

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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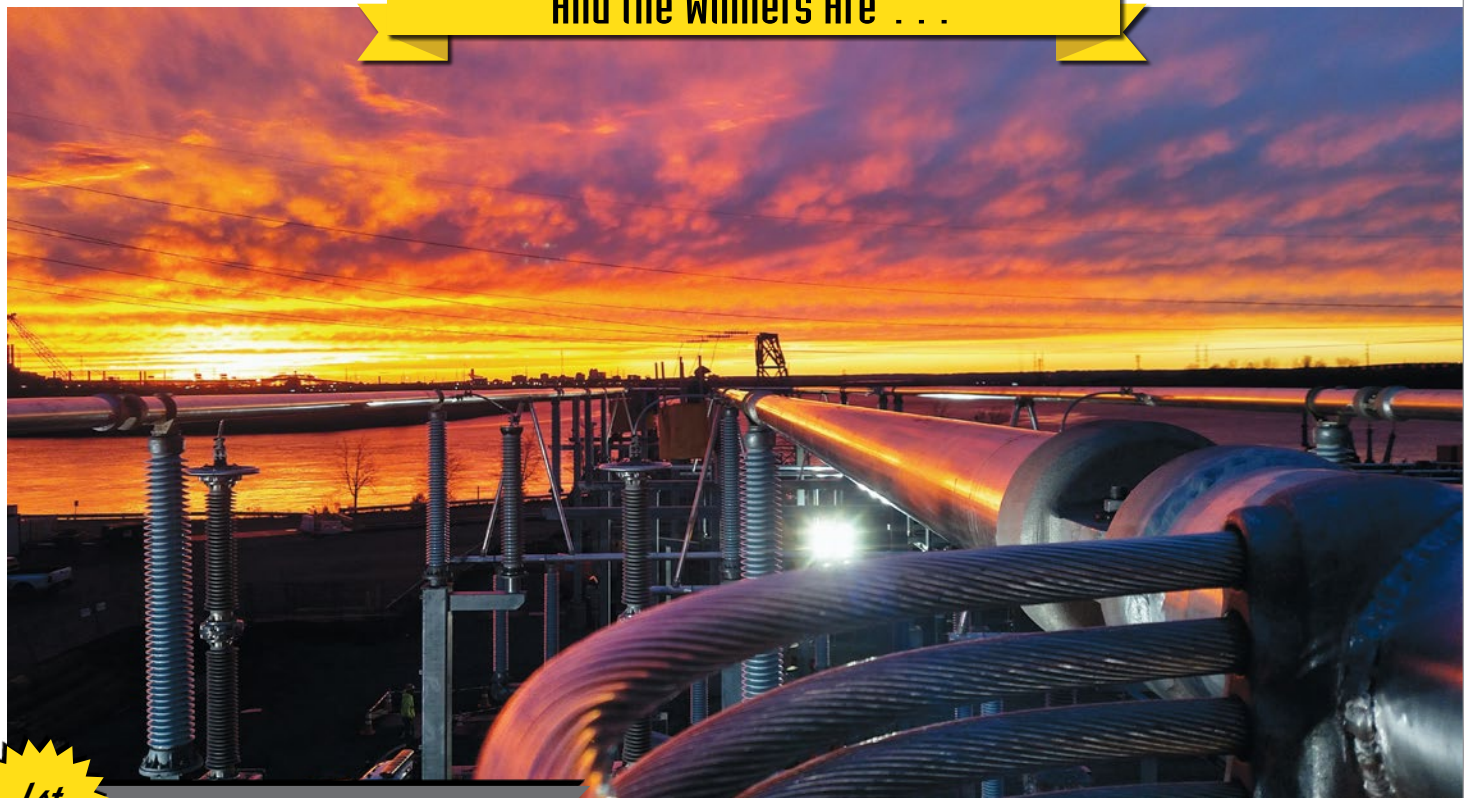
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## And the Winners Are . . .



Chris Plesnarski, Paterson, N.J., Local 102

## 18<sup>th</sup> IBEW Photo Contest Winners

THE

# IBEW'S PHOTO 2015 Contest

Winners

IBEW photo contest winner **Chris Plesnarski** put himself in perfect position to capture the Manhattan skyline across from the Meadowlands and turned his back on it.

Looking west over the Hackensack River, the Paterson, N.J., Local 102 member found a sunset of rare beauty. Soft clouds and golden light contrast and are reflected in the hard twisted chrome of the strand wrapped cables of the expansion fitting. It is a study in contrasting surfaces unified by the perspective lines of the pipe like a straight shot to the horizon.

Plesnarski's picture of the Hudson Switchyard in Jersey City was the runaway winner, beating out second place by nearly 100 votes during two weeks of

online voting in January when members and friends voted for their favorites of 15 finalists.

Nearly hidden in the chromed curves of pipe and cable are the other welders from Jersey City, N.J., Local 164, members on Plesnarski's crew of journeyman inside wiremen: William Kennedy, James Aroland and Gerard Carbone welding together a new 6-inch bus, which carries enormous current to electrical switches.

This year's No.1 pick was a change from winners in recent years, which heavily favored iconic images of linemen at work.

And while there were more than a handful of linemen-in-silhouette pictures submitted, the sec-

ond place winner brought a new angle and bright colors to the subject. Monroe, N.Y., Local 503 member **Doug Peifer** saw Ed Hoag climbing through an alien cloudscape of orange and black on his way up a transmission tower to repair broken glass insulators.

Linemen in silhouette are familiar entries to the photo contest, but Peifer's photograph stood out with its combination of balance, movement and asymmetry.

In third place, an ice-shrouded weeping willow glows like fireworks in the picture taken by Milwaukee Local 2150 member **Gregg Stoudt**.

Getting the exposure right in miserable conditions was only part of Stoudt's challenge. He also composed contrasting shapes and textures into a standout composition. The straight lines of the glowing power lines and the enclosed angles of the boom arms are lightened by the streaks of snow falling across the sky and the delicate chains of ice dripping from the tree branches.

With winter far from over in parts of the U.S. and much of Canada, the picture is a powerful reminder of who keeps the heat on.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS *continued on page 2*

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And the Winners Are . . .

Continued from page 1

THE

# IBEW'S PHOTO 2015 Contest

Winners

Two photos were awarded honorable mentions. Pictures of lightning filled night skies are common entrants to the contest, but Phoenix Local 266 member **Antonio Palacios'** picture of lightning in daylight is a first. Even without the lightning, the dramatically lit picture of bright sunlight and dark clouds, newly raised poles and fallen wires captures the never ending struggle to keep the power flowing. Also receiving an honorable mention is Grand Junction, Colo., Local 969 member **James Cook's** picture of member Derek Larson on his way up an ancient looking power pole dried out by the high western desert. It is an emblematic image for the IBEW's 125th anniversary showing strong boots and well-worn leather carrying a skilled worker where few have the training or courage to go.

Finally, the editor's choice award goes to Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 organizing steward **Steven Marcotte**. He joined fellow Local 1245 members and veterans Walter Carmier and Pam Pendleton during the Sacramento Veterans Day parade and caught a shared moment of pride and celebration.

"Local 1245 showed up to parades all over our jurisdiction to support the members who did serve and make sure veterans know the IBEW is a path for veterans to a middle-class life," Marcotte said.

This year's photo contest brought us original angles on old themes and moments we've never seen before. There will not be a photo contest this year because of our extensive coverage of the IBEW convention in St. Louis. Nevertheless, pictures taken this year will be eligible for entry in 2017. Good luck. ■



2nd Place

Doug Peifer, Monroe, N.Y., Local 503



3rd Place

Gregg Stoudt, Milwaukee Local 2150



Honorable Mention

Antonio Palacios, Phoenix Local 266



Honorable Mention

James Cook, Grand Junction, Colo., Local 969



Editor's Choice

Steven Marcotte, Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245

Correction

In the article "IBEW-Backed Candidate Wins La. Governor's Race; Member Named Chief of Staff" in the December Electrical Worker, Bogalusa Local 1077 member Ben Nevers was misidentified. Before his appointment as Gov. Jon Bel Edwards' chief of staff, he was a state senator, not a state representative. We regret the error. ■

## PRESERVING THE DREAM



# IBEW Birthplace Surpasses \$1 MILLION MILESTONE

The modest boarding-house where Henry Miller and nine other delegates founded the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1891 is a humming construction site today. The property just west of downtown St. Louis — on the verge of collapse only months ago — is well on its way to becoming a monument to the IBEW's founders before the Brotherhood's 39th International Convention this September.

In mid-January, the Electrical Workers Historical Society, which is building the museum in coordination with St. Louis Local 1, surpassed a significant fundraising milestone, collecting the first \$1 million of the \$6 million needed to restore and maintain the property to its late 1800s origins. Plans also include a park on the adjacent lot with statues of the linemen founders and granite benches surrounded by a wrought-iron fence.

"This a great start to our fundraising efforts," said IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson, who is also chairman of the historical society. "We're honored that so many local unions and individuals have stepped up to help preserve our history in this way." Local 1 Business Manager Frank Jacobs said he, too, is humbled by the support and positive feedback he has received from IBEW brothers and sisters across the U.S. and Canada.

"It's been really neat to see all of the families making donations for themselves or honoring parents or grandparents or



An artist's rendering shows the completed Henry Miller Museum and Founders Park, set to open by this September's international convention.

siblings with an engraved brick or paver," he said. "We're really hopeful that this project gets the membership excited to have their names or their loved ones' names be a part of this museum forever."

The historical society is offering certificates, commemorative coins and engraved pavers to individual donors and families starting at \$25, and has larger items like floor sponsorships, benches, and lineman statues available for larger donation amounts. ([www.bit.ly/MuseumDonation](http://www.bit.ly/MuseumDonation))

Dozens of local unions have made generous contributions as well, including six-figure sums from Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 and Omaha, Neb., Local 22.

For retired wireman Steve Elliott, it was never a question of whether to give, but for whom. "I've contributed for myself and in memory of my late father-in-law, Paul E. Botkin," the Dayton, Ohio, Local 82 member said. "I've donated on behalf of my brother-in-law and nephew too. We all owe a lot to the IBEW, and this museum is for the men and women of the rank-and-file."

Elliott also issued a challenge to his fellow members and retirees across the U.S. and Canada: "Everyone's situation is different," he said, "But it's important that this museum reflects the men and women out there working for a living every day. Every one of us should be able to write a check or go online and give something, anything."

For members or locals who would like to contribute to preserving the IBEW's history, visit [www.nbew-ibew-museum.org](http://www.nbew-ibew-museum.org) and click on the "Donate" tab, or mail a check to the Electrical Workers Historical Society, IBEW Local 1, 5850 Elizabeth Ave., St. Louis, Mo., 63110.

And for those curious about the construction process, Local 1 Recording Secretary John Kahrhoff and Henry Miller Museum construction superintendent Dale Roth are hosting daily live video sessions on the social media app Periscope. Follow along by downloading the app onto an iPhone or Android device and searching for the user @IBEWmuseum or by visiting [www.periscope.tv/IBEWmuseum](http://www.periscope.tv/IBEWmuseum).

As of the end of January, the three-story building had been nearly gutted while the brick exterior walls have been shored up and repointed with mortar. Special care has been taken to preserve intact parts of the original interior so that they can be reinstalled once the structural work has been completed. Work on grading the site for the Founder's Park plaza and a parking lot was also underway outside. ■

## Anti-Union Bill Aims to Kill Government PLAs

Anti-union legislation seeking to limit the use of project labor agreements met determined resistance in January when the IBEW joined forces with signatory contractors and other unions to oppose it in Congress.

The bill seeks to prohibit the use of project labor agreements on government-funded construction projects.

IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson sent a letter to members of Congress urging them to oppose the bill, calling the legislation "unnecessary," and touting the numerous benefits PLAs have provided since the 1930s.

"Workers, taxpayers and contractors each benefit from the use of PLAs," Stephenson wrote, adding, "Construction performed under PLAs results in the safest, most well-built projects because only the highest-skilled workers are used."

PLAs are agreements entered into prior to construction that supersede normal collective bargaining agreements and are often used to bring order to especially complicated projects involving multiple trades and phases. They are commonly used to provide for things like efficient dispute resolution and to ensure certain percentages of local hires and requirements of employment baselines for women and minority workers.

In the federal government, PLAs are optional, but their use has been generally encouraged under Democratic administrations. President George W. Bush, however, notably banned their use by executive order at the beginning of his first term in 2001.

Critics argue that PLAs unfairly benefit union contractors because of the pre-bid nature of the agreements, but non-union contractors are free to bid on any project provided they agree to pay the wages and benefits specified in the PLA and that they meet the agreement's rigorous safety standards.

"The truth is PLAs virtually eliminate the costly delays of labor conflicts or skilled worker shortages," said Dan Gardner, an international representative in the IBEW's Political and Legislative Affairs Department. "They're vital tools in making

sure jobs come in on time and on budget."

For now, the anti-PLA bill faces an uncertain future. Sponsored by Republican Rep. Mick Mulvaney of South Carolina, the legislation passed out of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on Jan. 12, but it has yet to be scheduled for a vote by the full House.

In the event the bill reaches the Senate, however, Democrats would likely have the votes to block it with a filibuster. President Barack Obama has also been supportive of PLAs in government-funded construction projects in the past, evidenced by his 2009 executive order overturning Bush's ban on their use.

In his letter, Stephenson pointed to the extensive use of PLAs by private corporations who haven't always been known for cozying up to labor. Wal-Mart, for example, regularly uses PLAs in the construction of its stores. Toyota and Boeing, which have both faced criticism from unions for moving jobs to the right-to-work South, have also benefited from the agreements in the construction of their plants.

Marco A. Giamberardino, executive director of government affairs for the National Electrical Contractors Association, argued that the "misguided" bill restricting the use of PLAs would deny the government an important procurement tool.

"PLAs ensure a steady flow of highly trained construction labor and reduce some of the uncertainty inherent in large-scale construction projects," Giamberardino wrote. "Extensive training requirements, coupled with fair compensation, save taxpayers money by ensuring on-time and on-budget completion of projects."

"It's unfortunate that the anti-union elements in Congress continue these sorts of ideological political attacks every chance they get," Stephenson said. "Stopping this bill is important not just to us, but to taxpayers too."

PLAs remain one of the most effective ways to stop government projects from dragging on years behind schedule and racking up billions in cost overruns, Stephenson said. "Keeping them as a tool to combat waste is just the responsible thing to do." ■



Members from Washington, D.C., Local 26 work on Metro's Silver Line project near Dulles airport, where the work is governed by a PLA.

## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

### www.ibew.org

Visit the new IBEW website to get union news and other information and read *The Electrical Worker* online.

### YouTube

If you liked last month's story on the new Late Show with Stephen Colbert, check out this video with interviews of New York Local 1212 members and footage of the Ed Sullivan Theater. Watch at [YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](http://YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker)

### Vimeo

When Detroit Local 17 members began repairing the streetlights in their hometown, 40 percent were broken. Today, they're replacing about 600 lights a week and Motor City residents are noticing. [vimeo.com/ibew](http://vimeo.com/ibew)

### HourPower

In the latest from Hour Power, we had the chance to explore the new and expanding Western States Caterpillar facility in Pocatello, Idaho. Big machines and big equipment meant a big project. [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com)

### ElectricTV

Electric TV is designed to educate and inform the world on electrical construction news. ETV promotes the NECA/IBEW team and the projects they work on. [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net)



# NORTH OF 49°

## Canadian Government Delays Anti-Labour Bill's Effects

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's newly-formed Liberal government delivered on a major campaign promise in December when Diane Lebovitch, the minister of national revenue, announced a waiver of the onerous reporting requirements for labour organizations under Bill C-377.

The anti-union legislation was vigorously opposed by labour during fall's national election, and the waiver came just in time to defang the law before it was slated to take effect at the end of the year.

"We commend the new government for taking these important steps so quickly," said First District Vice President Bill Daniels, "but our main priority is still for them to follow through on their commitment to fully repeal this unfair law as soon as possible."

Bill C-377 was a four-year fight for Canadian trade unions from the time Conservative MP Russ Hiebert first proposed it until it was forced through the Senate last June. The bill would have required strict financial reporting to the federal government of everything from salaries to office supply purchases.

The ideologically-driven legislation, which threatened to bury Canada's unions in bureaucratic red tape, was one of the main motivations behind a particularly active campaign from labour in the lead-up to October's national elections.

Thanks in part to the boost from labour, Oct. 19 saw a historic wave election sweep Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's party from power amid massive gains for Trudeau's Liberals. In the end, the Liberal party gained 184 seats in the House of Commons, catapulting it into the majority with more than five times its membership in the last parliament.

"We told our members early on that there were two ways to overturn C-377," said First District Political Action/Media Strategist Matt Wayland. "We could do it the expensive way and fight the bill in the courts, or we could do it the quicker, easier way and work hard during the election to get rid of the Harper government."

IBEW leaders and members across the First District activated their national grassroots political program designed to educate members on the issues and to get them to the polls, particularly in targeted ridings.

The Let's Build Canada coalition, organized by the IBEW and other building trades unions, pushed the issues of infrastructure investment and job creation for young workers as part of its winning strategy.

Now that Harper's nine-year tenure as prime minister has come to an end,

there has been a definite change of tone in Ottawa, Wayland said.

"The door is open now," he said. "The new government is willing to listen to us, and while we don't expect they'll do everything we want, it's a much healthier relationship than it was a year ago."

In announcing the year-long grace period on C-377 reporting, Lebovitch reiterated the new government's commit-

ment to provide a legislative fix in the coming months.

In a statement, she wrote, "Waiving Bill C-377 reporting requirements delivers on our government's commitment to restore a fair and balanced approach to organized labour, freeing them from additional administrative tasks, and providing confidence in the future while the necessary steps are taken to repeal the bill."

Another important piece of anti-union legislation, Bill C-525, is also likely to see repeal under the new government thanks to a similar campaign promise. That law made it harder for workers covered by the federal labour code to form a union and made it easier to decertify one.

For leaders at the IBEW, Wayland said, it's, "So far, so good .... The right things are being done." ■

## AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

# Le gouvernement canadien retarde l'abrogation du projet de loi antisyndical C-377

Le gouvernement fédéral nouvellement constitué du Premier Ministre Justin Trudeau a entrepris les premières démarches de leur promesse électorale en décembre dernier lorsque la ministre du Revenu national Diane Lebovitch a annoncé le renoncement des lourdes exigences liées aux déclarations financières pour les organisations syndicales sous le projet de loi émanant d'un député C-377.

Cette législation antisyndicale a farouchement été opposée par le syndicat lors des élections nationales de l'automne. Ce renoncement est tombé pile au bon moment pour l'affaiblir avant son entrée en vigueur à la fin de l'année.

« Nous tenons à féliciter le nouveau gouvernement d'avoir entrepris ces mesures si rapidement, mais notre priorité principale est de s'assurer qu'il respecte leur engagement en abrogeant complètement cette loi injuste le plus rapidement possible », déclare le Vice-président international Bill Daniels.

Le projet de loi C-377 a été un combat de quatre ans pour les syndicats canadiens à partir du moment où le député du parti conservateur Russ Hiebert l'a proposé et imposé au Sénat en juin dernier. Cette législation aurait nécessité des déclarations financières strictes pour les syndicats qui auraient eu à dévoiler toutes transactions financières au gouvernement fédéral allant de l'achat de fourniture de bureau jusqu'aux salaires.

Cette législation idéologique menaçant d'enterrer les syndicats canadiens dans la bureaucratie a été une des

principales motivations derrière l'engagement du syndicat qui a contribué de manière active dans la campagne en prévision de l'élection nationale du mois d'octobre.

En partie grâce au soutien que le syndicat a apporté, le 19 octobre a marqué l'histoire électorale en détrônant le parti du premier ministre Stephen Harper ce qui a permis aux libéraux de Trudeau de réaliser des gains massifs. En fin de compte, le Parti libéral a obtenu 184 sièges à la Chambre des Communes, catapultant le parti à la majorité avec plus de cinq fois plus de sièges qu'aux dernières élections.

« Dès le début, nous avons mentionné à nos membres qu'il existait deux moyens de renverser C-377, nous pourrions prendre la façon couteuse et la lutter devant les tribunaux, ou nous pourrions prendre la façon la plus rapide et de travailler fort durant les élections pour se débarrasser du gouvernement Harper », dit Matt Wayland de l'action politique/stratégiste en média au Premier District.

Les leaders et les membres de la FIOE ont lancé leur programme politique destiné à éduquer en impliquant les membres à la base sur les enjeux et à les mobiliser pour aller voter, plus précisément dans les circonscriptions ciblées.

Dans le cadre de sa stratégie gagnante, la coalition *Let's Build Canada* organisée par la FIOE et les autres syndicats, a poussé les questions d'investissement sur l'infrastructure et sur la création d'emploi auprès des jeunes.

Maintenant que le mandat de neuf

ans de Harper comme premier ministre est arrivé à terme, il y a certainement eu un changement de ton à Ottawa, a déclaré Wayland.

« La porte est maintenant ouverte », dit-il. « Le nouveau gouvernement est disposé à nous écouter, et même si ne nous attendons pas à ce qu'il nous rende tous les services, notre relation est beaucoup plus saine qu'il y a un an ».

En annonçant la période de grâce d'un an sur les obligations de déclarations financières du C-377, Lebovitch a réitéré l'engagement du nouveau gouvernement afin de fournir une solution législative dans les prochains mois.

Dans un communiqué, elle a écrit : « les obligations de déclarations du projet de loi C-377 répondent à l'engagement de notre gouvernement envers les syndicats à rétablir une approche équitable et équilibrée, en les libérant des tâches administratives supplémentaires, et en faisant confiance à l'avenir, alors que les mesures nécessaires sont entreprises pour abroger le projet de loi ».

Un autre renseignement important au sujet du projet de loi antisyndicale C-525 serait susceptible d'être abrogé sous le règne du nouveau gouvernement grâce à une promesse électorale similaire. Cette loi a compliqué les choses pour les travailleurs couverts par le Code du travail fédéral pour former un syndicat et pour faciliter la demande de révocation de l'accréditation syndicale.

Pour les leaders de la FIOE, jusqu'à présent nous nous en sortons plutôt bien, tout va bien jusqu'ici, » dit Wayland. ■



# CIRCUITS

## IBEW Vice President Tapped for Indy Leadership Post

David J. Ruhmkorff has had a big year filled with new responsibilities — most notably, his appointment as Sixth District Vice President last June when Lonnie R. Stephenson was named IBEW president.

He added another duty in early January. Ruhmkorff, who lives in Indianapolis and is a former business manager for Local 481, was named to the city's Capital Improvement Board, which owns and operates three major sports venues and the Indiana Convention Center.

Ruhmkorff was appointed by new Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett, a longtime friend and ally of working families.

"I talked with him in previous conversations and told him I'd like for the IBEW to have a presence in his administration. I didn't mean for it to be me," Ruhmkorff said.

of using American-made steel as opposed to foreign imports, for instance. It's not just because of his influence in the union movement, Voorhies said. It's also because Ruhmkorff is respected by many in the business community.

"It's one of the highest prestige boards you can be on around here," Voorhies said. "To have someone like Dave on it representing labor is huge for us."

Ruhmkorff said he hopes his appointment puts the IBEW and Local 481 in a positive light in a state that hasn't been friendly to labor in recent years. Indiana passed right-to-work legislation in 2012. Republicans currently have the governorship and overwhelming majorities in both the state House and Senate. Hogsett has long been one of the state's top Democrats and succeeded a Republican as mayor.

Ruhmkorff also sees it as an extension of his leadership role with the IBEW.

"It's about being a part of the fabric of the community," Ruhmkorff said. "You can establish faith in your own union by

involved in politics in the Hoosier State.

"There's a lot of other committees that we need to have labor leaders on," he said. "That's what our leaders need to step up and understand. It will benefit us in the long run." ■

## Boston RENEW Chapter Gains Momentum While Giving Back

Whether it's tailgating at a Patriots game, canvassing neighborhoods for elections or dressing up as a snowman for the local's holiday party, Kevin Molineaux makes sure that his RENEW chapter is there.

"We help out wherever we can," said Boston Local 103 member Molineaux, who heads its chapter of RENEW, or Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers. "We want to engage as many people as possible."

Focusing on community, political involvement and fraternity, the group hosts an event a month. These have included a breast cancer walk, making care packages for veterans, neighborhood cleanup, powering a scoreboard for a neighboring town and working with Habitat for Humanity.

Additionally, they help out with Boston's annual Labor Day parade and the local's Christmas party. For the Christmas party, Molineaux and his fellow RENEW members coordinated the toy drive and dressed up as Frosty the Snowman, the Grinch and Mrs. Claus, among others.

Local 103 sent him to a RENEW conference about two years ago. "It was incredible," said Molineaux, a journeyman wireman. "A real eye opener." Fueled with inspiration, he said he and a friend were eager to start their own chapter. It was slow in the beginning, but their chapter now has about 40 members and meetings have about 25 in attendance.

As a steward, Molineaux is in a good position to let members know about RENEW and its significance. It's not just the need to grow the younger ranks, though that is a part. Local 103 Business Manager John P. Dumas says that half the membership will be eligible to retire in the next five years — the same time it takes to fully train a new apprentice.

Molineaux reminds members how much the local has given them and that they need to make sure it's there for future generations. "It's about giving back," he said.

Molineaux sits on the national board for RENEW, representing the Second District, and they are working on getting chapters at every local. The board is also determining its role at the upcoming international convention.

"There is always something to do and not enough time in the day," he said. "I will have to start delegating more, but there are people to tap," he said of the growing number of members eager to get more involved.

"People are starting to bring their friends to events. We're really gaining momentum and growing by



Boston Local 103's RENEW chapter is gaining momentum. Kevin Molineaux, left, Chris Black, Dave McLean, Dan Viennneau, Dave Mastrangilo, Justin Ruiz and Bryan Sisson assemble after powering the scoreboard and pitching machine at a local baseball field in the Boston neighborhood of Charlestown.

leaps and bounds."

The Local 103 chapter is currently working on a mentoring program in partnership with an existing program for women. They are also planning an educational event where leadership will explain their duties and union structure.

For Molineaux, union membership is a family affair. He and his brother are following in their father's footsteps. All are journeyman wiremen.

"He's a great kid," Dumas said. "He lives and breathes the IBEW." ■

## IBEW Leader to Serve on Mont. Carbon Emissions Council

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock is trying to get out ahead of the Environmental Protection Agency's rule regarding power plant emissions and he is looking to the IBEW for help.

The EPA issued a rule in October that requires states to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from existing power plants. The final version of the rule, also known as the Clean Power Plan, aims to reduce national electricity sector emissions by an estimated 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Each state has its own goal within this and for Montana, this means reducing emissions by 47 percent, the most of any state.

"No matter what one's opinion is of

the Clean Power Plan, we can't afford to ignore it," Bullock told the Billings Gazette. "We have far too much at stake."

In an effort to meet the goal without jeopardizing Montana's power grid or anyone's job, Bullock appointed a citizen advisory council to draft the rules for moving forward. And Colstrip, Mont., Local 1638 Business Manager Rex Rogers has been tapped to join.

"Having Rex on the advisory council ensures that the interests of Montana's hard-working citizens won't get lost in the shuffle of bureaucracy," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "It also makes sure that Montana will meet its goal in the smartest way possible without harming its energy resources."

Rogers was also appointed by Eighth District Vice President Jerry Bellah last year to be the IBEW state labor contact for the CPP and related issues in Montana. Each state has a contact person who works with state and local governments as a stakeholder. The IBEW is the only international union to have such a person in every state to assist with crafting a plan for meeting CPP standards, said International Representative Anna Jerry.

The IBEW is also part of a working group established with the U.S. Department of Energy that does educational outreach to state contacts on topics including the CPP and carbon capture and storage, Jerry said.

The 27-member governor's council



Lucas Oil Stadium — home of the NFL's Colts — in Indianapolis is managed by the city's Capital Improvement Board. Photo credit: Flickr user Matt Doner.

The board oversees Lucas Oil Stadium (home of the NFL's Colts), Bankers Life Fieldhouse (NBA's Pacers), Victory Field (triple-A baseball's Indians) along with the convention center. It is in charge of day-to-day maintenance and also must approve any upgrades, improvements and new construction at the facilities.

It also is required to sign off on any new lease agreements with the facilities' tenants. Two years ago, the board approved a 10-year, \$160-million subsidy to the NBA's Indiana Pacers. The combination of high-profile sports venues and teams receiving public expenditures puts the Capital Improvement Board in the public eye more than other government oversight boards in the state.

"I was concerned about the time commitment and if I would be able to fulfill the obligation," Ruhmkorff said. "But if it's not me, who is it going to be? If it's not a labor person, that's problematic. And I do believe in the call to serve."

Ruhmkorff's appointment received a big thumbs up from Indiana AFL-CIO President Brett Voorhies, a longtime friend and a member of the Steelworkers Union.

Voorhies said Ruhmkorff will work to have union contractors awarded contracts. Voorhies also expects him to urge fellow board members to use American-made products, including the benefit

being involved in the community."

Indianapolis has used sports to raise its profile in an attempt to attract new businesses and out-of-town visitors. It is the home of the NCAA and regularly hosts the men's basketball Final Four along with numerous other college sports events and bills itself as "The Amateur Sports Capital of America."

The city has built state-of-the-art facilities mostly with public money to house those pro sports teams and events like the Big Ten football championship game. The convention center was doubled in size in 2011 as the city continues to use its central location to attract more meetings and events. About 41 percent of the U.S. population lives within a 500-mile radius of the city.

Ruhmkorff and the other eight board members now are in charge of making sure the properties remain at a high quality.

"You just can't build these buildings and wash your hands," Ruhmkorff said. "You have to take care of them. That's a big undertaking for a number of years."

Ruhmkorff was initiated into Local 481 in 1979 and is a journeyman inside wireman. He was elected business manager in 1990 and became an international representative in 1994.

He said he hopes his appointment will encourage more labor leaders to get



The EPA's Clean Power Plan targets coal-fired plants like Montana's Lewis and Clark plant, pictured, and the Colstrip plant that employs more than 250 Local 1638 members. Photo credit: Flickr user Tim Evans.

is composed of representatives from various sectors, including energy, labor, environmental protection, business and the Native American community. Rogers is one of three representatives from labor, the others being Montana AFL-CIO Executive Director Al Ekblad and Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council President John Roeber.

The council will make recommendations to the state Department of Environmental Quality and to Bullock, who must submit a plan to the EPA by Sept. 6, said the Billings Gazette. States can request a two-year extension but must meet certain requirements, one of which is engaging stakeholders.

The Clean Power Plan has come under scrutiny and is facing a lawsuit which the IBEW has joined.

The lawsuit, contends that the EPA does not have the legal authority to create such a policy, and that it threatens grid reliability while doing little to effectively address climate change. The IBEW joins 27 states, several utilities and two other labor unions on the legal action.

"We agree that climate change is a real threat, and one caused by human behavior," said Stephenson, "but we can't expect one sector alone to shoulder the burden of reducing emissions. We need everyone involved, including industries like agriculture and transportation."

Focusing solely on coal-fired power plants also threatens grid reliability since renewable sources like wind and solar are not currently capable of replacing more consistent, base load energy like coal. In 2014, coal provided 39 percent of U.S. electricity generation, while renewables like wind and solar accounted for only 7 percent, said the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Rogers says Local 1638 has more than 250 members, all of whom work at the coal-fired Colstrip Power Plant. The EPA rules have created a great deal of uncertainty for them.

In addition to the EPA rule, neighboring states are reevaluating their use of Montana's coal for their energy consumption. Two utility companies in Washington, which also own shares of the Colstrip Power Plant, are considering substantially reducing the plant's capacity. Add that to below-industry standard wages, said Rogers, and it's not hard to see why Colstrip residents are anxious.

"The problem is, there are no simple answers. It takes time," Rogers said. "We need to come up with a plan that works for Montana." ■

## 'We Still Want to Be Involved:' Retirees Share Skills, Build Community

When Bill Hagene retired five years ago, he didn't want to completely stop working. So when his local approached him about doing some volunteer work, he was all in.

"This is right up my alley. I'm still in good health and want to give back to the community," said Hagene, a member of

Collinsville, Ill., Local 309. "And if I can help 309 too, all the better."

The volunteer work involves ElectricPros, a group of Local 309 members and contractors that provides free electrical work to the community. Some of the work is done by a mix of retiree and active members, but the bulk is done by those who have hung up their tool belts.

The program started four years ago but really hit its stride in 2013, said Local 309 Business Manager Tim Evans. Most recently, they have worked with Habitat for Humanity, area high schools and an animal shelter.

The jobs come from various sources. The animal shelter project was suggested by a member's wife. One of the high school projects came from a community member running into Evans at the grocery store. But Hagene was particularly excited about the Habitat for Humanity project.

"They approached me because they knew I had a passion for Habitat for Humanity," Hagene said. "And the people at Habitat were ecstatic about having us."

Getting good electrical work is usually the hardest part for them, Hagene said. "They were really happy to get peo-



Collinsville, Ill., Local 309 retirees are giving back to the community through a partnership between the local and area contractors.

ple who know the local and national codes and have the expertise."

One of the newer projects will involve working with Collinsville High. The school purchased a lot and will build a house from scratch. It will be auctioned off when completed, but before that it will serve as a learning opportunity for students with an interest in the building

trades. Hagene, along with other retirees, will show the students the nuts and bolts of doing electrical work.

"It could be a building block for apprenticeship," Hagene said.

The 60-year-old Hagene often works with fellow retirees like Danny Sodam, 59, and Scott Nicholson, 60, and has a roster of about 15 others. He'll call them up for

the house-building project, as well as upcoming work on the animal shelter, which will be on five acres of old farm land. For that, they will do two electrical services and install a new meter and panels. But he wants to get the older retirees engaged too.

"I was thinking of having the older guys come out to the farm for the animal shelter job and do some barbequing for everyone. It would make it inclusive, since they can't do electrical work but still want to be involved," Hagene said.

Hagene, Sodam and Nicholson drive a trailer equipped with tools and painted with an ElectricPros sign, part of a rebranding of the initiative and a way to get the word out. The hope is that as more people learn about them, more work will come in for Local 309, which helps the community as well as the retirees.

"It makes me happy, I'll tell you that," said Hagene of the opportunity to volunteer. And he says it's a sentiment shared by his fellow retirees.

"It's good to keep in touch with the community. And their wives are supportive too," Hagene said. "It gets them out of the house." ■

## TRANSITIONS

### DECEASED

#### Richard D. Acton



Former International Executive Council member and Cleveland labor giant Richard D. Acton passed away on Dec. 20 at the age of 93.

Friends and colleagues will remember the ex-boxer as a tough-as-nails negotiator, an inspiring leader and a tireless

reformer.

"Dick was a tough guy," said IBEW International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore J. Chilia, who started his own apprenticeship at Cleveland Local 38 in 1967 just months after Acton was elected business manager. "He had that fighter mentality, whether it was a negotiation or a difficult meeting. He didn't take any bull from anybody, but boy could he make us laugh."

Chilia remembered fondly how Acton, who looked every bit the former boxer, would throw his voice across a room or put on ridiculous accents, leaving the people around him in stitches.

"Dick's sense of humor allowed conversations to continue when they were on the verge of ending," retired Local 38 business representative and friend Roger Meyer told Cleveland's Labor Citizen. "It helped when he was in negotiations and added to his overall likability."

It also made him lots of friends. Those relationships, built over the course of a 47-year career in the IBEW, saw the Uniontown, Pa., native rise from wireman to business manager to executive director of the Cleveland AFL-CIO before he retired in 1996.

Initiated into Local 38 in 1949, Acton was first elected treasurer of his local in 1961. In 1967, he became business manager, a post he would hold for more than 22 years.

In 1979 Acton was appointed as the Third District representative to the International Executive Council, and he also served a five-year term on the IBEW's Council on Industrial Relations, earning a reputation for

being tough but fair.

Back in Cleveland, he made fairness his calling card, pushing hard both at Local 38 and at the AFL-CIO to reform the job referral system and to level the playing field for all members.

"He was the kind of guy you could trust, and when there wasn't a lot of work in the 1970s, he really held that local together," said Chilia, who will remember Acton as a mentor and friend.

But the labor community isn't alone in mourning Acton's passing.

In 2000, Acton was inducted into the Ohio Boxing Hall of Fame thanks to his many years of competition as an amateur and professional, and for his continued involvement with the sport well into retirement.

In his home state of Pennsylvania, Acton was a two-time Golden Gloves champion, with a combined amateur record of 87 wins and eight losses with 32 knockouts. Much of his amateur record exists under the name Paddy O'Reilly, chosen for his proud Irish heritage. After a stint in the Navy during World War II, he also fought professionally, amassing 12 wins (eight by knockout) and just two losses.

Acton eventually became vice president of the Ohio state AFL-CIO and president of the United Labor Agency, the social arm of the Cleveland AFL-CIO, the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters.

In 1993, he was instrumental in launching America's Work Force Radio, a daily program dedicated to union issues that is today the longest-running show of its kind.

Acton, Chilia said, was the type of guy who doesn't come around very often. "Thank God he got involved in the union with Local 38 and the entire labor movement in Cleveland and the nation," he told the Labor Citizen. "Men like him are hard to find."

Brother Acton leaves behind Mary Ann, his wife of 43 years, three daughters, eight grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. The officers, staff and members of the IBEW extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and to his many friends. ■

### RETIRED

#### Rui Carrinho



After 55 years of service to his brothers and sisters in the IBEW, Second District International Representative and former Second District representative on the International Executive Council Rui Carrinho retired effective Dec. 31.

A native of the Portuguese Azores Islands, Brother Carrinho joined Warwick, R.I., Local 1274 in 1959 when he began work at Leviton Manufacturing.

Eight years later he was elected to the executive board, and in 1970 took over as business manager, a position he held for 35 years. He also sat on the executive board of the state AFL-CIO for more than three decades and served as president of the Rhode Island Electrical Workers Association for four years.

"Rui was a giant in Rhode Island's organized labor movement and an indispensable part of the IBEW for more than half a century," said Myles Calvey, Second District representative on the International Executive Council. "There will never be another like him and he will be missed."

Carrinho was a delegate to seven IBEW conventions, serving as a member of the President's Committee to the 1978 convention, the Sergeant-at-Arms Committee in 1991 and the Grievance and Appeals Committee in 1996.

In 2000, Carrinho was appointed by then-International President J.J. Barry to be the Second District representative on the International Executive Council, a position he was elected to the following year at the San Francisco convention.

Leviton, still the largest privately held manufacturer of electrical wiring equipment in North America, in 2005 closed its Warwick factory and Local 1274 was dissolved. Carrinho was then appointed to the Second District international staff by President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill.

The IBEW officers, staff and membership wish Brother Carrinho a long, healthy and well-earned retirement. ■

# LOCAL LINES

## Tribute to a Life of Service



The late Donald J. Gralike

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—The life of Donald J. Gralike was celebrated Jan. 16 at the Local 1 union hall. Bro. Gralike died Dec. 6 after a brief illness. He was 86.

Bro. Gralike, a former state senator and representative, served in the Missouri General Assembly from 1962-1978 and was a staunch defender of workers' rights to organize. He was a four-time National Democratic Convention delegate. In 1978 then-President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the U.S. Labor Relations Task Force.

A third-generation electrical craftsman, Bro. Gralike was Local 1 president from 1972-1995. His grandfather James P. Noonan was IBEW international president from 1919-1929. As Local 1 president, Bro. Gralike modernized the union membership's benefits structure. Three of his sons became electrical workers. His son Dennis is director of the St. Louis Electrical Industry Training Center.

We mourn the death of the following members: Harold Pahl, William Meier, Edward Bock, Marvin Averbeck, Joseph McLaughlin, James Hulett, Gary Treece, Marvin Fore, Peter Scott, George Hammelman, James Linderer, Robert Schultz, Joseph Yanko, Billie Hogue, David Morgan, Gerald Nellesen, Donald Stein, Norbert Zimmerman, Bessie Grissom, Andrew Mitchell, William McNichols, Thomas Bredenstener, George Collier, Paul Turek Jr., Jerry Huckstep, Alvin Statzel, Glenn Foster, James Chambers Jr., Joseph Slezak Jr., Ronald Hickerson, John Weaver Jr., Cletus Messmer, Helen Grill, Patrick McDonald, Charles Danker, James Bratten, Donald Kuhlmann, Edgbert Graham, Bobby Jones, John Medcalf, Charles Griffin, Thomas Pillow, Warren Siems, Charles Buchanan, Wilburn Mobley, Hershel Johnson Sr., Richard Cierpiot, Gregg Miller, Joseph Schmitz, David Otte, Forest Dorlac, Carrol Mull, Harry Zimmerman, Ralph Huber, Lorretta Forbeck, James Meister, Joshua Davidson, Keith Turner, Richard Schmidt, Scott Tressner, Donald Wagner, Cyril Fochs, Robert Rademaker, James Stuard, Donald Gralike, James Jeffress, Ronald Lewis, Doris Moeller and Bobby Gash.

Jan Bresnan, P.S.

## New Leadership

L.U. 9 (catv,govt,lctt,o&u), CHICAGO, IL—We are proud to announce the beginning of a new era in Local 9. On January 8, 2016, William W. Niesman became the new business manager of Local 9. Bus. Mgr. Niesman was appointed to fill the unexpired term of former business manager Robert W. Pierson, who retired.

Bro. Niesman began his career in August of 1989. He completed his ALBAT apprenticeship in 1993 and worked as an IBEW journeyman lineman for several distribution contractors. In 1995, he began working at the City of Naperville and worked there until October 2004, when he was appointed as a Local 9 assistant business manager.

In addition to his service as an assistant business manager, Bro. Niesman has served as a trustee for: the Local 9 IBEW and Outside Contractors Pension and Health & Welfare Benefit Fund; the IBEW Local 9 Line Clearance Contractors Pension and Health & Welfare Benefit Fund; and the Local 9 and Middle States Electrical Contractors Apprenticeship and Journeyman Training Fund. He is also a committee member of the Northern Illinois ALBAT subcommittee.

We welcome Bro. Niesman in his new capacity as business manager. With his guidance and leadership, we look forward to writing this new chapter for Local 9.

Mary Beth Kaczmarek, P.S.

## Focus on Workplace Safety

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—In 2016, we started the year asking our members to redouble their efforts and concentrate on safety in the workplace. We have had many injuries and way too many fatalities in the last 10 years. Nothing is as important as working safely and returning home in the same condition you left for work. This is true for all our brothers and sisters, and we encourage all IBEW members to always make safety the top priority.

On the generating side of the house, after months of negotiations we agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding dealing with the conversion on Joliet Generating Station from burning coal to burning gas. The MOU includes new job titles (control room operators and power plant technicians) and a voluntary severance package. The changes are scheduled to take effect in April of 2016. We also had 10 members attend the recent IBEW Nuclear Conference in Orlando, FL.

Our commercial division has had many members graduating from linemen classes, with graduates from Joliet and Rockford areas and a recent Substation Construction (SSC) graduating class.

Local 15's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus chapter has been very active around the holidays, sponsoring a veterans food drive and assisting in pack-



Some of the Local 15 EWMC members assemble to assist with a food drive for veterans.

ing hundreds of boxes of food for veterans in need.

Doug Vedas, P.S.

## Ritz Carlton Condominium Construction Project Underway

L.U. 25 (c,catv,es,i&rts), LONG ISLAND, NY—In 2014, the Ritz Carlton and RXR Realty LLC started a \$300 million luxury condominium project in East Hills, Long Island. The project will include construction of 244 high-end luxury condominiums, broken up into two separate construction phases. The first phase includes four residential buildings and a club house.

Local 25 and Difazio Electric/Deer Park Electric secured the condominium project using both "A" construction and CE/CW electricians. At press time, we have 35 members working at the jobsite. In the first phase, this project consists of approximately 60,000 man-hours, with an additional 70,000 man-hours for the second phase. We believe that our participation in phase one will help us win phase two.

General Foreman John Murnane of Local 25 and his crew continue to provide excellent craftsmanship on the project and are on schedule to deliver the job on time.

We had our Annual Local 25 Christmas party for all members and their families. We held two parties at different times so that all could attend. As always, presents were handed out to all the children, and Santa and his friends were in attendance. Everyone had a great time. Special thanks to Local 25 Pres. John Guadagno and the Christmas Committee for a great day.

Tom Lawless, E-Board/P.S.

## Contract Negotiations

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—Several months ago, Local 17 organized a 60-member group at Traffic Management Inc. specializing in work zone safety and traffic management. At this writing, we now have a tentative contract agreement that includes time-and-one-half pay, wage increases and a richer health care plan.

We also recently ratified a very fair three-year Line Clearance Agreement, raising the living standards of 900 IBEW tree trimmers.

DTE Energy is projecting large capital spending this year for line clearance tree trimming, line construction, substations, and underground work. Please feel free to contact the hall for more information.

Our RENEW Committee continues to expand and recently conducted another Coat Drive Project, which provided 200 winter coats for needy children. RENEW participants also participated in a tree trim project at the Northwest Brightmoor Renaissance Project.

I am proud to report that not one of our 2,700 members has elected to quit paying union dues.

We are saddened to report the passing of Bros. Donald Griggs, Norman Worthy, and Ritchie Shwary.

Dean Bradley, B.M.



Some of the Local 25 crew members gather at Ritz Carlton condominium jobsite.

## Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

## Trade Classifications

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

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



## Reaching Out to Community

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Just in time for Christmas last year, Local 37, on behalf of its 2,300 members, made nine \$370 donations to food banks across the province of New Brunswick. This marked the fifth year that Local 37 has been able to lend a helping hand to local food banks, with donations totaling more than \$12,000.

The funds were made available through the local's Community Outreach Program, which has a goal to support organizations that are making a positive impact on issues that are important to the IBEW, and to support causes that matter to our members in the communities where they live and work.

In addition to the food banks, this program has enabled Local 37 and its members to provide support to a variety of activities and initiatives such as youth sports teams, mental health awareness, aboriginal education, member bursaries, playground construction, local arts and cultural performances, as well efforts to promote careers in the skilled trades.

Ross Galbraith, B.M./F.S.



Local 37 Treasurer/Executive Board member Gaetan Chiasson (right) presents donation to Mireille Gionet from Bathurst Volunteer Centre.

## Memorial Hunting Event

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Local 43 members should be proud of retired Bros. Larry Olivia and Gerry Hart. Seeking to give back something to those who've given so much, the pair organized a goose hunt for disabled veterans last fall.

The event was called The Francis G. Phillips IV Memorial Goose Hunt, and plans are to make it an annual occasion. The late Staff Sgt. Francis Phillips, who was a resident of nearby Meridian, NY, gave his life in Afghanistan on May 4, 2013, while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The site for the goose hunt was the town of Tyre farm of Steve Lawrence. The veterans, joined by relatives of the late Sgt. Phillips, enjoyed a good day of hunting and they bagged 28 birds.

Gene Townsend, P.S.



Local 43 memorial goose hunt participants: Gerry Hart (left), James King, Rocky Delpot, Brian Knapp, Richard Bennett, Larry Olivia, Joe O'Neil and Larry Bennett. Not pictured: Sarah Christian and Jeffrey Huckett.

## Labor Award Honoree

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Local 47 wishes all IBEW members a happy St. Patrick's Day.

The NAACP Riverside Branch presented Senior Asst. Bus. Mgr. Stan Stosel with a Labor Hall of Fame Award for his years of dedication to the labor movement. This is the NAACP Riverside Branch's highest honor awarded to an individual. Congratulations, Bro. Stan!

Congratulations to all of the Local 47 teams who competed as well as placed in the 32nd Annual International Lineman's Rodeo. You represented Local 47 well!

We are saddened by the passing of: Bro. Raymond Gonzalez, Bro. Jeffery Moon, Bro. Roman Kamienski, Sister Jennifer "Jena" Harrell, Bro. Andrew Felix, Bro. Craig Bostrom, Bro. Scott Barnhart, and Apprentice Justin Yakovich. We also mourn the loss of retired members Kevin Carter, Robert Holden and Roger Weeden. May they rest in peace. Condolences also to Bro. Michael Alkhoutoff on the passing of his wife, and to Bro. Jonathan Hammond on the passing of his brother.

Also, Local 47 wishes a full and speedy recovery to injured and ill members Jaime Ramirez, Spencer Wax, Tyree Long and Senior Asst. Bus. Mgr. Hank Colt. Live long, live safe and well. Work and buy union!

Tracy Dougherty, P.S.

## Career of IBEW Service

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Bus. Mgr. Jim Bates is retiring in March of this year. Jim has served Local 51 for 25 years in positions including business representative, assistant business manager and business manager. He has been a Local 51 member for 45+ years.

Jim has been a dedicated member and leader for his entire career. He was instrumental in moving our local into the 21st century technology-wise. He strongly supported our involvement in all levels of politics and is well-respected by politicians with whom he has worked. Jim always put the membership first. He was the driving force behind leaving our former office building and was at the helm for the purchase and remodeling of the new Local 51 union hall. Jim is a good friend who will be missed in our day-to-day business. Happy retirement, Jim!

Be safe and attend your monthly unit meetings.

Karlene Knisley, B.R.



Local 51 Bus. Mgr. Jim Bates is retiring.

## Contract Agreements

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO—Local 53 Bus. Rep. Dexter J. Drerup reported on two contract extensions in December.

We reached a three-year agreement with Se-Ma-No Electric Cooperative in Mansfield, MO. The agreement provides for a 2.75 percent wage increase per year of the contract and summer hours during

daylight savings time.

Clean Coal Services located at Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.'s New Madrid and Thomas Hill power plants signed a six-year agreement that includes a wage increase of \$1.25 per hour the first year and a 3 percent wage increase for each of the following five years. Members employed there will also receive double time for each second day off and time and one-half for all hours worked on a holiday, and a pay increase when working the night shift.

James Burks, V.P.

## Tribute to Two Icons

L.U. 71 (lctt,o&rtb), COLUMBUS, OH—Happy new year to all IBEW sisters and brothers.

The local lost two icons in 2015, two of the finest people you could ever meet. A longtime secretary of 40-plus years, Mrs. Delores Fry passed away in December at the young age of 91. She was the most dedicated worker I have ever known — she worked every day up until the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, when she was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

We also lost charter member Clarence "Bunny" Holler in the fall. Members attending the September Columbus membership meeting had the privilege of meeting Bro. Holler and congratulating him on his nearly 70 years of IBEW service. Bro. Holler was also 91.

The work outlook for 2016 remains positive throughout the jurisdiction with Distribution, Substation and Networking leading the way.

At the time of this writing, we are still in negotiations with Asplundh for a first agreement covering 85 trimmers in the Columbus area. We will begin negotiations for two more lots, one in Athens and the second in Rockbridge soon.

We remain hopeful that we will have our contract settled for our Frontier members this spring. I thank the members for their support and Bro. Fred Sabol for all his hard work negotiating this agreement.

Work safe and buy American-made products!

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

## Retirees Honored

L.U. 81 (i), SCRANTON, PA—On Saturday, Nov. 21, last year Local 81 honored its retirees at a luncheon.

Those who retired in 2015 are: James Cockerill, Paul Conrad, Martin Kenahan, Richard Rothfuss and John Tomachick. Thirteen retirees received 50-year service pins: David Abel, Robert Blockberger, William Coleman, John Higgins, William Jones, Clair Kenny, Robert Lyons, Joseph Mulrooney, Gerald O'Leary, Daniel O'Rourke, Joseph Prosachik, Joseph Simrell and Joseph Zielinski. Nello Allegrucci received a 55-year service pin. Local 81 thanks all the retirees for their hard work and dedicated service with the IBEW and Local 81.

Michael Brust, P.S.



Local 81 luncheon for retired members was well-attended.



Local 97 member Kelvin Melton II competing in a deadlift completion.

## Powerlifting Competitor

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY—I recently attended a USA Powerlifting event held at a local gym, where I witnessed Local 97 Alternate Steward Kelvin Melton II competing in the 163 lb. class. It was amazing to see the young man's strength in the deadlift, squat and bench press competition at the USAPL event.

Kelvin's father, Kelvin Melton Sr., a chief gas mechanic and Local 97 member, also lifts weights and encouraged Kelvin II at a young age to do the same. It helped Kelvin II with his football talents and it also sparked him to compete in weight lifting in high school. After attending college, he began his career at National Grid in 2013 as a gas mechanic. He started training for his first competition in August 2015, where he not only won his weight class and best overall, but also set a New York state record in the push-pull event. We wish Kelvin the best as he continues to train for his future competitions.

We continue to negotiate and finalize the process of NRG's Huntley and Dunkirk Steam Plants. The news has not been good for our coal burning plants as we prepare to lose more than 115 of our union brothers and sisters.

Jim Zabinski, V.P.

## Festive Holiday Party

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—The Children's Christmas Party was held at the union hall on Dec. 6. The day was successful from the start, as 30 volunteers including journeymen, apprentices and some of the members' children helped to set up and decorate for the event.

Around noon, members and their families started to line up to see the man of the day, Santa. After every child had the chance to talk with Santa, they were given a toy made by American labor. While some enjoyed the movie, "Frozen," playing on the big



At the Local 103 Children's Christmas Party.

## LOCAL LINES

screen, other children moved on to visit the face painting station and the making of balloon animals. The children were also excited to see that some of Santa's good friends — Elmo, Rudolf, the Grinch, Frosty, Elsa, Anna and Olaf — were at the party to say hello.

The Children's Christmas Party is always a memorable event for the members and their families. Some at the annual holiday events are attending for their first time, and others are members who recall waiting in line as children to see Santa themselves so many years ago.

Thank you again to everyone who attended. Thank you as well to the office staff and to all the volunteers who made this day special for Local 103 members and their families.

Kevin C. Molineaux, P.S.

## Nominations for Office

L.U. 113 (catv,ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—This is not only a presidential election year, but also a year for Local 113's election of local union officers. We pride ourselves on being the truest form of democracy, and every three years we get to prove it. I encourage those of you who would like to get more involved in your local union to run for an office. Every office has a purpose, and our membership gets stronger when we better educate ourselves and learn how the local operates from day to day.

In November and December last year, one of our signatory outside contractors was able to do some storm work and put some traveling journeyman linemen to work. We appreciate the help, brothers!

2016 will bring contract negotiations for our service contracts at Fort Carson and Evans Army Community Hospital. Local 113 brothers and sisters help maintain the base and hospital for the U.S. Army in Colorado Springs. We look forward to productive, successful negotiations on both.

Our work on the Southern Delivery System water pipeline is coming to an end. Local 113 members, along with traveling journeyman wiremen, working for McDade Woodcock are working to bring the project in on time and under budget! Good job, brothers and sisters!

Please remember to volunteer some time for your local in 2016; the work you do truly makes a difference!

Mike Ham, B.M.



IBEW Local 113 and traveling journeyman linemen work to restore electrical power after a storm.

## Union Participation is Key

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—Welcome 2016! As the local plans its various annual activities including Casino Night on March 5 and its August golf and softball tournaments, we hope that you'll join us not only for these social occasions but also for the work necessary—unit meetings, legislative and regulatory events,

and perhaps most importantly, in support of each other as well as other unions. If given the opportunity, please make a personal request to a member who may not be as informed or engaged — ask a fellow member to join you at a Local 125 event or meeting. Encourage him or her to participate in any way possible.

Let's honor our brothers and sisters who have worked so hard and sacrificed even more to develop our union. Find opportunities to promote unionism, engage stakeholders, and educate people, including our own membership, on issues that can be summed up as: why we matter! There will be a continued onslaught on the rights of working people, and we must stand up to protect ourselves. It won't be easy, but we can do it together. Union tough!

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.



Local 159 member Dave Conrad (left) receives 50-year pin presented by Bus. Mgr. Robert Doyle.

## Working for Positive Changes

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Local 159 saw many beginnings and firsts in 2015.

In the first semester of operations at our new training center, we had 11 classes, totaling 65 hours of class time. We look forward to many more in 2016.

Organizer Casey Healy earned his wings hosting his first organizing blitz.

We held our first Contractor Breakfast, an informal gathering of contractors and NECA and Local 159 staff members. Guest presenters spoke about a program we hope to collaborate on in 2016.

Downtown, Gov. Scott Walker got his Christmas wishes: the death of Wisconsin's nonpartisan Government Accountability Board; and some more large nails in the coffin of his bane, a multi-year John Doe investigation. That's for starters. Ironically, the GAB was created in 2007 to clean up Wisconsin politics.

Kraft Heinz announced plans to close Oscar Mayer, a Madison institution since 1919 and Dane County's largest manufacturer. Many a Local 159'er ran their first rigid pipe at Oscar's.

We're rolling out our school outreach program, to acquaint students with the opportunities available in our trade.

A recent IBEW Registrar Training armed us with many new political tools, which will help greatly as we work for positive changes in 2016.

We closed out 2015 with a holiday celebration and pin ceremony. Bus. Mgr. Robert Doyle presented 50-year pins to Baxter Brown, Dave Conrad, Merlin Graham, Fredrick Moll, Elmer Racek and Kenneth Schneider; a 55-year pin to Gerard Miller; and a 60-year pin to Roy Holm.

Lisa Goodman, B.A.

## 'Thank You to Stewards'

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—Our work picture continues to be good. We have many large jobs, and for them to run smoothly we rely on our many stewards to help resolve issues.

All of our stewards receive training and are in weekly contact with Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Joe Lorenzo.

We want to publicly thank those who have served as stewards in the past year as well as 2016: Brad Baker, Fred Knapper, John Branca, Shar Leabo-Straub, Mike Curran, Howard Leventer, Chip Donaldson, Donnie Lewis, Corey Dunlap, Eric Lucia, Damien Fisher, Joe McLeod, Gregory Goetz, Gerald Petrie, Mark Hellman, Joseph Verda, Sidney Jetton, Stephen Wallen, Craig Jones, Justin Williamson, Wes Stephens, Randy Curry, Dean Barrett, Tom Zbytek, Gary Kemp, Tony Wilson, Gerry Arnie, Paul Criswell, Charlene Clark, Krystal McCann, Mike Cruikshank, Todd Byfield, Rob Wilson, John Lancaster, Pat Gallatin, Darrel McLaughlin, Dave Brune, J. C. Walker, Corey Clausen and Cleo Cruz.

Please take the time to thank these members for their service. Anyone who is interested is welcome to take the stewards training. Please call the office to sign up.

As a reminder, the Retiree and Service Pin Banquets are coming in the spring. Please check the Local 191 website [www.ibew191.com](http://www.ibew191.com) or call the office for details.

Bill Mirand, P.S.

## 'Good News Story'

L.U. 213 (c,catv,em,i&u), VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—Here is a good news story about two unions working together. IBEW Local 213 and United Steelworkers/Telecommunications Workers Union (USW/TWU) Local 60 came together on Nov. 2-3 to form the subject matter experts for the "Broadband Network Technician" Journeyman accreditation at the Industrial Training Authority (ITA) offices in Richmond, British Columbia.

Union members from Shaw Cable, Delta Cable and City West Cable were in attendance, along with IBEW Local 213 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Robbin Nedila.

"This is good news because this will be the new qualifier for the telecommunications industry," Robin Nedila said. "IBEW Local 213 was the driving force behind getting it back and updated. It used to be called the "CATV Journeyman" but they will now be called "Broadband Network Journeyman."

Local 213 hopes to become the training facility for this new program, and offer courses through NETCOM for our members to achieve journeyman status.

Todd Nickel, P.S.



From left: IBEW Local 213 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Robbin Nedila; Darren Callow (IBEW, Shaw Port Coquitlam); Blake Vail (USW/TWU, Shaw Surrey); Mark Oduro (IBEW, Shaw White Rock); Richard Bellman (IBEW, City West Cable Smithers); Rusty Johnson (USW/TWU, Shaw Burnaby); Denise Wallace and Glenn Shield (Broadband Institute); Andy Wong (USW/TWU, Shaw Vancouver); and Ken Wigard (IBEW, Delta Cable).



Local 229 Bus. Mgr. Matthew Paules delivered Code of Excellence training to members.

## Code of Excellence Project — Johnson Controls Facility

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA—Construction is underway on a new state-of-the-art Johnson Controls facility. IBEW Local 229 has deemed this a Code of Excellence (CoE) project. One hundred and thirty-six members attended the training to learn about the benefits and requirements of the program. It is great to have such buy-in from the members. We are confident that our members and contractors will continue to live up to the high standards of the IBEW and NECA that make our projects successful. Cooperation between union officials and contractor representatives, a history of high-quality work and safe work practices, and a commitment to continue to provide value to the customer helped to secure this project.

In addition to the CoE class, IBEW Local 229 has continued to have high levels of member participation in safety and technical training courses. We are grateful for a membership that understands the importance of continuing education. We look forward to another successful year with substantial work and training opportunities.

Timothy Griffin, P.S.



Children enjoy Christmas party hosted by IBEW Locals 245 and 1413.

## 2016 Election Year

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—Greetings and good wishes for 2016. This is an important election year for this country, especially for the working class. With corporations having no limits on their campaign contributions, it will be hard for candidates "for the people," candidates who believe in a strong middle class, to compete. It will take a monumental effort to get our

labor-friendly candidates elected. We must get involved and make our voices heard. This country will either be run by the rich and powerful, or by those who are friends of working people.

The outside work picture at Local 245 is holding its own, with more work expected in the spring.

The Davis-Besse

nuclear power plant was recently granted a 20-year license extension and is now preparing for its 19th refueling. That project is scheduled for March.

Negotiations are currently under way with the City of Rossford, Ohio.

On the organizing front, we secured a contract for members employed by Lake Township. Meanwhile, the ongoing organizing effort on behalf of the S&N Communications employees who work as locators will go to a National Labor Relations Board hearing in March.

Local 245, in a joint effort with IBEW Local 1413, hosted a Union Christmas Party for our young members and their families. A total of 42 children attended. The children enjoyed crafts and cookies. There was even a visit from one of Santa's helpers (Bob Hull, president of CWA Local 4319), who distributed presents to all the children. Everyone had a great time.

Until next time, work safe and have a good year!

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.



Local 257 apprentices, instructors and retirees gather to assist with Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall installation at Missouri State Capitol.

## 'Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall' Project

L.U. 257 (em,i,rtb,rts,spa&t), JEFFERSON CITY, MO—The Local 257 third-year apprenticeship class, along with instructors and local union retirees, were among those who helped with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall project last year, installing lighting in the museum room and on the wall.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall is a half-sized replica of the memorial in Washington, DC. The immense Moving Wall project required more than 200 volunteers to staff and was displayed at the Missouri State Capitol on Sept. 24-28 last year.

Joel Vanderslice, P.S.

## In the Spirit of Brotherhood

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—For many families taking the kids to see Santa means searching for parking at the local mall, long lines, and battling crowds. Not so for Local 269 members and their families when Santa and his helpers visit the union hall for four nights in December. Kids are treated to snacks and beverages, crafts and activities, and a visit with Santa himself. After a couple of photos, it's over to the gift table to pick out a toy. On behalf of the member-



Newly elected Mt. Holly, NJ, Mayor Jason Jones (right), a Local 269 member, is sworn in by Local 269 Asst. Bus. Mgr. and New Jersey General Assembly Deputy Speaker Wayne De Angelo.

ship, I'd like to extend our deepest appreciation to Santa and all his helpers. This annual event should be a source of pride for everyone in our organization.

In the political arena, congratulations to Bro. Jason Jones. He was recently elected mayor of Mt. Holly, NJ. Jason joins the swelling ranks of Local 269 members who hold public office. Having a friend of labor, and especially a local union member, elected to public office is a tremendous asset for our organization. These brothers and sisters dedicate their time and resources to help us maintain and advance the goals of working people and our organization.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

## 'Look It Up' — NEC Code Update Classes

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN—Over the past several weeks, many of us have enthusiastically attended NEC Code update classes. Thank you to Andy Toft for arranging the class times and locations to accommodate the membership. Thank you

also to the instructors, Cari Helberg, Scott Higgins, Dave Hyrkas and Mark Sparks, for sharing their knowledge of the National Electrical Code.

I've never highlighted Article 110.12. It's been in the NEC since 1947. Because of our apprenticeship training, apprentice/journeyman mentoring and continued peer-checking, it's an article that has become second nature to us. The intent of Article 110.12 is also found in Section 2.14 of the contract agreement. Follow the Code. Follow the contract. Be proud of what you do and represent.

The annual retiree and apprentice awards banquet will be in Mankato on April 2. This event is paid by the membership for the membership. Enjoy an evening of brotherhood, sisterhood, and solidarity. Happy Easter, Local 343.

Tom Small, P.S.

## Generosity of Spirit & Holiday Lights Display

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA—For 20 years, Local 347 has partnered with Make-A-Wish Foundation on the Jolly Holiday Lights display project in Des Moines.

Last year, as we joined with signatory manufacturer Translux and retired former business manager Gerry Granberg to build the 20th anniversary light display, the 2015 holiday season project was off to a great start.

Then came major flooding on the weekend of Dec. 12. Heavy rain continued to fall in the Raccoon River valley and the river was expected to crest on Dec 15.

In the cold rain, on the afternoon of Dec. 13, local union Bros. Clinton O'Connor, Steve Reichardt (and wife Megan), Joe Rivas, and Rod Olson (and wife Janet) arrived at Water Works Park in Des Moines to shut down the power to the displays and to move the most vulnerable pieces away from approaching flood waters.

The following day, eight Local 343 members — Bros. John Seel, David Reid, Curt Prettyman, Jason Ballard, Doug Wolfe, Tim LeClaire, Tim Hawthorne and Ben Duke — waded through the expanded Rac-



Local 347 member Rod Olson wades through flood waters in December to provide assistance.

coon River and the pouring rain to salvage displays.

Because of heavy damage from the flood, Jolly Holiday Lights was then canceled for the rest of the season. An incredible outpouring of support from the community made it possible to grant the wishes that the holiday lights display would have generated.

Thanks to all the brothers of Local 347 who really came through for this worthy cause.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

## Service Project Partnership

L.U. 349 (em,es,i,mps,rtb,rts,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—As we reported previously, several IBEW Local 349 members helped build a new trade school in Port au Prince, Haiti, last year. [See Local 349 article "Volunteers Help Build New Trade School in Haiti," in November 2015 issue of *The Electrical Worker*, pg. 11; and IBEW video "Building Hope in Haiti" at [www.ibeew.com/IBEW/](http://www.ibeew.com/IBEW/)]

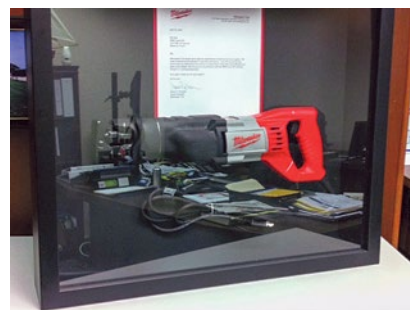
All involved were pleased with the great success of the Haiti project. Milwaukee Tools was a great partner on the project, by supplying tools to help get the job done and make it safer and more efficient. Milwaukee Tools Pres. Steven P. Richman thanked Bus. Mgr. William Riley and IBEW Local 349 for being proud partners and looks forward to a lasting relationship. The company presented Local 349 with a display case that includes a Milwaukee Tools saw, along with a letter thanking Local 349 and Bus. Mgr. Riley for their support.

We thank Local 349 Pres. David Karcher and the Entertainment Committee for a great job at the local union Children's Christmas Party. The kids had a great time and everyone had fun.

Errors of the past create wisdom for the future. So, don't take life too seriously; you will never get out of it alive.

Remember to attend your union meetings. Supporting your local makes it strong. We remember our military service men and women and wish them a safe journey home. Thank you to the readership and good wishes to all for a great year ahead.

Frank Albury, P.S.



Display case with a Milwaukee Tools saw presented to IBEW Local 349.

## Holiday Festivities

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ—On Dec. 6 last year, Local 351 had another successful Children's Christmas Party at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Williamstown, NJ. This is just one of the many events our local holds throughout the year, and these occasions are well-attended by our membership. It's great to see

our members and families come out and have such a great time together.

Thank you to our Christmas party committee members for all their hard work. They include: Tim Carew, Wayne Bumm, Jim Bresh, Dennis Kleiner, Kathy D'Alonzo, Bill Hosey, Dan Cosner, Chuck Della Vecchia, Lou Jiacoppo, Don Morgan, Ray Listman, Joe Trumbetti, Ed Riser and Santa Jim Ruff.

Dan Cosner, P.S.



Some of Local 351's Christmas party committee members gather.

## Training a High Priority

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA—The annual IBEW Local 375 Family Christmas Party was Dec. 6 last year at our union hall. We thank retired member Dale Clauser, who filled in for Santa. Attendance was good with about 200 people enjoying hot dogs from the grill (a real treat in December) along with cookies, ice cream, chocolate milk and other treats to make sure the kids were geared up for Christmas! All children in attendance were given an American-made gift from Santa. The extra gifts were donated to two charities in support of the local communities of Allentown and Easton, PA.

Training continues to be a high priority with our local. We have negotiated mandatory NFPA 70 E training in our latest collective bargaining agreement. For the fourth quarter of 2015, a total of 82 journeymen took the classes. Fifty more journeymen enrolled in a January 2016 class, and additional classes are planned.

Dave Reichard, Pres./A.B.M.



At Local 375 holiday party, children are entertained by a juggler/magician.

## Code of Excellence

L.U. 379 (i,o&rtb), CHARLOTTE, NC—In November members at the regular union meeting voted to adopt a local Code of Excellence program. All of the Local 379 officers and several members have already attended these special classes. The Code of Excel-

## LOCAL LINES

lence will be required of all members and any travelers coming into the jurisdiction. This program is a step toward increasing our market share and encouraging contractors to bid work in our area. We are using this program to emphasize how important it is that members maintain the highest level of professionalism in the workplace, and to also hold contractors to a professional standard.

Doug McDaniel, P.S.

100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations

L.U. 429 (em,i,lctt,o,ptc,rtb&u), NASHVILLE, TN—Local 429 would like to remind everyone that we will be celebrating our local's 100th anniversary this year. We have some festivities planned and some merchandise for distribution. On March 26, we will have our Night with the Nashville Predators event. These tickets will be on a first-come, first-served basis at the local, and regulated to two tickets per member, while supplies last. Members in attendance at the game will be recognized and honored that night with a spotlight celebration and intermission activities.

In August, we will have two more events for our members. On Aug. 26 we will have a 100th Year Banquet, and then on Aug. 27 we will have a picnic for our members and families.

Currently, we have our 100th Anniversary wall calendars and pocket calendars available for pickup at the local. Soon, the local will have some 100th Anniversary merchandise for purchase (pocket knives, Zippos, etc.). Please contact the local for more information on these events and merchandise.

Local 429 staff and officers wish to thank the men and women who came before us, who paved the way for ourselves and our members. You all are appreciated.

John Ledwell, B.M./F.S.

## Work Picture Positive

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—Local 449 recently had a chance to work with the IBEW Hour Power program. Two projects in our jurisdiction were highlighted. We invite you all to visit the HP website site and watch the videos at [www.ibewhourpower.com](http://www.ibewhourpower.com). Thank you to all involved in producing the videos for us.

All 11 of our apprentices who graduated in November last year passed their state licensing exam on their first try. Congratulations to the graduates on a good job representing Local 449 and our local JATC.

**[Editor's Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. See "NJATC Transitions into the Electrical Training Alliance," The Electrical Worker (Sept. 2014), and at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).]**

Our local's work picture looks to stay positive going into 2016, and should improve going into the spring and summer months.

With deepest regret, Local 449 announces the passing of retired Bros. Donald Scott and Richard Carroll, as well as Bro. Rick Fisher, who did not get a chance to enjoy a retirement. We send our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers to their families. We are blessed to have been a part of their lives.

Local 449 congratulates Bros. Donald A. Waters and David Hammond on their retirement and we thank them for their years of service.

Ned Jones, A.B.M.

## 2016 Special Events Planned

L.U. 459 (catv,ees,em,govt,mt,so&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—Given the great success with which Local 459's special events were received by the membership in 2015, the local is making plans to sponsor over a dozen

special events in 2016. The local attributes much of the success to active stewards, interested membership, a variety of activities, and membership feedback.

A snapshot of 2016 events includes the following: four local union picnics; at least two holiday parties; three motorcycle rides; a 5K run organized by our Young Workers' Committee to benefit a nonprofit; a camping cookout; annual steward training bringing together 132 stewards from across the local's jurisdiction, which encompasses 40 separate bargaining units; a highway cleanup; a Pittsburgh Pirates game; participation in two Labor Day parades; and an amusement park day/picnic.

By sponsoring such events, the local has noticed: an increase in union solidarity, increased membership feedback and communication among members away from the workplace, and the building of new friendships and camaraderie even among members who work in different units. Members are encouraged to continue their active participation and feedback to make 2016 even better than last year. A finalized 2016 Calendar of Special Events will soon be mailed out to the members.

Brendan M. Wolf, A.B.M.

## IBEW Members Aid Veterans

L.U. 499 (u), DES MOINES, IA—Local 499 members from the Council Bluffs work center received a Certificate of Appreciation for their donation of a collection to benefit The Food Shelter for Veterans of Pottawattamie County. Local 499 members John Faust and Jim Carroll spearheaded this community service effort. The Pottawattamie County Commission for Veterans expressed their appreciation to the IBEW members.

Local 499 members collected money, food and toiletries for distribution to the veterans during the 2015 winter holiday season. These members were very committed to the task at hand and wanted to do something meaningful for the veterans and give something back to those who gave so much for us. They are hopeful that the Pottawattamie County Commission for Veterans will have a new facility completed in 2016, to better serve area veterans. Our sincere appreciation for the unsolicited actions and work of this group of IBEW community service volunteers.

More good news for our local was the addition of another full-time assistant business representative, Pat Murillo. Pat worked as a certified welder and crew leader before beginning his new position at the union on Oct. 5 last year.

George Fong, P.S.



Local 499 members from the Council Bluffs work center assisted with collection to benefit veterans.

## Winter Season Projects

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—With the winter months upon us as of this writing, many of our contractors have started their winter projects. This has helped put quite a few of our members to work. Fortunately, our winter has been very mild as of press time, which has really helped improve all working conditions thus far.

Our local has also had some great developments in our volunteer work recently. One of the main volunteer projects our local has offered to do is build a new pavilion for a park in our community. This is a great project, as it will help serve the community during the



Recent Local 557 inside wireman apprenticeship graduates: Scott McFarland (left), Rich Mahoney, Nick Weigold, Ben Small and Cody Alcock.

upcoming Little League and softball seasons.

Local 557 hopes everyone enjoyed the holiday season. We wish members and their families a great new year in 2016. We hope everyone stays safe at work and while traveling during the rest of the winter season.

*"I have friends in overalls whose friendship I would not swap for the favor of the kings of the world."* – Thomas Edison.

Howard Revard, P.S.



IBEW Local 569 helped get landmark state legislation passed that will create thousands of new renewable energy jobs.

## Looking Back &amp; Lighting the Way Forward

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—2015 was a year of profound progress for IBEW Local 569:

- Our local union now has 3,368 active members — our largest membership ever;
- IBEW 569 filled a record 1,885 new electrical jobs. Our success in placing electrical workers into great careers is unmatched;
- Our members worked under 15 project labor agreements — another record for us — and we secured a PLA on a 30-megawatt energy storage project with the Imperial Irrigation District, one of the largest of its kind in the country. Energy storage is growing fast and will put IBEW

members to work to create a greener grid;

- We worked with environmental allies at the state level to help pass the historic Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (Senate Bill 350), which will put thousands of IBEW members to work building renewable energy projects, improving energy efficiency in buildings and installing electric vehicle charging stations;
- We unveiled a new video promoting union apprenticeship programs — check it out at [www.ibew569.org](http://www.ibew569.org); and



IBEW Local 595 crew members working with Rosendin Electric on Golden Hills Wind Farm project.

- We initiated 655 new members and organized 19 new contractors into the IBEW family.

2015 was a great year and we're heading into 2016 as a stronger local and labor movement thanks to YOU and your hard work!

Gretchen Newsom, P.S.

## Wind Farm Modernization Creates Green IBEW Jobs

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st), DUBLIN, CA—When the Altamont Pass is brought up in a conversation three things come to mind, The Rolling Stones, the Hell's Angels and The Windmills off Interstate 580.

Alameda County's Altamont Pass did not invent wind energy in the early 1980s, however it was one of the largest wind farms in the world during that decade, spinning over 6,000 wind turbines producing 583 megawatts.

Over the years, due to the environmental impact of raptors and golden eagles combined with frequent maintenance of these fast-spinning small windmills, the blades practically stopped turning, labeling the

farm as the "Wind Farm Museum."

A 2007 settlement between Alameda County and the environmental community to re-power or replace the outdated turbines with enormous modern slow-revolving, high-output wind turbines was reached and this transition will be completed by 2018.

A project labor agreement (PLA) was signed by the developer and the Alameda County Building Trades in early 2015 for the first phase — removing more than 700 wind turbines and overhead power lines and replacing them with 48 new, modern wind turbines and underground cable retaining the same 86 megawatts.

With IBEW's lobbying throughout California, the State Assembly passed AB350-Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015, increasing the procurement of our electricity from renewable sources from 33 percent to 50 percent by 2030. Solar and wind energy will continue creating thousands of green IBEW jobs. [See photo at bottom, right.]

Bob Tieman, B.R.

## Scheduled Powerhouse Work

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—The work picture in our local is slowing down as jobs wind down. Both the State Farm job and the Tank Farm project are laying off. We have 58 on Book I and 201 on Book II at press time, with no apprentices out of work.

At this writing, the LaSalle Powerhouse shutdown was scheduled to begin on Feb. 15. Hiring for this project began on Jan. 25. It was anticipated that

100 journeyman wiremen would be needed for a 22-day shutdown.

Once again our JATC coordinator, Bob Withers, was in charge of our annual Golf Tournament in August last year, and 17 foursomes took part in a great day of brotherhood, golf and a great meal.

**[Editor's Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. See "NJATC Transitions into the Electrical Training Alliance," The Electrical Worker (Sept. 2014), and at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).]**

Local 601's membership enjoyed a celebration at our annual Christmas Party on Dec. 11. With great weather, we had a wonderful turnout of retirees and active members.

With the 2016 elections coming up, please make sure you are registered to vote. This will be a very important election for unions and working people.

Dan Hatter, P.S.

## Standing Up For Workers

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—At this writing, the 30-day state legislative session was a few days from getting underway, and once again the governor was promising to introduce so called "right-to-work" legislation, even though Republicans were unsuccessful in that anti-worker effort during last year's 60-day session. We hope that more union workers around the state will participate during this year's events to oppose "right-to-work" proposals.

The Local 611 Children's Christmas Party last year was a huge success. Thank you to all those who volunteered to help make this happen. If you did not have a chance to attend the party last year, do make it a point to go to the next one. It's a great opportunity to see old friends and participate in the holiday festivities.

Local 611 extends condolences to families of members who recently passed away: John Solar, Ivan J. Johnson, José D. Martinez, Gordon V. Hughes, Lowell G. Bartlett, Tom D. Ward, Charles E. Keeney, Jack E. Jones and Vicente T. Montez.

Remember to attend your local union meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.



Local 611 Pres. Ruben Romero (left) and member David Griego at local's holiday party.

## Celebratory Events a Success

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,it,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—The government is investing \$95 million in 10 new schools in the Province. A new Procurement Policy spearheaded by this office will see Apprenticeship Compliance become a requirement to bid on these schools.

In late 2015, several of our members received their journeyman status. Congratulations to Bros. Will Brewer, Charles Pettipas, Ashley Lawless and Sister Tiffany Parker.

Retired members who passed away in 2015 were: Bros. Carl Conrad at age 73; Carl N. MacDonald Sr., who was 67; and Wayne B. Anderson, who was 70. Our condolences go out to their families.

Congratulations to Bro. Doug Dow, who retired in December.

Sept. 12 was the Annual Local 625 Golf Tourna-

ment in Penn Hills. Thirty-six members came out to hit some balls and have some laughs.

Oct. 16 was our Annual Retirees Dinner & Dance in Sackville. Fifty people came to enjoy a great dinner and dance the night away. Bro. Ted Stevens received his 50-year pin and certificate.

Dec. 5 saw a hugely successful Children's Christmas Party at Hatfield Farms. Some 223 people attended and Santa presented gifts to the 115 children in attendance.

Dec. 12 was the date of our largest ever Christmas Dinner & Dance at the Marriott Downtown. Some 217 people came out for a huge buffet and service awards. The dance, with music by the band Usual Suspects, was a great time for all.

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.

## Treasure Coast Bike Run

L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL—Bus. Mgr./Pres. Mark MacNichol reported that the Local 627 Christmas party was a big success.

Bus. Mgr. MacNichol also extended a hearty "thank-you" to all the participants of the 2nd Annual Treasure Coast Bike Run. Those who participated helped increase Local 627's community affairs fund, from which monies are drawn to help children in their worthwhile endeavors.

2016 has started safely on the job, and with members' diligence our good safety record will continue. Be safe and look out for the other guy.

Remember to attend your local union meetings to stay involved and informed and to learn about the upcoming International Convention, and how Local 627 will celebrate our 75th anniversary.

Ray Vos, P.S.

## Solidarity is Key

L.U. 661 (i,rts&spa), HUTCHINSON, KS—The brothers and sisters of Local 661 showed their solidarity on Dec. 16, 2015, by wearing union labor T-shirts made just for the occasion. Here in Local 661 we struggle with organizing our jurisdiction due to many factors.

Building increased solidarity within our ranks will make it possible for us to achieve stronger gains. We at Local 661 would like to get our membership more solidly banded together, to attract new members who want to be part of something that is not only an organization but also a family. We are moving in the right direction, and with the internal organization of our members we can move forward on organizing all workers in the electrical industry. Thank you to all the brothers and sisters who helped make the December event a success and are joining together to help build on that progress.

Nathan DeBerry, B.M.



Local 661 members, joined by two Local 271 members, wearing IBEW T-shirts: from left, Bros. Ben Shrader, Bill Koons (Local 271), Darrin Schissler, Alan Harris, Daniel Allmon, Eric Jones (Local 271), Wyatt Dryden, Matt Reazin, Bradley Frees, Skylar Southards and Jake Hedlund.

## Longtime Career of Service

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH—After a 37-year career as a Local 673 member, Organizer Jim Braunlich retired effective Jan. 1 this year.

Bro. Braunlich served as a longtime member of



Local 673 Organizer Jim Braunlich recently retired.

hood, give so selflessly and positively influence so many people's lives.

We all wish Bro. Braunlich many safe, healthy and happy years of retirement! His daily presence in our organization will be missed.

On a side note, Jim will be donating some of his retirement "free time" to organizing the local's vast photo library and making displays of our local's history. If you have any photos that you would like to donate please contact the hall.

Dave Phillips, P.S.

## Honorees & Volunteers

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—Our local had several notable events this past fall and winter.

In October last year, at our annual 25 Year Dinner & Dance, we honored members who have 25 years or more of IBEW membership.

We helped the United Way with its annual Christmas Care/Union Shares food program.

We also were pleased to have a good turnout for our Local 683 Christmas meeting, where attendees enjoyed good food and the spirit of brotherhood.

Congratulations to Bro. Gary Hurst, who was recognized as Local 683's "Volunteer of the Year" in 2015.

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

## Upcoming Events & 2016 Election Year

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—It's "March Madness" time — Besides watching NCAA basketball, we have several upcoming events this spring that we urge everyone to participate in.

Our Spring Blood Drive will be held Friday, March 25; Voter Registration closes Monday, April 4; Primary Election is Tuesday, May 3, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and the March for Babies event is Sunday, May 15. These dates are posted on our website [www.ibew697.org](http://www.ibew697.org). Additionally, at the time of this writing, there's an interest in having another

"3 on 3" Charity Basketball Tournament in April. Keep an eye out for that one as well.

I cannot emphasize enough just how important the elections are this year. A strong showing and a significant vote total in the primary election are important regardless of whether or not a labor-friendly candidate has opposition. The ultraconservative, anti-labor regime has oppressed the working men and women of Indiana for the past 12 years, and we continue to suffer the consequences. IT IS TIME TO ACT! Enlighten your friends, relatives and neighbors. They may think it doesn't matter to them, but election results affect all working Hoosiers. For more information check

the apprenticeship committee, as an apprenticeship teacher, and as a trustee of our pension. He has always been there to offer his service, from mentoring an apprentice to helping solve difficult problems.

I can't imagine our local or the IBEW without people like Jim, who are dedicated to the Brother-

hood, give so selflessly and positively influence so

many people's lives.

## New Graduating Class

L.U. 759 (u), FORT LAUDERDALE, FL—We are pleased to report that Local 759 and Florida Power & Light have a couple of recent substation apprenticeship graduates.

Congratulations to graduates Michael Patterson and Kenneth J. Maxwell, the first two members to graduate from the substation apprentice program since 1992!

Remember: Our Local 759 union meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, starting at 8 p.m. Continue to work safe and attend your local union meetings.

Glen Plock, P.S.



Local 759 apprenticeship graduates Michael Patterson (left) and Kenneth J. Maxwell (right) with Pres. Tim Haynick.

## Training Linemen & Substation Workers

L.U. 777 (u), READING, PA—Local 777 will be welcoming a new class of linemen and substation apprentices to various shops throughout our operating system. The apprentices will have two semesters of classroom and practical hands-on training under their belts. Their climbing belts that is. They will have multiple hours of yard time learning how to climb and maneuver on poles and steel structures. They will also learn how to build overhead, underground and substation facilities — while having a basic understanding of the electrical theory that will apply to what they are building.

The trainees will be working with journeymen of their fields, on line and substation crews, through the summer months as an introduction to the real world — working in real world situations.

In the fall, they will return to the classroom to complete the second year of a two-year program, after which they will return to our work force permanently in shops with vacancies, as apprentices for an additional 1½ years.

Mark Power, P.S.

## Tribute to 40 Years of Service

L.U. 861 (i), LAKE CHARLES, LA—Hubie "Butch" Brown was initiated into the IBEW on June 1, 1975. He served a four-year apprenticeship and worked in 45 of the 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska. Bro. Brown served the local as Executive Board member, treasurer, financial secretary, vice president and president. He was assistant to four different business managers. Bro. Brown served as local union president at the time of his Dec. 31, 2015, retirement.

"The IBEW gave me the opportunity to meet hundreds of electricians and their families from all over the United States," Bro. Brown said. "The IBEW furnished me and my family with a life that saw the best and worst of times, but gave us a wonderful life and took

## LOCAL LINES



Local 861 Bus. Mgr. Jeff Sanders (left), retired former Pres./Asst. Bus. Mgr. Hubie "Butch" Brown, Pres./Lead Organizer Lance Corner, and Organizer Jesse Fontenot.

care of us ... to be able to have had health care that saved us, and to be able to retire with a wonderful plan and enjoy retirement without money worries."

The IBEW and Local 861 will greatly miss the longtime expertise and knowledge that Butch Brown brought to the table. Bro. Brown was presented with a picture designed by a local artist commemorating his 40 years of IBEW service.

Lance Corner, Pres./Organizer

## A New Union Hall

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY—Our local's new Union Hall is really coming together. Since we moved in May 2015, many enhancements have been completed. With the addition of a new lounge and sound system, our meeting room is almost complete. Many thanks to all of the members and staff who've made it all possible.

The new Outside Division Training Center is in the process of being built. To date we have installed a new computer lab, all new work stations and a classroom area. Our Gas Division members can now do all of their online training and their field tap and fusion training in one location.

In December we broke ground for our new Pole Yard where our Apprentice and Line Clearance Tree Trim Training will take place.

One behalf of Bus. Mgr. Donald Daley, I wish the membership a safe and happy new year ahead.

See you at the next general meeting.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.



IBEW Local 1245 lineman James Scott (right) teaches a Surinamese lineman (left) safe climbing techniques. Photo by John Storey.

## Service Project in Suriname; Rodeo Teams & Storm Crews

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—In the fall of 2015, a contingent of members and staff from IBEW Local 1245 joined Local 77 member Brady Hansen's training mission to the small South American country of Suriname, where they taught the Surinamese linemen about basic safety procedures and critical skills. Local 1245 also donated hundreds of pairs of safety boots, protective eyewear and climbing equipment to the Surinamese linemen.

On the heels of last year's big victory at the International Lineman's Rodeo, a Local 1245 team from the Turlock Irrigation District swept the Muni-

pal Division at the 2015 International Lineman's Rodeo, and placed fourth overall out of the 229 teams that competed. A 1245 team from Modesto Irrigation District also took first place overall at the 2015 American Public Power Association rodeo.

After a 100-year storm walloped parts of Washington and Idaho and left more than a million people without power in freezing cold weather, a dozen crews from Local 1245 travelled north to assist Local 77 members as they worked through the inclement weather to bring the power back to those residents.

In Outside Construction, the work outlook remains strong, with an overall increase throughout the jurisdiction, especially in transmission.

Rebecca Band, P.S.

## Local Unveils New Website

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY—A new year means a new website for Local 1249! We were excited to unveil our brand new, user friendly website at the end of 2015. The new website has, and will continue to have, more information for our membership. We hope to keep the membership up to date with what is going on with Local 1249, with the labor movement and much more! Please visit [www.ibew1249.org](http://www.ibew1249.org).

Also, members are now able to log in to the website and see their referral, change any personal info, and pay dues. With a jurisdiction covering most of New York state, our goal is to have as much information at the fingertips of our members as possible. Also on the website, members can sign up to get "The Tailboard," our monthly e-newsletter.

We still are doing our quarterly mailed newsletter for those who appreciate holding an actual document in their hands. A lot of good things will be happening in 2016, and we can't wait to share it with our members!

Jennifer Schneider, P.S.

## EWMC Coat Drive

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—Once again, with another successful coat drive, the St. Louis Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) brought warmth and comfort to those less fortunate. Over the past five years, more than 10,000 coats have been collected and donated to children and young adults in the greater St. Louis area.

Last year's Local 1439 annual Christmas party included a visit from Santa for the kids and a live band later in the evening. We thank everyone who attended, and we hope to have an even larger crowd next time.

Additionally, we wish to recognize those members who worked long hours in the cold restoring power and repairing damaged infrastructure caused by storms and flooding in late December. Looking forward, we wish our members a safe and prosperous 2016.

Matt Curry, R.S./P.S.

## Election of Officers

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—The local held its nominations for officers in November 2015. All officers were uncontested and duly elected for a three-year term of office, beginning in January 2016.

Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie was re-elected to an unprecedented 16th term in office, having served for 46 years in that office. Also elected were: Vice Pres.

Fred Richards, Rec. Sec. Thomas J. Rostkowski, Fin. Sec. Steven Boyd and Treas. George Fulton. Elected to the Executive Board: Jeffrey Dunn, Northern District; Jason Strawhorn, Mid-Eastern District; Gregory Nelson, Southern District; and Beverly Gray, Canadian District. Those elected in our NASA Unit 1501-2 were: Fred Richards, chairman; Nathan Allen, vice chairman; Jason Strawhorn, recorder; and Executive Committee members Adam Carpenter, Richard Keim, Michael Micciolo, Anthony Passano and John Phillips.

Congratulations to all as we look forward to continued success under this leadership.

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.



Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie.

## Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—Local 1547 and the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship & Training Trust (AJEATT) congratulate the Tom Cashen School's recent fifth-year wireman class apprenticeship graduates. [See photo, at bottom right.] The recent graduates are: Reuben Rebischke, Jeremy Gruenberg, Josh Lenaghen, Seth Miraglia, Troy Hoffner, James Brown and Roman Kulikovskiy.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

## State Representative Visits Local Membership Meeting

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—At our January union meeting, state Rep. Brian Prince (House District 127) spoke to the membership. Rep. Prince showed his support for Local 1579, stating that he votes with labor 100 percent of the time. He said that he would like to attend future meetings to give updates to the membership and stay in close contact with the business manager to keep up with the needs of our local union.

Remember that 2016 is an election year not only for president of the United States, but also for many state and local offices. Many political figures will be invited to speak to the membership. This will give us an opportunity to get to know these public servants and ultimately support the politicians who support us.

Our work situation is great. There is currently an outage at Plant Vogtle along with multiple other jobs around the area that are either hiring or will soon be ready to hire. Thanks to all the traveling brothers and sisters who are helping us to keep our jobs manned.

Absenteeism is still an issue on some of the

jobs. If you are not showing up to do your job, you are hurting not only yourself and the IBEW, but also your family as well. Think about that!

Until next time, God bless.

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

## Dedicated Career of Service

L.U. 1837 (rtb&u), MANCHESTER, ME—Pres. Ray Colello has stepped down after nearly 25 years in office.

Always a dedicated trade unionist, Bro Colello served as a union steward and chief steward in the 1970s, as an Executive Board representative in the 1980s, and became president in 1991. He retired effective Dec. 31, 2015, and passed the baton to newly appointed Pres. Bill Tarallo, former vice president.

"I learned most of what I knew about unions from my dad and joined the union as soon as I could," Colello said. "Union members have somebody to speak for them when they are mistreated. They also have the right to a safe workplace."

Bro. Colello expressed his gratitude to the business managers he has worked with including current Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Dick Rogers and former business managers Joe Nixon, Kerry Guptill, Dave Bofinger, Bob Dodge and Cynthia Phinney. Bro. Colello also thanked members who serve as stewards.

Bus. Mgr. Rogers said, "While I'm very happy for Ray and his wife, Debbie, I realize what a void he leaves at IBEW Local 1837. Ray's leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace. ... No one individual cared more about the plight of working people than Raymond Colello."

Bro. Colello wishes to remind members of the importance of their health and safety on the job. "Many of our members come in contact with electricity or dangerous chemicals," Colello said. "We can't afford to take shortcuts. ... Whether the company catches you or God catches you, you're not going to like the outcome."

Matthew Beck, Organizer/B.R.



Local 1837 Bus. Mgr. Dick Rogers (left) thanks outgoing Pres. Ray Colello (center) for his longtime, dedicated service to the local, as incoming Pres. Bill Tarallo looks on



From left: AJEATT Training Dir. Jon Medaris; Local 1547 journeyman wireman Waylon Knudsen; apprenticeship wireman graduates Reuben Rebischke, Jeremy Gruenberg, Josh Lenaghen, Seth Miraglia, Troy Hoffner, James Brown and Roman Kulikovskiy; Local 1547 Bus. Mgr. Mike Hodsdon; and instructor Ryan Andrew.

# RETIREEES

## Upcoming Meetings

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—I hope everyone stayed safe and warm during the winter months. The next two Retirees Club meetings will be March 16 and May 18. Meetings begin at about 10 a.m.

Please visit the Local 1 website at [www.ibewlocalone.org](http://www.ibewlocalone.org) and read all the news items.

Also, consider donating to the Electrical Workers Historical Society. For more information, see news story “The Birthplace of a Union to Be Reborn as a Museum,” in the December 2015 issue of The Electrical Worker, or visit website <http://ibewlocalone.org/90-members/40977-electrical-workers-historical-society>.

2016 is an important election year. Remember to get registered, be informed and vote.

*Neal McCormack, P.S.*

## Annual Picnic in March

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER—Our annual Christmas & Hanukah Party was Friday, Jan. 8, 2016. The event was held at the Delray Beach Golf & Country Club with 90 people in attendance to enjoy a lovely luncheon, music and a show.

We will have our Annual Picnic on March 11 this year at the South Palm Beach Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, FL, for all our paid-up members and their guests.

*Robert Rosenhouch, Co-Chmn.*



*Local 3, South Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club members volunteered their assistance for a U.S. Marines Toys for Tots Drive.*

## Toys for Tots Drive

RETIREEES CUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER—During the holiday season once again last year, 10 or more retirees from the South Jersey Chapter assisted with the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots Drive.

For about two weeks we aided in sorting then shipping toys to needy children in the area. We helped process approximately 30,000 toys for the drive.

On a one-day break from the volunteer service project, we attended our annual holiday party at the Local 400 union hall. There we raised donations totaling more than \$1,000 for American Recreational Military Services (ARMS), a group that sends needed supplies to military service men and women stationed overseas.

*Frank Liffner, F.S.*



*At Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club holiday luncheon: from left, Local 3 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Paul Ryan, club Chmn. David Torres, Dominic Pironi, Michael Moretti and Albert Campisi.*

## Annual Holiday Party; Community Service Projects

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER—This year our Annual Food Drive for Long Island Cares and our Toys for Tots Drive were both great successes due to the very generous support of our club members.

Our Annual Holiday Party was once again a great affair. Thanks to our Holiday Chmn. John Schoenig and his wife, Cathy, for all their hard work, and thanks to their committee for all their help.

This year our Chapter Chmn. Jack Foley presented plaques to Loretta & Frank Bono, Lois & Andy Weis, and Fred Walling for their outstanding service to the club. Again we would like to thank Eileen Crisostomo for making all the beautiful favors for our holiday party. As always it's great to see old and new friends at the party. We all enjoyed good food, music and dancing. We had baskets of cheer and 50/50 raffles.

Jack & Ann Foley wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

*Harvey Goldman, P.S.*

## Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WEST-CHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—On Dec. 8, 2015, chapter members attended our 27th Annual Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon, held for the third consecutive year at the Leewood Country Club in Eastchester, NY. Ninety-one members and guests attended.

Nine members, 80 years of age, were awarded Certificates of Special Recognition for their continued service and dedication to the IBEW, and were installed as Gold Club members. Honored members included former chairman Dominic Pironi, Albert Campisi and Michael Moretti. Honorees unable to attend were: John Cunningham, John DiFede, James Jumper, William Metcalfe, Arthur Schwabe and Herman Schwabe.

Special guests in attendance at the luncheon were Local 3 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Paul Ryan and Local 3 Reps. Thomas Capurso and Louis Sanchez.

The Fisher House Foundation was the recipient of a \$900 donation through our 50/50 raffle. The foundation provides housing on military bases, enabling families of wounded servicemen and women to be close to their loved ones during their rehab period.

Also enjoyed by 34 members last holiday season was a Broadway trip on Nov. 19 to see “Something Rotten, A Very New Musical,” followed by a wonderful dinner at Ciao restaurant.

*John Rich, P.S.*

*Bob Cuneo, P.S.*

## Club Travels a Success

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC—Who would have thought we would still be alive in 2016? Well, for some of us retired members this is a miracle! Our members are living longer because they enjoy good union benefits, health care, and things like Social Security and Medicare. We all know 2016 is an important election year, so remind your fellow members, family and friends which side their bread is buttered on!

Last year our Medical Equipment Fund was able to provide some items that Medicare does not pay for, but that are needed by our members or their families. We could not have done this without those who support our annual raffle. Thank you to all our supporters on behalf of those who were beneficiaries of your generosity in 2015.

The club's travels continue by bus, by train, and by ship. Whatever the transportation, we keep on going, sharing and enjoying what some call the “golden” years. We thank members who volunteer their time to plan the trips, as well as those who help with our meetings (including setup and cleanup.)

After each meeting we mail the minutes to more than 1,500 members across the country. This would not be possible without our faithful volunteers — and so a very special thank-you to those retired union members. May the New Year keep everyone safe and healthy.

*Susan Flashman, P.S.*



*Local 26 Retirees Club Pres. Dick Bissell (left) presents retired member Jerry Papa with a Local 26 jacket as thanks for his years of special service to the club.*

## ‘Happy New Year’

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT—The Retirees Club will resume meetings on March 9 at 12 noon. Meetings are held at B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge #2308 in Rocky Hill. We welcome any retirees who wish to join the club. We're trying to schedule activities for the year ahead, but we need ideas and participation.

At this time of year, we remember those members who passed away in 2015. Included in memoriam are: Charles “Chuck” Burns, Rolf “Swede” Florin, Thomas Harrison, Bart Iannaccone, Irwin Lustig, Timothy Miller, Robert Murtha and Thomas Valk.

*Kenneth R. White, P.S.*

## 2016 Events Scheduled

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 42, HARTFORD CT—The club would like to invite anyone who is a retired member of Local 42 to come and join them. It's a great time to get together with some old friends you haven't seen in a while. Come and enjoy coffee and donuts, along with great stories and lots of laughs.

Retirees Club meetings start at 9 a.m., and are held bimonthly on a Tuesday. The meetings take place at the Local 42 union hall, 379 Wetherell St., Manchester, CT. Annual dues are \$12. The club would love to have you join them. For more information give

us a call at 860-646-7297.

Save the date for this year's events, as follows: Dinner Dance/Apprentice Graduation — April 23; Trap Shoot — May 7; Dinner Cruise — June 18; Chartered Fishing Trip — July 9; Annual Family Picnic — Aug. 27; Cod Fishing Trip — Sept. 10; Annual Motorcycle Run — Sept. 24; and the Fall Trap Shoot — Oct. 1.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year.

*Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.*

## A Review of 2015 Activities

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 43, SYRACUSE, NY—Following is a summary of 2015 Retirees Club activities provided by club Pres. Dave Wierowski: We visited and had a tour of WCNY-Channel 24 TV station. We toured the Visitor's Center at the Onondaga Lake Cleanup project, which included a boat trip around the lake. We enjoyed a summer picnic meeting at Lock 24 on the New York State Canal system. Our group took a fall overnight train trip, with viewing car, from Saratoga, NY, to Plattsburg, NY, returning via Amtrak. We finished out 2015 with a nice luncheon at an Olive Garden restaurant with 16 members attending.

We would like to see more retirees become involved, and we promise to have some nice events planned for 2016.

Pres. Wierowski would like to wish all IBEW members a safe, health and prosperous 2016.

*Jim Corbett, P.S.*

## Annual Golf Tournament

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX—Club members once again displayed their gratitude for the freedom we all enjoy by making generous donations of personal items to the Wounded Warriors Project. Club Pres. Gene Chamberlain and his wife, Marilyn, transported the donated items to the WW headquarters at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio after the December 2015 club meeting.

With a fresh new year 2016, club members also have fresh expectations for a successful annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser to be held May 7 at the Devine Golf Course, 116 Malone Dr., Devine, TX. The event will include a Four-Person Scramble, \$70 per person, awards, door prizes and lunch immediately following the tournament. For more information please contact Gene Chamberlain at (210) 262-1927.

Memories of those members who passed away in 2015 will forever be with us. They include: Oscar F. Garza, John W. Clements, David Alcalá Jr., Ralph Jimenez, Jesse C. Rivera, Gilroy H. Wahl, James F. Glasscock, Jimmy Fuentes, Roy E. Koehler and Alfred A. Teltschick.

The club meets on the second Thursday of each month at The Plumbers and Pipefitters Training Bldg., 3630 Belgium Lane, starting at 12 noon with a short business meeting, followed by lunch and bingo. Retired Local 60 members are invited to join us and to check out the club's website at [www.lu60retiredmembersclub.com](http://www.lu60retiredmembersclub.com).

*Sandy Rogers, P.S.*

## Holiday Party & Service Pins

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI—The Local 99 Retirees Christmas Party was held Dec. 15 last year at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick, RI. We had a feast of family style soup, pasta, chicken, salad, dessert and coffee.

## LOCAL LINES

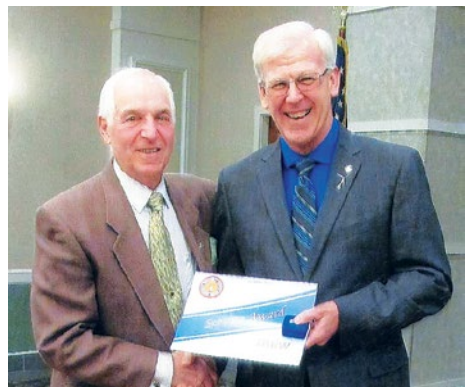
Pres. Robert Pierce and Local 99 Bus. Mgr. Michael Daley paid tribute to the brothers who passed away in 2015 by leading a moment of silence. Raymond Germershausen delivered an invocation of prayer and love.

Pierce and Daley also presented 46 retirees with service pins recognizing 30 or more years of service. Michael Carty, Richard Irace and Gerald Kerr received pins for 60 years of service. Awarded 55-year service pins were: Lucien Beaulieu, John Curtin, Paul Forrest, Ronald Lajoie, William O'Connor and Gerald Trotter. Awarded 50-year pins: Kenneth Berg, William Delmarge, Launce Dusablon, Raymond Ethier, Raymond Gadigan, Robert Kelly, William Murray, Pasquale Nardone, Walter Perry, Antony Roccio and David Williamson.

The retirees thank Bus. Mgr. Daley and Local 99 for their support in keeping our Retirees Club active. We also thank Kenny Marandola for organizing three retiree fishing trips this summer.

All Local 99 retirees wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2016.

Frank J. Colucci, P.S.



Local 99 retiree Richard Irace (left) receives 60-year service pin presented by Bus. Mgr. Michael K. Daley.

## 'Make Your Vote Count'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—At our annual Local 134 Retirees Club Christmas party, attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner of corned beef, potatoes and cabbage, followed by dessert. Many gift certificates were raffled off to retirees and their guests at the party. Local 134 Bus. Agent Jeff Kingsley and Local 134 Bus. Agent/Rec. Sec. Frank Cunningham presented medals to all veterans present in appreciation for their service to our country.

Remember to take advantage of the many events this club offers to all retirees of Local 134. Our club has numerous outings and events throughout the year. To name just a few, these include: theater outings, golf outings, flower shows, trips to Arlington racetrack, Chicago riverboat trips, and three catered lunches each year plus a Christmas party.

In late 2015, Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner convinced the village board of Lincolnshire to establish a so-called "right-to-work" zone. Only one trustee voted against this proposal, and it passed. Now, in effect, Lincolnshire workers are stripped of their employee rights. As a union member and supporter of workers' rights, I will not patronize any businesses in Lincolnshire until they reject Rauner's Tea Party "turnaround agenda."



At 2015 holiday party: Local 134 Retirees Club former president Rich Sipple (left), Local 134 Bus. Agent Jeff Kingsley, Local 134 Bus. Agent/Rec. Sec. Frank Cunningham, and Retirees Club Pres. Mario Coletta.

In 2016 your vote will decide our next president, and determine who will represent you in public office in coming years. Remember, you control with your vote the destiny of our country! Make your vote count!

Louis Rodriguez, P.S.

## Community Service Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 164, JERSEY CITY, NJ—The 164 Retirees Association meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Local 164 union hall in Paramus, NJ, for a luncheon and business meeting.

We recently had a successful Golf Outing where we raised money for our Child/Grandchild College Scholarship Fund.

Last summer we enjoyed a golf league event, a trip to a New York Yankees game, an Atlantic City bus trip, and fishing trips. We also participate in a winter coat drive for families in need, and donate money raised for a family in crisis during the holiday season.

At the Local 164 Dinner Dance at the Mahwah Sheraton Crossroads, 50-year members received a gold watch, pin and certificate for their years of service.

Days later the Retiree Association had their annual Holiday Party with music and great food. Retirees club then-Pres. Rich "Doc" Dougherty was presented a beautiful plaque and bottle of Dom Perignon for his 15 years of service as president. He was instrumental in starting the Retirees Association. Doc has stepped down as club president and handed the gavel to new club Pres. Jerry Ryder to lead us to the future.

Please visit website [www.lu164retirees.squarepins.org](http://www.lu164retirees.squarepins.org) for information and pictures of our club.

David Judovin, P.S.



Service awards presentation at Local 164 Dinner Dance.

## G.O.P. — 'Guardians of the Privileged'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH—Many people believe there is little difference between the major political parties, however, there are many.

Among issues championed by Democrats and unions, but opposed by Republicans are the following:

- Social Security, Medicare, pension protection;
- Unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, safe working conditions;
- Public education, early childhood development, student loans;
- Aid for the elderly, needy, disabled, underemployed and homeless;
- Safe medicines and food, clean air and water;
- Safe, efficient automobiles; and
- Equal rights for all Americans;

Accomplishments of Republicans include: protecting the super-rich and mega-corporations, privatization, deregulation, dismantling and obstructing government, and destroying unions. The past is the best indicator of what they'll do in the future.

Gerrymandering has rigged most congressional districts, but the presidency is still up to the voters. The next president will likely appoint three Supreme Court justices. The



Local 236 retirees attend 41st Annual Reunion Luncheon.

next president must be a Democrat if we hope to keep beneficial programs as we now know them. The power of an informed voter can trump (no pun intended) the corrupting influence of dark money.

Welcome to recent new members: Thomas Wanninger, Robert Carlin, Willie Hodges, Nick Abernathy, Wayne Whalen, Paul Macken, Dave Allen and Pat Brennan.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

## 41st Annual Reunion Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 236, ALBANY, NY—On Tuesday, Oct. 13, last year more than 50 IBEW Local 236 retirees and their spouses came together for the 41st Annual Reunion Luncheon, held at Treviso in The Italian American Community Center. [Photo, above.] The food and service provided by the staff at Treviso was great, and the comradery enjoyed by the members as they shared stories was even better. Thank you to the following officers of the Retirees Club for organizing such a great event: Pres. Phil Clemens, Vice Pres. Bob

Jenne, Sec. James Porter, and Treas. Lou Lourina.

The Retirees Club would like to invite all Local 236 retirees to join us at our next club meeting. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the following months: February, April, June, August, October and December. Meetings begin at 10:30

a.m. and are held in the second floor conference room at the Albany Labor Temple, 890 Third Street, Albany, NY.

Jim Porter, P.S.

## A Busy, Festive Year

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO—The year 2015 was a busy one and December was no exception. On Dec. 6 about 30 of our members met at the Lake of the Ozarks and enjoyed lunch, a little shopping, and then a show at the Main Street Music Hall. A few of the members had a picture taken with Santa. On Tuesday, Dec. 8, Local 257 invited our group to the union hall for a Christmas luncheon. Everyone enjoyed the meal and we wish to thank the



Local 257 Retirees Club members at Main Street Music Hall at Lake of the Ozarks: back row, Larry Jones (left), James Breid, Bill Jurgensmeyer, Charlie Bates, Bill Lang; front row, Ron Holzhauer, Santa, Danny Melloway and Sam Hamacher.

members of Local 257 for their hospitality. Instead of exchanging gifts the group voted to donate money to St. Jude's Children's Research Center.

On a more sober note, Betty Nichols, one of our members passed away. We would like for the family to know that we are thinking of them. Betty will be sorely missed. She was our music director for a number of years.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and a happy New Year's. Looking forward to 2016.

Delores Melloway, P.S.

## Spring 2016 Meeting

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 270, OAK RIDGE, TN—Local 270 retirees met recently for a fall 2015 Retirees Club meeting and service pin presentation. We had about 60 people in attendance. We plan to hold another retirees meeting in the spring of 2016. We encourage all retired members to join us. The meetings are held at Local 270's Union Hall. Please watch your mail for a postcard with further details.

We offer our condolences to the families of retirees who recently passed away: Red Roberts, Reed Stricklan and Bill Teffetteller.

We retirees wish everyone a happy and blessed 2016.

Wayne Brown, P.S.



Local 270 retired members in attendance at fall 2015 Retirees Club meeting.

## Highlights & Events

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—Each year our Retirees Club strives for ways and events to improve not only the quality of life of our retirees but also to promote improved recognition for Local 353 and the IBEW. Our continuing thanks to our past officers who had the vision to establish Local 353 benefits and funds.

Our retirees enjoyed numerous events last year.

Highlights of 2015 also included the spring and fall clothing drive for the Kidney Foundation, to benefit research and also camps for adults and children who have kidney disease.

Our premier events included our Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance held Nov. 29 last year, where we hosted 650 retired members and guests from Locals 105, 120, 303 and 804.

Our next premier event is our upcoming Annual Pin Presentation Breakfast for members with 50 years of service or more, to be held April 20 this year.

This year, 114 50-year watches and





At the Local 530 Retirees Club Annual Christmas Dinner.

pins will be presented. Also to be awarded are: 30 55-year pins; 21 60-year pins; 14 65-year pins; and four 70-year pins. This should bring retirees with 50 years of service or more to well over 800 living Local 353 members.

We are "continuing to build our communities."

Robert Rynyk, P.S.

## Celebratory Occasions

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Our club finished 2015 with two very nice events. The first was the IBEW Local 530 Annual Dinner Dance Banquet. Our retirees were invited to attend, and service pins were awarded to all who qualify.

Several club members received service pins last year, as follows: for 35 years of service, Maurice Coulombe, Barry Eickmeyer and Stan Eufthimiou; for 45 years, Tom Randall and Bryden Vrooman; and for 50 years, Robert Friedrich. Congratulations to all our club members for their lifelong commitment to IBEW Local 530.

Our second event: On Dec. 10, after our regular meeting at the union hall, we gathered at the Best Western Guildwood Inn for our Annual Christmas Dinner. [Photo, top left.] Forty-nine retirees and their spouses enjoyed an excellent meal and wonderful companionship. Pat Sterling made and donated a Christmas centerpiece for a door prize, which was won by June Cain. Janet Burdett and Marion Lawton convened our banquet with excellent results. We thank all three ladies for their contribution to the success of our Christmas dinner.

Anyone who has thought about joining our Retirees Club, please do so. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at the union hall at 10:30 a.m., with lunch following for \$5. We would love to see you!

Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.

## Service Award Honorees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 586, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA—In October 2015, the Retirees Club and the local union presented the "Long Service Awards" to 20+ members who attained 50, 55, 60 or 65 years of dedicated IBEW service. In total, that represented more than 1,350 years of service.

Many members were unable to attend due to travel restrictions or for health reasons. It was a great event for remembering camaraderie and seeing familiar faces from the past. All these members worked very hard and went on strike for better working conditions, wages and benefits that current and future members will enjoy.

It is important to look toward the future, but for these older members it is also rewarding to reminisce. If you ever listen to two retirees when they approach one another, the first words exchanged are these three magic words: "Do you remember?" Then the connection is made for a long chat.

We honor and salute all the service award recipients for their longtime service. Award recipients in attendance included: Rolland Larocque, Francis Legault, Hans Oehling, Leandre Parenteau, Gary Schmid, Harry Teevens, Don Coughlan, C. Desrochers, R. Emmerson, R. Gunville, Gilles Bordeleau and Tom Moffatt, former business manager and

guest speaker. [See photo below.]

Service award honorees not in attendance include: George Edwardson, Rene Marcotte, Terrence McLaughlin, Jacques Parisien, William Sullivan, Joseph Dudek, Maurice Walsh, Felix Weiss, John Barnaby, Joseph Lavergne, Edmund Monaghan and Reginald St. George.

William "Bill" Warchow, P.S.



Attending Local 586 Service Awards presentation: back row, Rolland Larocque (left), Francis Legault, Hans Oehling, Leandre Parenteau, Gary Schmid, Harry Teevens; back row, Don Coughlan, C. Desrochers, R. Emmerson, R. Gunville, Gilles Bordeleau and Tom Moffatt, former business manager.

## Great Trips Planned

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 595, DUBLIN, CA—Greetings from rainy California. After four very dry years, we are pleased to have our reservoirs filling up and our snow pack above normal.

Our Retired Members Club is very active and we have some great trips planned for 2016. We closed last year with a wonderful Christmas luncheon at the Fremont Elks Club with entertainment by one of our own retirees, Chico Hernandez, and his group "Chico and the Band." Our themed monthly luncheons are always a blast and the food is awesome.

We expect a great turnout at our annual Benefits Fair where our Pension and Healthcare trustees and professionals answer questions and address concerns. All of our providers will staff their information tables for one-on-one discussions regarding individual member issues. Great raffle prizes are given to those lucky ticket holders attending.

We thank club Pres. Walt Corvello and our awesome group of officers for stepping up to guide our club for another year. We welcome all Local 595 retirees to join the Retired Members Club. We invite retirees to come enjoy the fruits of their labor with their fellow brothers and sisters. We have fun reliving the old stories as we create new ones.

In this election year, let's remember the importance of voting for elected officials who support our issues and those of workers and their families.

Tom Mullarkey, P.S.



Local 595 Retirees Club officers were sworn in by Bus. Rep. David Nelson.



Scene of the crowd at Local 649 Retirees Club's 2015 Christmas party.

## Club Returns to Activity

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 649, ALTON, IL—Greetings, IBEW brothers and sisters. The Local 649 Retirees Club returns to activity after a long respite.

For many years the group struggled to enlist retirees into our club. Our core group of 20 or so (mostly wiremen) unsuccessfully sought to enroll retiring Local 649 members. We especially sought those from our diverse non-construction membership.

Recently, with financial help from the local union membership, we held a Christmas celebration that exceeded all expectations. [See photo, at top right.]

More than 100 attended the celebration. Everyone enjoyed a fine meal, and attendance prizes were distributed. Hopes of increasing our size and diversity lead our group to anticipate a busy 2016.

Our current Retirees Club officers are: Pres. George Stumpe, Vice Pres. William Gottlob, Treas. Marlin Wagner, and Sgt. at Arms Jim Heinemann.

We are saddened to report the death of Gordon L. Admire, the original president of our Retirees Club and former business manager of Local 649.

Jack Tueth, P.S.

## December 2015 Meeting

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL—The Retirees Club met Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015, at Bennie's Italian Restaurant in Marion, IL. A motion, which was seconded and approved, was made to skip the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. The Financial Report from the last meeting was read and approved.

Death announcements were read for recent months, followed by a moment of silence. Dinner was served at noon and the meeting was suspended. The meeting resumed at 12:45 p.m. with addi-

tional announcements.

Under Old Business, 10 T-shirts will be gifted by the union hall for raffle prizes in 2016.

In New Business, a motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase 200 license plate frames for retirees at a total cost of \$260. In the raffle drawing, 90 tickets were sold; first-place prize of \$45 was won by Darrell McClellan, and poinsettias were won by Tim Reed and John Skaggs.

Everyone was reminded to go to Jim Campbell's house to view the Dickens Christmas display and maps were provided. After everyone exchanged good wishes for a merry Christmas, the December meeting was adjourned.

Mark Baker, P.S.

## Great Turnout for Meetings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL—We had a very warm December and then began the new year with cooler weather, just in time for our Annual Chili Cook-off. The winner will be announced in our next article. We have had a great turnout at all of our meetings, which is wonderful! We love having you all come out to visit and enjoy a great meal together. We hope 2016 will be a happy and healthy year for all of you!

With sadness we report that several members passed since our last article. We send our condolences to the family and friends of Bros. George E. Chevreuil, Robert P. Bryant, Gilbert Garris, Hubert J. Smith, Chester O. Mecum and Lloyd Durrance. Our brothers will be remembered.

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

Diane Gibbs, P.S.



Local 1245 Reno/Sparks Retirees Club members present donation to Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation. From left: Local 1245 retirees Rod Thomas, Cyril Escallier and Jim Lappin; Foundation Rep. Lisa Shaffer; and Local 1245 retiree Ron Borst.

## IBEW Community Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1245, VACAVILLE, CA—Local 1245 Retirees Club chapters spent the holiday season giving back to the less fortunate in their communities. The Reno/Sparks Retirees Club presented a series of donations to several organizations, including Meals on Wheels, the Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation, Veterans Guest House and Ronald McDonald House. Members of the Yerington Retirees Club presented their annual holiday donation of \$250 to the Yerington Vineyard Fellowship, to support the annual holiday dinner for the less fortunate in Yerington. The organization serves a full dinner to around 500 people, and also provides holiday gifts for children and families in need.

Rebecca Band, P.S.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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## FROM THE OFFICERS

# Who Cares About Your Paycheck?



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

**W**hile nearly all of U.S. political attention has focused on the presidential election, the future of working America is being decided in the states. If you haven't been following it too closely, I don't believe I am overstating it when I call it a disaster.

The West Virginia legislature passed so-called right-to-work laws in February with enough votes to overrule the expected veto. That means more than half the states now tell workers and their employers what kind of contracts they will allow. If the contract you signed with your employer requires every person represented by a union to pay their share, well, the politicians in 26 states have decided they don't like that.

Twenty states now make it nearly impossible to make decent wages and benefits and local or minority hiring standards a requirement for companies that win public contracts. By outlawing project labor agreements, they give an enormous advantage to bidders that simply promise to do it the cheapest, a strategy that no sane person or responsible company follows anywhere.

Time after time, vote after vote, state elected officials are bundling up their citizens and selling them off for scrap. They get away with it not by lying but because most voters have no idea what they are doing.

If we are honest, how many of us know who our state representatives are or what they are doing to our paychecks? Five days a week, we come to work to be useful and make a difference, but also because that is where we get paid. Well, today our paychecks are being decided in election booths and too many of us are still not showing up there.

We will have time before the November election to talk about what kind of lawmakers we believe will fight for working people. We are launching a grass-roots political campaign that will extend to every part of this country in hundreds of locals by Election Day.

But my message today is much simpler: please register by April.

By the end of this month, everybody under our roofs should be registered to vote. Your child who moved back home because they couldn't find a job: encourage him or her to register. Your parents who moved in because the banks swallowed the retirement savings they thought they would have: implore them to register.

Even if you have voted in every election since your 18th birthday, election offices are overrun these days with clever people clearing voter rolls like it was a sport. Double check that your name is still there.

And for the people you work with every day, ask gently, but be insistent. Because if we don't care about what is in our paycheck, there will only ever be less. ■

## Honoring Our Heroes

In this month's *Electrical Worker*, we met Staff Sgt. Irvin "Butch" Johnson, a 91-year-old veteran of World War II who came home and built a comfortable life in Cumberland, Maryland, with the help of the IBEW.

Butch was honored recently for his heroism under fire in Germany, but we're equally proud of his more than 65 years of service to this union.

The truth is, Butch's story isn't that different from hundreds of thousands of members of the military who came home from Europe or the Pacific, Korea or Vietnam, or from more recent conflicts like Bosnia and the Persian Gulf and chose a union job as their pathway to the middle class.

These men and women served their country with honor and distinction, and unions, including the IBEW, served them back, fighting for fair wages, decent benefits and safe working conditions here at home.

Today, a new generation of veterans are coming back from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we owe them the same opportunities afforded to those who came before them.

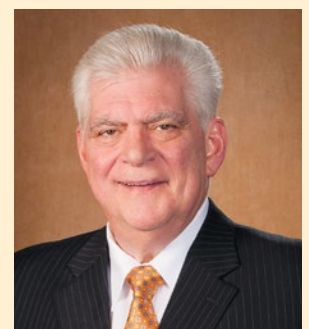
Through initiatives like Helmets to Hardhats, which helps to place returning vets in qualified construction apprenticeship programs like the IBEW's, we're able to honor our heroes and set them up for lifelong careers.

Some of our locals are even taking up the cause on their own. At Los Angeles Local 11, Business Manager Marvin Kropke hired former Marine Sgt. Major Mike Kufchak in 2014 to spearhead military recruitment, and the initiative has been a huge success, bringing in more than 175 new apprentices so far.

In Seattle, Local 46 has been actively recruiting and training vets for almost seven years through its Veterans in Construction Electrical (VICE) program. Hundreds of apprentices have come in through that program and dozens have made journeyman already.

Our union benefits from the diversity of its membership, and these members of the military who embody the discipline and work ethic we pride ourselves on are an important part of that mix.

So thank a veteran for his service, whether he's a member of the "greatest generation" like Butch or the brother or sister working next to you on a jobsite. They'll always have a home — and the opportunity for a career — with the IBEW. ■



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



#### HOW TO REACH US

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

#### Send letters to:

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

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

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Labor in the Balance

I read the troubling article, "The Right Asks the Court to Curb Unions" in the January issue about the U.S. Supreme Court case *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, based on the First Amendment. I honestly can't imagine what freedom of speech has to do with paying your union dues.

I come away with the impression that this is yet another thinly veiled effort backed by the right to establish a national right-to-work law. Our union brothers and sisters have spent countless hours and resources to fight this legislation since I came into the IBEW in 1974. It continues to rear its ugly head here in Colorado, but it miraculously has not been passed here yet. The *Friedrichs* case is another attack against our brotherhood and it must be vigorously fought. The future of organized labor may hang in the balance based on the decision of those judges.

If you don't think your vote counts, remember Supreme Court judges are appointed by sitting presidents and once in, they are there for life. Whatever it takes, brothers and sisters, this case deserves our full attention. Petition your senators and members of Congress and let them know how you feel about this issue. The future of our unions may depend on it!!

Doug Szabo, Local 68 retiree  
Denver

## Recognizing IBEW's Women

As someone who remembers the sting of my steward's words in the early 1980s: "Just because we have to take you in doesn't mean anything has to change because you're here!" I thank you for the January issue. From (p. 1) Business Rep Eliot Hecht's phrasing, "the men and women who built Local 3" to Local 77's moving tribute to Heidi Durham (p. 11), and much in between, it was heartening to see women's importance and leadership recognized.

Susan Eisenberg, Local 103 retiree  
Boston



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

## Giving Back

How grateful I am that our predecessors had the insight to establish a union that allowed myself and others to earn a decent wage and benefits during our lifetimes. This has been a privilege for which I am most appreciative.

I was able to put my wife and our four children through college while enjoying a lifestyle that was made possible for 36 years by the IBEW. I have now been retired for 10 years. My wife and I have had a wonderful retirement because of a pension made possible by being a member of the IBEW.

Please accept my donation to the Electrical Workers Historical Society for the renovation of the Henry Miller house into a museum. I hope that myself and every other member gets to visit this historical site when it is complete. Thank you for your effort toward this project.

Erhardt "Butch" Bruder, Local 692 retiree  
Bay City, Mich.

## Thanks. But No Thanks.

How many voters do you hear asking for right-to-work legislation? Zero. There is no positive impact in this legislation. It doesn't create jobs. It doesn't improve working conditions. It doesn't increase wages or benefits.

The only thing it does is lower wages and increase profits for business. Don't believe me? Ask Wisconsin workers. Ask Michigan workers. Every single politician who pushes for right-to-work legislation in any state should get their walking papers in the next election, regardless if they are successful.

Robert DeNoto, Local 86 member  
Rochester, N.Y.

# WHO WE ARE

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

## New York Local 3 Member Writes a Hit for the Trans-Siberian Orchestra



New York Local 3 member Johnny Green's song "Forget about the Blame" appears twice on Trans-Siberian Orchestra's chart-topping new album.

It isn't often that a band loves a song so much that they release two versions of it on the same record.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra is best known for their Christmas-themed rock operas that out-fog San Francisco, have more lasers than a Death Star full of Stormtroopers and more explosions than a Michael Bay film.

But when it released its new album "Letters from the Labyrinth" last November, the all-American band with the Slavic surname eschewed the rock opera form for the first time. "Letters" is instead a thematically diverse collection of 15 lighter-launching songs including the power ballad "Forget About the Blame," written by New York City Local 3 member Johnny Green.

The album debuted at the top of Billboard's rock chart and the song was performed in front of millions on their tour last fall. The song is played every day on more than 100 radio stations across the U.S.

"I could not be happier," Green said from his home in Hackensack, N.J. "God has blessed me. [In 2015] I got a No. 1 song, and the same year, my wife gave birth to our baby girl."

TSO founder Paul O'Neill liked the song so much, it appears twice on the album, the first time fronted by TSO's male singer Robin Borneman and later with female hard-rocker Lzzy Hale of Halestorm on the microphone.

Green was organized into the IBEW 15 years ago when the nonunion Bronx-based electrical construction shop where he worked was bought by signatory contractor Polo Electric.

Green is not an overnight success, he is an over-decades success. He came to New York City in 1997 after a decade as a union painter at the Bath Ironworks shipyards in his home state of Maine.

He was newly remarried with three girls from his first marriage on his way to

New York. He was going to be singing on a new album with a new band and writing commercial music to smooth out the highs and lows.

"I said I was going to be a big star, that the music business in New York was waiting for me to get there," Green said. "It all fell to nothing."

Within a few months, Green says he was driving a van 70 hours a week delivering recording equipment to studios.

"Driving that van was a slim connection to the music business, but I didn't want to go back to Maine," Green said.

In 1997, Green gave a demo of a song to a co-founder of Soundtrack Studios in New York, John Keihl, who liked what he heard. Keihl gave it to O'Neill, the one-time manager of Aerosmith, Joan Jett, AC/DC and the Scorpions. O'Neill had just launched TSO, backed by Atlantic Records, to combine hair metal and holiday classics. And O'Neill liked the demo. But he wanted something else from Green. Something better.

"That inspired me. I needed to write something that would knock everyone on their ass," Green said. "And I was desperate."

He did what he always did. He took everything his life had given him and put it down into music. He stayed up late, quietly playing his guitar in bed, trying not to wake up his wife. First a chorus came. Then a verse. Then another. He recorded a demo and handed it over.

O'Neill loved the song, and bought the rights to it. Green thought it was his moment. It was going to be on a special album. A single. The next album.

For nearly 20 years this went on. TSO would sell millions of records, becoming one of the most successful touring bands between 2000 and 2010, according to Billboard. So popular that O'Neill created two versions, one touring

on the East Coast, one on the West Coast. In 2015 they performed a combined 96 shows in 43 days in 60 cities, grossing more than \$50 million.

But for Green, nothing. Rent was still due. He did what grown-ups with three daughters and a new wife do. He put them first. He found a small electricians shop that was hiring and he went back to work. When the shop was bought out by a Local 3 signatory, he joined the union.

And music was no longer what he did, it was what else he did. It was what he made money for, squeezed in around overtime and second shifts and driving his girls to dance practice and soccer practice and making a marriage work. Green now has six daughters, ages 33 to six months, and five grandchildren.

Green said that the security of a good income, retirement, and knowing his girls were taken care of is something he never had in his life before joining Local 3.

Over time O'Neill stopped checking in as often. For three years, Green heard nothing.

Then he got a call on his mobile phone, at work, from a number he didn't recognize. It was O'Neill.

O'Neill said he wanted to wait until he was "99.999 percent sure we are 100 percent." They were recording the song on the next album.

"Then he called me back to say he wanted to use it twice," Green said. "I was ecstatic."

For now it is a happy time, but strange.

"I have a song on the radio and you dream all your life of that, and I'm still getting up every morning at 4:30. It isn't what you see in movies," Green said. "Yet."

Green said O'Neill has already committed to using another of his songs on the next TSO album, due out in the next year or so.

"I may be going to work in a year. I may not," he said. "Only time will tell." ■

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## Ordinary Life, Uncommon Valor

# AT LONG LAST, RECOGNITION for IBEW HERO

For Irvin “Butch” Johnson, recognition for a job well done was never the point.

But late last year, the 91-year-old retired wireman from Cumberland, Md., Local 307 became something of a local celebrity around his Western Maryland hometown.

In October, almost 70 years later, Johnson was presented with the Silver Star he earned in the aftermath of World War II’s pivotal “Battle of the Bulge” in 1945.

Celebrations followed, with Johnson feted by his church, a U.S. Army Major General and by more than 12,000 people at a high school football game. Praise rolled in from far and wide, and Oct. 4, 2015 was officially declared “Butch Johnson Day” in the city of Cumberland.

### Patton’s Army

In 1943, Butch Johnson was an 18-year-old senior at Fort Hill High School watching classmates get snatched up by the draft as soon as they graduated. Hoping to avoid their fate, he dropped out, thinking he’d slip past the draft board and get on with his life.

His gambit backfired, and young Butch was soon packing his bags for U.S.

Army basic training. Assigned to the 87th Infantry Division, 345th Infantry Regiment at Fort Jackson, S.C., he would spend much of the next year readying himself for combat.

In June 1943, Allied forces had stormed the beaches of Normandy in France, the largest seaborne invasion in history and the beginning of an 11-month campaign that would lead directly to Adolf Hitler’s doorstep.

On Oct. 17, Johnson and the rest of the 87th departed Manhattan aboard the RMS Queen Elizabeth, then the world’s largest passenger ship. “It was an awful trip,” he recalled. The liner carried thousands of untested young soldiers on their way to fight in one of the world’s most destructive wars, and the choppy waters of the North Atlantic did little to quiet their uneasy stomachs.

The ship’s unannounced destination turned out to be the River Clyde near Glasgow, Scotland. “We made it in seven days,” Johnson said, “with a German U-boat following us the whole way. We were moving so fast they couldn’t keep up to get a clean shot.”

By Nov. 27, the boys of the 87th had crossed the English Channel into France, ready to join the Third Army of the fearless Gen. George S. Patton.



Johnson was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943.

Johnson spent the first part of December fighting pockets of German resistance across France and soon found himself engaged in heavy combat near the French-German border in the Saar Valley. Fighting continued there along a series of German defenses in northeast France for the better part of two weeks.

“We lived through hell for a while,” Johnson said. The snow, feet deep at times, belied the dangers that lay beneath it: frostbite and worse, German landmines and snipers. “There were snipers in the woods and stuff under that snow that would blow your head off.”

Food and dry shoes were hard to come by as well. “The snow and mud soaked right through that leather,” said Johnson, who decades later would lose both legs below the knees thanks to complications from the frostbite he suffered in France.

On Christmas Day, the 87th got new orders. German forces had broken through in the Ardennes Forest, north of Luxembourg, and reinforcements were needed. Overnight, Johnson and his fellow G.I.s were loaded into open-topped trucks, enduring freezing temperatures and total darkness, and driven 200 miles north over rough roads to stop the Nazi advance.

“When we got to Belgium, they told us, ‘When you get out of the truck, make sure you have your bayonets fixed.’ They dropped us right in the middle of it.”

“It” was the Battle of the Bulge, an Allied counteroffensive to stop one of the last gasps of Nazi military might. When all was finished, nearly 106,000 American soldiers were dead, missing or wounded. Combined German casualties were estimated as high as 125,000.

On Feb. 6, 1945, in the battle’s aftermath, Johnson, who had been promoted to staff-sergeant, was leading his men near the German border town of Kobscheid when his squad was pinned down by a Nazi machine gun nest. Ordered to take the bunker, Butch directed his men to provide covering fire while he fought his way up the hill and climbed on top of the concrete pill box.

“It was hideous,” he remembered. “I crawled up there and you could hear the ‘ping, ping’ of bullets flying by and see the sparks where they hit the cement in front of you.” Chunks of flying concrete sprayed his face as he crawled to the edge of the bunker, seeing one of the Germans firing at his men below. Thinking quickly, he pulled the pin on a hand grenade, counted to two, and dropped it inside.



▲ Cumberland, Md., Local 307 member Irvin “Butch” Johnson, right, with longtime friend and Local 307 brother George Smith.

◀ Johnson with Local 307 member and World War II veteran Floyd Wigfield, 97.

“I felt like I was going to be sick,” Johnson said, but moments after the explosion, a German lieutenant in full dress uniform stepped over his fallen comrade with his hands in the air.

Months later in a Paris hospital, Johnson learned he’d been awarded a Silver Star for his actions that day. “I’d gotten shot by a sniper in Germany later that month,” Johnson recalled, “and then one day, I was lying there in bed and a colonel comes by and pins this thing to my pajamas.”

There would be a formal ceremony to present him with the military’s third-highest award for valor at a later date, he was told. But that day never came. On April 30, Hitler would shoot himself in his Berlin bunker and eight days later, the Allies would accept Germany’s unconditional surrender. “I just figured they had the wrong Johnson,” Butch said.

### A Homecoming and a New Life

By November 1945, Johnson was back home in Cumberland. “I started looking for a job,” he said, “and they had an event for returning veterans downtown where a fella came up to me and said, ‘You want to be an electrician?’ and I said, ‘Well, yeah.’ So they had me go down to the post office and take an examination.

The first occupational test Johnson took reflected his love for music, but he wanted a job. “So the guy sends me back in and says, ‘Every time this thing asks you what you want to do, you better put down ‘electrician.’ And that’s how I got involved with our Local 307.”

Within a few months, Johnson was working for Sterling Electric, a signatory contractor in Cumberland, wiring commercial buildings, schools and responding to residential service calls. “No matter what you wanted to do, I had the tools in my truck,” he said.

It was at Sterling in 1952 that he met George Smith, another veteran, who had served in North Africa during the

war. The two men struck up a quick friendship, and where you saw one, the other was sure to follow. “We were like brothers,” Johnson said, “even more than I was with my actual brothers.”

The two were so close, in fact, that they married sisters, Marian and Virginia, two lovely locals who just happened to be the boss’s daughters. Butch and George went on to work for the company side by side for the next 30 years.

“I never missed a day’s work,” Johnson recalled with pride. “We cared about what we did, and we wanted to do the job right.” When he would get house calls to the stately homes on a ridge overlooking town, Johnson remembers slipping thick woolen socks over his muddy boots to protect the rugs.

“It got to where the ladies up there would call Sterling and say, ‘Send Butch over, I need a light bulb.’ I think they liked me because I swept up after myself,” he said, laughing.

“We talk a lot about the Code of Excellence at the IBEW,” said Jim Combs, who retired as the senior executive assistant to the international secretary-treasurer in 2008 and was business manager of Local 307 when Johnson and Smith retired in the late 80s. “But guys like Butch and George lived it long before we ever thought to write it down.”

### Toast of the Town

Last summer, Johnson happened to meet retired Air Force Lt. Col. Bill Emmer, who was tending to his ill father-in-law at the same rehab center where Butch was staying. The two struck up a casual friendship, and Emmer took an interest in Johnson’s military career.

“When I heard the story about the officer pinning Butch’s medal to his pajamas, I knew I had to get him the recognition he’d earned,” Emmer said.

After calling in a few favors and receiving some generous assistance along the way, Emmer had sorted it out. Maj. Gen.

William Rapp, the commandant of the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., would make the two-hour drive to Cumberland on Oct. 4 to finally give Johnson the recognition he’d earned 70 years earlier.

The celebration was held at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, where Johnson and Smith were long-time congregants and where the pair had volunteered their electrical skills for many years. Johnson received congratulatory citations from the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners, the Maryland General Assembly, U.S. Rep. John Delaney and Sen. Barbara Mikulski to go along with his Silver Star.

At the ceremony, Rapp reminded those gathered what it means to be a leader of men. “What squad leaders do, what staff sergeants do, is nothing other than put themselves at the point of the spear,” he said of Johnson’s wartime bravery. They don’t “just send privates forward.”

“What he said about staff sergeants really meant a lot to me,” Johnson said, still beaming at the idea that an important general would come to Cumberland just for him. “Those years weren’t easy, but I’ve got no regrets. I’m alive, and I had some good times in there too.”

Around Veterans Day, Johnson found himself in Cumberland’s spotlight again. He was honored at his local high school during a luncheon assembly and in front of 12,000 people at the beginning of the school’s annual homecoming football game.

Through all of it, Johnson seemed slightly bewildered by all the attention. “I got called on to serve my country, and I did it,” he said. “Then I came back and I got on with my life.” That life has been a pretty good one too, in no small part because of that man who asked him if he wanted to be an electrician so many years ago.

“The IBEW has been good to me,” Johnson said, sitting next to Smith, who will be 93 this month. “Just wonderful. I never went without work, and I got to spend eight hours a day with my brother here for 32 years.”

An extended version of Butch’s story is available at [ibew.org/media-center](http://ibew.org/media-center). ■