

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

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

Printed in the USA

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vol. 18 | No. 9 | September 2024

IBEW News

Hall of Fame Apprentices

Local Holds Annual 'Draft' **3**

'Culture Change'

Inclusive Space for Women **6**

In This Issue

Editorials **2**

My IBEW Story **2**

North of 49° **7**

Grounded in History **8**

Power at Work **8**

Organizing Wire **10**

Transitions **11**

Spotlight on Safety **12**

Local Lines **13**

Retirees **16**

In Memoriam **18**

WHO WE ARE

Brotherhood and chokeholds at Local 340

See page **20**

THE IBEW'S 2024 PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline: Nov. 1 • Details on pg. 11

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1032
LONG PRARIE, ILL



She cast the deciding vote to save union members' pensions. She broke a Senate tie to make historic job-creating investments in U.S. energy production and high-tech manufacturing. She's visited IBEW training centers nationwide to promote union apprenticeships. She even headed an unprecedented White House task force on organizing and worker empowerment.

Again and again, Vice President Kamala Harris has proven to be a champion of working people and workers' rights, embracing the lifelong mission of her pro-union partner, President Joe Biden.

"Thank unions for the five-day workweek. And the eight-hour workday. Thank unions for paid leave and sick leave and vacation time," Harris told the American Federation of Teachers convention July 25. "Because the fact is, unions helped build America's middle class. And when unions are strong, America is strong."

She doubled down on those beliefs two weeks later by choosing an instantly popular running mate — Minnesota's pro-union governor, Tim Walz, who last year signed into law

SHE'S GOT YOUR BACK

Editorial on page 2

some of the most sweeping pro-worker legislation of any U.S. state. See page 4 to read more about his achievements.

The IBEW was among the first in a landslide of unions to endorse Harris for president after Biden withdrew from the race and urged Democrats to nominate her.

"She is a true believer," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. "President Biden, who's had our backs like no one before him in the White House, wouldn't have passed the torch to her if she wasn't prepared to fight like hell for us and finish the job he started."

The afternoon of Biden's announcement Sunday, July 21, Cooper spoke by phone with

him and then with Harris, who asked for the IBEW's support.

"She made a personal commitment to continue to focus not only on issues critical to unions and the building trades at large, but specifically on issues that affect the jobs and safety of our electricians and utility workers," Cooper said.

"Monday morning, I met with all the officers by Zoom, and it was unanimous to endorse her for president, and the building trades and the AFL-CIO did the same. I've never seen the labor movement this united."

ENTHUSIASM at the top is echoed by local leaders and members who've had the opportunity to interact with Harris.

"I have no qualms or doubts that she will do a fantastic job and carry on President Biden's leadership and what he has done for the IBEW and unions as a whole," said Mark Pinkasavage, business manager at Reading, Pa., Local 743.

'A TRUE BELIEVER' continued on page 4

FROM THE OFFICERS

Who's Got Your Back?



Kenneth W. Cooper
International President



Paul A. Noble
International Secretary-Treasurer

A few years back, America's multi-employer pension system was on the verge of collapse.

Through no fault of their own, some of our fellow unions had pension funds that were in deep trouble, teetering on the edge of insolvency.

While this wasn't the case for most IBEW plans, the collapse of any of those funds would have created a domino effect that could have very well brought down the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the federal agency that protects the entire system, putting the retirement security of millions of working people at risk.

Sen. Sherrod Brown led the fight in Congress for the Butch Lewis Act, which would have rescued these troubled multi-employer plans.

But despite our pleading, President Trump and Republican Leader Mitch McConnell ignored the bill.

After all his talk about supporting blue-collar workers, Trump's inaction when it came to saving union members' retirements proved his talk was just that. Talk.

Butch Lewis remained in limbo until Joe Biden and Kamala Harris took office in 2021.

One of his first major acts in office was signing the American Rescue Plan Act, which incorporated not just the Butch Lewis bill we fought for, but went even further, turning it from a loan into a true rescue of working people's pensions.

With every Republican in the Senate voting against the bill, Vice President Kamala Harris' decisive vote broke the 50-50 tie and saved the multi-employer pension system.

Based on that vote alone, Kamala Harris deserves the support of every IBEW member and their family this November.

But the American Rescue Plan Act was just the beginning. The Biden-Harris administration passed legislation rebuilding our energy infrastructure, bringing high-tech manufacturing jobs back to America, and making our nation the world's energy and technology leader again.

We have said it many times: Joe Biden proved to be the most pro-union president in American history. He fought to attach strong pro-worker requirements to every federal dollar, which has put tens of thousands of IBEW members to work.

He nominated an actual union member to head up the Labor Department and pro-union members to the National Labor Relations Board.

Because of his leadership, today the IBEW is bigger and stronger than it has been in generations.

And working alongside the president every step of the way was Vice President Harris.

She has vowed to continue his pro-union record, which was confirmed by her choice of Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate.

A former union member himself, Gov. Walz has led one of the nation's most pro-worker, pro-family state governments and is strongly supported by Minnesota's labor movement.

It is your decision who you vote for. The IBEW is proud to have Democrats, Republicans and independents in its ranks.

But our job as IBEW leaders is to speak clearly about which candidates will help us and who will hurt us.

Everything we know about Kamala Harris and Tim Walz makes it clear that they are on our side when it comes to our rights, wages, benefits and jobs.

That is why we endorsed them and are mobilizing resources to elect them.

But don't take our word for it. Do your own research. Go to IBEWgov.org and read more in this issue of The Electrical Worker to find out each candidate's real record.

For the IBEW, politics is not about partisanship. It's about who is on our side when the pressure is on. Kamala Harris and Tim Walz have had our backs, and we stand with those who support us. ■

My IBEW STORY

Brandy McDaniel, foreman
San Mateo, Calif., Local 617



“A passing comment can change your life.

I was 29 years old, changing tires at Costco for \$14 per hour. There had to be more for me, but I couldn't picture it or see a pathway there. A glazier friend was repairing a window at my grandmother's house. We got to talking, and he asked what I was doing for work. It was 2008 and there were no jobs, so I was grateful to have the Costco gig.

He said, 'Look into the IBEW,' and I said, 'What's that?' I Googled it and saw the medical insurance and pension, and I thought I would do anything to have that sort of stability.

At the time, I was in Kansas City, so I applied to Local 124. They took only 11 students in 2008, and I was one of them. I was very lucky and grateful to have made the cut.

The summer after my third year, I moved to the Bay Area. I have lots of family there, and my aunt wasn't doing well. I thought being closer to her would be good for both of us. I called every local, and San Mateo Local 617 said yes.

Kathleen Barber was the training director there at the time. We connected over the phone and had a meaningful conversation. When I saw her at the Tradeswomen Build Nations conference, I convinced her to take a chance on me. I will be forever grateful to her for giving me that opportunity.

Today I work with Cupertino Electric and have a great career. I'm also an instructor for the first-year apprenticeship at the JATC and have taught for about nine years.

Through the IBEW, I've secured a bright future for myself. I've built myself into a highly respected leader and mentor, as well as an experienced tradeswoman. I own my own home in the Bay Area and three rental properties. The IBEW gave me a solid foundation and launched a career that has exceeded my wildest expectations.

Before joining the IBEW, I went to college and played soccer at the University of Texas at El Paso. I didn't finish my degree. I'm smart and capable, but higher ed isn't a learning environment where I thrive. A lot of the apprentices I train have had similar experiences. I explain to would-be members that it's OK. You don't need a college degree to earn a good wage, own properties, take care of your family and secure your retirement.

I'm proud to be a member of the IBEW. The union opened the pathway to the 'more' I wanted in 2008, and I want others to know that this is possible for them, too.”

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

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 5

MAKE A PLAN TO

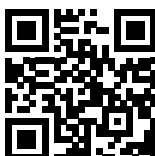


Get up to speed on the IBEW's legislative priorities by scanning this code or going to ibewgov.org > Issues & Campaigns > 2024 IBEW Policy Brief.



Scan this code or go to vote.org, where you can:

- Register to vote in less than two minutes.
- Check your registration.
- See what's on your ballot.
- Request an absentee ballot.
- Get election reminders.



THE METER

33

The number of tiebreaking votes cast by Vice President Kamala Harris in her role as president of the Senate, more than any other vice president in U.S. history.

For more about the man she chose to fill this pivotal role in a deadlocked Senate, see "A Look at Tim Walz's Pro-Worker, Pro-Family Record" on page 5.

At Local 540, Careers Begin in the Hall of Fame

Football Is Theme of Annual Apprentice 'Draft'

High school athletes routinely hold signing ceremonies when they announce where they will play in college. Brent Fatzinger sees it every year in football-mad Canton, Ohio, home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

So, the chief financial officer for Abbott Electric, a longtime signatory contractor, thought something similar should be done for incoming members of Canton Local 540's apprenticeship class. He discussed it with local officials and NECA's North Central Ohio Chapter.

They came up with a better idea than a news conference or a signing ceremony: an NFL-style draft in the Hall of Fame itself.

In June, for the third consecutive year, the Canton Electrical JATC announced who was selected for this year's apprenticeship class. Similar to the way NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announces teams' first-round picks in the league's player draft every April, the event highlighted each apprentice drafted by the JATC and which one of the IBEW Local 540 signatory contractors they would begin their apprenticeship with.

The apprentice draft used the same jingle that indicates a pick is in at the NFL Draft, followed by the JATC announcing the apprentice selected, and they were celebrated as they made their way to the stage.

event modeled after the NFL Draft at the Hall of Fame."

Technically, the hirings were made beforehand, but the draft-style announcement and ceremony allowed all the apprentices to be honored by their union brothers and sisters, the local politicians in attendance, and family members and loved ones.

"Everything we've done is centered on trying to pump people up and get them excited about the beginning of the apprenticeship, helping them realize what an amazing opportunity this is," said Jason Walden, executive director of NECA's North Central Ohio Chapter.

Walden has seen that firsthand. He began his career in the IBEW-NECA industry as an inside apprentice in Cincinnati Local 212. After completing his apprenticeship, he went on to be a foreman, project manager, JATC instructor, JATC training director and contractor before moving to northern Ohio to lead the NECA chapter.

"I've been very lucky to see our industry from a lot of different vantage points," he said. "I wanted to create an environment that would get the apprentices, their families and our community excited about the opportunities ahead of them."

Sure, it isn't sports. But like in college and pro sports, getting accepted into an IBEW inside local's apprenticeship program is a highly competitive process.

Hann noted that representatives from high schools in the area were in attendance, which will help them better inform students about careers in the trades. Fatzinger said he was touched when a mother of an apprentice thanked him because her son couldn't participate in a high school graduation ceremony. He

earned his degree at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I felt like the people that were there, when they walked out of that room, they felt like they were part of something special," he said. "They were proud of their son and daughter to be involved in this program."

"The local newspaper makes a big deal when a kid signs a letter of intent to go to a [local college] to play lacrosse," Fatzinger added. "Well, the kids coming into the apprenticeship are getting a full scholarship to participate



Canton, Ohio, Local 540 apprentices were selected by signatory contractors in an NFL-style draft in June. At right, Business Manager Erik Hann, left, stands with apprentice Chase Vacco after he was selected by signatory Hilscher-Clarke. They are joined by Pro Football Hall Famer Thurman Thomas and Jason Walden, executive director of the NECA North Central Ohio Chapter.



Apprentice Josh Pitts shakes hands with Thomas after being selected by signatory Abbott Electric as Walden looks on.

The process was repeated as all 28 available apprentices were chosen by the 10 signatories on hand. Pro Football Hall of Famer Thurman Thomas gave the keynote speech. The Buffalo Bills legend owns a contracting business in western New York that employs union workers.

"The game of football is ingrained in the DNA of this country," Local 540 Business Manager Erik Hann said. "Something football fans like to do as much as watch the game of football is watch the NFL Draft. They like to visit the Hall of Fame. So we created an

in our programs. That's a big deal."

Another inspiration for Fatzinger came from watching the IDEAL National Championship on television. In that annual skills competition among electricians, IBEW members usually dominate.

He also was impressed with how NFL quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, now with the Los Angeles Rams, has made appearances over the years with his father, Tony, in support of the skilled trades. The elder Garoppolo is a retired member of Chicago Local 134.

"It made me realize we can have a great event," he said. "It's all about football and excellence. We can make a big deal of it."

The apprentices themselves range from recent high school graduates to professionals with long careers in other fields before deciding a switch to the trades was a better fit.

"Fifteen years ago, when I was in college, I really wish I would have considered this route more," Local 540 apprentice Matt Barker said. "To join a union like this, that brotherhood, is not something you're going to get in every office job."

Thomas' message to apprentices was much the same he used to prepare himself during a career that included four Super Bowl appearances.

"Dream it," he said. "Believe it. Make sure you go to the meetings. Make sure you do everything you can do to be the best you can be."

The Pro Football Hall of Fame was a fitting site for another reason. Local 540 members have been heavily involved in work there for years under a project labor

agreement, including at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium. They have also worked on the Hall of Fame Village's adjoining hotel; water park; retail district; inflatable dome; and Centennial Plaza, a \$12.3 million project in downtown Canton that was finished in 2021 to celebrate the NFL's 100th anniversary. ■

2025 CALENDAR
FEATURING OVER 2 GUNS A WEEK SWEEPSTAKES!

UNION SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE

Order Your 2025 USA Calendar

PLUS, GET ENTERED FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

104 GUNS

IN 52 WEEKS

ORDER TODAY
unionsportsmen.org/calendar-2025-usa
Questions? 877-872-2211 ext. 2 or fulfillment@unionsportsmen.org

SCAN TO ORDER
OPEN CAMERA • SCAN CODE • ORDER

‘A TRUE BELIEVER’

How Kamala Harris Built a Record of Standing With Labor – and the IBEW

▼ *Continued from page 1*

He presented Harris with an honorary IBEW dues card last September when she visited the local’s training center and held a roundtable with apprentices.

“I told her this is what we hold in our wallets, our ticket to the middle class,” Pinkasavage said. “She was very surprised and happy and said how much the IBEW means to her and President Biden — not only our support but the values that we stand for.”

Jeff Sanders, business manager of Lake Charles, La., Local 861, met Harris in 2022 after hearing her speak about the lack of rural internet service. She’d announced that the Commerce Department was allocating \$30 million to connect 22,000 Louisiana households, calling the sum a “down payment” on \$65 billion in federal investments to expand and improve America’s broadband infrastructure.

“She was very sensitive to the issues, and she had a real connection with the audience,” Sanders said. “She believes in organized labor, and she’s going to be 100% on board with us, just like Joe’s been his entire career in Washington.”

Harris made a splash at Milwaukee Local 494 on Labor Day 2020, visiting its JATC wearing two hats — U.S. senator and Biden’s running mate.

“We had a bunch of rooms set up to demonstrate what we’re teaching, and she asked questions in every one of them,” said former Business Manager Dean Warsh, now a Sixth District international representative. “It was very interactive, very much her wanting to know more.”

He also appreciated her warmth and high spirits.

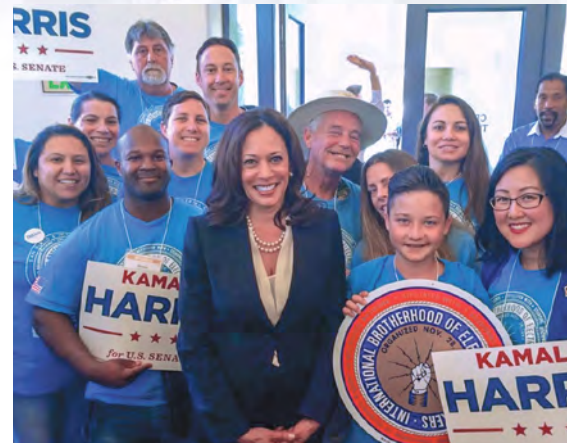
“One of the neatest things happened when we were in one of the testing labs,” Warsh said. “The instructor was talking to her and he said, ‘You know, I’ve got a daughter going to school in California, and she’s part of the same sorority that you were,’” referring to the historically Black sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha.

“You could just see her light up. She said, ‘Call her now!’ He did, but his daughter didn’t answer, so the vice president took the phone out of his hands and left her a voicemail,” Warsh recalled with delight. “Talk about someone who’s down to earth.”



Reading, Pa., Local 743 Business Manager Mark Pinkasavage presents Vice President Kamala Harris with an honorary dues card during her visit to the hall last October. While there, she toured the JATC and met with area building trades.

Members of San Diego Local 569 show their support for Harris during her successful run for the U.S. Senate. Then California’s attorney general, she won massive settlements with banks that cheated working families during the mortgage crisis.



Ten days into Harris’ run for president, Concord, N.H., Local 490 hosted a campaign stop led by Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff. Business Manager Eric Batchelor is second from left in the IBEW team selfie.



During a listening tour as co-chairs of the first-ever White House Task Force on Organizing and Worker Empowerment, Harris and then-Labor Secretary Marty Walsh meet with IBEW members and other workers at Pittsburgh Local 5 in 2021.

BETWEEN Harris’ frequent visits to union halls and her crowded, far-flung itinerary of speeches, listening tours and other events, you’d think she was always on the road.

Her record as president of the U.S. Senate, the Constitutional role of all vice presidents, says otherwise. Harris has broken more tie votes than any of her 48 predecessors, with immeasurable benefits for workers and working families.

She cracked a 50-50 deadlock in August 2022 when Democrats alone backed the \$800 billion Inflation Reduction Act, now on its way to creating an estimated 1.5 million jobs in clean energy and advanced manufacturing.

A year earlier, her vote dramatically shifted power at the National Labor Relations Board, confirming union-side lawyer Jennifer Abruzzo as general counsel.

Sweeping away all vestiges of the board’s virulent anti-union counsel during the Trump era, Abruzzo has issued

forceful policy directives to regional NLRB staff and sent precedent-changing cases to the five-member board, now controlled by Biden appointees. Together, their efforts are restoring long-eroded workers’ rights, accelerating organizing drives and punishing union-busting employers.

Harris’ tiebreakers have also put worker-friendly judges on the federal bench, which hears appeals of NLRB decisions.

THE MAGNITUDE of Harris’ swing votes can’t be overstated. But Cooper said none is more important to the financial security of union members than the one she cast to save their pensions.

As a newly elected U.S. senator from California in 2017, Harris co-sponsored the Butch Lewis Act — legislation crucial to shoring up multi-employer pension plans that were badly damaged by the 2008 recession, off-shoring and other economic blows.

The GOP repeatedly blocked the bill, proposing instead to slash the benefits of union retirees and force union pension plans in good shape, like the IBEW’s, to bear the entire cost of a rescue, which would send even the healthy plans into a death spiral.

When the COVID-19 pandemic made matters worse for the troubled plans, the White House and Democratic lawmakers insisted on inserting Butch Lewis provisions into the \$350 billion American Rescue Plan.

Not a single Republican senator crossed the aisle, leaving Harris to break the 50-50 tie in favor of workers.

This June, the White House announced that 83 endangered plans had received assistance so far, ensuring their solvency through at least 2051 and protecting robust funds, including the IBEW’s, against fallout from the GOP scheme.

“President Biden and Vice President Harris literally saved our pensions and, as I tell my members, that’s just one

of the many things they’ve done for you,” said Todd Provost, business manager of Orlando, Fla., Local 606. “Just look at the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS Act and all the work that’s rolling out for us because of them.”

In late July, Orange County Democrats asked Provost if they could use the local’s

HARRIS’ RUNNING MATE

A Look at Tim Walz’s Pro-Worker, Pro-Family Record

Tim Walz, a veteran, union member and football coach, and Minnesota’s two-term governor, brings a record of radically improving the lives of working families to Democratic Presidential candidate Kamala Harris’ ticket.

With a slender margin in the state House and Senate, Walz still signed into law bills increasing the rights and opportunities for union and nonunion workers. He barred employers from requiring attendance at union-busting captive-audience meetings and increased workplace safety protections for construction and warehouse workers, hospital and home nurses, and teachers.

Walz led an aggressive campaign against the largest form of theft in the United States, cracking down on companies that steal wages and wrongly deny overtime. He also allocated \$24 million for job training and economic development programs, including millions specifically for good-paying union jobs in construction, clean energy and energy efficiency.

“In Minnesota, Governor Walz has led one of the nation’s most pro-union, pro-worker state governments,” International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. “His record of accomplishments on behalf of workers is long and cements his status as one of this nation’s greatest friends of unions and working families.”

Walz signed laws increasing the state child tax credit, mandating paid family and medical leave, expanding all-day kindergarten, and lowering the cost of day care, all part of what he called his “plan to make Minnesota the best place to raise kids in America.”

Walz was born in a small town in rural Nebraska. He enlisted in the Army National Guard after high school and served for 24 years, attaining the rank of command



Harris has made JATCs a favorite stop over the past four years, telling crowds that it’s her mission to “visit as many IBEW locals as I can.” Here she tours Local 743 in October 2023 with apprentices Kevin Gonzalez and Julee Yeakley and, at back, Training Director Ed Bernitsky.



Courtesy of the White House

Thanking “all the linemen of the IBEW” after Phoenix Local 769 members briefed her on a new transmission line in 2023, Harris said: “It’s extraordinary what you guys are doing. It’s highly skilled work. It’s transformational.”

hall for a media event to endorse Harris. “Go for it!” he told them, opening the space to a campaign phone bank a few days later.

“What our membership needs to understand is that, while we all have our beliefs, you need to vote for what’s best for you and your family’s livelihood,” Provost said. “That means voting for the candidates who support the IBEW, your jobs and your retirement. And that means Kamala Harris.”

THE AMERICAN Rescue Plan sent urgent aid to city, county and state governments, as well as small businesses, spurring the strongest job recovery in American history. By January 2023, the jobless rate had fallen to its lowest point in a half-century.

Credit also goes to the \$1 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021. Thousands of massive projects are underway already on a near-bottomless list that includes highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, railways and water systems, as well as fortifying America’s power grid.

And two years after Harris pushed the Inflation Reduction Act into the win column, its federal ante is driving hundreds of billions of dollars more in private investments — signs of faith in the economy that are bolstering the U.S. supply chain for high-tech and clean energy manufacturing.

In Alaska, \$200 million in IRA grants announced this summer will allow utilities to build battery storage on each end of the state’s transmission system, which Anchorage Local 1547 Business Manager Doug Tansy said “will take people’s concepts of renewables and actually make them possible.”

Energy projects and broadband buildout are two of the many ways that Biden-Harris legislation is creating jobs and easing life in America’s largest and least developed state.

“We just keep getting victory after victory out of this administration, which is going to benefit our membership and all of Alaska for generations,” Tansy said. “We are going to be overrun with opportunity.”

The IRA is such a game-changer that Harris, after breaking the tie, sounded dismayed that her vote was necessary.

“Unfortunately, not a single Republican in Congress voted for the package,” she said. “Not a single Republican voted to lower the cost of prescription drugs, reduce health insurance premiums, make investments to address the climate crisis, tackle inflation or require the wealthiest corporations to pay their fair share.”

In speeches touting the IRA’s fast-paced agenda for clean energy and advanced manufacturing, Harris connects the dots to good union jobs and building-trades apprenticeships.

Ryan Husse, business manager of Ann Arbor, Mich., Local 252, was struck by Harris’ grasp of the subject and excitement when she appeared at a 2023 forum with Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, formerly Michigan’s governor.

He and some of his brothers in the trades met privately with Harris beforehand, discussing such things as the challenge of recruiting and training enough apprentices for the snowballing amount of work coming their way.

“It was a really good meeting,” Husse said. “She was very interested in how things were going for us and wanted to know how the administration could help. She could have taken the time out to meet with anybody before the event, but she chose to meet with us. That says a lot.”

During the forum, Harris lauded the surging production of electric school buses and other U.S.-based industries on the rise with the help of IRA grants and loans — and unionized workers.

“Can we give a shout-out to the absolute significance of the leadership of union labor on this point?” Harris boomed, drawing cheers.

“We are building a clean energy economy. It’s new. It’s new jobs,” she said. “It’s about saying: ‘Who’s going to do the training? See the IBEW. See what’s happening here.’ It’s going to be electricians, and it’s going to be pipefitters, and it’s going to be all of that.”

HARRIS name-dropped the IBEW twice in Ann Arbor, telling the crowd she’s “on a one-woman mission to visit as many IBEW locals as I can around our country.”

She’s put a dent in the list, winning rave reviews along the way.

“She asked good questions about apprenticeships and how they change lives — she wasn’t just there to express an opinion,” said Concord, N.H. Local 490 Business Manager Eric Batchelor, who was training director when Harris toured the facilities in 2021.

“She was genuinely interested to learn, and she’s been digging her teeth in even deeper for the last 3½ years,” he said. “She’s ready. I think she’s exactly what we want in a leader.”

The year before in Milwaukee, instructor Michele Robinson was stationed in the lighting lab as Harris popped into the rooms Local 494 set up.

“I explained to her about how our work is changing, how complicated things like lighting have gotten,” Robinson said. “When I told her we train for five years, she slapped her leg and was like ‘Five years?’ She was shocked.”

Robinson understood why: “If you don’t know about union apprenticeships, it’s an eye-opener to find out that they’re nothing like the private industry model of ‘You go learn something, you come to me knowing everything you know, maybe I give you a shot.’”

Lessons like that informed Harris’ answers last November at a forum in Boston, where Local 103 member Erick Pires thanked her for being “an avid supporter” of apprenticeships and asked why she considers them so important.

“So much of the agenda that the president and I have is about strengthening the working people of America, building the middle class, building up our infrastructure,” Harris said.

“But it’s also about our ability and need to be able to compete around the world. Well, one of the best pipelines are the apprenticeship programs. Those are hard programs. Those are difficult programs. Those are long days and often some nights working to build up extraordinary skills.”

Local 743 member Julee Yeakley, a fourth-year apprentice when Harris visited the Reading JATC in 2023, will never forget the thrill of showing her around. “I was star-struck almost,” she said. “No matter your political party, when you get to meet the vice president, it’s an overwhelming feeling.”



As top campaign staffers look on, Los Angeles Local 11 Business Manager Robert Corona speaks to fellow Democratic National Convention delegates after casting a virtual ballot for Harris in early August, saying: “She has a proven record of standing with working people. Now it’s our turn to stand with her.”

She demonstrated motor controls, cautioning Harris, “The disconnect when we flip the lever, it’s going to be very loud.”

“I didn’t want the Secret Service or her to have any surprises,” she said with a laugh.

Eight months pregnant at the time, Yeakley said Harris was “very friendly, very personable” and eagerly inquired about her due date.

She and other apprentices went on to chat with Harris about affordable child care, housing costs and other challenges for working families.

“She was very concerned about real-world problems — how we make it through in the world as we’re starting in

our careers, or as we’re finishing them,” Yeakley said.

“I could tell that she really cares. And that makes me confident that with her as president I’ll continue to have a good job with good benefits and a good pension when I retire.”

ONE OF Harris’ early assignments as vice president was leading Biden’s White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, which instilled a union ethic across the federal government.

Harris co-chaired the panel with then-Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, the first card-carrying union member in 40 years to head the department. They crossed the country for meetings with workers and organizers, hearing gut-wrenching stories about illegal firings and other employer abuses, but also inspiring accounts of how unions change lives.

The roundtables and research led to a strategy-filled report that instructs federal departments and agencies to serve as model employers and do their part to ensure that American workers have a free and fair chance to join unions.

“There’s never been a task force like it, let alone at the Cabinet level,” Cooper said. “Vice President Harris took everything she learned to heart, and it made her an even stronger ally than she was already. And by asking Gov. Walz to be her vice president, we can’t imagine a stronger team for America’s workers.”

TWO WEEKS before the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, delegate and Los Angeles Local 11 Business Manager Robert Corona attended a virtual roll call and cast his ballot for Harris.

Afterward, he was the featured speaker on a video stream hosted by top staffers at her campaign headquarters in Delaware.

“I’m voting for Kamala Harris because of her unwavering support for worker organizing and training, creating pathways to good union jobs,” Corona said, ticking off an exhaustive list of working-class supporters.

“She has a proven record of standing with working people,” he said. “Now it’s our turn to stand with her.” ■



As governor of Minnesota, Tim Walz repealed a ban on nuclear power, expanded infrastructure investments and state support for union apprenticeships, went after companies that stole worker wages, and ended captive-audience meetings.

sergeant major. It was only in 2005 that he began his first campaign, a run for Congress from a rural district that went on to vote heavily for Donald Trump two times.

With little money but a reputation earned the old-fashioned way, he won the House seat and was reelected five times. When he was sworn in, he became the highest-ranking noncommissioned officer to ever serve in Congress.

Speaking to the North America’s Building Trades Unions conference in April, Walz said: “In my first campaign for Congress, in a debate, my opponent came at me and said, ‘Tim is in the pocket of organized labor,’ and I popped back up and said: ‘That is a damn lie! I am the pocket!’”

‘Culture Change’: How an Oklahoma Local Builds an Inclusive Space for Women

When Janus Miller was apprenticing some 30 years ago, there were hardly any women on jobsites. Now, those numbers are up and the new generation isn’t just learning the trade, they’re leading the way.

“There’s a culture change going on,” said the Oklahoma City Local 1141 organizer. “Our women are really stepping up.”

There are about 50 women in the 1,700-member local. That percentage may be low, but it’s been increasing at this local and across North America, representing significant progress and meaning women today are less likely to be the only one on a jobsite.

“More and more women are coming through. I’m seeing groups of them at the hall. That’s not how it was when I was coming up,” said Miller, who was the first woman to earn Journeyman the Year at the local in 2012.

Local 1141 doesn’t have an official Women’s Committee or a specific outreach plan. Its growth has largely been organic. Some women are coming in because of a post they saw on social media. A few are following their relatives who are in the trades. Others are finding their way through organizations like the National Association of Women in Construction. And of course, women are also coming in through the efforts of organizers like Miller.

“We try to jump on anything we can,” said Miller, who’s recruited women everywhere from jobsites to the Waffle House. “I have no problem talking to anyone about the trade.”

The Institute for Women’s Policy Research has found that union-sponsored apprenticeships tend to have higher percentages of women than non-union apprenticeships, and that the completion rate for women electricians was nearly three times as high in union programs than in nonunion ones.

These facts aren’t surprising to Miller.

“When the women realize what the union fights for, from wages to licensing, I can get in with them,” she said. “They like that they don’t need anyone else to pay the bills or have insurance and a retirement plan.”

Shylena Littlejohn worked as a carpenter for 13 years, then decided to move into electrical work. She started on the nonunion side but eventually reached a point where she wanted the kind of benefits that provide health care and a secure future. Now, as a construction electrician with Local 1141, she has that and more. And while she said it can be hard to be one of the only women CEs, it’s a lot better than what she experienced in her previous jobs.

“A union gives you the most level playing field there is,” she said. “It’s the only time I’ve experienced it in my career.”

When fourth-year apprentice Fallyn Sims moved with her husband from Nebraska to Oklahoma, she wasn’t planning to follow him into the trade. (They met when he was working as a traveler.) But after working as a stay-at-home mom for a few years, she decided to try her hand at electrical work.

“I love it,” she said. “It’s never monotonous. You can be running wires one day and terminating devices another. No two wire pulls are ever the same.”

Sims isn’t just succeeding in her apprenticeship. She’s also getting involved with the local at every chance she gets. She attends almost every union meeting and was part of Local 1141’s 100th-anniversary planning committee. She’s put together student groups and attended the IBEW International Convention and women’s conferences.



An increasing number of women are joining Oklahoma City Local 1141, and they’re excelling at the trade and taking on leadership roles. Above, Brittany Aguallo, front row center in black, graduating with her brothers and another sister. At right, instructor and Audit Committee Chair Sherrie Whorton works at Tinker Air Force base doing medium-voltage terminations.

“My nickname is Mom,” she jokes. “Wherever you need me, just put me in there.”

Like a good parent, Sims is also looking out for the next generation and thinking about how to bring more women in. She’d like to see a pre-apprenticeship for women and a maternity benefit, which she’s been talking to Portland, Ore., Local 48’s business manager about. Local 48, along with other Oregon locals, started providing the benefit in 2020.

“It’s a big issue with younger women,” she said. “They worry about getting pregnant during the apprenticeship. Right now, we only have short-term disability.”

When first-year apprentice Laura Strange talks to other women about what she does for a living, she says there’s usually shock at first, then intrigue, then a lot of questions.

“I encourage any woman to give it a try,” she said. “I tell them it’s not scary, that there’s no reason they can’t do it.”

A second-generation member, she saw from an early age all the benefits that IBEW membership offered. And her dad, also a Local 1141 member, always talked highly of the women he worked with.

“My dad was excited when I joined,” Strange said. “He’s always told me that I can do anything I put my mind to. I’m just sorry I didn’t do it sooner.”

Like Miller, Sherrie Whorton has been around long enough to witness the culture change in the trades firsthand.

“Over the past 20-plus years, I’ve seen so much evolution within the trades and especially within Local 1141,” said the instructor and Audit Committee chair. “When I first got into the trades, the acceptance level was so small. There was a lot more discrimination. That acceptance of women has increased dramatically. It’s made my own experience life-changing.”

While women still encounter discrimination on the job, for Whorton it’s an invitation to prove herself and dismantle the myth that women can’t do the work. That drive to shatter stereotypes is also why she takes on leadership roles, both within Local 1141 and the local labor movement.



Aguallo shows her IBEW pride at the Tradeswomen Build Nations conference in Washington, D.C., in December 2023.

While some aspects of being a tradeswoman continue to be a challenge — Roush said proper-fitting personal protective

equipment is an ongoing obstacle — she appreciates the abundance of opportunities that Local 1141 has offered her. She’s active in the local CLUW chapter and represented the local at the Young Women Worker’s Academy, a multi-day workshop put on by fellow CLUW members.

“I’ve gained a lot of confidence over the past five years,” Roush said. “I’ve found a support network in other union tradeswomen that runs deep, and I’ve gotten to meet some exceptional folks through the union.”

It’s not just the sisters of Local 1141 who are creating a more inclusive atmosphere for women; it’s the brothers, too. Brittany Aguallo never thought she’d be an electrician, but the husband of a co-worker — a local 1141 member — encouraged her to apply to the apprenticeship.

“He shared his experience and love of the trade and encouraged me to expand my interest,” said the former cellphone repair technician. “The apprenticeship was the best decision I ever made to improve my skill set and quality of life.”

Like her sisters, Aguallo has seen firsthand how women can strengthen a jobsite. Whether it’s a tendency for attention to detail, communication skills or just offering a different perspective, women bring a lot of value to the electrical trade.

“I believe men and women complement each other,” Aguallo said. “There have been many times my small hands have been the most valuable and efficient tools for job tasks, and my smaller body has allowed me to safely complete work where for others it would be unattainable.”

It’s a benefit that a lot of brothers have noticed, too. Strange said foremen have told her how much they appreciate having women on the job.

“It creates a positive atmosphere. With a mix of genders, we all do well,” Strange said. “I know that I’m appreciated for the work I do, and that makes me want to work more and better.” ■

“I actually love being a minority within the trades and continually exceeding the expectations of tradesmen,” said Whorton, who serves as the vice president of the Oklahoma City chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women. “I love being in leadership roles so I can stand as proof that women belong in the trades — and that we can excel at it.”

Whorton credits Local 1141 with having created a culture of support that’s encouraged her to reach her full potential.

“The brotherhood and sisterhood gained through 1141 has been life-altering. Anytime I have come up with a new idea that would benefit the local or a charitable event that could benefit from our support, they’ve been there,” said Whorton, who is thinking of starting a mentorship program for women as her next project. “When women within the local succeed, the local as a whole succeeds.”

Fourth-year apprentice Abby Roush originally thought she’d get a biology degree and work in STEM — science, technology, engineering and math. But when she saw what student-loan debt and a lack of well-paying jobs were doing to her friends, she decided to expand her career options.

“As soon as I got my hands on some electrical work, I was hooked,” said Roush, who started with Tulsa Local 584 before moving to Local 1141 in 2022.

Roush said she’s had mixed experiences on the job when it comes to gender-based discrimination, but Local 1141 has been very welcoming. That sense of solidarity is something she makes sure to extend to other apprentices.

“One of my favorite things to do is hand out Weingarten Rights cards,” she said of the cards that let union members know what their representation rights are.

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

Vigilance Helps Bring a Contractor in Ontario Back to the IBEW

Several years ago, members of Kitchener, Ontario, Local 804 started taking notice of a nonunion contractor doing business in the local's jurisdiction, and they had a hunch.

"Our organizers kept seeing this company showing up more and more on resumes, LinkedIn and social media," Business Manager Derek Brooks said. And as local leaders did some digging, "it all started to line up."

The contractor, Brooks said, appeared to have many of the same traits as one where Local 804 had conducted a successful card-certification campaign in 2013, an organizing win that brought the workers of a small residential and industrial-commercial-institutional electrical contractor into the IBEW.

Brooks recalled that the firm's owners had not welcomed the local's organizing effort. "During the campaign, they threatened to close up shop," he said.

Almost immediately after the certifying agreement was signed, the seven-year-old company "disappeared," Brooks said. Four of the workers remained IBEW members, he noted, and went on to become general foremen for other contractors.

Whether this new company was truly the old one operating under a new name was important for Local 804 to find out: The previous firm's owners had also signed an agreement stating that if they got involved in another electrical business, the local could extend IBEW membership to those workers, as well.

In November 2020, the local filed a formal request with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, seeking to confirm the suspicions. Preliminary evidence supporting the local's claim was reviewed at a mediation meeting the following February, and the case was sent to a formal hearing scheduled for January 2022.

The local took advantage of the intervening months to secure a labour board order compelling the contractor to produce paperwork that the IBEW believed would prove that the former company and the current one were the same and that only the name had been changed.

The hearing date also was far enough away to allow the local's leaders to work through the documents while also managing the day-to-day duties of leading a busy 1,200-member local, whose inside and outside construction jurisdiction runs from the greater Kitchener and Waterloo area north to the Bruce Peninsula on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.

"We went through thousands of documents," said Brooks, a 30-year

IBEW member. "Without this confidential information, we had no way to fully prove our case."

Local 804's leadership team reviewed and cataloged such items as government filings and corporate financial records, as well as business communications and lists of projects, assets and customers.

"It was a long game of sifting," Brooks said. It was necessary work, too: "The pertinent information can be well hidden."

The vigilance paid off when, more than two years after the hearing, the labour board in February handed down several decisions in Local 804's favour.

The board agreed that the local successfully established that a business sale had, in fact, occurred. It also ruled that the new company's relationship with a separate, companion firm that does



related electronics work is a 50-50 partnership, meaning that its workers also were able to be organized by Local 804.

"We were within our rights to force them to lay off all of their existing workers and hire from us," Brooks said. "But what type of union message would that send? It's not what we stand for."

Brooks said that 12 new members were brought into Local 804 as a result, and that the working relationship with the signatory contractor was a good one.

"They started hiring from us," he said, using the local's dispatch

system, "and they're sending people in for training."

The business manager gave kudos to Local 804 organizer Dave Graham for staying on top of things.

"Organizing is the key to market share," Brooks said. "It can turn into a long game."

"All of us must stay as vigilant and persistent like the men and women of Local 804," said First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk. "That's a proven way to grow our ranks and capture more work." ■

Pictured with members of Kitchener, Ontario, Local 804 are Business Manager Derek Brooks, third from left, and organizer Dave Graham, second from right.

Share your IBEW news!

IBEW Canada is seeking impactful stories from local unions and members. Please contact Shaina Hardie at Shaina_Hardie@ibew.org.

La vigilance a ramené un entrepreneur d'Ontario à la FIOE

Il y a plusieurs années, les membres de la section locale 804 à Kitchener en Ontario ont remarqué qu'un entrepreneur non syndiqué travaillait sur leur territoire et le local a eu un pressentiment.

« Nos organisateurs syndicaux ont constaté que le nom de cette entreprise apparaissait de plus en plus dans les curriculums vitæ, LinkedIn et les médias sociaux », déclare Derek Brooks, le gérant d'affaires. En faisant quelques fouilles, « tout commençait à s'aligner ».

Selon M. Brooks, l'entrepreneur avait un comportement similaire à celui d'un entrepreneur pour lequel la section locale 804 avait mené avec succès une campagne de syndicalisation en 2013; une victoire qui a permis à la main-d'œuvre d'un entrepreneur électrique du secteur industriel, commercial et institutionnel à adhérer à la FIOE.

M. Brooks se souvient que le propriétaire de l'entreprise n'était pas accueillant envers les efforts de syndicalisation du local : « au cours de la campagne, ils menaçaient de fermer leurs portes ».

Après la signature de la convention collective, l'entreprise de sept ans a presque aussitôt « disparu », prononce M. Brooks. Quatre travailleurs sont restés membres de la FIOE et devenus des contremaîtres généraux à l'emploi d'autres entrepreneurs, ajoute M. Brooks.

C'était important au local 804 de savoir si l'entreprise d'aujourd'hui était réellement celle d'aujourd'hui qui exerçait ses activités sous un nouveau nom. Les anciens propriétaires avaient aussi signé une entente qui prévoyait que s'ils s'engageaient avec une autre entreprise électrique, le local pouvait aussi accueillir ces nouveaux membres dans la FIOE.

En novembre 2020, le local a présenté une demande officielle auprès de la Commission des relations du travail de l'Ontario dans le but de confirmer les soupçons. Les preuves recueillies lors de l'enquête préliminaire ont permis d'appuyer les allégations du local et ont été entendues lors d'une séance de médiation au mois de février suivant et le dossier a été envoyé à une audience officielle prévue en janvier 2022.

Au cours de ces mois, le local en a profité pour obtenir une ordonnance auprès de la commission du travail pour que l'entreprise rédige des documents qui, selon la FIOE, prouveraient que l'ancienne entreprise et celle d'aujourd'hui étaient la même et seul le nom avait changé.

La date de l'audience était assez loin pour permettre aux leaders du local de passer à travers les documents tout en continuant à gérer les tâches quotidiennes de la section locale très active de 1 200 membres; dont les territoires des électriciens et des monteurs de lignes se situent dans la grande

région de Waterloo-Kitchener vers le nord de la péninsule de Bruce sur le lac Huron et la baie Georgienne.

« Nous avons passé à travers des milliers de documents », exprime M. Brooks, trente ans membre de la FIOE. « Sans cette information confidentielle, le bien-fondé de notre cause aurait été difficile à prouver. »

Le leadership du local 804 a examiné ces documents officiels et ces états financiers pour les cataloguer, ainsi que les communications professionnelles et les listes de projets, les actifs et la clientèle.

« Il y avait beaucoup à démêler », prononce M. Brooks, mais c'était aussi nécessaire, « l'information pertinente peut être bien cachée. »

La vigilance a porté ses fruits, car plus de deux ans après la tenue de l'audience, la commission a rendu en février plusieurs décisions en faveur de la section locale 804.

La commission était d'accord que le local avait bien réussi à prouver qu'une vente avait eu lieu. Elle a également conclu que la relation de la nouvelle entreprise avec une entreprise qui effectue des travaux électroniques connexes est un partenaire à part égal, c'est-à-dire que la main-d'œuvre pouvait

aussi être syndiquée par le local 804.

« Nous étions en droit de les obliger à licencier leurs travailleurs actuels et d'embaucher les nôtres », formule M. Brooks. « Mais quel serait le message syndical véhiculé? Ça va à l'encontre de nos convictions. »

Par conséquent, douze nouveaux membres se sont joints au local 804 et il y avait une bonne relation de travail avec l'entrepreneur signataire, raconte M. Brooks.

« Ils ont commencé à nous embaucher », à l'aide de notre système de placement, « et ils envoyaient des gens en formation. »

Le gérant d'affaires a félicité Dave Graham, l'organisateur du local 804 d'avoir resté à l'affut.

« La syndicalisation est la clé du taux de représentativité », émet M. Brooks. « Ça peut devenir un travail de longue haleine. »

« Nous devons toutes et tous rester vigilants et persistants comme les hommes et les femmes du local 804 », déclare Russ Shewchuk, vice-président international du Premier District. « Il s'agit d'une méthode qui a fait ses preuves pour augmenter le nombre de nos membres et pour obtenir plus de travail. » ■

Racontez-nous vos nouvelles FIOE!

La FIOE cherche des histoires marquantes des sections locales et des membres. Veuillez communiquer avec Shaina Hardie à Shaina_Hardie@ibew.org.

GROUND^{ED} IN HISTORY

Look for the Union Label

This Labor Day, let us explore the history of the “union label” and urge everyone to support union label goods and services all year.

In the early days of union organization, long before the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, many struggling unions survived because of one factor: Brother and sister unionists demanded and purchased union label goods. Because of public pressure, many manufacturers had to recognize the union to stay in business.

The union label is as rich in tradition as just about any emblem in history. From the days of early Rome when Numa Pompilius organized the crafts of his day into guilds, various groups of organized workers have used symbols to distinguish their products in the marketplace.

The guilds from which modern labor unions are directly descended were those of the ancient Saxons. In eighth-century England, craft guilds provided one instrument of law and order, and the resemblance of a sound social structure. Out of the guilds developed the guild merchants, who operated using their own capital to protect their property from theft by nobles and ruling classes. From one such guild in the 15th century, the Goldsmith’s Company, it is thought that the union label as we know it today originated. Goldsmiths imprinted their “trademark” or stamp on gold and silver articles to attest to their purity and quality of their workmanship.



The August 1956 Electrical Worker featured an article on union labels.

While the union label principle was born in the Old World, it was in the New World that it gained its greatest strength. The cigar makers of the Pacific Coast are generally acknowledged as creating the earliest union label in America. First produced in 1875, the label was a symbol to consumers that the cigar was made under union conditions and not in an unregulated sweat shop.

In the 1880s, the union label was adopted by numerous trades, including the hatters, typographical unions and the cigar makers. In 1886 and 1887, the United Garment Workers of America, the Coopers’ International Union, the Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union, the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, and the International Molders and Foundry Workers Union of North America adopted labels.

Through the 1890s, the union label quickly became a device to promote trade unionism, and more and more members demanded to see labels on the goods they bought. In 1891, the Journeymen Barbers and Retail Clerks adopted union shop cards as their label. In 1892, the United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers created their own label. In 1893, the Broom and Whisk Makers’ Union followed suit. The Horseshoers, Laundry Workers and Tobacco Workers were all added to the label roster in 1895. In 1896, the Hotel and Restaurant Employees, and Bartenders’ International Union debuted shop cards and working buttons. And in 1897, the American Federation of Musicians, the Machinists and the Metal Polishers all joined the label family.

Which brings us to the IBEW. The official emblem, that of the clenched fist grasping lightning bolts, was adopted at the founding convention in 1891. But it wasn’t until 1905, at the Ninth Convention, that a resolution was passed to regulate the label. The resolution stated that the “IBEW Union Label must appear on all electrical devices, apparatus, fixtures and machines, before being installed or maintained by a member of the IBEW, and urging all members of locals to do all in their power to further the use of the Union Label.”

In 1909, the American Federation of Labor created the Union Label and Service Trades Department. This centralized the business of label advertising and has continued to support the union label as one of the greatest assets of organized labor — a rallying point for all union workers. In the pioneering days of unionism, it was by patronizing vendors with the label and boycotting those without it that many struggling unions were able to survive.

Today, practically every union of the AFL-CIO has a union label or shop card, or both. ■

Visit nbew-ibewmuseum.org for more on how to support the IBEW’s preservation of its history. Have an idea for this feature? Send it to Curtis_Bateman@ibew.org.

POWER AT WORK

San Diego Locals Flex Their Muscle



Turning out in unmissable numbers for City Council meetings proved crucial for the members of San Diego Local 465 in their successful fight against a job-killing ballot initiative to give the city government control of investor-owned San Diego Gas and Electric.

Local 465 Members Help Stop City Takeover of SDG&E

More than 1,500 IBEW members who work for San Diego Gas and Electric are claiming victory — and breathing a little easier — after the San Diego City Council unanimously voted in June to squash a citizens’ initiative to force the municipal government to take over operation of the utility’s operations within the city’s limits.

“This was Union Busting 101,” said Nate Fairman, business manager of San Diego Local 465, which has represented SDG&E workers for more than 100 years.

If the municipalization effort had been successful, he said, it would have put hundreds of IBEW jobs at risk, jeopardized the pay and benefits of those left behind, and harmed the local’s bargaining power.

“The takeover would have gutted our century-old contract with SDG&E and hurt my members’ ability to provide for their families,” Fairman said. “It was just reckless.”

The defeat of the Power San Diego municipalization campaign was largely thanks to the work of Local 465 and other members of Responsible Energy San Diego, an alliance of labor unions, economic organizations and businesses.

What also helped was the work IBEW members across San Diego put in over the last 10 years to help elect a solid pro-worker majority to the City Council, a body that for too long had an anti-worker track record.

“Our activism won out,” Fairman said. “Our members showed up to every meeting [about municipalization] with the mayor and City Council, and we fought hard to ensure that the frontline workers’ concerns were front and center.”

Conversations surrounding SDG&E’s municipalization began in



Local 465 Business Manager Nate Fairman says “we’ll be ready” for any future threats to IBEW jobs.

earnest several years ago when the City Council was in negotiations with the utility to renew its franchise agreement.

“The biggest misconception was that the city takeover would lead to lower rates, but it’s not that simple,” Fairman said.

One study found that buying SDG&E to municipalize it could cost San Diegans as much as \$9.3 billion in bond-backed startup and purchasing costs, \$3.9 billion in lost revenue from property taxes and franchise fees, and as much as \$400 million in annual interest payments.

“This debt would be 100% funded through our electric bills and would mean higher costs for all of us,” Fairman said.

Far more worrying, he said, was how the IBEW would fit into a municipalization picture. “The city taking over SDG&E would have destroyed our union contract,” Fairman said.

PSD’s backers claimed that their proposal included protections for IBEW-represented workers. “There was only one sentence mentioning union labor,” Fairman noted. When the PSD plan was drafted, he said, “they didn’t reach out to us.”

When PSD launched a full-blown effort last fall to force the government takeover plan onto the November 2024 election ballot, Local 465 and the rest of RESD were ready to spend the next months building support for their side.

“Coalition building and solidarity in the San Diego labor movement were crucial,” Fairman said. “Bob Dean at [Vacaville, Calif.] Local 1245 also helped us tremendously; they’ve been fighting similar efforts up in San Francisco.”

SDG&E backed the IBEW’s efforts as well, something Fairman credits to the union’s Code of Excellence program. “Working together, we spent a year developing the Code,” he said. “Now we have Code stickers on all the trucks. Our partnership within the framework of the Code was crucial to delivering this victory.”

The first big win came in April when the council’s Rules Committee reviewed proposed measures for November’s ballot. Dozens of IBEW members and their allies were on hand at the hearing, many wearing hardhats and carrying signs, to register their opposition. “We mobilized dozens of members to go to meetings to make our voices heard,” Fairman said.

After the Rules Committee voted against allowing the ballot measure to proceed, PSD tried launching a petition

campaign to get the issue onto the ballot. The drive netted a fraction of the required number of valid signatures, but enough were collected to require the full City Council to consider the ballot question again.

At the council's June meeting, a force of IBEW members was present again to testify against the proposal. "That vote was the biggest showdown," Fairman said.

The council voted unanimously to

"This was Union Busting 101. It was just reckless."

— San Diego Local 465 Business Manager Nate Fairman

reject the measure. "The frontline union workers' voices carried the day," Fairman said. "We got a crucial win by clearly laying out the risks to utility workers and to the city."

The victory in San Diego was the latest among similar IBEW accomplishments. Last year, members of Manchester, Maine, Local 1837 led a successful statewide fight against a referendum

that proposed allowing the state government to buy Central Maine Power and Versant Power, and the members of El Paso, Texas, Local 960 worked to defeat a ballot measure that could have led to a city takeover of El Paso Electric. Both plans also would have jeopardized hundreds of IBEW jobs.

Fairman said the San Diego municipalization plan may not be dead. "We now have a strong group of member activists ready to take on anything

thrown our way," he said. "If this or any other attack comes up again, we'll be ready for it."

Ninth District International Vice President Dave Reaves appreciated Local 465's work. "Thanks to our members' strong relationships with city leaders and our partnership with SDG&E, we were able to count on them to stick with us to help put down this expensive and ill-conceived attack on working people," Reaves said. ■

Local 569 Powers Up First Electric Tugboat

When the developers of the first fully electric tugboat in the United States were looking to plug it in somewhere in the Port of San Diego, they turned to the charging station experts with San Diego Local 569 to build the first of what's hoped will be many such shoreside stations.

"Local 569 is proud to be the workforce at the port that's laying the electrical groundwork for the eWolf tugboat," said Business Manager Jeremy Abrams. "It's all work that we already know how to do."

This past spring, as many as 10 members of Local 569, working for IBEW signatory contractor Baker Electric, could be found installing a state-of-the-art microgrid and related shoreside power infrastructure at Crosby Pier, at the northern end of the 10th Avenue Marine Terminal and not far from the Coronado Bridge.

"One thing I was excited about with this project was how the IBEW was leading the way on it," Abrams said.

The new charging station, designed to draw power from the local grid during off-peak hours, was built in consultation with Crowley Marine Services, the shipping and logistics company that was awarded federal and state grants worth \$18 million toward the design and construction of the eWolf and its charging station.

At Crosby Pier, Local 569's electricians installed a 40-kw solar cell canopy that supplements the shoreside microgrid's power needs while providing shade for cabinet banks containing the charging station's 500-kw batteries. Workers also replaced the site's 750-kilovolt-ampere utility service transformer with a 1,500-kVA model, and they put in new switch gear, electrical conduits and cables, 10 AC/DC converter cubicles and isolation transformers.

Union access to projects like this one in the greater San Diego area has gotten easier in recent years, thanks in large part to the determined efforts of Local 569 members and the other building trades unions — first by working to get majorities of labor-friendly City Council members elected in San Diego and neighboring Chula Vista, and then by lobbying those leaders to overturn their cities' bans on project labor agreements and enact new PLAs. (Learn more in the April edition of *The Electrical Worker*.)



Photos courtesy of Brian Campbell, Local 40

Members of San Diego Local 569 built a shoreside microgrid charging station for Crowley Marine Services's eWolf, the first fully electric tugboat in the U.S. At left, company Vice Chair Christine Crowley christening the eWolf in June.

now in place is the first of what is hoped will be many more such stations — not just in San Diego but across North America — helping the IBEW gain steady construction and maintenance work in the expanding port and boat electrification industry.

"We know the positive impact that transitioning from dirty fuel to clean electricity will make."

— San Diego Local 569 Business Manager Jeremy Abrams

Meanwhile, Crowley is developing several more eWolf sister tugboats. Thanks to the Port of San Diego project, Abrams said, the IBEW now has a leg up on capturing work building the shoreside charging stations

for those e-tugs, too.

"Our partnership with the port is exemplary of Local 569's decades-long commitment to being at the forefront of California's transition to a green, clean energy economy," the business manager said, "from being among the first in the nation to develop a training program in solar technologies in 1999, to ensuring each of our members receives Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program certification."

The nonprofit EVITP was developed in a collaboration that included the IBEW alongside automotive, utility and manufacturing industry partners.

"Climate-friendly projects like this one, which helps the industry rethink the way tugboats are powered, are something that the IBEW can get enthusiastically behind," said Ninth District International Vice President Dave Reaves, whose jurisdiction includes California. "The highly trained and highly skilled members of the IBEW will have a clear advantage in guiding this new industry along, giving our union another great opportunity to showcase what our members can do while helping locals increase their market share." ■



On hand for the eWolf's recent christening were, from left, Ninth District International Representative Micah Mitrosky; San Diego Local 569 Political Director Cori Schumacher and Business Manager Jeremy Abrams; and Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 Lead Organizer Kyle Kaiser.

ORGANIZING WIRE

SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGY

With ‘Speed and Stealth,’ IBEW Organizes Pa. Chemical Plant Local 724 Is Third District’s First New Charter in Decades

More than 200 hourly workers at one of the largest U.S. petrochemical plants are now members of the IBEW’s newest local after a successful organizing election vote May 23.

Monaca, Pa., Local 724 is the first new local chartered in the Third District in at least two decades and is the new home of operations and maintenance workers at Shell’s plastics production plant in Monaca.

At peak, more than 1,700 members of Beaver Local 712 were building the plant, which converts the abundant natural gas from the Marcellus Shale into tons of polyethylene pellets, an ingredient in a vast range of products from potato chip bags to car parts.

But after a nearly all-union construction workforce built the facility, the plant’s permanent workforce was non-union starting when production kicked off in 2019.

Many of the new hires were former union members, said Third District Lead Organizer Mike McGee, including many IBEW members laid off after the Beaver Valley power plant and the Bruce Mansfield coal powerhouse were shut down.

But when Regional Organizing Coordinator Steve Rockafellow, and later McGee, began approaching the workers about forming a union, not only was there no enthusiasm — there was fear.

“People were getting fired all the time, for stupid things — not following policies that had been promulgated the day before and that they’d never seen. The powerhouses cut a lot of people loose, and the Shell jobs paid well,” McGee said. “They were scared of being on the street. They were scared to try to change it. They were just scared.”

They heard from people wanting to organize, but they tended to disappear after a few calls or texts.

“I got a text that said: ‘Couple guys got fired. Everybody is scared. Workers are upset. We need to try and organize. This is the time,’” McGee said. “I wrote back, ‘Do you have any co-workers that are interested?’ and he says, ‘I’ll talk to some people.’ Then... nothing. I called him once, ‘What’s the feeling?’ and he says, ‘I’m still working on talking to people.’ I never heard back.”

Which is normal.

Shell is a quarter-trillion-dollar multinational oil and gas behemoth with 103,000 employees. A blue-collar job that pays six figures in western Pennsylvania is treasure.

“By the end of June, we gave up

on it,” McGee said. “We will have to sit and wait until they get more angry than scared.”

They heard nothing for six months.

As summer turned to fall, McGee, Rockafellow, Third District International Representative Kris Anderson and district International Vice President Dennis Affinati developed a plan for a stealth organizing campaign, fast and silent.

And there it sat until January, when an operator at the plant reached out to McGee.

They scheduled a first meeting at his house for Jan. 19.

Four people showed up.

“I told them about the need for speed and stealth. I want management to find out we’re here when we file for the election,” McGee said. “And whatever you do, I said, only talk to people who are friends or people you trust, and never promise something we cannot deliver.”

Three of the four people who met in that basement — Rick Hinds, Shaun Butler and Jeremy McWithey — became the backbone of the volunteer organizing committee. Hinds was former IBEW. Butler and McWithey were ex-Steelworkers. They all worked in different departments, and the signatures of support for a union came pouring in: 30 in the month, 75 by March. They held meetings, now not just in basements, and many more than four people came.

Rockafellow and McGee settled on a 190-member bargaining unit. Before heading into an election where you need to win by 50% plus one vote, 75 cards simply wasn’t enough. They needed to risk a higher profile.

“At that point, we decided to call every unit member and say: ‘I’m sure you are aware — we are organizing. You have questions or concerns, I would be happy to address them, one-on-one or in the meetings,’” McGee said.

They got 22 more cards in a few weeks — for a total of 97 — and no more. Was it enough to hazard an election vote?

“In the end, we took a risk. An informed risk, but a risk,” Affinati said. They set up a meeting with the plant manager.

“He was so surprised when I said we had majority support and asked for voluntary recognition. Mum was the word,” McGee said. “They opted for an election, and we filed immediately.”

Then Shell did something unexpected. It didn’t go to war. Management held captive-audience meetings, but they weren’t scorched earth and the company didn’t start firing organizers.



After a successful election in June, the IBEW chartered Monaca, Pa., Local 724 to be the new home of about 230 workers at the Shell Polymers plant in western Pennsylvania.

It didn’t slander unions. It didn’t fight the unit structure or attempt to delay the election. Shell even asked the election date to be moved up.

“They weren’t neutral, but they weren’t nuclear either,” McGee said.

The election was held over two days, May 23 and 24, to make sure every shift had a voice. In the end, it wasn’t even close.

About 30 new unit members have been hired since, bringing the new local to about 220 members. Negotiations for the first contract began in late July, Affinati said.

“I’m so proud. In my career, it’s often been closing a local or merging a local. I can’t tell you the last time we chartered a local,” Affinati said. “But this should be the first of many. By the time I retire, I want to be able to do it in my sleep.” ■

CALL CENTER

Persistence Pays Off With ‘Long Overdue’ Win at California Utility

It was decades in the making, but the call center workers at utility company Southern California Edison finally have a voice on the job, thanks to the efforts of a dedicated volunteer organizing committee and Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47.

“This one has been long overdue,” Business Manager Colin Lavin said. “It’s been really great to see it all the way to the finish line.”

Local 47 has represented workers at SCE since the 1940s. Most of those employees, currently about 4,200 out of the utility’s roughly 12,000 total, work in jobs centered around construction and maintenance of the power grid, anything from power generation to transmission lines, substations and distribution lines. But there’s long been a desire among the call center staff to have representation as well. Attempts have been made over the past few decades, but none came to fruition.

This time was different. A lot of the issues would be familiar to organizers and other call center workers — poor management, new systems that don’t do what they’re supposed to and end up causing more problems, a lack of proper training and support. But this time morale hit rock bottom. And this time the workers were fired up and willing to put it all on the line.

“It’s about being viewed as a person and not a number,” said Martin Gaitan, an energy adviser and member of the volunteer organizing committee. “It doesn’t matter if I’m a leader or a good worker. If I don’t get the right metrics, it could lead to disciplinary action, up to termination.”

As call center employees, Gaitan and his co-workers are tasked with assisting anyone from residential customers to commercial clients. Any number of issues can arise on the other end of the line, and it’s their job to solve the problem and make sure the situation is handled amicably.

It’s not always easy, but it’s work they know how to do and they do it well — when they’re given the right tools. But when a new phone system was implemented, ostensibly to enhance performance, their jobs got harder instead of easier. Employee morale, as well as customer service, started to decline.

“When I started, there was an

emphasis on quality customer support. We wanted to be the best. But it’s gone downhill,” said Norma Diaz, an energy adviser who’s been with the company for about eight years. “I don’t hear that anymore.”

The new phone system emphasizes statistics that don’t accurately measure what the employees are dealing with — they don’t allow for the countless variations and exceptions that could occur on any given call — but it also comes with the consequences of being disciplined and even terminated if they don’t hit the right numbers. Someone could have great numbers one month but if they dropped the next, they could be on the chopping block.

“So many of the workers have bad anxiety because they’re afraid of getting fired,” Local 47 organizer Andrew McKercher said. “Close to 10% of the call center is on leave because of how their job has affected them mentally.”

Discipline often meant losing the ability to work from home and having to come into the office, where they were supposed to get “performance enhancement” training. That’s not what happened.

“The performance enhancement plan was more of a punishment than anything else,” Gaitan said. “I’m all for enhancement plans that meet objectives or goals. Sadly, this plan was not



Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 organizers Andrew McKercher, left, and Rick Garcia worked with call center workers at Southern California Edison to help them win representation, something the local had been working toward for decades.



Members of the SCE volunteer organizing committee, from left: Katie Smith, Paloma Gonzalez, Martin Gaitan, Norinda Ojeda and Norma Diaz.

what it was advertised as.”

On top of that, when the campaign started last September, there were 354 workers on the call center list. By the time they filed the petition, there were only 280, McKercher said, likely due to the outsourcing of those 74 jobs to Mexico. It’s a practice that started two to three years ago, Diaz said. And those representatives weren’t getting adequate training either.

“Those reps only take certain calls, and when an issue doesn’t get resolved, it creates more issues for us,” said Diaz, who was also on the organizing committee.

In addition to the new phone system, and what Diaz and Gaitan said were near constant changes with no transparency or fairness, SCE was also cutting back on benefits. New hires were no longer eligible for a pension. Performance statistics were also used to determine things like scheduling and time off instead of the former seniority-based system. Like a lot of companies, management tried to assuage everyone with a raise. But money was never what the campaign was about, McKercher said. It was about working conditions and respect.

“They failed to realize that the

workers were unionizing because they didn’t like how they were being treated,” McKercher said. “A raise is nice, but that wasn’t going to solve their problems.”

For Diaz, the organizing campaign wasn’t about painting SCE in a poor light so much as it was about making the company better.

“Edison is a great company. I came from a job with no benefits,” she said. “But everyone wants a positive work environment. We all just want to be comfortable.”

Issues like being assigned overtime with little or no notice, with no regard for an employee’s other responsibilities like finding child care, also contributed, Gaitan said.

“They talk about a work-life balance, but there isn’t one,” he said. “It directly clashes with their frequently mentioned mental health commitment.”

Gaitan remembers the previous organizing drives. Things were bad then, too, but this time around, the conditions were no longer tenable.

“Things had gotten so bad that it didn’t seem like it could get any worse,” he said. “The work environment just kept getting more and more toxic.”

This was also the first time that he volunteered to help with the campaign.

“I never thought I’d be involved, but there was a need for leadership,” said Gaitan, who’s been with the company for over 20 years.

With so many people working from home, it was hard to reach everyone and engage with them face-to-face, but the organizing committee persevered. They held meetings at an Applebee’s near the main office and divided up contact lists. They asked everybody to contact one or two people they knew to help spread the word. They reached out to the Research Department at the International Office for help with getting contact information for those they couldn’t otherwise reach. Having long-time workers on board like Gaitan, who were trusted and had strong reputations to stand on, also helped.

“It was very grassroots,” Gaitan said. “It’s because of the people who were involved that we were successful.”

They also listened to their coworkers and made sure they knew they were being heard, Diaz and Gaitan said.

“Our success came from addressing everyone’s concerns, from training to benefits to the constant changes that weren’t having a positive impact,” Diaz said. “It was about getting more empathy and less anxiety.”

They filed for the election with about 55% support, knowing there was still another 30% of the unit they hadn’t yet contacted. But once they got the voter list, and some help from call center workers out of Vacaville Local 1245, they phone-banked all the workers they hadn’t contacted before.

“After the first week, it was very evident we had a really strong campaign,” McKercher said.

They won the final vote with 85% voting yes.

“This success comes from our strong volunteer committee and all the work they put in, as well as the support of Business Manager Lavin who gave us the resources, time and flexibility to do our job,” McKercher said.

Next up are contract negotiations. Gaitan said he’d like to see a more streamlined and consistent training process where team members can interact face-to-face, which has more value than virtual training. He also wants a more level playing field.

“At the core, most everybody wants to do well at their job, but the constraints don’t allow for that,” he said. “We need an atmosphere that’s less stressful and more fair and transparent. That’s how we all succeed.” ■

TRANSITIONS

DECEASED

Manuel Mederos



Manuel “Manny” Mederos, a long-time contract negotiator at Local 1245 and retired director of the Safety and Health Department, died on June 3. He was 84.

Brother Mederos was born in Martinez, Calif., northeast of Oakland. He graduated from Alhambra High School in 1957 and then enlisted in the U.S. Army. He

returned to Martinez in 1960 after an honorable discharge.

The two signal events of Mederos’ life happened in 1962: He married Sharon Yates and joined Vacaville Local 1245.

“Manny set the bar very high for all of us who have followed him,” said Business Manager Robert Dean.

Mederos was a gas worker at Pacific Gas and Electric, and was appointed shop steward in 1967. Three years later, Mederos came on staff at Local 1245 as a business representative and began his decades-long career as a union contract negotiator.

“Manny always wanted to be well rehearsed in every negotiation. He came up with what he knew were the changes workers needed and presented them in a straightforward way,” said Jim Ozello, former director of the Safety and Health Department. “And 99 times out of 100, he got what he wanted.”

Mederos went back to the tools in 1973 and was elected to the executive board in 1974, serving until he came back on staff as business representative in 1976. Mederos was then promoted to assistant business manager in 1979 and appointed the lead negotiator and spokesman for by far the largest unit at Local 1245, workers at PG&E.

“Manny did things the right way. He did not make mistakes or shortchange people and their views. He was a walking, talking example of how to conduct business as a union representative,” said Local 1245 Assistant Business Manager Hunter Stern.

One of Mederos’ most important legacies at 1245 was establishing the local’s retirement planning services program, which has been in effect since 1981.

In 1988, International President J.J. Barry appointed Mederos as an international representative in the Utility Department. Before he left for Washington D.C., Local 1245 hosted an appreciation dinner for Brother Mederos. More than 200 people attended.

In 1996, Mederos took over the Safety and Health Department. He represented the IBEW at the most important worker safety organizations in the country, including the American National Standards Institute, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health, the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the National Safety Council.

The standards, codes and decisions made while Mederos was a member have affected millions of construction workers, not least his critical voice on the committee establishing safety standards for aerial lifts, Ozello said.

“Manny was often going up against a team of manufacturers, and, I have to tell you, it was surprising how cheaply some of the manufacturers wanted to build,” Ozello said. “It was his job to make sure it was safe. He was well respected on those committees.”

Mederos retired from the International Office in 2001, but he wasn’t done with the IBEW. He moved back home and returned to Local 1245 as an assistant business manager.

“Manny never inserted himself or pushed his ideas onto others. He would help only when he was asked, or he saw a potential train wreck in the offing. He always had a full understanding of the problems confronting business reps, and he had a very nuanced view of the potential outcomes,” Stern said. “I know I became a better rep because of Manny’s guidance.”

The officers, staff and members of the IBEW extend our deepest condolences to Brother Mederos’ wife of 62 years, Sharon, and family: two children, one grandchild and three great-grandchildren. ■

THE IBEW'S 2024 PHOTO CONTEST

Top Prize: \$1,000
Second Place: \$750 Third Place: \$500

A \$200 Honorable Mention will also be awarded for EACH BRANCH of the IBEW:

- ▶ Broadcasting
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Inside Construction
- ▶ Railroad
- ▶ Outside Construction
- ▶ Telecommunications
- ▶ Government
- ▶ Utility

DEADLINE: NOV. 1

See official rules and submission instructions at [IBEW.org/photocontest](https://www.ibew.org/photocontest).

Entries **MUST** be submitted **electronically** by Nov. 1 via the Photo Contest link on [IBEW.org](https://www.ibew.org). Please contact the Media Department at media@ibew.org or 202-728-6102 with additional questions.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

FEDERAL STANDARD

IBEW Lauds the White House's Heat Safety Moves

The IBEW's Safety and Health Department is applauding the Biden-Harris administration's recent efforts to further protect millions of workers in the U.S. from heat-related illness and death by pressing forward on the process to create a first-ever blanket federal heat safety standard.

"It's fantastic that the White House thinks enough of workers to push this issue into the spotlight," said Mark MacNichol, the department's director. "Every aspect of the IBEW has a heat safety concern."

In July, the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration formally proposed a federal rule requiring all employers to develop workplace heat hazard management plans that protect workers, including those who deal with equipment that can generate dangerous heat if proper cooling measures are not implemented.

"The administration came to workers on this," the Safety and Health Department said. "It's not just the IBEW celebrating this announcement; all of labor was involved with OSHA in crafting this proposed rule."

Between 2011 and 2022, the last year for which Bureau of Labor Statistics data were available, there were 479 work-related deaths in the U.S. caused by environmental heat exposure, plus tens of thousands of heat-related injuries over the same period. OSHA noted that those numbers could be much higher; injuries and illnesses in the U.S. are underreported, and heat-induced illnesses or deaths are often misclassified.


If finalized, the proposed OSHA rule would mandate such workplace cooling measures as water, shade and rest breaks, along with indoor heat control actions and protections for workers in high-heat conditions, indoors and out. Employers also would be required to have procedures for acclimatizing workers to heat and for responding when workers show symptoms of heat-related illness.

"Every worker should come home safe and healthy at the end of the day, which is why the Biden-Harris administration is taking this significant step to protect workers from the dangers posed by extreme heat," said Julie Su, the acting Secretary of Labor.

California, Washington and Minnesota have their own heat protection policies. For the rest of the country, OSHA historically has relied on its "general duty clause" to protect workers from heat hazards.

PREVENT HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS


Wearing PPE increases your risk for heat-related illnesses.




TAKE TIME TO ACCLIMATIZE.
Work shorter shifts until your body has adjusted to the heat.



STAY WELL HYDRATED.
Drink often, before you get thirsty.




WATCH FOR SIGNS OF HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES.
Designate a buddy and ask how they feel periodically.



TAKE TIME TO REST AND COOL DOWN.
Sit somewhere cool, rest, and rehydrate frequently.

For more information visit the NIOSH Heat Stress topic page: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/>
DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2016-151

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



"Making heat safety a federal standard will be a real value," the Safety and Health Department said. "The issue will no longer have to be addressed from state to state."

Once finalized, OSHA predicts, the rule will affect about 36 million workers and could substantially reduce heat injuries, illnesses and deaths in the workplace.

Under the federal rulemaking process, after OSHA's proposed rule is published in the Federal Register, the public will have several months to submit written comments on it.

That means the rule likely will not be finalized until sometime next year. International President Kenneth W. Cooper pointed out that whoever is in the White House then will have the power to decide whether the rulemaking process will be allowed to play out or be canceled before it can be completed.

"We're grateful that our friends in the Biden-Harris administration have consistently listened to working people and that they are taking major steps like this right now to protect all workers from getting sick or dying on the job because of heat," Cooper said.

A recent poll by Data for Progress showed that most likely voters,

regardless of their political persuasion, worry about heat safety, too. The poll found that 84% said they are "somewhat or very concerned about workers facing extreme heat while at the workplace," the organization said.

In the meantime, the Safety and Health Department reminds IBEW members to "follow the chain of command" whenever they feel their safety is threatened, bringing such issues to the attention of their shop steward first. ■

FORM 173

Locals Reminded to Report Jobsite Accidents

Improving safety on the job for IBEW brothers and sisters across North America. Providing insight to legislative bodies and industry leaders. Aiding the Brotherhood in its organizing efforts.

Local unions do all those things when they use Form 173 to report accidents on the job to the International Office.

The number of local unions registered for the system used to report accidents increased by 11% in just more than one year, Safety Director Mark MacNichol said. It is available at ibew.org. Click on Safety & Health under the department listings.

But while he's pleased with that, MacNichol is encouraging more to step up. Only about 7% of all locals actually reported jobsite accidents

during the past year, even though it is required by the IBEW Constitution (Article XV, Section 15, page 47).

"We learn from the incident," MacNichol said. "They are never released to an employer."

MacNichol said he is often asked by business managers and other local officials how other IBEW locals have handled a safety situation they are facing. That job is easier when they are filling out their accident reports.

"If we don't have reporting," he said, "we can't even help our own brothers and sisters."

That was part of the message MacNichol and others delivered at the first-ever Safety Conference, held earlier this year.

"When we are fighting for OSHA standards, for instance, the labor movement likes to cite actual instances where if we had this protection in place, this could have been mitigated," said Tarn Goelling, an international representative in the Safety Department. "Form 173 entries help us to inform during those times. We can draw on real-life scenarios that have occurred."

Goelling noted that employers are not required to turn in accident reports to the IBEW.

"The labor movement will sometimes ask workers to testify before Congress and other legislative bodies specifically about their personal experiences," she said. "The only way the IBEW can tap into those experiences is through Form 173."

Safety has been a foundation of the IBEW since its birth in 1891. Founder Henry Miller formed the Brotherhood because an inordinate amount of linemen were dying on the job while working with the new technology electricity.

It since has been a key part of all IBEW sectors. The Safety Department is having t-shirts made with the Miller quote: "to prevent accidents if each man learning the business should work under the jurisdiction of the brotherhood."

International President Kenneth W. Cooper said reporting accidents on

Report an Accident

"Each L.U. shall investigate and report to the I.O. all serious lost time accidents and fatalities Reports shall be submitted using the web-based, electronic version of Form 173 I.B.E.W. Report of Occupational Injury, Illness and Fatality."

— Article XV, Section 15 of the IBEW Constitution



the job is vital and reminds local unions of their constitutional mandate.

"Safety is a key to our organizing efforts," Cooper said. "Because of our ability to speak up, ask questions and talk about something that is unsafe on the job, IBEW members are safer than our nonunion counterparts. That has a lot of appeal when you're talking about the value of union membership."

MacNichol pledged that he, Goelling and Safety Department staff member Brittany Scroggins will continue to explore ways to make submitting reports easier for local unions.

The IBEW is a member of the National Safety Council, a leading non-profit devoted to preventing injuries and death on the job. It often seeks out the IBEW for advice, MacNichol said.

The more accident reports the International Office has, the better information it can provide. ■



Reporting accidents on the job isn't just a constitutional requirement for local unions. It helps advocate for safety reform and assists organizing work.

Heat Safety Resources

OSHA: Heat Illness Prevention osha.gov/heat

CDC: Heat Stress cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress

LOCAL LINES

Choosing the Correct Representatives

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st,ws&ptc), ST. LOUIS, MO — Electing officials who are friends of labor has a huge impact in keeping area standards and codes current and improving the quality of life for our members. St. Louis County Executive Sam Page has appointed four members of Local 1 to boards that maintain electrical standards.

Dawn Pluto, a full-time instructor at our training center, was named to the Board of Electrical Examiners. Sabrina Westfall, Mark Green and Bill Clements have been appointed to the St. Louis County Electrical Code Review Committee. Sabrina is the owner of J. West Electric, Mark has a degree in electrical engineering, and Bill is a journeyman wireman, which meets the standard requirement of having a contractor, engineer and electrician on the committee.

Electing an alderman/councilman, mayor, governor and president is an obligation all union members should take seriously. These offices make appointments to committees, commissions and boards that create or revoke policies affecting a union's ability to effectively represent the interests of its members.

As we focus on this election season, take the time to pick candidates you know will best advance the freedoms to join and participate in a union.

Kyle Hunter, P.S.

Local 15 Congratulates Retiring Brother Mark Shaulis

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Please join our local in congratulating commercial physical business/organizing representative Mark Shaulis on his retirement after 33 years of service. Brother Shaulis started with ComEd on Jan. 21, 1991, as a meter reader in Dixon, Ill.



Local 15 Business Representative Mark Shaulis has retired after 33 years of IBEW service.

In August 1991, Mark entered the underground cable splicer apprenticeship school in Glenbard, Ill. Once his schooling was complete, he finished his apprenticeship in Rockford, Ill. He spent most of his career working in the west region after being promoted in September 1993 to journeyman splicer. During his career, he also held positions of steward

and unit chair before accepting the position of business representative in 2016.

Mark plans on spending more time with his family, boating and vacationing. Thanks for everything you've done, Mark, and congratulations.

John Richards, Bus. Rep.

Local 17 Tree Trimmers Lead the Way

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI — Our local has spearheaded efforts to promote the value of IBEW apprenticeships for line clearance tree trimmers. In 2009, Local 17 established one of the first Department of Labor-registered LCTT apprenticeship programs within the IBEW. Boot camps and apprentice classes are held at our state-of-the-art training center.

In 2019, Local 17 launched two utility arboriculture training programs. Partnering with DTE Energy, five utility arboriculture vendors, the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit, 125 Michigan residents have been trained and equipped to begin an in-demand line clearance career.

Assistant Business Manager Mike Pittman serves as president of Michigan's chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. Mike also serves as vice chairman of the IBEW Line Clearance Coordinating Council, or CC-1, which comprises more than 30 IBEW locals with line clearance jurisdiction.

In 2023, members of CC-1 attended the Utility Arborist Association Trees and Utilities Conference for the first time. Subsequently, the UAA asked Local 17 to write an article about our apprenticeship program for its bimonthly magazine, Newsline.

Local 17 has also been working with ANSI and OSHA to ensure that organized labor has a voice in the creation of new safety standards affecting tree trimmers.

On June 22, Local 17 held its annual Tree Jamboree at our training center, where we hosted more than 400 members and their families. Jamboree competitors and judges are shown in the photo below.

James Shaw, B.M.

Competitors and judges at Local 17's annual Tree Jamboree.



Local 35's 2024 Graduating Apprenticeship Class

L.U. 35 (i), HARTFORD, CT — We extend our congratulations to the 2024 graduating class, wishing them successful careers with the IBEW.

The above photo shows graduates Amaurie Dempsey, Donnell Dodd, Jack Duchaine, Eboni Lawrence, Eric Place, Scott Potanka, Carl Russak and Timothy Smith.

Also, congratulations to Scott Potanka for finishing with the Top Apprentice Award.

Michelle Cleveland, P.S.



Local 41 congratulates the graduating class of 2024!

opportunity for new and seasoned RENEW members to plan future volunteer efforts and events.

Our annual charity golf outing will be held Sept. 7 at 12 p.m. This event is always a great time and a big success, which allows us to contribute to multiple charitable organizations in our area.

During the final quarter of the year, we will be having our second annual trunk-or-treat event, followed by our children's Christmas party. Please feel free to contact the union office any time to inquire about our events.

Matthew M. Gaiser, A.B.M.

Summer in Buffalo

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY — Traveling brothers and sisters should consider making a stop here in Buffalo as our local has only just begun a yearslong period of full employment. Four big contracts have been awarded on the new Buffalo Bills stadium, and we will need hundreds of hands to help complete this project by the 2026 season. If you're interested in our work outlook, please check our website (www.ibewlocal41.com) or call the hall at 716-662-6111 and ask for dispatch.

We celebrated the graduation of our fifth-year apprenticeship class June 7. Congratulations, and good luck to all of you starting your careers as journeyman wiremen.

Local 41's RENEW group held a bowling event Aug. 10. This was the first social gathering RENEW has had in some time, and it provided a great

Local 43 Apprentice Class of 2024

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY — Congratulations to our fifth-year apprentices who have successfully completed Local 43's apprenticeship program! Thanks to our collaboration with Mohawk Valley Community College, they've also earned an associate degree in occupational studies in electrical service technician/electrical maintenance. They proudly walked the stage at Memorial Auditorium in Utica on May 10 to receive their well-deserved diplomas.

Local 43's class of 2024 is: Miguel Battle, Todd Branch Jr., Nathan Brien, Joshua Buchanan, Jared Calpari, Drew Colberg, Logan Crouch, Brian Doherty, David Haddad, Dustin Hildreth, Greg Hurley, Harry Issacs, Zach Jones, Robert Jubis, Cory Knapp, Joseph Kurovski, John Lanzafame, Austin Larock, Levi Livingston, Colby LoGalbo, Adam Mackey, Kyle Marquart, Anthony Marzullo, Kyle McCann,

Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

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

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

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.

LOCAL LINES



Local 43 congratulates the MVCC 2024 graduating class!

Mark McCarthy, John McClure, Michael Meaney, Aaron Moon, Kevin Nolan, Christian Oliver, Jason Osborne, Michael Quinn, Nicholas Rinaldi, Nicholas Rocco, James Ryan, Ryan Smith, Zachary Stelf, Douglas Vollmer and Sean Willey.

Jeff Cassano, R.S.

Local 47 Work Slow but Steady

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Work has been slow but steady around the jurisdiction. There are multiple reasons for the slowdown, from slow rate-case developments and material backorders to lending rates for the investor-owned utilities and the presidential election. Whatever it is, there is a slowdown in the face of what looked to be one of the biggest ever periods of growth on our electrical grids.

Here are Local 47's bargaining and event updates:

- Southern California Edison — Production specialist issues continue to be discussed. With respect to real-time operators, we have held eight days of bargaining with the company to develop a stand-alone agreement. At the time of this writing, the next day of bargaining is scheduled for June 14. The demotion of e-rev foreman Ray Delgado is set for arbitration on Aug. 22 and 28. The union is meeting with the company and employees to discuss the process of the closure of the Barstow Service Center.
- City of Riverside/ Wastewater — Negotiations continue.
- City of Anaheim — Negotiations continue.
- City of Banning — Negotiations continue.
- Local 47 Steward and Safety Conference June 8 in San Diego was a tremendous success.
- Upcoming event — Local 47's family picnic on Sept. 21.

We are sad to report the deaths of members Peter Falls, Don Mitchell, Ramon Rodriguez, Albert Salazar, and retired members Steve Neyses and Jimmy Valencia. Our condolences and prayers are with their loved ones.

Work safe and buy union!

Mitch Smith, P.S.

Local 51's Golf Scholarship Results

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — In 2002, we started our annual scholarship golf outing, which has provided more than 150 college scholarships to many of our members and their families. This year, we awarded 14 scholarships to the following people: Aden Armstrong, Eden Baumgardner, Rylee Bunn, Haley Carlton, Emily Copples, Jaden Corley, Gabriel Drake, Jack Evans, Lauren Evans, Garrett King, Nic Olson, Adrien Ruiz, Emma Van Fossan and Kolby Weiss.

The winning golf team was Pat Coit, Blake Davis, Ryan Perry and Terry Starbody. Pat Coit also won closest to the pin on two holes. Aaron Cully secured the title for the longest drive, Tyler Tester

had the longest putt, and Chris Hammock won the putting contest. The last-place team had Jason Brown, Travis Crocks, Braxton Ladew and Nate Selvaggio bringing home trophies.

As Election Day looms, it is crucial to back Illinois candidates who will champion and defend workers' rights. When you cast your vote for president, remember who played a critical role in investing in good-paying union jobs and unwaveringly supports labor unions and working people.

Be safe. Attend your union meetings — this is where it all begins.

Karlene Knisley, Bus. Rep.



The winning team at Local 51's annual golf scholarship outing.

Welcome, Class of 2024

L.U. 103 (cs,i&ptc), BOSTON, MA — Our local recently held its 77th annual JATC graduation and is proud to congratulate our 300 new journeyman electricians and technicians. Local 103 is also pleased to welcome seven new contractors signed so far in 2024.

We are embarking on an organizing drive that focuses solely on fire alarm testing and maintenance contracts in existing buildings. Our organizing department recently held a forum with more than 20 contractors and business agents to discuss fire alarm maintenance and the necessary steps to regain market share in this sector of our industry. Since this meeting, we have turned over several fire alarm testing and maintenance contracts worth millions of dollars, including the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and the Hynes Convention Center. Both are great wins for our members.

Jim Fleming, P.S.

Thank you, President Biden

L.U. 131 (i,rtb,rts,se&spa), KALAMAZOO, MI — The work outlook is steady in Kalamazoo. Several projects are keeping the book clear, and travelers are working in the jurisdiction. Palisades nuclear plant is beginning to staff up, as featured in the July Electrical Worker. Thank you, President Biden, for all the work you have created for IBEW members.

Local 131's annual picnic was July 27 at River Oak Park in Galesburg, Mich. Jon and Christine did



Members of Local 131's fifth-year apprentice class raised more than \$10,000 for Sylvia's Place.

a great job organizing, and Mike Dillon helped tie-dye shirts. The RENEW committee did a great job organizing the bags tournament and hot dog eating contest. We had so much fun — thank you!

Several members of the fifth-year apprentice class put on a golf outing, where they raised more than \$10,000 for Sylvia's Place. You make me proud to be part of a union.

EWMC is forming in Kalamazoo. Call the hall at 269-382-1762 if you are interested. Our local softball team is having a great season, and the hockey team is gearing up for their season. We are staying busy in Kalamazoo!

Morris Applebey, B.M./F.S.

Change, Growth and Graduates

L.U. 257 (em,i,rtb,rts,spa&t), JEFFERSON CITY, MO — Greetings, brothers and sisters. A lot has transpired these past several months. Winter passed and summer started with an abundance of work to bid on, keeping our contractors busy and our local even busier.

We would like to say thanks to Business Agent Mike Fanning for his many years of service in the field and in the office. Mike retired in April and will be missed.

In turn, we would like to congratulate and welcome former organizer Joel Vanderslice as our new business agent and Sam Luebbering as our new organizer. With the busy times ahead, we are prepared to take on the future and our upcoming work with new leadership.

We also have the honor of congratulating our 2024 graduating class. We can be confident that they will continue with pride and professionalism the IBEW values and skills that have been passed on to them. And we know they will pass them on to future graduates.

Local 257's new journeyman wiremen are Christian Baulk, Ryan Bernskoetter, Dalton Brown, Colin Crane, Colton Duemmel, Riley Halley, Zachary Heimericks, Corey Holsman, Trent Kay, Austin Krumm, Joshua Lux, Brandon Muenks, Kyle Niekamp, Joseph Oldani, Wade Phillips, Bernard Siebeneck, James Theriot, Steven Theriot and Shelby Verslues.

J.L. Stanley, P.S.



Local 257 congratulates its graduating class of 2024!

Local Nights to Remember

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — June has always been a busy month for our members, and 2024 was no exception. Weddings, graduations and sporting events seem to dominate the calendar, but there is one event that many of our members eagerly await every year: the annual retirees' dinner held in mid-June. Nearly 300 members were treated to libations, a variety of outstanding food offerings, live music (thanks, Mikel!) and freshly rolled cigars to be enjoyed on the back patio.

Retirees received service pins, watches and acknowledgment from the crowd for their years of dedication to our craft. The level of enjoyment was evident in the smiling faces, clapping of backs, and sound of laughter ringing throughout the dining room. Thanks to everyone who gave their time and their effort to once again make this the best night in the local!

Our fifth-year apprentice class had a night to remember, too. On the last Friday of June, the Local 269 examining board administered the journeyman electrician test to the graduating class, and we are proud to say that all passed with flying colors.

Congratulations and good luck going forward!

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

Local 309 Organizes Two Solar Companies

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL — This year has been a good one for organizing in our local. So far we have organized two solar companies, ARF Solar LLC and Grid LLC. Congratulations to organizer Chris Huckins for sealing the deal with these companies and for his promotion to the Sixth District as lead P&I organizer for Illinois.

Local 309 would like to introduce our new president, John Garrett, as well as organizer Dustin Grice. We would also like to welcome incoming Vice President Tyler Mueth and executive board members Adam Biagi, Steve Lodes and Andrew Riebold.

In June, we hosted our annual Night at the Grizzlies event. Thank you to our members and their families for coming out to celebrate.

Carlos S. Perez, A.B.M.

Member Firsts

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Lowell Reedstrom was initiated into our local in 1955. After 24 years as a Local 292 hand, he and other members made the difficult decision to leave the security of their home local. They were the first to form a new local representing west



Local 357 congratulates the class of 2024!

central and southern Minnesota. Lowell's name is listed as a charter member of Local 343, established April 1, 1979. He is a 69-year member. At 93, he attends the retirees' lunches in Mankato.

John Swanson, our political coordinator, was elected one of the Minnesota delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August. It's likely that he is the first Local 343 member to attend the convention as a delegate.

Because of member Chad Pectorious' generosity, Local 343 was officially recognized at the annual IBEW reunion in Idaho. He donated to sponsor a hole at the golf outing.

Retired member Bruce Behrens once said: "The union isn't the hall. The union is the members." Those words hold the same power today as they have through the years.

Tom Small, P.S.

Local 357 Congratulates 2024 Graduates

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV — The Electrical JATC of Southern Nevada is pleased to announce that the 2024 graduation ceremony was held May 18 at the union hall. Training Director Doug Ziegenhagen and Assistant Training Directors Matthew Apfel and Julie-Ann Peeples were honored to present this year's 118 inside wiremen and 19 installer technicians. U.S. Rep. Dina Titus and Ninth District International Representative James Halsey were among several esteemed guest speakers who addressed the apprentices and guests. A dinner sponsored by the Southern Nevada IBEW/NECA LMCC followed the graduation ceremony later that evening at the brand-new Durango Station, an IBEW-built venue.

Brent C. Cline received this year's Outstanding Apprentice Wireman Award, and Cheyenne W. Woltz received the Outstanding Apprentice Installer Technician Award. The Mike Laux Award (most union meetings attended) was presented to wireman Michael Chingman and Woltz. The Clyde Green Sr. Memorial Award (highest minority student GPA) went to wireman Adrian Del Angel and

Woltz. Perfect Attendance Awards were presented to 19 graduates.

Congratulations to all of our graduates! [See photo above.]

Julie-Ann Peeples, P.S.

Local 481 Demonstrates Solidarity, Activism

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Brothers and sisters, as we moved from spring to summer, the members of our local continued to be present and active in the community. Members once again showed the importance of activism through walking in parades, working booths at various fairs and attending membership activities. Thank you to all our members who walked in St. Patrick's Day, Juneteenth and Pride parades. Our presence in the community always helps to tell our story.

Thanks also go to our members who worked the booth at the Indiana Black Expo Summer Celebration. Educating the community and letting others know how to join our ranks is always a great thing to do. By building our numbers, we only get stronger. Keep up the good work!

The local participated in the spring health fair, a resource for members to receive vital medical scans and bloodwork. Put on by the health and welfare trustees, this event is also a great opportunity to speak to members about their health care and retirement options. Thank you to those who attended the spring event, and if you were unable to attend, we will see you at the fall event!

Blake Andrews, Treas.



Local 483 members representing the IBEW at the Light Up Navajo project.

Local 483 and the Light Up Navajo Project

L.U. 483 (catv,lctt,o&u), TACOMA, WA — Our members participated in this year's Light Up Navajo project. A big thank you goes out to members Kelly Butts, David Calhoun, Matt Cline, Dan Forsman, Corey Lind and Tyler Raney for their hard work to

bring electricity to homes of the Navajo Nation in Arizona. While our members were able to bring much-needed electricity to six homes, thousands of homes remain without electricity on the Navajo reservation, so this continuing work is much needed. Thank you all for your hard work!

Byron Allen, B.M.

Local 601's Canoe Crew

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL — Our Streator/Pontiac division members hosted their annual canoe trip at Ayers Landing in Wedron, Ill. In this summer's heat, a 12-mile, eight-hour canoe trip is no small feat, but the members and guests of Local 601 were up for the challenge. Sunburned and exhausted from completing the challenge, the crew headed back to their camping grounds and shared music, food and drinks. Afterward, the only thing left to do was stare at the stars and retire to the tents to head back home the next morning.

We thank all those who came for a good time, and any who would like to come next year should feel free to do so!

Luther Baker, P.S.



The Local 601 crew headed to the annual canoe trip at Ayers Landing in Wedron, Ill.

Local 611 Renovates ABQ Airport

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — In May, our local lost our official historian, Tracy Hall. Tracy retired more than 20 years ago but was a constant figure at all of our union meetings and local functions. Tracy was president of the Local 611 Retirees' Club and would attend the apprenticeship banquets each year to hand out the C.S. Mitchell Award to the first-year outstanding apprentice. Tracy's presence will certainly be missed.

B&D Industries is working on a \$19 million remodel of the Albuquerque International Sunport airport, scheduled to be completed in 2025. B&D has two shifts with about 35 workers.

There are still lots of calls coming in daily for Facebook and surrounding areas.

On behalf of the local, I



Local 639 JATC apprenticeship graduates (back row, from left) Justin Long, Daniel Van De Vanter, Humberto Nunez, Darren Lapitan, Jordan Bohanna, Eli Engert, Shane Fragione and David Whittaker; (front row, from left) Michael Marcelino, Arnaldo Gomez, Cheyenne Chambers and Dylan Keldsen.

Photo credit: Jack Johnson.



Local 611's B&D crew working at the Albuquerque International Sunport airport.

send condolences to the friends and families of Shelton Bitsui, Ray Garcia, Taylor Gulley, Tracy D. Hall, David Knittig, Gilbert Lujan, James Meadows, Mariano Ortiz, Bruce Senior and Fred R. Webb.

Don't forget, this is an election year. Make every effort to get out and vote, and be sure to attend your local union meetings.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

Graduation Ceremonies for Local 639

L.U. 639 (i&rts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — Congratulations to our local's graduating apprenticeship class of 2024. Graduation ceremonies were held June 8 at F. McLintocks Saloon & Dining House in Shell Beach, Calif. In attendance were Business Manager Mark Simonin; President Jack Johnson; executive board members Brett Harradence, Jeff Mosher, Jaime Quintana, Josh Stitzer and David Yadeta; Shari Brunner, executive director of NECA Central Coast Chapter; James Eddy, president of NECA Central Coast Chapter; and Joseph Fitzer, training director of San Luis Obispo JATC.

Shoutout to Eli "Iceman" Engert for receiving the Outstanding Apprentice Award. Additional awards were given in recognition of excellent attendance to Eli Engert, Justin Long and Michael Marcelino. All graduates received a personalized jacket along with their diplomas. And a special thank you goes to Loretta Salinas, office manager, for organizing the special event.

2024 is shaping up to be a good year for the local. We have several projects in the works, and with the continued operation of Diablo Canyon Power Plant, the foreseeable future looks promising. Thank you, President Biden!

Kurt McClave, P.S.

Get your **ELECTRICAL WORKER** delivered each month *via email*. It's convenient & helps cut down on paper waste. Go to ibew.org/gogreen and sign up today!



LOCAL LINES



Members of LU 915's Women's Committee and RENEW at St. Pete Pride Grand Central Street Fair.

Women's Committee Representative Drafted From 915

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Business Manager Randall King is pleased to announce that Sister Tabitha Hunter has been selected to represent the Fifth District on the IBEW's International Women's Committee. Brother King is confident that she will continue the tradition of Local 915 sisters leading the way for the IBEW and the Fifth District. We wish her continued success in her new role.

Business Manager King led a delegation from the Florida Gulf Coast Building & Construction Trades Council to meet with Mayor Ken Welch of St. Petersburg, Fla. The meeting was highly productive. Mayor Welch committed to using registered apprentices on all phases of construction of the new Rays stadium and the Historic Gas Plant Redevelopment Project.

Local 915 Women's Committee and RENEW had a booth at the St. Pete Pride Grand Central Street Fair on July 23. It was a great outreach event. More than 50 St. Pete residents expressed interest in joining the IBEW or becoming an apprentice. The typical Florida afternoon thunderstorm didn't deter our brothers and sisters from enjoying their time at the fair.

Brian Nathan, A.B.M.

Welcome, Archon Energy Solutions

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,u&ptc), CINCINNATI, OH — On behalf of the IBEW, I extend a warm welcome to Archon Energy Solutions, our newest member company. It is with great pleasure that we embrace Archon, a minority and veteran owned and operated enterprise, into our union family.

Archon's commitment to join the IBEW is a testament to the enduring value of union membership and the recognition of the benefits it brings to both workers and employers.

We are delighted to announce that Archon brings more than 60 years of field experience in electrical underground utilities, along with a team of dedicated professionals who are current IBEW members and splicers. This wealth of experience and expertise will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and growth of our union.

We applaud Archon for its decision to become a union signatory company and for recognizing the importance of solidarity and collective bargaining in today's challenging business landscape. By choosing to be part of the IBEW, Archon is securing better wages, benefits and working conditions for its employees and contributing to the advancement of the broader labor movement.

I encourage all members to consider Archon for their training service needs, knowing that they are backed by a professional group that is committed to excellence and union values. For more information about their services, please visit www.archonenergysolutions.us.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.



Local 1347 extends a warm welcome to its newest member company, Archon Energy Solutions.

Local 1531 Shows Commitment to Million-Member Goal

L.U. 1531 (i&o), ALBANY, GA — Members of our local are making significant strides toward the IBEW's ambitious goal of reaching 1 million members. Despite being a smaller local, the solidarity and dedication of its members are unwavering.

Recently, a remarkable 36% turnout was observed as members eagerly participated in a volunteer Construction Organizing Membership Education Training, or COMET, class, which demonstrated their commitment to the cause. This collective effort, especially in the midst of upcoming negotiations, serves as a testament to the unity and strength within Local 1531.

The success of this training initiative wouldn't have been possible without the invaluable support from the Fifth District and the IBEW Education Department. Their dedication to empowering members and locals through training programs has been instrumental in driving progress toward the overarching goal.

Local 1531 is proud to contribute to the larger IBEW community, remaining steadfast in its commitment to advancing member interests while upholding the values of solidarity and unity.

Clay Pelham, B.M.



Members of Local 1531 attending COMET class training.

Congratulations, Local 1579 Officers

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — Hello, brothers and sisters. I hope you all have endured the summer. By the time you get this issue, we will already have elected our local officers for the 2024-2027 term. My hats off to all who made their vote count. Congratulations and good luck to Local 1579 in remaining a major player and leader for construction in the Central Savannah River Area, the Southeast and the nation.

We are holding our own with the current work situation, and good news is on the horizon. Since my last article, we have landed a data center that will employ approximately 250 electrical craftsmen for about 36 months. Hopefully, by early 2025, the

Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility will begin hiring for construction, now that most of the demolition is complete. Our in-town and Savannah River Site contractors are also picking up work and calling for more electricians.

Business Manager J.R. Richardson is staying busy and working hard with the building trades and NABTU to establish a project labor agreement at Fort Eisenhower that will benefit all crafts. Fort Eisenhower, formerly known as Fort Gordon, is the home of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. There are plenty of projects coming that should fall under Davis-Bacon due to cybersecurity efforts and upgrades at the fort.

"Plans are nothing; planning is everything."
— Dwight D. Eisenhower

Mike Greene, Pres.

RETIREES

Local 1 Retirees' Luncheon and Golf Tournament

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — Our local's retirees are looking forward to the annual golf tournament at Forest Park on Sept. 3. Invitations are also being mailed for our annual retirees' luncheon at the hall Sept. 18.

Business Manager Frank Jacobs spoke to our club about upcoming work slated to begin in our jurisdiction, adding to the abundant work still underway.

We also welcomed former Missouri state Sen. Tim Green to report on the candidates running for election in the primary in August and the general election in November. Tim presented a comparison of all of the candidates' records on organized labor and what we can expect from them.

Additionally, we met with Stephanie from Corey Wirths' office at the service center, who answered questions about the transfer from Express Scripts to Optum RX for our member prescription plan.

As always, the Local 1 Retirees' Club officers appreciate the large attendance continuing at our meetings. Thank you!

Jim Schario, P.S.

Educational Center on Long Island. This summer has been very hot, so a number of our events had to be canceled.

We are looking forward to cooler days.

Nancy Savarese, P.S.



Local 3 Westchester/Putnam Chapter Retirees' Club member Nick Durso with the winning catch of the day.

Reeling in Memories

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WEST-CHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — The charter boat Shamrock departed from New Rochelle, N.Y., on June 18 at 8:00 a.m., the start of a very hot day cruising Long Island Sound in search of fluke. Many of our members attended the Retirees' Club's annual trip, in hope of catching the big one. All were lucky to reel in some fluke. Nick Durso was

Looking Forward to Cooler Days

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER — The Retirees' Club held its summer luncheon June 19 at the local hall, with 55 members attending.

On July 8-11, retirees spent time at the Local 3



Members of the Local 3 South Jersey Chapter Retirees' Club at the Long Island Educational Center in Cutchogue, N.Y.



Local 26 Retirees' Club attendees at the construction workers' memorial Mass.

the winner of the pool for the largest fish, which measured 20 inches.

It was a great day on the water, with plenty of sun, relaxation and conversations reminiscing about working for Local 3. Thank you to Captain Pat for his excellent navigation and our members for participating in this annual event.

Frank Balbo, Comm. Dir.

Remembering Henry Miller

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — We adjourned for summer in May, and we hope our members are having a great, safe summer. We'll see you again in September, unless we see you at a local union picnic. We anticipate seeing many of our retirees there, even in the heat — we have an air-conditioned space for our retired members!

Raffle tickets sent in August will include details on the October crab feast, which will again be held in Lanham, Md. Proceeds from the raffle are used for funding our medical equipment program. The annual crab feast will be Oct. 12, and reservations are required. If you plan to be in the D.C. area in October, please contact us for details.

In July, we remembered Henry Miller. In 1891, Henry was elected first president of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which would soon become the IBEW. On July 10, 1896, while working for Pepco in the Tenleytown area of Washington, Henry came in contact with a high-voltage line and fell from a utility pole. He succumbed to his injuries later that night. Henry was just 38. Local 26 ensured that Henry had a proper burial, and a memorial at his gravesite has been maintained to this day by the IBEW.

Earlier this spring, Local 26 retirees joined others at the third annual construction workers' memorial Mass at St. Camillus Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Md. The mass gives the opportunity for workers from all trades to unite in a few moments of solidarity.

The Retirees' Club plans to participate in Greenbelt, Md.'s annual Labor Day Parade on Sept. 2. Again, if you plan to be in the D.C. area for the holiday weekend, please join us! If interested, contact President Susan Flashman via Local 26.

Remember, this is an election year. The labor movement needs and expects your turnout. Be sure that you and your entire family are registered, and make a commitment to participate!

It continues to be a hot and humid summer here, so stay safe.

Michael Acree, P.S.

John Mayernik Scholarship

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI — At our April union meeting, the first annual John Mayernik IBEW scholarship was awarded to apprentice Eric Demeter (class 20-B-2). This scholarship is the gift of the family of John Mayernik honoring his commitment to the IBEW.

On Oct. 8, 1989, the Mayernik family suffered the worst news anyone can receive: John lost his life on the job. All those who worked with John admired his commitment to our union, along with his high-quality workmanship and leadership. He was a pleasure to work with and for.

This scholarship is available to second-through fifth-year apprentices who are in good standing at school, on the job and at the union hall. It is a \$2,000 award to be used as the recipient chooses.

The Mayernik family will work together with the Benevolent Fund to maintain and award this scholarship in the years to come. This is a great way to remember John and to assist those young members who are serious about their future in the electrical trade.

Pat Nuznov, P.S.



Local 60 Retirees' Club President Coy Rogers receiving a donation from Business Manager Gary Aiken.

Appreciated Funding From Local 60

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — Our retirees are privileged to have a creditable local that supports and respects its retired members. Donated funds allow Retirees' Club members to continue the practice of brotherhood through monthly meetings. A very big thank you from our seasoned hearts to Business Manager Gary Aiken, Local 60 staff and, most important, all the active members.

An Appreciation Day luncheon was hosted June 15 by Local 60 at the hall. An amazing steak lunch with mashed potatoes and green beans was served, along with an assortment of desserts.



Local 105 Retirees' Club members enjoy an outing at the Grand River Raceway & Casino.

Again, a very big thanks to Gary Aiken, Kody Lee and all the local members who came for a fun-filled afternoon with Local 60 retirees. After lunch, with full tummies, our business manager entertained the retirees with bingo and some awesome prizes.

The Local 60 Retirees' Club meets the second Thursday of every month, excluding a summer break in June, July and August. The club is for any retired member of Local 60, and meetings start at 11:30 a.m. at the hall.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Join Local 105 Retirees for Upcoming Events

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ON — Hello, everyone! We hope all of you enjoyed the summer, and here's hoping the fall months may grant us a few more sunny, warm days.

A great time was had by all at the May 5 dinner and dance at Michelangelo's. We shared dinner with locals from Toronto, Kitchener and Niagara Falls.

We also enjoyed our June 7 outing to the Grand River Raceway & Casino.

Our annual barbecue, held June 21 at the hall, was a huge hit. We enjoyed hamburgers and sausages with all the fixings and collected 400 pounds of nonperishable food items for Neighbour to Neighbour. Way to go, retiree members — and thank you so much for your support!

The executive board has planned a number of fall events:

- Fish fry and karaoke, Sept. 19 (at the union hall).
- Mandarin, Burlington, Oct. 3.
- Octoberfest, Oct. 10; Local 804, Kitchener (transportation provided).
- Old-fashioned cookout, Oct. 17 (at the union hall).
- Cairncroft, Nov. 5-7; Niagara Falls.
- Christmas dinner and dance, Nov. 24; Local 353, Toronto (transportation provided).
- White Christmas, Dec. 4; St. Jacob's (lunch and transportation included).
- Christmas dinner and dance, Dec. 8; Michelangelo's.

All of the events we enjoy are made possible by our hard-working local members and executive

board, past and present. We are so proud and fortunate to be a part of your team. Our sincere, heartfelt thanks to all of you!

Euchre begins Mon., Sept. 9.

Eden McLean, P.S.

Local 134 Honors Years of Service

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Greetings to all IBEW members and staff. At this time of the year, I usually make mention of summer ending and autumn approaching soon, but here in the Midwest, it seems climate change is changing the seasons, and we don't know what to expect anymore.

At our June 12 luncheon, we honored many members with 50 to 75 years of service. Local 134 President Timothy Fitzgibbons, Business Manager/Financial Secretary Donald Finn and Treasurer John Dolton helped with handshakes and passing out honoree pins.

The recipients were: Brant M. Barton, Richard N. Buffa, John R. Burgess, Terrance F. Conway, William J. Coyne Jr., Gary C. Czemske, Dennis A. DiPasquale, Gary R. Drummond, Robert P. Fitzgibbons, James E. Greenwald, James M. Guinane, James P. Jennings, Richard M. Kreamsner, Paul J. McCarthy, John Melka, James D. Messina, Daniel A. Mulligan, Martin J. Murphy, Michael D. Nugent, James J. Schultz and John Taylor (50 years); William H. Blegen, Kenneth R. Bringle, Mario J. Coletta, Kenneth P. Dite, Douglas D. Dobes, Harry Dohman, William A. Good, Robert B. Haikaluk, William E. Henkes, Dennis P. Hindes, Edward R. Holcomb, Robert J. Kent Sr., Donald E. Kies Sr., James F. Klis Sr., Ronald Lewis, Kenneth J. Lind, John E. McCarthy, Kenneth R. Melka, Peter J. Merkle, John Mielnik, Edward F. Mullarkey, Kenneth R. O'Mara, Gregory R. Paddock, Dennis Raczynski, Kenneth W. Schemmel, Thomas L. Schiro, Alan H. Sindelar, James Tancos, James F. Turk, William H. VanBaber and Thomas W. Zordani (55 years); William T. Beers, Richard F. Bilson and James A. DuBrock (60 years); Roger T. Becker, Phillip Boshes, Leo N. Bree, Raymond J. Fealey Sr., William T. Feyerer, John C. Henkel, Gerald J. Palese, Allan W. White and John Yohe (65 years); and Garrett C. Meade, Joseph F. Pace and Michael A. Vopinek (70



Local 134's Retirees' Club members were honored with years-of-service awards at the June 12 luncheon.

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

RETIRES



Local 136 Retirees' Club member Bill Roberson received his 55-year service award at the monthly meeting in June.

years). Congratulations to all honorees.

Voting this November is important, so please make a plan to do so! Stay safe and well.

Sue Kleczka, P.S.

Good Showing for Local 136 Retirees' Club

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 136, BIRMINGHAM, AL — We have had good attendance at our summer meetings, with new retirees showing every time. If you attend regularly, bring someone with you. If you need a ride, let someone know.

We had close to 40 members show up for our monthly meeting, and 12 retired members were there to receive their service pins and awards. Fried Alabama catfish was served, as it is every year in June. Thanks to the members and wives who prepare the meal.

We have some retirees who are ill and cannot attend meetings. We want them to get better and attend again as soon as they can. It was good to see Brother Frank Perryman back at our meeting, as well as visitors from Locals 443 and 175. They like our catfish, too.

Thanks to our local officers and the executive board for sponsoring our meetings on the first Wednesday of every month.

Be safe, brothers and sisters (if it looks unsafe, it might be!)

Ross Roberson, Pres.

Summer News

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 349, MIAMI, FL — Our Retirees' Club continues to grow, with three retired brothers and their wives joining us. Meetings are the second Thursday each month at the hall (1657 NW 17th Ave.), beginning at noon and followed by a potluck lunch. Entertainment Chair Marilyn Steele has arranged a three-day cruise for the club in January 2025, leaving from Fort Lauderdale with stops in Bimini and Key West.

Sadly, we recently lost longtime club member Ruth Wolff, who passed away in June. Ruth was a beautiful lady who was always ready to travel and often joined our meetings. She would have celebrated her 100th birthday in November. To honor Ruth's memory, our November meeting will be dedicated to her, and our deepest sympathies are extended to her family.

Last but not least, a big thank you to Judi Parker for keeping us informed of club activities with your informative monthly newsletters.

Brenda Auer, P.S.

Retirees' Summer Luncheon

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 654, CHESTER, PA — Many retired members and their significant others attended the Retirees' Club summer luncheon June 12. Hats off to Local 654 officers and members

for putting on another fine affair. Great food, good friends and many stories filled the room.

These luncheons happen twice a year, in June and December. If you've never attended, please commit to doing so in the future. You won't regret it! You will see brothers and sisters you haven't seen in years, and the memories will flow, believe me. At the June luncheon, we even had some newly retired brothers on hand, with Tim Hayes, Tom Laughead and Bob Parry in our midst. I want to thank Bob for giving the blessing before our meal. I can't help but respect a brother who, at his first luncheon ever, stood up in front of the group and performed the sacred grace.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of retired brothers John Barlow, John Clark, Stu Fischer, Joe Hudak, Roy Mayo and Frank Powell. Sincere sympathies go to all their loved ones. We have fond memories of these brothers and will miss them!

William Faulkner, P.S.

Welcome Back!

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — We are looking forward to starting our meetings again, with the next meeting Sept. 11 at 11:30 a.m. Just a reminder that dues are payable starting in September. (Please do not call the office to ask about this.)

With sadness, we have had one member pass since our last article. We send condolences and prayers to the families and friends of Brother Wilbur Wright Jr.

We would like to invite any retired and unemployed brothers and sisters and their spouses in the area to come and join us. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the hall in Port Orange, Fla.

We hope you have had a great summer!

Diane Gibbs, P.S.

Happy Retirement, Brother Schmidt

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 1042, SANFORD, FL — Our local would like to announce that Mike Schmidt has retired after 17 years of faithful service. We thank Mike for his service as a delegate and executive board member for Local 1042 during his time there. Mike was an electrician at the Sanford Power Plant. Please help us wish Brother Schmidt all the joy and happiness that life has to offer in the next chapter of his life as he enjoys his golden years!

Ellen Stephenson, P.S.



Local 1042 member Brother Mike Schmidt receiving his retirement watch.

In Memoriam

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Fuller, C. A.	10/9/23	68	Schwabe, J. C.	6/25/24	233	Poss, L. W.	4/14/24
1	Lockard, W. A.	4/13/24	70	Miller, P. D.	6/18/24	233	Turner, D. L.	4/14/24
1	Necker, E. L.	4/20/24	71	Valdez, B. J.	2/14/24	234	Beck, V. R.	1/22/24
1	Ranck, G. R.	6/12/24	76	Moody, D. K.	6/4/24	236	DiGenova, N. A.	1/26/22
1	Warner, H. J.	5/9/24	77	McIntosh, D. B.	5/20/24	236	Ray, M. J.	6/10/24
2	Wilken, V. E.	7/27/20	77	Sheahan, M. P.	6/10/24	245	Kirlangitis, N. J.	3/23/22
3	Booker, R. S.	10/23/22	80	Lewis, V. L.	12/26/23	246	Gulutz, H. G.	3/10/23
3	Cinquina, N.	5/2/24	82	Clemmer, J. L.	6/1/24	252	Vescelius, D. L.	6/6/24
3	Ciriello, S.	4/24/24	86	O'Neill, D. E.	6/2/24	258	McQuarrie, M. G.	4/26/24
3	Conway, S. R.	3/25/24	97	Foppes, D. E.	6/3/24	269	O'Neal, S. R.	5/29/24
3	Cothren, P. J.	5/16/24	98	Klingler, D. J.	5/5/22	269	Ward, C. J.	4/10/22
3	Ferrara, F. J.	6/22/24	99	Mangano, R. A.	6/20/24	270	Large, J. F.	6/10/24
3	Gabriele, R. P.	1/1/22	100	Contreras, A.	6/1/24	292	Bryant, R. D.	5/23/24
3	Gallagher, W. J.	6/13/24	102	Haskins, W.	12/5/23	292	Ebert, C. R.	2/13/24
3	Geiling, K.	5/28/24	103	Der, J.	3/18/24	292	Erickson, M. B.	6/10/24
3	Genna, J. A.	3/4/22	103	Fitzgerald, D. E.	5/31/24	292	Haapala, S. D.	4/11/24
3	Gilliam, L.	5/30/24	103	Koning, R. J.	5/19/24	292	Lange, J. R.	6/4/24
3	Goebel, R.	2/10/22	103	Mitchell, T. J.	10/27/23	301	Hass, A. D.	5/28/24
3	Johnston, W. J.	6/12/24	103	Niland, P. J.	4/5/24	301	Renfrow, R. D.	6/25/24
3	Jolly, N. P.	5/21/24	103	Pelletier, M. R.	6/23/24	302	Ebert, F. E.	6/8/24
3	Larkin, J. B.	6/5/24	103	Talbot, R. G.	3/18/24	303	Bird, C. J.	6/12/24
3	Madsen, W. J.	6/9/24	104	Kornexl, J. L.	12/27/23	304	Estes, M. E.	8/17/22
3	Mann, C. J.	4/25/24	105	Evans, N. E.	6/12/24	305	Heyerly, D. L.	6/3/24
3	Milton, D. A.	6/7/24	110	Ruiz, D.	6/3/22	305	Leitch, R. D.	5/27/24
3	Petti, J. R.	6/14/24	110	Sperry, A. L.	5/31/24	305	Peters, L. W.	6/27/24
3	Pukki, R. G.	6/29/24	110	Zarembinski, D. C.	3/18/23	306	Blasdel, K. C.	1/20/24
3	Schiavone, C. S.	6/24/24	111	Veo, E. L.	5/9/24	306	Hughey, D. L.	6/19/24
3	Scully, G. D.	4/18/24	113	Fadness, C. L.	6/22/24	307	McMillan, D. R.	5/26/24
3	Shannon, T. J.	5/23/24	124	Hopson, D. T.	6/7/24	309	Beaver, J. F.	6/14/24
3	Stefanski, R. V.	9/9/21	124	Miller, J. C.	5/8/24	309	Grass, C. L.	5/24/24
5	Chirieleison, J. P.	3/9/24	124	Sparks, I. C.	6/14/24	309	Oeltjen, V.	4/1/24
5	Maley, R. G.	2/2/22	125	Albright, L. K.	6/11/24	317	Jeffrey, F. S.	5/17/24
9	Dillon, H. C.	5/24/24	125	Carpenter, J. D.	5/12/24	317	Phillips, C. C.	5/12/24
9	Dremak, R. J.	4/21/24	125	Griffin, W. F.	6/27/24	322	Dockham, C. D.	5/31/24
9	Taylor, C. P.	2/29/24	126	Federowicz, R. R.	3/1/24	332	Gutierrez, G.	1/1/24
11	Jacobson, B. N.	10/20/23	126	Scott, G. L.	6/9/24	332	Lopez, D. A.	5/17/24
11	Loucks, I. F.	2/2/24	126	Stuck, S. N.	6/20/22	340	Bebout, N. B.	5/12/24
11	Mark, P. S.	3/28/24	126	Yarger, J. L.	3/16/24	340	Hernandez, R. J.	5/27/24
11	Martinez, A. N.	5/29/24	130	Butscher, S. L.	5/29/24	340	Ledbetter, W. M.	4/6/24
11	Martinez, O. J.	5/19/24	130	Hamberger, E. W.	5/12/24	340	McCoy, D. J.	6/15/24
11	McAlister, H. Y.	5/11/24	134	Abendroth, R. D.	6/18/23	340	Reeves, R. A.	12/2/22
11	McGarry, T. J.	3/6/22	134	Akins, J. C.	2/24/24	342	Gantt, C. W.	3/31/24
11	Schaerrer, M. L.	3/29/24	134	Biddle, F. R.	2/20/21	349	Powell, S. H.	4/13/24
14	Corcoran, R. J.	5/18/24	134	Denton, C.	5/24/24	351	Birkbeck, C. D.	5/24/24
14	Oelberg, C.	5/31/24	134	Guisinger, R.	6/25/24	351	Grilli, J. L.	6/22/24
17	Mills, L.	12/3/21	134	Kolseth, R. O.	5/29/24	351	McMahon, D. R.	6/18/24
18	Lockie, J. C.	6/10/24	134	Malone, J. F.	5/18/24	353	Chisholm, D. W.	6/12/24
20	Weaver, C. A.	5/21/24	134	McGing, W. B.	6/23/24	353	Harrison, S. P.	6/21/24
22	Exley, R. R.	6/8/24	134	Rosenbusch, J. F.	6/20/24	353	Jackson, M. D.	3/30/24
22	Ortmeyer, J. L.	6/20/24	134	Suffield, W. H.	6/8/24	353	Lamb, S. B.	6/27/24
24	Fornaro, J. N.	6/9/24	134	Vukas, M.	6/14/24	353	Ostrower, S.	5/13/24
24	Holt, F. E.	6/9/22	134	Withers, T. J.	6/25/24	353	Plaza, F. M.	3/11/24
24	Novak, J. S.	5/24/24	141	Lucas, G. D.	5/14/24	353	Quattrin, B.	6/21/24
24	Novak, J. V.	4/20/24	145	Norris, G.	6/21/24	353	Smith, L. J.	6/25/24
24	Stone, N. L.	5/14/24	145	Smith, D. E.	7/3/24	353	Sorfleet, G. R.	6/2/24
25	Giatras, W. L.	6/7/24	145	Snell, W. L.	2/7/24	353	Stevens, J. R.	5/15/24
26	Tolliver, S. P.	6/27/24	150	Forsell, A. E.	5/23/24	353	Van De Kraats, G.	5/26/24
29	Spargal, J. F.	5/4/23	153	Horvath, D. A.	5/5/24	357	Harrington, R. W.	6/20/24
32	Striff, R. S.	5/30/24	159	Connery, T. J.	5/21/24	357	Brown, N. G.	6/18/24
35	Deshefy, M. P.	6/28/23	159	Miller, R. J.	5/18/24	357	Carroll, T. F.	6/15/24
38	Calvey, J. B.	5/26/24	160	Robison, R. A.	6/26/24	357	Maxim, K. F.	6/18/24
38	McSween, G. E.	12/12/23	160	VanDenheuvel, R. J.	5/11/24	357	Turner, J. D.	5/22/24
43	deClercq, F. E.	5/31/24	164	Choffo, J. A.	4/9/24	363	Schwartz, R.	5/7/24
43	Sturtz, C.	6/19/24	164	D'Amico, F.	3/21/24	364	Bonk, E. J.	2/5/24
47	Chandler, H. N.	12/29/23	164	Murray, J. K.	6/6/24	364	Peterson, M. M.	5/25/24
48	Grondin, R. P.	6/6/24	175	Bice, A. H.	6/10/24	369	Kimberlin, C. D.	4/14/24
51	Freeman, L. A.	6/6/24	175	Taylor, G.	6/19/24	369	Mason, J. W.	6/9/24
53	Walraven, R. E.	6/7/24	176	Reid, W. H.	11/25/23	375	Muth, R. J.	8/21/22
57	Blundell, P. L.	5/14/24	176	Shreffler, B. E.	7/7/24	396	Pepper, C. T.	2/25/24
57	Fenstermaker, J. I.	6/24/24	177	Poag, D. H.	1/26/22	424	Drysdale, R. D.	6/15/24
57	Newey, H. L.	2/19/23	177	Schulz, J. C.	6/18/24	424	Smith, R. T.	6/13/24
57	Nicholson, C.	12/1/21	191	Webb, N. P.	6/29/24	429	Mounce, J. W.	5/24/24
57	Yadon, T. R.	7/24/21	193	Burch, C. A.	4/28/24	441	Spina, G. A.	5/22/24
58	Harris, D. D.	6/22/24	194	McGinty, E. R.	5/1/24	441	Veloz, J. J.	3/19/22
58	Jerks, E. L.	10/9/23	213	Coulson, D.	5/10/24	456	May, R. V.	6/2/24
58	Proctor, A. R.	6/13/24	213	Jurovich, G.	3/18/24	463	Bush, G. B.	8/17/08
58	Pugh, A. A.	6/2/24	222	Tucker, L. N.	6/11/24	466	Ballard, D. W.	5/24/24
58	Weber, G. N.	5/31/24	226	Robinson, G. E.	1/20/21	474	Cooley, J. R.	2/1/21
60	Schulze, R. W.	5/15/24	230	Boyd, O.	6/8/24	474	Reed, S. V.	1/8/24
66	Kipling, R. S.	6/7/24	233	Allen, C. F.	4/9/24	477	Brown, R. R.	6/7/24
66	Riddle, E. C.	5/2/23				479	Ponfick, J. A.	5/24/24

In Memoriam continued

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
480	Babb, J. L.	4/24/23	666	Keeton, K. W.	4/11/24	1007	Washington, J. W.	6/19/24
481	Lewis, T. J.	6/4/24	683	Miller, G. W.	6/16/24	1141	Wheeler, J. D.	6/16/24
481	Oliver, W. C.	5/21/24	683	Spellman, C. R.	3/26/24	1205	Henley, J. F.	6/19/24
481	Renie, M. Q.	4/24/24	692	McFarland, D. M.	6/1/24	1206	Vankirk, D.	5/31/24
494	Glass, R. A.	3/4/24	697	Lewis, J. P.	5/15/24	1245	Mederos, M. A.	6/3/24
494	Muiznieks, A. I.	7/5/22	697	Van Keppel, J. A.	5/21/24	1249	Carpenter, G. L.	5/28/22
499	Riggins, C. S.	5/7/24	700	Turner, L. T.	4/11/22	1249	Wilson, M. J.	2/4/22
502	Keith, S. R.	6/10/24	701	Becich, A.	6/17/24	1340	Robinson, A. R.	5/2/24
518	Cross, G. L.	5/4/24	701	Franchini, C. Z.	5/21/24	1377	Lizanich, G.	11/11/21
520	Lawrence, J. D.	7/13/22	702	Smothers, S. R.	5/24/24	1426	Mendoza, B.	5/10/24
520	Medcalf, M. V.	5/29/24	702	Tappan, C.	3/30/24	1483	Kovar, M. D.	5/28/24
520	Smith, C. E.	5/30/22	712	Finch, J. E.	4/28/24	1687	Battagin, F.	6/23/24
527	Waggoner, G. W.	7/2/24	712	Shelledy, J. G.	5/28/24	1687	Dipietro, F. P.	6/28/24
538	Boyle, T. E.	8/23/21	714	Decker, C. A.	5/16/24	1687	Kusinskis, M.	5/18/24
551	Pearce, J. A.	6/18/24	716	Norsworthy, J. L.	3/6/24	1900	Phelps, D. P.	2/23/22
551	Williams, E. W.	5/8/24	716	Roch, J. F.	6/6/24	1984	Brown, L. R.	3/30/24
558	Hall, N. O.	6/1/24	716	Scott, M. E.	4/28/24	1988	Paulson, K. R.	5/30/24
558	Springer, B. O.	6/7/24	725	Nicoson, W. E.	5/27/24	2038	Wanner, J. M.	2/14/24
568	Brisson, R.	9/29/23	725	Rogerson, D. W.	11/22/23	2166	Mihaljevich, J. I.	6/17/24
569	English, H. L.	3/13/24	743	Geschwindt, G. D.	6/7/24	I.O. (3)	Hays, D. S.	6/14/24
576	Velotta, C. D.	4/1/24	759	Davison, R. J.	6/1/24	I.O. (3)	Hemsing, R. A.	5/8/24
586	Budau, W.	6/26/24	760	Arnold, R. H.	6/23/24	I.O. (71)	McDonald, T. F.	6/29/24
586	Gannon, B. P.	3/13/24	769	Thifault, N. Y.	5/15/24	I.O. (84)	Flournoy, G. M.	6/22/24
586	Lemay, A. J.	4/10/24	776	Craven, S. W.	6/5/24	I.O. (134)	Bogyo, R. A.	4/18/23
586	Picard, G. W.	5/29/24	804	Tombros, T. G.	5/10/24	I.O. (134)	Targos, R. D.	6/1/24
595	Chanos, T. G.	5/31/20	812	Orr, J. P.	5/26/24	I.O. (160)	Nordstrom, E. L.	4/25/24
595	Kalama, H. K.	4/11/24	816	Bean, R. D.	1/13/22	I.O. (204)	Jamtgaard, O. G.	12/15/21
595	Washington, R.	4/4/21	816	Killebrew, E. C.	5/26/24	I.O. (357)	Price, W. F.	6/3/24
601	Reynolds, C. E.	6/13/24	816	King, T. L.	5/31/24	I.O. (401)	King, G. S.	5/29/24
606	Iacopelli, J. R.	5/29/24	816	Moore, J. R.	5/16/24	I.O. (424)	Danilak, D. W.	7/12/24
606	Layhew, F. H.	6/12/24	816	Routen, J. W.	5/3/24	I.O. (561)	Quintal, C.	7/5/24
611	Gulley, T. S.	5/17/24	816	Smith, C. B.	6/19/24	I.O. (1319)	Shearer, D. R.	5/20/24
611	Lujan, J. J.	11/28/23	852	Killen, C. W.	5/31/24	I.O. (1613)	Long, W. M.	6/14/22
611	Patchell, M. T.	6/5/24	890	Wilson, R. D.	5/27/24	I.O. (1925)	Pritchard, G. L.	10/2/19
613	Blackmon, T. E.	3/5/24	898	Allgood, F. E.	6/8/24	Pens. (I.O)	Ballwanz, R. P.	4/23/24
613	Cook, K. L.	12/30/23	903	Cook, J. K.	4/5/24	Pens. (I.O)	Bastian, E. H.	4/26/24
613	Green, K. L.	1/24/22	903	Holland, J. D.	6/6/24	Pens. (I.O)	Bleer, R. D.	6/4/24
613	Manous, B. D.	4/27/24	903	Hubbard, J.	3/1/24	Pens. (I.O)	Botts, H. J.	6/5/24
613	Phillips, T. W.	6/16/24	906	McCasey, M. F.	5/17/24	Pens. (I.O)	Gravelle, R.	12/4/23
613	Watson, L. A.	6/5/24	910	Runge, W. T.	12/6/23	Pens. (I.O)	Hammer, H. W.	10/17/23
625	Currie, A. P.	5/25/24	934	Teague, R. A.	5/17/24	Pens. (I.O)	O'grady, P.	5/31/24
640	Nelson, C. M.	6/14/24	953	Bergstrom, D. R.	5/8/24	Pens. (I.O)	Rains, R. D.	5/7/24
648	Dickerscheid, R. F.	6/19/24	953	Fijalkiewicz, M. R.	6/1/24	Pens. (I.O)	Richter, R. C.	5/3/22
654	Fischer, C. S.	3/28/24	953	Hargrave, G.	6/10/24	Pens. (I.O.)	Tate, J. D.	5/19/16
654	Ragan, M. D.	5/5/24	995	Curtis, R. K.	5/26/24	Pens. (I.O)	Young, J. L.	5/19/24
659	O'Leary, W. T.	5/28/24	997	Odonnell, D. L.	5/16/24			

This list shows members for whom PBF death claims were approved in July 2024.



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.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	Fourth District	Third District	THE ELECTRICAL WORKER
William W. Riley	Dennis C. Affinati	Gina P. Cooper	Editor Kenneth W. Cooper
Kenneth W. Cooper International President	Donald B. Finn	Glenn Brannen	Matt Spence
Paul A. Noble International Secretary-Treasurer	Mark H. Cunningham	Michael Clemmons	Tim Lawson
INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	Leroy J. Chincio	Christian J. Wagner	Alex Hogan
Chairman Christopher Erikson	INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS	Jerry Bellah	Curtis D. Bateman
First District Joseph P. Calabro	First District Russell N. Shewchuk	Ninth District David E. Reaves Jr.	Asifa Haniff
Second District Myles J. Calvey	Second District Michael P. Monahan	Tenth District Brent E. Hall	Ben Temchine
Third District William Hamilton		Eleventh District Mark D. Hager	Colin Kelly
			Rix Oakland
			Colleen Crinion
			Michael Pointer
			Janelle Hartman
			Joe Conway
			Emily Welsh
			Mike Palm
			Javier Pierrend

HOW TO REACH US



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

Send letters to:

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

Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

©2024 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The Electrical Worker (print)
ISSN 2332-113X

The Electrical Worker (online)
ISSN 2332-1148

All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. on Union-made paper.

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 122
Niagara Falls ON
L2E 6S8.

HELP ELECT PRO-WORKER CANDIDATES



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

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

Support the IBEW PAC

www.ibew.org/ibewpac/contribute.org

Contributions can be made only by IBEW members who are U.S. citizens.



WHO WE ARE

How a California Local Got Its Own Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club

There are a lot of kinds of clubs at IBEW locals, but Sacramento, Calif., Local 340 may be the only one with a Brazilian jiu-jitsu club.

"It really surprised a lot of our members when they first heard of it. This kind of group is not your typical type of activity for our local," Business Manager Bob Ward said. "It's a great testament to Troy's character that he's bridging his love for the Brotherhood with an art he's spent a lifetime cultivating."

Before Troy Takara even topped out of his apprenticeship, he was already launching the jiu-jitsu club. He was new to being an inside wireman, but he was already a black belt in the martial art. So in 2023, during his fourth year of the apprenticeship, he decided to combine his longtime love of jiu-jitsu with his newfound love of the IBEW.

"Jiu-jitsu and the spirit of the IBEW are very similar to one another. Everyone can develop their own set of skills and then share those skills with the people around them. And camaraderie is the best part," Takara said. "You can build a close bond with someone you work with and an even closer bond with someone you're trying to choke out."

Spreading that sense of camaraderie and empowerment is something that Takara is sharing with as many people as possible. The club is open to Local 340 members, as well as travelers, and their family members, even kids. Ward said he's planning to enroll his 5-year-old son, Remington, sometime next year.

Some jiu-jitsu principles are used in mixed martial arts, but jiu-jitsu doesn't involve the more aggressive MMA moves like kicking and punching. It's sometimes referred to as "the gentle art" because it emphasizes leverage, technique and efficiency over brute strength.

"I started training at an MMA club



Brazilian jiu-jitsu black belt and inside wireman Troy Takara, second from the left kneeling, has brought his love of the sport to Sacramento, Calif., Local 340, and the new club is taking off. "Anything that brings our members together outside the workplace makes all of us stronger," Business Manager Bob Ward said.



"You can build a close bond with someone you work with and an even closer bond with someone you're trying to choke out."

— Troy Takara

and found out really fast how much I did not like getting punched in the face, so my attention turned more toward grappling," said Takara, who is from Oahu, Hawaii. "Most of the time, I'm the smaller person in the room, and utilizing my techniques in jiu-jitsu, I'm able to defeat and submit a lot of the bigger athletes at the dojo. It's really empowering for someone like me who is smaller, not that athletic and on the older side of things."

Jiu-jitsu has also been called "human chess," due to its highly technical nature and how it encourages problem-solving and adaptability, attributes that also apply to electrical work, Takara said.

"You never know what your opponent will do, but there are numerous possibilities you're calculating and anticipating in your head. These quick-thinking skills can be attributed to wiremen as well, since we often have to troubleshoot on the fly to find the safest and best outcome."

Club members meet once a month for an open-mat session, and Takara said there are always new people who are interested. The number of attendees fluctuates, but it's increasing. There were four people at the first session and 14 at a recent meet-up, he said.

"The hardest part is showing up and walking through the gym doors," Takara said. "For those that do, it's usually their very first experience trying jiu-jitsu. I have to commend them for trying it because they're really stepping out of their comfort zone by attempting a combative sport."

Takara, who's also a member of Local 340's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, said he makes sure to attend

every union meeting to help spread the word, including that it's free thanks to his relationship with the Maxwell Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy in Sacramento, where they train.

"It's commendable that Troy has spent so much of his personal time to pass on his skills to our brothers and sisters," Ward said. "Anything that brings our members together outside the workplace makes all of us stronger."

It's a sentiment shared by Local 340 Training Director and jiu-jitsu club member Chris Tillery.

"I think the club does well what other clubs and organizations in our local do: It brings members and their families together to promote unity, brotherhood and sisterhood," he said. "It also gives members an introduction to the BJJ lifestyle that can not only help a member with their physical fitness, but also with their emotional well-being

and self-confidence."

That Takara has the drive and discipline to compete as a black belt doesn't come as a surprise to his apprenticeship instructors.

"Troy was an outstanding apprentice in class. He was always engaged and asked pertinent questions that led to great conversation. You can tell that he really wanted to understand the material, no matter how complex it was," said fifth-year instructor Jacob Smith, who's also a club member. "He is definitely one of the best representatives of the values that 340 stands for."

For Takara, who has been training since 2006, the goal has always been to form a strong brotherhood within Local 340 by utilizing jiu-jitsu as a vessel.

"I love being a member of the IBEW. I like the people that I work with and meeting new members. We differ in ways like our ethnicity, age and background, but we're all working on a project together. It ties in with jiu-jitsu because the 'project' you're working on is personal development and growth within the sport. With jiu-jitsu, the more members I bring in, the more training partners I have to sharpen my skills. With the IBEW, the more electrical workers we organize, the stronger our union will become." ■



Takara shows fellow Local 340 jiu-jitsu club members the initial steps on how to open a "closed guard" technique.

IBEW MERCHANDISE



LADIES PERFORMANCE HOODIE SHIRT \$30.00

78% poly / 22% cotton. Heathered cotton look with relaxed feminine fit. Features custom IBEW logo on full back and initials on front left chest.

SAFETY DEPARTMENT CHALLENGE COIN \$7.00

1.5" silver toned challenge coin featuring the international symbol for safety and first aid. Features full color Code of Excellence logo on the back with satin finished edge.

SNAPBACK STYLE TRUCKER HAT \$25.00

Snapback style trucker hat with 100% twill front panels and 100% polyester mesh mid and back panels. Features IBEW initials and fist and bolts embroidered on front. Full logo on bottom of bill and Est. 1891 on back.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com