEFORE a contract has been signed.

A legally binding collective bargaining agreement, a contract, is the shield that protects union workers and frees us to concentrate on our work and pay close attention to safety so that we return safe every day to our loved ones. The contract guarantees us good wages, decent benefits, a dignified retirement and work rules that allow workers to have their say on all issues.

Every day, the men and women of BGE feel something new: their own power.

Power to speak to the negotiating committee about what they want in their contract and be heard. The power to stand together when a supervisor has a complaint. The power to appoint their stewards, and soon, elect their business manager.

Most importantly, they have the crucial power to say no when they are asked to break policy or do something unsafe without fearing for their livelihood.

This is how Unions are Formed; together we are stronger. When we stand together and speak as one for the rights of every worker, we become as powerful as any company. Men and women who had no voice have one now because they stuck together and joined the IBEW. ■



Kenneth W. Cooper
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

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“LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

The Role of Politics

I am an 88-year-old great-grandfather, and while I may not be the smartest guy in the world, I do have one thing in my favor: experience.

I served four years in the U.S. Navy, spent 30 years working with the tools, obtained my electrical masters license then spent seven years as an electrical contractor. I took on a second career before retiring as a vice president of a bank for 11 years. So I have been fortunate to see all sides of the issues I would like to comment on.

I was dismayed by President Stephenson's editorial, "The Trump Record," [in the July issue of the Electrical Worker, which drew distinctions between President Trump's campaign trail rhetoric and the reality of his anti-worker policy proposals and safety rollbacks after six months in office].

As individuals, we can support any point of view we choose. However, an organization as large as the IBEW should be apolitical. We have members of every political persuasion. The IBEW president and the organization should not officially support or endorse or finance political candidates or parties.

Whether you or I support or object to President Trump's actions or words should not be an issue of the Electrical Worker. Our job should not be to join the fray in a political war or in a state vote on right-to-work laws, again a voting booth issue.

As an electrical contractor, I kept my customers not by advertising the cheapest price in town, but by the quality of our work and service. And that's the high road the IBEW needs to travel and leave the dog fighting to the professional politicians.

Howard Gelbman, Local 349 retiree
Miami

[Editor's Note: The good things we are able to enjoy as IBEW members — competitive wages, strong health and retirement benefits or respect on the job — depend in part on the decisions made by our elected officials — from the local level all the way to the White House.

We are not, and never have been, a partisan organization. But fights around things like upholding prevailing wage laws, stopping right-to-work or protecting health and safety regulations that keep us safe at work aren't partisan issues. They are life or death for our members and this union. And it would be irresponsible for any IBEW officer to stay neutral.

Your vote has been and will always be your personal decision. But as an organization that services our membership, we have a responsibility to look at where each politician stands on the issues that matter to us as IBEW members and to inform you on them.]

Stick with the Union

I was born in 1930, the 10th child of 12 siblings, eight boys and four girls. In 1936 my dad was working in the Works Progress Administration. There was a phosphate mine near our home in Alafia, Fla., and the employees were on strike because of unsafe working conditions and for better pay. There was an electrician who told my dad he was engaged to get married soon. My dad told him to stick with the union. He got killed the following week.



When Hoover was president, there were no jobs and no food; it was the beginning of the Depression. We were glad when President Roosevelt came into office. When I was 9, I helped pass out fliers at a rally. Most of my brothers and sisters could not get an education because they had to work to support our family. I went through the ninth grade and finished schooling to get my GED.

I still wanted to become an electrician. I was able to work on a permit for Barry Electric until I was able to get my "A" card. I took night classes for fiber optics, electrical switches, security systems, electrical motor controls and cable splicing. I firmly believe in union work.

Albert S. Johnson, Local 134 retiree
Lakeland, Fla.



From Facebook: Every month the IBEW Facebook page receives thousands of comments from our dynamic and engaged community of members and friends.

Keep Organizing

I was happy to read the article on ibew.org about IBEW members rebuilding power lines in upstate New York. There you go folks! Another 2,000 jobs for line workers. The IBEW needs people to fill these calls. We have a massive electrician/line worker shortage in this nation, and every year we are falling behind in manpower. We need people to organize and spread the good word.

Michael Lee Rakes, Local 466 member
Charleston, W.Va.

WHO WE ARE

Massachusetts Member Honored for Generosity to Cancer Research

In the midst of his own battle with cancer, retired Worcester Local 96 member Paul Pratt is doing his part to combat the disease for others like him.

Diagnosed with asbestos-related peritoneal mesothelioma in 2011, Pratt and his doctors have been waging war against the disease. His condition, a form of mesothelioma that occurs in the lining of the abdominal cavity, has required three major surgeries, multiple rounds of chemotherapy and endless doctor visits.

But after receiving a legal settlement related to his exposure to asbestos over the course of a 30-year electrical career, Pratt, 56, chose to donate a portion of it to cancer research.

"It took eight long months for doctors to diagnose me," Pratt said. "No one believed me. One doctor said I was nuts. So when the doctors at Mass General finally figured it out, I promised myself that if I ever got any money, I'd give part of it back."

He did just that starting in 2014, donating multiple times over the next few years to the research efforts of his surgeon, James Cusack, and his oncologist, Andrew Zhu. Because of the terms of the legal settlement, he's not allowed to discuss specific dollar figures.

In June, Pratt was honored by Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center as one of 100 individuals or groups whose commitment to the fight against cancer inspired others to take action.

"A lot of people are distraught when they get a cancer diagnosis," Pratt said. "For me, it was more a sense of relief at finally knowing what was going on and being able to start working toward getting better."

Getting better has been a long road that's not over. During his first surgery in 2011, Cusack removed Pratt's gallbladder, worked to remove cancerous tissue from the abdominal cavity lining and treated the area with a heated chemotherapy called HIPEC. The effort led to four and a half years of improved health.

But last year Cusack had to repeat the procedure, and in July he required another similar surgery. Pratt underwent six months of chemotherapy in the interim, and he's currently working to get himself into any of a number of medical trials that might accelerate his recovery.

"The cancer is always there," Pratt said. "It doesn't leave you, but I hope that by supporting the research of smart people like Dr. Cusack and Dr. Zhu, I can help others in the future who are going through the same thing."

While Pratt is prohibited from talking about his specific exposure to asbestos, it's well-established that many



Retired Worcester, Mass., Local 96 member Paul Pratt attends Massachusetts General Hospital's gala in May. He was one of the honorees at the event.

jobs performed by IBEW members face substantial risks. Construction sites, power plants, shipyards and other industrial settings are among the first places cited by experts as running high risks for asbestos-related illness, and members are encouraged to use caution and personal protective equipment when there is a chance of inhaling airborne particulate.

But even being careful, there are still risks, and Pratt encourages anyone dealing with a mesothelioma diagnosis to seek the advice of an established lawyer. He also encourages others to support the ongoing efforts to understand and treat the deadly disease.

Local 96 Business Manager Tommy Maloney says Pratt's personal commitment to cancer research speaks volumes about IBEW members in general. "Being a union member means we look out for one another, and Paul is living that out even with all he's going through. It's an inspiring thing he's done, and I'm glad he's being recognized for it."

For Pratt, it's about finding a cure. "Things are changing so fast right now, and every year is bringing new treatments, new medical trials, new hope. We need to make sure these doctors have the resources they need to keep doing their important work." ■

IBEW MERCHANDISE



IBEW Tie Tack/Lapel Pin \$3.00

Gold-tone bar with raised IBEW initials, features jewelry grade ball clutch. Can be used as a tie tack or lapel pin.

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5.3oz black moisture management polo shirt with diamond jacquard pattern. IBEW initials, fist and lightning bolts on left chest. Snag resistant material wicks moisture away from the body.

Women's IBEW Initials Watch \$100.00

Women's gold-tone watch with embossed IBEW initials on face, expansion band, stainless steel backing and water resistant.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

Illinois Wireman Turns Author, Filmmaker to Honor Family's Service

'Path of the Past' recalls a man's heroic service to country during WWII

Lou Baczewski is an electrician with a passion for history.

The second-generation Collinsville, Ill., Local 309 wireman has taken his love for the past to the extreme, authoring a book about the remarkable story of his own grandfather's fight through war-torn World War II Europe, and then recreating that journey for an upcoming documentary film.

"Louch" is the story of his namesake, Louis J. Baczewski, born in 1922 to Polish immigrants in the tiny town of Pocahontas, Ill. Drafted into the U.S. Army a year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Baczewski was assigned to Fort Knox in Kentucky, where he was trained to drive an M-4A1 Sherman tank.

Known to friends and family as "Louch" (pronounced LOOCH), a nickname picked up thanks to his mother's strong Polish pronunciation of his name, Baczewski eventually found himself fighting his way across Europe, from the beaches of Normandy, France, to Frankfurt, Germany, after the fall of the Nazi Third Reich.

In his book, the younger Baczewski describes in vivid detail the struggles faced by his grandfather and his compatriots in the 3rd Armored Division, where American tanks were badly outgunned by their German counterparts, and where they only ultimately prevailed by throwing more tanks — and more lives — at the enemy.

"There were 232 tanks in the division when these guys landed on Omaha Beach a couple of weeks after D-Day," Baczewski said. "And by the end of the war, they'd lost 1,300 of them." That meant every tank in the division was replaced nearly six times over the course of 10 months of fighting.

The tank crews didn't fare any better. Of the 152 young Americans who landed in Normandy on June 23, 1944 as part of Louch's D-company, just 18 survived to the end of the war.

Of the lucky few who reached central Germany in the weeks following the Nazis' unconditional surrender — V-E Day — were Baczewski and a young assistant gunner, Les Underwood. The two served in the same Sherman tank from the Battle of Saint-Lô in July 1944 through the infamous Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest seven months later.

After the fighting stopped, the two were roommates in Frankfurt during the U.S. occupation of that

Lou 'Louch' Baczewski pictured above with tank crewmate Les Underwood in Belgium, 1944. The two reunited, below, in 2011.



Louch Baczewski, left, atop his M-4 Sherman tank during the war. Above: Les Underwood.

city, but when they returned home — Louch to Pocahontas, Les to Lancaster, Pa. — they lost touch.

In one of the book's most touching moments, the younger Baczewski got in touch with Underwood and arranged a reunion. In 2011, Underwood, with his wife and adult daughter, made the 800-mile drive from Pennsylvania to Illinois.

"It was an emotional moment," said Leslie Baruffi, Underwood's daughter. "These two men just hugged one another and cried. They'd been through so much together during the war. It took 65 years, but they finally had a chance to reunite, and it was like they'd never been apart."

After coming home, Louch joined the Laborers union and later worked as a millwright and a steelworker. Underwood spent nearly 40 years as an IBEW wireman and member of Reading, Pa., Local 743.

"It's amazing how their lives paralleled one another, even after they lost touch, both being union guys, working with their hands," Baruffi said. "My father never really talked about the war, but with Lou, they relived the whole thing in a week."

Stories of the underpowered Sherman tanks, called "death traps" by the troops who operated them, flowed from the two men that week, including recollections of one particular day that haunted both of them for 60 years.

"It was the worst day of our lives," both men told



Collinsville, Ill., Local 309 wireman/author/filmmaker Lou Baczewski with his grandfather, Lou 'Louch' Baczewski.

"It was an emotional moment. These two men just hugged one another and cried. They'd been through so much together during the war. It took 65 years, but they finally had a chance to reunite, and it was like they'd never been apart."

— Leslie Baruffi

the younger Baczewski of the fight during the Battle of the Bulge. As D-company approached the Belgian border-town of Cherain, 10 Shermans and their crews met five superior German Panther tanks and one German Mark IV tank, backed up by loads of infantry and a battery of 170 mm anti-tank guns. By the end of fighting on Jan. 15, 1945, only Baczewski's tank remained. Underwood's tank was hit, killing his driver and assistant driver instantly. The turret crew bailed out and Les was forced to dive into the snow and play dead as German infantry overran their position.

As he lay motionless, a mortar shell exploded nearby, setting Underwood's jacket on fire, and moments later a German soldier kicked him hard in the ribs to see if he was still alive. The Nazi soldier then lifted the motionless Underwood, said "Kaput," and threw him back in the snow. It was the longest day of his life, he recalled, as he lay freezing in deep snow, afraid to move as bullets ricocheted around him. At nightfall, he crawled back to U.S. lines past two German sentries to rejoin what was left of D-company.

Underwood later received the Belgian military medal, the Croix de guerre, for his bravery that day.

The two would soon cross the Rhine River into Germany, liberating the Dora-Mittelbau concentration camp as nearby units captured the nearby Nazi rocket factory responsible for the V-2 missiles that killed nearly 3,000 civilians and injured 6,500 more during

the Blitz in London.

The younger Baczewski and his grandfather had always talked of going to Europe and retracing his unit's steps, but Louch's failing health and death in May 2013 ended those dreams. In the summer of 2015, Baczewski decided to forge on alone, bringing along a cameraman to document his bicycle journey through the hedgerows of France, the forests and towns of Belgium and the cities of Germany.

Baczewski, along with co-director Kyle Gisburne and assistant producer Aaron AuBuchon, is near completion on a feature-length documentary about the trip and the book, titled "Path of the Past," that he hopes to debut at the True/False Film Festival in Columbia, Mo., next March. A portion of the film's proceeds will be donated to H.E.R.O.E.S. Care, a charity that assists military families before and after deployment.

Local 309 Business Manager Tim Evans said Baczewski has been active at the local and presented the film project to the executive board, where members took a lot of interest. "Lou's so passionate about this, and we were glad to support him in it. I hope lots of people read this and buy the book. It's an amazing story."

Those interested in the film's progress can follow "Path of the Past" on [Facebook.com/LousRide](https://www.facebook.com/LousRide) and order the book, "Louch: A Simple Man's True Story of War, Survival, Life, and Legacy" on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). ■