

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

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

Printed in the USA

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vol. 18 | No. 6 | June 2024

IBEW News

First Broadcast Pensions

Local 1228's Historic Wins **3**

Ready for the Solar Boom

Hiring IBEW a 'Must-Do' **5**

Ink-Stained Tribute

Local 3 Member Honored **9**

In This Issue

Editorials **2**

MyIBEW Story **2**

Grounded in History **6**

North of 49° **7**

Power at Work **8**

Circuits **9**

Transitions **10**

Spotlight on Safety **11**

Local Lines **12**

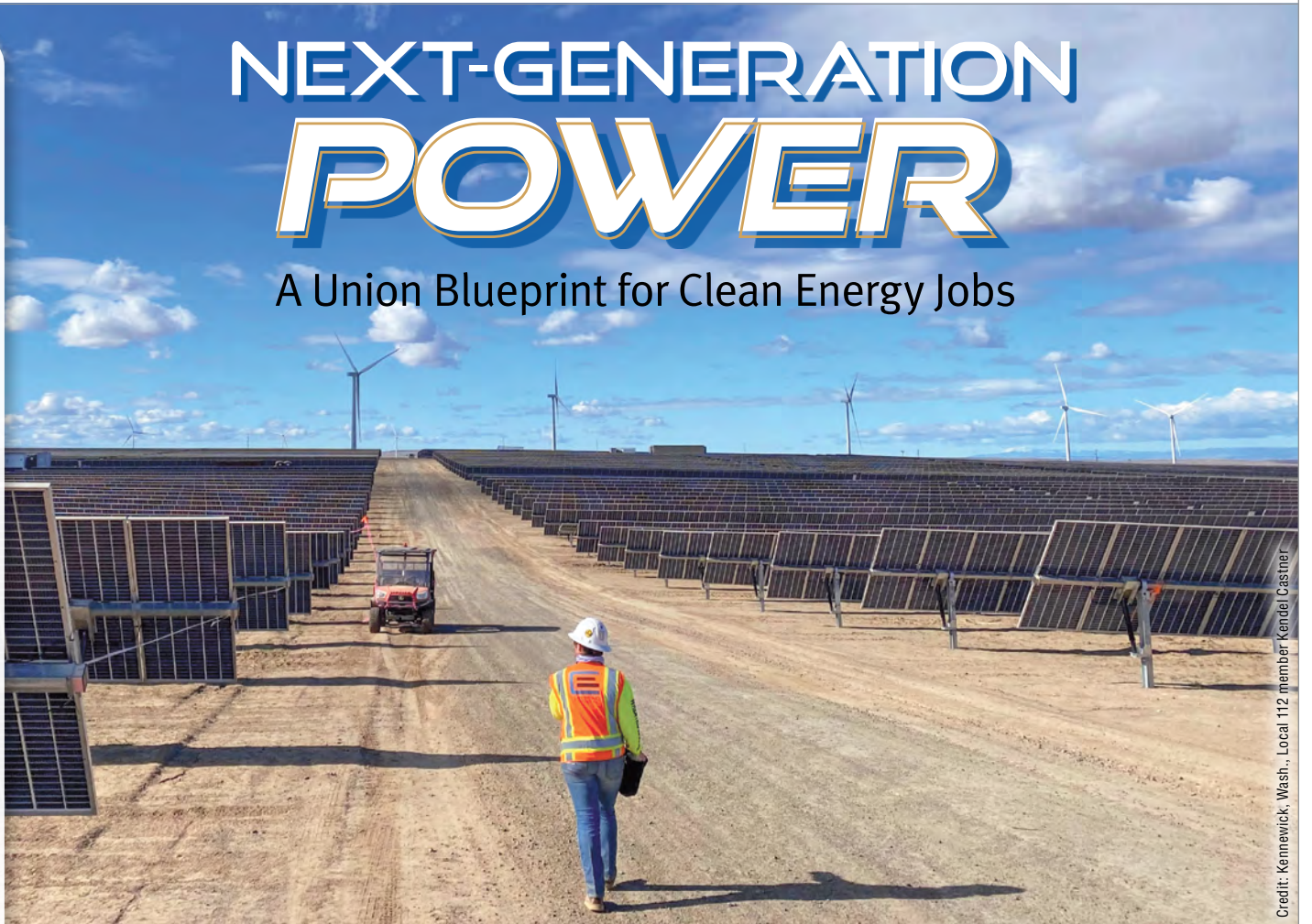
Retirees **15**

In Memoriam **18**

Who We Are **20**

NEXT-GENERATION POWER

A Union Blueprint for Clean Energy Jobs



Credit: Kennewick, Wash., Local 112 member Kendel Castner

Members of Kennewick, Wash., Local 112 performed nearly all the work during construction of the groundbreaking Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility near Lexington, Ore., that combines solar, wind and battery storage.

THE IBEW'S 2024 PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline: Nov. 1 • Details on pg. 19

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

Renewable energy construction isn't new for members of Kennewick, Wash., Local 112. Its jurisdiction is east of the Cascade Mountains, away from major metro areas like Seattle and Portland, and runs through many smaller communities in eastern Washington and Oregon. The area is ideal for wind energy.

"We've been working on windmills forever," Business Manager Travis Swayze said with a laugh. "We were doing windmills 25 years ago."

A renewable energy facility it worked on last year is different, however. It is the only one of its kind in the United States, although it may not be that way for long.

The Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility near tiny Lexington, Ore. — population about 240 — is the country's first plant to have wind, solar and battery storage all at one facility.

It's advanced technology, but pro-worker wins at the state and federal level drove the construction of Wheatridge, making clear that the clean energy revolution is a boon for union jobs.

Oregon officials have mandated an aggressive push toward clean energy, putting the onus

NEW! RETIREE MEMBERSHIP CARD

Details on page 5



on Portland General Electric, co-owner of the facility, to modernize its delivery systems.

On the federal level, the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress and signed by President Joe Biden in 2022 provided incentives for major energy companies like NextEra, the other co-owner, to invest even more heavily in renewables. The law includes a 30% tax credit for stand-alone battery storage.

Those factors, and the strong relationship Local 112 has with a prominent signatory contractor, led to about 2,000 of its members performing

nearly all the work on the facility. All solar work, including the high-tech installation of battery systems, was done by Local 112 members.

"By constructing the country's first plant to combine wind, solar and battery storage, Local 112 members have proven their ability to adapt to new technologies and contribute to the advancement of clean energy," Ninth District International Vice President Dave Reaves said. "We applaud their commitment to excellence and look forward to future success in the growing field of renewable energy."

A Key Relationship

Wheatridge includes a 50-megawatt solar farm, a 300-megawatt wind farm and about 30 megawatts of battery storage. There are about 30 battery systems on site, with that number expected to grow. While it's the first facility of its kind, similar ones are going online in Ohio, Oklahoma and New Jersey.

NEXT-GENERATION POWER *continued on page 4*

FROM THE OFFICERS

Climate Jobs Are Here



Kenneth W. Cooper
International President

For a long time, partisans from the right and left told us that you could care about the environment or you could care about jobs, but you could not do both. The IBEW has been busy shattering that myth. As President Biden said at this year's Construction and Maintenance Conference, "When I think of climate, I think of union jobs." And I could not agree more with the president.

Just look at what our brothers and sisters out of Kennewick, Wash., Local 112 are doing. East of the Cascade Mountains, Local 112 members built the first-ever generation site to have wind, solar and battery storage in one facility. (Read more in this issue's cover story.)

The Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility, co-owned by Portland General Electric and NextEra Energy, will help Oregon meet its aggressive clean energy goals and greatly benefit the renewable industry.

Most importantly, Wheatridge put about 2,000 Local 112 members to work, with more work to come, propelled by the Inflation Reduction Act signed by President Biden in 2022.

This project is just the latest example of how the transition to renewable energy is creating hundreds of thousands of good, union jobs. Energy sources like solar and wind that were barely on the map 20 years ago continue to see strong growth, while new climate-friendly technologies like EVs, advanced batteries and carbon capture are putting IBEW members to work across North America.

Now, this energy revolution didn't happen overnight. It took a concentrated effort by industry, elected officials and organized labor to will it into being. And there was no guarantee that any of these investments would lead to good, union jobs.

It took the IBEW working with lawmakers to pass some of the strongest pro-union standards ever. Project labor agreements, prevailing wages and apprenticeship requirements were put in place with our guidance to ensure that skilled union workers will transition America to a clean-energy future.

And throughout that process, we had no stronger ally than Joe Biden.

There was pushback in Congress to the pro-worker language in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. But Biden stood firm and refused to compromise.

As he has said many times, he would only sign off on any bill if the IBEW was good with it first. That is just another reminder that elections matter. And why the IBEW endorsed President Biden and Kamala Harris for reelection.

The future looks bright, not just for the renewable energy industry but for the labor movement.

Getting here took leadership on the jobsite, in our communities, in city halls and statehouses across the U.S., and in Washington, D.C. The result has been good IBEW jobs in every energy sector.

It is incumbent on every IBEW leader to seize every opportunity to grow our union in today's changing energy landscape.

That starts with knowing who our friends are and making sure Biden and Harris are reelected this November.

The jobs are here, and more are coming, but only if we stay the course. ■

Extreme Heat, Cruel Laws

With June's arrival, lots of us are looking forward to camping trips, beach vacations and other joys of summer. Unfortunately, summer isn't nearly so carefree for our brothers and sisters working outdoors in extreme heat.

Based on 2024 forecasts, the record hot temperatures that our outside construction and line workers endured last year are going to be even hotter this summer. Considering that the desert Southwest suffered historic stretches of 110-degree highs, that's alarming.

Working with the IBEW and other unions, some states have passed laws ensuring workers relief from the heat. But, shockingly, other states are trying to make scorching days even more dangerous, with GOP-controlled legislatures pushing for bans on mandatory water, shade and rest breaks.

So far, they've succeeded in Texas and Florida, where workers already had no state-level protections against heat illnesses, injuries and death. Their new laws make it illegal for cities and counties to pass and enforce their own rules requiring water and cooling breaks.

If you haven't experienced the strain of working in those conditions, try to imagine it: Constant thirst, rivers of sweat stinging your eyes and fogging your vision, drenched clothing sticking to your body under the extra insulation of protective gear.

Now imagine suffering through that without an IBEW contract spelling out water, shade and rest breaks. Because right now in Texas and Florida, the law won't protect you.

The heat in Arizona last summer killed so many people in the Phoenix area that the county had to bring back COVID-era refrigerated trucks to hold all the bodies. Yet our adversaries are blasting the Phoenix City Council for voting in March to require employers and contractors to provide heat breaks, along with training to recognize the signs of heat stress. They are also raging at Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs for rolling out the state's first-ever Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan.

That plan is the kind of progress that happens when we elect responsible leaders. Like it or not, job safety and politics go hand in hand. Whether our lives and ability to make a living are well protected depends in large part on decisions made at the local, state and national levels.

We're proud to have helped pass heat safety laws in California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Nevada and Minnesota, and are pushing other states to follow suit.

And, of course, we'll never stop fighting for safety at the bargaining table. But even there, politics matter. The stronger that state laws are in protecting workers' rights, the stronger we are in negotiating good wages, benefits, and safe and healthy working conditions.

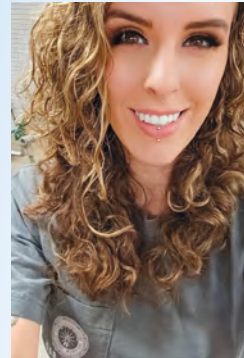
In other words, how you vote helps us help you — from job safety to the vacation time I hope you'll be enjoying with your family and friends this summer. But please stay cool! ■



Paul A. Noble
International Secretary-Treasurer

My IBEW STORY

Sierra English, journeyman wireman
Phoenix Local 640



“Before I became an IBEW member, I was a full-time student studying chemical engineering, weighing the statistics of getting into graduate school and the further student loans I'd have to obtain. At that time, I was living in Oregon and learned about an apprenticeship to become a wireman, and I decided to join that instead of completing a university degree.

I started out nonunion, and about a year later, family circumstances required that I move to Arizona. When I arrived, I was looking for a training center that was similar to the one I'd been attending in Oregon, and I stumbled across

the IBEW and Phoenix Electrical Apprenticeship Program. In Arizona, most companies don't offer apprenticeships for training, and there is no state license to set a standard of training for inside electrical workers. This opened my eyes to what I needed to train properly, and once I learned about the IBEW and the benefits I'd gain in my career, I decided to start my union apprenticeship.

Once I was accepted for apprenticeship, I continued learning about the IBEW and all of the protections and benefits available to me as a member. I became a member the same month I was accepted into the apprenticeship. As a new member, I wanted to make a positive impact on the lives of my fellow workers in the electrical industry.

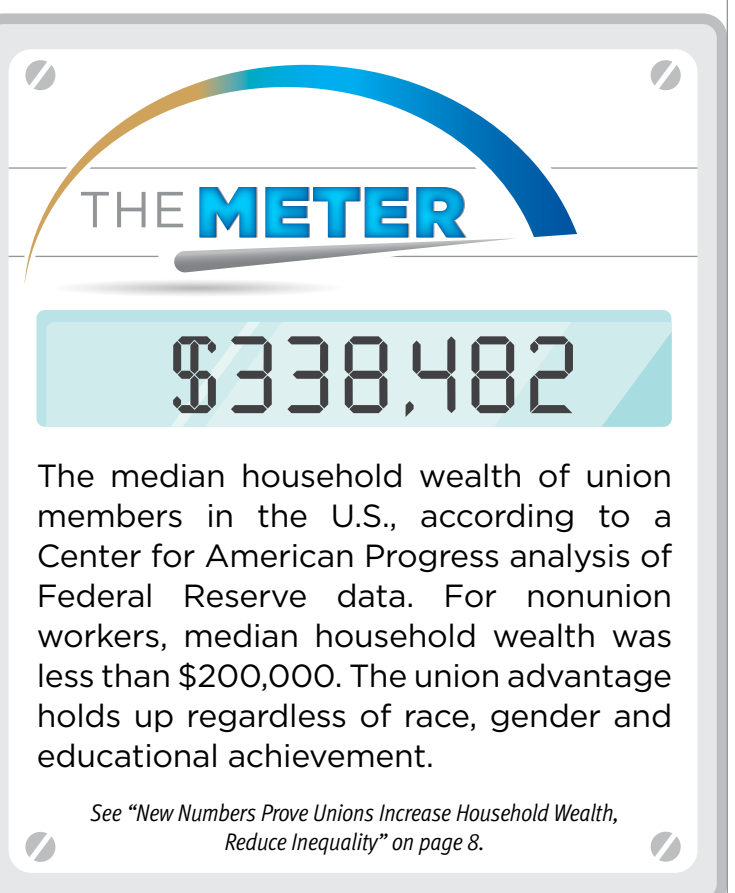
Because of the IBEW, I have a career for life and not just a job. I'm able to provide everything my children need, spoil my two giant dogs and know that my household won't go without. Because of the health insurance through my membership, the deliveries of my children were affordable and I've not had to stress about the cost of medical emergencies or any care that my family needs.

More specifically, my IBEW membership has given me a real sense of inclusion and protection as a woman in the trade, which I didn't have before I joined. Once I became a journeyman wireman, I worked on chartering a Women's Committee in my local to encourage sisters to become more active. Another wonderful opportunity came when I was elected to Local 640's executive board, and I currently serve as chairman. I also have the privilege of being an instructor at our local's JATC, where I can foster the passion of union membership and offer a proper trade education to our newest members.

I see my local making organizing efforts on a daily basis to speak to unrepresented workers. These staff efforts at our local help engage young people into the trade and show the benefits of the IBEW.

This outreach is important: I didn't know about the IBEW until I was researching electrical apprenticeships. Now that I know better, I want others to know, too.”

Share your story at ibew.org/MyIBEWStory



In Breakthrough Agreement, Boston Broadcast Members Win Pension Benefit

Boston Local 1228 members working in sports television have successfully negotiated for the National Electrical Benefit Fund and the National Electrical Annuity Plan to be included in a new collective bargaining agreement, making them the first broadcast members in the country to have these sought-after benefits.

“These historic wins were achieved by the tenacity and hard work of Brother Steve Katsos and his steadfast negotiating team,” Local 1228 Business Manager Fletcher Fischer said. “I couldn’t be prouder of what they accomplished.”

Katsos, an assistant business manager and lead negotiator for the contract with Program Productions, one of the largest employers in New England sports TV, had been looking to bring a defined-benefit pension to his members for years.

“Other IBEW agreements across the country that I looked at had an annuity or a 401(k), but no one had the defined-benefit pension,” Katsos said. “I made it a goal for us to be the first local to get one added to our sports CBAs.”

Katsos had conversations with business managers, Second District International Representative Ed Starr and Second District International Vice President Mike Monahan to see what could be done. He also started building a relationship with Program Productions to set the stage for future negotiations. It was rocky at first, Fischer said, but after about five years, things started to change. Program Productions has since become the crewer with the most work for Local 1228’s sports TV members.

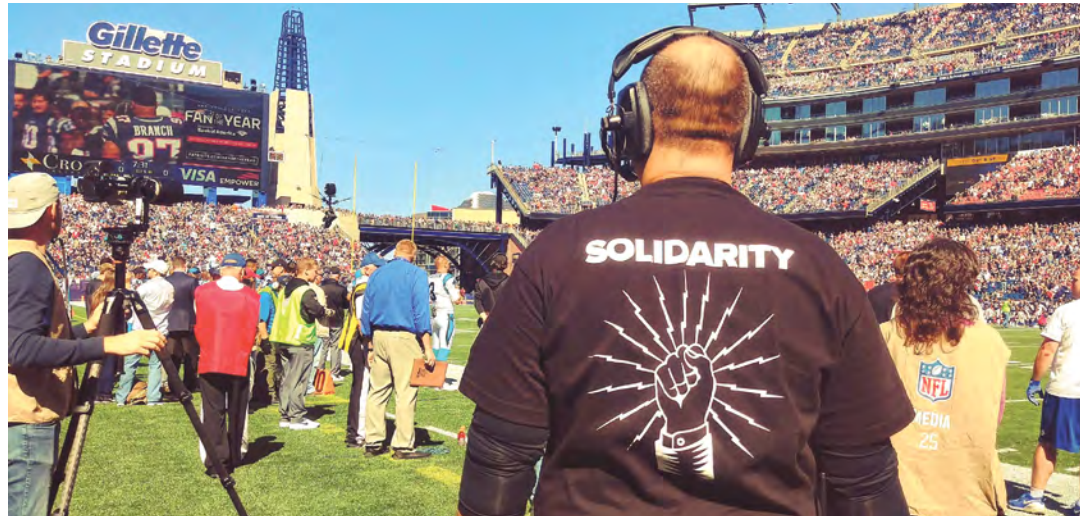
“I wanted to prove to our members that a good, respectful partnership with the employer would bring us an amazing contract, and it did,” Katsos said. “Negotiations were respectful on both sides.”

The benefits, which went into effect April 1, are in addition to a flex medical plan and the Entertainment Industry 401(k) that members were already receiving through previous CBAs. Members voted overwhelmingly in favor, with 121 for the contract and only four against.

“I felt very happy when I saw that the pension and annuity was finally in effect,” said Joe Kwan, who works as a utility technician. “It’s great knowing that we have another benefit for life after retirement.”

Local 1228 represents over 200 members working in sports television. Since ratification of the first contract with the pension and annuity, Katsos said, it has gone on to secure the new benefits in five additional contracts, covering all sports and entertainment members.

“This is a game-changer for our members and all of the broadcast locals throughout the country that have crewing contracts,” Fischer said. “We



Boston Local 1228 members working in sports television are the first broadcast members in the country to have the National Electrical Benefit Fund and the National Electrical Annuity Plan included in their new collective bargaining agreement.

“This is a game-changer for our members and all of the broadcast locals throughout the country that have crewing contracts.”

– Local 1228 Business Manager Fletcher Fischer



Assistant Business Manager and lead negotiator Steve Katsos, working above as an audio assistant at Fenway Park, researched IBEW agreements for years and made it a goal for Local 1228 to be the first broadcast local to have a defined-benefit pension for his fellow members.

At right, camera operator Noah Brookoff covers the annual Boston Pops 4th of July Spectacular for Local 1228 signatory Remote Facilities.



Camera operator Rafael Figueroa Jr. and utility technician Angel Figueroa work in the rain at Gillette Stadium to provide the best viewing experience for NFL fans.

hope that other markets can get these into their agreements, as well.”

Local 1228 represents sports members working in New England across six local companies, as well as CBS Sports and Fox Sports under national agreements. Members work in

40 roles ranging from audio engineer to video technician to production assistant and graphics operator.

Local 1228 Vice President Tom Kruc, a replay edit operator, has been working on television productions for the Boston Red Sox and the Boston

Celtics for over 25 years. He said he’s very pleased with the new retirement additions.

“Having a reliable source of income for retirement has truly transformed my financial well-being,” Kruc said. “It’s provided a sense of security for my family’s future.”

Next up, Katsos said, is to help

secure a pension and annuity for other sports members across the country.

“I feel proud that we have left a legacy for the Boston market,” said sports steward Rick MacLeod, who works as a camera operator. “Hopefully more of our brothers and sisters will get this benefit. That’s the solidarity that the IBEW is all about.” ■

Continued from page 1

Next-Generation Power

How an IBEW Local Brought the First Wind-Solar-Battery Plant to Life

Local 112 has a strong relationship with Cupertino Electric, a longtime signatory contractor that was chosen to handle construction. Business Representative Travis Sellers said that was particularly important when it came to the solar and battery construction. Both are fairly new in the Pacific Northwest, especially when compared to wind.

“We didn’t have a project labor agreement on this project,” Sellers said. “But having that relationship with Cupertino, and the relationship it had with the customer [NextEra], afforded the opportunity for the IBEW to perform most of this work.

“Cupertino and NextEra did not come in and want the cheapest alternative. They wanted it done right.”

Swayze said Local 112 started performing some solar work in 2016, but nothing approaching what was done on the scale of Wheatridge.

“That was an easy transition,” he said. “Once you learn how to do one, you can do a bunch. While there was training at the front end, it’s a lot of repetition, putting up the panels.”

Or, as Local 112 executive board member Dan McConkey, who worked as a foreman at Wheatridge, said: “It’s like climbing a wind tower. Once you climb for a week, your muscles get acclimated to it. Solar is the same thing. You’re putting panels together and lifting them up. It’s the same repetitive motion.”

Battery installation was something entirely new.

McConkey said the 30 battery energy storage systems — commonly called BESS in the industry — were transported and placed throughout Wheatridge’s 7,800 acres. They were in a prefabricated structure about 30 feet long and tall enough for a crew to finish installation, complete with air conditioning and heat.

The structures were crucial to protect the battery systems from the elements. The area around Wheatridge is known for extreme weather. Summer temperatures above 100 and winter temperatures below 20 degrees are common.

Local 112 members installed the underground wiring and attached it to the converter box. A computerized control system to determine when to store energy or release it to the grid was also installed.

But even in a highly technical system, skills like cutting conduit correctly were crucial. It had to be built around already constructed panels.

McConkey said work installing the battery systems was done from July 2021 to February 2022. Wheatridge was fully operational by the following summer.

“It was a lot of fun,” said McConkey, who has been an inside wireman for nearly 20 years. “I felt like I was learning a lot of new things at this stage of my career. I had never worked on a solar project or battery storage. You knew this was something new.”

Battery Breakthrough

Wind and solar are effective in the appropriate conditions: windy and sunny days, respectively. But when those two elements are lacking, utilities and energy providers usually must switch back to fossil fuels.

Battery storage allows facilities like Wheatridge to store that wind and solar energy for future use.

“Sites like this are fitting into sort of a larger grid network of providing reliable, renewable power that utilities across the West are increasingly drawing upon,” Kristen Sheeran, PGE’s director of sustainability strategy, told Oregon Public Broadcasting.

A 2021 bill passed by the Oregon Legislature and signed by then-Gov. Kate Brown requires the state’s



A Local 112 member, top left, working at the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility stands by a buggy used to transport crews, retrieve parts and material, and bring water to workers. The facility east of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon and Washington state is ideal for solar and wind.

utilities, including PGE, to eliminate carbon emissions from power sold in state by 2040.

Wheatridge is about 30 miles from the old Boardman Coal Plant, which was closed in 2020, and uses some of the same transmission lines. Boardman was the last coal-fired plant in the state.

Florida-based NextEra is a Fortune 500 company that is one of the world’s leading companies in renewable energy. It has long been a leader in utility-scale wind but has moved into battery storage in recent years, another sign that technology is starting to mature and become more reliable.

“One of the great things about having battery storage integrated into the other two technologies is that it’s already engineered and built for augmentation,” David Lawlor, the company’s director of development for the Pacific Northwest, told Oregon Public Media.

“So, these containers can take more batteries, and as the batteries become a little less efficient, we add more batteries to keep the capacity.”

NextEra CEO John Ketchum told analysts on an earnings call earlier this year that the Inflation Reduction Act remains a key growth driver for the company.

The law established a tax credit for stand-alone battery storage. A company with the financial clout of NextEra can develop a project like Wheatridge and then cash in the tax credits, which can pay for up to 30% of the construction costs.

That, in turn, leads to more work for skilled construction workers. These often come in sparsely populated areas, where there is room for these facilities and where the energy can be sent to larger population centers.

“When we build a project ... it’s a complete turnaround for these rural communities,” Ketchum told analysts, according to Utility Dive, an energy trade publication. “These are a 180 for these rural communities and make a huge difference in their viability going forward.”

A Template

Oregon and Washington east of the Cascades is largely flat, with plenty of windy and sunny days. That, and the fact that Oregon officials are pushing toward clean energy more aggressively than most states, made it a perfect spot for Wheatridge.

But concentrating only on that misses an important point, Swayze said.

“We take a lot of pride in the IBEW here and a lot of pride in being cutting edge in our work,” he said. “Yeah, having all four seasons, and having enough wind on 300 days a year helps, but PGE and NextEra are aware of the quality workforce we have. They wanted us to be part of the project with Cupertino. That’s a big piece of this.”

It’s something that will continue. An additional phase of work is scheduled to be done at Wheatridge this summer. Local 112 members will be back at it.

The opportunities in renewable energy continue to grow, with no end in sight. That’s good news for IBEW members.

“I’m so proud of Local 112 and its partnership with Cupertino that turned this groundbreaking facility into reality,” International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. “This is a template for what is to come. Our members are ready to build these facilities thanks to their world-class skills and industry and political leaders recognizing the importance of union labor. Congratulations on a job well done.” ■

Tri-Trade Agreement Sets Stage for Solar Boom While Preserving IBEW Work

The recently announced National Tri-Trade Solar Agreement solves the thorniest problems facing developers of solar projects larger than 1 megawatt, clearing the way for a revolution in how the U.S. produces energy.

The IBEW and the unions representing operating engineers and laborers promoted the agreement at a Washington, D.C., event in April that included major construction contractors and federal officials.

“Whatever issue a developer has, this solves it. Whatever question a developer has, it’s in the agreement,” International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. “We call it a national agreement, but really it is a national solution.”

John Podesta, senior White House adviser on climate change policy, opened the day declaring that the Inflation Reduction Act makes hiring union construction workers a “must-do.”

“This [agreement] is the future of the solar industry in America. I urge every developer to deepen your relationship with your local unions and get in on this deal,” he said.

The Inflation Reduction Act, signed by President Joe Biden in 2022, radically changed the incentives for businesses that build large-scale solar by quintupling tax credits for projects that pay prevailing wages and use registered apprentices for at least 15% of the total labor.

The tri-trade agreement offers developers a promise that if they sign and keep their obligations, their projects will have the manpower they need and will qualify for every tax credit and incentive available.

“The best thing about this agreement is that it is IRA-compliant. You sign on to this, you don’t have to worry,” said Brent Booker, general president of the Laborers’ International Union of North America.

The room was filled with local leaders from the three unions; senior officials from the Treasury and Energy departments; and dozens of representatives from developers and contractors including Rosendin Electric, Cupertino Electric, M.J. Electric, A.L.L. Construction, CS Energy and Independence Excavating.

The opportunity for IBEW members in large-scale solar development is enormous.

Power demand is growing nationally, due to the electrification of cars, homes and buildings, along with the onshoring of manufacturing. Thanks to Biden administration industrial policy reforms, domestic manufacturing construction investment has nearly tripled in three years, to a \$224 billion annual pace in February.

The demand for carbon-free energy is particularly noteworthy. Artificial intelligence and data centers in particular are booming, and they almost uniformly need carbon-free energy.

“The IRA is like a treadmill turned up to warp speed for everyone in our industry,” said Keith Martin, a lawyer who represents solar developers. “Peak load in Virginia has increased 50% since 2018. Load in Georgia is expected to rise seventeen-fold in the next decade.”

On four expert panels, speaker after speaker — developers, funders, contractors, and regulators — spoke about the enormous opportunities and challenges facing the industry. And as each challenge was presented, the Tri-Trade Solar Agreement offered a solution.

Most commonly discussed was manpower. The agreement gives developers access to a combined workforce of 1.5 million construction workers,

something no nonunion hiring department could ever compete with.

Second, the tri-trade agreement promises labor peace on the job and is specific about which craft gets which work, ending jurisdictional disputes. The agreement also includes a clause allowing any of the three trades to fill an open call if the trade with jurisdiction cannot.

Ensuring that projects receive the full tax credit was the worry that kept contractors and their lawyers up at night.

The tri-trade agreement holds the answer.

“The key piece is that we have a built-in labor standards enforcement in the grievance procedure. Through these mechanisms, you ensure you are in compliance. And if you are out of

compliance, you don’t find out through an audit 12 months down the road; you find out while the noncompliance is happening,” said Esmeralda Aguilar, an attorney for the IBEW.

Last, everyone from labor leader to investment bankers agreed that the greatest impediment is local opposition to projects, despite their promise to transform economies across the country.

Here again, the three unions were ready with a solution: 1.5 million members who call every corner of the country home.

“This agreement means that all three unions will show up at environmental hearings, siting boards, county zoning authorities, as a trusted local voice speaking up for projects and ensuring

they get shovels in the ground,” Cooper said. “No contractor, no hired expert can provide that for you. That’s priceless.”

The message of the day was summed up by Lance Dunning, vice president for Business Development at solar developer CS Energy.

“The IRA is a union deployment law,” he said. “Having this [agreement] in place gives us a path to market and insulates our clients from risk.”

All contractors interested in signing up to the National Tri-Trade Solar Agreement are urged to reach out to their local union business manager.

“The alternative to this agreement is the hard road,” Cooper said. “We have the opportunity of a lifetime in our industry, for our union and for our nation.” ■

Coming Soon New Retiree Membership Cards

Tens of thousands of brand-new official yellow IBEW retiree cards are beginning to make their way to the mailboxes of retired members across North America.

About 120,000 retired “A” members receive a monthly payment from the Pension Benefit Fund, a benefit they have access to because they paid a portion of their dues into the fund during their careers. When approved for pension, “A” members currently receive a retiree packet consisting of a letter from the international secretary-treasurer’s office confirming their pension approval and a peel-off paper retiree card.

These updated plastic wallet-size cards will replace those cards and will also be sent to all new “A” member retirees going forward.

The launch of these cards is an act of appreciation for the faithful years of service “A” members provide.

“Much like the yellow dues tickets held by our active ‘A’ member sisters and brothers, these cards will serve as undeniable symbols of the hard work and dedication that our retired ‘A’

members have given to the IBEW,” said International Secretary-Treasurer Paul Noble, whose duties include oversight of the union’s Pension Benefit Fund and other retired-member benefits.

The front of the card contains personal details that should prove helpful if a retiree needs to get in touch with the union, such as their

IBEW card number, local union number, and initiation and retirement dates.



The card’s flipside lists contact information for the Pension and Reciprocity Department, along with a QR code that, when scanned, gives smartphone and tablet users fast access to the department’s web page.

Noble recommended that the cards be kept someplace safe and easily accessible, as they will also grant the holders admission to union functions like meetings and social gatherings.

“We are confident that these new cards will be a source of great pride for our retirees,” he said, “as well as a sign of the IBEW’s deep appreciation for their years of dedicated membership.”

Nearly half of the IBEW’s members enter the union as “A” members, primarily those in the Construction branch.

In the future, those holding “BA” membership will also receive an official yellow IBEW retiree card. However, “A” membership is available to all IBEW members, and it comes with many other benefits besides the new card, like eligibility to retire and receive a pension benefit with an approximate four-year return to get back what they initially put in, as well as a death benefit starting at \$6,250 to be paid to their named beneficiaries.

Call your local union office with questions about your membership type and how to make changes to it.

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

In addition to your monthly issue of The Electrical Worker, check out lots of other IBEW-related content online.

www.ibew.org

For the latest IBEW news, including this and all previous editions of The Electrical Worker, go to ibew.org.

YouTube

International President Kenneth Cooper's hometown was once a thriving union town, and it will be again, thanks to a construction boom fueled by the Biden administration. Watch at [YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](https://www.youtube.com/TheElectricalWorker).

Vimeo

Josiah "Chief" Crowden had a hard time finding a new purpose. He finally got it with Denver Local 111. Watch at [Vimeo.com/IBEW](https://vimeo.com/IBEW).

HourPower

When tragedy struck Kathy Thomas, she found solace in the fact that she could stay on her partner's Family Medical Care Plan. Go to IBEWHourPower.com.

ElectricTV

Local 153's most recent project at Notre Dame is packed with cutting-edge technology. Get the story at ElectricTV.net.

GROUNDING IN HISTORY

The IBEW's Heroes of D-Day

Eighty years ago this month, the allied forces of World War II conducted the largest amphibious invasion in the history of mankind. Known then as Operation Overlord, and today immortalized as D-Day, it comprised three separate assaults on the beaches of Normandy, France.

To the east, British and Canadian forces landed on Juno, Gold and Sword beaches. To the west, U.S. forces took Omaha and Utah beaches. The first wave of troops was pinned down for six hours by German bunkers on the cliffs, eventually fighting their way up and dismantling the bunkers so that naval destroyers could provide cover for larger landing craft. Over 24,000 troops took part in the operation, and counted among them were IBEW members.

Here are some of their stories:

In May 1944, **Richard Gallagher** of New York Local 3 left his job at Consolidated Fire Alarm Co. to join the Army. On June 6, he was landing on Omaha Beach with the rank of sergeant. When his company was pinned down by a machine gun nest, Gallagher took it upon himself to run through a mine field and up an embankment to the nest, which he neutralized with a grenade and rifle. He then returned to the beach to lead his company through the mine field. When the men were settled on the shore, Gallagher again proceeded alone to the top of a hill, where he captured yet another machine nest, as well as a sniper hiding in the trees. For his actions that day, the Army awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross.

Robert Noone was an apprentice at Washington, D.C., Local 26 before joining the U.S. Navy. At midnight on June 5, 1944, he crossed the English Channel onboard the mine sweeper Raven as part of an advance guard. Along the way, sister ship Osprey sank after striking a mine, forcing another ship to drop back for survivors. The Raven sailed on to Omaha Beach to begin its sweep. They continued for three hours until the landing craft began to arrive. "From the horizon toward England came ships and more ships — the most ships I've ever seen," Noone said in the June 1949 Electrical Worker. "We continued sweeping the channel for another seven days. Not much sleep for us, but still a much better deal than the soldiers had ashore."



Local 26 apprentice Robert Noone crossed the English Channel on a mine sweeper ahead of the invasion. "Not much sleep for us, but still a much better deal than the soldiers had ashore," he said.

Henry and Thomas Bowles were not only twin brothers but IBEW brothers as well. On the morning of June 6, they both found themselves on the shores of Omaha Beach. "It was littered with German obstacles. Barbed wire, dead bodies floating in the water, and a storm of fire coming from German pillboxes," wrote Thomas for the August 1995 Electrical Worker. During the assault, his electrical skills proved vital when he repaired communication lines, while under fire, that were severed by enemy artillery. The Army awarded him the Bronze Star for his actions. Thomas was a member of Lake Charles, La., Local 861, and Henry was out of Sheffield, Ala., Local 558.



IBEW members Henry and Thomas Bowles fought on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Thomas, a Local 861 member, was awarded a Bronze Star.

Joseph Clements Jr. of Elmira, N.Y., Local 139 also participated in the landing at Omaha Beach. He served in the Navy from 1943 to 1946.

These men were among the nearly 30,000 members of the IBEW who served in the armed forces during World War II. But the entire union played a key role.

A month after the successful landing, A.L. Wegener, assistant to IBEW President Ed Brown, visited the front lines in France. He was part of a delegation of AFL and CIO leaders sent to the western front under the



The famous photo "Taxis to Hell — and Back — Into the Jaws of Death" shows soldiers from the Army's 1st Infantry Division disembark from the USS Samuel Chase at Omaha Beach during the Normandy landings of June 6, 1944 — D-Day.

auspices of the U.S. Army. During their tour, they consulted with Gen. Dwight Eisenhower about American manufacturing and its vital importance to continued military success.

"The things most urgently needed right now, aside from weapons, are walkie-talkie machines, communication wire, heavy construction equipment and cotton duck for tents," said Wegener in the October 1944 Electrical Worker, a message uniquely suited for our members back home. "It is imperative for the men and women on the production line to put every ounce of energy behind the production of these critical items."

Whether it was on the front lines or the home front, IBEW members played an important part in delivering victory for our country, our allies and democracy worldwide. ■



A.L. Wegener (at right), assistant to IBEW President Ed Brown, visited the front lines in France in 1944. He came back with a message for stateside manufacturers to help the war effort.

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

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

Manitoba Government Restores Union-Backed 1:1 Apprentice Ratio

Apprentices in Manitoba will soon have a safer experience on the jobsite, thanks to New Democratic Party Premier Wab Kinew making good on a campaign promise to return to a 1:1 ratio of apprentices to journeypeople.

“For someone training to be an electrician, proper supervision can be a matter of life and death,” Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085 Business Manager Dave McPhail said. “It is a breath of fresh air to have a government that has the courage to listen to workers. Moving back to 1:1 will help keep my members safe, and I am grateful.”

The 1:1 ratio, backed by the IBEW along with the Manitoba Building Trades, was established in 2000, a year after apprentice Michael Skanderberg was electrocuted while working unsupervised. But in 2020, under the Progressive Conservative government, that ratio was changed to 2:1, something the IBEW has been lobbying against ever since its introduction.

With a new, worker-friendly NDP government in place, the safer 1:1 ratio will soon be restored. It’s a change that not only makes job sites safer but also levels the playing field for unions like Local 2085, which still had a ratio of 1:1 in its collective bargaining agreements, Local 2085 Assistant Business Manager Daemien Bernhard said.

Unscrupulous contractors have opposed the change, saying it will hurt their ability to train enough apprentices to deal with the looming worker shortage and even threatening that they’ll have to lay people off.

But that is simply not true, McPhail said. “It’s fearmongering. A lower ratio actually creates the conditions for contractors to hire more journeypeople while ensuring a quality training for apprentices. All the 2:1 ratio did was incentivize contractors to keep workers in training through apprenticeship and not hire journeypeople.”

Those opposed to the safer ratio have even argued that a 2:1 apprentice to journeypeople standard is somehow better for apprentices, which McPhail called illogical.

“It overlooks the reality of time constraints on journeypeople,” he said. “Industry knows it is more difficult for a journeypeople to pass on the full knowledge of their craft when they are juggling the needs of multiple apprentices under their supervision.”

The restoration of the union-backed 1:1 ratio is the fulfillment of a campaign promise by Kinew, whose NDP won enough seats to form a majority government in 2023, ousting the PC government.

“This is yet another example that



Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew with members of Winnipeg Local 2085. Thanks to a new, worker-friendly New Democratic Party government following through on a campaign promise, Manitoba has restored a 1:1 apprentice-to-journeypeople ratio.

elections have consequences,” First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk said. “Because of the hard work of our Manitoba members to get out the vote for the NDP and Premier

Kinew’s commitment to working people, our job sites are safer and our apprentices are getting the high-quality training they deserve.”

The 1:1 ratio isn’t unique to

Manitoba. Ontario, led by a PC government, recently adopted the standard.

“As a Red Seal electrician, I know well the vital role health and safety regulations play in keeping workers safe on

the job and that the consequences can be fatal when standards are not upheld,” McPhail said. “Frankly, the lack of fatality or serious injury under the current 2:1 apprenticeship ratio is sheer luck.” ■

Manitoba ramène le ratio d’un compagnon par apprenti appuyé par les syndicats

Gâce à la promesse électorale tenue du nouveau premier ministre du Nouveau Parti démocratique du Manitoba, Wab Kinew, de ramener le ratio d’un compagnon par apprenti, cette main-d’œuvre vivra bientôt une expérience plus sécuritaire sur le chantier.

« Pour quelqu’un en formation en vue de devenir électricienne ou électricien, une supervision adéquate peut être une question de vie ou de mort », déclare le gérant d’affaires Dave McPhail de la section locale 2085 à Winnipeg au Manitoba. « C’est un véritable soulagement d’avoir un gouvernement qui a le courage d’écouter les travailleuses et travailleurs. Ramener le 1:1 aidera à assurer la sécurité de mes membres et j’en suis reconnaissant. »

Le ratio 1:1 appuyé par la FIOE ainsi que le Manitoba Building Trades (le conseil des métiers du Manitoba), a été établi en 2000, un an après l’électrocution de l’apprenti Michael Skanderberg qui travaillait sans supervision. Sous le pouvoir du gouvernement conservateur-progressiste, ce ratio a changé à 2:1 en 2020, ce contre quoi la FIOE

milite depuis sa mise en place.

Maintenant qu’un nouveau gouvernement en faveur des travailleurs est en place, le ratio 1:1 plus sécuritaire sera bientôt rétabli. Ce changement favorise non seulement des chantiers sécuritaires, mais met les syndicats sur le même pied d’égalité, comme le local 2085, dont ce ratio était toujours présent dans leurs conventions collectives, mentionne l’assistant gérant d’affaires du local, Daemien Bernhard.

Le monde de l’entrepreneuriat sans scrupule s’est opposé au changement, affirmant que cela va nuire à leur capacité de former assez d’apprentis et apprentis pour faire face à la pénurie de main-d’œuvre, menaçant aussi de procéder à des mises à pied.

C’est tout simplement faux, mentionne M. McPhail. « C’est une tactique. Un ratio plus faible crée en fait les conditions nécessaires pour l’entrepreneuriat d’embaucher plus de compagnons tout en assurant une formation de qualité aux apprentis. Tout ce que le ratio 2:1 a fait est de les inciter à maintenir la main-d’œuvre en formation par le truchement d’apprentissages et de

ne pas embaucher de compagnons. »

Celles et ceux qui s’opposent au ratio plus sécuritaire ont même soutenu que la norme de deux apprentis pour un compagnon est en quelque sorte mieux pour les apprentis, dont M. McPhail déclare d’illogique.

« Cet énoncé ne tient pas compte de la réalité en matière de contrainte de temps pour les compagnons et apprentis », affirme-t-il. « L’industrie est au courant que c’est plus difficile pour un compagnon de transmettre l’ensemble des connaissances de son métier lorsqu’il jongle entre les besoins de plusieurs apprentis sous sa supervision. »

Le rétablissement du ratio 1:1 appuyé par les syndicats est la réalisation d’une promesse électorale par M. Kinew, dont le NDP a remporté assez de sièges pour former un gouvernement majoritaire en 2023, chassant ainsi le gouvernement conservateur.

« Ceci est encore un autre exemple qui prouve que les élections ont des conséquences », exprime Russ Shewchuk, le vice-président international du premier district. « Grâce au

travail acharné des membres du Manitoba d’avoir voté pour le NDP et l’engagement à l’égard des travailleuses et travailleurs de M. Kinew, nos chantiers sont plus sécuritaires et nos apprentis reçoivent la formation de grande qualité comme qu’ils méritent. »

Le ratio 1:1 n’est pas spécifique au Manitoba. Le gouvernement en Ontario dirigé par les conservateurs a récemment adopté cette norme.

Ce ratio n’est pas encore en vigueur au Manitoba en raison d’un blocage par le Parti conservateur de l’opposition, il sera donc déposé en automne.

« À titre d’électricien certifié Sceau rouge, je connais très bien le rôle vital que joue la réglementation en matière de santé et sécurité quand ça vient à assurer la sécurité de la main-d’œuvre sur le chantier et que les conséquences peuvent être fatales lorsque les normes ne sont pas respectées », prononce M. McPhail. « Honnêtement, l’absence de décès ou de blessures graves dans le cadre du ratio d’apprentissage 2:1 est de la pure chance. » ■

POWER AT WORK

New Training Makes It Easier to Talk About Issues That Matter to Members

Discussing politics hasn't been easy for even the closest of acquaintances during the last several years. Many Americans report losing friends over elections. Some in the national media would rather stoke divisions than report actual news.

Thus, many organizations are reluctant to even bring the topic up. And the IBEW isn't immune, even though the ballot box has the potential to drastically change the fortunes of working families, for better or worse.

"Some of our local unions stopped talking about politics entirely, unfortunately," Fourth District International Vice President Gina Cooper said. "They were terrified of it."

That led Cooper and the Fourth District staff to develop the Politics, Activism & Livelihood program, otherwise known as PAL.



Above, Business Manager Andrew Kirk with other members of Cincinnati Local 1347 during a PAL training session. At right, Local 1347 executive board member Kyle McMahan shows off the certificate he and others received after completing the class.



"We realized we've got to make a change here," Cooper said. "We have to come up with some level of training that helped our members understand how politics affects their livelihood and get them comfortable talking about politics again."

Under the auspices of the Education Department, PAL will soon be rolled out nationally. A Canadian version is being developed for First District members and local unions.

Training will be available in both countries on how best to discuss policy and politics among members, specifically when it comes to matters important to all IBEW brothers and sisters, such as retirement and safety on the job.

It is based in part on the Education Department's COMET program, which has successfully educated members on the value of organizing for nearly three decades. PAL will educate members on the value of the IBEW being involved in politics on all levels and how it benefits our members.

"The idea is to talk about kitchen-table issues," Education Director Amanda Pacheco said. "What are the issues our members care about? Their paycheck, job outlook, benefits and economic security. We show why we must be involved in politics because of the impact it has on them."

The program is nonpartisan. Fourth District International Representative Steve Crum, who has led several training sessions, noted that it makes no distinction between Republicans or Democrats. IBEW leaders do not tell members how to vote but encourage them to support candidates who will aid working families and the middle class.

The IBEW has built relationships on both sides of the political aisle. For instance, Republicans have dominated the Ohio Legislature and governor's mansion for more than a decade, but the IBEW and its allies have thwarted some potentially harmful policies, such as a so-called right-to-work law, by building relationships within the GOP caucus, Crum said.

Getting the word out that we work with anyone who will work with us is an important part of the training, he said.

"Many of our members are Republicans and think we only support Democrats," said Crum, who lives in Ohio. "That is not true."

PAL also avoids social issues. Those issues aren't discounted, but Cooper noted the role of a union is to collectively work to improve the lives of members and their families.

"We deal in workers' rights," she said. "The goal is to raise working conditions for our members. That is what we are solely engaged in."

Crum has led several PAL sessions at local unions throughout the Fourth District. "The beauty of PAL is the training," he said. "It explains economics. It explains the importance of supporting politicians who support us."

The clear connection between politics and pocketbooks is a major reason Cincinnati Local 1347 Business Manager Andrew Kirk has hosted several PAL training sessions for his local. "You see the difference in pay [between union and non-union shops] and the tactics corporations sometimes use against us," he said. "It's definitely educational."

Kirk said about 80% of the local's 800 members have taken part in the training. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, even from some who went in skeptical, he said.

The visuals and graphics that Crum used during the training were especially helpful, Kirk said. The focus was entirely on economic security. Partisan politics was never mentioned.

"The program was very successful in our local," Kirk said. "It's something to build on. Education is the key, and sometimes in the past, I don't think we've always educated our members on politics, like our local should have."

The IBEW has endorsed Joe Biden for a second term as president. That has everything to do with his administration's policies. They have created jobs and improved wages for members, most notably through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act and Chips Act. They've also been conducive for the IBEW growing its membership.

"We have a duty to explain the importance of politics," Crum said. "With one quick swipe of the pen, everything we've bargained for and worked for can be eliminated."

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Noble saw the

importance of talking to members about politics while serving as business manager of West Frankfort, Ill., Local 702 and later as Sixth District international vice president.

He said PAL will make it easier for business managers and other local leaders to engage their members and encourage them to have those conversations with one another.

"When you show our brothers and sisters where these issues have an impact on their wallet, they're much more receptive," he said. "Unfortunately, in this era of extreme partisanship and of social media, that isn't always easy to do. It's critically important for our members to understand why we support candidates not just on a national stage, but local and state ones as well."

Crum said the training sessions in the Fourth District have been positive, especially when dealing with apprentices just beginning their IBEW careers.

"You make it relevant," he said. "I think we changed some hearts and minds in those classes." ■

New Numbers Prove Unions Increase Household Wealth, Reduce Inequality

New data shows, once again, that union membership is a great bet for increasing household wealth — and more and more people are coming together to get that opportunity.

A union household has 1.7 times the median wealth of a nonunion household, according to 2022 figures from the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances, analyzed by the Center for American Progress. The median for union households was \$338,482, compared with just \$199,948 for nonunion households.

That difference holds across demographic groups as well as education levels. In fact, union membership narrows the racial wealth gap. Membership in a union was found to increase median wealth between 167% and 228% for households of color, compared with a 37% increase for white households.

"Unions are a proven ticket to the middle class," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. "With so many Americans struggling to make ends meet and realizing what unions can do for them, the IBEW needs to seize the opportunity and organize like never before."

Union households have more wealth than their nonunion counterparts at every education level measured, including for those without a high school degree. Union members are also more likely to own a home and have a retirement plan than nonunion Americans.

These findings match earlier analyses by CAP that concluded that union membership is associated with higher levels of wealth across all households. CAP's previous surveys also complement findings from the Economic Policy Institute on how unions decrease worker inequality — for both union and nonunion members. When union density is high, it raises the wage standard for entire industries, which forces nonunion employers to compete with union shops.

The EPI also found that unions reduce racial and gender wage disparities and push for progressive policies that benefit all working people. The EPI stated in its report, "A strong labor movement protects workers, reduces disparities and strengthens our democracy."

A 2023 Treasury Department report also found that unions contribute to a strong middle class by raising wages and improving benefits, which in turn sets higher labor market standards that tend to increase the wages and benefits of nonunion workers as well, all of which creates more financial stability in a community.

As income inequality continues to rise and more people experience decreased purchasing power, all the while witnessing high-profile bargaining wins from unions including the UAW, the Teamsters, and the writers and actors guilds, an increasing number of people are organizing their workplaces. According to the National Labor Relations Board, union election petitions filed in the first six months of fiscal year 2024 (Oct. 1 – March 31) rose 35% over the same period in the year prior.

What's more, thanks to new worker-friendly rules, union elections are being held more quickly, with the period between filing a petition with the NLRB and balloting in contested elections shrinking from 105 days in fiscal year 2023 to less than 59 days since late December, when a new election rule became enforceable. That rule rolled back Trump-era changes that made the election process slower and more cumbersome, a formula that often favors employers at the expense of employees.

Nothing exemplifies the new era in labor law better than the 2023 NLRB decision in the Cemex case. After Cemex, once a majority of workers sign cards seeking a union, employers have only 14 days to call an election or start bargaining, and if they commit a single unfair labor practice during an election campaign, the board can order the employer to recognize and bargain with the union.

"At every turn, the Biden administration's NLRB has sided with working people and their right to join a union," Cooper said. "It's like night and day compared to the previous administration, and workers everywhere are better off for it." ■

Median Wealth is Higher for Union Households

Median household wealth by union membership, 2022

Nonunion

\$199,948

Union

\$338,482

Note: All monetary amounts are in 2022 U.S. dollars, adjusted for inflation using the Urban Consumer Price Index Retroactive Series (CPI-U-RS). "Union" households include a head of household or spouse covered by a union contract. The sample only includes households with a head of household or spouse age 25 or older, nonretired, and earning a wage or salary.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, "2022 Survey of Consumer Finances," available at www.federalreserve.gov/econres/scfindex.htm (last accessed February 2024); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Consumer Price Index: R-CPI-U-RS Homepage," www.bls.gov/cpi/research-series/r-cpi-u-rs-home.htm (last accessed January 2024).

Chart: Center for American Progress

CIRCUITS

Fourth District Program Turns Today's Members Into Tomorrow's Contractors

The path to the middle class runs through America's local union halls, but for a select group of members, a shirt with someone else's name just never fits right.

For those members, the journeyman ticket is a giant step toward the ultimate goal of independence: a business they own, rising and falling on the quality of their name and work.

And the IBEW is here for them now, too.

A new program in the Fourth District designed and run by Membership Development Educator Virgil Hamilton wants to make the journey from journeyman to signatory contractor easier by offering an all-day seminar in local union halls.

"Just 33% of all electrical work is new construction. The rest is modernization, retrofit and repair, and nearly half that work is being done by shops with fewer than 10 workers," Hamilton said. "Small contractors are doing a ton of the industry, and nearly all of it is nonunion."

"The time to go into business is when there is a surplus of work and a shortage of electricians. That's where we will be."

— Local 24 Business Manager
Michael McHale

In early March, Hamilton was in the meeting space of Baltimore Local 24's union hall.

About two dozen members of Local 24 showed up on a Tuesday morning in various steps on their path to business owner. One, a testing technician, was already working with hundreds of thousands of dollars of equipment. Another stood to inherit his father's small non-union shop that worked out of the area and was weighing his options. Some had little more than a burning desire to never have another boss again.

"This is the tip of the iceberg in this room," said Local 24 Business Manager Michael McHale. "We know there is enormous interest in our membership, but they have a lot of questions about how to succeed as a small signatory contractor. This is one way we show them that we have tools to help them prosper."

Morning sessions focused on the why and how of starting a business. After lunch, sessions were as varied as timing one's bids, maximizing bonding and insurance coverage,



Kabir Ahmed and close to two dozen other members of Baltimore Local 24 attended an all-day IBEW-sponsored training on starting a signatory electrical contractor. Local 24 is seeing a dramatic increase in demand and needs new contractors to bid existing work to prevent a loss of market share.

marketing, and where to schmooze with general contractors.

"We give them the whole shebang," Hamilton said.

McHale and Assistant Business Manager John McLaughlin started the morning with a welcome and an introduction before handing it over to Hamilton. But most of the day, sessions were led by business professionals and area experts.

The session on choosing a business structure and registering with the state was run by an accountant. A small-business banker taught the session on establishing and using credit. A consultant from a project management firm walked everyone through bidding and logistics. The insurance and bonding session was run by an agent from the union-run insurance company Ullico. A representative from the local NECA chapter spoke about networking with general contractors, and McHale and McLaughlin regularly interjected with tools the local has to help.

The day was filled with conversations you'd expect to hear at a business school, not a union hall. Which is better: a sole proprietorship or an LLC? What kind of work maximizes cash flow and minimizes capital investment so a new business can stay afloat in the early stages? How do you get a bank to give you the time of day when you don't have any money coming in yet? How do you build relationships with general contractors that turn into work? Where do you find bid opportunities, and how do you qualify to work with the state?

Hamilton has run the training a half-dozen times across the district, and he said some businesses are already open. His plan is to develop the materials for the course and expand it.

"It's obvious no daylong seminar can be comprehensive," he said. "The goal is to give an overview of the questions members should be asking and show how the IBEW can help you with the answers."

As he wrapped up the day, McHale put aside his role as teacher and became more of a cheerleader. The jurisdiction is booming, and more work is coming.

"The time to go into business is when there is a surplus of work and a shortage of electricians. That's where

we will be," he said.

Then he paused and smiled before offering a final bit of wisdom.

"Remember where you come from when you're successful beyond your wildest dreams." ■

A Tribute to the Man Who Kept the Lights On

For decades, Donald Dimmock was one of The New York Times' most essential employees. But until he died this spring, his name never appeared in the paper.

When it did, the retired New York City Local 3 journeyman was memorialized in an obituary section typically reserved for the famous and infamous.

Titled "The Man Who Kept the Times's Lights On," the article celebrated Dimmock's life and career, most of it as the general foreman in charge of the newspaper's electrical department:

"Mr. Dimmock kept the lights on — along with everything else electric — for the production department, the newsroom and the rest of The Times's building in Manhattan. The most important part of [his] job was making sure the equipment that printed the newspaper ran smoothly, from the metal plate room to the loading docks. If something went wrong with one of the huge machines that printed the newspaper, Mr. Dimmock and his team of electricians had to fix it, and fast. ... Mailroom stackers, strapping machines, metal plate stamps, flickering bulbs — if it was plugged in, it required his attention.

Among the obituary's colorful details was this:

Through it all, he carried extra machine parts, just in case, and wore a crisp shirt and tie. Natasza Dimmock, his wife of 48 years, became so adept at cleaning ink-stained clothing that she opened a dry cleaning business.

Dimmock retired from the Times in 2001. But all too soon, he was an active Local 3 member again, working with his IBEW brothers and sisters in the perilous conditions of Ground Zero:

"He climbed through the rubble and the smoldering ash to help bring the Verizon Building back online. The ruins were so hot that the rubber from his shoes melted. His doctors suspect that the exposure may have led to the cancer that killed him at 79. The 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund paid for his care."

"Don Dimmock was a quiet hero," Local 3 Business Manager Chris Erikson said. "He did everything with dignity and pride and his workplaces, our city and our union are better because of him."

Dimmock's wife and their daughter, Brooklyn filmmaker Jessica Dimmock, were at his side when he died March 20. In his final days, Jessica read him a list of things he'd taught her to love. It included: "A love of walking. A love of biking. A love of politics and showing up for every election, even the small ones. A love of doing things the right way."

Weak as he was, Dimmock was able to recall some of the things he loved most, such as the Times, the music of Tina Turner and his union.

His daughter shared his sentiments with Local 3 in an Instagram message with a link to the obituary: "My father was a proud member for easily 40 years. Probably more. Loving the union was one of the last things he said. Thank you for existing despite the odds." ■



Local 3's Don Dimmock in his New York Times office and during a long-ago visit at work with his daughter, Jessica.



Photos courtesy of Jessica Dimmock

READ FULL OBIT



TRANSITIONS

DECEASED

Daniel L. Shirey



Dan Shirey, a member of the International Executive Council and the beloved business manager of Portsmouth, Ohio,

Local 575, died April 24.

Known for his joyful personality, smart and compassionate leadership, and love for the IBEW, Shirey was appointed to the IEC in January 2022 during his fourth term at the helm of his home local.

“Dan brought laughter, joy and kindness into our workplace, and his leadership and service to his family, his friends, the IBEW and his community will forever be cherished in our hearts,” Fourth District International Vice President Gina Cooper said.

The son and father of IBEW members, Shirey was a lifelong resident of the Portsmouth area in southern Ohio, growing up in the village of Otway. He served as class president in high school and went on to college at Shawnee State University.

After a year, however, he decided he’d rather follow his father into the electrical trade and applied to the Local 575 apprenticeship.

Shirey was initiated into the busy local in October 1997 and proudly remembered one of his earliest projects, working as a wireman on the East Kentucky Power Cooperative plant just upriver from Portsmouth. “It was a really big job for us,” he said when he joined the IEC. “We had 150 members on it at peak.”

Increasingly active in his local, he joined its executive board in 2005. He was hired as a Local 575 referral agent two years later and was serving as the assistant business manager to Austin Keyser in 2011 when Keyser moved to

the AFL-CIO. Shirey was appointed by the executive board to serve out the rest of Keyser’s term and won three subsequent elections.

“When I was just a young journeyman, I never envisioned running for office. It just kind of happened,” Shirey said in a 2022 Electrical Worker article. “It’s always been my goal to serve the membership. Somebody’s got to step up.”

No one could have done it better, said Keyser, now assistant to the international president for government affairs.

“Everyone gravitated toward Dan,” he said. “He had an incredible ability to connect with members — he remembered everyone’s names and details about their lives. At one point, we had over a thousand travelers, and I swear he knew every one of them.”

“Dan brought laughter, joy and kindness into our workplace, and his leadership and service to his family, his friends, the IBEW and his community will forever be cherished in our hearts,”

— Fourth District International Vice President Gina Cooper

Keyser was among hundreds of mourners, IBEW members and beyond, who attended the visitation for Shirey at Local 575’s hall the week after his death. “The line was five or six hundred deep,” he said. “People came from all over. He was high energy and loud and over the top, but in a way that made people love him. He was so smart and so fun and such a loyal friend.”

Shirey was appointed to represent the IEC’s Third District — covering

Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia — when James Burgham’s retirement left the seat open at the end of 2021. He was elected to a full term at the 40th International Convention in May 2022.

“Dan was always so eager to help the IBEW,” said International President Kenneth W. Cooper, who worked closely with Shirey during his time as Fourth District international vice president and as international secretary-treasurer. “I watched him grow in his role, and I saw a leader who was full of energy and passion. I knew he’d be a creative and strategic voice on the IEC, and he lived up to every expectation.”

He called Shirey “a good man in the truest sense — a good union man, a good family man, a good friend. I can’t begin to express how much he’ll be missed and how heartbroken we are.”

Applauding Shirey’s appointment in 2022, Fourth District Business Development Representative Jon Rosenberger said, “I couldn’t think of a better person to take Jim’s place on the IEC.”

Among many good memories, Rosenberger — now director of the IBEW’s Business Development Department — recalled the union needing a variance from Local 575 for work on a major southern Ohio solar project.

“Dan said, ‘If it’s going to provide work opportunities for IBEW members, then of course we’ll do it,’” he said, adding that Shirey was “always willing to step outside the box to get those projects.”

Advancing the interests of IBEW members and unions at large, Shirey held many leadership roles over the years. Those included chairing the Southeastern Ohio Business Managers Association, two terms as vice president of the Shawnee Labor Council in greater Portsmouth and serving as president of the IBEW’s Ohio State Conference. His service to his community also included years as a volunteer firefighter.

He also made the most of his decade-plus as the city of Portsmouth’s electrical inspector, calling the job “a very good organizing tool.”

In tributes pouring in since his passing, Shirey’s dedicated service and generous spirit shine through. IBEW members’ condolences on social media include:

“A brother to everyone in the room, always a positive vibe.”

“You touched more people than you will ever know.”

“Dan didn’t see anyone as a JW or apprentice or CW or a CE. He only saw us all as his brothers and sisters.”

“I will never forget how he welcomed me as a new agent at my first IBEW conference. He was a great guy and always fun to be around.”

“The first time I met him it was like we had known each other our entire life, that’s how he made me feel.”

Shirey is survived by his grown children, Daniel Shirey II, a Local 575 apprentice, and daughters Dakota and Kaela; four grandchildren; his parents, Thelma and Local 575 retiree Samuel

Shirey; his brother, Steven; and a niece, nephew and great niece.

The IBEW family sends its deepest sympathy to Brother Shirey’s family in this time of profound grief. ■

RETIRED

Ann Miller



When Ann Miller joined the Political/Legislative Affairs Department a decade ago, the IBEW was running a respectable

political operation with a modest war chest. The union had an important and effective voice in the federal government from within organized labor.

Today, the IBEW is one of the most influential political voices in the nation, and one of the most politically effective labor unions in U.S. history.

Much of the credit for that success goes to Miller, who retired as an international representative April 15.

“That’s only possible because of Ann,” International President Kenneth Cooper said. “The most important labor and infrastructure laws in generations — The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Butch Lewis Act — they have Ann’s fingerprints all over them.”

Miller was born and raised in Wakefield, Mass., north of Boston. Although neither of her parents belonged to unions, all six of her siblings have been union members their entire working lives.

After graduating from Mount Holyoke College in 1985, Miller was hired as a secretary in the Boston office of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. Within a year, she moved to the senator’s Washington, D.C. office as a scheduler and was serving as Kennedy’s personal secretary by 1987.

Democrats took the White House in 1992 for the first time since 1976, leading Miller to the Labor Department as personal secretary for Robert Reich, a man she called “a true champion for workers.”

When Reich left after President Bill Clinton’s first term, Miller joined the AFL-CIO for a brief stint as President John Sweeney’s scheduler, then moved to the newly formed Alliance for Retired Americans.

She returned to the AFL-CIO in 2003 as special assistant to the political director and in 2011 was promoted to run the fundraising operation as assistant political director.

She joined the IBEW in 2014, first as a political analyst, then as department director. As the office transformed from a small operation into the critical policy shop it is today, Miller was appointed as an international representative with a unique portfolio that leveraged her decades of relationships and her keen

nose for future political winners.

“There is no way we can replace Ann. She arrived at the IBEW as we were starting to modernize and professionalize our government affairs operation,” said Austin Keyser, assistant to the international president for government affairs. “She was a catalyst, and we were lucky to have Ann teach the next generation.”

Keyser said one of Miller’s greatest contributions was identifying promising candidates early in their careers and helping them craft a compelling message about the value of helping working people. When they won and came to Washington, she was a mentor who helped them navigate D.C., a bewildering place for newcomers but one she knew thoroughly.

“Ann was very good at finding political babies that were going to be successful before anyone else did and giving them help at critical times,” Keyser said. “You do that over 40 years, and you have a huge network eager to help move our agenda.”

Miller wore many hats, but perhaps none was more important than liaison to the White House. President Joe Biden, who proudly calls himself the most pro-labor president in U.S. history, often says he owes his election to the IBEW and its early endorsement of him in 2020.

White House staff turned to Miller countless times. Each time Biden spoke at an IBEW worksite during her tenure, such as a factory being built with union labor, she was the one who arranged meetings for him with IBEW members. She was also the first call each time Vice President Kamala Harris’s team needed a JATC to host a speech on the power of apprenticeships.

“The most important labor and infrastructure laws in generations ... have Ann’s fingerprints all over them.”

— President Kenneth W. Cooper

“We moved mountains in D.C. these last three years because of what members do,” she said. “Biden saved union pensions. ... without a single Republican vote. They bailed out the banks but wanted us to wither and die.”

Miller also left an indelible impression on Capitol Hill.

On her birthday in April, after she had announced her retirement, Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown took to the floor of the Senate and honored Miller and the legacy she leaves behind.

“Those who know Ann recognize her fearlessness and her tenacity,” Brown said, crediting her with the [labor standards] section of the CHIPS and Science Act that is in effect at the \$100 billion Micron plant under construction in Ohio and other U.S. building sites.

USA4LIFE

THE OUTDOORS AND UNIONS HAVE A DEEP-ROOTED HERITAGE.

If you're like many of your union brothers and sisters, being part of a union and the outdoor culture is who you are.

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) connects the union and outdoor way of life, uniting outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen to stand together to preserve our outdoor heritage for future generations.

And IBEW members can join at no cost!

SCAN TO JOIN
OR CALL 1-800-451-4511

ACTIVATE YOUR NO-COST USA MEMBERSHIP
MYUSAMEMBERSHIP.COM

“It is because of Ann that we were able, with the CHIPS Act, to get a project labor agreement that means at least 7,000 union workers building that gargantuan plant, union workers across the board,” he said. “When things get tough, Ann fights even harder for workers.”

Miller said that was all energy on loan from the members. “I will miss what a privilege it was to walk into a room and say ‘I represent the IBEW’ and see how people reacted to that, how their faces changed. I wish I could show that every member the respect we are given,” she said. “I will miss that.”

Please join the officers and staff of the IBEW in wishing Sister Miller a long, healthy and happy retirement. ■

APPOINTED

William G. Hamilton



Newark, Ohio, Local 1105 Business Manager Bill Hamilton, whose decades-long leadership has helped his local handle its dramatic growth, has been appointed to represent the IBEW International Executive Council’s Third District. The IEC unanimously approved Hamilton’s appointment.

Hamilton, a Cadiz, Ohio, native, grew up eager to join a union. Both of his grandfathers were in unions. So was his father, a United Mine Workers coal miner.

“I wanted to be part of something bigger,” Hamilton said.

In 1987, he became an unintended apprentice at a coal-fired power plant in Conesville, Ohio, where workers were represented by Local 1105. Hamilton was initiated into the IBEW following his acceptance into the local’s apprenticeship, and he topped out as a journeyman inside wireman in 1993.

Hamilton quickly became active with his union, serving as a shop steward and later becoming a full-time Local 1105 organizer. In 1996, he was elected to the first of two terms as chairman of the local’s executive board.

When Hamilton was first elected business manager in 2001, Local 1105 had more than 200 members with several employers. Some relocated or closed, while the power plant began gradually deactivating in 2005.

“We saw all that change,” Hamilton said. “It was hard.”

By 2017, the explosive growth of data center construction had reached Ohio, bringing scores of new jobs and organizing opportunities for Local 1105. Construction and maintenance work on dozens of data center campuses popped up across the local’s jurisdiction, which covers five east-central Ohio counties and parts of two others.

By the time Conesville fully closed in 2020, data center work already had helped boost Local 1105’s membership

to more than 400. “The timing couldn’t have been better,” Hamilton said.

Then, in September 2022, President Joe Biden signed into law the CHIPS and Science Act, containing billions of dollars in incentives for companies to manufacture semiconductors in the U.S. A month later, Biden came to Local 1105’s territory to celebrate the start of construction on a \$100 billion Intel microchip fabrication complex, which means at least a decade’s worth of jobs for thousands of IBEW members.

“Everything busted wide and loose,” said Hamilton, who was with the president for both events. “We had good work before, but not like this. By midsummer, we’ll have over a thousand members.”

One major advantage to Local 1105’s historic growth, Hamilton said, is how it’s expanding opportunities for apprentices.

“When I started as business manager, we used two classrooms in the union hall and the executive

boardroom for training,” he said. Since then, membership growth fueled one expansion of the Newark JATC, where Hamilton has been an instructor, to an 18,000-square-foot facility for training 250 apprentices. New plans call for two more buildings covering an additional 27,000 square feet.

“We’ve been able to make good investments, and our market share has been on the rise over the last eight or nine years.”

— IEC Third District Representative
Bill Hamilton

“When I took over, we sometimes had to choose which bills to pay,” Hamilton said. “We’ve been able to make

good investments, and our market share has been on the rise over the last eight or nine years.” Local 1105, he said, now provides well-trained workers for more than a dozen employers.

“So much of this should be credited to President Biden and his administration,” the business manager said. “Every member should look at what’s going on and know that’s the reason.”

Local 1105 President Dave Sprankle, who has known and worked with Hamilton for nearly 23 years, has nothing but praise for the business manager.

“Bill is very professional, very friendly and very helpful,” Sprankle said. “We’ve developed a great rapport.”

In addition to his Local 1105 duties, Hamilton chairs the Health Fund for the union’s Fourth District and serves on several building trades councils and on the West Virginia-Ohio Supplemental Fund Committee.

“That man is busy 20 hours a day, but he makes time for the people he’s

talking to,” said retired Local 1105 member Bob “Stoney” Stoneburner, a long-time friend of Hamilton’s. “It was his tutelage that made all this possible. I have pure admiration for him being able to handle all that’s been thrust upon him.”

For fun, Hamilton maintains membership in the National Hot Rod Association and the Nostalgia Drag Racing League. “My father was a big automotive enthusiast who did stock-car racing. It sparked a lot of interest,” Hamilton said. He also enjoys restoring the four vintage Ford Mustangs he owns.

Hamilton and his wife, Jane, have two adult children. “I attribute a lot of my success to my wife,” he said. “She let me do this job and I always knew she had it covered at home. The way of life the IBEW provided meant she didn’t have to go to work. I’ve been so blessed and so fortunate.”

Please join the officers and staff of the IBEW in wishing Brother Hamilton continued success as he takes on this new role. ■

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

IT’S HOT OUT THERE. Here’s a Reminder to Work Safely.

With summer approaching and sweltering weather the norm in much of the country, IBEW members are reminded to follow all safety regulations on the job, especially considering some disturbing trends nationally.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration reported an increase in cited violations in 2023. Fall prevention was the most cited, followed by hazard communication and ladder usage, all important areas for IBEW members.

The top three root causes for reported injuries from June 2023 to January 2024 are situational awareness/attention to detail; unknown/other; and failure to adhere to proper safety protocols.

Safety Director Mark MacNichol noted these three root causes are easy to slip into when working in heat.

“I spent most of my career in Florida, so I understand that it gets hot at this time of year,” MacNichol said. “But nothing is more important than our members returning home safely to their loved ones after every shift.”

Staying hydrated is crucial.

“Heatstroke can be deadly on a jobsite,” MacNichol said. “The best way to prevent that is drinking plenty of water, which is required by OSHA to be provided by the employer.”

Most IBEW members do an excellent job in observing safety protocols. But the rising numbers of dangerous incidents nationally serves as a reminder not to cut corners. Any members who have safety concerns should speak to their steward or other leaders in their local unions.

The Safety Department reminds all local unions that Article XV, Section 15 of the IBEW’s constitution requires them to report accidents on the job. They can do so using Form 173/Accident Reporting, which is found at ibew.org.

MacNichol said about 10% more locals reported injuries using the form in 2023 than in the previous year, but more than half of all locals still fail to do so. In addition to fulfilling a constitutional requirement, the data allows the IBEW to better advocate for safety needs when dealing with government officials and helping other local unions with information.

Those battles are ongoing at the both the national and state levels.

Texas and Florida, both led by extreme anti-union governors and legislatures, have enacted laws since last summer that prohibit municipalities from establishing their own rules regarding worksite heat safety.

The Texas law, which is being challenged in court, also derailed existing heat ordinances in cities that include Houston, San Antonio, Dallas and Austin. Those laws in Austin and Dallas, for instance, required contractors to give workers 10-minute water breaks every four hours, at a minimum.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Legislature flew into action after Miami-Dade County officials considered legislation to require heat safety breaks and regular access to drinking water.

Drink plenty of water

Take regular breaks

Cool down in the shade

Report heat symptoms early

Know what to do in an emergency

IBEW members have more protection in the fight than most workers because rest and safety protocols are part of collective bargaining agreements.

Still, the rollback in safety protocols in some states has been troubling.

“The fact that there was a bill like that [in Florida] wasn’t at all surprising,” said Will Salters, a Fifth District international representative. “It kind of tells you who [DeSantis] cares about, and it’s definitely not the worker.”

There is relief in sight as the Biden administration gets closer to finalizing a federal OSHA standard for indoor and outdoor heat safety at work. The agency presented the draft rule in April to its Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health.

Statewide heat standards are in place in California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Nevada and Minnesota, and other states have taken up legislation, even as industry groups complain about the “burden” of providing cooling breaks.

In Arizona, Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs rolled out the state’s first Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan this spring, resisting the GOP-majority Legislature. Like their counterparts in Texas and Florida, lawmakers there are hoping to kill local heat ordinances, notably one passed unanimously in March by the Phoenix City Council.

Dean Wine, a Seventh District international representative and former Phoenix Local 640 business manager, saluted the city for the move but said he hopes Arizona eventually adopts a statewide standard covering all construction workers.

“You get used to working in the heat,” Wine said. “As long as you want some water, you should be able to get water.” ■

LOCAL LINES

Standing Against Labor Violations

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN — Our local was very busy with social activities this spring. In February, the hall's culinary team was narrowly edged out of a first-place finish at the annual Battle of the Beans chili cookoff. In March, the Mud Bug Festival was held, benefiting the sick and needy of the IBEW. That same month brought children and grandchildren of members out for this year's Easter egg hunt, which also featured a visit from a larger-than-life costumed Easter bunny. Thanks to Brother John Tyler Schultz for donning the big ears and to everyone who made these events possible.

The union's retirees are still actively meeting for monthly gatherings and breakfasts, but due to multiple unfair labor practice charges filed against the restaurant, a new facility is being chosen. The previous location's owner was accused of illegal tip sharing, failing to pay the minimum wage, failing to properly pay overtime and failing to keep accurate records. The U.S. Department of Labor is seeking a judgment for 44 employees totaling more than \$450,000. Kudos to the retirees for remaining true to their values by not patronizing this establishment.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Meetings and Marches at Local 24

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — Greetings from Charm City! In March, we hosted a contractor startup class for members who are interested in becoming signatory contractors. Thanks to our agents, Derek Adolfo and Jon McLaughlin, we were able to create an event for members to learn about bonding, manpower and how to run an electrical



Local 24 members Rayshawn Pointer, Gerald Derrickson and Denzell Brown attending the labor rally in Annapolis, Md.

contracting business. In addition, William Yull of Maryland NECA and IBEW International Representative Virgil Hamilton gave the members pertinent information. We look forward to these members becoming signatory contractors.

Local 24 attended the Labor Night rally in Annapolis, the state capital. With signs and IBEW caps, over 200 members gathered on Lawyers Mall with other unions, such as AFSCME, the AFT and the UA, to encourage our state legislators to fight for workers' rights and wage equality. Maryland Secretary of Labor Portia Wu, Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller and many other officials pledged their support to the packed crowd of union brothers and sisters. It has always been important for us to stay involved in politics to make sure elected officials know where we stand so our members and their families benefit. We are proud to continue this tradition.

Live Better/Work Union.

Mike McHale, B.M.

Local 26 Events

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — As of this writing, our local union officers and agents have been extremely busy. We attended the IBEW Construction and Maintenance Conference, North America's Building Trades National Legislative Conference, the Craftsmanship Awards dinner banquet and the JATC graduation. The annual Dollars Against Diabetes golf outing was also held.

The Manassas, Va., picnic is Saturday, June 22, and the Edgewater, Md., picnic is Saturday, Aug. 24. The fishing trip is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 21, and the Poker Run for Special Love is Saturday, Sept. 28. Please visit our website for further details at www.ibewlocal26.org.

Best wishes to the following retirees: Robert W. Adcock, John R. Degutis Jr., Joseph A. Devito, James T. Ellis, Florin Flores, Mario Garcia, Ricky F. Holmes, Michael J. LaQuay, James M. Lytle, Henry E. Rivers, Benjamin L. Staniewicz IV, Beverly C. Taylor Jr. and Clarence E. Watts.

The following members have passed away since our last article: Philip A. Brant, Norman F. Callahan, Calvin G. Campbell, Douglas A. Carr, Louis A. Grant, Darrell R. Harris, Lemuel Henderson, Daniel J. Jones, David E. Joyce, Son T. Khong, Richard Kleffman Jr., Durward ("Butch") Lichliter, Christopher R. Payne, Donald M. Robey, Elijah I. Safadi and Terry L. Webb.

Joe Dabbs, B.M.



Local 38's Wiremen's Shamrock Club at the 2024 St. Patrick's Day parade in Cleveland, Ohio.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH — Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day parade is a cherished tradition that has been part of the city's cultural fabric for more than 175 years. The parade celebrates Irish heritage, camaraderie and the spirit of St. Patrick. Local 38's Wiremen's Shamrock Club once again took part in the annual tradition. The Shamrock Club members, families and friends marched from E. 18th St. through Public Square on another beautiful day in Cleveland.

The work outlook remains strong in the inside and VDV branches. Several large projects are underway, and crew sizes continue to increase. Progressive Field's first phase of renovations was done before Opening Day, some work will continue throughout the season, and the next phase will start after the Guardians' pennant chase.

Work on Sherwin Williams' new 36-story headquarters downtown and 600,000-square-foot research and development center in Brecksville continues. Cleveland Clinic's new 1 million-square-foot Neurological Institute will start increasing crew sizes in the near future. The \$100 million expansion on the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame should be starting this summer. All these projects are working under PLAs and have created great work opportunities for our sisters and brothers off Books 1 and 2.

Dan Gallagher, B.M.

Massive UNITY Rally Kicks Off Bargaining

L.U. 40 (em,i&mps), HOLLYWOOD, CA — On March 3, our local and allies in the trades kicked off a historic season of contract negotiations with the

rollicking "Many Crafts, One Fight" rally. Members of Local 40, Teamsters, plasterers, laborers and plumbers were joined by the IATSE — stage employees — and members of the Writers Guild of America, SAG-AFTRA, the American Federation of Musicians and others. They gathered to let Hollywood producers and studios know that nothing moves without the crew.

More than 1,000 union members, supporters and their families turned out for the rally. Health and retirement benefits are key issues for Local 40 during these contract talks. But this year, the local has a distinct advantage at the bargaining table not seen in more than a generation: For the first time in nearly 40 years, Local 40 and the other trades will join the 13 local unions under the IATSE umbrella in negotiating the benefits portion of the contract. This act of solidarity swells the ranks to 18 locals representing 50,000 workers, a formidable number to sit across from studio management. Local 40 organizer Juan Rodriguez appreciated the solidarity at the Woodley Park rally: "We're fighting for the middle class. We are the middle class. If we don't fight for it, it will be taken away."

Stephan Davis, B.M./F.S.



Local 40 members attended the "Many Crafts, One Fight" rally in Los Angeles.

Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

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

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

Trade Classifications

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

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



Washington Gov. Jay Inslee with Local 46 staff signing the electric school bus bill.

Electric School Bus

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA — Our local loves to celebrate our wins! We hosted Gov. Jay Inslee in the local's Kent Hall to sign our school bus electrification bill. The Washington Department of Ecology is investing \$13.3 million to help local transit agencies buy 50 zero-emission, battery-powered electric buses, and the work for charging stations goes to unions!

We had an incredible delegation go to Councilmember Girmay Zahilay's Hometown Heroes event with former Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin. We also had PAC members who attended advanced training on using the Labor Action Network. Local 46 Political Action Committee members are coming through!

Our organizing team has had several wins lately. Local 46 would like to welcome Lumenal Lighting, Shermco, Premier Power and Phase 3 Electric to the family. We look forward to working with you! Local 46 also has a pending petition with Auto-Chlor and looks forward to welcoming them. Great work, Brother Nick Genton and Sister Shannon Hagen!

Our Membership Volunteer Organizing Committee put together a member-to-member blitz this spring. Siblings from all classifications went door knocking to check in with our out-of-work sisters and brothers. They made sure to inform them of the resources available, as well as remind them of the brotherhood inside the IBEW. Thank you, Brother Michael Lebeis, for your work coordinating the blitz.

Megan Kirby, P.S.

On the Hook

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts,stm&ptc), PORTLAND, OR — Each year, members of our local assist children at the Kline Kids Fishing event, a chance for parents to give their kids an experience they may not normally have. With a pond well stocked with fish and volunteers ready to assist, kids of all ages are able to try fishing thanks to help from trusted adults. There's also a day set aside for children with special needs. While there are many highlights, volunteers said the look on faces when the kids get a bite, reel it in and see what they've caught is priceless.

In times when budgets are tight, families are under stress and childhood seems to slip away too fast, the chance for Local 48 to be an agent of good in the community is not taken lightly. This is just one of the many ways that members find to give back and show who we really are — not for our sake, but for the sake of those we serve.

Kevin Lux, P.S.

Voting Yes for Union Works

L.U. 70 (lctt&o), WASHINGTON, DC — In 2019, our local organized Asplundh tree trimmers working on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. They had worked for several years without any pay increases, and

Local 70 has negotiated raises for them each year since they became union. Dominick Difulvio, Charles Garder and David Homa have been there since the beginning and see the advantages of being part of a union.

Local 70 would like to thank them for their hard work and their ongoing help in organizing new members, and we congratulate them on five years of service.

George Embrey, Bus. Rep.



From left, Local 70's Dominick Difulvio, Charles Gardner and David Homa.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, Friend of Labor

L.U. 82 (em,i,mt&rtb), DAYTON, OH — On March 18, our local hosted a news conference at the hall to announce the Ohio State Building Trades' endorsement of Sen. Sherrod Brown for reelection. The event was very well attended by the skilled trades in the Dayton area. State Building Trades Director Mike Knisley reconfirmed that Sen. Brown is, and always has been, "a great friend of labor!"

Ryan Brown, P.S.



Local 82's union hall in Dayton, Ohio, was used for an announcement of the Ohio State Building Trades' endorsement of Sen. Sherrod Brown.

Local 124 Will Need Hands

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rts,se,spa,t&ptc), KANSAS CITY, MO — Brothers and sisters, Missouri voters took to the polls April 2 for municipal elections and ballot measures. In Jackson County, there was a vote

for which we were all holding our breath, the 3/8-cent sales tax renewal. This renewal would allow the construction of a new Royals downtown stadium and renovations of the Chiefs' Arrowhead Stadium, bringing 5,000 new construction jobs to the metro area. Sadly, the vote did not pass. What comes next for the sports teams in Jackson County is unknown because they are now open to negotiations with other counties with fewer pro-labor protections.

The Panasonic battery plant is ramping up, and the number of hands needed keeps growing. There are more than 200 electricians on site, and there will be a need for hundreds more among the various contractors.

As usual, data centers are popping up everywhere. Building 3 at Meta's complex is in the underground process, and calls are expected soon. A second data center site is in bidding. Hopefully, there will be good news soon!

Bo Moreno, B.M.

Summer in New Orleans

L.U. 130 (i&ptc), NEW ORLEANS, LA — Summertime is here in New Orleans, and so is the heat. We

are expecting work in our area to pick up with various jobs — including the lighting of the Crescent City Connection, Harrah's Casino, renovation of the convention center and hotel renovations for the 2025 Super Bowl — all getting started.

In February, we mourned the loss of Clay Leon III, business manager of Local 130 from 2009 to 2013 and Fifth District international representative. Clay dedicated his life to the IBEW and will be missed by all of us.

Sisters, start making your plan to attend the IBEW Women's Conference on Sept. 24-26 and Tradeswomen Build Nations, the largest gathering of tradeswomen in the world, on Sept. 27-29, both here in New Orleans. These should be great events!

Butch Naquin, R.S.

Local 134's Continuing Education Initiative

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rts,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL — One of the best resources to strengthen our membership at our local is the journeyman night classes offered via the EJATT (<https://ejatt.com/journeyman-classes>).

We encourage every member to update their knowledge and skill set with various night classes available at the school. Local 134 has invested in the best training facility in the county, and we offer night classes in all areas of our industry.

To assure our commitment to the continuing-education program, Local 134 has offered these classes free to those journeyman wiremen members who complete a night class.

Any journeyman who completes a night class between fall 2023 and September 2024 will also have their name automatically entered into a special raffle.

The raffle drawing will be held Sept. 7 at the union picnic on the EJATT campus in Alsip, Ill.

Raffle prizes include:

- Whole-house natural gas generator system
- Trip for four to the Caribbean
- 2024 Ford F-150 Lightning (grand prize)

Brothers and sisters, our local has put tremendous time and effort into the EJATT continuing-education program. We hope to make our membership safer, smarter and more prepared for emerging technologies through these night classes. We will continue to use our program as a model when we try to land future projects in Cook County.

We encourage all eligible members to sign up for a night class before the raffle deadline in September.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic.

Donald Finn, B.M./F.S.



PV 101 is one of many course options available at Local 134's JW night class program.

IBEW Apprenticeships: Ensuring the Future of Our Industry

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL — As June begins, many locals like ours will be welcoming into our Brotherhood a new class of first-year apprentices. We would like to congratulate those who were accepted! Please, sisters and brothers, introduce yourself to all apprentices on your jobsites and at union meetings. Impart them with the wisdom and knowledge it takes to be a journeyman wireman, a good sister or brother, and an active member in our local and the IBEW. Teach them about jobsite safety and how to look out for one another. Taking these steps will help to ensure the future of our industry and the IBEW. It starts on our jobsites!

We would like to remind everyone to come out to the Antioch Bandshell on July 25 at 7 p.m. to enjoy a concert in the park and partake in some food and beverages offered by local vendors. Wear your favorite Local 150 gear — we will see you there.

Also, come and visit with one another July 27 at the union hall, starting at 11 a.m., for the annual Local 150 family picnic. We look forward to our continued solidarity and the great food and refreshments. Come out and enjoy the festivities the fourth-year apprentice class has planned for us!

As always, sisters and brothers, be safe and look out for one another.

Aaron M. Rendon, R.S.

Go Green

Get your **ELECTRICAL WORKER** delivered each month *via email*.

It's convenient & helps cut down on paper waste. Go to ibew.org/gogreen and sign up today!



LOCAL LINES



Local 236 had great attendance at Albany's annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

Local Elections and St. Patrick's Day

L.U. 236 (catv,ees,govt,i,mo,rtb&t), ALBANY, NY — Our local recently had great attendance at the annual Albany St. Patrick's Day parade, with more than 100 members and their families coming out to celebrate. Member events continue to grow and keep the brotherhood alive outside the workplace.

The work picture here in the capital of New York is promising, with several jobs on the horizon, including GlobalFoundries, Wadsworth labs, the SUNY NFR project, and various offshore wind and solar projects.

In June, we will have our local union election. We appreciate any members willing to run for local office and become involved in union business. Best of luck to all prospective candidates this year!

Thanks to everyone who has been a part of Local 236 as we strive to make it a better place for electricians every day.

Paul Nylin, A.B.M.



Local 258 members Jamie Lowe (left) and Jordan Geddert (right) receiving a certificate of recognition on behalf of the local's Veterans Committee.

Local 258 Pioneers First Local Union Veterans Committee in Canada

L.U. 258 (ees,em,lctt,o&u), VANCOUVER, BC — With great pleasure, our local announces that the International Office has recognized its newly formed Veterans Committee, making it the first chartered IBEW Veterans Committee in Canada! Co-chair Jordan Geddert states: "We are extremely proud to be the first local in Canada to be recognized. Having accomplished that, we are looking forward to getting on with some real work and helping veterans within Local 258 and across the country."

Local 258's Veterans Committee aims to attract more veterans to the union and aid them in finding meaningful employment in the fields represented by the local. In line with this goal, the co-chairs, Brothers Geddert and Jamie Lowe, already have big plans for the committee.

Business Manager Cody Gatzke said: "My expectations have been surpassed. The level of participation we have seen in our Veterans Committee has been nothing short of inspiring — a true reflection of solidarity within our local union." President Kevin Duchak agreed: "The speed at which our Veterans Committee mobilized is a

testament to the commitment of our members, proving that when we stand together, we can achieve remarkable things."

Cody Gatzke, B.M./F.S.

Local 288 Educates New Members

L.U. 288 (i,rts,spa,u&ptc), WATERLOO, IA — On March 2, a new members' class was held at the Black Hawk County Labor Temple. The class was designed to educate newer members about the many facets of union membership. Led by Local 288 Business Manager Chuck Kacher and aided by organizer Ritchie Kurtenbach, the class went into a brief history of the IBEW's creation and development over the last century.

Members were also informed of the bylaws and collective bargaining agreement, as well as where to access that information. Chuck explained the local's jurisdiction, the book system and the importance of organizing. The bulk of the class was focused on developing members' understanding of their health care coverage, retirement benefits and investment options.

Local 288 was excited to welcome a few members' spouses to the class, as well. We value the importance of member families understanding the benefits available through the labor of their loved ones.

In other news, work in the area continues to look steady, and Local 288 continues to organize new members by demonstrating the value and respect that comes with organized labor.

Chuck Kacher, B.M./F.S.

Local 300 Emphasizes Attraction and Retention

L.U. 300 (govt,i,u,mo&lctt), MONTPELIER, VT — Congratulations to Lyndon Electric Department and Stowe Electric

for their successful and otherwise fruitful negotiations. Both groups were able to significantly increase their wages and benefits in creative ways that will increase attraction and retention opportunities now and in the future.

The theme for negotiations this year is attraction and retention. Employees are requesting more from their employers, not just in wages but in other benefits. Creative minds and a willingness to be open to new ideas help develop new and improved benefit structures. The union and its members appreciate the willingness of those employers able to see beyond their noses in search of a brighter future.

Speaking of a brighter future, hope you all



Montpelier, Vt., Local 300's Green Mountain State logo.

enjoyed the total solar eclipse. We here in Vermont got a 100% totality view. We also increased our population, although temporarily, by 30%. I wonder how all those solar panels fared.

A yearly shout-out goes to SlamT1D for its upcoming whiffle ball tournament in August. Last year, the group raised over \$20,000 for Type 1 diabetes awareness and advocacy. Spectators are welcome and encouraged. And yes, you can bring your own beer.

Be well and keep the faith.

Jeffrey Wimetete, B.M.

Red Hot Summer

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL — On April 11, our local held our adopt-an-apprentice event at our hall with about 200 journeymen and apprentices attending. This event pairs new apprentices with seasoned journeymen to coach them through their apprenticeships and explain to them how to conduct themselves until they graduate.

The knowledge our apprentices gain from working with journeymen outside the jobsite is incalculable. The success of this program is evident in how well our new journeymen and journeymen understand the rules of the road and how they represent Local 364 on the jobsite with pride and integrity.

On to our work outlook, and man, are we busy with most (if not all) calls going to Book 2. Speaking of Book 2, we would like to send a special thank you to all the brothers and sisters from across this great nation who have come to work in our jurisdiction. We simply couldn't have completed this amount of work without you.

Project Yukon in Belvidere, Ill., is rolling along, and our Facebook project continues to add workers during the peaks and valleys of work for that project.

Our Hard Rock Casino project is taking shape, with several members on the job and lots of work left to complete, but it still has an estimated late summer opening.

Going forward, we have our upcoming family picnic in July and our golf outing in August, great events full of brotherhood and camaraderie, which we look forward to every year.

Brad Williams, P.S.

Local 424 Supporting our Veterans

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, AB — Hello, brothers and sisters: In a proud Canadian moment of solidarity and support, our local had a landmark achievement in March. Local 424 warmly welcomed its 41st member through the Helmets to Hardhats program, a true



From left, Helmets to Hardhats graduate Mathieu Lussier and Local 424 Business Manager Michael A. Reinhart.

testament to our local's commitment since 2008 to honor those who served in the Canadian Armed Forces by facilitating their transition to civilian life.

Helmets to Hardhats provides veterans with a direct path into the construction trades, recognizing their service to our country and offering them opportunities for stable, fulfilling careers in the industry. This initiative not only pays tribute to the sacrifices and skills of our veterans but also benefits our workforce with their unmatched discipline, leadership and technical acumen.

As we celebrate this milestone, Local 424 renews its dedication to forging paths for veterans into the construction trades, ensuring that their talents continue to enhance our community and the industry at large and embodying the true Canadian spirit of support and inclusivity.

Scott Crichton, P.S.

Spring Has Sprung

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ON — At the time of this writing, with the coming of spring the work situation is starting to bloom, too. Much of our work will be on the road this summer, building battery plants in Windsor and St. Thomas, with the exception of a couple of large maintenance turnarounds at Suncor, Imperial Oil and Shell. We also will be constructing a new Crown Royal distillery, the first to be built in Canada in many years. Construction is slated to begin this fall.

We are all looking forward to the OPC Hockey Tournament (go Sarnia!) and our local's annual golf tournament later this summer.

Keith Winsor, Bus. Rep.



Local 570's Molly Berning-O'Neill tutors fourth-year apprentice William George for the Apprentice of the Year test.

Local 570 Recognizes Molly Berning-O'Neill

L.U. 570 (i,mo,spa&u), TUCSON, AZ — Our local, the NJATC and our Women's Committee would like to congratulate Molly Berning-O'Neill on becoming the first female instructor to teach at the NJATC in Tucson.

A journeyman wireman at Sturgeon Electric, Molly graduated from the four-year apprenticeship in June 2023 at the top of her class and immediately decided that she wanted to teach. "I enjoy sharing knowledge, and it felt like a good way to contribute to our local," she said.

She is teaching the fourth-year apprentices in preparation for the Apprentice of the Year test, but she often helps with other classes when needed.

She is also president of the Local 570 Women's Committee. In December 2023, she attended the NABTU Tradeswomen Build Nations conference in Washington, D.C. She volunteers for

Habitat For Humanity's Women Build, local food drives and union picnics alongside her fellow brothers and sisters.

Thank you, Molly, for your hard work and dedication to Local 570.

Rachelle Harris, P.S.



Local 654 celebrated its 85th anniversary in February.

Local 654 Celebrates 85th Anniversary

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA — Our local celebrated an exciting milestone of 85 years with a sold-out event at our union hall. Retirees, active members, apprentices, family and friends all took part, hosted on a Saturday night in February. Years-of-service pins were awarded to members who had 15 to 55 years. Retired Business Manager Steve McNally gave a memorable introduction to the group, and President Bill Adams gave a speech about how well the union is doing and how proud he was of the membership and to have the local persevere for 85 years.

Members reported back on how much fun they had and how meaningful the evening was. Local 654 is proud of its successful 85 years, and we look forward to our next milestone.

Christopher Schieler, P.S.

Local 684 Sees Highest Wage Increase Ever

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA — Proxima Solar, a single-craft PLA that employed over 300 electricians and added nearly 25% membership growth, is wrapping up. 2024 and early 2025 look promising in late spring and early summer, with projects including a Costco warehouse, Mormon temple, Kaiser Permanente medical office building, North Valley lab, jet fuel refinery, various school additions, and more solar and battery storage.

We concluded negotiations and received our highest wage increase in Local 684 history. In a major win for the apprentices, they will receive an extra 5% bump across all periods, including higher contractor contributions to the JATC Building Fund. A late congratulations goes to our 2023 apprentice class, the first class to be 100% California state-certified by graduation.



Local 684's newly retired "Big Ed" Ventura enjoying a beer in Rupert, Idaho, on a recent road trip.

tified by graduation.

Local 684's LMCT teamed up with Toys 4 Tots once again in 2023, donating over 40 bikes and scooters to local children for Christmas.

We'd also like to recognize the members who have recently retired. We wish you the best of luck. To those who have passed, we hold you in our hearts. Thanks for all you've done during your time of membership. Without you, there would be no us.

Mike Mendoza, Bus. Rep.

Union Labor Against Right-To-Work in Southern Illinois

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL — Our local and southern Illinois labor continue to stand against the so-called right-to-work legislation in Illinois. Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee, was an invited speaker on the Southern Illinois University campus March 28. Several hundred union members greeted him to deliver the message that he was not welcome in our state. A sit-in demonstration at the event was held, and the planned event never resulted in any productive results for right-to-work. A big thank you goes out to all of labor for their collective efforts.

We continue to monitor and prepare for the rollout of the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment, or BEAD, program. This major investment is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which will help distribute billions of dollars in federal funding for high-speed internet access.

The Boomtown Solar project is in full swing. At the time of this writing, there are 168 IBEW members working on this project. Vistra's Pulaski Solar project is 405 megawatts, begins in late summer and is expected to be under the Tri-Trade Solar Agreement.

Jamie Hatfield, A.B.M.



Part of the busy serving line at the Local 1340 motorcycle-club-sponsored chili cookoff.

2024 Chili Cookoff a Success

L.U. 1340 (i&o), NEWPORT NEWS, VA — Our local's motorcycle club sponsored the fifth annual chili cookoff March 23 at the newly renovated union hall. The event was well attended, and all proceeds (approx. \$2,000) were donated to the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. The Baddadz provided music while attendees sampled the many variations of chili prepared by members and assistants, and a raffle raised additional money from donated gifts.

Winners by category were:

- Judges' choice — Gerald "Doc" Dix
- Apprentice division — Izzie Redmond and Donte Brown
- Construction division — Alan Greer
- Maintenance division — Danny Smook
- Retiree division — Ralph Pacheco

There were no entries in the Book 2 division. Many families enjoyed the event, and the club looks forward to holding this every year.

Jim Avery, P.S.

RETIREEES

Nassau County Local 3 Retirees' Bowling League

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER — Our bowling league met March 14 and enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day lunch before our regular bowling. The league had a catered corned beef lunch with all the trimmings to celebrate the day with fellow retirees.

The bowling league membership has grown greatly under the direction of Tony "Three Step" Amandola. Tony said that when he started bowling with the team, there were only 8 to 10 bowlers each week. We now have 16 active teams on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Wantagh Lanes in Wantagh, N.Y. Tony said we have members of all skill levels and handicap players to balance the teams, and all the members have a great time. He said the league is a way to reconnect with old friends or make new ones, and as he says at the retirees' meetings, "If you can take three steps and roll the ball 60 feet, you are a bowler."

John Milligan, P.S.

Suffolk County Local 3 Retirees Celebrate the Irish

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER — As a proud member and the club's photographer, I took the accompanying photograph at our most recent celebration of St. Patrick's Day at an Irish pub in Ronkonkoma, Long Island. Standing on the far right is our chairman, Rich Duva, with other officers and members of the Suffolk County Chapter Retirees' Club.

Steven Danielson, R.S.

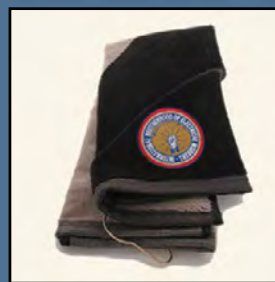


The Local 3 Suffolk County Chapter retirees celebrated St. Patrick's Day at an Irish Pub in Ronkonkoma, Long Island.



The Local 3 Nassau Chapter retirees have 16 active teams that bowl on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Wantagh Lanes in Wantagh, N.Y.

IBEW MERCHANDISE



GOLF TOWEL \$14.00

High quality black and tan golf towel with IBEW logo and sturdy clip. Measures 15 1/2" x 24".

PERSONAL COOLER BAG \$16.00

Personal cooler bag holds up to 6 cans and contains a thermal lining to keep beverages cold. Measures 15"h x 6.5"w x 3.5"d, embroidered with grey IBEW initials, fist, and lightning bolts.

DIVOT TOOL / BALL MARKER \$6.00

Combination divot tool and ball marker with IBEW logo.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

RETIRES

Local 26 Retirees Cruise the Panama Canal

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — By now, I'm sure you all are aware of the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore. While the bridge is not specifically in Local 26 jurisdiction, it is within commuting distance and affects travelers throughout the region. As construction electricians, our members mourn the loss of the bridge workers, and our hearts go out to all the suddenly unemployed workers involved.

Our members have occasionally sailed from the Port of Baltimore, and it was always a highlight at the beginning and end of a Baltimore-based cruise to stand on deck as we sailed under the Key Bridge and past Fort McHenry, which rests famously in Baltimore's harbor.

Speaking of cruises, Retirees' Club members recently returned from a cruise aboard the Celebrity Beyond from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., into the Panama Canal before turning around at Gatun Lake. There were various ports of call along the way, including Columbia and Panama and the islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. We await tales of their adventures at the next retirees' monthly meeting.

Recently, Retirees' Club members joined other members of Local 26 in a day of service for cherry blossoms and cleanup in the areas surrounding the Capitol. The National Cherry Blossom Festival has grown into a big event, with participants from around the world. The Local 26 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus spearheaded the event, inviting able-bodied retiree members to lend a hand. The Local 26 Retirees' Club thanks the EWMC for the opportunity to participate and for coordinating this with the National Park Service.

In April, we held a retiree service award ceremony and luncheon for those receiving awards. The retired members awards ranged from 20 to 70 years. Congratulations to all!

Michael Acree, P.S.



Local 26 retirees joined other members of the local in a day of service to tend to cherry blossoms in the areas surrounding the U.S. Capitol.

Welcome Back, Local 35 Retirees

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — March 13 saw our first Retirees' Club meeting in 2024, and we thank all who attended. We welcome all retirees to attend at least one meeting to see what they're all about.

Dennis Machol and Charles Rose attended a recent American Retirement Association meeting. The discussion at this meeting concerned Social Security and retirement benefits. We thank them for their participation and knowledge to share with our group of retirees.

As I write this, spring is here, and we look forward to attending Hartford Yard Goats games at the stadium we helped to build.

We hope to see new retirees at our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at noon

at the Knights of Columbus, 171 Pascone Place, Newington, Conn., where lunch is served.

Kenneth White, P.S.

Service Pins Awarded at Local 53

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Hello brothers and sisters, just a few lines to catch up on things.

By the time you read this article, the retirement luncheon and the annual crappie tournament will have taken place. We will report on both in the next article.

The following retirees will be receiving service pins this year: David Adkins, George Brunsky, Gary Docman, Jerry Gaughran, Darrell Hutchings and Marlin Kreiser (50 years); Milton Bratcher, Paul Beery, Leroy Bossow, Gary Crews, Gary Shields, Edward Spears, Richard Stordahl and Edward Williams (55 years); Jim Gaylord (60 years); Rex Comley and Robert Stafford (70 years); and Joe Zimmerman (75 years). Congratulations to all!

It is with sadness that I have to report that we lost another retiree, Bill Hamel. Rest in peace, brother.

Duane Pearce, P.S.

Join Local 58 Retirees at the Summer Picnic

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI — In April, we celebrated our members who received 50-, 55-, 60-, 65- and 70-year pins honoring their time in the IBEW. This annual event took place at our union hall on the last Saturday in April. This gathering helps us acknowledge and honor those who came before us, and it allows all of us to celebrate with them and their families and friends. The work they did and the accomplishments of their time in our great union are immeasurable. Another successful pin party was enjoyed by all.

Aug. 28 is the date of our annual summer picnic, which is held at Rotary Park in Livonia, Mich. This is always a great time, with catered food, a lovely park setting, and lots of time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

The November election is fast approaching, so consider sending a contribution to the IBEW PAC. Check it out at ibewgov.org/ibew-pac and click "Donate Now" at the bottom of the page. Together we

can elect candidates who support pro-worker policies that prioritize unions. Your donation will make a difference! Remember, many hands make light work of a big job.

Pat Nuznov, P.S.

Hop On Board

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ON — I am happy to say that our local's retiree group has enjoyed and looks forward to the events noted below:

- Euchre, Monday afternoons
- Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, lunch at the Spaghetti Factory and a stop at the Dutch Mill Country Market
- Cairn Croft Best Western Niagara Falls, including two breakfasts, a dinner and a wine-and-cheese party (What's not to like?)

- May dance, Michelangelo's, May 5
- Grand River Raceway and Casino, June 7
- Barbecue, union hall, June 21

Additionally we're looking forward to a couple of fish fries and other trips over the next few months!

Our trip to the Ripley's Aquarium, Spaghetti Factory and Dutch Mill Country Market was a wonderful experience! The market has many amazing items, and the handmade furniture is lovely. A great time was had by all.

We'll all be having fun at the Cairn Croft in Niagara Falls. Some of us may even try our luck at the casino or stop in at the Jimmy Buffett bar for a margarita! Lots of fun times to enjoy!

For those of you in Local 105 who are 55 or older and have not yet joined the Retirees' Club, jump on board! Look at all the fun you're missing out on! It's only \$25 per person a year, and you'll get that and more back in gift cards!

Please remember that all the events we enjoy are made possible by our respected hard-working local members and executive board, past and present. We are so proud and fortunate to be a part of your team! Our sincere, heartfelt thanks to all of you for your hard work!

Eden McLean, P.S.



Hamilton, Ontario, Local 105 retirees enjoy a lunch outing at the Spaghetti Factory.

70-Year Service Pin Awarded From Grandson to Grandfather

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 125, PORTLAND, OR — Portland General Electric journeyman lineman Josh Welle enjoyed a special moment with his grandfather, retired PGE journeyman lineman Robert "Andy" Anderson, when he presented him with his 70-year service award pin. Congratulations, Brother Anderson!

Travis Eri, B.M.



Journeyman lineman Josh Welle with his grandfather, retired journeyman lineman Robert "Andy" Anderson.



Local 134 President Tim Fitzgibbons gives the oath of office to (from left) John M. Jazo, Hector R. Rivera, Mario J. Coletta, Bernard F. Martin, Hale Landes, Alan H. Sindelar and Keith F. Berls.

Local 134 Retirees Accept Biennial Elections

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Summer greetings to all members of the IBEW. On Feb. 8, at the retirees' regular meeting, nominations for the even-year election for officers and the executive board members was held. All nominees accepted and agreed to serve.

On Feb. 22, a group of 29 retirees enjoyed a tasty luncheon and "Fiddler on the Roof." Always a good time at the Drury Lane Theater in Oakbrook, Ill.

At our March 13 regular retirees' meeting, a delicious luncheon was served by Gatto's catering in Memorial Hall at our Local 134 home in Chicago. Following the meal, our meeting was called to order. The biennial election was accepted. The officers are President Hale Landes, Vice President Keith F. Berls, Secretary Alan H. Sindelar and Treasurer Bernard F. Martin. Executive board members are Charles J. Chathas, Mario J. Coletta, John M. Jazo and Hector R. Rivera. Brother Tim Fitzgibbons, president of Local 134, administered the oath of office to the newly elected officers and executive board members.

With a heavy heart, I regret to mention the loss of IBEW brother and retirees' executive board member Hector R. Rivera. We received word of his passing on March 20. Hector was a gentle soul, always with a big smile to greet us. He will be greatly missed by our Retirees' Club, his wife and family, and all who knew him.

At our executive board meeting March 25, retiree member John Cummins took the oath of office, given by Local 134 Retirees' Club President Hale Landes, to fill the empty seat. Welcome, John Cummins, to our executive board.

Wishing you all a safe and fun summer.

Susan Kleczka, P.S.

Join Us, Local 164 Retirees!

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 164, JERSEY CITY, NJ — At the November 2023 luncheon, new Retirees' Club officers President David Judovin, Vice President Ken Terhune and Secretary Jon Riser were sworn in by Local 164 President Thomas Sullivan. We celebrated Thanksgiving with a great turkey dinner and many in attendance.

In December, we had our annual holiday party luncheon with about 150 members and spouses. We shared work stories, health updates and fishing tales; listened to Christmas tunes; and ate a magnificent catered meal. Thanks to Jim Meyers and a very able crew for our pleasure.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Notify us of an address change

www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress

or call 202-728-6263

The retirees were also guests at the annual dinner dance at the Parsippany Sheraton celebrating 50-year brothers and other veterans of the business.

The winter months haven't stopped us. We had a Super Bowl pool, organized our annual spring golf league, and are preparing for a September golf outing and raffle that raises money for our children's and grandchildren's college scholarships. Last year, we had six grateful winners. There are also plans for interesting programs at our monthly luncheons and an Atlantic Ocean fishing excursion in the summer.

I would personally like to thank Financial Secretary Tom Barry, outgoing President Jerry Rider and former President Rich Dougherty for their advice and expertise after leading the Retirees' Club since 2001.

There have been many new retirees within our local, and we are hoping they will join our association! Our meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at noon, except July and August. Just bring a smile.

David Judovin, P.S.



Local 164's new officers are (from left) President Dave Judovin, Secretary Jon Riser and Vice President Ken Terhune.

New Officers Elected

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 177, JACKSONVILLE, FL — Our local's retirees meet on the third Friday at the union hall. In January, elections for the Retirees' Club were held. The following brothers and sisters were elected: President David "Griff" Griffis; Vice President Mike Donnelly; Secretary Russell Harper; Treasurer Charlie Suggs; Chaplain Harry Baity; Bea Brown, birthdays and anniversaries; Kathy Van Gundy Beck, health and welfare; and Rahman Noorali, event coordinator.

Topics of discussion centered on getting more retirees to participate. Some ideas were day trips to the Jacksonville Zoo and a bus trip to Savannah for the day. Both would have lunch provided. Brother Charlie Suggs arranged the bus trip to Savannah for April 10. The hope is that more camaraderie and fraternity will keep and increase participation.

Russell Harper, R.S.



Local 177 Retirees' Club officers (from left) Vice President Mike Donnelly, Secretary Russell Harper, Chaplain Harry Baity, Treasurer Charlie Suggs and President David "Griff" Griffis; seated, from left, Bea Brown (birthdays and anniversaries) and Kathy Van Gundy Beck (health and welfare).

Retirees Judge Skills USA Competition

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — Local 257 retirees judged electrical projects at the State Technical College of Missouri on April 5. The retirees participated as industry expert judges for industrial/motor and residential control projects. A special thanks goes to the judges for Skills USA: Sam Binkley, Jim Breid, Kenny Buschjost, Mark Gilmore, Ron Holzhauser, Bill Jurgensmeyer, Steve Klepel, Dan Lindenbusch, Sam Luebbering, Jeff Munson, Jack Pettigrew, Ken Schulte, Rick Stokes, Don Stradford, Mike Sweeten, Joel Vanderslice and Jim Winemiller. Skills USA's mission is to empower students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members. First-place winners will move on to the national Skills USA Championship in Atlanta, where they will compete in June with the best in the nation.

Two bills that seek to make it more difficult to amend the state constitution through the citizen-led initiative petition process advanced through the House in early April. Currently, citizen-led initiative petitions require a simple majority, 50% plus 1, to pass. Missouri citizens used the initiative petition process to oppose right-to-work. Each of these bills is different, but both make the process to amend the state constitution using the initiative petition process more difficult. If either version is approved by both chambers, the question would go on a statewide ballot in August or November. Please keep informed so that changes to the citizen-led initiative petition process does not take away your rights.

Connie Hamacher, P.S.

Local 313 Retirees Thank Bob Lange

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 313, WILMINGTON, DE — We would like to thank all the brothers who have decided to fill the officer positions in the Retirees' Club. Jim Alexander, John Angeline, Mike Cherico, Greg Mara and Bill Wilson will man the executive board positions, while Bruce Bullen is treasurer and Norman Wilson the sergeant at arms. The new vice president is Mark Cuomo, and the new president is Steve Mills. Steve is taking over for the outgoing chairman, Bob Lange.

Bobby had served the local on jobs and in the hall since Dec. 2, 1972. Around 1978, he started chairing the downstate meetings and held that position for about 15 years. He was brought in as an organizer in 1990, and four years later teamed up with Dan Savina as they both served as organizers and assistant agents under Business Manager Pat Healy.

After 1996, he continued making us better as he worked and ran jobs for various contractors. Even after retirement in 2009, he continued to participate and then held the role of president of the Retirees' Club until last year. We certainly feel fortunate to have had Bob Lange all this time fighting with us. From all your brothers and sisters in Local

313, thank you, Bobby, for a job well done!

Bruce W. Esper, P.S.

Fort Lauderdale Dinner Cruise

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 349, MIAMI, FL — The Retirees' Club in Miami continues to meet monthly during the summer. Join us on the second Thursday at noon for a brief business meeting followed by a potluck lunch at the union hall at 1657 NW 17th Ave., Miami.

Our January tropical island adventure began with members and guests boarding the Jungle Queen Riverboat to cruise down Fort Lauderdale's New River, "the Venice of America." The narrator explained the history of the luxurious homes, gardens and megayachts lining Millionaire's Row.

Arrival at the private island included an all-you-can-eat dinner of barbecue and all the fixings. The after-dinner show included comedians, magicians, and Polynesian fire dancers and drummers sharing their cultural heritage to close the show. As always, a big thank you goes out to our entertainment chair, Marilyn Steele.

Brenda Auer, P.S.



Local 349 Retirees' Club members boarding the Jungle Queen Riverboat to cruise Fort Lauderdale's New River.

Local 530 Retirees Escape to Quebec City

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ON — It seems that Mother Nature cannot make up her mind as to what season we are in. We go from 70-degree weather to blowing snow then back to the 70-degree weather.

Although the weather was undecided this spring, our retirees have made great decisions on our outings. Several members enjoyed a buffet dinner followed by a Sarnia Sting hockey game. We also enjoyed a luncheon at the casino, which followed our March meeting.

At the time of this writing, Pat Sterling is meticulously organizing our July escape to Quebec City. More information will be announced at upcoming meetings. On behalf of the retirees, I want to convey our sincere appreciation to you, Pat, because we would not be going anywhere if not for your hard work. Thank you.

We also have some volunteer spaces for the Inn of the Good Shepherd meal prep and lunch service on June 28, Nov. 22 and Dec. 27.

Please join us for our meetings at the union hall every second Friday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you there.

Cathy Coates, P.S.

Retirees Celebrate Local 654's 85th Anniversary

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 654, CHESTER, PA — On Feb. 24, our local celebrated its 85th anniversary with a fine banquet at the Austin Room, located in our union hall. Festivities included dinner, drinks and dancing. Local 654 President Bill Adams gave a



Local 654 President Bill Adams addresses the membership for the local's 85th anniversary celebration.

heartwarming speech emphasizing the deep-rooted history of our local, from its humble beginnings in 1939 to its prosperous present-day existence. During Bill's speech, our retirees couldn't help but remember the old days and the many achievements of our local through the decades, along with fond memories of passed brothers and sisters we worked with and depended on. The solid brotherhood we've had and still share today is a blessing for the future of our local union.

Business Manager Paul Mullen talked about our past officers and invited retired member and former Business Agent Steve McNally up to the podium for recognition and some shared laughter. Steve always includes humor to keep everyone happy. Paul also recognized our always hard-working secretaries, Kristi and Jacki, as well as our former secretaries Jeanie, Charlene and Glenis.

History, honor and hope for the future are the tried-and-true cornerstones of our local union brotherhood!

Bill Faulkner, Bus. Rep.

Happy Summer

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — The attendance at our meetings is still low, so we have decided to go back to our original schedule of only having meetings in September through May. There will be no meetings in June, July or August. We hope, if you can, that you'll come and join us!

Since our last article, we have sadly had one member pass. We send our condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Brother Gary A. Bryan.

We would like to also invite any retired and unemployed brothers and sisters and their spouses who are in the area to come and join us. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Local 756 union hall in Port Orange, Fla.

Diane Gibbs, P.S.

Local 1042's Brother Kenny McGathy Retires

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 1042, SANFORD, FL — Local 1042 would like to announce that Kenny "Kenbone" McGathy has retired after 46 years as a journeyman. Bones is finally hanging up his hooks, and nobody will be able to fill them.

Let's all celebrate as Kenbone and his lovely bride travel cross-country with their dogs in their beautiful fifth wheel. Adventure awaits! Welcome to the open road.

Ellen Stephenson, P.S.

In Memoriam

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Grabin, J. L.	3/12/24	58	VanderHill, R. E.	11/12/22	134	Rivera, H. R.	3/20/24	353	Czapla, Z.	3/17/24	553	Manning, W. F.	3/22/24	903	Everett, J. T.	2/21/24
1	Hegger, T. W.	1/14/24	60	Pineda, T. M.	2/11/24	134	Runge, M. R.	3/30/24	353	Gottfried, R. W.	2/10/24	558	Harbin, W. S.	2/5/24	903	Hight, H. H.	4/3/24
2	Anderson, T. D.	8/10/21	68	Harders, M. J.	2/23/24	134	Smith, P. C.	12/31/23	353	Kerr, W.	9/21/23	558	Hurley, T. E.	2/10/24	915	Darring, J. R.	3/21/24
2	Jeffries, D. E.	3/5/24	68	Konrad, J. E.	2/5/24	134	Stetson, A. C.	10/18/23	353	Keultjes, T.	3/24/24	558	Hyde, J. H.	1/23/24	915	West, W. A.	3/24/24
2	Maskey, J. L.	5/11/22	68	Schwab, R. A.	3/9/22	134	Yara, D. F.	2/25/24	353	Merson, P. V.	3/16/24	558	Kirk, A. N.	2/18/24	917	Weather, D. L.	3/5/21
3	Armyn, E.	2/22/24	70	Jackson, H. G.	3/11/24	134	Yario, D. J.	2/4/24	353	Montgomery, R. E.	3/9/23	558	Pruitt, E. R.	1/13/24	932	Christopher, M. J.	2/20/24
3	Brown, R. S.	3/4/24	71	Thompson, D. G.	3/16/24	136	Vaughan, R. B.	2/15/24	353	Scotto, P. A.	3/9/24	567	Cragin, W. K.	2/21/24	932	Shotbolt, R. J.	2/3/24
3	Cannizzaro, V.	3/17/24	72	Matus, E. F.	3/15/24	143	Bixler, R. T.	1/31/24	353	Serbert, D. G.	3/8/24	569	Blosch, J. E.	2/27/24	952	Richardson, R. M.	4/1/24
3	Connelly, F. P.	3/28/24	72	Vrba, C. T.	3/7/24	145	Brundage, T. D.	3/9/24	353	Tantakis, P.	10/26/23	569	Cheslock, T. L.	1/19/24	972	Hamilton, G.	8/4/23
3	Diffley, R. A.	3/19/24	76	Canavan, R. C.	2/9/24	145	Hauger, L. E.	4/3/24	353	Thajer, M.	11/17/23	569	Entzminger, R. R.	6/9/23	993	Daniel, H.	1/29/24
3	Donohue, R. J.	3/8/24	76	Cartwright, H. E.	11/18/23	145	Moore, L. L.	3/2/24	353	Wilson, T. L.	3/10/24	569	Flores Silva, R.	1/30/24	995	McCann, G. E.	3/2/24
3	Ebner, H. O.	12/29/23	76	Strassburg, D. R.	2/14/24	145	Parker, J. R.	10/20/23	354	Jones, R. C.	3/8/24	569	Latney, A. R.	2/29/24	1002	Livesay, P. R.	7/2/23
3	Eller, P. J.	7/30/23	77	Price, S. C.	2/22/24	145	Turecek, R. A.	4/3/23	354	Pratt, R. O.	8/20/23	569	Springer, A. R.	9/26/23	1049	Hojnowski, E. J.	12/22/22
3	Ferrito, J. A.	3/31/24	77	Smith, L. G.	12/16/23	146	Camfield, J. E.	4/6/24	354	Snyder, C. A.	4/3/23	570	Turner, D. E.	3/2/24	1049	Leonard, W. F.	2/28/24
3	Kaps, H. S.	3/11/24	80	Lewis, V. L.	12/26/23	146	Daugherty, J. E.	1/28/24	354	White, D. E.	12/15/23	576	Engles, K. D.	3/24/23	1116	Reed, R.	2/15/24
3	Keogh, W. J.	1/22/24	82	Elliott, M. L.	3/21/24	150	Umbdenstock, K. W.	3/7/24	357	Arreola Cadena, C.		576	Smith, W. C.	2/7/24	1141	Morgan, J. E.	1/10/23
3	Kern, P. D.	2/20/24	82	Gray, J. T.	2/24/24	153	Egendoerfer, E. R.	2/11/24			10/27/21	577	Wolfinger, C. J.	12/18/23	1186	Baratto, L. A.	2/23/21
3	Laudisio, J. M.	1/1/23	82	McCargish, G. H.	11/28/21	153	Stewart, M. D.	2/28/24	357	Begin, G. A.	2/16/24	586	Higgs, S. H.	1/21/24	1186	Iwamoto, A. I.	12/13/23
3	Lentoni, J. P.	2/10/24	82	Reasor, J. A.	9/27/20	164	Jefferson, E. P.	3/18/24	357	Gunter, L. D.	12/12/23	595	Vasquez, W. M.	4/30/23	1186	Mitte, A.	2/17/24
3	Levine, R.	4/15/23	86	Murfin, T. E.	2/3/24	164	Volpe, J. P.	2/6/24	357	Leaf, Z. I.	2/17/24	601	Brunner, L. J.	10/26/23	1186	Oshiro, R. Y.	11/21/23
3	Malone, A. E.	3/20/24	86	Spears, J. R.	4/29/23	175	Brown, P. L.	2/19/24	357	Rice, G. D.	2/26/24	601	Flaningam, R. F.	1/26/24	1200	Stanley, F. J.	3/18/24
3	Novie, R. S.	10/14/22	90	Malone, J. J.	2/23/24	177	Anderson, R. R.	3/6/24	357	Stanley, C. R.	11/10/23	602	Caffey, R. H.	2/18/24	1205	Meredith, J. R.	12/2/23
3	Reed, M.	2/29/24	96	Maloney, T. J.	2/15/24	177	Bishop, L. W.	3/15/24	363	Clifford, R. R.	2/15/24	602	Ray, H. M.	3/12/24	1245	Cobb, B. J.	3/20/24
3	Reimer, R.	2/23/24	98	Devlin, T. J.	1/12/24	180	Buchanan, J. L.	3/5/23	363	Harrington, R. A.	9/18/23	605	Allday, E.	3/31/24	1245	Horn, B. T.	3/4/24
3	Rivera, G.	7/16/23	98	Lepera, T. J.	2/15/24	180	O'Neill, B. R.	3/26/24	369	Owens, K. E.	3/2/24	606	Barreca, R. F.	3/4/24	1245	Lamoureux, G.	1/29/24
3	Salmon, F. A.	2/24/24	98	Statchuk, E. D.	3/3/24	191	Criscuola, N. A.	2/17/24	369	Roper, C. F.	3/18/24	611	Demaline, T. R.	3/1/24	1245	Pate, J. M.	10/15/23
3	Sulzer, E. J.	2/20/24	98	Ullman, H. J.	6/24/23	191	Moffitt, W. T.	1/24/24	369	Troxell, O. E.	2/16/24	611	Foucault, R. P.	8/29/20	1245	Pruitt, H.	1/7/24
3	Zaffarese, S. N.	3/23/24	99	Paolino, T. A.	3/22/24	191	Quinton, D. B.	4/1/19	387	Uptain, W. H.	3/5/23	611	Jones, L. W.	1/6/24	1245	Sparks, W.	2/22/24
5	Loushe, D. F.	3/9/24	100	Kellum, J.	12/25/20	193	Lomelino, S. M.	3/8/24	388	Kirsch, D. P.	9/16/23	611	Lauden, W. J.	9/21/23	1249	Ball, W. J.	5/24/23
5	Mentzell, W. J.	7/8/23	102	Allen, G. S.	2/13/24	193	Newport, C. J.	2/8/24	396	Croom, T. S.	3/12/24	611	Yazzie, R.	3/5/24	1316	Harris, T. J.	12/17/23
5	Pigford, D. E.	2/25/24	102	Blomgren, J. H.	2/23/24	197	Thomas, S. C.	10/10/23	396	Roush, B. P.	3/16/24	613	Helton, J. O.	12/4/23	1316	Stephens, L. E.	1/21/24
9	Holder, R. B.	2/17/24	102	Hoogendoorn, J. L.	2/17/24	212	Busemeyer, R. F.	12/29/23	400	Laskay, S. W.	10/21/21	613	Thackston, J. M.	2/15/24	1319	Leonard, J. J.	3/4/24
11	Davis, S. L.	1/18/24	102	Kase, J.	1/18/24	223	Rogers, R. W.	2/27/24	424	Chomyn, D. W.	7/1/22	613	Wallis, E. J.	10/19/23	1362	Gray, K.	1/29/24
11	De Leon, R. B.	1/4/24	102	McCutcheon, R. J.	2/13/24	223	Walter, S. D.	3/1/24	424	Despins, R. L.	1/20/24	617	Pacheco, A. G.	1/8/24	1379	Hennings, R. C.	1/31/24
11	Doone, R.	1/21/24	103	Conboy, P. T.	12/8/23	233	Keller, J. C.	7/20/23	424	Kryg, P. J.	9/4/23	625	White, R. C.	3/8/24	1393	Bealer, W. C.	11/26/23
11	Madison, L. R.	2/23/24	103	Cooney, L. P.	12/5/23	236	Blackwood, L.	10/28/23	424	Symington, G. R.	3/6/24	640	Gladinus, T. A.	2/7/24	1393	Satterly, H. D.	2/21/24
11	Robertson, T. R.	12/9/23	103	Digiantommaso, R. J.		236	Grauly, J. J.	2/23/24	426	Granberg, D. D.	10/20/23	647	Mullens, E. L.	10/3/23	1393	Yankee, L. D.	3/9/24
13	Davies, R.	7/28/23			3/26/24	245	Sharp, D. E.	2/28/24	428	Driscoll, F. R.	12/9/23	648	Cooper, R. H.	2/23/24	1505	McLean, R. G.	12/27/23
14	Tunison, T. R.	2/21/24	103	Green, K. L.	3/13/24	254	Groszko, V. W.	3/24/24	429	Reynolds, L. J.	2/23/24	649	Rister, W. G.	1/28/24	1516	Halcomb, M.	1/21/24
18	McCrocklin, J.	3/12/24	103	Nguyen, T. T.	12/28/23	258	Leger, L. J.	1/24/24	429	Sisco, B. L.	3/6/24	659	Millette, M. A.	6/20/17	1547	Hartley, G. J.	2/25/24
20	Cornelius, J. D.	4/8/24	103	Rosata, T. W.	3/6/24	269	Smith, T. B.	10/20/21	429	Thomas, J. D.	4/28/22	659	Munsil, J. L.	3/2/24	1547	Helton, R. A.	1/24/24
20	McClure, M. D.	12/8/23	103	Viscarello, C. A.	3/5/24	271	Merritt, R. E.	2/24/24	430	Andersen, D. A.	2/17/24	659	Phillips, E. J.	3/11/24	1547	Holmes, R. F.	9/21/23
20	Spencer, J. W.	11/25/23	104	Cabral, A.	3/27/24	278	Allison, R. J.	9/21/23	430	Tuscher, R. L.	11/9/23	665	McDonald, J. R.	2/22/24	1547	Mason, S. J.	1/22/24
20	Yoder, R. G.	10/30/23	104	Newell, W. P.	12/6/23	278	Oliver, R. L.	3/20/24	440	Holguin, A. A.	12/30/23	668	Early, B. J.	12/25/23	1547	McCurdy, F. C.	10/24/23
21	Rusnak, G.	9/1/22	104	Sylvia, R. A.	1/16/24	278	Wren, M. E.	2/20/24	440	Lopez, S. M.	2/12/23	668	Klein, R. G.	2/3/24	1687	Laliberte, R.	12/14/23
24	Romano, J. J.	1/16/24	104	Winslow, F.	11/6/23	291	Durand, G. P.	2/13/24	440	Pearcy, W. D.	2/14/24	676	Mabus, A. D.	1/24/24	1852	Lawrence, D. W.	1/1/24
25	Flood, D. J.	10/27/22	105	Beattie, T.	2/10/24	291	Rosensweig, E. A.	2/26/24	441	Boase, R.	9/27/23	681	Swearingen, C. A.	11/23/22	2038	Stengler, C. B.	1/18/23
25	Grayovski, J. L.	3/26/24	106	Aloi, R. A.	9/3/22	292	Sorensen, H. J.	2/24/24	441	Kaup, J. V.	1/14/24	684	Gonzalez, J. A.	12/26/23	2085	Friesen, L. G.	6/13/23
25	McLoughlin, S. A.	4/26/23	110	Delong, H. O.	3/3/24	295	East, T. A.	3/14/24	441	Ozuna, R. P.	7/14/23	688	Tester, H. J.	2/15/24	2085	Green, B.	4/4/24
26	Conner, C. W.	3/18/24	110	Rolph, W. B.	3/11/24	301	Best, L. E.	7/14/23	441	Paulson, R. H.	5/29/23	692	Dittenber, W. A.	5/16/21	2085	Horbatiuk, L. M.	12/24/22
26	Fields, D.	8/23/23	110	Utech, E. J.	8/30/23	302	Leon, H. F.	11/12/23	441	Richards, D. K.	3/7/24	697	Marlowe, D. E.	2/14/24	2085	Nemez, D.	3/11/24
26	Grant, L. A.	2/17/24	111	Viergever, K. D.	1/5/24	302	Stich, J. G.	3/30/24	441	Zehner, R. R.	2/9/24	700	Price, D. R.	2/3/24	2286	Shoemaker, C. J.	1/12/24
26	Karis, R. A.	11/12/05	112	Valdez, G.	4/1/24	304	Winter, D. C.	7/20/21	445	Clemence, D. L.	1/27/24	701	DeBeir, J. A.	10/21/23	2330	Corbett, E. M.	12/2/23
26	Lafferty, G. D.	3/17/24	113	Ortman, L. M.	3/2/20	305	Meyer, L. D.	3/19/24	449	Long, R. D.	2/6/24	701	Dukic, I.	9/18/23	I.O. (12)	Frazier, K. L.	12/11/23
34	Guthrie, V. B.	3/22/24	113	Smith, H. R.	1/15/24	307	Matese, J. V.	3/14/24	449	Wadsworth, D. C.	8/9/23	702	Gross, K. B.	2/4/24	I.O. (68)	Graham, J. R.	3/19/24
35	Senkbeil, R. A.	3/26/24	120	Adriaensen, F.	3/14/24	309	Bingman, R. C.	3/4/24	474	Dixon, R. J.	3/7/24	712	Smart, J. W.	10/20/23	I.O. (84)	Bannister, R. G.	7/27/23
38	Eging, R. A.	3/17/24	124	Schmidt, R. D.	3/15/24	309	Heafner, F. E.	1/2/23	477	Miller, J. B.	1/4/24	716	Holder, J. K.	1/25/24	I.O. (97)	Wickert, P. E.	3/8/24
38	Goebel, J. R.	2/22/24	126	Arias Larios, J.	11/2/23	317	Evans, J. J.	3/22/24	479	Dean, J. A.	2/28/24	716	Slaughter, D. L.	3/9/24	I.O. (120)	Vermeulen, J. F.	3/17/24
38	Hornis, M. J.	1/26/24	126	Cervenak, J. A.	3/10/24	317	Thompson, R.	2/8/24	479	Garcia, J. E.	2/3/24	725	Burnell, G. L.	3/9/24	I.O. (134)	Chvalovsky, J. E.	1/17/24
41	Dolce, P. M.	3/5/24	126	Pollack, G. A.	2/6/24	317	Wheeler, T. B.	1/28/24	479	Sult, J. D.	1/6/24	725	Hale, R. L.	2/6/24	I.O. (134)	Helwig, E. D.	3/4/24
43	Smith, M. P.	1/19/22	127	Gray, E. R.	1/29/24	322	Cole, J. H.	3/7/24	481	Butcher, S. W.	3/19/24	728	Bartlett, G. R.	2/26/24	I.O. (134)	Lamping, D. F.	3/3/24
43	Stelmach, J. A.	2/5/24	130	Benoit, R. L.	3/6/24	332	Kamachi, D. A.	10/23/23	481	Wilkerson, B. D.	3/13/24	728	Belcher, D. J.	3/8/24	I.O. (134)	Lovettbey-Wade, R. J.	
46	Hayes, C. R.	3/1/24	134	Beymer, W.	2/16/24	332	Kirchner, A. M.	2/26/24	488	Dabrowski, R. L.	2/22/24	728	Lindner, R. D.	3/1/24			3/5/24
46	Lamb, T. G.	2/12/24	134	Carr, T.	11/25/23	340	Montgomery, M. W.		488	Grimm, E. W.	4/9/23	728	McGaugh, E. P.	12/10/23	I.O. (441)	Luna, L. R.	2/20/24
47	Sanchez, L.	7/10/20	134	Cichon, C. W.	2/29/24			11/7/23	488	Leavitt, L. E.	8/20/23	728	Southard, G. J.	3/2/24	I.O. (602)	Bishop, R. D.	2/25/24



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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



HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:
Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

©2024 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.
The Electrical Worker (print)
ISSN 2332-113X
The Electrical Worker (online)
ISSN 2332-1148
All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. on Union-made paper.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.
The Electrical Worker will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.
Paid advertising is not accepted.
Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756.
Canada Post: Return undeliverables to P.O. Box 122
Niagara Falls ON
L2E 6S8.

THE IBEW'S 2024 PHOTO CONTEST



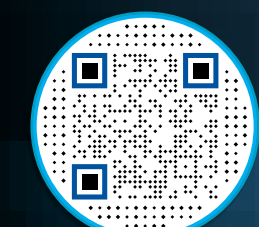
The IBEW Photo Contest has been *The Electrical Worker's* way to ride shotgun with brothers and sisters for a quarter of a century. Your pictures bring us closer together and are a showcase for the critical role members play in the life and work of North America.

The hundreds of submissions we receive every year are a priceless contribution to our story: the story of working people that is too often ignored or, worse, hidden. But just because something is priceless doesn't mean a value can't be put on it.

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

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

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



See official rules and submission instructions at IBEW.org/photocontest.

Entries **MUST** be submitted **electronically** by Nov. 1 via the Photo Contest link on IBEW.org. Please contact the Media Department at media@IBEW.org or 202-728-6102 with additional questions.

DEADLINE: NOV. 1

WHO WE ARE

Founders Scholarship Is ‘Emblematic’ of Way Wisconsin Member Lives His Life

Milwaukee Local 2150 member Brian Williams always thought of himself as a problem solver, even before starting his career in customer service at We Energies (then known as Wisconsin Energy) in 1997.

After winning an IBEW Founders Scholarship in 2023, he plans to take that interest and skill to an even higher level.

The Founders Scholarship is awarded annually through a competitive process to members who are working toward an associate, bachelor's or postgraduate degree in an area of study that furthers the electrical industry. Winners can receive up to \$200 per semester credit hour or \$134 per trimester credit hour. Overall, the scholarship is worth up to \$24,000 over as many as eight years.

Williams is working toward a master's degree in business administration at Milwaukee's Concordia University. His goal is to eventually become a right-of-way agent for We Energies. A right-of-way agent represents a utility or government agency when it is planning a real estate transaction. Duties include research and holding initial conversations with the seller.

"This scholarship is emblematic of the way Brian lives his life," said Doreen Reske, a Local 2150 steward at We Energies and a longtime friend and colleague. "It's always about learning more, better understanding and looking for that additional awareness."

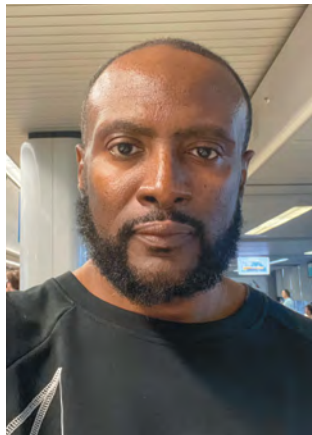
Reske said that pays off for Local 2150 members working around him, too. Williams worked in customer service for many years and now is a business customer consultant, serving as the first point of contact for cities, companies and other large entities that depend on the utility for service.

"We've had some newer people come into our group in the last two to five years," Reske said. "He'll call them and work through things and help people understand not just the answer, but the resources to do the job on their own."

Williams took a circuitous route to Local 2150 and We Energies. He worked a variety of jobs in his early 20s. But once he arrived, he found a home.

He grew up in a military family and moved around as a child before the family settled in Benton Harbor, Mich., his mother's hometown. Williams later moved to Madison, Wis., and joined the Army Reserves. Serving his country proved fulfilling, but the many jobs he found didn't. He worked for community service agencies, an investment firm and as manager at an electronics store.

At 26, he learned about an opening at We Energies in customer service.



"Before I joined the union, I was just going job to job. It gave me a whole new lifestyle and a chance to be successful."

— Milwaukee Local 2150 member and Founders Scholarship winner Brian Williams

He applied, got the job and joined Local 2150. He's worked there ever since, often helping customers who are struggling financially and in danger of having their service turned off.

"I learned not to be judgmental and to put myself in someone else's shoes," Williams said. "Just have compassion for another person and not just be an advocate for the company. I'm here to help the customer, as well."

"I always tried to build rapport with the customer and find something in common to make sure I could relate to them in some way," he added. "You speak calmly, repeat information back to them, and try to get them to understand that I'm here to help and here are some options to assist you."

Local 2150 is a large local. It has 5,500 members working in manufacturing, tree trimming, broadcasting and outside construction, in addition to utility. It has jurisdiction throughout Wisconsin and even into Michigan's Upper Peninsula, thanks to its long relationship with We Energies and previous energy providers.

Over the years, that good relationship with the company has led to things like flexible work schedules and working remotely. Williams said he's especially thankful for both. With a more flexible schedule, he's been able to foster children.

"It gives me the opportunity to switch my hours around without asking management," he said. "I could respond to the children I was mentoring and meet their needs."

He earned a bachelor's degree from Concordia in 2018 and works now as a business consultant, sometimes dealing with company presidents and CEOs.

"You're still kind of acting as a middleman for the utility," he said. "I've enjoyed it and loved it. It's a really nice position to have."

Williams also developed a side business flipping homes, which led to his interest in real estate and desire to earn the credentials to be a right-of-way agent.

"Brian is a guy that sees that

education leads to success," Local 2150 Business Manager Jim Meyer said. "He looks for opportunities to better himself and his career. He does the same thing with the union."

Meyer said he first met Williams about 10 years ago when he was the organizer for Local 2150. Meyer came up through manufacturing and was learning about what went on with utility members employed by We Energies. Local 2150 also was looking for volunteers to help set up its website.

"He came right up to me and said, 'Hey, you need any help?'" Meyer said. "Within the first 30 minutes, he was offering to volunteer and get members signed up for the website. He's a guy that not only looks to increase his value to the company that he works for, but what value he can bring to his union."

That's because Williams appreci-

ates what Local 2150 has done for him.

Wisconsin is a so-called right-to-work state, meaning workers can free-ride, enjoying the benefits of a collective bargaining agreement without contributing their share of the costs of negotiating and enforcing that contract.

Yet he's never considered giving up his membership. He reaches out to others to tell them the value of being part of a union family.

Now it's led to him getting a scholarship that will allow him to pursue even more dreams.

"It gave me a whole new change in life," Williams said of joining the IBEW 27 years ago. "It gave me opportunities to

follow my passion and be successful in life. Before I joined the union, I was just going job to job. It gave me a whole new lifestyle and a chance to be successful."

The IBEW has awarded the Founders Scholarship annually since 1966. It is open to members from all branches who have been in good standing for four years or a charter member of a local union. It is for members only. Children, spouses and dependents are not eligible.

More information is available at ibew.org/foundersscholarship.org. A notice will be posted at ibew.org when applications are next open. ■



Williams with his mother, Brenda, during the Milwaukee Labor Festival in 2023. Being a Local 2150 member has allowed him to pursue other interests, including fostering and mentoring children and flipping properties, he said.

HELP ELECT PRO-WORKER CANDIDATES

SCAN CODE



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

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

Support the IBEW PAC

www.ibew.org/ibewpac/contribute.org

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

