

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

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

Printed in the USA

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vol. 15 | No. 11 | November 2021

## IBEW News



**A Win for Nuclear Power**  
Illinois Members Pressed Politicians to Save Nuclear Jobs **3**

## Restoring Power in Ida's Wake

Linemen Raced From Across the U.S. When Hurricane Ida Tore Through the Gulf Coast in August **6**

## In This Issue

Editorials **2**

Letters to the Editor **2**

My IBEW Story **2**

North of 49° **8**

Politics & Jobs **9**

Circuits **10**

Transitions **11**

Organizing Wire **12**

Spotlight on Safety **12**

In Memoriam **13**

Local Lines **14**

Grounded in History **19**

Who We Are **20**

## My IBEW STORY

We asked you to share what IBEW membership has meant in your life. See what you had to say.

See page 2



## A 21st-Century Goldrush:

# Inside the Race to Store the World's Data

*Data centers are where the internet is stored. As more and more data gets shifted into the cloud, the world needs more of these power-hungry centers, where electrical work dominates wage bills like no other construction project.*

In the 130-year history of the IBEW, there has never been anything quite like the explosive growth of the data center business.

Fifteen years ago, the entire industry barely existed.

A handful of IBEW locals saw a few hundred members building small-scale data centers in specific tech-heavy corners of the country like Silicon Valley, northern New Jersey and a few suburban Virginia towns west of Washington, D.C.

Today, data center construction has become a juggernaut nationwide, providing tens of millions of work hours from coast to coast, in small towns and big cities alike.

## BUILDING 'THE CLOUD'

Statistics are hard to come by in this notoriously secretive industry, but there at least 10 data center projects worth \$1 billion or more underway and thousands, most likely tens of thousands, of IBEW members at work on data centers every day.

"We have had about 500 to 1,000 members working on data centers for the last 10 years," said Columbus, Ohio, Local 683 Business Manager Pat Hook, "and we have at least 10 more years of work at the same level. It is half our hours."

Local 683 only has 2,000 members.

A single building in Chicago uses more energy than any Commonwealth Edison customer other than the 11-square-mile O'Hare International Airport, and it was gutted and rebuilt entirely by members of Chicago Local 134, according to Business Manager Donald Finn.

"There are four fiber vaults and three electric

power feeds, which provide the building with more than 120 megawatts of power and about 50 generators throughout the million square feet," he said. "The amount of pipe and wire that went into that building is nothing short of incredible."

Atlanta Local 613 Business Manager Kenny Mullins estimates his local has worked about 25 million man-hours in the last five years and 65 million in the past decade on data center jobs. One project, the QTS Mega Data Center, will use 275 megawatts of power when complete and has two Georgia Power substations on site.

"Oh my God that thing is huge," he said. "These projects are blow-your-mind big."

The global heart of the data center construction industry is an unlikely corner of northern Virginia around Ashburn and Manassas, which boasts the largest concentration of data centers in the world. Due to its early status as an internet exchange point and the area's importance to the history of the internet, it functions as something of a global hub with more data center capacity than the rest of the country

**STORING THE WORLD'S DATA** *continued on page 4*

## FROM THE OFFICERS

# Brotherhood Keeps Us Strong



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

**T**his month marks the 130th anniversary of the founding of the IBEW, and as we celebrate that milestone, I can't help but reflect on what those 10 founding brothers would think if they could be here to see us today.

Surely, they'd be mesmerized by the technology and by the complicated and important work IBEW members do. And I hope they'd be proud of the way generations of sisters and brothers who followed them into this great union have built it up and grown it into the powerhouse it is today.

But I also bet a lot of things would be familiar to Henry Miller, J.T. Kelly and the rest of those visionary leaders.

Back in the 1980s, a lot of people tried to tell us unions' time had passed. Things were better. We weren't needed anymore. Sure, workplace deaths were rarer than they'd been in 1891 when the IBEW was founded — they still are, thankfully, though one death on the job is still too many.

But safety wasn't the only reason to join a union, just as it isn't today.

I think if our founders were here today they'd look at CEO pay compared to average worker salaries and shake their heads at an all-too-familiar fact: Workers

without strong unions will never get what they're worth as long as they don't harness their collective power and stand up for what they deserve.

The truth is, in 1978, before Ronald Reagan told us unions were a relic of the past, the average CEO made 31 times his employees' pay and 25% of Americans belonged to a union. By the end of the '80s, it was 61 times. Today, with unions representing just 11% of the American workforce, the average CEO takes home 351 times a typical worker's salary.

I think Henry Miller wouldn't have to look too hard to see the outrage in that or to figure out the reasons why things have gotten so out of whack. He'd recognize workers' weak position compared to the bosses, and he'd also have an answer to it — the same one he had back in 1891: Organize!

Back in his day, workers faced beatings or even death for standing up for their rights to join a union. Today, there are still obstacles like strong-arm tactics by employers and specialized union-busters designed to intimidate working people.

It takes courage to organize and to join a union, but standing up for your rights, standing together for all workers' rights, is worth the risk.

Henry Miller and the other founders of this great brotherhood showed us the way 130 years ago.

If we stand together now and realize that more unites us than divides us, and if we aggressively offer that brotherhood to even more working people, then the IBEW will be here long after we're gone.

So, let's get out there and organize. Let's stand together to fight for pro-worker legislation like the PRO Act. And let's prove every day that IBEW members are the absolute best in the business.

Here's to another 130 years of the greatest union in the world. ■

# Thank You to our Veterans

**V**eterans Day in the U.S. and Remembrance Day in Canada are an opportunity to say "Thank you" to those who've served our two countries in uniform, and this year I want to extend the gratitude of the entire IBEW to those members and their families who've given so much to all of us.

But I'd like to talk about what we do the other 364 days of the year to honor our vets.

At the IBEW, so many of our members served honorably and came home looking for that next step in life, an opportunity to put the skills and leadership they developed in uniform into a civilian career.

From our earliest days, the IBEW has welcomed veterans with open arms after World Wars and drawn-out conflicts on the far side of the globe.

Today, it's as important as ever that we recognize the enormous impact our veterans can have on our local unions and reach out proactively to invite them to join us in brotherhood and sisterhood.

Through initiatives like the Veterans Electrical Entry Program, or VEEP, and Helmets to Hardhats, as well as numerous local-level recruiting plans, we're working to ease the barriers to entry to these women and men who come ready-equipped with the discipline, work ethic and know-how to be successful apprentices from their first day.

It fills me with pride to see IBEW booths at military career fairs or to see locals who put an emphasis on recruiting from nearby bases.

In this issue, you'll read about Charleston, W. Va., Local 466 winning a state award earlier this year for being an employer that strongly supports its members who serve in the state's National Guard. And awards or not, I know that all of our local unions do the same for their members who still serve, and that makes me enormously proud, too.

As we work to expand VEEP and learn from the successes our locals are having recruiting vets, I hope each of you will warmly welcome those who've served into our union, and I hope you'll take time this month to say "Thank you" to those brothers and sisters who served honorably in the past.

We have all that we do because of their sacrifices, and we'll never take that for granted.

So, thank you to those of you who served and thank you to everyone engaged in making the IBEW a promising lifelong career for our new veterans. God bless our two nations and the men and women who served them faithfully. ■



**Kenneth W. Cooper**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Proud to be IBEW

After reading your latest article on President Biden's moves with respect to the NLRB, I can't be a prouder union IBEW member. To think of the moves that were made against labor with prior federal and state administrations, this is simply a big breath of fresh air!

I am comfortably retired after 40 years as an inside wireman, and I couldn't be prouder of the IBEW and the possibilities it afforded me.

Hard work pays off, and that should be a tribute to those that sacrificed and dug deep to keep the labor movement strong, in spite of those opposing us.

Great article, great progress.

*Jeff Campbell, LU 654 Retiree  
Chester, Pa.*

**Editor's Note:** See the article "Pro-Worker Majority Restored at NLRB in a Summer of Progress for Labor" in the September 2021 issue of *The Electrical Worker*.

**We Want to Hear From You:** Send your letters to [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org) or Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

## My IBEW STORY

**Ivan Sierra-Vargas, Senior Groundman Truck Driver**  
Indianapolis Local 1393



"I worked at a fast-food restaurant for almost nine years as a manager, living paycheck to paycheck. My wife would work overnight, and I would work during the day. She, our two children and I were living in poverty in a single-wide trailer, struggling to pay bills and choosing between groceries and paying the electric bill. My son has autism, and he wasn't doing well because we couldn't get him the help or attention he needed.

My father-in-law has been a member of Local 1393 for almost 20 years, so I took a chance, drove down to Indianapolis, and got on the books, then also went and got my commercial driver's license.

Once I joined the IBEW, my wife was able to quit her job and stay home with our children. My son thrived and now, four years later, he can speak. Now we live comfortably and we were able to buy our first home two years ago.

The benefits are also life changing. The traveling is also a bonus. So is the brotherhood. I was injured about a year ago — broke my leg and hand. The response of my brothers who rallied behind me was amazing and brought me to tears many times. I cannot thank the union enough for giving my family and me the chance to thrive.

I love to rep my IBEW gear proudly. You have changed my life and for that I'm eternally grateful!"

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

[ibew.org/MyIBEWStory](https://ibew.org/MyIBEWStory)

# IBEW Members in Illinois Helped Save Nuclear Jobs, Again



Credit: Creative Commons / Flickr user Michael Kappel



Credit: Creative Commons / Flickr user Nuclear Regulatory Commission

**O**n Sept. 15, Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker signed into law the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, the culmination of nearly three years of intensive effort by members of the IBEW and other organizations to save hundreds of nuclear power plant jobs in the Land of Lincoln.

"I got to tell you, I've been in the IBEW for 37 years, worked for the local for 20, and this was nothing short of amazing," said Downers Grove, Ill., Local 15 Business Manager Terry McGoldrick, who, with Local 15 Vice President Bill Phillips, was on hand for the bill's outdoor signing ceremony at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium.

Pritzker's timely signature on Senate Bill 2048 came just as Exelon, the nuclear energy subsidiary of the Illinois-regulated Commonwealth Edison, was set to start shutting down the Byron Nuclear Generating Station near Rockford. Local 15 represents more than 300 workers at Byron as well as another 300-plus at the Dresden nuclear facility in suburban Chicago, which was set to begin its own long-planned closure process in November.

Thanks to the new law, the two stations will undergo refueling and continue operating for at least another five years. Exelon also can start filling around 650 vacancies across the state and begin more than \$300 million worth of improvement projects, which means even more job opportunities for IBEW members and apprentices.

"Exelon refueling outages put thousands of people to work in Illinois, providing jobs to skilled local and regional union and tradespeople," McGoldrick told the Clinton [Ill.] Herald.

SB 2048 also helps IBEW workers at the Quad Cities and Clinton nuclear plants, which the union worked hard to successfully rescue in 2016, and the measure will keep the IBEW's workers busy at the Braidwood and LaSalle nuclear plants, too.

Meanwhile, Springfield Local 51 workers at the Clinton nuclear plant also will benefit from SB 2048, as will hundreds of members of a handful of IBEW inside locals, who find work during nuclear plant refueling and maintenance periods.

International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said that this latest rescue measure was needed because cheap natural gas has made it hard for nuclear sta-



tions to compete with other sources of always-on baseload power generation.

"Nuclear power makes up 90% of Illinois's clean-energy mix," Stephenson said, "and these two plants alone [Byron and Dresden] supply nearly \$63 million in tax revenue for their local communities." Also, Byron and Dresden directly and indirectly support thousands of middle-class jobs, and their closures would have wiped out their surrounding towns, noted McGoldrick, who lives about seven miles from the Byron plant.

The IBEW's work on a rescue measure started almost immediately after Pritzker was elected governor in 2018, said Sixth District International Vice President David Ruhmkorff.

"You had an interesting dynamic from the start," said Ruhmkorff, whose jurisdiction includes Illinois. In previous General Assemblies, it was often hard for labor to be a part of energy conversations, he said.

"Our role [as IBEW members] before had to be more grassroots," Ruhmkorff said. "The utilities would come to us directly to work out a bill's issues and

then do the lobbying to get a bill passed."

But during the current Assembly session, labor took the forefront, a change that allowed the IBEW to really show its strength.

"Our State Conference sat down and devised a plan," Sixth District International Representative Paul Noble said. "We brought in a lobbyist and an expert with [public utility commission] experience."

The conference also worked with a host of interested parties, such as generation companies like NRG Energy and Vistra Corp., as well as renewable energy companies and other labor and progressive environmental organizations to back legislative incentives for the wider deployment of solar and wind energy generation. The groups combined to form Climate Jobs Illinois, an alliance whose emphasis was more on saving solid, middle-class energy careers — and creating new ones — and less about bailing out nuclear plants owned by billion-dollar corporations.

"We negotiated with all of the stakeholders and tried to build a wide coalition around a roadmap to comprehensive energy legislation. It took lots of hours and

lots of people," Noble said.

"We personally spent 22 days down in Springfield," McGoldrick said. "We knew we had to educate our legislators." Sometimes, that meant taking state House and Senate members on personal plant tours. Other times, especially during the past year's lockdowns to help stop the spread of COVID-19, virtual meetings and tours were held via Zoom teleconferencing.

"We even bought thousands of yard signs and spread them out all over Illinois," McGoldrick said. "We'd never done this kind of stuff before."

The massive investment in time, resources and energy paid off when the worker-friendly leaders of Illinois's House and Senate let it be known that there would be no bill introduced without labor's support. "We're building political power so we can be better advocates for our members," said Noble, adding that SB 2048 included labor standards that are considered the most robust in the country. For example, the act requires project labor agreements and prevailing wages for utility-scale projects, and it creates a wealth of

*Above center, Downers Grove, Ill. Local 15 Business Manager Terry McGoldrick speaks at one of several events held over the past three years throughout Illinois to help save IBEW and other union nuclear plant jobs at generating stations like Rockford's Byron, above left, and Chicago's Dresden, above right. Other efforts included hosting legislators' visits to job sites, such as at Byron, left, and at Quad Cities, below.*

opportunities for union jobs and apprenticeships, especially within traditionally underserved minority communities.

Ultimately, SB 2048 was approved by wide margins in both houses of the Illinois General Assembly: 83-33 in the House of Representatives on Sept. 9, and 37-17 by the Senate four days later. In addition to providing funds for a wide range of clean and renewable energy initiatives, the new law provides \$700 million in relief for all of Illinois's nuclear power plants over the next five years while requiring Exelon to apply for any available federal assistance funds.

"Our union siblings in Illinois played a major role in helping get passed what is likely the most pro-worker, pro-union, pro-climate, and pro-equity legislation in our country to date," Liz Shuler, president of the AFL-CIO and a member of Portland, Ore., Local 125, wrote on Twitter following the signing ceremony.

"People think politics don't matter, but you've got to think about who you vote for," added McGoldrick, who also gave kudos to the Local 15 members at the Byron and Dresden plants. "They worked shorthanded through two outages and during a pandemic," he said. "They were motivation for us. I'm very proud of what we accomplished." ■

Continued from page 1

# A 21st-Century Goldrush: Inside the Race to Store the World's Data

## Continued from page 1

combined. Nearly 40% of Washington, D.C., Local 26's membership is at work on data centers and has been for a decade.

A single large signatory contractor, Dynalectric D.C. alone has built nearly 1,700 megawatts of data centers, more than the total in any single country except China and the U.S., according to CEO and 46-year IBEW member Paul Mella.

Because the main customers for data centers demand exceptional secrecy, reporting about them has been nearly impossible. The largest customers are the enterprise builders who build and own facilities for their own customers' use: Amazon, Microsoft, Facebook and Alphabet, the parent company of Google. They require non-disclosure agreements for all contractors and locals, and the independent builders follow the same policy.

Because of the secrecy, the scale of data center construction is highly debated and possibly unknowable. Industrial Info Resources, the bible for contractors looking to bid work in North America, reports that between \$25 and \$35 billion in contracts for data centers have been awarded in the last seven years. But another industry expert, CBRE, reported there was \$20 billion in new construction in 2017 and 2018 alone. A single project in Atlanta exceeded \$2.5 billion.

At least another \$25 billion is under construction and contracts worth more than \$40 billion have been announced and are in some stage of being bid.

But no one in the industry believes that captures anywhere near the true amount.

"The overall money spent on data centers, it would be a real guess," said Sabey Data Centers President Ron Rockwood. "This is not captured in any data we see."

Beyond corporate secrecy is the actual cloak-and-dagger nature of the vast array of government data center work, often involving the military or intelligence community.

Though the exact numbers aren't known, one thing about data centers is certain: They are enormous producers of demand for union electricians. As far as can be known, nearly all of that work is done by IBEW signatory contractors.

In northern Virginia alone, Mella believes the union market share on data center projects is about 97%. And it's a lot

of work on each venture. While it varies based on design, Mella and Rockwood estimate that between 45% and 70% of data center construction costs go to the electrical subcontractor.

"Data centers are our new powerhouses," Mullins said of their near-constant need for manpower. "They have an intense concentration of cabling, wiring, data, power distribution, backup power, high voltages, substations, transformers — everything on a grid other than generation at multiple buildings on a single campus. And by the time we build out and equip Building 4, we have members working daily in Buildings 2 and 3 and stripping out and replacing already-obsolete chillers and servers in Building 1."

Business Development Director Ray Kasmak said the scope of the projects and scale of demand for skilled electrical workers put data centers at the center of his department's work.

"We have three priority industries we concentrate most of our effort on, where we see the potential for the largest, sustained growth in our hours: e-commerce, renewables and data centers. That's how important this is," he said. "And of the three, data centers is the most prolific market I have ever seen."

## What Is a Data Center?

Not that long ago, every working inside wireman in the IBEW had built something close to a modern data center on a vastly smaller scale: the many server closets that populated the average office building.

Businesses had IT departments that built and maintained individual networks of their own and all the company's data lived on hard drives, tape and optical disks in that room.

That began to change about 20 years ago when, as part of the original dot-com frenzy, billions of dollars were dumped into a national trenching campaign building out a fiber optic broadband backbone so wildly excessive that there were multiple, spectacular billion-dollar bankruptcies and a glut of bandwidth for nearly 15 years.

At that time a typical large data center was maybe \$150 million, 150,000 square feet and was a specialized service for big banks and online-only companies.



The heart of global data center construction is northern Virginia, and nearly all of it has been built by members of Washington, D.C., Local 26, above. At right, a line of cooling units outside a data center built by signatory contractor Rosendin Electric.

Then, in 2007, the iPhone was released and, for the first time, a genuine consumer demand for cloud-based storage was born. At about the same time, Digital Realty built the first data centers measured not in square feet but in megawatts consumed by the servers, routers and HVAC systems on site.

With bandwidth cheap, online storage increasing and ever more apps and business management systems offering easy migration to the cloud, the race was on.

"That started the double-digit growth we have seen in the last decade, and I expect to see 12-18% growth in wholesale megawatts for the next decade," said Jeff Kanne, President and CEO of National Real Estate Advisors, which owns half of Sabey and manages a significant portion of the real estate investments for the National Electrical Benefit Fund and the National Electrical Annuity Plan, the IBEW's multi-billion-dollar retirement funds.

Then the pandemic hit, and demand for online storage went stratospheric.

Hundreds of millions of office conversations shifted to Slack and Microsoft Teams. School became a daily appointment with Zoom and Google Classroom. And when the day was done, the screen stayed on. We binged, we streamed, we Facetimed.

Today, 100-megawatt, billion-dollar buildings on multi-building campuses may not be the norm, but they are far from extraordinary.

The cloud, of course, is the insubstantial term developed by advertisers to hide the silicon reality of the internet's memory banks: data centers. All those videos we upload to YouTube or Facebook or send to grandma have to live somewhere, often redundantly in many places.



"The deadlines the customers face are brutal. Every day they aren't operating costs them a fortune, and if their competition finishes first, their customers will walk. It has to be done fast, right and safely and only highly skilled tradesman can do that," Kasmak said. "If they can get it done a week early, they're doing cartwheels. It's millions of dollars to them."

## Ten More Years of Double-Digit Growth

The data center is one of those places where the virtual world exists in reality. It is a component of the physical infrastructure of the internet along with trans-oceanic data cables and internet exchanges. While information only traverses the cables and exchanges, it lives in data centers. And as more businesses, people, and things — literally things like smart vacuum cleaners and refrigerators — collect and store data, the need for places to put them is skyrocketing.

How the decision is made to site a data center is basically the same for all customers, Rockwood said.

"They are built at the confluence of

low-cost power, connectivity and talent. The biggest data centers add proximity to airports and stability of environment: No hail. No earthquakes," he said.

The top markets, where work has been nonstop for nearly 15 years, have been quite stable. First is Data Center Alley, the area between Washington's Dulles International Airport and Ashburn, Va., that formed one of the earliest and most important nodes of the early internet, itself a project of DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The Pentagon, CIA and National Security Agency and a host of other "three-letter agencies" like the Defense Intelligence Agency and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency are located within 50 miles of Ashburn. One of the first transatlantic fiber optic cables landed not far away in Virginia Beach and one of the first internet exchanges, MAE-East, was located close by.

The exchanges are where the networks run by telecoms, universities and other private networks all come together in a single location and interconnect — the "inter" in internet.

Fifty years ago, Ashburn and Manassas were little more than rolling hills and farms sprinkled on and around

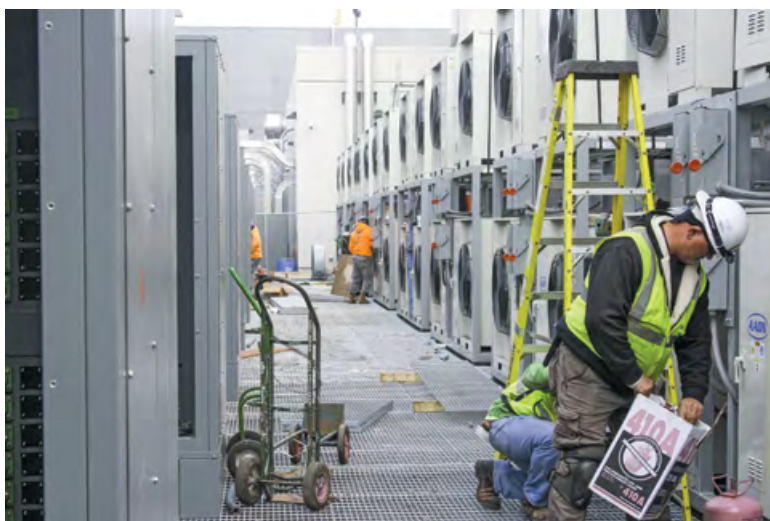


Local 26 member Travis Bennet is foreman on the Ashburn project for Sabey Data Centers, which is part-owned by one of the IBEW's pension plans.



*The heart of every data center are the racks of routers and storage. All the power, the data lines and HVAC requires hundreds and hundreds of miles of cable.*

Credit: Kim Listman/Washington Local 26



Credit: Rosendin Electric

Civil War battlefields.

Today, the area is in many ways the physical location of the internet itself. Promoters of the so-called Digital Alley frequently say that more than 70% of all internet traffic travels through the servers blinking and glowing there.

After Northern Virginia comes, in order, Dallas, Silicon Valley — despite the high-cost energy and biblical threats of earthquakes and fires — Atlanta and the New York City area.

Over the next 10 years, Kanne said the undisputed champ will still be northern Virginia, but the most significant growth will be in locations with ample cheap, clean power, including Seattle, Portland, Ore., upstate New York, and north Texas.

This doesn't mean that the smaller markets won't see work.

The large enterprise data center constructors — internet companies that build data centers for their own online customers — often seek out smaller population centers with favorable power pricing and available land. Places like Forest City, N.C.; Altoona, Iowa; Papillon, Neb.; Albuquerque, N.M.; and outside of Columbus, Ohio, are just a few.

"We've built 30 data centers around Columbus," said Local 683's Hook. "One company has 10 buildings with room for 20 more. Another will have a total of 10 to 12 buildings on their first site, and we are just on Building 3 with two more sites planned."

Hook says it is difficult to explain what the boom has meant for his local.

"In 2015, we were still coming out of the recession. Three projects cleared our

books entirely, Hook said. "Now we are seeing our members working 50 to 60 hours a week, sometimes two shifts, with 100 to 300 members on each project with multiple projects. It is a tremendous organizing opportunity for us."

Next door, Newark, Ohio, Local 1105's jurisdiction includes another dozen data center campuses, including two worth a combined \$1.3 billion. Another company has announced plans for 12 more data centers in central Ohio with a cost it chose to keep to itself.

Across the country, a similarly huge investment landed in a smaller market. A single enterprise data center builder has announced investments of at least \$1 billion for a multi-building campus in the jurisdiction of Albuquerque Local 611.

Nearly 450 members have been on site for five years and Local 611 Business Manager Pete Trujillo said they expect to be there for 10 to 12 more.

"We are already back in replacing HVAC and servers in the first building before we have finished half of the planned campus," he said. "It's like painting the Golden Gate Bridge; by the time you get close to done, the first part needs repainting."

The inside and outside construction local has seen additional work from the bottomless demand for power. In the site purchase agreement, the company committed to constructing three new high voltage transmission lines to the site and signed a power purchasing agreement that will allow the construction of a new grid-scale solar installation in the state. All that work has been going to members of Local 611.

Sabey plans a similar project combining a data center with solar generation in the near future, Rockwood said. While details remain secret, he said that the project will be the world's first net-plus data center, producing more power than it consumes. And, again, every electrical worker on it will carry an IBEW membership card.

That same enterprise data center customer putting so much of Albuquerque's IBEW membership to work recently announced plans to build an \$800 million data center in Gallatin, Tenn., along with 220 megawatts of in-state, new solar generation to run it. It also announced another \$800 million facility outside of Dekalb, Ill., powered by 100% new construction of wind and solar. The company's prediction is that, at peak, there will be close to 1,000 tradesworkers on the Tennessee project alone. Historically, the company has only used union electrical workers on its projects, and that is expected to continue to be the case.

## The Lifecycle of the Data Center Construction Project

Data centers are a new kind of construction, a new industry, but the skill set that goes into building them is not terribly different from the everyday work IBEW electricians do on any commercial or industrial job: pulling wire, bending conduit, building panels and substations.

What differentiates data center projects is the speed and the scale.

Brian Brobst, vice president of preconstruction at signatory contractor Rosendin Electric, has been involved in designing and building data centers for more than three decades. He said the speed of projects is often limited by the supply chain shortages of equipment — anything with a chip and the specialized cabling trays are particularly slow — but it is accelerating, nonetheless.

The demand for cloud services, spurred by the pandemic, means there was no time for delayed construction.

"As soon as the center is finished, the demand is there and the company starts making money, so the need for speed is more imperative than the need to hold costs down, all things being equal," Brobst said. "In the last 24 months we delivered 32 megawatts of data center from scratching dirt to commission in six months."

On that job, he said, they peaked at three shifts.

This has involved more prefabrication, including at Dynalectric jobs, using complete computer models to precisely bend most conduit off site. This, Rockwood said, will lower construction costs, without lowering labor costs.

And then there is the scale. Brobst said it isn't even helpful to think about the work in terms of buildings, or even megawatts.

"There are no one-offs. Every project has X number of additional phases and there are 10 projects on a single campus, multiple buildings with multiple

*Data center projects are measured in decades and hundreds of journeymen and, where they are concentrated, they permanently shift organizing targets and the number of apprentices a local should carry.*

phases," he said. "They are programs, not projects."

That makes managing and recruiting a skilled work force a significant issue, Brobst, Mella and Rockwood all agreed. And while the technology is changing radically, most of that change is happening inside the servers, meaning demand for trades workers is not likely to go down soon, Rockwood said.

All of them spoke about the importance of the IBEW's hiring hall meeting the demand for workers.

And they all spoke about the importance of bringing the next generation of skilled trades worker into the IBEW.

"If I were an electrician, what I would want to know is, 'Am I being taught the right things to maintain a career?' The simple answer is yes," he said. "The key for electricians and contractors is quality. You have to be good at your job. Apply what you know well and you will kill it and this industry will make sure you do."

Brobst agrees. "I don't have a crystal ball, but looking at the markets, all indicators are that we have years before we have to be concerned about this market dipping," Rockwood said. "The message we want is that there is a tremendous opportunity for electricians to work in this environment and grow. There is so much work."

Kasmark, though, wants to leave organizers, international representatives and business managers with a warning: Demand for electrical workers is growing everywhere and we need to ramp up or we will lose even as we gain.

"When big opportunities came along in the past, we walked away from other work and focused on all the OT and hours on the shiny new thing. We cannot afford to do that again," he said. "For the first time since I was in college, we have more work than workers and will do for the near future. We have to ramp up apprenticeships, ramp up organizing, bring in open shops. We can't gain with one hand and give it all away with the other." ■



Category 4 Hurricane Ida did more damage to electrical transmission in Louisiana than Katrina and three more recent hurricanes combined, leaving a million people without power and tens of thousands of poles in need of repair or replacement.

## 'It Looked Like a War Zone' Hurricane Ida's Historic Wreckage Draws Linemen Nationwide to Gulf

**P**ower poles were littered like matchsticks across the Bayou region, transmission lines destroyed, a million people without power.

Before Hurricane Ida cut its deadly path northeast, ultimately drowning dozens of people in Philadelphia and New York City, it made landfall in southeast Louisiana with more force than any storm the state had recorded since the mid-1800s.

Its Category 4, 150-mph winds devastated Louisiana's power grid, with Entergy alone reporting damage to more than 30,000 power poles, 36,000 spans of wire and nearly 6,000 transformers.

"It was more like a tornado than a hurricane. The wind damage was unbelievable," Baton Rouge Local 995 Business Manager Jason Dedon said.

"It ripped houses apart — not just the usual trailers and fifth wheels and mobile homes," he said. "We're talking about foundation-built houses. Driving down the interstate, you could see right into somebody's living room."

Dedon's local represents all outside line construction for Louisiana. He said more than 40 signatory contractors were on the ground after Ida, deploying upwards of 5,000 IBEW members.

Under the IBEW's mutual assistance agreements with utilities, thousands more linemen from 38 states headed to Louisiana, as well as Mississippi and Alabama, Utility Director Donnie Colston said.

"About 24,000 to 30,000 linemen in all, working for utilities and outside contractors, were sent to the Gulf," he said. "It's not the highest response we've had after a hurricane, but it is one of the higher ones."

In terms of the grid, Ida delivered the biggest blow to southern Louisiana and Mississippi. Wreckage exceeded even what Hurricane Katrina left in its monstrous wake when it struck on the same day, Aug. 29, in 2005.

In the hardest-hit southern parishes, linemen at rural electric cooperatives couldn't believe their eyes.

"I talked to one of my guys who said that for every 200 light poles, there were maybe two still standing," said Bogalusa Local 1077 Business Manager Mickey Fortenberry.

Out-of-state crews were stunned, too.

"It just looked like a war zone," said foreman Travis Garrison of Louisville, Ky, Local 2100, one of roughly 60 workers sent by Louisville Gas & Electric.

"Just about everybody's power was out," he said. "It was almost overwhelming. We knew we had to get going, try to take it one step at a time."

Crews worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week, in brutal heat and humidity. Storm-weary residents greeted them like heroes.

"When you go into the towns, you see everybody waving, tooting their horns, trying to hug you," Garrison said.

Cajun cooking was another way residents showed their appreciation, he and others said, with roadside feasts of pasta-laya, jambalaya and more.

In New Orleans, which escaped the worst of Ida's wrath, crews restored power to most homes within a few days. Over the next week to 10 days, more than 90% of all customers were back on the grid.

But many isolated rural residents weren't as fortunate. For them and thousands of linemen still on the job, things were about to get worse before they could get better.

**"It was more like a tornado than a hurricane. The wind damage was unbelievable."**

— Baton Rouge Local 995 Business Manager Jason Dedon

Ida's tropical cousin Nicholas arrived from Texas Sept. 14 with a wind-whipped deluge that added flooding to the list of Gulf miseries.

"We were watching the forecast, thinking the universe owes us one, we're bound to get a break. We didn't," Dedon said. "It rained for two days straight, so hard you couldn't see at times, up to 9-10 inches an hour."

It reminded him of the "astronomical rain bands" that he remembered all too well from Katrina.

Ida was a different kind of beast, nowhere near as wide or wet as Katrina. But its violent winds left people scrambling for Army-standard blue tarps to nail down over battered roofs.



At left: Restoring power in the Bayou included a canoe trip for Louisville Local 2100 foreman Travis Garrison and his crew, who were vigilant about avoiding alligators and other swamp creatures.

Below, IBEW crews worked 16-hour days for two weeks or more to restore power in southern Louisiana. As many as 30,000 linemen from 38 states were sent to the region under the IBEW's mutual assistance agreements.

With many homes still open to the elements as Nicholas loomed, Dedon said Local 995 office staff delivered tarps to people in need, including linemen's families.

"Everyone helped out, getting tarps up to protect what people hadn't lost yet," he said. "Not all roofs suffered catastrophic damage from Ida, but there was enough damage that they weren't going to hold up to that kind of rain."

Nicholas's torrential rain and flooding slowed down work in remote areas of the bayou where many customers were still days or weeks from getting their power back.

"It delayed some repairs for a couple of days," Dedon said mid-September. "We're down to the smallest portions of the hardest-hit areas — roads where there are no poles left, where trees are blocking access. It's going to be close to the end of the month before there's a semblance of normalcy there."

Local 1077's Fortenberry said Ida toppled scores of Georgia pines and "a lot of old, old oak trees," many of them bringing poles and wires down with them.

Many trees were fully uprooted, others had limbs twisted off and some, he described, "are broke off 20 feet above the ground. It's like your elbow, if you hold your elbow shoulder height and hang your arm down."

The towering pines, especially, were a sight to behold for visiting linemen.

"The size of the trees, there's nothing like it in Kentucky," said George King, another Louisville Local 2100 foreman. "It's shocking how tall they are."

His local brother, Garrison, said, "We were counting rings on trees to find out how old they were. We counted anywhere from 50 to 120 rings on some."

One of the downed trees that King's crew cut turned out to be home to a hive of honeybees. "You should have seen us scatter," he said.

King had other encounters with nature in the bayou, like the day he looked down and saw hundreds of fire ants climbing up his leg. Then there was the armadillo, likely rabid, that charged him and his crew.

Garrison, whose crew often worked with King's along the northern coast of Lake Pontchartrain, had adventures of his own.

"Everyone wants to help get their lights back on," he said, by way of telling a story about one especially eager customer — a man who boasted of a relative who'd



appeared on the TV show "Swamp People."

"You'll never find this wire unless I take you," he told us," Garrison said. "So, we took a canoe ride up a bayou. We would never have found our way without him."

They were ready for alligators in the swamp, but learned they had to be vigilant against other, unexpected dangers. "We saw some absolutely huge spiders," he said. "And people told us to be careful when shaking trees, because water moccasins sometimes hang out in treetops."

The courage and compassion of IBEW members in the wake of major storms fills Fifth District International Vice President Brian Thompson with pride.

"I couldn't be prouder of or more grateful to the IBEW crews that spend weeks in harsh conditions away from their families to restore power to hundreds of thousands, if not millions of customers; of the members

who jump into action as volunteers to support storm victims and deliver food, water and other necessities to them; and of the charity of our Fifth District locals through the union's Unity Fund," he said.

Hurricanes leave many IBEW families in the same desperate situations as their neighbors, and Thompson had long wanted to find a way to streamline the process of providing aid as quickly as possible after a storm.

That began happening last year, he said, when International President Lonnie R. Stephenson "generously approved our request to use the Unity Fund to allow Fifth District locals to give and receive contributions. Now locals with members in need after a storm are able to put the money to work directly for them."

"Dollar for dollar, no fees, no taxes, it all goes to the locals to distribute," he said. "Last



year we raised \$127,000 to help the brothers and sisters in Lake Charles, La. It is truly a testament to the generosity and kindness that is the essence of the IBEW."

The same spirit is evident across the street from Local 995's offices in Baton Rouge, where leaders turned a warehouse they bought to build a training center into relief space that's become a hub for labor donations and volunteers.

"It's a distribution spot to load and offload vehicles," Dedon said. "We had apprentices who weren't able to go back to work, retirees, some of our linemen and wiremen showing up to help."

"President Stephenson authorized a tractor-trailer of water. The Teamsters brought in a tractor-trailer of water. The Florida AFL-CIO sent 55-gallon drums of gasoline because there was a gas shortage."

After launching the operation on its

own, Local 995 signed an agreement with the American Red Cross, whose own building was overwhelmed by the region's needs.

Dedon said the goal now is to set up a permanent, well-stocked relief center by slightly reducing the footprint of the planned training space.

"It's not a matter of if we're going to get hit with another hurricane. It's a matter of when and how bad," he said. "It seems like every hurricane we fall into this reactive space. We're begging for water three, four days later. We know we're going to need water, we're going to need food, we're going to need tarps."

His local will take the lead, but he, just like Thompson, knows they can count on other IBEW locals and fellow unions to step up.

"It's truly the local unions that really make this brotherhood a brotherhood," Dedon said. ■

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

## Canada's Election Returns Allies for IBEW, Working Families

The IBEW has had a productive relationship with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Cabinet since the Liberal Party swept into power six years ago.

That will continue after national elections on Sept. 20, when the Liberals won enough seats to lead a minority government when Parliament reconvenes later this year, just as they did in the previous one.

"It showed that most people are happy with the way things are going," First District International Vice President Thomas Reid said. "The message was, 'You're going back to a minority situation. Now make it work.' I think it's important for all party leaders not to get up caught up with the ideologues and just get the job done."

In other good news, Winnipeg Local 2085 member and NDP MP Daniel Blaikie won a third term representing Winnipeg's Elmwood-Transcona riding.

That, along with the Liberals remaining in power, made for a strong election night for the IBEW and Let's Build Canada, a coalition of trade unions that urged voters to support candidates with a record of supporting organized labour and working to improve infrastructure, said Matt Wayland, First District governmental relations director and an executive assistant to Reid. The IBEW is a member of Let's Build Canada and Wayland is its executive director.

"Prime Minister Trudeau and his caucus have absolutely supported the labour movement," Wayland said. "That relationship continues. International Vice President Reid has had numerous virtual meetings with the prime minister and several members of the Cabinet throughout the [COVID-19] pandemic on issues that are important to the IBEW and our members."

In March, Reid joined Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough for a meeting where he successfully lobbied for a change in Canada's Employment Insurance (EI) System that would allow laid-off workers to receive vacation benefits while collecting EI without penalization.

Prior to the meeting, workers who received vacation pay on their weekly pay were not penalized when collecting the insurance. But those who accrued vacation pay that was held in trust and paid out at different points during the year in a lump sum payment were often penalized if they received their vacation pay while collecting EI. It was an issue that had particularly plagued skilled trades workers, Wayland said.

"That's one of those things that not many people on the outside would notice," Reid said. "But it has a big impact on a lot of our members."

Reid said another positive is the three leading national parties all committed to

making the Labour Mobility Tax Deduction available to skilled construction workers.

Most white-collar professionals in Canada can deduct on-the-job travel expenses on their federal taxes, but not construction workers when they incur out-of-pocket expenses for driving, travel and lodging outside their jurisdiction.

Fixing this tax fairness issue has been a priority for the IBEW and building trades in Canada for nearly 30 years. Wayland credited Scott Duvall, an NDP member of parliament from Hamilton, Ontario, and a Steelworkers member, for tabling a private member's bill addressing the issue earlier this year.

Duvall did not run for re-election, but his bill and the subsequent inclusion of the fix the major parties committed to in their platforms is an encouraging sign that the decades-long injustice will be

addressed in the near future.

In Winnipeg, Blaikie cruised to victory, receiving more than 49% of the vote.

"Daniel has always been a hardworking constituent-based member of Parliament," Reid said. "He's done a lot in the last six years in getting out and working with organizations in his community and the challenges they face. I'm very proud of his work on Parliament Hill and proud to see him win by a substantial margin."

Two other IBEW members were defeated in attempts to win seats in the House of Commons: Lorne Newick, a former Hamilton Local 105 business manager, and Kingston, Ontario, Local 115 member James Babcock.

"I want to thank all our members who got involved and volunteered in the election and helped ensure we still have a pro-worker government and pro-union



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, campaigning in the lead up to September's election, won a third term and a victory for pro-worker policies on the back of union votes.

members of parliament at the federal level," Reid said. "We've seen gains for Canadian working families during the last six

years under the Liberals and with the help of other labour-friendly politicians. I'm confident that will continue." ■

## L'élection fédérale donne des alliés à la FIOE et la classe ouvrière

La FIOE entretient une relation fructueuse avec le premier ministre Justin Trudeau et son cabinet depuis que le parti libéral a pris le pouvoir il y a six ans.

Suite aux élections nationales du 20 septembre au cours desquelles les libéraux ont remporté assez de sièges pour diriger un gouvernement minoritaire une fois la reprise de la session parlementaire plus tard cette année, comme ils l'ont fait à l'élection précédente, cette relation se maintiendra.

« Cela démontre que la majorité des gens sont satisfaits du gouvernement, » déclare Thomas Reid, le vice-président international du premier district. « Le message lancé était, "vous allez continuer avec un gouvernement minoritaire. Maintenant, assurez-vous de son fonctionnement." » « Je crois qu'il est important pour les chefs des partis politiques de ne pas se laisser emporter par des idéologues et de s'assurer de faire un bon travail. »

Autre bonne nouvelle, le membre de la section locale 2085 de Winnipeg et député Daniel Blaikie du NPD a remporté un troisième mandat dans la circonscription d'Elmwood-Transcona à Winnipeg.

En plus de cette nouvelle combinée au maintien des libéraux au pouvoir, la soirée a été couronnée de succès pour la FIOE et Let's Build Canada, une coalition composée de syndicats qui incitait les électeurs à voter pour les candidats en faveur des organisations syndicales et qui travaillent pour améliorer les infrastructures, déclare Matt

Wayland, assistant exécutif au VPI et directeur des relations gouvernementales du premier district. La FIOE est membre de Let's Build Canada et Matt Wayland siège à titre de directeur exécutif.

« Le premier ministre Trudeau et son caucus ont pleinement appuyé le mouvement syndical, » dit Wayland. « Cette relation va continuer. Le vice-président international Reid a eu plusieurs rencontres virtuelles avec le premier ministre et avec plusieurs membres du cabinet durant la pandémie [de la COVID-19] sur les enjeux qui sont importants pour la FIOE et nos membres. »

Au mois de mars, Reid a tenu une rencontre avec la ministre de l'Emploi, du Développement de la main-d'œuvre et de l'Inclusion des personnes handicapées, Carla Qualtrough, au cours de laquelle il a plaidé avec succès pour apporter un changement au système d'assurance-emploi (AE) pour permettre aux chômeurs de recevoir leur paye de vacances en même temps que leur prestation d'assurance-emploi sans être pénalisés.

Avant cette rencontre, les travailleurs qui recevaient leur paye de vacances sur leur paye hebdomadaire n'étaient pas pénalisés quand ils recevaient des prestations d'assurances-emploi. En revanche, ceux qui accumulaient leur paye de vacances qui était retenue dans une fiducie et payée en un montant forfaitaire à différent moment durant l'année étaient souvent pénalisés quand ils recevaient

leur paye de vacances en même temps de recevoir l'AE. C'était une situation qui posait particulièrement un problème aux travailleurs des métiers spécialisés, dit Wayland.

« Ce n'est pas quelque chose que les gens qui ne travaillent pas l'industrie auraient pu savoir, » mentionne Reid. « Ceci a toutefois eu un effet positif sur plusieurs de nos membres. »

Reid a trouvé du positif dans le fait que les trois principaux partis politiques nationaux se sont tous engagés pour appuyer le projet de loi sur le crédit d'impôt pour la mobilité de la main-d'œuvre pour les travailleurs de la construction.

La plupart des cols blancs du Canada peuvent déduire les dépenses encourues sur les impôts au fédéral lorsqu'ils se déplacent pour le travail. Cependant, les travailleurs de la construction ne peuvent pas déduire les dépenses liées directement aux déplacements, aux repas et à l'hébergement en dehors de leur juridiction.

Corrigé équitablement cette situation a été une priorité pour la FIOE et les syndicats des métiers de la construction du Canada depuis 30 ans. Wayland a rendu hommage à Scott Duval, un député du NPD de Hamilton, en Ontario, et membre du syndicat des Métallos, d'avoir déposé un projet de loi qui traite cet enjeu plus tôt cette année. Duvall ne s'est pas représenté à l'élection, mais son projet de loi et l'inclusion subséquente de la correction à laquelle les trois principaux partis politiques ont

inclus dans leur plateforme électorale est un signe encourageant que l'injustice qui perdure depuis des dizaines d'années sera traitée dans un avenir proche.

À Winnipeg, Blaikie a roulé vers la victoire en remportant plus de 49 % des votes.

« Daniel a toujours été un fier et vaillant député de la circonscription, » dit Reid. « Il a beaucoup accompli dans les six dernières années en travaillant avec des organisations de sa communauté pour les aider à faire face aux défis qu'ils ont relevés. Je suis très fier de son travail sur la Colline parlementaire et également fier de sa victoire par une aussi bonne marge. »

Deux autres membres de la FIOE ont été défaits aux urnes dans leur tentative d'être élu à la Chambre des communes, Lorne Newick, un ancien gérant d'affaires de la section locale 105 de Hamilton, Ontario et James Babcock de la section locale 115.

« Je tiens à remercier tous nos membres qui se sont mobilisés et qui se sont portés volontaire pendant les élections pour s'assurer que nous puissions encore avoir un gouvernement qui est présent pour les travailleurs et avoir des députés qui sont en faveur des travailleurs au niveau fédéral, » déclare Reid. « Nous avons vu les familles de travailleurs canadiens faire des gains depuis les six dernières années sous les libéraux et avec l'aide des politiciens en faveur des syndicats. Je suis persuadé que cela va continuer. » ■



# THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

## Denver Local Paves the Way for Biden Speech on Clean Energy and Good, Union Jobs

President Joe Biden and Colorado Gov. Jared Polis had their eyes trained on Julian Aguilar as the Denver Local 68 journeyman wireman explained how he came to be standing at a podium on a dusty road fronting a solar array at the foot of the Flatirons.

"Yesterday, I got a phone call from my business manager, Jeremy Ross, and he said, 'Hey, do you want to introduce the president tomorrow?'"

"I was like, yeah, I'll introduce Morgan," Aguilar said, referring to the local's president, Morgan Buchanan. "And he said, 'No, Joe Biden, president of the United States.'"

Aguilar was stunned. "Whoa, for real, me?"

Barely 24 hours later on the afternoon of Sept. 14, he was alongside Biden at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory north of Denver, where the president spoke about clean energy and good, union jobs.

"I know I just now met Joe Biden for the first time in my life, but I feel like he's had my back for years," said Aguilar, a second-generation member of Local 68 and grandson of a past Iron Workers leader. "President Joe Biden is not just pro-union. He's pro-people. He's pro-America."

As he's done many times, Biden saluted IBEW electricians as "the best in the world," as he thanked Aguilar and began his remarks about the urgency of renewable energy.

"Whether you're an engineer at a lab bench, an IBEW worker working on a turbine, (whether) you work for a power company or a small construction business, everyone has a role to play in building a clean energy future and a stronger economy," Biden said.

He championed his bold, job-creating infrastructure plan, as Congress was doing battle over it in spite of an earlier bipartisan agreement.

"The bill will put 800,000 people to work," Biden said, "800,000, including plumbers, pipefitters, electrical workers, steel workers — modernizing roads, bridges, water systems, broadband systems.



Denver Local 68 member Julian Aguilar with President Joe Biden and Colorado Governor Jared Polis on the grounds of the National Energy Research Laboratory, moments before Aguilar introduced the president for a speech on clean energy and good, union jobs.

"(It) contains the largest federal investment in power transmission in our history, so that our grid is more reliable, and we can carry more renewable energy (and) we can create good union jobs building that new grid."

How Biden came to be speaking at NREL had everything to do with Local 68 and warp-speed planning that began when Ross's phone rang at 7 a.m. Sunday, two days and change before the event.

It was Mike Ham, an Eighth District international representative, asking Ross where Local 68 members were working on solar. It wasn't clear why until Ham called back.



"The White House was specifically looking for a solar array that was under construction that was preferably in partnership with Xcel Energy, and was union-built," Ross said.

He couldn't think of a project that checked all the boxes but started calling contractors. Soon, he heard from a White House Homeland Security liaison — right after she'd made a cold call to the local's apprenticeship director, Dan Hendricks, who suspected it was a prank.

A half-hour later, the two men were walking an advance team through the union hall and training center, wondering if the building's rooftop solar panels would fit the bill.

The visitors were impressed, but the array was too high for their purposes. So Ross suggested the NREL, a Department of Energy site where fluctuating numbers of Local 68 members work. Currently, a crew of nine is working on a small solar installation.

To the woman in charge, it felt too far from the Denver airport 40 miles southeast.

"I said, 'I get that, but this location has a great backdrop, it's a DOE facility, so it's probably fairly easy to secure, it's fairly rural,'" Ross said. "She finally agreed."

By early Sunday afternoon, dozens of White House staff and Secret Service agents were scouring the site. Around 6 p.m., they sent Ross home with a to-do list that included selecting a rank-and-file member to introduce the president, a handful of others to be guests, and even a member to drive a spare motorcade vehicle.

Monday was a whirlwind of background checks and COVID tests for everyone, including Aguilar's wife and 17-month-old son.

The first thing Aguilar had asked when Ross

called that morning, after his initial shock, was, "Can my family come?" The White House agreed.

Aguilar, a general foreman at Dynalectric, squeezed a trip to the barber into his busy day and after dinner wrote an introduction, exchanging emails with a White House speechwriter to polish it.

With little sleep but ample adrenalin, he brought the words to life Tuesday afternoon.

"Being here at NREL shows the future of our industry, renewable and sustainable energy," he said to an audience of dignitaries, energy executives and IBEW leaders and members.

"Smart grids, wind farms, and solar farms are just a few examples here in our great state of Colorado. When you see all these new technologies, you might think that the future doesn't look much like the past.

"But one thing the past and future will have in common is they will be built by unions," he said. "I know that's the future that President Biden, and my IBEW brothers and sisters, are working hard to build every day."

Ross couldn't have been more thrilled with Aguilar's performance.

"We absolutely picked the right guy," he said. "Julian nailed it. He freaking hit a home run."

Earlier, as Biden was touring the lab facilities, White House staff positioned Ross, two apprentices, and Jason Wardrip, head of the state's building trades, in front a giant wind turbine blade propped up on NREL's grounds.

Biden spent about 10 minutes with the group, first shaking Ross's hand and not letting go until he'd shared a point of pride.

"I went to let go off his hand, and he pulls me in a little bit. He says, 'I just saw the other day that I've said union more times than any other president.'"

"Mr. President, it doesn't go unnoticed," Ross said. "We appreciate it."

Biden went on to reminisce about the IBEW's early support when he first ran for the Senate in 1972, and in all the years since. "He was thanking us and letting us know he wasn't going to forget it," Ross said.

But the mic drop moment for Ross came when Biden turned to shake hands with the approaching NREL director, Martin Keller.

"I want this work to be union," Ross heard Biden say. "OK, OK," Keller responded. Then, just as he had with Ross, Biden pulled Keller closer.

"I'm serious," the president said. "I mean it. I want this work to be union."

It was a powerful moment to witness, underscoring all of Biden's public statements about strong unions being essential to a strong American middle class.

Ross said it wasn't until later, when the IBEW delegation was having drinks and telling tales about the day at a favorite watering hole, that it fully registered.

"It's like, 'Holy cow, he said that. And he pulled him in and said it again,'" Ross said.

"For me to have the opportunity to meet a sitting president is incredible," he said. "But the fact that it was this president, who talks about unions every opportunity he gets, is something special."

## IBEW MERCHANDISE



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See Biden's speech, including Julian Aguilar's introduction, here: <https://bit.ly/BidenColoradoIBEW>

# CIRCUITS

## Illinois Local Powers New Rock 'n' Roll Museum

Historic Route 66 is about to get a new rock 'n' roll museum and Joliet, Ill., Local 176 members helped make it happen.

"Working on the museum was unique, challenging and rewarding," said Local 176 Business Manager Mike Clemmons. "Doing electrical work on a building that is nearly 100 years old is not something that our members are faced with every day. Once we did the evaluation, it became evident that this was not going to be a typical electrical remodeling project."

Route 66, which begins in Illinois and used to take travelers all the way to California, has long been associated with Americana and music. Now there's a museum to commemorate Illinois' musical contributions, from REO Speedwagon and Cheap Trick to Muddy Waters and Chess Records, the storied rhythm and blues record label.

The historic three-story building in downtown Joliet, built in 1930, required a number of upgrades, which is where Local 176 comes in. Roughly 12 apprentices and members worked on the building through last fall and winter, as well as some additional work done in the spring and summer. They did significant lighting upgrades, reworked several power distribution panels and added power supply outlets where necessary. Members will also work on future upgrades as needed.

It was especially educational for the apprentices who tend to work on new construction projects, not dealing with 90-year-old technology.

"They really liked it," said Business Agent Andy Rico, who also worked on the project. "It used to be incandescent lights and fuses, and now it's LEDs and circuit breakers."

Rico says they were able to use a few old openings, but they were mostly starting from scratch.

"All the mechanical systems were different back then," said Rico who did an

initial evaluation and assessment of the structure. "It's really something to see how far the technology of our trade has come."

The building, located in downtown Joliet, has a historic designation, meaning that the façade must be maintained, but just about any changes can be made inside. One thing that was kept in place indoors was the exposed pipe as a way to maintain the original look and feel, which Rico said allowed the apprentices to see their finished work more than they typically would.

"The apprentices like seeing their work," Rico said. "It's cool to go back and visit."

In terms of new technology, the museum has large display boards, like flat panel TVs, and new showroom lighting. And in addition to providing labor, Local 176 and NECA's Eastern Illinois Chapter also made a donation of \$1,000 to help pay for materials.

Ron Romero, a friend of Clemmons and Rico and the founding force behind the museum, says the IBEW was instrumental in getting the project off the ground, particularly with getting other trades on board to help out.

"Once the IBEW jumped in, it legitimized everything," Romero said. "Their name will remain here forever as a supporter."

Romero says the building originally had no outlets on the walls and that everything had to be switched on and off from the breaker box.

"We went from old shop lights to all new lighting and proper breaker boxes," Romero said. "They look great and, more significantly, everything is safe now. Aesthetics are important, but I'm mostly glad that I know everything has been done correctly."

Once it's finished, the museum will offer exhibits, including one on the history of Illinois guitars. It will also be home to a radio station and space for educational programming and musical performances.

"It's going to be a great multi-functional space, and it's our lighting that will showcase everything," Rico said. ■

## Drive-Thru Picnic a Homecoming for Local 48 Members

Drivers rarely look as delighted behind the wheel as those who pulled into the parking lot of Portland, Ore., Local 48 on two sunny Sundays in July.

Slowly, they circled the union hall, inhaling the smell of barbecued brisket as they stopped at stations to pick up IBEW swag, fresh, hot meals and, for lucky raffle winners, big prizes.

"Everyone was so happy," said Local 48 Communications Director Tracey Powers, who conceived the idea of a drive-thru picnic. "It was a very fun environment. We haven't gotten to see our members in almost two years."

Last summer, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the local to cancel its traditional picnic, a much-anticipated festival of solidarity and family fun at a small amusement park.

Local leaders hated to think about skipping it again this year, but safety came first.

Then inspiration struck Powers: a way to have a celebration with little risk of spreading the virus.

She took her idea to the Executive Board and got a green light, along with a healthy budget — even if the support came with a dose of skepticism.

"Tracey is a good planner, but it was a big idea," said board member and journeyman wireman Kennitha Wade. "It was like listening to something in theory and wondering if it can be pulled off."

By all accounts, it was — and then some.

"It went flawlessly, and that's all due to Tracey," Business Manager Garth Bachman said. "It was pretty expensive, but it was worth it. Our membership loved it."

Powers nailed down every detail, from the catering and raffle, the stations and volunteers, the traffic pattern and a sign-up schedule with time slots assigned to members over the course of four hours on each Sunday.

Nearly 1,700 members, some with eager kids and dogs in tow, picked up meals for their families — averaging about four meals per car, she said.

Retired journeyman wireman Byran Sutherland was exuberant.

"I thought it was brilliant," he said. "The traditional picnic is a great time. But right now the world's in upheaval and we can't gather the way we have in the past."

Sutherland ached to mingle with his union brothers and sisters, the one thing the drive-thru event couldn't accommodate.

"It was so tempting to park and get out to visit," he said. "At least we got to see a bunch of smiling faces. And the food was so good."

On top of that, he had a winning raffle ticket, taking home a set of top-notch wireless headphones.

"The picnics always have big prizes," he said. "They try to focus on American-made. They're really thoughtful gifts."

Powers said members drew raffle tickets at the first station, where they also



Business Manager Garth Bachman and executive board member Kennitha Wade had the happy duty of handing out fresh barbecue during Local 48's innovative drive-thru picnic.

picked up IBEW T-shirts and "IBEW Proud Union Home" lawn signs.

Lucky tickets had numbers that corresponded to specific items waiting for winners at the last station, everything from iPads, smart watches and TVs to drills, blenders, coffeemakers, vacuums and more.

The community won, too, starting with the giant order of barbecue and side dishes catered by a family-owned business, McKillips's.

The company set up massive grills in the parking lot to prepare fresh chicken and brisket — "It was to die for," Bachman said — and enlisted high school baseball and volleyball players to package the feasts in exchange for donations to their teams.

For Sutherland, the innovative picnic "was one more thing that makes me proud to part of the IBEW."

"The organizers did a great job. They had the flow going perfectly," he said. "I think of it like a jobsite — our people are organized, they are smart, and they know how to get things done." ■

## Apprentice's Gratitude Earns Pentagon Award for West Virginia Local

Thanks to an unexpected nomination by one of its apprentices, Charleston, W. Va., Local 466 recently was honored by the Defense Department for its strong support of its military-serving members.

The nomination came from Dakota Gonzalez, an apprentice who also serves

with the 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, a medevac unit attached to the West Virginia Army National Guard.

Gonzalez had been sorting through email messages to his Army account one day when he saw one from "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve," calling for nominations for the National Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The organization is a Defense Department program that promotes supportive work environments for workers who also serve in the Guard and Reserve; its Freedom Award honors employers that demonstrate that support.

Gonzalez knew he had to put forward Local 466 for the award. "I immediately filled out the [nomination] form and sent it in," he said, because the local has been extremely supportive of his growth both as an electrical worker and as a service member.

The apprentice was raised in a military household, he said, with his mother and one grandfather serving in the Navy and his other grandfather in the Air Force. "Also, when I was little, I remember when 9/11 happened," he said. "So, growing up, I felt a drive to join, too."

His family lived for a while in Fairfax, Va., before moving around — as military families often must — and eventually settling in Fayetteville, W. Va., within Local 466's jurisdiction.

After high school, Gonzalez attended the Fayette County Institute of Technology. That's where he met Local 466 member Danny Brown, who was an instructor there, and Thomas Samples, then-director



Apprentice electrician Dakota Gonzalez, grateful for Charleston, W. Va., Local 466's full support of his ongoing National Guard service, proudly displays the local's flag while on deployment in the Middle East last year.



Joliet, Ill., Local 176 members are powering a new rock 'n' roll museum at the start of historic Route 66 to honor the state's musical contributions.

tor of the Charleston Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee.

“Both helped me get into an IBEW apprenticeship,” Gonzalez said, writing positive letters of recommendation on his behalf.

At the same time, Gonzalez was in the middle of a seven-year commitment with the National Guard, working as an aircraft electrician. “It all came together for me,” he said.

As he filled out the nomination form, Gonzalez was mindful of the award’s focus on an employer’s personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve. While Gonzalez’s Guard obligations sometimes conflicted with Saturday apprenticeship classes, he said, “Thomas went out of his way to help me out. The local couldn’t have been better about it.”

Then last year, Gonzalez’s unit was deployed to the Middle East as part of Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. military’s fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL).

“During my entire deployment, the hall was helpful, real brothers,” Gonzalez said. Fellow members sent so many care packages while he was there that some had to be turned away, he said.

With all this in mind, nominating Local 466 for the Freedom Award was a no-brainer, Gonzalez said, and he spent extra time on the essay sections to make as strong a case as possible.

Local 466 Business Manager John Epperly said that, with six paid office staff members managing a membership of about 400, Local 466 more than qualified for the “small business” category. And the local has one other reservist in its ranks: Christopher Myers, who is attached to the Army’s 261st Ordnance Company in Cross Lanes.

Further helping to bolster the Local 466 nomination was the IBEW’s support of the national nonprofit Helmets to Hardhats program, which helps connect men and women having a variety of military backgrounds with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry.

Also, the IBEW in recent years has begun offering its own program to help military members transition back into civilian life through the Veterans Electrical Entry Program. VEEP works with military leaders and JATCs across the U.S. to provide interested service members with about six months remaining on their commitment a chance to take a free, intensive seven-week training course as preparation for a possible IBEW apprenticeship.

“Award organizers” also reached out and asked us what the IBEW does locally with the community,” Epperly said. The business manager noted Local 466’s participation in the IBEW’s motorcycle rides through West Virginia to raise money for research into a cure for Alzheimer’s disease as well as the members’ relief efforts following the catastrophic floods that ravaged the state in 2016.

Epperly admitted it would have been

quite a climb for Local 466 to become one of the up to 15 recipients of the Freedom Award. The ESGR notes on its website that it received almost 3,400 nominations of employers throughout the entire U.S., including the various territories and the District of Columbia.

Even so, Local 466 made it to the

whittled-down list of national semi-finalists, along with West Virginia University’s School of Medicine and Williams Energy, a natural gas processor based in Moundsville.

Although that turned out to be as far as the local got, as the top-nominated small business in the Mountain State it

received the Department of Defense’s Pro Patria Award, the highest honor that can be given by a state or territory’s ESGR committee. (The Latin phrase “pro patria” means “for the homeland.”)

Gonzalez has since transferred membership to Columbus, Ohio, Local 683; his fiancée was offered a job she

couldn’t pass up for great schools for her autistic son. Leaving Local 466 was hard, he said: “The guys there have been amazing.”

The move also puts Gonzalez a bit closer to the 2-104th, which is based near Parkersburg, W. Va. “I just reupped for another six years with them,” he said. ■

## TRANSITIONS

### RETIRED

#### Mike Daugherty



Sixth District International Representative Mike Daugherty, who serviced construction locals throughout the Midwest for two decades

and served for a time as Construction and Maintenance Director, retired April 1.

Born and raised in Gary, Ind., Brother Daugherty grew up in an area referred to by Hoosier State residents as The Region. It includes long stretches along Lake Michigan near Chicago and is a longtime hotbed for the domestic steel industry, giving it historically a strong union presence.

Daugherty saw that firsthand while growing up. His father, Donald, worked construction as a member of Gary and Hammond Local 697. A grandfather worked on the railroad and was also an IBEW member.

The younger Daugherty loved sports, especially football. He was a four-year letter winner at Butler University in Indianapolis, where he was a linebacker and defensive end, before graduating with a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1979.

A few months later, he was accepted into Local 697’s apprenticeship program. His goal was to become an electrical contractor and the combination of a journeyman’s license and college degree figured to be a good starting point.

Outside events convinced him to change his mind.

“By 1980, interest rates were just through the roof and almost killed the residential and light commercial markets, which are usually good starting points in the contracting business,” Daugherty said. “I was working for a really good contractor at the time and making good wages. I thought ‘I’ll just stay with this and see how it goes.’”

Daugherty said IBEW members he considered mentors encouraged him to get involved in Local 697 and he became a regular at local meetings. He went on to serve as a steward and on Local 697’s executive and examining boards.

He took over as business manager in 1992, when he was appointed to fill the term of Tim Collins, who had moved to the Sixth District office. He was elected to the position one year later.

“I loved it,” he said. “It’s the best job I’ve ever had. It was challenging. You make meaningful decisions for the membership. You have your finger on the pulse of the construction economy. You can make an impact on people’s lives, whether it’s raises in wages under the collective bargaining agreement or the goodwill you spread through work in the community.”

Yet, it turned out to be a short tenure. He was appointed an international representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department in 1996 and moved his family to suburban Washington, D.C.

“It was a tough decision,” Daugherty said. “I was a relatively new business manager when I got the call and I wanted to stay at the local union. But friends, mentors and colleagues, as I talked to them, they almost all said, ‘You know what? This is a great opportunity.’”

Just one year later, Daugherty was named the department’s director. He served there through 1997 before being assigned to the Sixth District office, a role he stayed in until his retirement.

Current Local 697 Business Manager Joree Richards met Daugherty when he interviewed Richards during his application to become an apprentice. The two have remained close ever since.

“When he met me, he talked about the opportunity the IBEW offered,” Richards said. “If you participate actively and take this seriously, it’s almost like the sky was the limit.”

“Now was I thinking about that 30 years ago? No. But I learned I wanted to make this my path.”

Richards, who also grew up in Gary and is Black, said Daugherty worked to educate inner-city students — most of whom have never heard of the IBEW — about the potential of a career in the trades. Richards served as a Local 697 business representative for eight years before taking over as business manager this year.

“Mike was always available for questions and getting answers for me,” he said. “Early on, when he was at the international [office] and then later in my career, when I was brought into the office, he was one of the first people to give me a call and say, ‘I’m still here for you.’ Just always being a consummate resource.”

In retirement, Daugherty plans to keep his home in Crown Point, Ind., and devote more time to a long list of hobbies, including playing golf, hunting, fishing, traveling and attending sporting events, particularly those of Chicago teams. He

also plans to spend more time with a Golden Retriever he adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also on the docket: Spending more time with his wife, Donna, with whom he will celebrate his 40th anniversary next year. The couple has two adult children.

“I can’t put into words how thankful and proud I am to be an IBEW member and to work for the brotherhood for the last 25 years,” he said. “It’s truly been a great experience.”

The officers and staff thank Brother Daugherty for his service and wish him and his family a long and happy retirement. ■

### DECEASED

#### Donald L. Mahoney



The IBEW is deeply saddened to report the death of retired International Representative Donald L. Mahoney. He was 93.

“To the family of Don Mahoney, I can’t express how much Don meant to myself and the IBEW,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said of his friend. “He was a mentor of mine and taught me a lot about the IBEW, organizing and most of all being a caring human being who was always looking to help others.”

A Chicago native and proud Irishman, Brother Mahoney was initiated into Chicago Local 134 in 1948 and worked as a PBX installer for the Illinois Bell telephone company. He also served as chief steward. His career highlights included serving as labor liaison on the floor of the 1968 Democratic National Convention for then-Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley.

In August 1959, he was appointed an international representative, servicing locals in what was then called the Telephone Field as well as the Sixth District. During his decades-long tenure, Brother Mahoney worked as an organizer and in 1970 on negotiations against AT&T to help settle a nationwide strike. He also helped to organize 40,000 workers into 19 locals in six states with New England Bell.

“When I was a young union trustee in the early ‘90s, Don serviced our local as an international representative. He was a wealth of knowledge and was always willing to share,” said Local 134 Treasurer John Dalton. “He offered constructive criticism as well as opening doors to other

locals in the Midwest for me to learn from. We have been friends ever since.”

Mahoney’s passion for workers’ rights was in part spurred by the death of his father, William, who died working on a job at a steel company. When Don was just 13, his father was crushed by a crane, leaving his mother to care for him and his siblings.

“That tragedy made a lasting impression on him for the rest of his life,” Dalton said. “His life’s passion was to serve others by fairly representing their interests for better working conditions, pay and benefits.”

Mahoney was active in retirement as well, serving on the executive council of Local 134’s Retirees Club. He was also active in politics and enjoyed golfing, skiing, and labor and Irish history. He donated a number of items to Local 134, including early tools used by phone members and numerous convention items.

“His knowledge of IBEW history was unmatched,” Dalton said. “He was always willing to share that information.”

Mahoney’s wife, Deloris, said that Don also donated every month to Local 134’s Helping Hands Fund, which helps members in need, providing both financial and emotional support.

“He helped everybody. He was very concerned for everyone in Local 134 and all of the IBEW,” she said. “He was a very good man and he worked hard for the union.”

Dalton says that a friend of Mahoney’s told him that even in retirement, Mahoney would regularly have lunch with other retired international representatives as well as business managers and officers.

“A lot of times the subject of organizing would come up and some of his lunch companions would brag on Don how he won more organizing elections than anyone else ever had. Don being the humble person that he was would remind them that ‘you don’t win the most elections in organizing without also losing the most elections,’” Dalton said.

Brother Mahoney is survived by his wife of 29 years, Deloris. His first wife, Irene, died in 1984. He is survived by their two daughters, Barbara and Colleen, Colleen’s sons, Anthony, Aidan and Dominic, and his brother Gene, who was also a Local 134 member. He was predeceased by his brother William and sister Marylyn.

The IBEW extends its sincerest condolences to Brother Mahoney’s family and many friends. ■

## ORGANIZING WIRE

### D.C. Local's Winning Strategy Solves a Problem then Adds New Contractor

How do you staff a job upgrading roads when the traffic is so bad none of your members want to make the commute?

This was the challenge facing Washington, D.C., Local 70 Business Manager Jim Horton.

Northern Virginia famously has some of the worst traffic in the United States — number No. 2 after Los Angeles according to Texas A&M's 2021 annual report.

A Maryland-based signatory contractor won a bid for the lighting and signage for a significant highway expansion project in Northern Virginia suburbs. The contract came after a slow period for Virginia work, and Horton was happy to see a few dozen Virginia members come off the books.

But he couldn't staff the big job with them alone. Local 70 is an outside local with about 1,700 members, fairly evenly split between Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

**"We showed them our rates and our benefits and when they saw what it meant for their families, the floodgates opened."**

— Local 70 Business Manager James Horton

But in March, no one wanted to brave the Capital Beltway or the handful of other Potomac River crossings only to end up stuck in the area's eternal rush hour.

Horton, Local 70's organizer for six years before taking over as business manager in 2020, knew, like all good IBEW members do, that there is no problem so big that it can't be solved by organizing the top non-union electrical workers and turning them out with a yellow ticket in their wallet.

"We did some stripping," Horton said. "A lot."

Starting in March, they stripped nearly four dozen workers from a single open shop, Virginia Sign and Light, a subsidiary of Lane Construction. Lane is a significant double-breasted contractor that competes with signatories for heavy civil construction jobs, union in some places, nonunion in others.

"We need good people for these federal jobs — where everything is under a microscope already — including crane-certified folks for placing those large exit signs, but it's even hard to find the guys with a shovel in their hand to do some digging with COVID like it is," Horton said.

VSL did itself no favors by paying a flat rate to 60 hours with no retirement and skimpy benefits, an arrangement that stretched the state's wage and hour regulations.

"After taxes, it was pretty easy math," Horton said, "If you could get

them to listen."

While Virginia, especially Northern Virginia, today looks and votes a lot more like its blue neighbors than the former capital of the Confederacy, it's still a southern state skeptical of unions with a large pool of nonunion contractors.

The key was picking his targets.

"Find that influencer and, usually, it's the guys with the company pick-ups: their best workers and our best targets," Horton said. "We showed them our rates and our benefits and when they saw what it meant for their families, the floodgates opened."

By June, VSL was calling Local 70 inviting Horton down for a visit and telling him to stop stripping "their guys."

"None of this is yours," Horton responded, suggesting that if they wanted their former workers back, there was a simple way to do it: Sign on and pay com-

petitive union wages and benefits.

"They asked if they signed on would we stop stripping and of course we would," Horton said. "But they never signed, and we never stopped."

In the end, four months after the campaign began, VSL reached the conclusion that the way forward was in partnership with the IBEW.

And the manager who kept calling the IBEW members "his" workers? He no longer works there.

But some of those superintendents and foremen that used to work for VSL are back.

"VSL made some adjustments, especially to overtime, and it's been a pretty good partnership," Horton said.

"They liked working there," Horton said. "They like working there a lot more now." ■



Washington, D.C., Local 70 Business Manager James Horton, Organizer Gary Helton and President Roland Carter ran a classic organizing campaign in northern Virginia, bringing in dozens of new members.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

### Biden Administration Announces Plans for National Workplace Heat Standard

By the time next summer rolls around there could be new measures in place to keep workers safe from heat illness.

"Communities that over 100 million people — one in three Americans — call home have been struck by extreme weather events in the last few months alone. This is a blinking code red for our nation. And while we have all seen the graphic and heart-wrenching images of superstorms, wildfires, and floods ... another climate disaster is lurking just below the radar: extreme heat. My administration will not leave Americans to face this threat alone," President Joe Biden said in a statement announcing his administration's new efforts.

As extreme heat grows in frequency and intensity, more and more workers, including many IBEW members, are at risk of heat-related illness and death. In fact, according to the National Weather Service, extreme heat is now the leading weather-related killer in United States. And while some employers and a handful of states have implemented common-sense policies like providing shade, water and breaks, that's not the case for everyone, highlighting the need for a national standard.

Toward that end, the Biden administration announced in September a multi-agency effort to combat illness and death from extreme heat, including multiple initiatives through the Department of Labor. Among those are the early steps toward a first-ever workplace heat standard through the department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"Throughout the nation, millions of workers face serious hazards from high temperatures both outdoors and indoors. Amid changing climate, the growing frequency and intensity of extreme heat events is increasing the dangers workers face, especially for workers of color who disproportionately work in essential jobs in tough conditions," said Labor Secretary Marty Walsh. "As secretary of labor, my priority is to make sure we are taking appropriate action to keep workers healthy and safe on the job."

In addition to starting the rulemaking process for a heat standard, OSHA is also implementing an enforcement initiative on heat-related hazards, developing a National Emphasis Program on heat inspections, and forming a Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Work Group to provide a better understanding of the challenges involved and to share best practices.

The new initiative will prioritize heat-related interventions and inspections of work activities on days when the heat index exceeds 80 degrees Fahrenheit and applies to indoor and outdoor worksites in general industry, construction, agriculture and maritime where potential heat-related hazards exist. On those days, OSHA area directors will ded-



The Biden administration is taking action to protect workers from heat-related illness and death, including starting the process for a first-ever national standard and increased enforcement.

icate additional resources to respond to complaints and expand the scope of programmed and unprogrammed inspections to address heat-related hazards. Additionally, OSHA will expand its campaign to educate and assist employers on prevention methods.

"While agricultural and construction workers often come to mind first when thinking about workers most exposed to heat hazards, without proper safety actions, sun protection and climate-control, intense heat can be harmful to a wide variety of workers indoors or outdoors and during any season," said Acting Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Jim Frederick.

The NEP will target high-risk industries and focus OSHA resources and staff time on heat inspections. According to a White House fact sheet, OSHA is currently working to complete its data review in order for the program to take effect before the summer 2022 heat season.

In October, OSHA kickstarted the rulemaking process by issuing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on heat injury and illness prevention in both outdoor and indoor work settings. The advance notice initiates a comment period that allows OSHA to gather perspectives and technical expertise on topics including heat stress thresholds, acclimatization planning, exposure monitoring and strategies to protect workers.

While this marks the first time such a process has been started for getting a heat safety rule, it's not the first time an administration has been asked to work on one. The issue was on the regulatory agenda during the Obama administration but was subsequently removed by Trump.

"We have attempted in the past to get OSHA to do a heat standard but had no luck. The previous administration made a decision not to work on a standard even when presented with a petition asking them to do so," said Safety Department Director Dave Mullen. "For IBEW members it means we finally have an administration that recognizes the hazards of heat and heat-related illnesses, not only on the job site but throughout the country. Recognition of this hazard will mean our members who work in hot environments inside and outside will now have a standard to protect them. This is a big deal."

OSHA noted that even with widespread under-reporting, 43 workers died from heat illness in 2019 and at least 2,410 others suffered serious injuries and illnesses. Excessive heat conditions can also cause lost productivity and work hours resulting in large wage losses for workers. The Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center estimates the economic loss from heat to be at least \$100 billion annually — a number that could double by 2030 and quintuple by 2050 under a higher emissions scenario. ■

# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in September 2021

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Stone, L. T.	6/25/21	38	Wilson, K. T.	5/30/21	117	Hansing, R. D.	5/30/21	295	Matthews, H. L.	4/5/21	494	Sackmann, H. L.	2/4/21	804	Ische, F.	8/5/21
3	Abrams, S. M.	12/25/20	41	Ball, G. R.	2/4/21	124	Davis, D. R.	2/27/21	304	Strotkamp, L. L.	4/6/21	495	Ferrell, J. M.	4/28/21	816	Koebel, A. D.	5/19/21
3	Barton, R. H.	11/21/16	41	Smithmeyer, J. L.	4/20/21	124	Sifers, J. C.	1/8/21	306	Doolittle, T. D.	7/31/21	502	Martin, C. E.	5/19/21	824	O'Brien, L. F.	3/28/21
3	Blasucci, A. J.	1/19/21	42	Delong, B. R.	6/15/21	125	Brown, D. K.	12/15/20	307	Humbertson, M. G.	4/18/21	502	O'Brien, M. A.	4/21/21	852	Stevens, R. G.	7/15/21
3	Bridges, V.	6/20/21	43	Ryan, J. F.	4/23/21	125	Kaufman, F. L.	5/14/21	307	Knodel, R. F.	8/27/20	502	Saulnier, J. C.	5/29/21	873	Blue, R. W.	3/14/21
3	Buonfiglio, R. A.	7/2/21	44	Cordeiro, C. G.	5/13/21	126	Hafer, E. P.	11/17/19	313	Kachmar, M. A.	4/25/21	505	Steelreath, P. R.	11/19/20	876	Moser, C. L.	3/24/21
3	Capella, M. B.	7/24/21	44	Sullivan, J. J.	1/18/21	126	Martinez, G. P.	12/24/20	313	Murray, G. E.	12/5/20	518	Barrow, R. G.	2/5/21	903	Milhas, B. J.	12/22/20
3	Casino, S. P.	7/13/21	46	Hebner, J. I.	5/7/21	126	Smith, R. A.	4/18/21	325	Edwards, R. T.	8/6/20	520	Bible, J. R.	6/19/21	903	Patrick, E. E.	4/20/21
3	Destefano, S.	12/21/20	46	Kelting, J. A.	4/17/21	127	Nielson, W. F.	10/24/20	332	Morrison, J. S.	4/15/21	527	Shaw, G. M.	5/1/21	906	Lane, C. E.	3/20/21
3	DiDonato, M. P.	7/26/21	46	Nelson, R. W.	1/31/21	130	Bazile, J. F.	5/3/21	332	Valley, D. E.	3/2/21	530	Brander, D. G.	12/31/20	906	Rasmus, M. H.	4/27/21
3	Dorn, H.	3/13/21	46	Rollins, V. R.	9/21/19	130	Ryan, D. B.	4/21/21	340	Clark, R. A.	2/16/21	531	Mshar, W. J.	6/6/21	906	Walsh, C. H.	3/28/21
3	Esposito, L.	2/12/21	47	Capel, D. C.	5/11/21	131	Stewart, J. E.	1/17/21	343	Ulrich, C. O.	5/19/21	551	Fox, W. M.	7/2/20	934	Combs, C. H.	3/21/21
3	Femia, M. T.	7/23/21	47	Steinle, D. R.	10/6/20	131	Whitney, D. L.	9/16/20	349	Mula, B.	3/25/21	551	Loucks, A. M.	5/22/21	952	Fagan, E. P.	7/4/20
3	Grabowski, S. J.	4/25/21	47	Sugden, C. S.	9/4/19	134	Bunke, R. L.	6/12/21	351	Caterina, V. R.	5/13/20	558	Miller, K. D.	8/8/21	952	Richter, R. W.	4/29/21
3	Jaccard, R. J.	2/2/21	47	Warren, D. H.	3/1/21	134	Fedorenko, S. E.	4/27/21	351	Ingersoll, J. G.	8/17/21	558	Blevins, B. R.	7/26/21	952	Synovec, D. W.	3/13/21
3	Martin, P. J.	5/8/21	48	Bordner, H. J.	2/25/21	134	Johnson, R. A.	6/9/21	351	Leatherwood, A. L.	7/15/21	558	Hunt, W. E.	5/2/21	968	Dale, G. A.	12/10/20
3	McDonald, C. T.	6/1/21	48	Storagee, D. O.	5/28/21	134	Kraenzle, G.	12/24/20	353	Duval, A.	4/26/21	558	Perry, P. D.	7/4/21	993	Pfrang, D. P.	4/26/21
3	Miller, E. J.	6/22/21	48	Walsh, M. D.	5/17/21	134	Mahoney, M. J.	1/27/21	353	Smith, R.	4/28/21	567	Cleaves, R.	5/29/21	1003	Lobban, R. W.	10/27/20
3	Price, J. G.	7/11/21	48	Watson, J. D.	4/29/21	134	Moruzzi, D. W.	5/31/21	353	Szameitat, K. E.	5/14/21	569	Balderas, C. R.	5/28/21	1003	Wadds, W. J.	2/15/21
3	Schmauch, W.	6/15/21	51	Armstrong, D. C.	4/17/21	134	Noe, M. T.	4/5/21	353	Villanueva, A. B.	7/25/21	569	Corless, J.	11/13/20	1105	Dickson, F. M.	6/16/21
3	Sciarrone, R. J.	8/1/21	57	Chesnut, C.	1/6/21	134	Petersen, K. R.	8/27/21	353	Wagar, H. R.	4/10/21	569	De Laurentis, R. E.	3/27/21	1141	Haralson, D. E.	7/1/21
3	Scott, A. G.	7/5/21	57	Montoya, J. A.	2/6/21	134	Rybka, R. T.	9/18/20	354	Jorgensen, R. A.	2/5/21	576	Johns, E. R.	3/25/21	1186	Matsumoto, K.	2/21/21
3	Story, E. D.	6/23/21	57	Sparks, D. M.	8/24/21	134	Shankman, J. E.	7/3/21	354	McFarland, T. F.	7/23/21	576	West, L.	4/30/21	1186	Recaido, N. A.	10/16/20
3	Strong, R. M.	5/23/21	57	Wood, R. L.	12/16/20	134	Signorile, V. D.	6/10/21	354	Pearson, J. D.	6/16/21	584	Tuthill, R. L.	11/9/20	1245	Dalby, R. L.	8/4/21
3	Troy, E. C.	3/2/21	58	Birch, J. R.	4/28/21	134	Smith, K. A.	2/4/21	354	Thomas, R. F.	8/23/21	595	Robinson, J. E.	4/9/21	1245	Ziegler, D. R.	4/28/21
3	Vasquez, A. T.	6/19/21	58	Culicerto, G. L.	5/7/21	134	Spike, R. C.	6/18/21	357	Antuna, D. A.	7/28/21	601	Arnold, D. L.	3/6/21	1319	Bonner, C. W.	11/24/19
3	Zernone, D. M.	6/11/21	58	Malfait, L. F.	5/9/21	134	Zic, H. J.	5/7/21	357	Fithian, G. C.	5/19/21	613	Willingham, T.	2/4/21	1319	Kraynak, Q. T.	4/20/21
5	Hockenberry, E. R.	11/24/20	58	Scharff, N.	5/12/21	136	Johnson, B. R.	8/13/21	357	Klinger, D. M.	4/21/21	617	Begin, P. J.	5/24/21	1319	Luden, C. F.	4/11/21
5	Lawrence, C. P.	11/24/20	66	Abarca, J. A.	11/26/20	143	Matthews, M. E.	3/23/21	357	Maguire, J. F.	5/24/21	617	Dawson, M. R.	2/21/21	1319	Yoder, C. M.	7/22/21
6	Maier, J. R.	9/22/20	66	Bancroft, B. A.	12/30/19	143	Parenzan, P. E.	2/10/21	357	Scarlett, L. D.	7/2/21	617	O'Neal, D. C.	4/28/21	1393	Jones, G. E.	3/21/21
8	Eckenrode, D. L.	7/17/21	66	Spahn, J. T.	3/21/21	145	Keith, R. A.	5/30/21	357	Verstuyft, R. L.	5/14/21	617	Schweickert, D. C.	12/25/19	1393	Martin, R. L.	8/24/20
8	Slomowicz, M. A.	4/12/21	68	Boetel, K. E.	5/6/21	145	Vanlseghem, J. A.	4/28/21	363	Capillino, E.	4/13/21	618	Jensen, H. F.	8/20/20	1426	Kaseman, M.	6/11/21
9	Bliss, J. E.	6/4/21	68	Hansen, J. D.	3/31/21	146	Kerns, R. E.	5/6/21	363	Kunstler, B.	3/13/21	632	McCullum, R.	4/21/21	1547	Nastos, J. J.	4/21/21
9	Jasien, F.	6/18/21	68	Woodcock, J. C.	3/4/21	150	Smith, J. J.	12/3/20	364	Cook, R. J.	2/14/21	640	Breschini, A. S.	5/27/21	1579	Weeks, J. E.	6/11/21
11	Barboni, M. J.	8/23/21	70	Bladen, W. E.	7/27/11	153	Blank, J. W.	4/25/21	364	Gillette, R. F.	1/20/21	640	Kircher, W. R.	6/20/21	1620	Vivian, J. W.	4/20/21
11	Nuno, L. B.	2/20/21	70	Whitmire, M. J.	7/29/21	158	Smith, G. H.	5/6/21	364	Parker, A. E.	11/15/20	654	Nealon, J. J.	2/19/21	1687	Moynihnan, S. J.	4/12/21
11	Peters, L. N.	10/24/19	76	Noren, K.	4/13/21	160	Davis, L. E.	1/6/21	364	Williams, J. R.	12/30/18	665	David, A. L.	11/3/20	1825	Dickman, J. H.	5/11/21
11	Pohlmann, M. G.	11/1/19	77	Kerstetter, M. D.	4/28/21	164	Dunston, E. M.	3/29/21	369	Carroll, R. L.	6/28/21	673	Furmage, K. R.	6/29/21	2150	Nyiri, S.	5/10/21
11	Rae, W.	4/9/21	77	Morrison, E. D.	5/23/21	164	Rondholz, T. A.	5/17/21	369	Kirkland, G. A.	5/19/21	684	Meader, C. J.	5/2/21	2150	Wickstrom, E. L.	7/22/20
11	Ranallo, L. L.	4/3/21	77	Pennington, W. S.	5/17/21	175	Davis, J. E.	7/5/21	369	Roberts, W. E.	2/6/21	692	Hauff, K. H.	3/29/21	2286	Sylvester, C. R.	3/17/21
11	Rieck, D. A.	12/14/20	81	Kenny, C. T.	6/16/21	175	Hewitt, H. M.	7/9/21	369	Vetter, H. T.	3/27/21	697	Zaragoza, D. L.	8/18/21	2330	Hynes, P. J.	4/27/21
11	Rini, J. A.	1/1/21	82	Shoemaker, V. R.	6/25/21	176	Hedger, S. W.	4/23/21	369	Woodruff, R. E.	11/13/19	700	Johnson, C. L.	3/11/21	2351	Power, M. J.	7/18/21
11	Rivas, N. A.	3/24/21	86	Gibbs, G. F.	7/10/21	176	McDonald, J. D.	7/6/21	379	Blackwelder, T. W.	9/8/20	700	Reynolds, B. J.	3/26/21	I.O. (40)	Loera, R.	5/25/21
11	Tripp, G. E.	5/6/21	86	Maier, M. J.	5/24/21	177	Lobello, T.	4/27/21	379	Garrett, W. H.	2/26/21	701	Ekelund, R. D.	5/5/21	I.O. (56)	Mountjoy, D. A.	2/23/21
11	Waters, J.	11/22/20	86	Turner, R. C.	8/14/21	177	Ridenour, C. L.	4/20/21	400	Macdougall, S.	4/11/21	701	Grzetich, M. J.	6/24/20	I.O. (676)	Jernigan, G. A.	4/30/21
12	Hylton, R. C.	4/14/21	97	Perry, J. J.	3/15/21	177	Wolfe, L. E.	8/15/20	401	Rusche, R. C.	4/1/21	701	Habel, W. S.	7/29/21	I.O. (700)	Scott, J. L.	4/20/21
12	Prisuda, G. M.	4/1/21	98	Chambers, E. J.	6/15/21	193	Hinds, R. H.	3/13/21	415	Vosler, R. A.	3/1/21	712	Barnett, J. J.	8/10/21	I.O. (1042)	Berchtold, R. G.	7/11/21
17	Anderson, T. E.	5/27/21	98	Farrow, J. A.	6/18/21	194	Lacour, J. R.	6/7/21	429	Lampley, H. M.	5/13/21	712	Luca, J. R.	7/14/21	I.O. (1545)	Solomon, J. E.	4/3/21
17	Soucisse, R. P.	3/16/21	98	Friel, T. P.	9/17/20	196	Araiza, R.	2/13/21	429	Russell, D. W.	5/11/21	716	Beardmore, J. W.	4/2/20	Pens. (467)	Booth, H. M.	2/27/21
18	Berkholz, D.	3/23/21	98	Gulla, J. M.	12/22/20	203	Erickson, O. J.	4/18/21	440	Luna, O. V.	1/15/21	716	Clarke, R. B.	5/14/20	Pens. (637)	Massey, C. B.	11/17/20
20	Button, J. H.	5/25/21	98	Judge, M. P.	4/2/21	231	Barnes, G. R.	4/14/21	441	Young, J. G.	3/31/21	716	Contreras, R. R.	3/15/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Bennett, C. W.	11/26/20
20	Henson, C. D.	10/2/20	98	Lafferty, E. R.	11/11/20	233	Burns, J. D.	4/23/21	443	Rapisardi, G. A.	5/20/21	716	Dean, Z. M.	4/5/18	Pens. (I.O.)	Fox, R. W.	9/20/20
20	Isaacson, J. W.	3/19/21	98	Stoume, E. P.	8/4/21	236	Glander, L. F.	3/20/21	445	Otis, G. A.	4/8/21	716	Gay, G. E.	11/27/18	Pens. (I.O.)	French, K. J.	5/19/21
20	Price, W. L.	5/15/21	100	McManus, J. R.	5/14/21	236	McCloskey, M. C.	2/19/21	453	Gannon, E. F.	1/28/21	716	Grace, A. R.	4/29/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Jacobs, A. W.	10/11/15
24	Teter, K. R.	1/24/21	102	DiMaio, A. R.	5/19/21	241	French, C. E.	2/6/21	465	Brill, L.	3/7/21	716	Ham, M. S.	4/25/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Lus, P. J.	7/6/21
25	Bellew, E. K.	8/11/20	102	O'Malley, M. K.	8/23/20	242	Jackson, J. R.	7/21/21	466	Ellis, D. K.	3/4/21	716	Johnson, W. T.	3/30/18	Pens. (I.O.)	McCash, J. O.	7/8/21
25	Hedlund, R. H.	8/8/21	103	Barker, J. P.	1/27/21	246	Junkerman, W. A.	3/12/21	474	Beam, D. G.	4/12/21	716	Kizima, E. R.	8/23/20	Pens. (I.O.)	McKiel, R. R.	5/20/20
25	Rueck, H. E.	3/18/21	103	Donovan, J. J.	2/5/21	252	Kittel, T.	6/16/21	474	Goetze, M. E.	4/25/21	716	Sims, M. D.	12/14/20	Pens. (I.O.)	Miller, R. J.	7/28/21
25	Zabicki, E.	4/26/21	103	Gardner, W. H.	7/24/21	252	Petty, J. M.	7/7/21	474	O'Donnell, P. J.	6/8/21	716	Singletary, C. V.	11/25/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Myles, J. L.	2/5/21
26	Crites, W. L.	11/19/20	103	Graney, J. P.	1/6/21	254	Obermeyer, F.	6/11/21	474	Wyatt, W. W.	10/1/20	725	Petty, M. D.	12/12/20	Pens. (I.O.)	Navarino, V. A.	7/16/21
26	Gregory, N. J.	6/29/21	103	Konig, P. E.	12/13/20	258	Williamson, C. K.	2/20/21	477	Balber, H.	7/1/21	725	White, R. W.	12/18/20	Pens. (I.O.)	Nelson, J. A.	2/9/21
26	Martin, D. E.	5/9/21	105	Howes, R. R.	8/8/21	265	Albers, G. W.	1/15/21	479	Fregia, R. L.	4/18/21	728	Brown, R.	4/27/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Ramey, J. J.	5/9/21
26	Miles, G. W.	4/5/21	110	Mahowald, E. L.	12/13/20	265	Thomas, C. C.	4/25/21	481	Crisp, W.	8/17/21	728	Deedrick, D.	1/19/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Spilka, H. J.	4/10/21
26	Rainey, J. F.	3/30/21	111	Bieler, G. L.	3/26/21	271	Just, L. A.	5/7/21	481	Eads, M. R.	3/5/21	728	Drew, R. E.	3/23/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Stanfill, J. E.	5/4/21
26	Saunders, K. M.	9/25/20	112	Beal, D. E.	7/8/21	278											

# LOCAL LINES

## Brother Terry Sheridan Retires

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Assistant Business Manager/Business Representative Terry Sheridan retired on July 30. Terry had a long career at ComEd, beginning on May 29, 1980, when he was hired as a meter reader. Over his 41-year career, Terry held positions as overhead electrician, overhead electrician special and overhead crew leader. Terry was involved in the IBEW as a steward, chief steward and then business representative in 2007.

Terry was promoted to assistant business manager in 2012. While serving the members of Local 15, Terry was very active in addressing the political needs of the union, and he attended educational classes to help benefit the membership. Local 15 President Terry McGoldrick stated that Brother Sheridan was an invaluable asset to our local. He will be sorely missed by our staff and members alike.

Terry wishes to thank all the IBEW members he served and worked with over his long career. He asked them to keep the lights on and stay safe.

Local 15 leadership continues to work in Springfield, Ill. to secure legislation that supports our members' jobs within Exelon Nuclear and ComEd. **[Editor's note: The campaign was a resounding success with Gov. J.B. Pritzker signing legislation in September to save the state's nuclear jobs. See our story on Pg. 3.]**

Sam Studer, P.S.

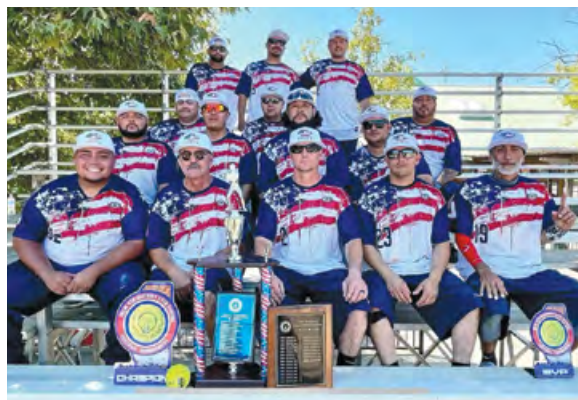


Local 15 Assistant Business Manager Terry Sheridan retired on July 30.

## Return of Annual Outing

L.U. 35 (i), HARTFORD, CT — Our local recently held its annual outing on Aug. 28 at the Colchester Fish & Game Club. There was a great turnout with many active and retired members. Everyone was eager to see each other again because we had to cancel the event last year due to COVID-19.

A plaque was dedicated and presented to retired Business Manager/Financial Secretary Ken-



Local 47 team members held strong in the annual IBEW Ninth District Softball Tournament.

neth B. Leech, a 60-plus-year member. Our membership wanted to express its gratitude for his many years of service and dedication to Local 35.

William Moriarty, B.M./F.S.

## Agreement Updates and Family Night

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings, brothers and sisters! Here are some agreement updates:

- SCE (Air Operations Mechanics) — The first day of bargaining was held July 23 to establish a first-time contract; the next bargaining day was scheduled for Aug. 3.
- SCE (Construction Field Force) — Bargaining to revamp Temporary Base Provisions began Aug. 31.
- City of Anaheim (General Unit) We have reached a tentative agreement on the MOU pending final approval from the City Council, which was Aug. 1. First raise was Sept. 1, and it will be 2.5-years long, starting from July 20 through Dec. 12, 2022. The part-time



Former Business Manager/Financial Secretary Kenneth B. Leech, a member with over 60 years of service, was honored by grateful members of Local 35.

contract for Customer Service was approved. They will get the same economics as full-time. There was a vote on Aug. 1, and the duration will be the same as full-time.

- City of Colton (Water/Wastewater) — Negotiations continue.
- City of Banning (Utility and General Units) — Negotiations continue.

Local 47 Family Night at Knott's Berry Farm is Nov. 10, 6:00 p.m. to midnight, and we're looking forward to seeing everyone there.

We are sad to report the deaths of Donald Capel, John Fillius, Abraham Godinez, James Nakaso and Tim Yadon. Our condolences and prayers are with their loved ones.

Work safe and buy union!

Mitch Smith, P.S.

## Keeping Families Safe

L.U. 55 (c,lctt,o&u), DES MOINES, IA — Hello to all our brothers and sisters! I wanted to start this off with a mention and picture of the great Iowa State Fair. There may be a lot of you that have happy memories from there, and I have known many linemen who have worked there over the years to maintain service and help with safety issues. For those of you who have never been, you might want to keep it on your bucket list for next year. I was able to attend it for four days this year.

It doesn't matter which way I go from my house: I see Local 55 crews everywhere. I also see many directional boring machines. We are still very blessed to



The Iowa State Fair is powered with the support of IBEW members.

have lots of work. I can only imagine all the line crews who are down south helping to restore power. It's a lot of work in snake-infested waters, and it's very hot right now.

I hate to mention the new variant of COVID-19 that is starting to make its rounds here in Iowa. While it's frustrating that it seems like we can go without masks and then we have to wear them again, it's worth it to keep your family safe. Please get vaccinated and stay healthy. Everyone work safely, too. Never put your hands where you can't see them! See you in a couple months.

Myron Green, P.S.

## Protecting and Honoring the IBEW's Legacy

L.U. 71 (lctt,o&rtb), COLUMBUS, OH — Sixteen years to the day that I write this, Hurricane Katrina was making landfall, and the trail of destruction was massive. Today, Hurricane Ida hits the Louisiana coast as a Category-4 storm, with nearly one million already without power. Be safe, brothers and sisters, and remember the basics: If it isn't grounded, it isn't dead.

A lot has changed in the past 16 years, and not always for the better. It seems too many have forgotten the sacrifices made by many of our retirees when it comes to the conditions we enjoy today. We all must renew our efforts to protect our working conditions and, as linemen, properly train the next generation when it comes to working rules or simply work ethics. We all should pledge to make sure we leave the IBEW in a better place than when we started. We must continue to honor and respect those that fought for the

## Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

## Trade Classifications

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

things in our CBAs that we take for granted and hold up our end of the bargain.

Retired Brother Joseph Wilfer, journeyman lineman, passed suddenly on Aug. 23 at the age of 87. Brother Wilfer arrived in America in 1955 from war-torn Duisburg, Germany, at the age of 18. Brother Wilfer became a master electrician at the age of 17 after overcoming the tragedies of war and the death of both parents at an early age. Brother Wilfer was initiated into Local 411 in Dec. 1956 and retired from Local 71 in 1998 at age 63, but he retired for good in 2006 at the age of 71. Retirees like Brother Wilfer never had anything given to them — they fought for virtually all the conditions and fringe benefits we all currently enjoy. So respect our retirees by upholding your end: If we can do this, we should be confident that we will leave this wonderful trade in a much better position, just as Brother Wilfer left it for us. Godspeed Joseph, and rest in peace — it was a pleasure meeting you.

*Bryan Stage, B.M./F.S.*



Local 71's Joseph Wilfer, pictured in 2016 accepting his 60-year service award from retired Brother Bill Brenner and son Gary Wilfer, recently passed away at age 87.

## Local 97 Recognized as Labor Partner of the Year

L.U. 97 (ptc&u), SYRACUSE, NY — Our local was very pleased to be recognized at the recent United Way of the Greater Capital Region (New York) awards celebration as their Labor Partner of the Year. Through enhanced efforts, which are especially difficult during a pandemic, our grassroots campaign was effective in both donor retention and development. This proves once again that, even in the face of adversity, the labor movement rises to the challenge every time.

We accept this acknowledgement on behalf of all Local 97 members who participate in their local charity campaigns, and we ask that this holiday season you commit to enhancing your impact on your community by either raising your donation or starting one if you haven't given before. Whether it's United Way, adopting a family or some other cause, union members have

always given back. Let's keep that going!

*Dan Machold, B.R./P.S.*

## Rallying on Labor Day

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA — Every year on Labor Day, we celebrate the battles fought and won by working people for the rights and protections many of us enjoy today — weekends, the 40-hour work week, sick time, health benefits.

This Labor Day, several hundred working people attended a rally at the Boston Marriott Copley Place to protest the unfair firing of its hospitality workers in 2020 and the hotel management's use of out-of-state construction contractors with safety and labor violations for its latest renovation project. The rally also recognized and honored the hard work of frontline workers across Massachusetts, who continued to show up to work through the pandemic. As always, members of Local 103 were there to show their support as Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley and several other local politicians and candidates joined workers for the rally on workplace equity, opportunity and safety and to "Build Back Better" with unions by directing federal COVID-19 recovery funds to critical sectors, including housing and public transit.

Local 103 also held its annual Labor Day Family Outing with food, games and fun for all members and their families. This event is one that many look forward to attending all year long.

*Jimmy Fleming, P.S.*

## Congratulations to Local 125's Liz Shuler!

L.U. 125 (lctt,o&u), PORTLAND, OR — In August, we hosted shop steward training and our annual golf fundraiser. Check out the October article in the Northwest Labor Press for golf tournament results.

Mother Nature has been tough on our country this month. IBEW members are working tirelessly to restore power and rebuild infrastructure. Stay safe, family!

Business Representative Jeremy White left our staff in September. Jeremy has done an extraordinary job representing our membership and will be missed tremendously. However, we are excited for him to start work as a district lineman in the exact location his father worked. Best wishes to Jeremy and his wife Regan as they make this transition.

Welcome to Journeyman Lineman Jeremy Adair! Jeremy has worked for Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative for 13 years. Based on his work serving on the negotiations committees and as a shop steward, we know that he can hit the ground running.

Congratulations to our Local 125 Sister Liz Shuler, our new AFL-CIO President! Liz has been a force in the labor movement, and we are proud to support her in this new role.

*Marcy Grail, A.B.M.*

## Apprenticeship Classes Resume

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV — Greetings, brothers and sisters: The work picture remains slow in our jurisdiction, with 89 members on Book 1 as of this writing. Our local remains very grateful to the surrounding jurisdictions in our area who are providing work during these slow times.

Local 141 held its annual family picnic and golf scramble on Aug. 14. It was a great day of fun, games, food and most importantly, brotherhood. Congratulations to Local 141 member Travis Locke, along with his teammates Cody McCormick, Rocky Dobbs and Greg Honecker, for winning the 2021 IBEW 141 Golf Scramble!

Our local, along with the Wheeling Electrical



Winners of the 2021 IBEW Local 141 Golf Scramble: (left to right) Cody McCormick, Rocky Dobbs, Local 141 member Travis Locke and Greg Honecker.

JATC, is gearing up for apprenticeship classes to resume this fall; the JATC is making plans to acquire property to build a shop to greatly expand the "hands-on" aspect of the apprenticeship. This space will be used for welding classes, conduit fabrication and other training situations needing a larger space.

*Kurt "Bug" Reed, P.S.*

## Solar Farm Project Needs Many Hands

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI — Work has been steady with open calls getting into Book 2. Organizers Damon Glenn and Casey Healy and Referral Agent Ken Jungenberg are working hard to fill calls. Phase 2 of the 300-MW Badger Hollow Solar Farm will need many hands.

We are pleased to welcome a very talented class of 39 first-year inside apprentices, including eight women. We believe our workforce should reflect our diverse community. As of July, we had 257 inside apprentices, of whom 15 self-identify as being minority (5.8% of all apprentices) and 25 who are women (9.7% of total). There are 12 VDV (low-voltage) apprentices, of whom 12 are male and one self-reports as being a minority.

Our constituent groups keep busy helping out in the community. The mentoring program is underway. In August, the Women's Committee held a meet-and-greet, with a clothing and gear swap, to welcome newcomers. There was an enthusiastic turnout of 24 women.

Mid-November will be the official lights-on for our annual winter display, Fantasy In Lights, but the event began months in advance. Our retirees have been hard at work since June, fixing and preparing the displays and equipment.

*Sue Blue, B.M.*

## Local 177 Hosts Contractor Class

L.U. 177 (bo,ees,govt,i,mo,o&pet), JACKSONVILLE, FL — Recently, our local hosted a contractor class for members who are new IBEW electrical contractors or are interested in becoming one. Thanks goes out to Locals 1205, 606, 756 and 915 for sending brothers and sisters to participate. The class was taught by Matt Kolbinsky, a brother from Local 212 and the owner of Pro Union Consulting, LLC. It covered five days of material that will help members to get a new business off the ground or fine tune their existing business. It also covered emerging markets such as solar, stored energy and EV charging stations. More contractors will assist in gaining additional market share in our area, which is our ultimate goal.

Currently Local 177's work outlook is doing very well, but we are having the same problem that many locals are having with providing manpower for contractors. The dry-dock rework project at Kings Bay Naval Base is in full swing, as are many hospital projects and FIS work.

We have been hit hard with COVID-19 this summer, losing two more brothers to the virus; but hopefully we all are moving in the right direction with this terrible pandemic by the time this issue prints.

*Alan Jones, B.M./F.S.*



Local 177 recently hosted a class for new union contractors, with Brother Matt Kolbinsky of Local 212 instructing.

## IBEW Continues to Rise to the Challenge

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH — Our local would first like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. This global pandemic continues to present our local, along with the rest of the world, with numerous challenges. As of this writing, we are less than a week away from participating in the annual Toledo Labor Day Parade. We are anticipating a great turnout from our members and their families, who will line the streets of downtown Toledo along with many service vehicles.

As of this writing, negotiations with Energy Harbor at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant and Henkels &



The Local 159 Women's Committee held a meet-and-greet in August, with a clothing and gear swap, to welcome newcomers.

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## LOCAL LINES



Local 245 partner Toledo Edison's new safety trailer is being used to educate the public on electrical safety issues such as downed power lines, back feed and other electrical hazards.

McCoy Teledata are still ongoing, and we hope to reach agreements soon. Three of our contracts are set to expire before the end of the year: Nelson Tree Service, Walleye Power Bay Shore Plant and the Rossford Fire and Rescue Department. The negotiation process is underway for these three contracts. Work for our Outside Construction branch is slow as of this writing; however, we were excited to welcome 20 new apprentices to the ALBAT program in September.

In utility news, Toledo Edison members had the opportunity to be trained on a new safety trailer, which will be used to educate the public on electrical safety. This trailer is meant to teach the public and our safety personnel the importance of knowledge of downed power lines, back feed and other electrical hazards.

Local 245 would like to congratulate newly elected Recording Secretary Michael Padgen. Michael is a journeyman lineman and has been a member of Local 245 for over five years.

We know it's been a busy year for storms, and we want to thank all of our members for their hard work and dedication to safety while traveling to assist in restoration efforts. We also want to thank those who have stayed back to ensure that the safe, reliable power we are all accustomed to is maintained. We have seen your commitment firsthand over the past year as we faced devastating hurricanes, tornadoes and ice storms, along with the hardships presented by the pandemic. Please continue to be safe, both at home and at work!

Brian Gendaszek, P.S.



The new IBEW Local 269 mobile messaging board displays a very relevant message outside the union hall.

## Sign of the Times

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — Many of our organizing efforts and our community relations rely on effective messaging. So what better way to bring a message to your target audience than a mobile, digital, LED billboard? Local 269 recently purchased a new, state-of-the-art messaging board to augment its presence throughout our territory. Whether displaying messages that bring the public's attention to unfair labor practices by our nonunion competitors or a simple holiday greeting to our surrounding communities, the

mobile-message board ensures that the local can bring its message directly to the people whose attention we are seeking. Dedicated members with picket signs and sandwich boards, along with giant inflatable "fat cats" and non-union "rats," will now be joined by a high-tech billboard, which will leave no doubt to the intention and the purpose of the labor movement.

The billboard made its debut at the annual Local 269 members' picnic as it greeted our brothers and sisters and their families at the entrance to the picnic grounds. A good time was had by all, and the turnout was high despite the ongoing pandemic. Thanks to all who volunteered to make it a special day for our membership once again.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.



President Biden at the Local 313 hall on Labor Day with International President Stephenson and Austin Keyser of Government Affairs.

## Biden Visits Hometown Local

L.U. 313 (i&spa), WILMINGTON, DE — President Biden stopped by his hometown IBEW local, on Labor Day no less, just to say, "thank you." He exited his black SUV wearing his signature Ray-Bans with a tray of sandwiches to hand out in appreciation. He thanked us as a representation of electricians everywhere who are helping to restore power to those effected by Hurricane Ida. As Delaware's only Inside Construction local and having stood with him literally through his entire career, it was probably easy for him to know right where to go to thank a few electricians. We, on the other hand, are eager to thank him for all he does to further the cause of labor from the highest seat in the land. As labor members, we owe him a debt of gratitude for pushing improvements for all working men and women, and he has easily been the strongest proponent of workers' rights and union issues of any president in our lifetime.

We were also happy to have International President Lonnie Stephenson there to welcome labor's best friend, who now happens to reside at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Our retirees were happy to be able to return to their normal meetings in September after a 17-month break. As a sad note to an otherwise upbeat event, Retiree Club President Bob Lange solemnly read through a long list of all who have passed since the March 2020 meeting. A good showing, close to 60, showed up to collect their service pins and catch up with each other.

Bruce W. Esper, P.S.

## Serving Deserving Members

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Happy Thanksgiving, brothers and sisters!

This month we also observe Veterans' Day, a day to recognize the service and sacrifices of our veterans. Memorial Day honors those veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. The day was first known as Armistice Day to celebrate the ending of World War I, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918. Armistice Day became a legal holiday in 1938.

In 1954, upon the urging of veterans' service organizations comprised of World War II and Korean War vets, Congress replaced the word "Armistice" with "Veteran." Our CBA included Veterans Day as a provisional holiday in 2005. Local 343 has 140 total veterans within its ranks, 104 retired and 36 active members representing the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, Army and Air Reserve. Member Ross Harding is currently deployed with the Army Reserve in Operation Enduring Freedom. The International pays members' dues while they are called up on deployment.

Think about the words "freedom isn't free." Brave men and women maintain our freedoms. Our union rights are also not free. Each one of us is responsible for upholding the standards in our agreement.

Keep America Strong, buy Made in USA!

Tom Small, P.S.

## Gratitude for Work

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA — The message I've been waiting to hear on a continuing basis since I joined our local is, "Work continues to be great in this local." It's been a long time coming. I did my share of working on the road. I worked in every state contiguous with the state of Iowa, plus a couple more. So it's welcome news to our members and it's welcome to traveling brothers and sisters who are helping us with this bounty of work.

Due to the workload we are currently experiencing, the JATC committee has accepted the largest class in the history of the local. We want to welcome the 100 new apprentices: May your careers be financially, mentally and emotionally fulfilling. For perspective, there were approximately 15 apprentices in my class, and many of us had first-hand road experience before we turned out.



As part of the Brotherhood Committee Day of Action, Local 429 members helped with volunteer work on the house of retiree Joe Kelley and his wife Donna: (left to right) Dayton Layne, Randy Clark, Bart Green, Local 146 member Mitch Sexton, Joe Kelley, Jerry Lee, Donna Kelley, Mark Poole, Tony Anglin and Local 134 member Nigel Caldwell.

Another benefit of plentiful work is that the local's financial position is allowing us to build a new hall. We had outgrown the current hall some years ago; therefore, the local's new home in Ankeny, Iowa (just a stone's throw from I-35), is something we are all looking forward to completing and moving into.

We're wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.



Local 347's new union hall in Ankeny, Iowa.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

## Major Jobs Ahead

L.U. 429 (em,i,lctt,o,ptc,rtb&u), NASHVILLE, TN — As of Aug. 3, we have over 180 unfilled calls, with major jobs in our jurisdiction. Special thanks to Local 429 brothers and sisters and all the travelers that are here to help man our work. There will be plenty of jobs available when this issue of The Electrical Worker comes out.

On July 24, the Brotherhood Committee Day of Action took place. Thanks goes out to all who attended to help in the volunteer work on the house of Retiree Joe Kelley and his wife Donna. [See photo, bottom, right.]

Brothers and sisters, please be safe in your travels and on the job. God bless the USA, and God bless the IBEW.

Randy Clark, B.M.

## Local 449 Invests in Archery

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID — In collaboration with the Southeastern Idaho Building Trades and the Union Sportsmen's Alliance, our local was able to donate over \$5,000 worth of archery equipment to the Bannock County 4-H. The archery equipment was purchased from the raffle funds raised at the Union Sportsmen's Alliance banquets hosted in 2017, 2018 and 2019.





Local 449 teamed up with the Southeastern Idaho Building Trades and the Union Sportsmen's Alliance and donated more than \$5,000 of archery equipment to the Bannock County 4-H.

We purchased the archery equipment from the National Archery in the Schools Program, and we appreciate what they're doing to help these programs thrive in our communities. NASP offers discounted archery equipment to non-profit organizations to improve educational performance and participation in shooting sports among students grades 4 through 12.

Bannock County 4-H's Nikki Dalton said, "The program should help prepare participants for district-level shoots, with the possibility of some young archers moving on to state or national competitions. It's been several years since Bannock County last had a 4-H archery program. We've had interest in it, but we just haven't had the equipment. Across the nation, 4-H shooting sports has been a huge program. A lot of counties have really big shooting programs, so it would be nice to get that going in this county."

Local 449 member Jody Bunker remarked, "I saw this as an opportunity to collaborate with the Union Sportsmen's Alliance to help the community. The main goal was to help generations of kids get engaged and participate in our heritage of archery. Special thanks to everyone involved and to RENEW members Kyle Jones and Spencer Musselman for helping raise additional funds to aid volunteers in obtaining their certification and support the new 4-H archery program."

Chris Lochridge, Pres.

## Local 569 Renewables and Battery Storage Win

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA — Our local successfully advocated for the approval of the Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR) Energy Park. This \$200-million project includes 90 MW of new solar and 20 MW of battery storage; will provide clean power to 52,000 households; and creates 350 good, middle-class green union jobs for local workers. Developer BayWa r.e. added \$4 million in new community benefits.

The unanimous approval of the JVR project by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors is a step in the right direction to support our region's clean energy goals and good quality jobs for county residents.

We send our congratulations to Lawrence Dukes, who just celebrated being a 75-year member of IBEW.

Business Manager Jeremy Abrams joined the Local 569 Retirees Club to honor Lawrence because he was unable to attend Pin Night.

We also thank all of the members that recently attended our IBEW 569 Family Picnic and our Annual Padre Day and Tailgate. Our staff is busy at work planning for our upcoming holiday events, and we hope to see you and your family soon.

Gretchen Newsom, Political Dir.

## Celebrating Two Years of Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — After several months of negotiations our state inside contract have finally come to an end, and as of this writing, an agreement had not been ratified. I will report the results in the next issue.

On Aug. 27, we graduated both the 2020 and 2021 classes of apprentices. This year's event was held at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid, and it was the first graduation hosted by Bobby Getts, our new apprentice training director. The 2020 graduating apprentices were Estevan Aragon, Victor Armendariz, Gregorio Ayala, Patrick Baca, Joshua Butler, Ryan Cosgrove, Marcello Dionisio, Jarrad Duran, Manuel Esquibel, Cade Garcia, Alan Hammack, Timothy Martinez, Eric Mondragon, Gregory Pazzi, Omar Rivera and Philip Vialpando. The 2020 Outstanding Apprentice was Marcello Dionisio. The recipient of the C.S. Mitchell award was Tessa Frias and the apprentices with perfect attendance were Philip Vialpando and Cade Garcia.

The 2021 graduates are Brendan Alarcon, Gabriel Babaldon, Shawnn Brown, Tyler Brunette, Falon Cole, Jacob Duran, Donovan Harvey, Sean Herrera, David Howard, Sheldon Johnson, Terry Lynn, Jeremy McDonald, Jared Rodriguez, Eduardo Roman and Benjamin Trujillo. Eduardo Roman was recognized as outstanding apprentice. The recipient of the C.S. Mitchell award is Ryan Buckman, and the apprentice with perfect attendance was Jacob Duran. Congratulations to all of the new journeymen and journeymen — all of you did a great job.

On Sept. 6, we held our annual Labor Day picnic; this year it was at the Balloon Park, and there was a



Local 611's 2020 Inside Apprenticeship graduating class.

great turnout and plenty to eat.

On behalf of the local, I would like to extend condolences to the friends and families of Charles Birner, Donal A. Bunce, Anthony (Tony) Sanchez, Francisco Sanchez James W. Vernon, Darryn Ward and Lloyd J. White.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

## Local 649 Updates and Highlights

L.U. 649 (i,lctt,mt&o), ALTON, IL — Due to COVID-19, the 2021 Labor Day Parade and picnic were canceled for a second year. Contract negotiations are progressing for the SCIT agreement/WRLD Drainage & Levee District. Apprenticeship training commenced on Aug. 30 for sixteen wireman apprentices.

P66 Refinery projects are busy, with Book 2 brothers and sisters working.

Health and Welfare prescriptions are now administered by Sav-Rx Prescription Services.

Full attendance has been allowed for monthly union meetings. On April 30, we lost member Donald J. Schultz. We also lost William J. Titus on Aug. 20.

Congratulations to the following recently retired members: Ron Gilomen, Rod O'Dell, John Overbey, David Renner, Tim Timmons, Mike

Waters and Mike Wright.

Organizer Alan Rubenstein is working with the Illinois Comptroller's Office regarding prevailing wage enforcement. Please note:

On behalf of Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza, thank you for making the special effort of coming to the Capitol to join the comptroller on today's press conference on prevailing wage. Please feel free to reach out to any of us at the Comptroller's Office. And please be reminded that if there are any prevailing wage concerns, you may file an official inquiry under this link: <https://illinoiscomptroller.gov/vendors/prevailing-wage>.

Terry Wilhite, P.S.



Local 639 organized and hosted a benefit drive-thru BBQ fundraiser for second-year apprentice Trent Straeck, pictured with his local brothers and sisters. (Photo Credit: Retired Member Craig Bryenidson.)

## Benefit Fundraiser Supports Injured Brother

L.U. 639 (i&rts), SAN LUIS, OBISPO, CA — On Tuesday, Aug. 10, second-year Apprentice Trent Straeck was in a rollover accident on his way to work. Trent suffered major injuries to his leg, ankle and wrist. IBEW Local 639 organized and hosted a benefit drive-thru BBQ fundraiser at the local hall. Members and their families showed up to help cook and serve those who attended the event. It's times like these, as members come together to assist one another in times of trouble, that make you proud to be a part of the IBEW.

Kurt McClave, P.S.



Local 649 members joined Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza at the Capitol building in Springfield for a press conference on prevailing wage.



Members enjoying the Local 569 Family Picnic.

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## LOCAL LINES



Local 683 sent care packages to members deployed overseas.

## Continued Service

L.U. 683 (i&ptc), COLUMBUS, OH — Work continues to be plentiful in our area. The downtown Hilton and multiple projects at Ohio State continue to move forward, along with multiple ongoing data-center projects. Our traveling sisters and brothers continue to help filling calls, but the need for more manpower will continue through next year with the ramping up of the Ohio State University Medical Tower and new data-center sites. The approval of multiple utility-scale solar projects in the jurisdiction would add to the need as well, with high hopes that this work will be done by the IBEW.

I would like to thank all of the sisters and brothers who were involved in the completion of the new Columbus Crew Stadium. Getting the stadium ready for the first game involved a big push, and the commitment of our members to get the job done shows why the IBEW is the best choice.

Local 683 members Dominic Blackwell and James Witt recently returned safely from overseas deployment. Thank you to these brothers for their continued service to our country and the time sacrificed from their families.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Mike Morey, Pres.

## Local 701 Volunteer to Light Up Veterans Shelter

L.U. 701 (i&spa), LISLE, IL — Members of our local's RENEW Committee recently volunteered to upgrade decades-old fluorescent lighting at the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton, Ill. MSHV's mission is to empower at-risk veterans and their families to become self-sufficient, productive members of their communities.

"IBEW 701 understood our challenges and provided the solution," stated MSHV Finance and Operations Officer Tom Galassini. "They provided pro-bono labor and arranged for a materials donation of LED fixtures from Meade Electric to upgrade the lighting at



Local 701's RENEW Committee volunteered to upgrade lighting at the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton, Ill.: (left to right) John Roti, J.D. Roti, Anthony Roti, Steve Koenig, Jim Pokorny, MSHV's Tom Galassini, Leo Serna, Thomas Imburgia, Martin Drew, Tyler Drew, Nick Johansen, Robert Majeski, Drew Petry, Ben Franzen and Todd Imburgia.

our administrative building. What a difference! The new lighting is consistent, more environmentally friendly and is likely to lower our energy bills. Our staff is amazed and thrilled with the upgraded fixtures, and we are extremely grateful for the assistance provided by IBEW 701, which has been a generous partner with MSHV for many years."

"We are so happy with the results," added Executive Director Christine Lewis. "We cannot say thank you enough; this electrical work has vastly

improved our facility."

As the day ended, Galassini presented each member of the team with a commemorative challenge coin from MSHV, symbolizing brotherhood, respect and gratitude.

For more information on the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, please visit [helpaveteran.org](http://helpaveteran.org).

John Bergner, R.S.



Local 807 Business Manager/President David Fuller with retiring Brother David Matthews.

## Brother David Matthews Retires

L.U. 807 (rr), NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR — Brother David Matthews was given a retirement party, hosted by Brother Brooks Spoon, on July 7. Brother Matthews transferred to Local 807 on June 10, 1991, after beginning his career with Local 295 in August of 1975. David was Local 807's financial secretary for 25 years, and his knowledge and leadership will be missed.

Dave Fuller, Pres./B.M.

## Work Picture Projected to Stay Steady in 2021

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL — It's been great having union meetings again here at our local, and even our retirees have started meeting again. Unfortunately, for the health and safety of our members and families,



Winning team members of the first-ever Local 1347 golf outing celebrate with their trophies: (left to right) Business Manager Andrew Kirk, Richard Fritsche, Matt McKenzie, Tyler Verst and Nate Haley.

we've had to reschedule our annual service years and pin presentation cookout again.

Business Manager Randall King was able to send a few of our recently signed union-member contractors to a contractors' business course at Jacksonville Local 177. It's a five-day course that covers a wide array of topics from creating a business plan to generating leads and estimating, and even includes a visit to an actual project in order to estimate and come up with a bid.

Local 915 also recently entered into a marketing agreement with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Business Manager King handpicked members to give testimonials on what the IBEW means to them, and these testimonials will air during the games. And speaking of the Bucs, we'd like to congratulate them and the Tampa Bay Lightning on their championship seasons.

The work picture is increasing and should remain steady through the winter. Hopefully, by publication things will have calmed down so we can all get back to enjoying the holidays the way they were meant to be enjoyed, together.

Happy Holidays!

Shawn McDonnell, Pres.

## Local 1347 Hosts First Golf Outing

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — On Sunday, July 18, our local hosted its first-ever golf outing! And what a great time it was! We had eighteen holes of golf to play and a delicious fried chicken dinner at the end of the game. The purpose of this outing was to raise money for the Unity Fund, and after all of the teams had finished and gone home, we counted \$382.87 to donate to a great cause that supports our fellow union brothers and sisters.

Richard Fritsche, who is one of our stewards out of the East Bend Generating Station, won alongside his three other teammates. Each player received a trophy, a custom-made t-shirt by Blackout Tees and a name plate on the home trophy that will be displayed here at the hall. Plans for next year's outing are already underway. We hope to see twice as many faces next year!

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

## Remembering Rich Trumka

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD — Business Manager/President Dion Guthrie met AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka at a conference earlier this year, before his untimely passing on Aug. 5. Many people didn't know he became an attorney, president of the United Mine Workers from 1982 to 1995, and then secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO before being elected president of the AFL-CIO on Sept. 16, 2009. Dion remembered a very cordial meeting at this event with President Trumka, and they had the opportunity to discuss a lot of politics, both on a federal and local level. He stated that we lost a great man and passing at 72 was much too early for anyone; however, Trumka was someone who worked very hard and put in many more hours than normal, which more than likely led to his untimely passing.

Steve Boyd, F.S./P.S.



Local 915's second-year apprentice Phavianna Sepulveda records her testimonial for a commercial that will air during Tampa Bay Buccaneers game coverage.

## Local 1205 Works to Fight Hunger

L.U. 1205 (em,govt,i&u), GAINESVILLE, FL — North Florida, like much of the country during this public health crisis, has had its share of increasing issues. Child hunger has always been on the forefront of our community activism, and Local 1205 continues to answer the problem of hunger facing our community, and our leaders are always finding new partners to tackle this issue. Mackenzie Acres and Sylvia Arnold, along with our Business Agent Lanny Mathis and Assistant Business Agent Andy Starling took time out of their weekend and teamed with an organization to package 30,000 meals for the community. Thank you for giving your time to make a difference.

James Ingle, Pres.



Business Manager/President Dion F. Guthrie with former President of the AFL-CIO Richard Trumka.

# GROUNDED IN HISTORY

## Remembering Henry Miller

This month the IBEW celebrates its 130th anniversary. In telling the story of our founding, no figure looms larger than Henry Miller. His role as founder and first Grand President is well documented and celebrated throughout the brotherhood. But rather than retell the story of his years in office, we'll take a closer look at the events that inspired him to take up the tools and become one of labor's strongest advocates.

According to J.T. Kelly, the IBEW's first secretary-treasurer, Miller was born on Jan. 5, 1858, in Fredericksburg, Texas. Hugh Murrin of Local 283 in Oakland, Calif., and later a close friend of Miller's, recalled that his parents were German immigrants and that Miller would occasionally slip into a heavy German accent when on the job. Miller lived on his family's ranch until the age of 16, when he left to work on a military telegraph project led by Lt. Adolphus W. Greely of the U.S. Army. The project consisted of constructing a 125-mile telegraph line west from San Antonio to Fort Clark, connecting military posts along the Rio Grande. Miller joined the project in 1876 as a water boy but quickly took up the tools of the linemen he worked alongside. After a year of this "apprenticeship," he left the project to begin his electrical career.

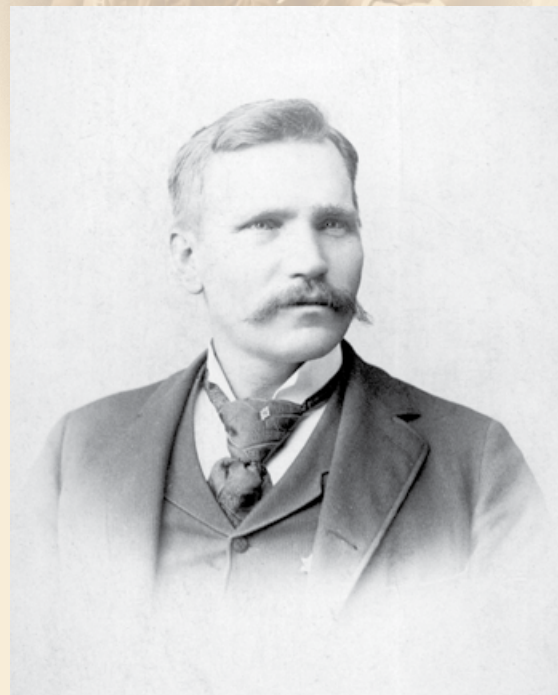
His first post was as a line repairman for the Western Union Telegraph Co., then for the Santa Fe Railway Co., where he was given charge of a telegraph division. In 1879, Miller became a superintendent with the Erie Telephone Co. and remained with the company until 1885. He eventually landed in St. Louis and worked for the Municipal Electric Light and Power Co., where he met J.T. Kelly. In 1890, the city hosted an exposition featuring an elaborate electric light display that had required hundreds of linemen and wiremen to install. Inspired by the sight of so many of their fellow tradesmen, Miller and Kelly met with AFL organizer Charles Kassel to create Local 5221, a local union solely for St. Louis electricians. Miller was elected president and spent the next year traveling across the Midwest and East Coast, finding work in various cities and organizing local unions along the way.

By September 1891, Miller had laid enough groundwork that 5221 felt confident in calling for a convention to establish a national organization for electrical workers. On Nov. 21, in an unassuming boarding house in St. Louis that Miller called home, the first convention was held with 10 delegates in attendance. When it concluded a week later, the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was born, with Miller elected as Grand President. With only \$100 in the bank, thanks to a loan from 5221, Miller jumped straight back into organizing, chartering 45 local unions in the next six months.

Daniel Ellsworth, a member of Detroit Local 17, remembered the day Miller rode into town to organize. "He rode on the bumpers of a freight train to get here and had no funds for organizing. When we took up a collection for him, he said, 'No, boys, you will need all the money you can get together for your union. I will get along some way.' I tell you, brothers, he was a hero in the cause."

At the third IBEW convention in 1893 Miller became a Grand Vice President and Grand Organizer. One highlight of his new position was organizing the Adams Hydroelectric Generating Station at Niagara Falls, N.Y. This was the first hydro plant designed by George Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla. Sadly, given an ongoing economic depression, Miller's organization efforts stalled and he stepped down in 1895 to return to his lineman tools.

He made his way to Washington, D.C., and found work with the Potomac Light and Power Co. According to Henry Hatt, a traveling brother who roomed with Miller in Georgetown, our founder was always assigned the toughest jobs due to his reputation as a union agitator. He once witnessed Miller wire a 240-foot-high iron smokestack, working in heavy winds on the outer edge of narrow scaffolding. "He had a heart as big as a coat of mail," said Hatt. "His efforts on behalf of the electrical workers created a momentum around which a corporate resistance occurred." It was not only Miller's work ethic and perseverance that impressed Hatt, but also his ability to find time for reflection and relaxation. "He could do as much work in one day as two ordinary men, and read



*The IBEW's founder and first Grand President, Henry Miller, sacrificed everything to grow and promote the brotherhood. This month, the IBEW celebrates its 130th anniversary.*

novels half the night," said Hatt. "He could do as much work in fun as some people could do in earnest."

On July 10, 1896, Miller was assigned to repair a lighting circuit in Washington's Cleveland Park neighborhood that had been damaged during a storm. While working on the line just before midnight, Miller received an electric shock of 2,200 volts, which threw him from his pole. A doctor brought him to his boarding house where he died at 4:30am on July 11. According to John Lloyd, a member of Washington Local 26 at the time, a special meeting was convened to "appoint a committee and see that Miller was properly buried. Mr. Purdy, the superintendent of Potomac Light and Power, and a good friend of Miller's, attended the funeral in conjunction with the IBEW members." As Miller didn't have any money of his own, Mr. Purdy paid all funeral expenses save for \$16, which was paid by the IBEW executive office. In 1901, the IBEW paid for perpetual care of Miller's grave at Glenwood Cemetery in Washington, a service which continues to this day.

Henry Miller's life was not easy. His occupation as an electrical worker placed him in constant risk. It was the unregulated nature of the work that inspired Miller to found the IBEW. Faced with low wages, little-to-no training, and fatality rates far above those of any other trade, Miller understood that the only way to improve working conditions and instill dignity amongst electrical workers was to organize. In that effort, Miller's tenacity and courage were without equal. "No man could have done more for our union in its first years than he did," said J.T. Kelly. "Every movement, every organization established, has associated with it the name of some individual whose mind conceived and whose energy and perseverance established it; and thus the name of Henry Miller will forever be associated with the Electrical Workers of America."

Hugh Murrin wrote extensively about Miller in a 1916 issue of *The Electrical Worker*. "I know personally of the hardships he passed through while organizing the electrical workers. With no salary or money for expenses he traveled from city to city and depended upon the men of our trade to feed him. If we are to succeed in promoting the good work that this worthy brother started for us... we must all work together, and if we do this I can see for the IBEW the success that was the aim and heartfelt desire of Henry Miller."

This November, let us remember the hard work and sacrifice of Henry Miller. To tell his story is to tell the story of the IBEW. ■



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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### 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:

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*The Electrical Worker* (print)  
ISSN 2332-113X

*The Electrical Worker* (online)  
ISSN 2332-1148

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

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

Paid advertising is not accepted.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756.  
Canada Post: Return undeliverables to P.O. Box 2601,  
6915 Dixie Rd, Mississauga, ON L4T 0A9.

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## WHO WE ARE

# Speed on the Water is Family Affair for Oklahoma Father-Son Wiremen



**G**eorge Goff isn't one to sit around and watch, or relax, for that matter, unless you consider piloting a boat over choppy waters at speeds approaching 150 mph as relaxation.

Despite growing up in Tulsa, Okla., he's not much of a football fan, even of the legendary University of Oklahoma teams. Unlike some fellow brothers and sisters at Tulsa Local 584, the now-retired journeyman inside wireman had no patience for hunting or fishing.

But as a young apprentice in the early 1970s, he remembers a friend bringing a drag boat to a lake in eastern Oklahoma. Call it a need for speed if you like, but he got hooked on drag boat racing and started a family tradition.

"One thing leads to another," Goff said with a laugh. "Next thing you know, you're off doing something stupid."

Nearly 50 years later, the 72-year-old Goff remains an active driver on the Southern Drag Boat Association Tour, which consists of races in Texas, Oklahoma and Arizona; and on the Kentucky Drag Boat Association Tour, which consists of races in Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri. Speed and even a little sense of danger remain a calling card.

"The best way to describe it is I just have an affinity for those things," he said. "I can't get away from them."

His son, also named George and referred to as GW, has the same temperament and became a driver. He's good enough that he's not only driving on the southern and Kentucky tours but also getting opportunities to drive better-funded boats on other circuits. He also followed his father into the tools as a journeyman inside wireman and Local 584 member.

GW remembers sitting on his father's lap when he was about 4 or 5 years old on a family outing while the elder Goff drove a boat across the water. The son remembers going more than 100 mph.

From then on, he was hooked. He played other sports, but when he turned 16, he gave them up and devoted himself to the drag boats.

Nothing beat a hot, sunny day on the water, whether it was a race with his dad after hauling their boat hundreds of miles or hanging out with friends on the Grand River near the family's home in Choteau, Okla., about 35 miles east of Tulsa.

"I was around it and I loved it," GW said. "When I was a kid, if I was not at the races, we were at the river. Where we went,



*GW Goff at the helm of his boat Electric Freeze Express during a recent drag boat competition, top; Goff and his father, George Goff, pose with a fan in front of the elder Goff's boat, Bad Magic; GW Goff in full racing gear, right.*

there was always 15 or 20 boats like ours that were out there. It was so much fun."

Drag boat racing has never had the mass appeal of auto drag racing on land, but the sport has a small, faithful following.

Media exposure is limited. So it comes as little surprise that both Goffs say participants truly do it for the love of the sport. Nearly all drivers work and maintain their boats themselves. Any prize money goes back into them, or the cost of transporting them. There are also entry fees — sometimes around \$500 per race — and extraordinarily high costs for insurance.

The younger Goff said a race weekend can easily cost \$3,500. Prize money helps but it doesn't nearly offset it.

"It's a second mortgage," GW said. "It's like a very expensive hobby you don't make money at."

Added George: "You better be doing it because you like it. If you're looking to make money, go get another job. It's a lot more expensive than having a kid."

George admits he wasn't crazy when his son told him he wanted to pursue driving. The sport is safer now than it was when the elder Goff started in the 1970s, or during the 1980s, when some fans and drivers worried a series of fatalities might doom it for good. The last driver fatality in



hard to explain."

GW said he is thankful his longtime employer, signatory contractor Brown Electric, has been flexible with his work schedule so he can make the races. His experience as an electrician also comes in handy in his "hobby," especially when it comes to caring for the boats. As his father noted, drag boats take a beating because of the high level of horsepower.

"Motorsports have become such an electronic world with all the electronic timers and everything else," GW said. "Everyone is using them and you have to keep up. It's not just a regular ignition and you throw it into gear, so electrical knowledge definitely helps."

At this stage in life, George said he takes more delight in his son's success than his own. In addition to being the dominant driver on the southern tour, GW recently began driving for a team in the National Jet Boat Association in California.

Unlike on the southern circuit, GW doesn't have to worry about taking care of his boat. The boat's owner brings him and his wife in for each event and pays all the expenses.

"Those are the flat-bottom boats that are the hardest of the boats to race," George said. "In these top-fuel races, when we are in the pits, everyone wants to talk to GW."

The Goffs aren't giving up on the sport anytime soon. George has a good retirement thanks in part to an IBEW pension. He's looking at knee-replacement surgery in the near future but is hoping he has another year or two left driving. GW is recognized as one of the best drivers and loves the family-friendly atmosphere of each race.

In fact, don't be surprised if a third generation of Goffs is racing in a few years. Both children seem to enjoy it as much as their father and grandfather.

"Drag boat racing is like a family event," GW said. "When racing is over, that is when everyone is hanging out and partying and having a good time. Everyone has their wives or kids or girlfriends there and they are just as much a part of it."

"People want to win. But during the races on Sunday, if you have an issue, or need an extra 30 minutes to get in the water, someone will come over and help you fix it if they have a part." ■

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