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IBEW News



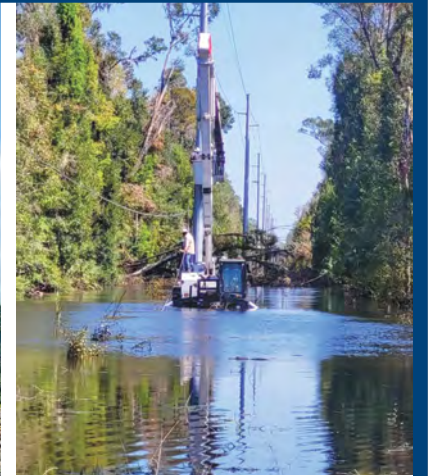
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THE LIGHT AFTER THE STORMS

IBEW Members Step Up to Restore Power, Hope After Hurricanes Helene, Milton



Top left and above left: Duke Energy crews work to replace two 40-foot poles and a pad-mounted transformer that Hurricane Milton destroyed in Florida. Top right: Tampa Electric rescue work before the storm surge had receded. Middle right: Members of Minneapolis Local 160 gathered before working in Georgia. Above right: DTE trucks at a refueling stop on the way to Georgia. Above middle: Local 1245 crews in Florida.

Natural disasters don't always wait their turn. Some arrive on the heels of the last one, carving deeper and wider paths of destruction and putting even greater demands on the IBEW workers who not only restore power but also help restore faith among suffering people that life will go on.

Early this fall, Mother Nature landed a one-two punch on Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas with hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Thousands of IBEW members in the Southeast — linemen, tree trimmers, outside construction crews and gas system workers — and hundreds more from as far as the West Coast, New England and Canada helped devastated residents take the first steps toward recovery.

UNITED WE STAND

Editorial on page 2

Their communities had been wrecked by wicked winds and historic storm surges. Without lights, power, internet and cell service, millions of people were isolated, afraid and unable to communicate — until utility crews made their way as fast as they could.

"This is by far, and it's not even a close second, the largest natural disaster in this state's history," Atlanta Local 84 Business Manager Drew Stover said after Hurricane Helene.

As always, it was exhausting, dirty and dangerous work. But there were also joys — a crew that saved a life, gracious and giving victims and the kindness of children, like the little girl who tugged on a member's shirt and handed him a homemade thank-you card.

On pages 4-5, you'll read about moments of generosity and high spirits and brotherhood amid the perils of day-to-day life as a lineworker in the most challenging of circumstances.

"Spend some time in their shoes," International President Kenneth W. Cooper urged. "You will come away with enormous pride and admiration for your IBEW brothers and sisters." ■

AFTER THE STORMS *continued on page 4*

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FROM THE OFFICERS

The Bonds That Unite Us



Kenneth W. Cooper
International President



Paul A. Noble
International Secretary-Treasurer

Happy Holidays, sisters and brothers. This is the season of giving thanks for all that we have: our families, our health, our livelihoods and so much more. We want to wish all of you and your families our very best this year and to say thank you for your commitment to the IBEW.

The holidays are also a season of reconciliation, of putting aside our differences and focusing on the things that unite us.

Next month, Donald J. Trump will be inaugurated as the 47th president of the United States.

Whatever choice you made on Election Day, it's our role at the IBEW to represent your interests in the workplace. And that doesn't change according to who's in the White House. So, we'll work with President Trump to find common ground where we can. Our commitment to all members of the IBEW remains unwavering, and we will continue to uphold our values and fight for your rights.

We want to thank our members who spent countless hours making phone calls, knocking on doors and talking to their co-workers about what was at stake in this election.

We fell short in many contests this year, but your efforts made a difference in many other races nationwide, with IBEW-backed candidate wins from local offices to the U.S. Senate.

We also acknowledge and respect that many members disagreed with us about our endorsed candidates. We understand that our union is made up of people with a diverse range of political views, and we value the individual choices and perspectives of each member.

The position of the IBEW has always been clear: Who you vote for is your choice and your choice alone.

This union proudly includes Democrats, Republicans, and independents among its members in the U.S. because, for the IBEW, politics is not about partisanship but about fighting for the issues that directly affect our members and the future of the industries we represent.

It is our job to stand up for policies that boost our wages and benefits, promote safe workplaces, and ensure the right of every worker to collectively bargain and join a union.

That is why throughout the 2024 presidential campaign, we were open about our concerns about Trump's commitment to working people, based on both his previous record in office and the agendas of some of those closest to him.

The last time he was president, he appointed open union busters to lead the Labor Department and National Labor Relations Board, expressed support for a national "right-to-work" law, gutted collective bargaining for federal workers, and tried watering down the IBEW's apprenticeship programs, which have served the electrical industry for more than 100 years.

And while Trump denies any connections with Project 2025, a 920-page policy manual written as a road map for his new administration, the reality is that most of it was authored by staffers from his previous one, including six former members of his cabinet. And it is jam-packed with anti-worker proposals, including abolishing prevailing wage agreements, gutting overtime pay, allowing companies to take away unions mid-contract and making it easier to retaliate against union organizers.

It also calls for repealing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, which could set back the energy and construction industries for years. In the days before the election, House Speaker Mike Johnson added that he planned to repeal the CHIPS and Science Act in case of a Trump victory.

Let's be clear: These three pieces of legislation are historic investments in an advanced power infrastructure that will solidify the U.S. as the world's leader in energy and high-tech manufacturing. Together, they've led to a construction boom in manufacturing facilities, power generation, transmission infrastructure and so much more.

Because of the labor standards we worked with the Biden administration to attach to these laws, they have resulted in tens of thousands of IBEW jobs, and we will resist any attempt to roll these investments back. And we'll be calling for your help in doing it.

Our strength lies in our membership, and more than 800,000 members of all political stripes speaking to their elected representatives about issues important to unions and working people cannot be ignored, even by politicians who see us as little more than a thorn in the sides of their corporate friends and allies.

But we will also seek common ground, because the battle for working families and the middle class knows no party.

The IBEW is committed to working with any lawmaker who is willing to work with us to find common-sense solutions that help our members and all working people. Our primary goal is always the well-being and prosperity of our members.

As our attention turns to the holiday season and we turn the page on one of the most divisive elections in recent memory, we ask every IBEW member to remember that we are members of one union family.

In the words of Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address, delivered just before the outbreak of the American Civil War: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection."

These words apply to all Americans today, but especially to us, who have called one another sisters and brothers for more than 130 years for a very important reason. By working together as one IBEW family — by taking care of one another as we do for our own families — we can do so much for this union we love and all working people.

Thank you to our IBEW family, and we wish you and your families a joyful and restful holiday season. ■

My IBEW STORY

Robert Seekell, journeyman lineman
Boise, Idaho, Local 291



“Before I became an IBEW member, I was working as a line-clearance tree trimmer for Asplundh Tree Experts. I started my own tree business, Mountain Tree Service, that I ran for more than 15 years on the side. I was door-knocking to explain my services to customers when I was not on the clock.

I wanted to better my career and have stability for the future. A good friend told me that he left tree trimming and would someday be a lineman. The first thought that came to my mind

was, ‘No way — you will get killed playing football.’ He laughed and told me he was going to be a power lineman. He's the guy who first talked to me about getting into the trade.

I took a job for Sacramento Municipal Utility District as one of their LCTTs. One of the main reasons I joined SMUD was to be a lineman there, but they wouldn't open up their doors for their apprenticeship program. Jerry Green and Tom Olsen, two well-known linemen, told me about a transmission project that was going from Susanville, Calif., down into Reno, Nev. And they told me that with my background being a tree trimmer, running a bucket truck, working for SMUD and climbing all the time, I should see if I could get on this project.

And so I went out there, and next thing you know, I was a dues-paying member. I stayed for that entire project and absolutely loved it. I was operating bucket trucks. I was installing wire. I did a lot of work with the helicopters setting poles. I got in on everything, and it was excellent to meet a bunch of really good guys.

My brothers told me that I needed to apply for the apprenticeship program while I was out there. So I applied to different JATC programs, got a call from the Cal/Nev JATC in Riverside, Calif., and decided to go there. I topped out in June 2002 and became a journeyman lineman.

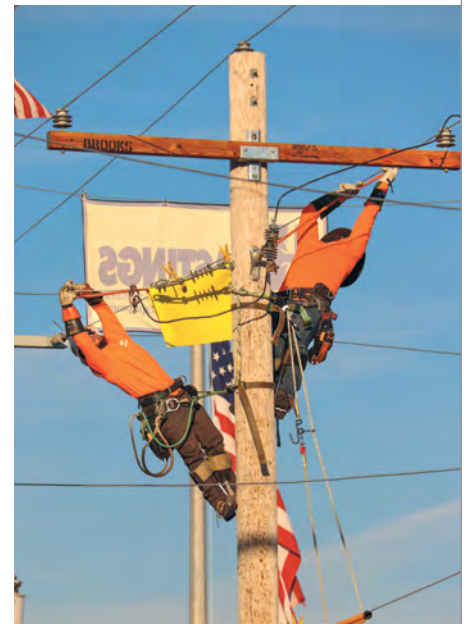
I've worked with many talented linemen. Having grown up without a dad, I enjoyed working under the older, skilled linemen who took me under their wing. They showed me how to rig, work safely around energized conductors and use many types of equipment safely.

I was always the lineman that, on every job I took, was always trying to find a better way to do the task. I would take notes on what we could build to make our job better. I now hold seven U.S. patents. One tool I invented is the first non-conductive outer body radius stringing block designed for drone-stringing technology, which will allow new-age advanced conductors in distribution circuits.

Today, I'm a 27-year power lineman. The IBEW has helped me in many ways, building friendships, getting tons of linework experience and opening up many different roles to give back to our great trade.”

Share your story at ibew.org/MyIBEWStory





From Pole to Podium, IBEW Members (and Their Kids) Shine at Lineman's Rodeo

More than 1,000 journeymen and apprentice lineworkers converged in Kansas in October for the 40th annual International Lineman's Rodeo, with IBEW members taking home the top prize.

Members from West Frankfort, Ill., Local 702, won the "Journeymen Best of the Best" category, with members of Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 snagging third.

IBEW lineworkers from numerous other locals also proved their mettle, coming in at or near the top in the other categories.

"Everyone loves the event, not only as a competition but as a celebration of the craft and its history," said Bob Dean, Local 1245's business manager. "It's always great to see everyone with their family and friends, getting to see them do what they do, and share a beer. Winning is always nice, too."

In the journeyman contractor division, Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 members took first and second place. The top winners were Sturgeon Electric's team of Joe Maynes, Enoc Verdin and Dan Jameson, with Toby Claude, Curt Norris and Brian Wheeler coming in second.

Local 1245 members took first in the municipal utility division and shared a first-place prize with Local 47 in one of the rodeo's "mystery" events, where participants don't learn what the challenge will be until the day before. Local 47 apprentice Dwight Diaz also scored the big prize in one of the mystery events.

"The West Coast locals are always up at the podium and creating great competition for the teams involved," Local 47 Business Manager Colin Lavin said of the rodeo, held at the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs. "This is a big event for the industry. Our members practice and train all year long at various smaller rodeos to prepare for the main competition."

On the Canadian side, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2034 journeymen and apprentices took bragging rights as the highest-placing teams among all Canadian participants.

"While the rodeo events foster healthy competition, their impact reaches far beyond the field," Local 2034 Business Manager Mike Espenell said. "This occasion promotes enhanced safety measures, strengthens job skills



including knowledge, builds relationships, and boosts morale among participants, which are qualities that serve us long after the event."

New this year was the International Kid's Rodeo, with two competitions in two age groups hosted by the Missouri Valley JATC and Buckingham Manufacturing. The training center and the company provided prizes, shirts that said, "This is my first rodeo," and child-size personal protective equipment to keep the next generation of lineworkers safe.

"I think we stole the show," said Missouri Valley JATC Assistant Director

Leigh Conducy, who first had the idea for the event about 10 years ago. "We had 42 kids compete, but it could have easily been 100. It was absolutely incredible."

Kids competed in either the "First Step Apprentice" category for 8- to 10-year-olds or the "Future Lineman" category for 11- to 13-year olds. The two main events were a tower rescue involving a giant teddy bear named Bucky and a confined-space search and rescue. Conducy said he heard a lot of stories of fathers practicing at home with their sons and daughters before traveling to the event together.

IBEW members took home a number of prizes in the 40th International Lineman's Rodeo, including first place in the overall category. New this year was a Kid's Rodeo, hosted by the Missouri Valley JATC and Buckingham Manufacturing. "A lot of dads would finish their event, then rush over to see their kids compete," said event organizer Leigh Conducy.

"A lot of dads would finish their event, then rush over to see their kids compete," he said.

And just like the adult lineworkers, the young winners got to walk across the stage at the Overland Park Convention Center where they were given a World Wrestling Federation-style belt.

"The crowd completely erupted when they put that over their heads," Conducy said.

The plan is to return next year bigger and better so more kids can compete.

"The intention was to bring something unique to the rodeo and the trade, and I think we definitely accomplished that," Conducy said. ■

THE LIGHT AFTER THE STORMS

IBEW Members Step Up to Restore Power, Hope After Hurricanes Helene, Milton

Continued from page 1

‘The Likes of Katrina’

Detroit Local 17 Safety Director Chuck Dortenzio was one of more than 500 lineworkers and tree trimmers who assisted with restoration efforts in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

“The worst storm I worked was Katrina,” Dortenzio said, “and I would put this in the likes of Katrina. There were just miles and miles of wires and poles on the ground.”

Dortenzio was one of about 100 lineworkers working with Georgia Power doing overhead construction work.

“It was pretty intense,” he said. “There was a tremendous amount of wind damage.”

Like a lot of IBEW members, Dortenzio slept in the back of a trailer with about 23 other lineworkers, getting up at 5 a.m. every day and working until about 6 in the evening.

“I’ve been to several storms, so I know the living conditions won’t be the best, but that’s to be expected,” he said. “And we had some great Southern hospitality. The people there were fantastic.”

Dortenzio said there was a church group that came in and cooked for them and even did laundry. Between the grateful residents and efficient restoration efforts by Georgia Power, everybody was able to do their part with no complaints.

“It was a good adventure,” he said. “Through the lens of a lineman, this is kind of just another day.” ■

“It was pretty intense. There was a tremendous amount of wind damage.”



Detroit Local 17 members spent between 20 and 30 days in the hurricane-ravaged Southeast doing tree removal and trimming, and replacement of poles, wires and transformers.



Georgia’s Fast Rebound

Atlanta Local 84 Business Manager Drew Stover has been a journeyman lineman for 26 years and grew up in Georgia. He’s seen the aftermath of some devastating tornadoes, but nothing like Hurricane Helene’s aftermath.

“This is by far, and it’s not even a close second, the largest natural disaster in this state’s history,” Stover said.

“This is by far, and it’s not even a close second, the largest natural disaster in this state’s history.”

Local 84, which represents employees of Georgia Power, Southern Nuclear, two electric cooperatives and outside construction contractors, had crews stretched from Valdosta to Augusta. More than 3,000 IBEW members from approximately 60 contractors were brought in to assist.

Within two weeks, nearly the entire state had its power back working at normal levels.

“I’ve been to other states before working on storms, and I’ve never seen so many downed trees in my life,” Local 84 member and journeyman lineman Joseph Feliks said. “Just everywhere you looked, there was piles of bush and debris from the cleanup effort.”

Feliks said IBEW members from Illinois who work for Asplundh were invaluable at helping clear debris so he and others could get to work. There were also times where he had to get the chain saw from his truck and clear a path for himself.

“No one wants to be without power, but everyone was very patient and thankful for us being there,” he said. “That was really nice. I’ve been to some places where people get frustrated really quick.”

Feliks and fellow Local 84 members often are surrounded by nonunion contractors. But seeing IBEW members from across North America travel to Georgia and assist in the work was inspiring.

“I saw so many IBEW stickers on gear and trucks,” he said. “That was really cool to see.” ■

Gas Workers Get Creative

IBEW linemen were aided by members working in other utilities. Clerical staff had to work additional hours. Atlanta Local 1997 members, who primarily work for Southern Co. in gas utility, had to ensure that it was safe to work before their brothers and sisters replacing the lines could do so.

Brian Hall, a field specialist who works out of Southern’s Cherokee County service center in northwest Georgia, headed south for Valdosta on Sept. 27.

“When we got there, there was no power for miles,” Hall said. “There was no gas. All the gas stations were shut down, and that’s a big deal when you need to keep the trucks running.”

Hall and his colleagues had to turn to some old-fashioned methods. Service orders were taken by hand and passed on to utility workers in the field. With limited cell service, map apps were unreliable, forcing them to often use paper maps or directions from others to get to a site.

“You were relying on people who lived there to get to where you needed to

be,” Hall said.

The storm was so powerful that it ripped up trees that supposedly had solid root structures deep in the ground. That, in turn, either destroyed or cut gas lines.

“All the gas stations were shut down, and that’s a big deal when you need to keep the trucks running.”

Hall and others went from home to home, capping lines to make them safe for residents and other utility workers. He noted that tree trimmers, many of whom are IBEW members, were helpful in reporting gas problems.

Local 1997 was chartered in 2018, not 2019 as I had it. It was chartered in 2019. Hall worked nonunion early in his career before joining Chattanooga, Tenn.,

Local 175 and then transferring his membership to Local 1997.

“The union has really come through on getting us paid right and getting us better conditions while we were out there,” he said.

Blake Bibbins, another Local 1997 member and field specialist for Southern, had extra reason to be concerned when the storm went through his hometown of Augusta. His wife was 20 weeks pregnant with their first child.

She moved in with his parents for a few days while Bibbins and others went to work, capping the gas lines in homes and businesses across the city. It wasn’t easy with all the fallen trees.

“We had to cut our way through the neighborhood,” he said. “Sometimes you had to cut your way out to get to work.”

“I had some damage to my house,” he said. “But you see other houses that got destroyed by three or four pine trees. I think it will be about a year, maybe a year and a half, before Augusta gets back to normal.” ■



1-2 Punch in Florida

Florida was hit hard by both Helene and Milton, which made for some long days for Orlando Local 222 members.

Matt Brown, who serves on the local’s executive board and is a journeyman lineman, spent time in Georgia and Florida.

“Sometimes you work a storm and another rolls in,” he said. “You think you’re done, and it hits back-to-back. It’s part of our trade and what we’re used to doing.”

Trust among crew members is paramount, and “that is where the IBEW comes in,” he said. “Our training is the best, bar none. Not everyone has an opportunity to get training like that.” ■

“Our [IBEW] training is the best, bar none.”



The Strength of Brotherhood

Milwaukee Local 2150 member Tim Steinert wasn't sure he wanted to go down to Florida this time to assist with hurricane restoration, but his wife and some younger members talked him into going. He's glad he listened to them, he said.

"It was a very good experience. I'm glad I went," said Steinert, who works as a safety liaison for southeast Wisconsin overhead line crews. "It made me feel like I was helping someone out."

"When you're in a strange area, there's a brotherhood among members. You watch out for each other."

Steinert was sent to Tampa after Hurricane Milton struck in October as part of a 26-person crew that set poles, hung wires and restored services. He and his crew worked with Tampa Electric, which had a good setup for getting the power back on as quickly and safely as possible, he said.

Steinert said the sense of camaraderie among the crews was alive and well.

"When you're in a strange area, there's a brotherhood among members. You watch out for each other," he said. "Everybody wants to go home and see their brother go home, too."

Local 2150 safety liaison Brian Smith used to volunteer as a firefighter. Like Steinert, he likes doing storm restoration because "it feels like I'm making a difference."

Smith was in Georgia, working as a crew foreman with Georgia Power. The farther east they got from Atlanta, the more damage they saw — trees on top of houses and blocking lanes on the highway — and the longer the lines got at gas stations.

"Everyone from the utilities that I talked to said they'd never seen a storm like this," Smith said.

They had spotters to make sure trucks could clear areas without hitting any wires overhead. One crew needed to use a rowboat to trim a tree that was hanging over a pond



Milwaukee Local 2150's tree trimmers worked hand in hand with lineworkers to get the trees cleared. Above, the gymnasium they called home for a night.

with wires. And then there were the snakes, which are known to come out after a storm.

"One crew was taking out a tree and they heard a gunshot. Then a guy came out with a dead five-foot rattlesnake in his hand," Smith said.

Like Steinert, Smith said the residents were happy to see them and grateful for the work they were doing.

"One night our boss took us to a Chinese restaurant, and a little boy came up to us and thanked us for getting their power back on. Then his dad came over and thanked us, too," Smith said. "That was nice to hear." ■

Canadian Locals Swoop In

Hurricanes adhere to no national boundaries, and neither did Canadian members when Helene and Milton struck the southeastern U.S. in late September and early October.

Connect Atlantic Utility Services, a Halifax, Nova Scotia, Local 1928 signatory employer, had 20 crews from Atlantic Canada working on storm response.

Locke's Electric, with members from Local 1928 as well as Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37 and St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Local 1620, sent about 30 members to Florida and the Carolinas.

"Thanks to the utilities' preparedness with materials and supplies, recovery efforts have been smooth and effective,"

said Terry Davis, the manager on site with Locke's Electric. "The community's appreciation has been heartwarming, and our teams have had the pleasure of meeting individuals who showed their gratitude with thank-you cards and treats, reminding us of the difference we're making."

Locke's crews, which assisted with distribution restoration, reported "extraordinary coordination" in the utilities' response efforts, ensuring that resources were in place to support the communities in need. Local 1928 Treasurer Ron Jakeman was in Tampa, Fla., and similarly reported a well-organized response.

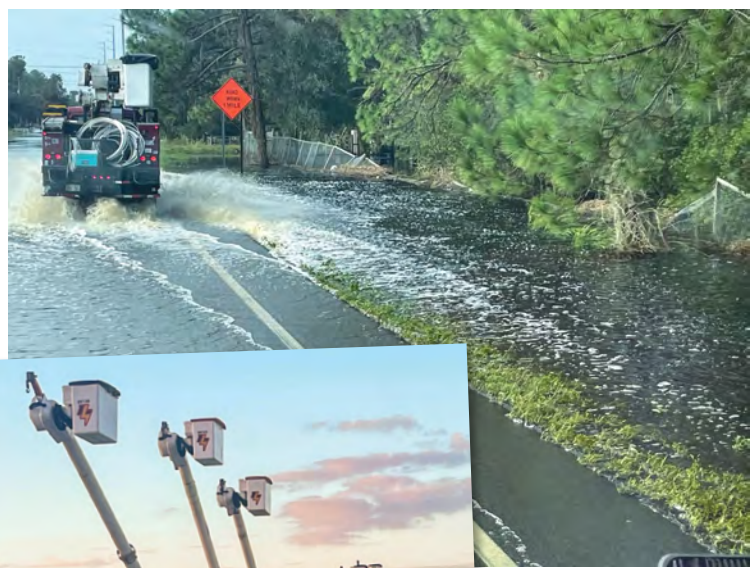
"The logistics were really well done," said Jakeman, who was stationed at the state fairgrounds. "For the amount of people, which was in the thousands, they did it well."

Jakeman, a mechanic with Nova Scotia Power, which sent 34 people to help with restoration, worked with 12 line crews assisting Tampa Electric.

"There was a lot of trust there," Jakeman said. "As a result, we were able to be incredibly productive."

Jakeman said their Canadian crew was told to be on alert for "snakes, gators and guns" but didn't encounter anything dangerous in the environs. Most of what they came across was more typical for a storm restoration.

"There were trees that looked like they were centuries old that had come down," Jakeman said. "It was like, finally, there was a storm big enough to take them out." ■



Crews with Locke's Electric, left, and K&M, above, traveled from Atlantic Canada to restore power throughout the Southeast U.S.



GRATITUDE FROM NEIGHBORS

Local 37's outside construction members worked in areas throughout Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas, putting in long hours to restore power. Their efforts didn't go unnoticed.

"I had a member reach out after his return home to tell me that his most memorable moment was when a little girl came up to him and tugged on his shirt, then handed him a homemade thank-you card," Local 37 Business Manager David Brown said. "It's great to be part of such a supportive team of dedicated Local 37 members who truly exemplify our business and values."

Those values were on full display when members, working for signatory K&M Utility in Lake Jocassee, S.C., in early October, helped save the life of a man who had a sudden stroke while preparing his boat to take out on the water. The man's son sent a letter afterward expressing his thanks for the first aid they performed before the man was airlifted to a nearby hospital.

"I'm writing to specifically call out the quick actions that your team took, which saved my dad's life. If I were wealthy, I'd buy every team member a Ferrari. Alas, words are cheap, but the actions of your team members are priceless," the son wrote. "Had it not been for the swift first aid efforts that the team members provided to my father, he would be in much worse shape."

"Had it not been for the swift first aid efforts that the team members provided to my father, he would be in much worse shape."

Spike in Union Election Petitions Shows Labor’s Momentum as Political Threats Build

Petitions for union elections in the U.S. jumped 27% in the last year, doubling the low point of the first Trump term, according to data from the National Labor Relations Board.

The figures prove that workplace activism is flourishing under the Biden-Harris administration and underscore how much the labor movement stands to lose in the next four years as a new Trump administration takes aim at labor rights.

The current NLRB has encouraged union certification elections and is acting on petitions as quickly as possible, said Professional & Organizing Director Joe DiMichele.

“There is more interest because we are in a time where it is favorable to join a union,” DiMichele said. “Thankfully, the Biden-Harris administration and its changing of the [NLRB] general counsel from a union buster to someone making sure workers’ rights are protected has had a big impact.”

The NLRB under the incoming Trump administration is likely to replace labor-friendly General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo with a new union buster and roll back the board’s advances of the past four years. Under the first Trump administration, petitions for union elections steadily eroded, reaching a low of 1,638 in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2021.

before moving into this current position in 2023.

Among many anti-union items in Project 2025, the 920-page guidebook for a second Trump term compiled largely by participants in his first administration, are provisions to gut overtime, encourage employer “unions” and weaken the ability of the NLRB to enforce labor laws.

That will curb organizing rights in all unions, including the IBEW, and undercut bargaining power for current union members and their families.

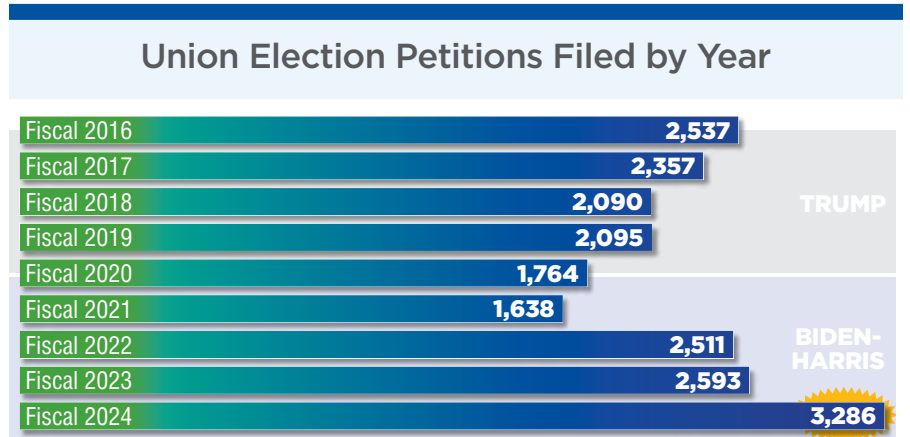
“I remember days when I was still an organizer and we would call the board during the Trump administration to have a discussion with an agent and they would not talk to us,” DiMichele said. “They would not call us back. Everything would shut down.”

The NLRB issued 259 decisions on unfair labor practice and representation cases, a 5% increase over the previous fiscal year.

But it still faces a backlog in cases. It ended the fiscal year with 288 pending, an increase of 197 from the previous year.

The backlog would only grow under an administration that isn’t committed to providing additional resources to the NLRB.

“The NLRB’s dedicated employees have worked hard this year to process cases effectively,” board Chairman Lauren McFerran said. “Additional resources are necessary to enable the board to



The number of union election petitions to the National Labor Relations Board has more than doubled in the last four years, giving more workers power on the job.

Note: Each fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 of the previous year to Sept. 30.

Source: National Labor Relations Board.

expand staffing capacity and ensure that workers, employers and unions that rely on our agency benefit from timely resolution of their labor disputes.”

DiMichele is concerned about what Trump’s election means to the NLRB, but he hopes the momentum of the last four years shows the value of unions to politicians from both parties.

“The people we organize often live from paycheck to paycheck,” he said. “It can be pretty scary for them. As an organizer, you have their livelihood in your hands. Having the best system in place to protect them makes them more comfortable to organize.”

2024 FISCAL YEAR (Oct. 1, 2023 - Sept. 30, 2024)

24,578 total cases involving **3,286** election petitions and **21,292** unfair labor charges is the NLRB’s highest case intake in more than a decade.

This year, the board reported 3,286 election petitions, compared to 2,593 petitions during the 2023 fiscal year.

“Now that the election results are in, we will continue to fight for the rights of labor and working-class families. It just means we have to work harder and build solidarity across communities. Every employee deserves safety, dignity, equality, benefits, good working conditions and a livable wage,” DiMichele said. “We are not afraid of hard work, especially when it comes to protecting workers rights.”

There also was a 7% increase in the number of unfair labor practice charge filings in fiscal 2024, to 21,292. The total of 24,578 cases involving election petitions and unfair labor charges is the NLRB’s highest case intake in more than a decade.

DiMichele said the rise in election petitions is persuading more employers to voluntarily recognize unions.

“The surge in cases we’ve received in the last few years is a testament to workers knowing and exercising their rights under the National Labor Relations Act,” Abruzzo said. “Our committed and talented NLRB staff continue to process cases with professionalism and care, despite working with limited resources.”

Abruzzo, former counsel to the Communications Workers of America, was selected by Biden in February 2021 after he fired General Counsel Peter Robb, an anti-labor lawyer and a holdover from President Donald Trump’s administration.

Trump’s victory will lead to an almost immediate attack on the NLRB and workers’ rights in general, said DiMichele, a longtime field organizer

Mirth, Merriment and Mountains of Toys

Santa and his elves have stiff competition in southeast Pennsylvania’s Delaware County, where the big hearts of Chester Local 654 members and the success of their community outreach led to an epic Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive Nov. 2. “The event was scheduled to start at 11 a.m., and by 9:30 our parking lot was full,” Business Manager Paul Mullen said of the eager IBEW members and their families, who arrived with gifts and boundless energy to set up and volunteer. Many stayed for hours as fellow union members, vendors, contractors, community leaders and a parade of generous area residents dropped off unwrapped toys, games, sports equipment, bicycles and more — enough to fill a large box truck two and half times.

“It blows my mind how much people donated — one car after another coming and unloading,” said journeyman wireman Fred Ries, a Marine Corps veteran who began organizing the toy drive on his own around 2017. A few years later, Local 654 embraced the project with gusto after Mullen asked Ries to lead the local’s Veterans’ Committee. The 2024 turnout was the biggest yet. “We had a very good day, and one of the nicest things was how many apprentices turned out,” Mullen said. “It wasn’t mandatory — they just came on their own, so many young people wanting to give back.” Among them were apprentices and military veterans Hoang Hunyh and Ron Workman, seen at top right with armloads of early donations that began filling the local’s boardroom weeks in advance.

Photos by Anthony DeIvacchio, Local 654



NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

B.C. Apprentice Is First Member From Canada to Win Coveted Organizing Award

Justin Santos, an energetic apprentice using social media to help squash myths about unions, was honored in August as the IBEW's Rank-and-File Organizer of the Year during the union's annual Membership Development Conference in Chicago.

He's the first member of a local in Canada to win the award.

"I grew up wanting to be an electrician," said the 25-year-old Santos, an Ontario native who's now a fourth-year inside wireman apprentice with Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 213. "Tradesmen would come to my grandma's house to help her out. I was mostly fascinated by electricians."

Santos took electrical courses in high school and later worked nonunion electrician jobs. But after Santos learned that he hadn't been properly registered as an apprentice — rendering worthless more than two years of work — a neighbor who worked a union job for General Motors told him to consider joining the IBEW.

"I didn't know much about unions," Santos said. "He told me that he retired with a good pension and had good benefits and wage increases."

Santos applied for an apprenticeship with St. Catharines, Ontario, Local 303, and in early 2021, he also met with Rich Di Pietro, then a Local 303 organizer, who was trying to organize Santos's contractor.

"We grabbed coffee at a Tim Horton's outside Niagara Falls and froze as we talked in the parking lot for about an hour," said Di Pietro, now a First District international representative and district organizing coordinator.

Once Santos was in the IBEW, "what I noticed was that brotherhood the union preaches," he said.

In 2022, Santos moved to Kelowna, British Columbia. To his dismay, he discovered that many area electrical contractors had declined to work with the IBEW.

Worse, while working nonunion and awaiting admission to Local 213's apprenticeship, "I was going through the same thing I did in my first year — not getting registered, not getting [credit for] my hours," Santos said. "Being a part of the IBEW before, I had different standards at that point, so I was pretty angry."

He channeled his frustration into conversations with people about unions, making fliers and stickers touting the IBEW and posting union-themed videos on his TikTok account, @itssparkyjay, in his spare time.

He was surprised when some of his union-themed videos received hundreds of thousands of views. "I was like, 'Holy crap, I can make a difference up here,'" he said. "I still get messages

asking how to join, from everywhere."

"He's really on it, with internal organizing and promoting us with young people," said Local 213 Business Manager Jim Lofty.

Santos also volunteered to be an IBEW salt at one of Kelowna's larger nonunion contractors. "Anything I could do to help at this point, I would do," he said. "I wanted to hear people's opinions and convey them to the local."

Since then, the Local 213 member has participated in IBEW organizing meetings across North America — including the First District's recent national Membership Development Conference in Kelowna.

For now, Santos is focused on his traffic signal and street light installer job with IBEW signatory contractor Cobra Electric, adding that his managers there happily helped him arrange his work schedule so he could travel to

Honoring Vancouver Local 213 Justin Santos, left, as the IBEW's Rank-and-File Organizer of the Year are First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk, center, and International Secretary-Treasurer Paul Noble.

Chicago to receive his award.

"Justin is as active as he can be," said Organizer Dustin Brecht, who was a Local 213 organizer when he got to know Santos.

"Justin brings energy into our membership, inspiring and motivating others," Lofty said.

Local 303 Business Manager Mark Cherney said he's pleased to see Santos become an online ambassador for the IBEW. "I'm really glad things have worked out well for him," he said.

"Justin is proof that organizing at all levels of membership is crucial to



the success of the IBEW," First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk said. "We are grateful for Justin's continued solidarity and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition." ■

Share your IBEW news!

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

Un apprenti de la C.-B. remporte le prix d'organisateur syndical de l'année

Lors de la Conférence annuelle sur la croissance de l'affiliation syndicale à Chicago au mois d'août, Justin Santos a reçu le prix d'organisateur syndical de la FIOE de l'année. Justin est un apprenti plein d'énergie qui fait appel aux médias sociaux pour aider à détruire les mythes sur les syndicats.

Il est le premier membre d'une section locale au Canada à remporter ce prix.

« Mon rêve était de devenir électricien », déclare M. Santos âgé de 25 ans; il est originaire d'Ontario et apprenti 4e année au local 213 à Vancouver en Colombie-Britannique. « Les personnes de métier venaient chez ma grand-mère pour lui donner un coup de main. J'étais surtout fasciné par les électriciens. »

M. Santos a suivi des cours d'électricité au secondaire et il a ensuite travaillé comme électricien non syndiqué. Lorsqu'il a appris qu'il n'avait pas été inscrit correctement comme apprenti, ce qui a rendu ses plus de deux années de travail inutiles, un voisin syndiqué qui travaillait pour General Motors lui a dit d'envisager à adhérer à la FIOE.

« Je ne connaissais pas bien les syndicats », mentionne M. Santos. « Il m'a dit qu'il a pris sa retraite avec un bon fonds de pension et avait des bons avantages sociaux et des augmenta-

tions salariales. »

M. Santos a fait une demande d'apprentissage auprès de la section locale 303 à St. Catharines en Ontario et au début de 2021, il a aussi rencontré Rich Di Pietro, alors organisateur syndical au local 303 qui essayait de syndiquer l'entrepreneur de M. Santos. « Nous sommes allés prendre un café au Tim Horton à l'extérieur des chutes Niagara et nous avons parlé pendant une heure dans le stationnement », exprime M. Di Pietro, maintenant un représentant international du district.

Une fois avoir adhéré à la FIOE : « J'ai constaté cette fraternité que prône que le syndicat », formule M. Santos.

En 2022, M. Santos a déménagé à Kelowna en Colombie-Britannique. À sa grande surprise, il a découvert que les entrepreneurs en électricité dans la région refusaient de travailler avec la FIOE.

Le pire, alors qu'il travaillait pour un entrepreneur non syndiqué et qu'il attendait d'être admis au programme d'apprentissage du local 213 : « Je revivais la même chose que ma première année, je n'étais pas inscrit, mes heures n'étaient pas créditées », exprime M. Santos. « Comme j'ai déjà fait partie de la FIOE, j'avais des critères différents à ce moment-là, alors j'étais très fâché. »

À temps perdu, il a canalisé sa frustration en discutant avec des gens

du syndicat, il a réalisé des dépliants et des autocollants en vantant les mérites de la FIOE, il aussi publié des vidéos thématiques au moyen de son compte TikTok, @itssparkyjay.

Il a été surpris de voir que les vidéos sur le thème des syndicats ont été visionnées plus d'une centaine de milliers de fois. « Je me suis dit : "Bon sang! Je peux vraiment faire une différence ici". Je reçois encore des messages de partout pour me demander comment adhérer à un syndicat. »

« Il est vraiment actif au niveau de la syndicalisation interne et au niveau de la promotion auprès des jeunes », déclare Jim Lofty, le gérant d'affaires du local 213.

M. Santos s'est également porté volontaire pour être un infiltrateur syndical à l'un des plus grands entrepreneurs non syndiqués à Kelowna. « Tout ce que je peux faire pour aider à ce stade, je le ferai », dit-il. « Je voulais entendre les opinions des gens et les transmettre au local. »

Depuis ce temps, le membre du local 213 a participé à des réunions de syndicalisation de la FIOE partout en Amérique du Nord, y compris à la récente Conférence sur la croissance de

l'affiliation syndicale du Premier District à Kelowna.

Pour le moment, M. Santos se concentre sur son emploi à titre d'installateur de feux de circulation et de lampadaire avec l'entrepreneur signataire de la FIOE, Cobra Electric; il ajoute que son employeur l'a acquitté de ses fonctions avec joie pour lui permettre de recevoir son prix à Chicago.

« Justin est aussi actif que possible », exprime Dustin Brecht, principal organisateur syndical qui était un organisateur du local 213 lorsqu'il a connu Santos.

« Justin apporte avec lui de l'énergie à nos membres, inspire et motive les autres », transmet M. Lofty.

Mark Cherney, le gérant d'affaires du local 303, est heureux de voir que M. Santos devenir un ambassadeur en ligne pour la FIOE. « Je suis très heureux que les choses se soient bien passées pour lui », dit M. Cherney.

« Justin démontre que l'organisation à tous les niveaux est essentielle au succès de la FIOE », déclare Russ Shewchuk, vice-président international du Premier District. « Nous remercions Justin pour sa solidarité, et nous le félicitons pour ce prix. » ■

Racontez-nous vos nouvelles FIOE!

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

February 2024 International Executive Council Meeting

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

The meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Erikson on Monday, February 5, 2024, in Duck Key, Florida. Other members of the council in attendance were Calvey, Calabro, Cunningham, Shirey, Chincio Jr., Finn, Council member Riley was excused.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

International President Cooper

International President Kenneth W. Cooper met with the members of the International Executive Council to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the brotherhood.

International Secretary-Treasurer Noble

International Secretary-Treasurer Paul A. Noble presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund, the Unity Fund, and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood — both in Canada and in the United States.

Legal Defense

General Counsel reporting on legal activity and bills, and payments for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined, and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1 of the IBEW Constitution.

Financial Reports

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

Article XX and XXI Cases

There were no Article XX or XXI cases to report during the first quarter of 2024.

Local Union Under International Office Supervision

There are two locals under trusteeship, Local Union 2330, St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, and Local Union 1501, Baltimore Maryland. The IEC authorized a six-month extension to both trusteeships for Local Union 2330 and Local Union 1501.

IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement ending November 30, 2023

Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Unity Fund Contributions ending December 31, 2023

Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets ending November 30, 2023

Reviewed and Filed

Retirement of International Lead Organizer

Kathy Smith, Fifth District
Effective — April 1, 2024

Retirement of International Executive Council

James Burgham, Fifth District
Effective — September 15, 2023

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned, on February 9, 2024, at 8:45 a.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence on April 19, 2024, in Washington, D.C.

For The International Executive Council

Myles J. Calvey, Secretary
February 2024

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

International Executive Council Meeting

Minutes and Report of The International Executive Council's Special Called Meeting

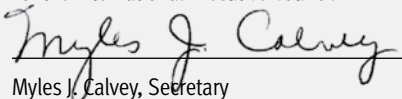
A special called meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order on April 8, 2024, at 4 p.m. by Chairman Erikson, via videoconference, at the request of International President Kenneth W. Cooper. Other members in attendance were Calvey, Calabro, Riley, Finn, Cunningham, Chincio Jr., and Griffiths. Also present were International President Cooper, International Secretary-Treasurer Noble, and Chief of Staff Oakland.

International President Cooper reported that International Executive Council member for the 3rd International Executive Council District, Dan Shirey, had resigned effective Friday, April 5, 2024, for health reasons. After discussion, the International Executive Council accepted the resignation of Brother Shirey.

International President Cooper reported that, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the IBEW Constitution, he had appointed Local Union 1105 Business Manager William "Bill" Hamilton to fill the unexpired term of office for International Executive Council member for the 3rd International Executive Council District. International President Cooper explained that Brother Hamilton is the senior Business Manager in the IBEW Fourth District, and has been the Business Manager of Local Union 1105 in Newark, Ohio since 2001. After discussion, the International Executive Council approved the International President's appointment of Brother Bill Hamilton to fill the unexpired term of office for International Executive Council member for the 3rd International Executive Council District.

The special called meeting was adjourned on April 8, 2024, at 4:15 p.m.

For the International Executive Council


Myles J. Calvey, Secretary

April 2024 International Executive Council Meeting

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

The meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Erikson on Thursday, April 18, 2024, in Washington, D.C. Other members of the council in attendance were Calvey, Cunningham, Chincio, Finn, Griffiths. Council members Calabro and Riley attended via audio/video conference call. Council member Hamilton was sworn in. Minutes from the last meeting were approved and signed off.

International President Cooper

International President Kenneth W. Cooper met with the members of the International Executive Council to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the brotherhood.

International Secretary-Treasurer Noble

International Secretary-Treasurer Paul A. Noble presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund, the Unity Fund, and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood—both in Canada and in the United States.

Legal Defense

General Counsel reporting on legal activity and bills, and payment for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined, and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1 of the IBEW Constitution.

Financial Reports

The International Secretary-Treasurer's Report on the various funds of the Brotherhood were presented to the

members of the International Executive Council, examined, approved, and filed.

Appeals Filed with The International Executive Council

The International Executive Council conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 111 member Epifanio Martinez, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Martinez's appeal.

The International Executive Council conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 357 member Dale S. Sewell, Card Number D748386, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Sewell's appeal.

The International Executive Council conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 46 member Leslie S. Wright, Card Number D700770, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Sister Wright's appeal.

Article XX and XXI Cases

There were no Article XX or XXI cases to report during the second quarter of 2024.

Local Union Under International Office Supervision

There are two Local Unions under trusteeship, Local Union 2330, St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada and Local Union 1501, Baltimore Maryland. The IEC authorized the continuation of these trusteeship for six (6) months at its February 2024 meeting.

IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement ending February 28, 2024
Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Unity Fund Contributions ending April 2, 2024
Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets ending February 28, 2024
Reviewed and Filed

Retirement of International Representatives
Ann Miller, International Representative,
Government Affairs Department
Effective — April 15, 2024

Charles Tippie, International Representative, Fourth District
Effective — May 1, 2024

Retirement of International Office Employees
Karla Deed, Office Employee,
Eleventh District
Effective — April 1, 2024

For the International Executive Council
Myles J. Calvey, Secretary
April 2024

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

POWER AT WORK

WINNING STRATEGY

California Local Negotiates Historic Raise for NASA Contract Workers

The largest negotiated salary increase in almost 75 years is heading to the paychecks of the more than 70 members of San Bernardino, Calif., Local 543, who operate and maintain equipment that keeps NASA in constant contact with its deep-space network of probes, telescopes and satellites.

The members work for NASA contractor Peraton at the Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex, housed in the Mojave Desert at the U.S. Army's Fort Irwin.

The IBEW's presence at the base dates to the 1950s, when Local 543 was chartered to represent workers of the telephone company that served "everything on the east side of the Sierras," said Business Manager Jorge Lugo.

nearly seven months ago after his predecessor retired. The negotiations were Lugo's first.

"I went out to Goldstone when I first got the position and talked to as many people as I could," Lugo said.

When negotiations with Peraton began, "This was the time for me to prove my strategies and see what I can do," said Lugo, who added that he was grateful to have Muñoz and Rush by his side.

"I've negotiated a lot of contracts," said Rush, a longtime inside journeyman wireman from Riverside, Calif., Local 440. "But Jorge's local was a whole new realm from what I'm used to."

Rush said that he and Lugo, in turn, leaned heavily on Muñoz.

"John knows the contract, how it works and all the nuts and bolts of what [our members] need," Lugo added.

"I'm around the guys all the time," said Muñoz, who noted that this was his fourth negotiation with a NASA contractor. "I get to hear what everybody really wants."

What they wanted was a raise. "Peraton wasn't paying the market rate," Rush said. "They had a retention issue." Added Lugo: "Contractors on and off post were coming in and headhunting our members."

When contract negotiations began, Rush observed that the Peraton team knew it was Lugo's first time leading them. "I could see their attorneys were trying to take advantage of it and didn't agree to anything at first," he said.

Lugo and his team held their ground firmly. "We just went in there pushing what our people want," Muñoz said.

By the second day, the contractor's negotiators couldn't ignore Rush. "We started getting into the weeds, and when I started speaking up, the lawyers realized that I've done this a bit," he said. "I was countering what they were saying."

On Day 3, the Local 543 negotiators highlighted pay charts from other contractors on nearby military bases. "All your guys are getting pilfered," Lugo told Peraton's negotiating team. "If you don't step up, you're going to see more people defecting."

Peraton's proposal, Lugo said, was almost identical to what his team had been preparing. In the contract's first year, alongside a base bargaining unit raise of 3.5%, workers would gain access



Pictured in Local 543 members' control room at NASA's Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex are, from left, President John Muñoz, Scott Heck, Business Manager Jorge Lugo, Alex Mora, Joshua Baca and Joseph Rogers.

to higher classifications that, depending on position and other considerations, would mean additional first-year pay bumps between 4.2% and 12.4%.

"At the end of the day, I think our goals were met," Lugo said. The members agreed, ratifying the agreement soon afterward.

"Jorge and his negotiating team did a great job for Local 543's members," said Ninth District International Vice President Dave Reaves. "It's a good reminder to all of us that federal installations and military bases across North America present lots of organizing opportunities for the IBEW." ■

MILESTONE IBEW Reaches Tentative Agreements with CSX, Norfolk Southern, BNSF Rail Carriers

The IBEW reached tentative agreements with three major railroads in October, negotiating a historic raise along with improvements to paid time off and health benefits.

"These new agreements are a historic step forward for rail workers across the nation, and I'm proud of the efforts of IBEW railroad members in helping secure a fair deal," said IBEW International President Kenneth W. Cooper. "Our workers help move America, and this agreement recognizes the value they bring to the rail industry."

Five-year deals were reached with

CSX, Norfolk Southern and BNSF. The agreements would provide a compounded wage increase of 18.77%, allow members to use vacation time earlier and give workers the option to carry over up to four unused paid sick days a year. Employees would also be able to cash out any unused days at 100% if they leave service.

While the agreements are largely in line with industry norms, Railroad Director Al Russo noted that the ability to accrue up to 20 sick days is specific to the IBEW agreements.

"We felt we needed to do something more for our members," Russo said.

The wage increase is also the largest achieved without any federal intervention, something railroad contracts are often subject to.

"It's a good deal," said Jeff Allred, Railroad System Council general chair for BNSF workers, noting that the raises are "frontloaded" to provide the largest increase in the first years of the contract.

The agreements, which cover roughly 2,500 members, represent offers that are largely consistent across the rail properties, and if passed would keep IBEW members in line with other workers, said Tom Owens, Railroad System Council general chair representing workers at CSX and Norfolk Southern.

"This way, our members have the final decision," he said. "It puts the power in their hands."

IBEW rail members work in a variety of roles, including locomotive service maintenance, bridge and building work, radio maintenance, automatic train control, and telecommunications. ■



Local 543 members keep NASA's massive satellite dishes at Goldstone communicating with the agency's extra-terrestrial network of spacecraft and landers.

In 1963, NASA selected Fort Irwin for Goldstone, a key part of the agency's global network that now communicates with numerous spacecraft such as lunar and Martian orbiters and landers, the James Webb Space Telescope, and the two Voyager space probes.

Lugo, a 36-year member of the IBEW, said Local 543's highly trained members work on every Goldstone system.

"They not only take care of the giant radar dishes but also all the components that make them work, the high-voltage electric systems and equipment, and the hydraulics," he said. "It's impressive when you walk in the control room and realize what they're doing."

"Our job site is 52 square miles, but if an antenna's [malfunctioning], everybody's on it," said President John Muñoz, the bargaining unit's chief steward.

Local 543's executive board appointed Lugo business manager



The roughly 2,500 CSX, Norfolk Southern and BNSF members would get wage increases, the ability to use vacation time earlier and the option of carrying over up to four paid sick days a year.

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TRANSITIONS

DECEASED

William W. "Bill" Riley



International Executive Council member and Miami Local 349 Business Manager Bill Riley, a legend in South Florida labor circles who served the Brother-

hood in leadership positions for nearly five decades, died on Sept. 27. He was 79.

Riley represented the IEC's Fourth District — which includes Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia — since 2009, having been reelected three times.

He was appointed Local 349's business manager in 2003 and was elected seven times, never facing opposition. That followed tenures as JATC director and assistant business manager during the previous two-plus decades.

"The IBEW lost a giant, and I lost a good friend with the passing of Bill Riley," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. "Every decision he made and action he took was done with the welfare of our members in mind. I treasured his counsel and will miss him very much."

Despite being slowed by health issues, Riley stayed active in the Brotherhood and was able to attend the Membership Development Conference in Chicago in late August.

Fifth District Vice President Glenn Brannen, who has known Riley for more than 30 years, said he was always friendly and had a sincere desire to help others.

"He would usually end a conversation with 'Is there anything I can do for you, let me know,'" Brannen said. "Those were the last words I heard him say when we talked at the Membership Development Conference."

"He was a natural leader and genuinely good person. I will miss him."

Bonnie Riley, his daughter, said physicians told her that her father pushed through those medical problems because he wanted to spend time with friends in Chicago.

She said her father was reaching out to help others until his last breath.

"Even to his nurses," she said. "And he meant it."

Retired Fifth District International Vice President Joe Davis first met Riley in 1979, when Davis was sent to Miami to assist Local 349 in first-contract negotiations with Westinghouse. He was a newly appointed international representative, and Riley was an assistant business manager. The two became close friends and remained so until Riley's death.

"The Brotherhood fit Bill Riley perfectly," Davis said. "Everything he did revolved around what was best for the IBEW, and it showed."

Chris Simpson, who succeeded Riley as business manager, said Riley often reminded Local 349 staff members that they weren't just working for the local's approximately 2,500 members.

They also had a deep responsibility to their family and loved ones.

"He always used to say, 'If you tell somebody that something is going to happen, or you commit to something, you follow through with those commitments,'" Simpson said. "If you tell the apprentices one day that it's going to rain and it doesn't, you better be on the roof with a hose."

Riley hinted where that passion came from two years ago, following a ceremony during which part of a Miami street was named after him.

"I remind people there's a difference between the IBEW and a contractor and any other business," he said. "It's a family. It's not a business."

A native of Miami, Brother Riley had to take on additional responsibilities following the sudden death of his father during his high school years. He and his wife, Carolyn, married soon after graduation, and he applied for the apprenticeship at the advice of his father-in-law, a Local 349 member.

He topped out as a journeyman wireman and became a member himself in 1970. Riley worked in the field for a few years but was soon asked to join the office staff, working there for 20-plus years before becoming business manager.

"He absolutely loved it," his son, Bill Jr., said. "He used to go in to work all the time, typically the first person there and the last to leave. He was kind of a workaholic. He would go in on weekends when no one else was around to prepare for the upcoming week."

Bonnie Riley said she and her brother — and later her parents' three grandchildren — would accompany the elder Riley on those weekend trips to Local 349's hall.

"That's where we grew up," she said. "We knew all the secret hiding spots and little crawlways."

Under Riley's leadership, Local 349 held a holiday luncheon that was open to Miami municipal employees. It wasn't uncommon to see employees from every level of government, no matter their title, Bonnie said.

Her father served on several political and labor committees in South Florida, including the Dade County Planning Advisory Board and as president of the South Florida Building Trades Council. He often would send a bottle of wine as a way of saying thanks to someone for assisting the local.

Davis noted that Riley was active in Electricians Without Borders, which sends electricians to underdeveloped areas around the world to help improve their electrical infrastructure. He organized the group's initial trip to Haiti following a devastating earthquake there in 2010.

"I know that meant a lot to him," Davis said.

Carolyn Riley, his wife of nearly 60 years, died in February after a long illness. She was a nurse, working third shift for many years to be on hand when the rest of family arrived home at the end of the day and to have dinner together, Bill Jr. said.

"It was a team effort," he said.

"They always made sure we were taken care of."

The younger Riley and Davis both said a crowning achievement was when then-International President Edwin D. Hill appointed Riley to the IEC, which includes nine business managers from across North America. It is the IBEW's final authority on granting pensions and disability benefits and hears appeals of the international president's decisions.

"That was a huge honor for him," his son said. "He was very much interested in how he could help other people."

Bonnie and Bill Jr. both went on to become lawyers based in Miami. They said their father urged them to get graduate degrees to better set themselves up for success — something he did not have a chance to do. Bill Riley Sr. also is survived by the three granddaughters and many friends.

"My Dad was a type A personality," Bonnie said. "If you were going to do something, you better do it right. If I was hanging a picture at my house, I would just eyeball it and put it up. For him, he had to level it to make sure it was in the right spot."

Added Simpson: "From the time he was initiated until the time he passed away, he dedicated his life to this local."

The officers and staff salute Brother Riley for his contributions to IBEW members and send condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time. ■

RETIRED

Philip Horrell



Third District International Representative Philip Horrell retired Oct. 1, capping a nearly 50-year career with the IBEW in which he made a name for himself as a steadfast aide and a skilled negotiator.

Brother Horrell was initiated in 1976 into Blairsville, Pa., Local 1096, which represented workers at Westinghouse, where Horrell worked as a tool-and-die machinist. He became active in the union soon after being mistreated by management and witnessing the power of IBEW representation to rectify the situation.

"I was being disciplined wrongly, so I went to the union and they corrected it," Horrell recalled. "That was when I realized that the IBEW was the kind of organization I wanted to belong to."

Horrell went on to serve as a steward before running for vice president at the local in 1990. In 1992, he ran for the position of president and business manager, which he held for 18 years until he was appointed international representative.

"He turned out to be a very professional rep," said Don Siegel, then international vice president for the Third District. "He did an excellent job servicing his locals."

Throughout his career, Horrell

earned a reputation as an even-keeled, straightforward representative with a knack for negotiations.

"He has a very professional manner that has regularly calmed down tense, high-stress situations, both with the membership and the management teams we were dealing with," Johnstown, Pa., Local 459 Business Manager Barry Hixson said. "He's a real pro."

Horrell said he approached relationships with management from the philosophy of attracting more bees with honey than vinegar.

"Something I always told my stewards was that if you have a good relationship with your employer, they're a lot less likely to tell you to go to hell," Horrell said. "It's harder for them to say 'no' if they like you."

Local 1096 Business Manager Jason Burns recalled a particularly difficult negotiation soon after the death of the local's president and how Horrell stood by them every step of the way.

"Phil was the steady hand who led us through tough negotiations and the legalities of bargaining with a bankrupt company," Burns said. "He was an excellent source of knowledge and understood that on the professional and industrial side, relationships were key."

Horrell also brought a wealth of experience and dedication to his locals, Burns said.

"He was always there for us, and me personally, any time we reached out," Burns said. "Through his advice, he never told us what to do. He let us know it was our local and he didn't want to get in our way. He always supported our decisions. He'll be sorely missed."

For Hixson, Horrell wasn't just there for the local but also for him personally when he had a pivotal career decision to make.

"I was offered full-time employment working for Local 459 but had no way to return to my previous position if I took the job. It was Phil and his steady analysis of my situation that helped me make the most important decision in my life," Hixson said. "He's been more than just an international office rep for me. For me, he has been a mentor and a great friend."

Horrell said he wouldn't change anything about his time with the Brotherhood.

"I enjoyed all my time as an IBEW member. It's the best job I ever had," the Pennsylvania native said. "It's been fantastic."

Horrell also said he's grateful for everything the IBEW has given him.

"The IBEW gave me stability, security, it put a roof over my family's head, and it allowed me to educate my children," he said. "I can't imagine going through my career nonunion."

Now in retirement, Horrell said he misses all the people he worked with but is enjoying having more time to spend with his wife and travel, including a trip they have planned to the Caribbean.

The officers, staff and members of the IBEW thank Brother Horrell for his years of service and wish him and his family a long and fulfilling retirement. ■

APPOINTED

Zac Cassidy



Zac Cassidy, business manager of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Local 728 and a skilled organizer and activist, has been appointed to the IBEW's

International Executive Council to represent the IEC's Fourth District.

Cassidy's appointment, which was unanimously approved by the council, fills the vacancy created when his predecessor, Bill Riley, died on Sept. 27.

"Bill was always there to help me out and give me advice," said Cassidy, who delivered the speech nominating Riley to the IEC at the IBEW's 40th International Convention in Chicago in 2022. "He was a great guy who always treated everybody well and ran his local well. I've got big shoes to fill."

Growing up in West Palm Beach, Cassidy said, becoming an electrical worker — let alone an IBEW leader — was not on his radar.

"I've always been good with my hands, building stuff," said Cassidy, who took metal and wood shop classes in high school. After graduation, he attended a local community college while taking on various jobs.

"When I worked at a video shop, one of the guys that came in all the time was an IBEW member," he said. "He always told me to go to Local 728's apprenticeship. It was just a couple miles down the street."

Then, an IBEW journeyman wireman friend who worked for a construction company in the U.S. Virgin Islands told Cassidy about jobs in St. Thomas, part of rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Marilyn hit the islands.

"I worked there for about three months, living in the house that we were working on that was almost destroyed," Cassidy said. "Toward the end, we had electricians come in to help get power turned back on. I would help them, chipping concrete, doing grunt work and seeing what they do."

When Cassidy returned home, he applied for entrance to Local 728's JATC. In April 1998, Cassidy became an unindentured apprentice, moving four months later into a regular apprenticeship position.

"Once I got into it, I loved it," Cassidy said. "Some great journeymen showed me the ropes and taught me the importance of being in the union and the Brotherhood. I was blessed."

Topping out in 2003 "wasn't an easy task, but it was a great one for me," said Cassidy, who continued working as a journeyman wireman for the electrical contractor he started with during the second year of his apprenticeship.

By 2005, Justin McIntosh, a member of Local 728's executive board, had noticed leadership potential in Cassidy.

"Zac was one of the few apprentices that showed up to all the meetings,

CIRCUITS

Tennessee Local Expands Its Reach With Lineworker Scholarship Program

In an effort to meet the demand for more lineworkers while also investing in the local workforce, Chattanooga, Tenn., Local 175 is partnering with area organizations and utilities to offer a pathway to a career that is often overlooked in schools.

The New Heights Scholarship Program provides tuition assistance, as well as a stipend and mentoring, to attend the Southeast Lineman Training Center, where trainees can do either a 15-week electrical program or an eight-week communications program.

Those who successfully complete the pre-apprenticeships then have the opportunity to enter the Southeastern Line Constructors Apprenticeship and Training program or begin work with partner organizations like the utility EPB or the Tennessee Valley Authority.

“We’re showing the private community and education community that it’s OK to be a blue-collar worker,” Tenth District International Vice President Brent Hall said. “This will change a lot of attitudes.”

The program aims to educate Chattanooga-area high school students from underserved and underrepresented areas about careers in the electrical trades. It came about when Ketha Richardson, who works on diversity and inclusion initiatives with EPB, toured the SLTC in nearby Trenton, Ga., and noticed how few students were from Chattanooga.



Upon completion of the pre-apprenticeship, students have the option of moving into an apprenticeship with Chattanooga, Tenn., Local 175.

“It made me wonder why we have such a great resource here in our backyard and yet our own community wasn’t taking advantage of it,” said Richardson, who is also a member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy. “Part of my job at EPB is to work with students and expose them to the opportunities in our industry. I thought this was a great way to do that.”

The program provides students with a chance to learn about their chosen trade and determine whether it’s a good fit. Those who enroll will be better prepared for a full apprenticeship, where Local 175 comes in.

“We can provide the career. That’s



High school students from the Chattanooga, Tenn., area participated in the New Heights Scholarship Program to attend the Southeast Lineman Training Center, where trainees can do either a 15-week electrical program or an eight-week communications program.

the end goal,” Local 175 Business Manager Toby Shelton said.

The partnership with area schools and educational organizations like Chattanooga 2.0 has expanded Local 175’s reach in the community, allowing it to introduce more students to its apprenticeship and career opportunities.

“We weren’t getting the invites before. Now we’re in every school in our jurisdiction,” Shelton said. “We’ve got counselors calling us all the time.”

The goal, said Chattanooga 2.0 Executive Director Keri Randolph, is for qualified candidates to receive high-quality preparation and enter a career with a local utility, with at least 75 scholarship recipients hired into lineworker jobs by August 2027.

“Employers are struggling to find a skilled lineworker workforce, and our students need the exposure, opportunity and support to complete a path to thriving-wage career,” Randolph said. “This provides a diverse, well-trained workforce for the energy sector while also creating economic mobility for individuals in underserved and underrepresented communities.”

While the lineworker and communications programs are relatively short, they provide a lot of training and growth opportunities, said Richardson, who serves as a mentor to the students.

“It’s amazing to see how much the students change and grow in such a short period of time. They literally go from boys to men,” he said, noting that young women express interest in the programs.

The success of the program, now in its second year, has sparked discussion for an inside construction pre-apprenticeship.

“They like what they see,” Local 175 Assistant Business Manager Grant Rains said of the program partners. “And for someone who gets into the lineworker program but only then realizes that they have a fear of heights or just that it’s not for them, but does well in other aspects, this provides another pathway.”

As the program continues to grow, so has the buzz it’s created around

in-demand energy jobs, Richardson said, and in particular within communities that have been historically overlooked.

“Most lineworkers find out about the career through family and friends. If we can get some great workers from this program and other people in their community see their successes, they can organically consider line work as a viable career option,” Richardson said. ■

IBEW Members to Benefit From Job-Creating \$250 Million Grant to TVA

The Tennessee Valley Authority, where the IBEW has represented employees for generations, and 10 other local power companies will receive a \$250 million grant from the Energy Department to ensure that hundreds of communities have more resilient power service via clean energy.

The grant is part of the department’s Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program and will speed developments in solar and wind power and increase grid capacity to 2,400 megawatts.

About half of the grant funding will go directly to 360 disadvantaged

communities. There is projected to be a 94% reduction in power outage durations in those communities when the projects are finished.

The grant is expected to create about 800 jobs during the next five years, with 99% expected to be union construction labor. The TVA pledged that 33% of the work will be filled by apprentices, boosting apprenticeship wages.

The TVA is owned by the federal government but receives no taxpayer funding and operates closer to a privately held utility. It provides power for more than 10 million customers, covering all of Tennessee and portions of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.

Tenth District Vice President Brent E. Hall, whose district includes Tennessee and North Carolina, said he looks forward to working with TVA officials to ensure that IBEW signatory contractors land work associated with the grant.

“Our relationship is proof that public power is good for the valley, good for the country and good for organized labor,” Hall said. “We look forward to working closely with the local power companies that receive this funding to ensure that the work is done on time, on budget, with quality and with the IBEW.”

The TVA was founded as part of President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal legislation in 1933 to bring electrification to a largely rural area that lacked infrastructure.

Now, the Energy Department grant will develop a state-of-the-art grid for one of the fastest-growing parts of the country. Population in the TVA service area is expected to increase 22.5% by 2050, according to projections by the Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs at the University of Tennessee.

“Electricity is America’s energy future, and the men and women of the IBEW are ready to partner with TVA and local power companies to reduce carbon emissions and create good, middle-class jobs throughout the region,” International President Kenneth W. Cooper said.

“IBEW is on the front line in recruiting and training the highly skilled workforce needed to build out a clean energy infrastructure and a resilient and modern grid,” Cooper added. “Together we can make these projects a reality.” ■



Ocoee Dam No. 1, owned and operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority. A recent federal grant to the TVA will create additional jobs for IBEW members.

Credit: Creative Commons / Flickr user Martin Kraft

LOCAL LINES

Labor Day and Community Service

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN — Sept. 2 marked the 138th anniversary of the Tri-State Labor Day Association’s annual celebration. Business Manager Ryan McRoberts served as this year’s grand marshal. Activities included free carnival rides, pageants, a demolition derby, a car show, a tractor pull, catered meals and a well-attended parade with some of the best weather in memory. Thanks to Brother Brian Partridge and all who worked hard to make this event happen.

On Oct. 4, Local 16 held the Jason “Flounder” Blanton Memorial Golf Scramble to honor a deeply loved member who passed way too soon. Proceeds from this benefit go to the National Marrow Donor Program, which helps children and adults access lifesaving cell therapy through financial grants, global networking and groundbreaking research.

By the time you are reading this, the 31st annual Fantasy of Lights fundraising event should be in full swing. With FOL, a city park comes alive with the magic of animated holiday lighting displays to help Easterseals’ tri-state rehabilitation center. This is Local 16’s major charitable effort, and anyone who can assist with nightly maintenance would be very welcome.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Season’s Greetings From Baltimore

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — Greetings from Charm City. The school year has started at our JATC, and at this year’s student orientation, 162 new students began their careers in the unionized electrical industry. On most nights, our parking lot is full of apprentices, which speaks to how seriously our membership, officers and staff promote the JATC. We wish all our apprentices a successful school year.

In September, we sponsored and attended the Trifecta Food Truck and Music Festival at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. It was a great opportunity to introduce ourselves and our



Local 24’s tent at the Trifecta Food Truck and Music Festival in Timonium, Md.

industry to Marylanders and enjoy some good music and great food. Thank you to our members who volunteered and represented us well.

2024 has flown by! The members, officers and staff of Local 24 would like to wish you and yours a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year!

Live Better/Work Union!

Mike McHale, B.M.

Happy Holidays From Local 26

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — Happy holidays! We hope everyone had a blessed and safe Thanksgiving. We would also like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2025!

We held three annual holiday parties in Front Royal, Va.; Roanoke, Va.; and Greenbelt, Md. They were all well attended, and everyone had a great time. Please remember to check the Events tab on our website (www.ibewlocal26.org) to stay informed about all of our upcoming events and social opportunities.

Best wishes to the following retirees: Randy Atkins, Arturo Capote, Donald Chambers, Maxwell Coats, John Dawson, Stuart Emme, Victor Fernandez, Richard Figert, Danny Friend, Javier Quiroz Garcia, Mark Howell, Michael Ladbush, Carl Lynn III, Daniel McKnew, Andre Meristil, Stephen Nowak, William Poole, Thomas Seering, Robert Stemmer Jr., Timothy Sumpter and Stephen White.

The following members have passed away since our last article: George Riesett Sr., John De Love, Stephen Barkanic, Miguel Barrientos, Terry Cox, Christian “Ted” Fitzgerald, Joseph Furlow, William Guilford, Aparicio Merino, William Morton, Edward Moscati Jr., Neil Barry Nutwell, Alton Rhoden, John Robb, John Roy Sr., John Williams and Fisseha Woldetsadik.

Joseph F. Dabbs, B.M.

Cleveland Builds Graduation

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH — Cleveland Builds is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to informing Clevelanders about fulfilling careers in construction and preparing them for success. Formed in partnership with northeast Ohio contractors and the Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council, Cleveland Builds advances our city’s ability to recruit, develop and maintain a more diverse, qualified workforce in construction and other emerging sectors of the modern regional economy.

On Sept. 26, Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb and Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Tom Perez celebrated graduates of



From left, Curtis Cousineau, Local 38 President Michael Muzic, Business Manager Daniel Gallagher, Cleveland Builds graduate and inside apprentice Maurice Bogard, Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Tom Perez, Angelo Angersola and organizer Scott Wilson.

Cleveland Builds’ apprenticeship-readiness program. Local 38 has been involved with Cleveland Builds since its inception and has guided many graduates to a career in the electrical industry.

Dan Gallagher, B.M./F.S.

Local 40 Lands Historic Agreements

L.U. 40 (em,i&mps), HOLLYWOOD, CA — Congratulations to our members working under our motion picture basic agreement and our Universal Studios supplemental agreement. These two agreements were overwhelmingly ratified, and these members have seen the largest wage increases in four decades under these agreements. More than 97% of our membership has not seen a wage increase of this scale since joining the local.

In addition to these historic wage increases, several other notable gains include additional sick days, a holiday and three paid days off for bereavement. We also added a new 401(k), dues deduction and improvements to the apprenticeship program.

Local 40 achieved these historic agreements with strong leadership from our business manager, negotiating committee and shop stewards. It all starts with an active and engaged membership. Thank you for your dedication, commitment and solidarity to secure these historic agreements.

Juan Rodriguez, Pres.

Local 42 Hosts First Rodeo and Family Day

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT — Our local’s negotiating committee, along with NECA’s Northeast line chapter, put the finishing touches on a lucrative four-year contract through 2028.

Local 42 and NEAT

(Northeastern Apprenticeship Training program) hosted an apprentice workshop Aug. 17-18, where we invited our partners in safety, along with John Hancock Financial and Milwaukee Tool, to discuss drug and alcohol policies and the consequences of using during safety-sensitive work practices such as driving commercial vehicles.

John Hancock also discussed the importance of investing for the future and retirement, and Milwaukee presented displays of their newest tools made for the line industry. Business Manager Michael Treadwell went over Local 42’s contract and bylaws, answering several questions on insurance and contract interpretation. Overall, this was an excellent workshop, and we intend on holding it annually.

Sept. 14 was the first Local 42 rodeo and family day, where we had a speed climb and hurt-man rescue along with food trucks and events for kids, making this a good time to meet up with friends outside the work environment.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal visited Local 42’s union hall and training facility. Local 42 is making an effort to let people know that while our contractors are often from other areas of the country, they employ Local 42 members.

Derek Santa Lucia, Bus. Rep.



From left, Local 42 organizer Jose Ramos; Business Manager Michael Treadwell; Sen. Richard Blumenthal; Occupational Safety, Health and Education Director Norman Hebert; and Assistant Business Manager Pawel Robak in front of Local 42’s memorial for fallen members.

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.

Local 46 Thanks Janet Lewis

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA — Our local is excited to wish Sister Janet Lewis a happy retirement!

Janet has spent her life as an activist for women and labor. She was not only responsible for lighting the path for others, but she also worked tirelessly to make things better for every worker.

In 1979, Sister Lewis became the first woman to complete a four-year electrical program in Seattle. She graduated first in her class and was apprentice of the year. Sister Lewis and Sister Arlene Arp owned their own all-female electrical contracting company for 10 years before selling it.

Janet earned a law degree from the University of Washington and worked as a legislative analyst for the state Department of Labor and Industries before becoming chief electrical inspector for the state of Washington. In 2000, Sister Lewis came back home to Local 46 to work as a business representative and health care trustee. From 2017 to 2024, she served as the local's assistant business manager.

Sister Lewis has seen Local 46 through the good times and the bad, keeping the lights shining when things looked darkest. We all owe her so much more than we will ever know. Her legacy will continue to live on and inspire.

Congratulations, Janet! You've more than earned it!

Megan Kirby, P.S.

IBEW Local 68

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO — Greetings, brothers and sisters. With the anticipated construction from our local's remodeling, this year the children's Christmas party will be a drive-through. Come see Santa on Dec. 14 to get a goody bag and a gift, but no food will be provided this year.

Also, due to the construction, be advised that the Dec. 4 general membership meeting will be held at the Pipefitters Local 208 hall. The meetings will move from the first Tuesday of the month to the first Wednesday of the month. The general membership meeting will still start promptly at 6 p.m.

Membership should be aware that elections for officers of the local are rapidly approaching. It's time to decide whether you will run for office and choose who you will support. The IBEW Constitution and Bylaws explain the qualifications needed to run for office, along with the duties and responsibilities of each position. We will also be electing delegates to the 41st IBEW International Convention. Good luck and best wishes to all who make the decision to step up and take on a leadership role within the local. Leading and helping direct the future of this local is a huge responsibility and commitment.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased brothers and sisters: Steven J. Berry, Jerry D. Bowles, Theodore N. Busse, Gary W. Byrd, Lowell M. Campbell, Joshua R. Carrigan, Bryan T. Erbenraut, Clint J. Farfel, Harry Z. Gibney Jr., Gerald C. Gordon, James R. Hammack Sr., Robert L. Jacobs, Harry L. Johnston, Mark A. Kirkham, Timothy J. Lee, Donald E. McClure, Melvin L. McKnelly, Joseph J. Sacks, Kenneth A. Schwab, Larry C. Sheridan, Louie L. Singleton, Donald C. Weiss and Gary T. Wood.

Morgan Buchanan, Pres.

Local 124 Eyes More Work In 2025

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rts,se,spa,t&ptc), KANSAS CITY, MO — The work outlook continues to look strong in the Kansas City metro area for the next couple of years. These projects include multiple

data centers, the Panasonic battery plant, a \$250 million Coca-Cola bottling facility, a Plaza hotel, an Ace Hardware warehouse facility and a new Jackson County jail.

The General Motors Fairfax assembly plant is expected to have a six-month shutdown beginning in early 2025. This project will install a new EV line that will build the new Chevy Bolt. No word yet on total manpower needs, but we welcome and thank all our traveling brothers and sisters for all your help.

Lastly, from all the officers and agents of Local 124, we wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. Stay warm on the jobsites!

Bo Moreno, B.M.

Local 130 Lights the Way to the Super Bowl

L.U. 130 (i&ptc), NEW ORLEANS, LA — The Crescent City Connection, a bridge crossing the Mississippi River and connecting New Orleans to the West Bank, has long been a symbol of strength and connection. It was only fitting that Local 130 members took part in illuminating this monumental structure.

Our members worked tirelessly to ensure that the iconic bridge is brilliantly illuminated in anticipation of the 2025 Super Bowl. The project involved intricate wiring and a deep understanding of safety protocols. But for our members, it was more than just a job. It was a point of pride to showcase their capabilities and a testament to the skills and dedication of our IBEW sisters and brothers.

In September, New Orleans hosted a gathering of women from across the IBEW at the IBEW Women's Conference. It was a time of empowerment, unity and progress as women electricians, technicians and leaders came together to discuss the future of our industry and the increasing role women play within it. As we move forward, let's continue to support and uplift our sisters in the trade. Their achievements are a reminder that with skill, dedication and unity, there's no limit to what we can accomplish together.

Butch Naquin, R.S.



Local 130 members worked tirelessly to ensure that the Crescent City Connection is brilliantly illuminated for the 2025 Super Bowl.

Local 134 Holds Successful Manufacturing Job Fair

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rts,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL — In October, our local identified an opportunity to assist its signatory manufacturing contractors in recruiting talent for their organizations.

Each year, Local 134's Electrical Construction and Communications Apprenticeship programs



Local 134's manufacturing contractors meeting with job candidates at the Local 134 NECA Technical Institute.

receive more than 1,000 applicants. These programs cannot accommodate the large number of applicants received with their limited apprenticeship slots. Local 134 recognizes that alternative employment opportunities in the electrical industry are good middle-class jobs provided by signatory employers in manufacturing.

Therefore, our local invited more than 1,000 applicants to participate in the Local 134 Manufacturing Jobs Fair. Several hundred attended, along with 20 manufacturing contractors who are signatories to Local 134.

Business Representative Ryan Madiar said all the signatory manufacturing companies that participated in the event commented that this was the best industry job fair they had ever attended. Brother Madiar noted that we collected hundreds of resumes and will continue to engage with those candidates and the contractors who participated in the job fair. We look forward to next year's event, which will be even greater!

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

Local 150 Welcomes First-Year Apprentices

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), Waukegan, IL — Local 150 would like to wish all IBEW members a safe and happy holiday season! We are hopeful that 2025 will be a prosperous year for all of our sisters and brothers.

On Aug. 7, Local 150 swore in our first-year apprenticeship class of 2024. Our three apprentice technicians are Bradley Keil, Alan Theis and Sydney Wieners; our 24 apprentice wiremen are Renee Aztlan, Brian Baum, Christian Boeskool, Victor Casas, Eric Castro, Corey Fiarito, Matthew Finkel, Jordan Funderburk, Michael Gardner, Mason Gauger, Jason Gissendaner, Riley Hidalgo, Jason Kraeszig, Joshua McCarthy, Jordan Merida, Jaxon Nobbe, Julian Perez, David Reynolds, Ian Rodriguez, Nicholas Salazar, Chase Smith, Trenton Sohm, Kyle Wett and Scott Wilson. Congratulations to each of you on taking your oath and becoming members of the IBEW and Local 150!



Presenting Local 150's first-year apprenticeship class of 2024. Good luck on your future careers in the IBEW!



Slater Brown, left, and Brandon Benedicks proudly serving our nation and showing their Local 164 pride.

Local 164 Brothers Proudly Serving Our Country

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ — Our local would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank four of our young members who answered the call and are proudly serving our country in the U.S. Army. Recently topped-out journeyman Brandon Benedicks; his brother, fourth-year apprentice Zachary Benedicks; and fifth-year apprentice Slater Brown are serving overseas.

Brother Brown previously served in the U.S. Marine Corps and enlisted in the Army Reserves with his fellow union brothers Brandon and Zac. Brother Tyler Bienkowski, a CW/CE member, was also called to duty and is serving. We cannot express how proud we are of our young brothers. We are eternally grateful to them and their families for their sacrifices and their service to our nation.

Business Manager Dan Gumble; President Tom Sullivan; and the officers, staff and membership of Local 164 thank these young patriots for their service, wishing them a safe return to their families and their Local 164 brothers and sisters.

Warren M. Becker, P.S.

LOCAL LINES

Local 236 Hosts Chuck Naylor Memorial Golf Outing

L.U. 236 (catv,ees,govt,i,mo,rtb&t), ALBANY, NY — A few years ago, as our local wrapped up its annual golf outing, Business Manager Michael Mastropietro had an idea to make that event even better. He believed this popular event, which regularly sold out all 18 holes, could serve a higher purpose than just being another fun member event. In April 2022, we lost our brother and proud U.S. Army veteran Chuck Naylor far too soon. We then organized the Chuck Naylor Memorial Golf Outing to support veteran causes.

This year we hosted the third annual memorial golf outing, and we've gone on to fill the entire course and selling out all 27 holes with 216 golfers at Western Tumpike Golf Course in Guilderland, N.Y. Donations have also been growing: \$10,000 in 2022; \$35,000 in 2023; and this year, we raised \$42,000 to support the Veterans Miracle Center in Albany.

Thank you to all our partners, including fellow IBEW locals, trades, business sponsors and volunteers, who have made our fundraisers successful and helped to honor the memory of our fallen brother.

Daniel K. Dudley, Bus. Rep.



From left, Stacey Lauren of the Veterans Miracle Center, Local 236 Business Manager Michael Mastropietro, Veterans Miracle Center volunteer and U.S. Army Veteran Jacob Dobbs, President Paul Nylin, and Daniel Dudley.

Local 258 Organizes New Civil, Gas, Traffic Control Contractors

L.U. 258 (ees,em,lctt,o&u), VANCOUVER, BC — Our local has successfully organized workers from a civil contractor and a gas contractor previously represented by an association that happens to meet legal requirements to be considered a union in British Columbia. This association is widely criticized within the labour movement as an employer association disguised as a union.

This organizing victory strengthens Local 258's presence in the industry — across a wide range of utility contracting work, far beyond power line and line clearance tree trimming — and ensures representation of workers in various utility trades.

"The construction sector isn't exclusive to electricians and linemen — it also encompasses civil and gas workers, who are deserving of real union support," said Business Manager/Financial Secretary Cody Gatzke. "Whether they work for a civil, gas or line contractor, we are committed to ensuring they have the support, protections and benefits that only a real union like the IBEW can offer."

The success marks a step forward in Local 258's efforts to counter employer associations masquerading as unions and champion workers' rights across the utility industry.

Organizing the civil contractor had a ripple effect, leading to a separate traffic control company, which frequently works with the contractor, also unionizing with Local 258. This additional win further strengthens Local 258's foothold in the industry, ensuring that workers across different but interconnected sectors receive proper union support.

Emily Organ, P.S.



Lighting the Way Forward

L.U. 300 (govt,i,u,mo&lctt), MONTPELIER, VT — Congratulations to Membership Development Director Mike Ponce for receiving the District Organizer Award for IBEW's Second District. Mike's hard work and ability to influence current and future members and contractors is a credit to Local 300 and the IBEW. Keep the faith, and keep lighting the way forward.

I would like to also congratulate a friend and brother, Doug Nelson, who recently retired as business manager of Brockton, Mass., Local 223. His friendship and leadership will be greatly missed. However, his mentorship and the memories he has created with so many will last an eternity. Thank you, Brother Nelson, and enjoy the next chapter of your life. I'm sure it will be fruitful.

Like many locals, Local 300 had its share of losses and injuries this year. Please keep those who have suffered in your thoughts and prayers.

Vermont Yankee employees held a 10-year reunion for workers laid off in 2014 when the nuclear plant was forced to shut down and embark on its decommissioning process. Congratulations to the more than 400 employees and family members who attended the event. Long live VY!

I hope everyone has a memorable holiday season, counting down the days remaining in 2024. With 2025 quickly upon us, the construction season looks promising again. Negotiations continue to progress in all areas and members are achieving many of their goals.

I wish you all a safe and happy New Year, and see you soon. Be well and be safe.

Jeffrey Wimetete, B.M./F.S.

2024 Old Timers' Dinner

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA — We recently had our annual pin dinner, which we refer to as the Old Timers' Dinner. This year, Glade Gaffney was awarded his 75-year pin but was unable to join us. However, Larry Morris, Steve Pouliot and Jack Mitchell were in attendance to receive their 60-year pins.

Journeymen Jack Brown, Lee Dugas, Rick Eisenbeis, Jim Helberg, Fred Miller and Frank



Local 302 members Larry Morris, Steve Pouliot and Jack Mitchell, who all received their 60-year pins at the Old Timers' Dinner.

Local 300 Membership Development Director Mike Ponce (center) was awarded District Organizer of the Year.

Puccio joined us and received their 55-year pins. We also had a good number of 50-year pin recipients: Bart Barton, Dennis Beach, Jim Maki, Peter Nusbaum, Joe Salvatore and Charles Trimble were all able to join us. This event is one of the best we have all year, a cross between a class reunion and a family reunion.

Tom Hansen, B.M./F.S.

Thomas Edison Had It Right

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA — According to a quote attributed to Thomas Edison: "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."



Local 332 President and Assistant Business Manager Pete Seaberg.

I love this quote and feel it applies perfectly to our trade. It encompasses everything needed to succeed. It's about the perseverance to show up each day and work hard, learning in both the field and the classroom to improve ourselves. Sacrifice might be your time in the apprenticeship by working days and going to school at nights or working overtime with your team to finish a project instead of being home with your family.

Most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do. I love what I do in this union. I love the camaraderie and the satisfaction of building projects together. There are many opportunities to help others discover the IBEW and change members' lives. I will always work to make our union successful, and I wish you all success in your IBEW careers.

Pete Seaberg, Pres./A.B.M.

Competing With the Best

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA — This year was the 57th annual Western States Electrical Contest, which was held at Local 354's training center in Salt Lake City. There were 18 competing apprentices from 11 states. Our local JATC winners have competed every year, but Brother Chase Mora went for the gold this year and won it all. Brother Mora placed first in the fifth-year performance test at our JATC, winning the Tim Lyons Award and his spot to compete on behalf of Local 340.

Over the years, our contestants

have placed first in some of the individual parts of this contest, but this was the first time one of our own has won all seven parts of the competition. We are extremely proud of Brother Mora, who placed first overall as he competed with the best of the Western States' JATC contestants. It was a proud moment for us all, a true testament to the hard work that both apprentices and instructors put into this trade.

We look forward to continuing to grow our trade and supporting our union for years to come. Congratulations to Brother Chase Mora on the hard work you dedicated to this event!

Bob Ward, B.M./F.S.

2024: What a Year

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL — 2024 has flown by with many success stories at our local.

First and foremost was the completion and grand opening of the Hard Rock Casino in Rockford. This iconic casino was many years in the making, and the project came in on time and on budget with the project labor agreement in place, proving again that union labor is the right choice.

We have several large projects underway, including Project Yukon Cold Storage in Belvidere, which has approximately 90 members on site from various contractors, and our Facebook project in DeKalb, still moving along with roughly 185 members across several contractors.

We could not have completed the casino or any other major project without the help of our brothers and sisters from across this great nation. Once again, thanks to all our IBEW members who helped complete all this work.

Our annual kids' Christmas party will be Dec. 14, one of our largest events of the year, with our own Brother San "TY" Hillman doing the honors as Santa.

A great time will be had by all.

Brad F. Williams, P.S.



Local 340 celebrates a proud moment for Brother Chase Mora and its JATC.

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Local 420's annual golf tournament raised \$31,000 and presented the proceeds to Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Annual Golf Tournament Celebrates 18 Years

L.U. 420 (u), WATERBURY, CT — Our local, along with Local 457 and other Connecticut and Massachusetts locals, had another great turnout for a successful golf outing. We had a record-breaking fundraiser with \$31,000 in donations. This charity event, started by Brothers Al McConnell and Mario Bacchiocchi from Local 420 and Brother Mike Grainger from Local 457, celebrated its 18th year with a grand total of \$338,000 donated to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Joseph A. Malcarne, B.M./F.S.

Local 424's Member Appreciation Night

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, AB — Hello, sisters and brothers! Sept. 21 was our annual member appreciation night, with hundreds of members coming to Edmonton to receive their awards. This year's longest-serving members were Jack Daly, Anthony Klug, Henry Stanowich, Ronald Tanton and William Unrau, who have been members of Local 424 for more than 60 years.

Earlier this month, we also had the annual CFL Labour Day rematch at Commonwealth Stadium. More than 200 members of Local 424 showed up to watch the Edmonton Elks battle the Calgary Stampers. Thank you to all who attended the game!

Scott Crichton, P.S.



More than 300 Local 530 members participated in the beloved Sarnia Labour Day Parade.

Local 530 Celebrates Sarnia Labour Day Parade

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ON — More than 300 local members and families celebrated the 122nd running of the Sarnia Labour Day Parade on Labour Day weekend. The parade, sponsored by the Sarnia District Labour Council, is the second-longest-running parade of its kind in North America and a great way to honor our brothers and sisters who paved the way for future generations. After the parade, everyone was invited to the Polish Alliance of Canada Branch 14 for refreshments, cabbage rolls, pierogies and knockwurst. A wonderful time was had by all, and we look forward to doing it again next year.

Our slow-pitch team participated in this year's Ontario Provincial Council softball tournament in Barrie, Ontario. Sarnia battled hard but was knocked out of the competition by Detroit Local 17 in the playoffs. Although our 2-3 record wasn't enough to win the tournament, our local's presence at the hospitality tent was well represented. Way to go, Local 530!

Keith Winsor, P.S.



Retired Local 494 member Mike Zimmerman installing the flagpole light at Sheboygan Falls Cemetery.

IBEW Helps Local Cemetery Get Flagpole Light

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts,spa,t&govt), MILWAUKEE, WI — Lee and Rick Schueffner are tasked with keeping the Sheboygan Falls Cemetery lawn mowed, trimmed and clean. They are also responsible for erecting and lowering the cemetery's American flag. The universal custom is to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset, but the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if adequately illuminated during darkness. Flag etiquette dictates sufficient illumination, and without it, the flag must be attended to twice daily.

So Lee and Rick went for assistance to neighboring Woodland Cemetery in Kohler, Wis., where retired electrician and Local 494 member Mike Zimmerman serves as their counterpart. Mike contacted Local 494 Business Representative Robert "Bob" Weber, who contacted Tim Austreng, Sheboygan Falls Department of Public Works field supervisor, with a plan: Mike would donate the labor and the IBEW would donate the materials, including the light. With an ask from the union executive board, the money was approved.

The project was completed just in time for the Fourth of July.

Robert "Bob" Weber, Bus. Rep.

New Apprentices Join Local 1340

L.U. 1340 (i&o), NEWPORT NEWS, VA — Our local continues to grow and prepare for the future, as shown by the group of new members joining our most recent monthly meeting.

Rising to take the oath of obligation were second-year apprentices Gavin Anderson, Nicholas Biggs, Kobi Copeland, Alex Fochtman, Tyler Forbes, Alexander Goodman, Kevin Green, James Hagin, Jacques Harris, Charles Howell, Austen Huggett, Jarleel Jones, Adam Mack, America Marin, Ryan Matthews, Ethan Padron, Daquan Page, Tre Rodgers, Quintrell Simmons, Ja'Kaye Wharton, Austin Williams and Branden Zavitz. Three additional apprentices, Caleb Overton, Leonard Samuels and Quiriat Lopez Mendoza, as well as two journeyman wiremen, Jacob Oxley and Steven McGinnis, also raised their hands and became members. Let's make sure they are welcome!

We regret to report the passing of retired Brother Arnold Robinson, on May 2.

Jim Avery, P.S.



New members joining Local 1340 at its October meeting.



Local 424 Business Manager Michael A. Reinhart and staff.

IBEW MERCHANDISE



IBEW CHALLENGE COIN \$8.75

IBEW "Power Professionals" limited edition challenge coin.

STEEL BLUE POLO SHIRT \$45.00

5.75oz - 96% polyester / 4% spandex steel blue polo shirt with lay flat collar, basket weave pattern and open cuffs. Features IBEW initials embroidered on collar with fist and bolts on sleeve.

THERMO LINED JACKET \$115.00

12-ounce, 100% ring-spun cotton brown duck with 100% polyester thermal lining. Attached thermal lined hood with adjustable drawstring. Two large front pockets and two inside pockets. IBEW initials with fist and lightning bolts embroidered on left chest.

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www.ibewmerchandise.com

RETIRES

Local 1 Retirees Finish Out the Year

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — In September, our retirees participated in the annual golf tournament held at Forest Park, with 60 golfers to a four-man scramble. Many retirees celebrated this year's Labor Day picnic at our union hall while enjoying great barbecue and live entertainment.

We welcomed two guest speakers to our annual luncheon in September to speak about health issues resulting from previous work-related environments and resources for members to contact. Another guest speaker presented options for tax deferments on financial investments involving beneficiaries. This year's luncheon welcomed nearly 150 retirees and their guests.

November marked our last scheduled Retirees' Club meeting for the year, and we will hold our first meeting of 2025 in March. Letters will be mailed out early in the new year with the annual meeting schedule.

Keep in mind that Local 1's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus is sponsoring a winter coat drive at our union hall again this winter. Your donations are greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Retirees' Committee, we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Jim Schario, P.S.

Walter Cannon Memorial Golf Outing

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU CHAPTER — The Walter Cannon memorial golf outing took place July 18 at Spring Lake Golf Course in Middle Island, N.Y. It was attended by 127 golfers and additional guests at the barbecue after the golf. This outing was organized by Austin McCann and Mark Valente and the officers of Local 3's Retirees' Club, Nassau Chapter.

Members of Walter's family attended and spoke at the memorial. Walter was the definition of a good union man. He gave you money if you needed it, he bought you a beer if you wanted it, and he gave you his ear if you needed to talk to someone. It was a great day in Walter's honor and memory.

John Milligan, P.S.

South Jersey Toys for Tots

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER — Our local Retirees' Club took in a day at the races Aug. 23 at Monmouth Park Race Track in Oceanport, N.J.

On Sept. 5, we had our end-of-summer barbecue bash. It was held at the South Jersey Retirees Resort.

Our annual Toys for Tots Holiday Toy Drive, with the U.S. Marines from Red Bank, N.J., has started. Last year, we collected over 75,000 toys, which were given to charities in central New Jersey.

Nancy Savarese, P.S.



Local 3 Nassau Chapter retirees and members participated in the Walter Cannon memorial golf outing at Spring Lake Golf Course.



Local 3 South Jersey retirees who attended the summer barbecue bash.

Queens Retirees Back in Action

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER — It's been a long time, but the Queens retirees are back! The accompanying picture shows the members and spouses getting together for a midweek stay at the Long Island Educational Center in August.

Randy Savitt, R.S.



Local 3 Suffolk Retirees' Club enjoys a reunion.

Teeing Off for a Cause

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WEST-CHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — Our local Retirees' Club held its annual golf outing Aug. 28. The



Local 3 officer Frank Balbo, left, presents a trophy to club winner Felice Manganelli.

tournament was hosted at Somers National Golf Course in Westchester County, N.Y. Members and their guests ate, drank and persevered despite the extremely hot and humid weather.

The course was very narrow and long with lightning-fast greens. Good scores were hard to come by, but everyone had a good time! Prizes were awarded for longest drive, closest to the pin, honest golfer and more. Mr. Felice Manganelli took home the club trophy for lowest score.

Besides having a great time, the club also

raised money through our sponsors and 50/50 raffles and donated to Local 3's Retirees' Club of Westchester's favorite charity, the Fisher House Foundation. We would like to thank the many sponsors and members who made this day possible.

Frank Balbo, Comm. Dir.

Retirees Golf Get-Together

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 23, ST. PAUL, MN — Retired business managers and representatives from Locals 23, 160, 949 and 953 have wrapped up their third annual best-ball golf get-together, with their wives as their caddies, at Dacotah Ridge Golf Club in Morton, Minn. This year's traveling trophy and champion caddy hats go to Bob and Sue Boogren, Marty and Teri Sandberg, and Rick and Barb Oaks.

Jonathon Jacobson, B.M./F.S.



From left, Local 23 Retirees' Club members Dewey and Kay Peters, Bob and Sue Boogren (Local 160), Marty and Teri Sandberg (Local 953), Rick and Barb Oaks (Local 949), and Mark and Peggy Kaufman (Local 949).

May The Force Be With You

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — Well, November did not go our way, and we are still analyzing all the results. To all retired members who took the time to help the IBEW this election season by canvassing by telephone or door to door, putting election signs in your yards or wearing campaign shirts, thank you!

As I write this, our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters surviving the recent hurricanes. For those of us not in the storm's path, we are grateful but aiming to help others not as fortunate. We are thankful that IBEW lineworkers can help directly to restore electrical power to the affected areas. We do not know exactly how many of our retired members have been impacted, but for the retired, it is most distressing to know their years of arduous work have been wiped out in a few horrible hours.

Season's Greetings to all, with hopes that we will begin to see recovery in 2025.

We continue to host our monthly meetings in person and via Zoom. If you are interested in visiting, please contact us via email at flashmanbissell@aol.com and we will send you the meeting link.

In October, we hosted our well-attended annual retired members' crab feast.

Our medical equipment program continues to help our members and their families. In October, with help from the different interest groups of Local 26, we were able to review all our electric hospital beds to make certain they are in good working order. If you would like to start your own program, please email us.

In 2025, we advise all members and their families to get their flu and COVID vaccinations. Stay safe, and "May the Force" be with you!

Susan Flashman, Pres.

Local 35 Retirees Speak on IBEW Benefits

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Though Labor Day has passed, let's remember and be grateful for the sacrifices our brothers and sisters have made in the past that enable us to provide for our families with decent pay and benefits.

Retirees' Club President Dennis Machol and I were pleased to meet with the first-year apprenticeship class to talk with them about the benefits of being an IBEW member. We emphasized what a wonderful career the IBEW provides, including the many benefits we receive, such as pension, annuity and excellent health care. We wanted them to know that eventually they will be as fortunate in their retirement as we are. We also talked to second-, third-, fourth-, and fifth-year classes to encourage them as well.

We held our annual members' outing in early September at the Colchester Fish and Game Club. We had a great turnout with many retirees in attendance. Our contractors donated a good number of gifts for the raffles. The food was excellent, and we all enjoyed a great time. [See photo, pg. 17, top left.]

We give thanks to Business Manager Michael Nealy, Business Representative John Bowen, Training Director Frank Puzzo and office



The Local 35 Retirees' Club on a September outing.

manager Sharon Landolina for all their hard work and volunteering.

We hope to see more retirees attending our monthly meetings at the Knights of Columbus, 171 Pascone Place, Newington, Conn., the second Wednesday of each month starting at noon.

Kenneth White, P.S.

Local 53 Retirees'; Latest News, Upcoming Events

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Another year is almost gone, and 2025 is upon us. We hope that everyone had a good year and that next year is even better.

We held our annual fall retiree luncheon Oct. 4. It was great to see everyone again and to welcome some new retirees. David Adkins and Stephen Crabtree were awarded their 50-year service pins. Congratulations to both! A good time was had by all who attended. A big thank you to Local 53 and the staff for hosting the luncheon. We, the retirees, certainly appreciate this event and look forward to it every year.

Some dates to put on your calendar: The annual Christmas party will be Dec. 13, and the annual crappie tournament will be May 3. Both are a good time. I look forward to seeing some of you there.

There is still a small group of us meeting for lunch on the second Thursday of every month. We have changed the location. We are now meeting at Rockin' C Bar & Grill in Garden City, Mo., around 11 a.m. We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

On a sad note, we lost Jerry Duvall, longtime member and former president of the local. Rest in peace, brother!

Happy Holidays to all, stay safe, and we will see you next year!

Bob Stuart, Pres.

Local 58 Retirees' Annual Bus Trip

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI — Our annual September bus trip was a great success. This year the tour took us to Boston, Salem and Cape Ann in Massachusetts. On our first day in Boston, we toured the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. We had excellent tour guides, and one took us throughout Boston, giving us a real sense of the city.

Another tour took us along the Atlantic coastline, giving us bird's-eye views of Salem and the city of Gloucester on Cape Ann, to name a couple. This trip also included a tour of the oldest

remaining warship in the country, the USS Constitution (affectionately known as Old Ironsides). Thanks to Dave Rily for putting this trip together, as a great time was had by all. Next year, perhaps we will travel to Washington, D.C.

Our annual Christmas party is Dec. 4 at the union hall. Food, drink and camaraderie abound. Our group supports five local charities, all of which help children. This event is a good way to stay in touch with fellow retirees and kick off the season to celebrate the holidays.

Consider a resolution this year to volunteer within our union or your community. Take good care, and happy New Year!

Pat Nuznov, P.S.

Local 105 Retirees Have So Much Fun

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ON — Let us wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025!

Here are some of our recent activities:

- Old Farmers Cookout, hosted by RJ's Catering, Oct. 10
- Octoberfest, hosted by Kitchener, Ontario, Local 804, Oct. 17
- Cairncroft, Niagara Falls, Nov. 5-7
- Christmas Dinner and Dance, hosted by Toronto Local 353, Nov. 24
- "White Christmas," a play including lunch, Cambridge, Ontario, Dec. 4
- Christmas Dinner and Dance, hosted by our own Local 105, Dec. 8

Those of you in Local 105 who are 55 or over 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. It's so much fun!

And please, remember that all of these events we enjoy, past and present, are all made possible by our respected, hard-working executive board and local members, past and present.

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

Eden McLean, P.S.

Local 134 Recollects 2024 Highlights

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Seasons greetings to all members and staff of the IBEW. At this time of year, I like to reflect on some of the highlights of the past year.

Retirees' Club members enjoyed four delicious luncheons and entertaining plays at the Drury Lane Theater in Oak Brook. In February, members



Local 530 retirees on a bus trip to Quebec City.

took in "Fiddler on the Roof," in May, "Guys and Dolls," in August, "Ain't Misbehavin'," and to end the fall season in November, "The Little Mermaid."

May 2 brought us guest speaker Bob Funk, executive director of Labor Lab, the only nonprofit watchdog organization that tracks and investigates corporate spending on union busting. Labor Lab's innovative research and reporting shines a light on the special interests hellbent on defeating workplace democracy.

On July 11, guest speaker Brother Jack Campbell, a business agent and organizer for Local 134, spoke about his efforts in organizing, which is so important to our local unions. He also serves as the lieutenant commander/vice chair of the recently formed Local 134 Veterans Committee.

Retirees' Club President Hale Landes organized a field trip for a Chicago history tour, which took place July 13. It was a great time! Thank you to our tour guide, Local 134 Sister Julia Berkowitz, who was able to answer a number of questions.

Our club had another successful event Sept. 18, the 23rd annual John Commins memorial golf outing, with 36 golfers in attendance, and other guests attending just the buffet. Thank you to Jim Duffy and other volunteers, and a special thanks to all who donated gifts and cash for raffle prizes.

We end this busy year working with Brother Jim Valleyfield for the annual collection Essentials for Soldiers for homeless veterans in Chicagoland.

Hope everyone got out to vote! Have a fun and safe holiday.

Susan Kleczka, P.S.



On July 20, retirees were invited to the Taste of Local 134 by the Sisters of Local 134 at the union hall.

Passing of Brother Bob Parker

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 349, MIAMI, FL — It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Brother Bob Parker. A Miami native, Bob attended Edison High School. He was a veteran of the Korean War and served in the U.S. Navy. A member of Local 349, Bob worked as an electrician for more than 50 years.

After his retirement, he joined the Local 349 Retirees' Club, where he held many offices. He was also involved in the Masonic Lodge and Mahi Shriners Hospital and volunteered for his beloved community of Southwest Ranches and the

Sunshine Ranches Homeowners Association. Our deepest condolences and sympathies are extended to his wife, Judi, and extended family.

Brenda Auer, P.S.



Local 349 member Bob Parker, Feb. 5, 1934- Sept. 24, 2024.

Local 530 Retirees Travel to Old Quebec City

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ON — Our local's retirees recently took a bus trip to Quebec City, which sits on the Saint Lawrence River in Canada's mostly French-speaking province. Dating to 1608, it has a fortified colonial core, with stone buildings and narrow cobblestone streets that are lined with bistros and boutiques. The top right photo shows our group with the towering Chateau Frontenac hotel in the background.

Participating in a union workforce has its benefits.

Enjoy work, embrace retirement!

Michael Stewardson, P.S.

Happy Retirement, Brother Honea

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 1042, SANFORD, FL — Our local would like to announce that John Honea has retired after 38 years of laughter! Our O.G. Johnny has left a vacant hole in our little work family. A hard worker always willing to help and never turning down any job, Johnny made the work fun. What a joy of a person to work with: always good for a joke and bringing out the bright side of things. We are all so thrilled for Brother Honea and wish him nothing but the best in the next chapter of his life!

Ellen Stephenson, P.S.



Local 1042 member Brother John Honea celebrates his retirement.

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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	Aschinger, D. G.	9/3/24	22	Weber, R. W.	7/13/24	105	Alkerton, M.	9/16/24	236	Papa, A. J.	8/27/23	429	Lincoln, A.	4/24/23	728	Clough, R. F.	8/31/24
1	Bowles, R. J.	4/10/23	24	Fadely, R. W.	8/20/24	105	Sherry, R. S.	7/12/24	237	Woolcutt, C. S.	7/14/24	429	Pearce, R. L.	9/9/24	728	Oswald, J. F.	10/2/24
1	Darmody, J. J.	8/29/24	24	Holland, R. B.	7/31/24	110	Boltman, R. J.	7/26/24	246	Huber, C. M.	8/5/24	441	Neff, N. A.	7/8/24	760	Ferguson, J. N.	9/23/24
1	Genovese, P. M.	9/29/24	24	Jones, T. D.	10/5/22	110	Fahey, G. D.	6/23/24	252	Laidlaw, L.	9/20/24	441	Wilkins, K. W.	8/18/24	760	Holt, K. W.	8/13/24
1	Grunz, R. P.	8/22/24	24	Morris, R. G.	9/11/22	110	Renfro, K. A.	9/2/24	252	Robbins, J. H.	9/16/24	443	Gougler, G. L.	9/8/24	760	McFalls, R. M.	9/6/23
1	Krieg, E. H.	8/6/24	24	Painter, C. C.	8/7/24	110	Thoemke, J. T.	9/2/24	252	Schroen, J. H.	8/3/24	446	Courtney, J. R.	5/30/24	769	Gasbar, R. E.	9/14/24
1	Kuhlmann, L. R.	8/16/24	26	Anderson, C. B.	7/1/24	110	Ware, R. O.	9/14/24	252	Snyder, J.	8/20/24	449	Howell, L. G.	9/10/24	784	Rebmann, D. E.	10/5/23
1	Rohrbach, W. F.	9/26/24	26	Barrientos, M. M.	8/15/24	111	Macias, R. J.	11/1/22	257	Van Vranken, G. E.	9/6/24	474	Goforth, G. E.	12/8/23	861	Hornsby, H. L.	9/17/24
1	Watson, L. J.	9/10/24	26	Harris, D. R.	2/26/24	113	Belfiore, D. M.	9/19/24	258	Coyle, A. D.	9/27/24	474	Sides, H. W.	6/22/24	861	King, C.	9/27/24
3	Aragona, S.	4/14/23	26	Moscati, E. R.	9/4/24	115	Clarey, J.	9/17/24	258	Hove, R.	7/6/24	477	Case, A. W.	7/19/24	873	Daugherty, H. E.	8/13/24
3	Barlow, J. J.	9/27/24	26	Rhoden, A. S.	8/12/24	120	Fisher, K.	2/24/22	270	Williams, H. R.	9/12/24	477	Lane, J. W.	1/30/22	876	Boss, G. R.	7/3/24
3	Behringer, G. J.	8/22/24	26	Taylor, E. L.	9/27/23	124	Naple, J. F.	9/23/24	275	Lue, R. C.	9/15/24	477	Watson, A. D.	9/3/24	876	Legault, P. C.	11/16/23
3	Borna, G. M.	7/9/24	34	Burd, T. M.	8/31/24	125	Arthur, W. G.	8/23/24	278	Moya, F. L.	9/27/24	481	Thompson, J. E.	12/8/23	889	Ferraris, L. M.	8/20/24
3	Brown, M. V.	9/16/24	38	Godec, L. B.	9/16/24	125	Graiff, J. H.	4/5/24	292	DuPay, D. P.	9/21/24	483	Hoppe, N. J.	7/30/23	910	Vielhauer, A. J.	9/14/24
3	Bulger, R. J.	4/4/24	38	Holderbaum, G. D.	3/6/24	125	Reiswig, K. R.	6/1/24	295	Dickens, D. L.	8/16/24	486	Tucker, C. W.	9/6/24	915	Rand, A. H.	9/12/24
3	Campbell, J. P.	12/16/23	38	Kelley, J. A.	9/7/24	126	Gibson, R. R.	8/13/24	302	Ferreira, K. A.	9/1/24	494	Couture, G. M.	1/20/23	915	Weller, G. L.	11/12/22
3	Chohessy, M. J.	9/28/23	38	Robertson, R. A.	7/30/24	126	Stuart, W.	9/11/24	303	Gairns, D. R.	7/6/24	494	Ivancic, D. O.	5/6/24	934	Davis, L. J.	7/24/24
3	Desouza, O.	2/13/22	40	Kightlinger, R. J.	4/21/24	129	Kilgore, D. H.	8/28/24	306	Wagner, R. A.	7/2/24	494	Ketterhagen, R. C.	9/9/24	934	Sexton, H. A.	8/8/24
3	Dozis, P.	1/16/24	41	Kusmierski, T. J.	9/28/24	130	Galliano, G. F.	9/18/24	307	Kreiger, R. L.	8/21/24	529	Shanofer, J. M.	9/9/24	948	Bellinger, B. L.	4/13/24
3	Elisseos, H.	8/19/24	42	Riegel, D. F.	8/29/24	131	Sturm, E. J.	10/1/24	309	Depew, E. F.	8/16/24	530	Eufthimiou, S.	10/31/22	948	Chervus, G. R.	8/10/24
3	Flynn, C. J.	7/31/24	43	Palmisano, C. J.	10/5/24	134	Abbott, B. A.	9/17/24	313	Moore, S. E.	2/29/24	540	Bolitho, G.	10/2/24	972	Mendenhall, R. E.	9/13/24
3	Fontana, C. A.	9/22/24	43	Thompson, W. R.	9/15/24	134	Farmer, T. H.	9/10/24	317	Gore, T. A.	1/30/24	545	Bibb, H. L.	9/15/24	993	Doman, D. K.	7/3/24
3	Gabriel, P. R.	8/26/24	46	Matua, M. W.	9/17/24	134	Felke, J. E.	7/5/24	317	Minor, C. A.	9/14/24	558	McDaniel, T. E.	5/15/24	993	Toppazzini, J.	6/11/23
3	Gagliardi, A. J.	7/20/24	46	Nagaoka, R. S.	4/29/24	134	Forner, F. A.	9/29/24	317	Simmerman, D. R.	8/30/24	558	Miller, H. G.	9/29/24	995	Browning, R. J.	9/6/24
3	Gibson, G. R.	8/22/24	47	Garrett, J. M.	9/5/24	134	Guzzo, M.	11/21/22	332	Bulik, R. A.	8/25/24	569	Martino, C. C.	2/11/24	995	Lavigne, F. G.	9/5/24
3	Ginnane, J.	6/7/24	48	Fossum, J. A.	8/17/24	134	Hartnett, H. J.	9/12/24	340	Craik, S. J.	12/28/22	569	McFarland, J. R.	1/30/24	1002	Ricks, D. M.	8/12/24
3	Giudice, J. L.	10/4/22	48	Holzner, H. A.	9/2/24	134	Hertsted, E.	6/25/24	343	Askland, K. B.	6/8/24	569	Samborski, T. L.	8/27/24	1077	Johnson, J. H.	10/4/24
3	Healy, W. J.	7/31/24	48	Major, K. D.	9/2/24	134	Himmelfarb, G. E.	9/15/24	343	Sargent, R. A.	7/23/24	570	Brown, K. H.	9/4/24	1141	Carter, D. P.	9/13/24
3	Laterza, A.	9/3/24	48	Paradice, R. A.	9/25/21	134	Laufer, R. V.	8/31/24	347	Harter, G. J.	8/25/24	577	Woods, T. J.	7/31/24	1141	Sanders, R. E.	7/12/23
3	Maharaj, S. S.	6/12/24	48	Ritcherson, F. H.	9/21/24	134	Leahy, E. A.	9/21/24	347	Rieger, D. D.	9/13/24	586	Gustafson, F.	8/2/24	1147	Helmuth, J. A.	9/15/24
3	Maldonado, J. U.	6/7/24	51	Courtwright, C. W.	9/19/24	134	Manisco, A. J.	6/24/24	349	Chambers, W. J.	8/26/24	595	Barger, T. L.	8/10/24	1186	Miwa, G. J.	5/31/24
3	Moffetta, F. T.	6/3/22	51	Crater, G.	7/28/24	134	Manthey, J. E.	8/22/24	352	Tolbert, T. K.	5/18/24	595	Edmonds, D. M.	5/27/24	1186	Texeira, G. K.	8/31/24
3	Montella, J. V.	8/1/24	57	Lawrence, G.	9/21/24	134	Marotti, C.	8/2/24	353	Abbott, B.	6/17/24	596	Henderson, J. R.	3/17/20	1245	Pentelute, C. L.	8/4/24
3	Moore, J. P.	9/25/24	58	Barber, H. N.	9/24/24	134	Martin, J. J.	8/10/24	353	Alphonso, D. A.	4/13/24	602	Davis, V. H.	8/31/24	1249	Moore, H. E.	8/29/24
3	O'Shea, B. J.	6/13/24	58	Black, G. S.	9/21/24	134	Mazurek, K. L.	9/9/24	353	Bowman, R. D.	9/10/24	602	Munger, D. D.	9/11/24	1319	Chandler, R. G.	1/18/24
3	Richardson, J. T.	9/4/24	58	Cracchiolo, S.	9/3/24	134	Mitchell, B. N.	9/1/24	353	Buchanan, G. P.	9/6/24	606	Hamilton, J. W.	9/5/24	1319	Hill, L. R.	6/15/24
3	Ruddel, C.	8/22/24	58	Dodd, B. D.	8/29/24	134	Pudlo, C. A.	8/21/24	353	Cooke, E. J.	6/3/24	606	Lamourt, H.	8/23/24	1377	Schlechter, M. P.	8/27/24
3	Santaromita, J.	7/23/24	58	Ferguson, J. L.	5/27/24	134	Roth, D. J.	9/7/23	353	Egan, J. V.	9/24/24	611	Mancha, R. G.	7/19/24	1426	Rice, G. W.	6/24/24
3	Sinishtaj, G.	8/5/24	58	Gavin, W. T.	9/6/24	134	Stevenson, S. M.	9/16/24	353	Howard, H. R.	6/27/24	611	Montoya, A. E.	9/18/24	1687	Shaw, R.	8/8/24
3	Skeet, L. T.	8/20/24	58	Hartwick, D. B.	9/11/24	136	Lindsey, E. K.	7/26/24	353	Lafleur, R. N.	8/28/24	611	Ortiz, L.	11/13/20	1687	Tillich, E.	7/27/24
3	Spaulding, B. F.	8/22/24	58	Hazelman, J. W.	6/22/24	143	Bowman, R. E.	9/1/24	353	Martin, S. M.	8/1/24	611	Ortiz, M.	5/11/24	2286	Alford, J. B.	7/19/24
3	Stirling, R.	9/17/24	58	Kliemann, K. M.	7/24/24	145	Yeager, R.	9/21/24	353	Petrak, B.	8/24/24	613	Lewis, W. C.	8/28/24	I.O. (5)	Chickis, G. R.	8/29/24
3	Taffler, S.	7/16/24	58	Pasienza, M. A.	9/11/24	146	Burrus, D. L.	9/22/24	353	Russo, J.	9/11/24	617	Asbury, W. C.	8/16/24	I.O. (68)	Busse, T. N.	1/18/24
3	Vitucci, D. A.	8/8/24	58	Taormina, J. R.	9/14/24	146	Willenborg, L.	9/26/24	353	Sacco, G.	8/24/24	617	Hitch, K. M.	8/5/24	I.O. (107)	Ayers, D. L.	7/17/24
3	Weisbruch, D. P.	7/8/24	66	Smith, C. R.	4/26/23	150	Morley, L. A.	8/26/24	353	Sharpe, T. J.	9/4/24	625	Hughes, D. G.	8/1/24	I.O. (134)	Brozowski, T. P.	8/11/24
3	Weitman, A.	12/2/21	68	Bowles, J. D.	7/3/24	153	Mortensen, K. B.	8/31/24	353	Tilling, G. P.	8/15/24	640	Brown, F. R.	7/30/24	I.O. (134)	Green, J. H.	8/10/24
4	Halpin, D. E.	8/6/24	68	Carrigan, J. R.	6/5/24	164	Canova, D. J.	8/13/24	354	Pavelka, M. J.	8/29/24	640	Gardner, J. M.	8/2/24	I.O. (134)	Hulchiy, M. W.	9/10/24
5	Nau, M. J.	6/25/24	68	White, W. C.	7/21/24	164	Hardwick, A. B.	8/6/24	357	Aguilar, D. R.	8/30/24	640	Graham, J. E.	5/29/24	I.O. (134)	McGough, M. D.	9/20/24
5	Young, H. J.	8/18/24	71	Prater, M. N.	7/16/24	164	Hept, E. J.	7/30/24	357	Bumgardner, R. S.	9/14/24	640	McFadden, M. B.	9/1/24	I.O. (164)	Lyons, J. D.	2/25/22
6	Conroy, J. P.	8/15/24	73	Bergstresser, L. N.	7/14/24	164	Mastice, A. W.	11/23/23	357	Clark, L. D.	9/7/24	649	Campion, R. L.	9/5/24	I.O. (245)	Blahnik, L. W.	8/20/24
6	Rickson, E. W.	9/14/24	73	Cornell, G. T.	10/1/24	164	Rehill, J. J.	8/15/24	357	Dzigorski, G. T.	9/19/24	649	Seibold, J. J.	8/14/24	I.O. (379)	Driggers, R. G.	5/8/24
6	Romero, R. D.	4/16/24	76	Johannes, S. E.	4/23/24	164	Soraci, M. T.	6/11/22	357	Gesualdo, V. A.	8/26/24	659	Keller, D. L.	3/24/24	I.O. (852)	Cornett, J. E.	7/2/24
6	Verhalen, B. N.	9/11/24	76	Rufener, K. A.	8/9/24	164	Szymanski, J. A.	3/14/22	357	Lyles, L. W.	7/10/24	666	Gilley, R. E.	9/24/24	Pens. (I.O)	Berg, R. E.	8/31/24
7	Aube, F. A.	8/30/24	77	Parrella, D. A.	8/30/24	175	Dillard, J. W.	9/12/24	357	Taney, C. M.	9/30/24	666	Hitchcock, C. C.	8/18/24	Pens. (I.O)	Brooks, B. C.	7/25/24
8	Erne, R. A.	7/5/24	77	Pedersen, J. W.	9/9/24	175	Eldridge, J. M.	9/8/23	357	Work, G. R.	9/21/24	668	Best, C. R.	7/29/24	Pens. (I.O)	Carter, N. B.	7/26/24
9	Connelly, J. J.	8/28/24	80	Goodwin, M. R.	4/9/23	175	Pozas, I. J.	5/1/24	363	Hughes, R. G.	8/17/23	668	Schrader, R. G.	9/3/24	Pens. (I.O.)	Depatie, A. J.	6/24/24
11	Esworthy, V. W.	7/26/24	86	Dowdell, L. T.	10/5/24	176	Duff, J. F.	9/18/24	369	Newton, L.	9/5/24	673	Hale, L. A.	5/27/24	Pens. (I.O.)	Folkerts, C. L.	4/2/22
11	Frosburg, S. E.	9/9/24	86	Havens, J. L.	9/11/24	177	Davenport, J. L.	9/29/24	369	Rapp, T. G.	9/7/24	683	Sapp, J. R.	8/5/24	Pens. (I.O)	Gray, J. C.	3/20/24
11	Loucks, I. F.	2/2/24	90	Dickey, W. W.	9/15/24	177	Dixon, C.	6/11/24	369	Swindler, M. C.	8/5/24	697	Brown, G. R.	9/5/24	Pens. (I.O)	Groesbeck, P. S.	
11	Mayea, A. J.	7/8/24	90	Ishman, F. A.	7/27/24	177	McGriff, R. L.	8/15/24	369	Willham, G. L.	4/3/24	697	O'Drobinak, J. W.	9/4/24			11/9/23
13	Alexander, J. S.	7/28/24	98	Dillon, W. A.	9/8/24	177	Williams, R. K.	9/5/24	379	Crowell, H. D.	8/15/24	701	Algrim, T. J.	9/15/24	Pens. (I.O)	Hodges, T. E.	9/1/24
13	Orton, R. J.	6/30/24	99	Roccio, A. W.	6/14/24	180	Hale, J. W.	8/5/24	387	Henson, M. A.	9/6/24	702	Barnett, J. L.	9/15/24	Pens. (I.O.)	Kantor, D.	7/26/24
14	Blakeborough, D. G.	2/15/24	100	Riojas, M.	11/16/23	180	Kelly, T. L.	7/4/24	387	Ranes, C. P.	5/29/24	702	Bolinski, J. E.	7/11/24	Pens. (I.O)	Keck, D. N.	1/22/21
14	Schlapper, M. W.	6/27/24	102	Martz, J. E.	6/19/24	180	Robertson, R. L.	8/8/24	387	Rogers, S. J.	8/8/24	702	Wilmouth, R. H.	10/4/24	Pens. (I.O)	Leon, C. E.	9/8/24
16	Pyle, D. L.	8/31/24	102	Moraca, P. J.	5/31/03	191	McGinty, P. J.	9/2/24	388	Wentzel, D. J.	8/31/24	716	Gressett, T. R.	8/18/24	Pens. (I.O)	Otis, E. F.	9/25/24
17	Wilson, R. R.	9/16/24	102	Morris, R. E.													

GROUND^{ED} IN HISTORY

Resilience and Relief at Pearl Harbor

The attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, unleashed an outpouring of patriotic resolve throughout the United States. Citizens from all walks of life were eager to do their part in defending the nation. Employment service boards were overwhelmed with applicants, with even Social Security recipients rushing to go back to work. Manufacturing plants went from producing cars and appliances to planes, tanks and artillery.

But for the electrical workers of Hawaii, the only American territory to experience direct attack, the immediate response was not one of production but of resilience and recovery.

Local 1186 in Honolulu was chartered in June 1940 by 19 civil service electricians working at the Pearl Harbor Navy Shipyard. The Japanese attack nearly destroyed their entire livelihood, and it would require months of grueling, nonstop work to rebuild from the rubble. Sylvia Johnson, a member of 1186's woman's auxiliary, submitted the following article in May of 1942 to give voice to these brothers and their wives:

Our men are working long hours — often 10 hours a day, seven days a week. Early closing hours of Honolulu stores due to blackouts make it impossible for them to buy the simplest of necessities, such as razor blades and work clothes. Blackout evenings are depressing for the men whose families have gone back to the mainland. Grocery stores are mostly sold out of meat and butter.

Yes, we have known the tightening in the throat that comes when the air raid sirens start to wail. Yes, we carry gas masks and tin helmets when carrying groceries on an over-crowded bus. But we have not shown fear; we have kept cheerful for the sake of the men whose skilled work is so vital to victory.

Many of us have taken clerical jobs with the Army or Navy. We have deposited blood in the plasma bank. We keep our evacuation suitcases packed, and get our shoes muddy in air-raid shelters. We remind our men to bring dry shoes when they get water-soaked from working in the bilges of ships. But what a small price to pay for the privilege of having our men return to us every night, for the knowledge that another day has passed and they are still in one piece.

Yes — we have been fortunate. We face realistically and calmly the fact that, in months to come, we may not be so fortunate. But the women of England have shown us what women can face. And like them, we are staying on our island!

Another story comes from a July 1942 article submitted by Honolulu Local 1260. It was chartered just five months before the Pearl Harbor attack. On Dec. 24, 1941, instead of enjoying what would have been the local's first Christmas reception, the executive board had convened to determine how



The July 1942 Electrical Worker included an article about Honolulu Local 1260's successful national fundraiser to buy an ambulance. An extra \$400 was given to the Army and Navy relief funds.

best to assist their fellow citizens in the early days of war:

At the time, we did not know how many of our fellow trade unionists had been killed, wounded, or were missing as a result of the attack. President Joseph Zsimevitch then told the executive committee that the need for ambulances and medical supplies was very urgent and he believed Local 1260 could be of invaluable assistance in rendering aid. Funds were appropriated to cover expenses of mailing letters to local unions on the mainland for assistance in furnishing an ambulance for the Emergency Medical Service. The international representative for Hawaii, M.B. Keeton, concurred and before January 1, 1942, letters were in the mail to all local unions.

The response from locals in the United States and Canada and from individual members was instantaneous and wholehearted; for not only was

enough money received to purchase an ambulance but also left a balance from which \$200 was given to the Army Relief Fund and \$200 to the Navy Relief Fund. The ambulance is of the station wagon type, as this type more readily fitted into the needs of the Emergency Medical Service because it could also be used for transporting doctors, nurses, and supplies wherever the need may be. The officials, headed by Dr. Harry L. Arnold, were overjoyed to receive this piece of much needed equipment. Local 1260 takes this means of expressing its thanks, gratitude and deep appreciation to every local union and individual member of the IBEW who assisted us in making it possible to furnish this relief.

These locals exemplify the true spirit of IBEW workers. Throughout history, in times of adversity and struggle, it is the bonds of fraternity and sisterhood that allow our members to rise to the challenge and get the work done. ■

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.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

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WHO WE ARE

Honor Flight Brings 97-Year-Old IBEW Retiree to Hallowed Grounds

Walt Miller sat silently in his wheelchair in front of the high white marble sarcophagus of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

The tomb rests atop a hill across the Potomac River from the capital city. No sound from the city disturbed the silence of the stone-paved plaza, a silence kept by hundreds who had come to pay their respects.

They were arrayed in ranks with Miller — a 97-year-old retiree from Waterloo, Iowa, Local 288 — at the still center, next to one of the sentinels who constantly guard the tomb.

Miller was chosen to lay a wreath during the 4 p.m. changing of the guard Oct. 8, an honor reserved for him as the only veteran of the World War II era among a group of more than 100 veterans flown to Washington by Eastern Iowa Honor Flight. It's part of a national network of groups that gather veterans to visit the granite and marble memorials that stand as a permanent testament to the honor of U.S. troops.

It was Miller's first real visit to Washington.

"I think it's an honor being a veteran to be able to come to see the memorials and pay respects to all the people who went before you and fought the battle for you. A lot of people never had the opportunity, and this is one way we can honor them," he said.

More than 16.4 million Americans served during World War II. Less than 0.5% of them are still alive, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

At one time, the IBEW had in its ranks tens of thousands of World War II veterans and others who served in the 1940s. Miller is one of the last.

"Walt's generation transformed the IBEW into what it is today," said Pension and Reciprocity Director Ryan O'Leary, a former business manager of Local 288. "Our vets were exemplary about brotherhood. No one had to explain it to them."

More than 70 years ago, Brother



Waterloo, Iowa, Local 288 retiree Walt Miller flew to Washington as part of an Honor Flight for military veterans. He was welcomed by former Local 288 Business Manager Ryan O'Leary.

Miller deployed to Hickham Field at the entrance to Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. In 1941, Hickham had been strafed and bombed by the Imperial Japanese Navy.

The war was over by the time Miller arrived at Hickham in 1946, but the battle for the peace was just beginning.

Miller spent three years in Hawaii as part of the 29th Statistical Control Unit. The SCUs were responsible for the use and maintenance of one of the most advanced pieces of logistical and strategic hardware in the U.S. Military, IBM Electric Accounting Machines.

The SCUs kept track of the entire inventory of the vast Pacific military machine. Everything from bombing results and casualties to supply location and troop deployments was translated onto cardboard punch cards, run through the machines and sent to the Pentagon. Quickly and accurately tracking millions of troops and all the equipment that supported them was an advantage that first the Axis and later communist powers simply could not match.

Miller was given the assignment because of a high school job in Waterloo repairing typewriters and adding machines.

"Rumor has it that when we first shipped out, I was supposed to go to



Miller joined dozens of veterans from eastern Iowa for a tour that took them to the Vietnam and Korean War memorials and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.



Miller served at Hickham Field in Hawaii (shown around his years of service in the 1940s) repairing IBM Electric Accounting Machines, like the one in post-war Japan pictured at right.



Okinawa, but the ship broke down. Some of us shipped off, and some of us [didn't]," he said. "I worked in IBM equipment maintenance."

Miller was discharged in 1949 and joined the millions of veterans eager to form a life built around family, home and honorable work.

"They gave us a discharge, and I went back home to do whatever work I could find. I worked several different occupations at John Deere Tractor Company," he said.

But you can't live a normal life when you work the third shift overnight, he said.

He found what he was looking for when he joined the Local 288 apprenticeship less than a year later.

"I think mostly you join the union to have somebody to speak for you," he said. "Because you can't fight these

things alone [when you] try to get better benefits and better working conditions."

By the early 1960s, times were hard in Waterloo, and Miller hit the road, finding a new home for a while at Santa Barbara, Calif., Local 413. He worked on Vandenberg Air Force Base, at Diablo Canyon Power Plant and out in the Southern California oilfields before returning home.

"Anything you wanted to go to class on and learn more, you could go through and learn how to do that stuff. It was a very interesting career. I wouldn't trade it for anything," Miller said.

He retired in 1992, five years before O'Leary came on as an apprentice, but Miller and the World War II generation were still a huge presence in the local, O'Leary said. They first met at one of Miller's passion projects, maintaining and expanding a huge Boy Scout

camp. Twice a year, crews of about 20 volunteers, mostly retirees and apprentices, gathered for a few days' work.

"He set everything up, organized it and took the lead," O'Leary said. "It was special because, you know, I was just a kid. I had no idea I would be the business manager. I think about all those old guys who have passed. ... It was an honor that I got to meet all those guys and see what a union really is."

And now there's just Miller.

Miller still comes to the retiree group on the third Thursday of the month, but there aren't many familiar faces. Even the children of the people he worked with are starting to pass on.

"It's a whole changing of the guard," he said. "I hardly know anybody in the local anymore because everybody's new and younger. But I try to keep track." ■



Miller still makes a point of attending Local 288's monthly retirees meetings.